



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 1,000 Newsy Stuff

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DangerousGoods>

September 10 2013



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RELEASE 1,000, ONE THOUSANDTH ISSUE OF NEWSY STUFF 1998 - 2013 SOME HISTORY & BACKGROUND

DG-Hazmat Group Beginning

Back in mid-1998 I felt there was a need for Australian based Technicians, Engineers and the like to be able to freely communicate with manufacturers of gasoline equipment to open a communication road if you like where we in the antipodes could discuss problems and issues. Create a networking forum [this was before networking was a buzz word...] if you like.

The internet was in its junior days, in general the only active users were Universities and larger corporations and some government entities, Industry hadn't really cottoned onto the concept that the Internet was the new communication bubble, there were few businesses active on the 'Net' back then but it was globally-growing, daily.

I recall spending well over a year surfing [using Netscape and other now obscure search engines] and soliciting the DG-Hazmat Group to anyone and everyone who would listen, extolling the concept of a global forum specifically [then] within the gasoline/petroleum downstream area of our industry. Remember back then it was "Dial-Up" on the landline, no such thing as cable at all. In 1999 the DG-Hazmat Group really came into its own with people subscribing, and networking, many of who are still active and current members of your Group, today.

An example is Greg Davis out of GA [USA] who joined the Group back in 1999, I'm sure Greg's still with us and if my memory is correct Greg came to work one morning and saw a DG-Hazmat email of an incident in his back-yard [so to speak] the day prior. I remember Greg being a bit amazed that he had to find out about this incident via Melbourne in AU. There's also Pat McKune out of South Africa who subbed in early 1999, Pat's now Consulting in the South African downstream industry, Jetty Middlekoop from the Netherlands in 2001 and Alvaro from Chile in 2002 and there's lots more who've been with us for over 1.4 decades - Well done, all of you....

Statistics

The Group has come a long way since its infancy, there's been over 12,000 email messages processed, our subscriber numbers have leveled around the 1,200 mark and at last count your fellow subscribers are representative of over 70 different countries around our small globe, the attrition rate hovers at around 2 to 3% which indicates that most of you have a real purpose in belonging. As an aside and because the Group is 'Moderated' I'm aware in 14 years and after over 12,000 emails we've had two [Yes, 2] instances of spam getting past moderation, both of those were dealt a sudden electronic death, so to speak. The Newsy Stuff



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has grown relative to global incidents and relative to their publication by the media, over the past couple of years the editions have been 15 pages and distributed bi-weekly, on a numbers basis 30 pages of information is hitting in excess of 1,000 people every week, and you people are all part of the picture - Congratulations!!

Meeting Members

I've been privileged to meet some of the Group in conferences, seminars or just at a social level from both overseas and locally in AU & New Zealand, it's been extra special to know that the ability to meet and share wouldn't have been possible of not for this Group, and that's made it all the more worthwhile.

DG-Hazmat Group Networking

The ultimate in group networking is to form alliances with other kindred and professional groups which have common interests and our Group is representative with:

- **JOIFF** which is administratively based in Dublin, Ireland have an excellent introductory video on their web site illustrating their Fire Hazard Management protocols, if you've not visited their web site it is a "Must See".
- **ISCO** based in Aberdeenshire in Scotland aims to raise worldwide preparedness & co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, to promote technical development and professional competency, and to provide a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

DG-Hazmat Group Sponsors

The continuing reason why all information is sent out to all DG-Hazmat Group subscribers freely is due to the very kind sponsorship of:

- **TANKNOLOGY AUSTRALIA** dedicates its resources to precision testing and evaluation to Environmental Compliance of underground and aboveground storage tank systems, throughout Australia. In Australia their direct call number is 1800:625:513.
- **FRANKLIN FUELING SYSTEMS** with the Total System Solution offers the world's most complete line of petroleum equipment including Submersible Pumping Systems, Piping & Containment Systems, Service Station Hardware, Dispensing Systems, Fuel Management Systems and Transport Systems.

Co-Moderator

Dr David Ritchie, FCILT CMIOSH FBILD MCIWM FIIRSM is kindly acting as my back-up Moderator and will be the Group Key Contact for the UK and EU, David is a Dangerous Goods Trainer with **RTCHIES TRAINING CENTRE** in Glasgow, Scotland.



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USA, PA, YORK COUNTY, AUGUST 23 2013. 2 CHARGED WITH STORING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN NEWBERRY TOWNSHIP, YORK HAVEN

matt miller

Two York County men are facing criminal charges for allegedly storing hazardous waste at properties in Newberry Township and York Haven, the state attorney general's office said Thursday. Attorney General Kathleen Kane said Neal Connelly, 41, of York, the former owner of the Neal's Wheels auto repair shop in York Haven, and Daniel Wert, 24, are accused of illegally transporting and storing a 55-gallon drum of a material containing benzene at Wert's home in the 5000 block of Bull Road in Newberry Township. Connelly also is accused of storing three 55-gallon drums of substances including benzene, tetrachloroethylene and lead at his former business in the 900 block of Pleasant Grove Road, state investigators said. Benzene and tetrachloroethylene are commonly used as solvents and have been linked to cancer and other ailments. Neither Connelly nor Wert had state permits to transport or store hazardous waste, Kane said. Both men were charged in York County after an investigation that involved the state Department of Environmental Protection. Kane said Connelly faces eight counts of unlawful conduct under the Solid Waste Management Act and one count of criminal conspiracy. Wert faces five counts of unlawful conduct and a conspiracy charge.

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2013/08/2_charged_with_storing_hazardo.html

CANADA, ONT, OTTAWA, AUGUST 23 2013. SENATE SEEKS RAILWAY OVERHAUL IN WAKE OF LAC-MÉGANTIC >> COMMITTEE STUDIED TRANSPORT OF OIL AND GAS BY PIPELINES, RAILWAYS AND TANKERS

meagan Fitzpatrick

 **Watch the Video** [Senate Report Calls for Review of Rail Regulations](#)

 **Document** [Read the Senate report: Moving Energy Safely](#)

A Senate committee study launched months before the fatal Lac-Mégantic, Que., train disaster urges the federal government to launch a major review of Canada's railway regulations, to better ensure the safe transport of dangerous goods. The report released Thursday by the energy, environment and natural resources committee contains 13 recommendations related to the transportation of crude oil and natural gas by railways, pipelines and tankers. Some of the key recommendations are:

- The federal government should launch an arm's-length review of the railway regulatory framework, standards and industry practices.
- Transport Canada should apply appropriate minimum liability coverage thresholds to ensure rail companies have the financial capacity to cover damages caused by a major incident.
- The National Energy Board and Transport Canada should create a web portal that includes interactive maps indicating detailed information on spills and incidents for pipelines, tankers and railcars. It should include the types of product released and the cause of the incident.
- The Transportation Safety Board should expand and modernize its database to provide detailed information on ship-sourced spills, including the type of ship, and the volume and type of product released.

The Senate report said the Lac-Mégantic train derailment that claimed at least 47 lives in early July underscored concerns many Canadians already had about transporting oil by rail. Those concerns are what prompted the study back in November, and led the committee to hear from more than 50 witnesses. The committee also did site visits across the country over the last nine months. "The goal of our study was to examine the current state of emergency and spill prevention, preparedness and response frameworks under federal authority and to make recommendations to improve public safety and the protection of the environment," Senator Richard Neufeld, chair of the committee, said in a news release.

Overhaul of Railway Regime Needed

"We've been working on these issues for the last nine months and the shocking Lac-Mégantic rail disaster has only intensified the need to address hydrocarbon transportation safety." The report said the loss of life, property damage and lasting environmental damage have convinced the committee that a major arm's-length review of the industry's safety regime is necessary. "The committee believes the Lac-Mégantic tragedy could have the same impact on the rail industry as the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill has had on marine oil transportation. Namely, it resulted in significant changes in tanker design and a major overhaul of Canada's marine spill preparedness and response programs," it said. The report said for the most part, oil and gas are transported safely in Canada, and that there are extensive regulatory frameworks and standards to promote safety. Senator Grant Mitchell, deputy chair of the committee, said at a news conference that Canadians can have confidence in the systems. But he said that as long as society chooses to use oil and gas for energy, it will need to be transported.



