



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 999 Newsy Stuff

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

September 07 2013



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USA, TX, PORT ARTHUR, AUGUST 21 2013. ROYAL DUTCH SHELL SAYS OUTPUT WAS CRIMPED AFTER THE FIRE CAUSED REDUCTIONS AND SHUTDOWNS AT THE 600,000 BPD REFINERY

erwin seba

The largest oil refinery in the US was forced to shut its main crude distillation unit (CDU) and other key units after a fire on Saturday, the latest in a string of mishaps following a \$10 billion expansion at the Motiva plant in Port Arthur, Texas. [Royal Dutch Shell Plc](#)—which owns the refinery with [Saudi Aramco](#)—said output was crimped after the fire on Saturday caused reductions and shutdowns at the 600,000 barrel-per-day (bpd) refinery. The US Gulf Coast refined oil markets had a muted reaction. US Gulf Coast gasoline and ultra-low sulfur diesel prices relative to the New York Mercantile Exchange barely rose on Monday because the region is well supplied. Sources familiar with work at the plant said on Monday the fire, the second in a week, broke out in a hydrocracker unit next to the largest of the refinery's three crude distillation units, known as VPS-5, which is responsible for more than half of the facility's production. Genscape, an energy industry intelligence service, said the 325,000 bpd VPS-5 CDU was shut Sunday afternoon and remained down on Monday. The unit was already running at reduced capacity. The 110,000 bpd naphtha hydrotreater was also shut briefly but was restarted Sunday night, Genscape said. The sources said the 75,000 bpd hydrocracker, which boosts output of motor fuel by refining feedstocks under high pressure with hydrogen, was still not working. "Several units that are integrated to this will run at reduced rates and others are being shut down," Shell spokeswoman [Kimberly Windon](#) said. Windon added there were no related injuries at the plant, which has about 3.4% of the US refining capacity.

Series Of Setbacks

The weekend fire was the latest in a series of setbacks at the refinery, where the VPS-5 CDU is expected to run up to 75,000 bpd below capacity for more than a year due to a piping issue. The CDU has been beset by vibration problems when Motiva attempted to run it at or near its full capacity, Reuters exclusively reported on Friday. The company may shut the crude unit in fall 2014 to fix the persistent vibration problems, sources told Reuters on Friday. The unit has been running at reduced rates ranging between 250,000 bpd and 285,000 bpd since it restarted production early this year. The first attempt to start the unit, at the end of a 5-year expansion of the plant, was hampered by a chemical leak in June 2012 that caused seven and a half months of work and delays. A week ago, a blaze shut the sulfur recovery unit and led to a reduction in refinery production at the plant. The sulfur unit is slated to be down for two to three weeks. In that incident, a hole 5-feet long (1.5 metres) and 1-foot wide (30.5 centimetres) was melted in the side of the unit that removes sulfur from hydrogen sulfide gas produced in the refining of crude oil into motor fuels. "It is not unusual for a sulfur unit to have problems, especially at the biggest refinery in the US. It is a bad place to have an issue because once it's shut down you'll have to shut other units like hydrotreaters that feed into it," said [John Auers](#), refinery specialist with [Turner, Mason & Company](#) in Dallas.

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/vKMIbWqSNQo2nG7T9Q4n4J/Biggest-US-oil-refinery-stumbles-after-fire.html>

USA, N.J, MIDDLETOWN TWP, AUGUST 21 2013. NEW JERSEY NAVY STATION EXPLOSION LEAVES 8 HURT

Bill king

Watch the Video's:

- [Sailor Seriously Hurt, 7 Others Hurt in NJ Naval Weapons Station Explosion](#)
- [8 Injured after Explosion Rocks Naval Weapons Station in New Jersey](#)
- [8 Injured in Explosion at N.J. Naval Base](#)
- [New Jersey Navy Station Explosion Leaves 8 Hurt](#)

 **Photo's [4]** [Explosion at Naval Weapons Station Earle](#)

 **Photo's [10]** [New Jersey Navy Station Explosion](#)

At least eight sailors were injured after an explosion and fire at the Naval Weapons Station Earle in Middletown, New Jersey, Tuesday morning. Naval officials confirm that some kind of explosion happened during maintenance work on a 35-foot utility vessel in one of the buildings along the waterfront around 9 a.m. It appears some kind of welding accident took place inside one of the buildings on the site. The blast blew a hole through the roof of the building. Officials say one person was seriously hurt, while seven others suffered non-life threatening injuries, primarily smoke inhalation. The damage from the explosion was contained within the boathouse area, and the situation is stabilized. Ammunition and ordnance operations at the weapons station were not affected by the accident. "It was nowhere near any of the ordnance operations or any ammunition that was moving" base Commander John Dunne said. "There was none of that, so this was a self-contained event...I don't know the



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extent of what they were doing, but I would say that anytime you can walk away, you're doing well when you have a mishap like this." The identities of the injured personnel are being withheld until family members have been notified. According to its website, the Naval station main side is located in Colts Neck, and the Waterfront is in the Leonardo section of Middletown. The two areas are connected by a private, federally-owned roadway. Colts Neck sits in the heart of New Jersey's horse farming region and is only 20 minutes away from the famed Jersey Shore. Leonardo is located on Sandy Hook Bay overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the New York skyline. The cause of the explosion is under investigation.

http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/local/new_jersey&id=9212322

CANADA, NFL, COME BY CHANCE, AUGUST 21 2013. TRUCK LOADING RESUMES AT COME BY CHANCE

ashley fitzpatrick



Come By Chance oil refinery.