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Safety Culture Audits

"As long as they are transported, we can never say there will be zero risk," he said. Senator Neufeld told the news conference that prior to the Lac-Mégantic disaster, the overall safety record of rail transport had been good and the report notes that derailments and accidents have decreased in the last decade. "We would like to see that continue and never see another accident like we witnessed in Lac-Mégantic," he said. Five of the recommendations in the report are related to rail safety, and one of them suggests that Transport Canada implement a set of recommendations that were made in 2011 by the environment commissioner. A lot of questions were raised in the wake of the Lac-Mégantic disaster about why those recommendations were not acted upon. Another five recommendations are on tankers and two are on pipelines. The committee said it heard from many witnesses during the 18 hearings about the importance of having a healthy safety culture and that employees on the frontlines should be encouraged to question management on safety decisions. The report recommends that Transport Canada and the National Energy Board do mandatory audits of the companies they regulate to ensure that they are in fact maintaining proper safety cultures. "They all say that they're safe companies but what we need to do is set up systems to verify that," said Neufeld. "We need to make sure there are no further Lac-Mégantics." The National Energy Board responded to the report with a statement that said it supports the committee's recommendations related to the regulation of pipelines. It noted that it hosted a safety forum in July to explore emerging issues in the oil and gas industries and that there was a lot of discussion about safety. "A strong safety culture and well-implemented management systems provide additional layers of protection against catastrophic accidents. The NEB believes leadership is key to establishing, fostering and instilling a healthy safety culture," the statement read.

Related Stories

- [Railway in Lac-Mégantic disaster may get operating extension in Canada](#)
- [Zoom: Lac-Mégantic blast site](#)
- [Faces of the Lac-Mégantic tragedy](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2013/08/22/pol-senate-report-railway-systems-dangerous-goods.html>

CANADA, ALBA, EDMONTON, AUGUST 24 2013. IMPERIAL OIL SHOWN THE DOOR IN DISPUTE WITH COUPLE OVER CONTAMINATED LAND

marty klinkenberg



Barb and Rick Bilozer on their land in an off-lease area next to a test well that was drilled to test for water contamination.

Imperial Oil has failed in its first attempt to resolve a long-standing dispute with an Edmonton couple who wants the company to clean up the mess they say the oil and gas giant has left on their century-old farm. Continuing a battle his late mother started 20 years ago, Rick Bilozer and his wife, Barb, met in their home with Imperial officials on Thursday and essentially showed them the door when the company would not commit to remediating a five-acre parcel of land that has been set afire, soiled by a pipeline spill, and filled with contaminated concrete drilling pads and other materials over the years. The company has asked the Bilozers for access to their property between Devon and Calmar so an

environmental assessment can be conducted. The couple refuses unless Imperial agrees to clean up the field, beside which it previously installed two drilling platforms on land leased from Bilozer's mother, Natala. In 1993 the company received permission from health officials to fill in the field, which had collapsed after a fire and then flooded and turned into a swamp, with concrete and other clean materials. The Bilozers demanded it be dug up after learning other debris, including concrete slabs covered with oil, steel cables, newspapers, plastic bags and lengths of pipe had been buried there beneath the ground. Tests show contamination spreading from the site to groundwater and adjacent soil. "We told them not to come back for another meeting if they're not willing to address the waste materials," Barb Bilozer said Thursday. "We told them they give us no choice but to file a lawsuit." Christine Graves, a spokeswoman for Imperial Oil, said the company remains committed to working with the Bilozers. "We are committed to meet and work with them and regulators to find a resolution," she said. "We have made repeated attempts to secure an access agreement that allows us to do the testing we need to do before remediation." Alberta environment officials have directed the company to clean up the site three times since 2005 but say they will not intervene as long as Imperial is taking steps in that direction. In a documents officials left with the couple on Thursday



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the company expressed willingness to work with the landowners and said no doors are closed. It offered to have its lawyers meet with the Bilozers' lawyers, but stated that it wants to avoid a lawsuit. David Wolsey, a lawyer with the Edmonton firm Snyder and Associates, said he has been instructed by the Bilozers to file a lawsuit as soon as next week if the company doesn't change its position. At this point, the only other remedy available is if Imperial offers to buy the Bilozers' 160-acre farm. It was appraised last year, as is, for approximately \$1.55 million. "I think at the end of the day they have to address the contamination of the property or come up with a pretty reasonable pitch to buy out the land," Wolsey said. "Assuming that this lawsuit is filed we are looking at millions in damages. "It is going to be a very large lawsuit."

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Imperial+shown+door+dispute+with+couple+over/8822883/story.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, BLACKBURN, AUGUST 24 2013. CLEAN-UP OF FUEL CONTAMINATION UNDER BLACKBURN RD BUSINESS J & J DYNAMOTIVE TO START SOON

stacy allen



The clean-up of fuel contamination under J and J Dynamotive looks set to begin soon.

The clean-up of fuel contamination under Blackburn Rd business J and J Dynamotive looks set to finally begin in coming weeks. The clean-up at the site of the former Caltex petrol station on the opposite side of Blackburn Rd started last year after a groundwater remediation system was installed to pump the fuel out of the groundwater under the site. The Blackburn site had been derelict for 16 years before the clean-up began, to the ire of local business owners and residents. A long-running dispute between Caltex and Jonkan, the owners of J and J Dynamotive, about the source of the contamination stalled the clean-up.

Studies of the contamination showed it was underneath both sites and had spread under Blackburn Rd. Caltex spokesman Sam Collyer said the remediation work at their site was proceeding as expected, but no time frame had been set for the completion of the clean-up. Mr Collyer said Caltex were also about halfway through the installing a groundwater remediation system on the J and J Dynamotive site and expected to have that the system operating at the end of August or by early September. "Once the system is operating, J and J Dynamotive will become responsible for its ongoing operation and maintenance," Mr Collyer said. Blackburn Chamber of Commerce secretary Fay La Galle, a strong campaigner for the clean-up, said the start of the work at J and J Dynamotive was another positive step for the community. "It's a good sign things are on the move there," Mrs La Galle said. Mrs La Galle, who plans to step down from the chamber of commerce in September after 23 years service, said it was a credit to the members of the chamber that the clean-up had begun. "It was the chamber of commerce that took the bit between the teeth and got Caltex to the table to do something about it," she said. Chamber of Commerce president Janet Gardner agreed it was a relief to see that the clean-up had now started on both sides of Blackburn Rd. J and J Dynamotive's spokesman Tony Caillard did not respond to Leader's requests by deadline.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/east/cleanup-of-fuel-contamination-under-blackburn-rd-business-j-and-j-dynamotive-to-start-soon/story-fngnvlxu-1226702031350>

GHANA, ACCRA, AUGUST 24 2013. NPA BLAMES EPA, OTHERS FOR WRONGFUL SITING OF FUEL STATIONS

The National Petroleum Authority (NPA) has blamed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Metropolitan Municipal District Assemblies (MMDAs) and National Fire Service, for the upsurge in the wrongful siting of fuel stations at residential areas. Jacob Amoah, Acting Chief Executive of NPA, made this known on Wednesday at Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) sitting, which is scrutinising the Auditor-General's 2010 and 2011 reports on state institutions and other bodies. He explained that under the current arrangement, once the three bodies - EPA, Fire Service and Assemblies - certify the construction of fuel stations in any locality, the NPA has no choice than to issue a construction permit. "What we usually do is either to do some modifications to the layout [of the proposed fuel station] or send [those who want to construct the fuel stations] back to EPA and the other bodies to [take a second look]", he explained. He noted also that after the NPA has referred the matter back to these institutions for a second look in instances where the NPA has felt the siting violates safety standards, the situation remained the same. He indicated that until the situation is reversed, the NPA will continue to issue licenses for such construction regardless of the safety of residents in such areas.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/artikel.php?ID=283307&comment=0#com>



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USA, ILL, WOOD RIVER, AUGUST 24 2013. HOMES CLEANED AFTER REFINERY RELEASE

jill moon



Houses in the Heritage Trail subdivision located off Rock Hill Road in Wood River, just north of the Phillips 66 Refinery in Roxana and have been the subject of a cleanup by the refinery.

An ashy, black dust that settled on the homes of concerned residents in recent days is a non-hazardous inert material released by a coker unit at nearby Phillips 66 Refinery, the company said. Power washer crews and swimming pool cleaners gave their services freely Thursday to residents of the Heritage Trails subdivision off Rock Hill Road, less than a mile north of the Phillips 66 Refinery in Roxana. Contractors said they were there at the refinery's request. One of two men in a white-colored van marked only with the words "licensed and insured" and "free estimates" said that he was "with Phillips 66" as a contractor with his own power-washing business. He would not give his name or the name of the business. A spokeswoman for the refinery said the residue is non-hazardous inert material from a refinery coker unit. "Overnight Tuesday, we experienced the release of steam containing coke dust from the north coker, which is a new unit, when cutting coke from the coker drum," Phillips 66 Refinery spokesperson Melissa Erker said Thursday. The cutting process uses water, and when it comes in contact with a hot spot the water creates steam, which in some cases can cause a steam vapor to release from the drum, she explained. Residents said the same thing happened in July with refinery residue but it was much worse than what accumulated on their properties this week. In both cases, emissions carried with them coke particles. "The coke dust poses no health risk to members of the community," Erker said. "We've been in contact with the folks with dust on their property and offered to clean the property in a pro-active manner at the refinery's expense." Although some subdivision residents said Thursday's incident occurred also earlier this week, Erker said any residue seen and cleaned up from vehicles, sidewalks and swimming pools Thursday is from Tuesday's refinery steam release. Phillips 66 Refinery employee Michael Martin visited the subdivision this week and gave out his business card with his name and both his office and cellular phone numbers printed on it, asking residents to call him with any concerns. "The event in July was similar, but again we went to residents, talked to them, dealt with each of them individually with their concerns and what they wanted cleaned," Erker said. She urged anyone with concerns to call the refinery's community concerns telephone number at (618) 255-3375. "That way we can contact them back directly; call them back and get their needs, and work with them individually," she said. "We at the refinery encourage anyone, anytime to use that line when they have a concern." She noted that Phillips 66 Refinery wants to be proactive. "Our goal is to remain committed to the health and safety of our surrounding communities at all times, and we apologize to any of those residents for the inconvenience," she said. Multiple neighbors gave their accounts Thursday of the residue on their property and about the dusty film left in July. Two people of different residences said when it happened last month "it was really bad" and "it was disgusting." One of the residents has a swimming pool and a crew came to clean it, and those of her neighbors, after the July residue fell in the neighborhood. The same resident said that she was concerned about the content of the dust and simply wanted to know what it was. To the touch the residue felt and looked similar to ashes, like those left after charcoal briquettes burn to dust in a barbecue grill. A thin film of the dark dust lay Thursday on one woman's SUV parked in her driveway. Another neighbor, for whom a power washing duo began cleaning her house's exterior at around 11:30 a.m. Thursday, said she had no concerns about the residue and assumed it came from the refinery's coker. A coker is an oil refinery processing unit that converts residual oil from a vacuum distillation column or an atmospheric distillation column into low molecular weight hydrocarbon gases, light and heavy gas oils and petroleum coke.

http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/local/article_e5bbd1e6-0b83-11e3-8428-001a4bcf6878.html

INDIA, MANIPUR, IMPHAL, AUGUST 24 2013. TANKER MISHAP

A diesel tanker which left for Moreh oil pump from IOC's Chingmeirong depot last afternoon met with a road accident near Lokchao this afternoon. The diesel tanker bearing registration number MN01-7191 belongs to one Tiken of Kakwa. Depot officials have directed that an empty tanker be sent for transferring 12 Kls of diesel loaded in the ill-fated tanker and deliver the fuel to Moreh. The diesel tanker was driven by one Milan of Kha-Potshangbam. However, there is no report of any casualty to the driver and his assistant.

<http://e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=Snipp2..230813.aug13>



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INDIA, ANDHRA PRADESH, VISAKHAPATNAM, AUGUST 24 2013. 5 FEARED DEAD IN HPCL REFINERY



According to eyewitnesses, welding work was going on at the site as part of the expansion and nearly 70 workers were at the site when the accident took place. Fire tenders trying to put down fire caused by an explosion in an under-construction cooling tower in the HPCL Refinery in Visakhapatnam on Friday.

Five people are feared dead and 40 workers were seriously injured when a fire broke out on one of the cooling towers of the Hindustan Petrochemical Corporation Ltd (HPCL) refinery at Malkapuram in Vizag. According to eyewitnesses, welding work was going on at the site as part of the expansion

and nearly 70 workers were at the site when the accident took place. While the body of one worker has been shifted to King George Hospital, the other injured were rushed to INS Kalyani naval hospital opposite the HPCL main gate for first aid and from there to various hospitals in the city. Some more workers were feared to be trapped in the debris at the site, said sources at HPCL. While 16 of those who sustained serious burns were admitted to New Care Hospital, while another six were admitted at Manipal Hospital, five at Seven Hills Hospital and three at Apollo. Nearly 10 workers with lesser burns were admitted at the INS Kalyani Naval Hospital.

The list of victims is as below:

New Care Hospital:

Ch Sach Rao 27 years (60% burns), Krishna Chander, 35 (80% burns), M Srinivasulu, 22 (95% burns), Varun, 28, (70% burns), K Shankar Rao 48 (95% burns), Tota Rao 42 (40% burns), B Ramana 40 (40% burns), S Srinivas Rao 48 (90% burns), Murari Pradhan 30 (40% burns), Appala Rao 21 (60% burns), P Sreenu 23 (40% burns), Sambu Manna 55 (50% burns), Ananta 21 (50% burns), Swamiya 50 (45% burns), Vashisht Mandal 20 (30% burns), MV Ramana 45 (50% burns)

Seven Hills Hospital:

Appa Rao 48, (60% burns), Subhash 58 (80% burns), Srinivas 39 (60% burns), K Ramana 27 (80% burns), Srinivas 39 (60% burns)

Manipal Hospital:

Malakundya 45 (70% burns), GM Reddy 37 (80% burns), Tata Rao 60 (60% burns), M Anujeet 26 (40% burns), Swamulu 60 (30% burns), Venkata Rao 50 (45% burns)

Apollo Hospital:

Mohd Alias 35 (60% burns), P Venkata Rao 44 (70% burns), Aditya Das 24 (50% burns)

INS Kalyani: These include Easwar Rao 25, Farookh Ali 47, MCH Naidu 45, T Satyababu 33, JS Kushwaha 40, C Mohanta 49, Dalip Chakraborty 46, Ch Appala Reddy 47, Biswajit 22, P Satyaraju 38.

Related Stories

- [Two dead, 38 injured in blaze at HPCL refinery](#)
- [Fire breaks out in Vizag's HPCL refinery, 1 killed](#)
- [Fire at HPCL refinery in Vizag; one dead, 35 hurt](#)
- [One killed in tower explosion at HPCL refinery](#)
- [Major fire at Hindustan Petroleum refinery in Visakhapatnam, 2 killed, 37 injured](#)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/5-feared-dead-in-HPCL-refinery-fire-in-Visakhapatnam/articleshow/22010469.cms>

NEW ZEALAND, AUGUST 24 2013. CLOSE CALL AS TANKER PLUNGES OFF ROAD

leighton keith



A truck has crashed in the Awakino gorge.