Truck loading has resumed at Come By Chance refinery following an investigation into a problem that occurred while a vehicle was loaded with fuel on Monday. Hatches lifted up on a truck while the fuel was being loaded, because of pressure building up inside. There were no injuries. The truck loading system at the site is regularly inspected, stated refinery spokeswoman Gloria Warren-Slade, in an email to The Telegram this morning. "Initial investigations suggest that there was an issue with the truck itself," she wrote.

The truck has since been taken away from the facility. "All our safety and loading systems were working as they should at the time of the incident," Warren-Slade said. The site is separated from the main workings of the refinery. While the loading facility was shut down, the refinery remained in normal operation.

<http://www.thetelegram.com/News/Local/2013-08-20/article-3357640/Truck-loading-resumes-at-Come-By-Chance/1>

USA, S.C, HILTON HEAD ISLAND, AUGUST 21 2013. COAST GUARD DRAINS FUEL FROM TWO BOATS

chelsi mcdonald

 **Watch the Video** [Coast Guard drains fuel from 2 Boats](#)



The Coast Guard drains fuel from two shrimp boats that ran aground north of Hilton Head Island. This is to prevent environmental damage. An investigation shows that the fuel tank in one of the boats is damaged. The Lady Essie and the Diane ran aground in a marsh last week as one boat was towing the other. The Coast Guard hired a company to drain the diesel after a light sheen appeared on the water near the boats. The Coast Guard is not sure what's causing the sheen. They've hired Moran Environmental Recovery of Savannah to drain 1,300 gallons of fuel in the two boats. The investigation shows that one of the boats has a damaged fuel bladder. Both tanks were checked on Monday. They are both empty now. The Coast Guard's main concern is removing the fuel to limit and

environmental damage. Lieutenant Adam Mosley says, "It's enough to make us concerned and the steps that we've taken to bring in to limit the spreading of the diesel has done a lot to prevent the contamination within the marsh. Additional steps have also been taken to bring in oil spill response organization to help clean up the remaining oil or diesel that is within the vessel" The Coast guard is still investigating why the boats ran aground. There isn't a time frame for removing the shrimp boats from the creek. The fuel is not contaminating the marsh.

<http://www.thecoastalsource.com/2013/08/20/coast-guard-drains-fuel-from-two-boats/>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, CHENNAI, TONDIARPET, AUGUST 22 2013. TONDIARPET WATER CONTAMINATION: POLLUTED SAMPLES TO BE COLLECTED TODAY

The State pollution control board will collect water samples from Tondiarpet on Wednesday to check the level of contamination from oil seepage. Groundwater in the northern neighbourhood has been contaminated for the past six months due to oil seepage from a pipeline belonging to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). "An earlier set of samples was collected only from borewells that were pumping out oil along with water. That was done to find the petroleum contaminant. We found



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diesel and petrol in the samples,” said an official of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB). The samples will be taken from adjacent streets to find the direction of flow of groundwater. “You cannot see or smell the fuel but the contamination from dissolved hydrocarbons can be found through testing. After the direction of groundwater flow is found, further samples will be lifted. The water will be collected in glass bottles instead of plastic ones so it does not react with the plastic,” the official said. The testing will be done according to parameters set by IIT-Madras whose expert team is assisting TNPCB and BPCL in implementing remediation measures in Tondiarpet. Soil samples too will be taken from areas adjacent to the 12 affected borewells. A private company with the expertise to collect such samples will be roped in. Soil testing is needed to find the extent of contamination.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/tondiarpet-water-contamination-polluted-samples-to-be-collected-today/article5042640.ece>

BULGARIA, VARNA, AUGUST 22 2013. BLEVE INJURES 11 INCLUDING 7 FIRE-FIGHTERS

Watch the Video's:

- [Train Propane Tank Explosion \(In Bulgarian\)](#)
- [Explosion of a Gas Cistern in Bulgaria 14.08.2013](#)
- [Gas Cistern Explodes in Varna, Bulgaria 14.08.2013](#)



Thanks to Woody Cole & JOIFF for passing on the news story...