Emergency services were put on high alert when a tanker crashed in the Awakino Gorge yesterday morning. The northbound truck failed to take a right-hand bend and crashed through a fence, ploughed through a paddock and down a small bank before coming to a rest with its cab dangling over the river about 7.45am. Police, firefighters and a hazardous chemicals crew were called to the scene, just south of the tunnel, after initial reports that the truck was carrying liquid nitrogen. However, the truck's cargo turned out to be refrigerated liquid carbon dioxide, which is non-flammable and non-toxic. Sergeant Stephen Richardson said the crash had to be treated as serious until

it was established what the truck had been hauling. "Due to the isolated location in the Awakino Gorge all emergency services



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were sent to the scene because of the potential for a gas tanker to cause a lot of damage," Mr Richardson said. "At the time, until it was confirmed, we didn't know what the cargo was." Mr Richardson said the 59-year-old driver, of Auckland, had escaped the crash with only minor cuts and bruises. The road was wet at the time of the crash. The police commercial vehicle inspection unit would examine the truck and further inquiries would be made to determine the cause of the crash, Mr Richardson said. A tow truck was called to try to pull the truck and trailer out but was hampered by the muddy conditions. "This could be a bigger job than anticipated," he said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/9081709/Close-call-as-tanker-plunges-off-road>

CUBA, SANCTI SPIRITUS, AUGUST 24 2013. OIL SPILL IN CUBAN REFINERY UNDER CONTROL

The spill of 15,000 liters of crude oil occurred here in the Sergio Soto Refinery due to labor negligence is under control, its manager said today. Lester Aleman, CEO of the plant, located in the municipality of Cabaiguan (Sancti Spiritus province) told the local newspaper the Escambray that 14,000 liters were recovered, the rest was swept along by a flooding following heavy rain. Aleman stressed that the spill, which occurred last week, was caused by the negligence of the operator on duty who did not timely reviewed the trap, and oil displaced the water seal. Experts from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA) in Sancti Spiritus assessed the environmental damage and described it as considerable. CITMA specialist Magalis Torres said that there is environmental damage caused by an error in the technological process. The Decree-Law No. 200 of Violations in Environment will be imposed on those involved, she added. Environmental authorities in the region will inspect the ecosystem damaged to assess the effects of the oil spill in the medium and long term. According to CITMA officials and the plants management, industrial process is normalized and there has not been traces of contamination in waters and crops in the area so far.

http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1792601&Itemid=1

AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, BORROLOOLA, AUGUST 24 2013. MINER ORDERED TO PAY \$70,000 DIESEL SPILL FINE

melanie arnost

Map: [Borroloola 0854](#)

Almost 28,000 litres of diesel leaked into the ground at the McArthur River zinc mine site near Borroloola in May 2011.



A Northern Territory mining company has been fined \$70,000 for a big diesel spill two years ago. Almost 28,000 litres of diesel leaked into the ground at the McArthur River zinc mine site near Borroloola in May 2011. In the Darwin Magistrates Court today, Xstrata subsidiary McArthur River Mining was convicted and fined \$70,000 for causing material environmental harm. Magistrate John Lowndes said the harm was "fairly serious" but noted that the company had spent \$250,000 cleaning up in the aftermath of the incident. He said McArthur River Mining was a good corporate citizen and had learnt its lesson. The company was given 28 days to pay the fine but defence lawyer Anthony Crocker told the court the company would need more time. However, outside the court later, a spokesman for McArthur River Mining said it would pay the fine within 28 days. He also said the company had spent \$750,000 on

remediation works following the spill. Parent company Glencore Xstrata is one of the world's largest mining and commodity trading enterprises.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-08-23/mcarthur-river-mine-court-diesel-spill-fine-darwin-magistrates-/4908176?section=business>

USA, LA, BATON ROUGE, AUGUST 24 2013. EXXONMOBIL FINED BY DEQ FOR JUNE 14, 2012 POLLUTION RELEASE, AGREES TO PAY \$2.3 MILLION

amy wold

Four ExxonMobil facilities in Baton Rouge and Port Allen will be paying a total of more than \$2.3 million in penalties, civil fines, environmental projects and internal improvements as part of a settlement that the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and ExxonMobil say will benefit the communities and the facilities. The DEQ also announced on Friday a separate



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penalty of almost \$62,000 against ExxonMobil for a June 14, 2012, release of naphtha at its Baton Rouge chemical facility while the larger settlement involved incidents of pollution that have occurred since 2008. In addition, DEQ and ExxonMobil have agreed to a penalty schedule for any future emissions of pollution. The stipulated penalty agreement outlines specific payments for specific violations, and the payments go up as the time or amount of pollution increases. "Here's my incentive to keep my incident minimal," said Cheryl Nolan, DEQ assistant secretary. This is the first time this type of stipulated penalty agreement has been done by the state, and both ExxonMobil and DEQ officials agreed it's going to make things more efficient. The penalty schedule will speed up the time between a violation and a penalty payment for many different types of violations, Nolan said. Under current procedures, after a pollution release occurs, a series of notices from DEQ and responses from the company must be completed, she said. Now with the stipulated penalty agreement, it's pre-arranged what will be paid for each violation which should provide a much shorter delay between the violation and the payment than currently exists, Nolan said. "They know, 'you do this, this is what you're going to pay,'" she said. Robert Berg, state regulatory adviser for Louisiana for ExxonMobil, agreed. "It's very, very efficient," he said. The review of incidents will be done on an annual basis so there will be a much quicker time around between the incident and the payment, Berg said. "We're going to do this while it's still fresh in everyone's mind," he said. Environmental groups also praised the stipulated penalty agreement as being a big step forward. "This proposed settlement contains substantial contributions to local community projects, which is good, but the most significant progress is the development of stipulated penalties," said Marylee Orr, executive director with Louisiana Environmental Action Network. "With the establishment of stipulated penalties, Louisiana, for the first time ever, has created an objective and transparent system for enforcing environmental regulations," she said. The proposed settlement over pollution incidents that occurred from 2008 to this year includes \$300,000 in payments to DEQ; just over \$1 million in beneficial environmental projects; and \$1 million in improvements to the facilities to help provide faster detection of future releases. The facilities included in the settlement are the ExxonMobil refinery in Baton Rouge, chemical plant in Baton Rouge, the tank farm in Port Allen and a resin finishing plant in Baton Rouge. The settlement includes violations, both that received enforcement actions and those that didn't, between 2008 and 2013. These self-reported violations fill about 48 pages of the settlement agreement and range from pollution releases including benzene, propylene and flammable vapors, to water quality issues to a number of flaring instances. Also included in the settlement is a commitment of \$1 million that ExxonMobil will spend to improve spill prevention control and other improvements at its Baton Rouge complex, Nolan said. "My charge to them is how is this not going to happen again," she said. ExxonMobil will present DEQ with a plan for improvements for approval with the goal of discovering spill faster, reacting to them faster and thus minimizing the impact, Nolan said. "Why does it take this long to figure out you had a spill?" she said. Berg, with ExxonMobil, said although there are no specific projects as the company moves forward with putting together a plan for DEQ approval, the goal of the program is clear. "The goal is rapid detection, rapid mitigation and minimize impact," he said. "To find and fix problems faster." As part of the settlement process, ExxonMobil will publish a public notice soon that will start the clock on a 45-day public comment period. At the same time, the proposed settlement has been sent to the Attorney General's office for a 90-day review. The separate \$61,912 penalty is for violations that occurred during a June 14, 2012, naphtha release at the ExxonMobil Baton Rouge chemical plant. According to a compliance order and notice of potential penalty issued to the facility July 19, a plug at a tank was discovered leaking naphtha, which is a mixture of various hydrocarbons, at 4:30 a.m. June 14. In this case, the naphtha release involved 28,688 pounds of benzene, 10,882 pounds of toluene, 1,100 pounds of cyclohexane, 1,564 pounds of hexane and 12,605 pounds of additional volatile organic compounds. The DEQ and ExxonMobil decided to enter dispute resolution which gave them up to a year to resolve the issue.

<http://theadvocate.com/news/6850537-123/exxonmobil-fined-by-deq-for>

NIGERIA, RIVERS STATE, ADAMAKIRI, AUGUST 24 2013. SHELL INVESTIGATES LEAK IN NIGER DELTA

Military reports discovering liquid 'jetting' out of a pipeline near Adamakiri in Rivers state while looking for illegal oil refiners. Royal Dutch Shell's Nigerian unit is containing an oil spill in the Niger delta, the company said on Friday, after the military reported liquid "jetting" out of a pipeline. Massive oil theft, sabotage of infrastructure and leaks from ageing pipelines are all cutting into the profits of the big oil companies operating in Nigeria, as well as damaging public finances. The hundreds of spills a year in the Niger delta do serious environmental damage, destroying fishing communities and poisoning water used for drinking and bathing. The military joint taskforce said it had discovered a leak on a pipeline near Adamakiri in Rivers state while looking for illegal oil refiners. "An assessment of the spot revealed that a brownish liquid substance was observed jetting out from an opening on the pipeline," a statement said. "The commanding officer ... attributed the leakage to corrosion on the



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pipeline." A spokesman for Shell's Nigeria unit said that "oil spill containment" had been put in place but it was too early to determine the cause of the leak. The company says most spills are due to gangs tapping pipelines to steal oil but local communities say the company is responsible for more spills than it acknowledges. Shell is facing legal action in a UK court on behalf of 11,000 members of the Niger delta Bodo community, who say the company is responsible for spilling 500,000 barrels in 2008. Shell has admitted liability for two spills in the Bodo region but estimates the volume is far lower. Operational problems in Nigeria cost Shell \$250m in the second quarter of this year, the firm says.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/aug/23/shell-investigates-leak-niger-delta>

THAILAND, KOH SAMET, AUGUST 25 2013. THAI OFFICIALS PLAY DOWN EFFECTS OF OIL SPILL

thomas fuller



Workers scrubbed oil-stained rocks near Thailand's resort island of Koh Samet.

Two rescue operations were set in motion last month when a burst pipeline sent tons of crude oil gushing into the sea near this idyllic resort island. One was cleaning up the spill. The other was defending the image of Thailand's tourism industry, crucial to the country's increasingly fragile economy. Thai officials immediately played down the environmental impact of what was the country's third-largest oil spill. An executive with the state-owned oil group, PTT, speaking a day after the July 27 accident, told reporters that "everything was restored to normal." A day later, when a thick black tide of crude filled a bay of this popular resort island, the same executive, Pornthep Butniphant, said the oil would decompose naturally and have "no effect on the environment." But it has taken far more than nature to remove the crude from the shoreline. Military units have

spent the past three weeks decontaminating the bay. The soldiers have been joined by dozens of contractors who have been brushing rocks with dish-washing liquid to extract remaining traces of crude. A leading marine biologist said it would be years before marine life returned to normal in the worst-affected area. Tourism is often seen in Thailand as a buffer when other economic activities slow down. With the economies of Southeast Asia entering an uncertain period, officials appear to be doing everything they can to sustain the record numbers of visitors of recent years. In an effort to convince the public that swimming was safe, the sometimes-theatrical deputy prime minister, Plodprasop Suraswadi, summoned reporters Aug. 9 to watch him swim in Phrao Bay, the area affected worst. Six days after his publicity stunt, the government's own pollution control department issued a report saying that the area was too polluted to swim, with potentially cancer-causing hydrocarbons present in the water that were nearly six times the permissible level. Environmentalists say the government has been too hasty in declaring the area safe and has given misleadingly upbeat assessments about the spill. Ply Piron, a coordinator with the environmental group Greenpeace who specializes in toxic substances, said that government officials were being pressured to produce data that showed the water was clean, and that the government was too cozy with PTT, the highly profitable oil group. Thailand's natural resources and environment minister, Vichet Kasemthongsri, was previously chairman of the board at PTT. "Everything about this issue is suspicious," Mr. Ply said. "They are saying the water is clear, but people are worried about what they don't see." Mr. Plodprasop, the deputy prime minister, has criticized government data, saying other findings of the pollution control department — that mercury in the water greatly exceeded safe levels — were wrong. After his criticism, those findings were rejected by the Thai cabinet, and new tests were ordered. These produced lower mercury readings. Thon Thamrongnawasawat, a marine biologist who has examined the coastline extensively since the spill, said the government had been "too hasty to claim that everything had returned to normal." "Nature takes time to recover," he said. "The Thai government has been too optimistic — and is not in sync with reality." Piamsak Menasveta, a marine-pollution expert at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and the chairman of the country's Independent Commission of Environment and Health, called for an independent verification of the government's pollution data, particularly of the inconsistent mercury findings. "I am confident that there are some mistakes," he said in an interview. Hotels have reported cancellations since the spill, especially among Western Europeans and weekend visitors from Bangkok, which is a two-and-a-half hour drive from the jetty that connects Koh Samet with the mainland. But the beaches here are far from empty, perhaps owing to the positive spin the government has put on the accident. A dozen tourists interviewed on the eastern side of the island, which was not directly affected by the spill, said they were unaware it had occurred. "I don't know anything about this," said Wang Zhaoyang, a university student from Xian, China, visiting with her family. "If I knew before I came, I might have reconsidered." Chinese and



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Russian tourists continue to arrive in large groups, tour operators say. "We would be in real trouble without the Chinese," said Sanya Boonyarit, a speedboat pilot who ferried tourists to the island. The director of Thailand's pollution control department, Wichan Jungrungrueng, told Thai news outlets Thursday that beaches on the eastern side of the island were safe for swimming but that Phrao Bay still contained levels of total petroleum hydrocarbon, the potentially harmful chemicals found in crude oil, above acceptable limits. The PTT official charged with the cleanup, Kun Patumraj, an executive vice president for engineering and maintenance, predicted that the affected area would be ready to receive tourists for the high season, which begins in November. He spoke in an interview Thursday on a beach where workers were flushing out small brown globules of oil from nearby rocks, causing a faint smell of crude to waft through the air. The company is carrying out regular tests of sand and water in the area affected by the spill, but Mr. Kun acknowledged a trust deficit. "It's difficult," he said. "Sometimes people don't believe us." Mr. Ply of Greenpeace said the spill had highlighted a broader and longer-term question for Thailand: the sustainability of pristine beaches so close to industrial zones. Foreign visitors often envision Thailand as country of rice paddies and beach resorts, but the country is also a regional industrial powerhouse with the largest car industry in Southeast Asia and thousands of factories making a range of products like computer hard drives and chemicals. At dusk on Koh Samet, tourists flock to a spot above a stretch of rocky shoreline on the island, where they watch the sunset. From the same spot in the evenings, a visitor can see twinkling lights and gas flares in the distance — a petrochemical complex known as Map Ta Phut. The oil that spilled into the Gulf of Thailand in July, which a government committee says amounted to 54,000 liters, or 14,000 gallons, was bound for a refinery in the industrial zone. A lawsuit by residents four years ago in Map Ta Phut temporarily stopped expansion of the refineries on environmental grounds. Government studies have shown that at least eight types of cancer among Thais were highest in Rayong Province, where Map Ta Phut and other industrial zones are located. Mr. Piamsak, the maritime-pollution expert, said that regulations were lax and that the government did not have contingency plans to deal with oil and chemical spills. Critics say PTT was ill-prepared for the July spill. The company's largest boom, the tubular barriers used to contain spills, was only 200 meters — or 650 feet — long, vastly inadequate for a spill that spanned several kilometers. Koh Samet, which is about 35 kilometers, or 20 miles, from the refineries, is technically part of a national park, although nearly every beach is blanketed with hotels and guesthouses, and back alleys are strewn with trash. Yet considering its proximity to industry, the waters here are remarkably clear. To Ms. Wang, the tourist from China, where waterways are often blacked by pollution, the island appeared pristine. After emerging from a swim in a bikini, she scanned the beach. "It's very beautiful here," she said.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/24/world/asia/thai-officials-play-down-effects-of-oil-spill.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, AUGUST 25 2013. NORTH SALT LAKE REFINERY WILL PAY FINE, SPEND \$18M UNDER DEAL WITH EPA

judy fahys

North Salt Lake » Big West Oil agrees to install latest emission controls to settle alleged pollution violations. Federal regulators and operators of the Big West Oil refinery in North Salt Lake have [agreed to a settlement](#) calling for installation of \$18 million in emissions controls and payment of a \$175,000 penalty for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act. The deal is the latest in a series of settlements with refineries nationwide that has allowed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to crack down on pollutants that contribute to summer and winter smog, as well as acid rain. The pollutants not only degrade the environment in general but cause health damage that is especially hard on the very young, the very old and people with heart and lung problems. "EPA continues to secure significant settlements with refineries that benefit public health and improve air quality in our communities," said Shaun McGrath, the top administrator in EPA's Denver regional office. "Today's agreement will help bring Big West Oil's refinery up to date with industry standards to protect the environment." The consent decree, which must be finalized in federal court, also requires to spend \$253,000 to beef up safety with better monitoring and management of hydrofluoric acid releases the site. "We have appreciated EPA's and the state's willingness to work with us in finding workable methods for making the desired reductions," the company said in an emailed statement. "The mutually agreed decree entered today will require Big West to spend tens of millions of dollars on pollution control equipment and procedures, and will result in significant reductions in emissions." In agreeing to the settlement, the company does not admit guilt. The statement said Big West, an Ogden-based company that produces about 35,000 barrels a day of gasoline and diesel at its North Salt Lake refinery, is committed to responsible environmental stewardship, while providing great jobs for the state of Utah and supplying the fuel that runs our economy and benefits all of its citizens." The refinery will release a total of 226 tons less sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter each year, thanks to the agreement, said the EPA and the Justice Department, which



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announced the settlement jointly on Friday. With the announcement of this settlement, all four of Utah's major refineries are now covered by EPA agreements. The timing is good, because the plants are significant sources of pollutants like NOX and particulates that the state is trying to cut in order to meet federal pollution standards. The plan is overdue at EPA, and the Utah Division of Air Quality intends to submit a comprehensive cleanup plan by the end of the year.

The EPA's Refinery Pollution Crackdown

The Environmental Protection Agency has been taking a hard look at refineries since 2000. Since then:

- The agency has signed 31 settlements with refiners that account for more than 90 percent of the nation's petroleum refining capacity.
- Companies and the EPA have reached agreements covering 107 refineries in 32 states and territories.
- Refiners have promised to cut key pollutants by more than 360,000 tons per year.
- Affected companies have pledged or installed more than \$6.5 billion in new pollution controls.
- The companies have paid more than \$93 million in penalties.
- Four of the five refineries straddling the Salt Lake/Davis County borders have signed consent decrees with EPA.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/56774251-90/refinery-epa-deal-lake.html.csp>

NEPAL, NARAYANI, PARS, BIRGUN, AUGUST 25 2013. FUEL TANK EXPLOSION KILLS TWO IN BARA



Personnel from the Nepali Army and Armed Police Force trying to douse a fire that caught a steel factory after acid-filled tanks exploded in Jitpur on Saturday.

BIRGUNJ: Two workers of the Bhagawati Steel Industries in the Bara-Parsa industrial corridor in Jitpur, died today after acid-filled tanks exploded and caused fire. According to police, Naresh Paswan of Chhatapipara and Kanhaiya Sah of Bhatauda died after fuel tanks exploded and caught fire while they were trying to fix a pipe onto a tank at about 9:30am. "The workers were welding a pipe onto the furnace tank, which exploded along with another one and caught fire. Both the tanks were filled with acid," said Bishal Sharma, owner of the industry, adding the repair work was going on for the past three days. "The contractors must empty the fuel tank before any work is started. They failed to follow the routine procedure and the acid-filled tanks exploded," said the kin of

the deceased, hinting at negligence on the part of contractor Krishna Sapkota. Following the incident, locals along with the army and police personnel took the fire under control about two hours later. Meanwhile, police have detained the industry's administrative in-charge Dharmendra Karna and contractor Sapkota's representative Sanjaya Das. They have been kept in the custody of Area Police Office, Jitpur. Police said they would take initiatives to get compensation for victims' kin after holding a meeting with the industry management and the contractor. Joint Trade Union Coordination Committee Parsa-Bara-Rautahat Coordinator Suresh Gupta described the incident as unfortunate and assured that his organisation would do the needful to provide compensation to the victims' families after the investigation was completed.

 **Related Stories** [Massive Fire Breaks Out at Bara Steel Factory](http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Fuel+tank+explosion+kills+two+in+Bara+&NewsID=388523&a=3)

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Fuel+tank+explosion+kills+two+in+Bara+&NewsID=388523&a=3>

USA, N.J, LITTLE FERRY, AUGUST 25 2013. LITTLE FERRY POLICE: ILLEGAL GAS-BUYING RING TRAFFICKED HUNDREDS OF GALLONS IN VANS

jerry demarco



"It's mind-boggling."

Using bogus credit cards, a ring run by the owner of a vehicle leasing company dangerously trafficked hundreds of gallons of high-octane fuel in the back of vans between New Jersey and Brooklyn before Little Ferry police busted them, authorities told Cliffview Pilot. Responding officers tipped off to a suspicious vehicle arrested six men – one of whom tried to run across the Hackensack River bridge into Ridgefield Park – and seized two Econoline vans filled with dozens of five-gallon containers, Little Ferry Police Chief Ralph Verdi said yesterday. "Can you imagine what could have happened with all of those gas cans in each van?" Verdi



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asked. "Say they go over the George Washington Bridge on the lower level and there's an incident — or even worse, in one of the tunnels? The vans reeked of gasoline, the chief told Cliffview Pilot, adding that both vehicles had curtains strewn behind the front seats to hide the volatile cargo. Selling the "high-test" gas isn't difficult, Verdi said. "Fly-by-night car services aren't asking questions, especially when someone's offering it for \$2 or \$3 a gallon," he explained, adding that this apparently wasn't their first trip. Credit card companies have warned the owners of the Valero station on Route 46 in Little Ferry of fraudulent purchases in the past, Verdi said. Around 3:25 a.m. Thursday, borough police got a call of a suspicious van at the station, he said. Responding officers found both vans, as well as the six men — one of whom took off running, the chief told Cliffview Pilot. As he headed across the Hackensack River bridge, the man tossed more than two dozen credit cards over the side, Verdi said. Trouble was, he'd already reached the area of Ridgefield Park spanned by the bridge. Ridgefield Park and Moonachie police teamed up to catch him and retrieve the cards on the ground below, the chief said. All bore information stolen from legitimate cardholders, he said. The other five men — most of them Haitian nationals — were taken into custody at the scene, Verdi said. Police also seized both vans and \$2,000 in cash. Those arrested include Boubacar Diallo, 62, who Verdi said operates a vehicle leasing business in the city; Dominic Clarke and Billy Andres, both 20; Myers Compton, 42; Dorlous Loukens, 24; and Gedeon Alix, 41, all of Brooklyn. All were being held on \$50,000 bail each in the Bergen County Jail, charged with theft, conspiracy and fraudulent use of a credit card. Additional charges are likely, Verdi said. "At least two of them don't have green cards," he said. Police from California to North Carolina also have expressed interest in the crew following a series of credit card information thefts in their states, Verdi added.

http://www.nj.com/bergen/index.ssf/2013/08/little_ferry_police_bust_illegal_gasoline_trafficking_ring_report_says.html

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, AUGUST 25 2013. 'FATAL OIL RIG BLAST IN GULF OF MEXICO CAUSED BY POORLY TRAINED FILIPINOS'

United States oil platform operator Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations has pointed to unsafe welding practices as the cause of the oil rig blast that killed three Filipino workers in the Gulf of Mexico on Nov. 16 last year. The company was citing a report from an "independent third party" investigation it had commissioned pending a federal probe. A report released by ABSG Consulting said its contractor, Grand Isle Shipyard (GIS), had violated contract obligations when it allowed "poorly trained subcontractor workers" to undertake welding operations on the platform. The Philippine Embassy in Washington D. C. withheld comment on the Black Elk report, saying that it would instead wait for the results of the official investigation by the US Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).

Official Investigation

"The embassy would like to wait for the release next month of the results of the official investigation conducted by the BSEE of the Department of the Interior in which the Filipino workers involved in the accident were given the opportunity to participate," said the embassy in a statement. "The embassy, however, takes note of the statement of Black Elk president John Hoffman reiterating his recognition of the reputation of Filipino offshore oil workers for competence and professionalism," the post said. US media reports on the Black Elk investigation results said the Houston-based firm's consultant had found that subcontractor workers were welding an open pipe connected to tanks with highly flammable oil and vapors at the time of the blast. It said GIS allowed welders of the Philippine-based DNR Offshore and Crewing Services, which deployed the Filipino workers, to do sensitive work even as it was bound by contract not to use subcontractors for the job.

Absolved of Liability

The commissioned report released on Aug. 21 virtually absolved Black Elk of any liability in the blast. Filipino workers Jerome Malagapo, 28, Avelino Tajonera, 48, and Elroy Corporal, 42, were killed in the blast while two others were injured, including pipefitter Renato Dominguez and a colleague whose name was withheld on the family's request. Responding to the privately contracted investigation, contractor GIS pointed out that the probe was outside the formal federal investigation and that consultants were "selected, hired, paid and directed" by Black Elk.

Inaccuracies and Hearsay

"There are several inaccuracies and hearsay included in this report which GIS will refute once we have had an opportunity to review in detail the entire 400-page report," read the GIS statement. The contractor also underscored how the commissioned probe excluded GIS and its subcontract personnel, saying they "have never been interviewed directly by this firm to discuss the first-hand accounts of the incident." The Philippine Embassy vowed to continue providing assistance to the affected workers and "to take all actions to ensure that their rights are fully protected and their claims properly addressed."

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/84007/fatal-oil-rig-blast-in-gulf-of-mexico-caused-by-poorly-trained-filipinos>



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PHILIPPINES, CEBU, AUGUST 25 2013. POLICE, SOLDIERS FIGHT CORDOVA OIL SPILL

- They wore PNP shirts, short pants, combat boots, rubber gloves, head gear, and face masks.
- Some volunteers use their bare hands to pick up material and are exposed to potentially hazardous fumes from petroleum.



They don't seem to mind the sun and slimy mud as they clean up Cordova's coastline damaged by an oil spill. A contingent of 50 policemen of the Regional Public Safety Battalion-7 based in Sibonga town helped in the coastal cleanup of barangays Day-as and Buagsong. Elsewhere in the town hit by an oil spill from the sunken MV St. Thomas Aquinas, around 150 soldiers from the Central Command of the Armed Forces of Philippines and 45 from the Philippines Coast Guard are also helping out. "We treat this not just as a mission. I keep in mind that fishermen can no longer go out to sea and make a living because of this disaster," PO1 Dennis Louie Castillo, 28, told Cebu Daily News. He said he finds fulfillment in doing something to save the environment. "It's difficult to clean during high tide since there's a possibility that the oil will be dispersed," he added. Castillo with other personnel started to clean up at 6 a.m. yesterday. They wore PNP shirts, short pants, combat boots, rubber gloves, head gear, and face

masks. Their task is to deploy oil spill booms made of coconut husks and melt blown absorbent (material used in diapers) in contaminated coastal water. They wait until low tide to gather the oil-soaked materials in sacks which they bring to a storage area, where the oil is extracted so the material can be reused. It's difficult to move around in the thick mud, coral rocks and protruding mangrove pods. "Matang-tang na gud among mga boots inig tikang kay mupilit man jud sa lapok [Sometimes our boots get pulled from our feet when the boots get stuck in the mud]," he told CDN. Some volunteers use their bare hands to pick up material and are exposed to potentially hazardous fumes from petroleum. After four days of clean-up, Castillo said the oil spill is no longer as thick as last Monday. Cordova's 15-kilometer coastline has 12 barangays whose mangroves were destroyed by the oil slick that resulted from the tragic sea accident last Aug. 16. MV St. Thomas Aquinas of 2Go Travel was carrying 120 liters of crude oil, 20,000 liters of diesel and lubricating oils when it sunk after a collision with Sulpicio Express Siete of the Philippine Span Asia Carrier Corp. in the Lawis Ledge off the coast of Talisay City.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/473475/police-soldiers-fight-cordova-oil-spill>

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON, AUGUST 25 2013. FIREFIGHTERS WARN ASPHALT SIDING IS FLAMMABLE

 **Watch the Video** [Firefighters Warn Asphalt Siding is Flammable](#)

Firefighters refer to asphalt siding as "gasoline siding" because it can spread fire nearly as fast as gasoline -- making your home go up in flames more quickly. A fire last weekend at a house on Charleston's West Side destroyed a family's home, and firefighters say a nearby apartment complex could have been in danger because it had asphalt siding. The siding, which looks like brick, is actually sheets of felt paper with a coating of tar on top. While asphalt siding isn't used in newer homes, firefighters say it's common in older homes. "You'll see the mineral's ingrained in it to give it the texture of brick," Rich Simmons, Assistant Chief at the Charleston Fire Department, said. Simmons noted that while his firefighters don't see fires from asphalt siding all the time, it is something they must take into account at a scene. "The danger is if a fire breaks out a window, it will auto-expose the next floor up very quickly. The fire can spread," Simmons said. "While the firemen are inside, the fire may spread and get up to the top floor before they realize it's there." Simmons also said that flames don't even have to break a window. The heat from the siding can radiate through the window and ignite anything inside if it gets hot enough. That poses a danger to nearby buildings, as well. "Any time there's exposure within, say, five feet, and you have a siding like this, it will expose that building very quickly and you'll have two fires instead of one," Simmons said. While some homeowners might think there's no need for concern because they don't see asphalt siding on their house, Simmons noted that sometimes asphalt siding can be underneath new siding like vinyl. "Be aware that sometimes that the contractors come in an older neighborhood, they will put siding, vinyl siding on top of it," Simmons said. "Nobody will know it's there, maybe even a renter or the homeowner that buys it not know it's there." The best move, Simmons advises, is to get rid of asphalt siding completely and then replace it with vinyl siding or brick. For homeowners who aren't sure if they have asphalt siding underneath, he recommends getting a home inspector to check it out.

<http://www.wsaz.com/news/charlestonnews/headlines/Firefighters-Warn-Asphalt-Siding-is-Flammable-220899421.html>



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<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DangerousGoods>

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USA, W.VA, INSTITUTE, AUGUST 25 2013. 2 injured in Nitro chemical spill

caitlin cook

Two workers were injured and transported to a hospital after a nitric acid spill at Catalyst Refiners in Nitro on Saturday afternoon, according to emergency officials. The workers' conditions are unknown at this time. The incident occurred just before 3 p.m. at Catalyst Refiners on 1580 1st Ave. South in Nitro. The Institute Fire Department responded but did not need to enter the facility, which appeared under control, according to Bill Jones with the Institute Fire Department. Kanawha County medics also responded to the nitric acid leak inside the building but "there was no outside assistance needed," a Kanawha Metro 911 dispatcher said. The dispatcher also said that there is "no public hazard" posed by the spill. Scott Schmidt, a Catalyst Refiners spokesman, said they had a small tank failure and approximately 50 gallons of nitric acid spilled. Employees were evacuated and an outside company is working on "neutralizing the material as we speak," Schmidt said. Schmidt expected clean-up to be done by tomorrow morning. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention describe nitric acid as a "Colorless, yellow, or red, fuming liquid with an acrid, suffocating odor." It is used in fertilizer and metal cleaners. Symptoms of breathing nitric acid include chest tightness, choking, coughing up blood, dizziness, rapid pulse, low blood pressure and shortness of breath, according to the National Institute of Health. The Catalyst Refiners plant recycles used ethylene oxide from area chemical plants back into ethylene oxide catalyst that local plants can use again, according to Gazette archives. Catalyst Refiners and a sister plant in Glens Falls, N.Y., can also return silver used in this recycling to customers as pure silver bars, or in the form of various other products, such as silver nitrate or silver oxide, according to the company's website. Catalyst Refiners is owned by Ames Goldsmith Corp., which provides silver-based products to a variety of industries.

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201308240023>

FIJI, SUVA, AUGUST 27 2013. WHAT LIES BENEATH

daniel naidu



Eyesore ... pieces of insulation foam floating in the Suva Harbour.

Two oil spills in two weeks have brought to light the concerning issue of pollution in the Suva Harbour. On August 12, thousands of pieces of insulation foam, accompanied by oil, greeted tourists who were visiting Suva aboard a cruise liner. The dean of USP's Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment, Dr Anjeela Jokhan, said such foam could be damaging to the environment as it choked marine life which tried to eat it, which could have many repercussions for the ecosystem's food web. Dr Jokhan added that oil, which floated on top of water, prevented gas exchange and could lead to a reduction in oxygen below the water's surface, which would lead to suffocation. World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) South Pacific communications manager Patricia Mallam added that some toxic chemicals in oil were bio accumulative. This means that these chemicals will

not break down but simply pass up the food chain where it can end up affecting humans.

Ongoing Issue

Eight days after this first incident, a large amount of oil in the harbour was reported to The Fiji Times by an American yacht owner. Barbara Ballinger and her husband Peter Tarbox had been in Fiji for two months at the Royal Suva Yacht Club and they said this was not a one-off incident. "We have experienced oil and debris in the water for the last couple of months. It's been an on and off issue, although this last incident is much worse," Mrs Ballinger said. Scrap metal company South Pacific Metals was responsible for both incidents, which were caused as they were taking apart a boat to clear part of the wharf. The company has since apologised for the incidents, and promised to remove the oil using a "chemical degreaser", which it claims removes oil from water.

Chemical degreasers

According to Joeli Veitayaki, a lecturer of marine studies at USP, degreasers work by breaking up the oil slick into more soluble parts, to be diluted into the water column. "Basically this allows for the natural decomposition of oil by micro-organisms in the water to occur more rapidly," he said. It is a controversial solution to getting rid of oil from the water, however. According to Prof Veitayaki, while they break up the surface oil slick, these degreasers do not remove the oil from the water, but rather mix it into the water where it remains, out of sight. "Most modern degreasers have in themselves a very low environmental



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toxicity. However, the toxicity of the oil on the marine food chain and organisms is poorly understood," he said. For Prof Veitayaki, prevention is better than cure. "One effective option for treating oil in protected bays such as Suva Harbour is to contain the oil with floating booms and before removing it with devices such as surface skimmers," he said. "This actually removes the oil from the seawater rather than transferring it from the surface to the water column and bottom sediments." Adam Walters, Greenpeace Australia's research and investigations co-ordinator, told The Fiji Times that oil booms should always be in place wherever there is a risk of oil spilling into the ocean. Inevitably, it is not only the environment that suffers; tourism, fisheries and landowners also suffer from the effects of marine pollution. Villagers of Suvavou Village in Lami say that rubbish from the Suva Harbour ends up on their shore, and their food supply in their qoliqoli (fishing ground) was affected. Royal Suva Yacht Club events manager Bimlesh Prasad said the pollution portrayed a very negative image of Suva to visiting yacht owners. "We think it's a shame for such a beautiful country and beautiful environment to be damaged by people who are just making a profit," said Mr Tarbox.

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=243726>

PHILIPPINES, PALAWA, BUSUANGA TOWN, AUGUST 26 2013. TANKER LOADED WITH PALM OIL RUNS AGROUND OFF PALAWAN

A foreign tanker loaded with palm oil ran aground off Palawan province Saturday, the Philippine Coast Guard said. The incident occurred Saturday morning off Busuanga town in Palawan, radio dzBB reported early Sunday. The report said big waves swept ashore MT Glenn Australia, loaded with 1,000 tons of palm oil. The ship is now stuck on the shore of Barangay Panlaitan. Coast Guard spokesman Cmdr. Armand Balilo said the vessel's crew members informed the Coast Guard about the incident. Balilo cited initial information indicating the vessel was skippered by a Myanmar national and had one Filipino and eight Myanmar crew members. Coast Guard Palawan commander Commodore Enrico Efen Evangelista has instructed the Coast Guard in Coron to tow the vessel from the area, the report said.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/323541/news/regions/tanker-loaded-with-palm-oil-runs-aground-off-palawan>

USA, MI, CHIEF LAKE, REPUBLIC TWP, AUGUST 26 2013. MAN BURNED AFTER CHEMICAL EXPLOSION

gabrielle may

A Bristol, Wisconsin man suffered serious burns to his hands and torso on Saturday just before 1:28 p.m., after police said he mixed chemicals together from a product known as Tannerite. Police from the Negaunee State Police Post said 60-year-old John Groschopf was standing near his ORV and mixing the chemicals with his hands while in a gravel pit near Chief Lake. Two teens were also in the area target shooting with firearms when the explosion happened. The teens used Groschopf's ORV and took him from the gravel pit to an ambulance waiting on Fence River Road. One of the teen's ears were damaged because of the loud explosion. The other teen was wearing ear protection at the time. The explosion was ruled accidental by police. According to the Tannerite website, the product was specifically designed to be safe and non-flammable, whether it's sitting on a shelf, being mixed or used. When shot with a high-power rifle, it produces a water vapor and a loud boom.

http://www.uppermichiganssource.com/news/story.aspx?id=938322#.UiEjzBunq_k

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSALAND, TOOWOOMBA, AUGUST 26 2013. COMMUNITY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR TEENAGE BONFIRE BURN VICTIMS

 **Watch the Video** [2 Teens In Hospital after Party Bonfire Explosion](#)



Two teenagers were injured when a boy allegedly poured an accelerant onto a bonfire.

UPDATE: Toowoomba teenagers Paris Turkington and Matthew Richards have the thoughts and prayers of the community with them as they recover from horrific burns suffered at a Harristown party. A Facebook page set up in support of the 16-year-old girl and 15-year-old boy had more than 1600 likes earlier this evening and a raft of well-wishes from people shocked by the tragic incident. Paris and Matthew remained in the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital today in a serious but stable condition. Witnesses are being sought to help police work out how accelerant ended up on an open fire causing serious burns to the teens. Darling Downs district crime group officer Detective Acting Inspector Paul McCusker said he wanted anyone



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involved in Saturday night's incident to call police or Crime Stoppers. "Accelerant was poured onto an open fire which resulted in two of these people suffering significant burns," Det. Act. Insp. McCusker said. "We are taking statements of all the persons who were there so police can paint a clearer picture of what happened." He would not comment on whether or not the person who poured the accelerant on the fire would be charged. The woman who lives at the Melody Dr home said she travelled to Brisbane early today to be with the families of the injured teens. "I'm just really upset because this is a terrible situation," she said. She said three parties had been hosted at the home in the past three years. She said the families of the injured teens were dealing with the situation as best they could. Meanwhile, the mother of a girl who was at the party said her daughter was undergoing counselling after witnessing the incident.

MONDAY 1PM: Two teenagers burnt in an incident early Sunday morning remain in a serious but stable condition in a Brisbane hospital. A spokeswoman for the Royal Brisbane Hospital said the conditions of the two teenagers - a girl, 16, and a boy, 15 - had remained unchanged overnight.

MONDAY 9AM: Harristown resident Lyndel Sheedy had a feeling something terrible was going to happen when she went to bed while a teenage party was going on next door. Her fears eventuated within half an hour of turning in for the night. A 16-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy had been seriously burnt when a boy at the party threw accelerant onto a backyard fire shortly after midnight on Saturday. Bystanders at the Melody Dr home acted quickly to remove the cover from a backyard pool and throw the girl in to extinguish the flames. She suffered serious burns to 60 per cent of her body while the boy suffered serious burns to 40 per cent of his body. They were rushed to Toowoomba Hospital before being flown to Royal Brisbane Hospital. A Department of Community Safety spokeswoman said two other teenagers also received minor injuries in the explosion. Mrs Sheedy said she and her husband had been frustrated by the teenage parties held at her neighbour's house. "I said to my husband something bad was going to happen," Mrs Sheedy said. Another Melody Dr resident, who did not want to be named, said her daughter was at the party and witnessed the horrible incident. She said it had proved very traumatic for her. "I'm in shock because it could have been my daughter," she said. Investigations are continuing.

SUNDAY 11AM: A 16-year-old girl has suffered serious burns to her face and body after a bonfire explosion in a Harristown backyard. A Department of Community Safety spokeswoman said the girl suffered burns to 60 per cent of her body, face and neck, while a 15-year-old boy suffered serious burns to 40 per cent of his body. A neighbour, who did not want to be identified, said the girl was sitting on someone's lap during a party at the house when a boy threw accelerant on the fire. She said bystanders pulled back a pool cover before throwing the girl in the water to douse the flames. The girl and boy were taken to Toowoomba Hospital before being airlifted to the Royal Brisbane Hospital. The spokeswoman said two other people from the scene were treated for minor injuries.

SUNDAY 8AM: Police are investigating an incident that occurred early this morning where four teenagers have sustained burn injuries. At 12.20am police received information that four teenagers had been injured while at a party on Melody Dr, Harristown. Initial investigations indicate that a flammable substance caught alight as it was poured onto an open fire. A girl and boy were taken to the Toowoomba Hospital for treatment. Their condition was this morning listed as serious but stable. Two other teenage boys also received serious injuries. Investigations are continuing.

<http://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/teens-serious-burns-after-fuel-poured-party-fire/1996681/>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, AUGUST 27 2013. BRISBANE PRIMARY SCHOOL EVACUATED AFTER SPILL OF 600 LITRES OF CHLORINE OVER THE WEEKEND

rose brennan

WILSTON State School has reopened after it was evacuated this morning due to a chemical spill. Students were evacuated from the school on Primrose St at the Grange after 600 litres of chlorine was found to have leaked over the weekend. No students were injured in the incident. The chemical was inside a pool filter room and the spill was discovered about 8.35am. A Department of Community Safety spokeswoman said the chemical spill was contained to that area and students were evacuated as a precaution. Fire crews are on scene mopping up the spill which is expected to take several hours.

<http://www.news.com.au/national-news/queensland/brisbane-primary-school-evacuated-after-spill-of-600-litres-of-chlorine-over-the-weekend/story-fnii5v6w-1226704004276>



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