The head of the fire-fighting department of the Bulgarian Interior Ministry, Nikolai Nikolov, said on August 15 that carelessness was the most likely cause of the gas tanker wagon explosion near the Bulgarian city of Varna. Nikolov said that the most likely cause of the explosion was a gas leak, itself the result of a ruptured hose during the process of moving the gas from the tanker wagon into a tanker lorry. Investigators were still trying to establish what actually happened, he told reporters, as quoted by Focus news agency. Eleven people were injured in the blast, which happened at the Ezerovo railway station, about 10km west of Varna, and the fire that followed the explosion. The number included seven fire-fighters; the rest were bystanders who were working in a nearby warehouse. Two people were still in intensive care, including one man with extensive burns that covered 90 per cent of his body. Fire fighters from Varna's thermal power plant were the first on the scene, followed by teams from the Varna fire department and the Varna Airport, Nikolov said. The fire was finally extinguished

late on August 14. Two of the victims who suffered serious burns in the Ezerovo gas tank explosion remain in intensive care, Director of the Military Medical Academy Stoyan Tonev told Nova TV. Another seven people are also still hospitalized, but are not in intensive care. The man who suffered 90% burns is in very severe condition. A prognosis in his case would be very difficult, Tonev said adding that the other seven injured in the fire are already recovering. Doctors have already begun with their plastic operations.

<http://sofiaglobe.com/2013/08/15/carelessness-blamed-for-blast-near-varna-official/>

SOUTH KOREA, SEJONG, AUGUST 22 2013. SOIL, GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION FOUND AT 5 PCT OF FACTORY SITES

The environment ministry said Wednesday it has discovered soil and groundwater contamination at the factory sites of five percent of firms operating at the nation's five major industrial complexes. The ministry examined the five complexes -- in Daejeon, Seongnam in Gyeonggi Province, Goryeong in North Gyeongsang Province and two in Busan -- and found that the land of 34 out of the 693 companies checked had soil and groundwater contamination. Of the 34 sites where soil contamination was discovered, 21 were contaminated with oil such as total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE), the ministry said. The 13 other sites were contaminated with heavy metals such as copper and lead, it said. Ground water contamination was found at 10 places with such materials as TPH and PCE. The ministry said it will release a report based on the results of the environmental survey and guidelines for handling contaminants.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/yonhap-news-agency/130820/soil-groundwater-contamination-found-at-5-pct-factory-sites>



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USA, VA, VIRGINIA BEACH, AUGUST 21 2013. KEY FOB SETS OFF EXPLOSION IN VA. BEACH

cindy clayton



An explosion and fire destroyed a truck in the 300 block of Gainsborough Road in Virginia Beach on Tues., Aug. 20, 2013. Investigators believe a tank with flammable gas detonated when a key fob was pressed to unlock the door.

The scene in a Carolanne Farms neighborhood this morning resembled one from a movie. A contractor on his way to work about 7 a.m. stepped outside his home, pressed the button on his key fob to unlock his truck's door. Then, boom. An explosion hurled parts of the truck into neighbors' yards. The windshield landed in the backyard of a house across the street and debris littered the 300 block of Gainsborough Road. The heating and air conditioning contractor was not injured, but the windows of his home were shattered. Flying truck parts left scars on the garage. A vehicle parked nearby was damaged. The man had stored an acetylene bottle on the truck. Virginia Beach Fire Department Battalion Chief Jack Crandell said fumes from the bottle likely escaped overnight and

ignited when the key fob was pressed. "He was lucky," Crandell continued. "Had he started it, it would have been a much different result." The cause is under investigation, although the explosion was ruled an accident.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2013/08/explosion-fire-destroy-truck-va-beach>

USA, FLA, TALLAHASSEE, AUGUST 22 2013. CHLORINE LEAK AT MADISON WASTEWATER PLANT, 2 RUSHED TO HOSPITAL

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Chlorine Air Around Wastewater Treatment Plant 8-21-13 11pm](#)
- [Businesses Evacuated After Chlorine Leak 8-21-13 6pm](#)
- [Chlorine Leak Sends Two To Hospital 8-21-13 5:30pm](#)
- [Chlorine Leak At Wastewater Treatment Plant 8-21-13 5pm](#)

 **Photo's [7]** [Chlorine Leak at Madison Wastewater Plan](#)



At 4:45 p.m., the Tallahassee Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team responded to Madison County to the report of a chlorine leak at the City of Madison Waste Water Treatment Facility. City of Madison officials contacted the Tallahassee Fire Department for assistance after a leak was discovered in a one-ton chlorine cylinder located at the City of Madison Waste Water Treatment Facility. Madison Fire Rescue crews were able to stop the leak prior to the arrival of TFD but were unsure if the product was secure and how much product if any was still in the air. The TFD Hazardous Materials team entered the building in Level A encapsulated suits and determined the product was secure and sampled air quality to determine the area was safe. At 7:30 p.m., the area was deemed safe for occupancy and turned back over to City of Madison Officials. No injuries were reported after the arrival of the Tallahassee Fire Department although officials with the City of Madison did report that two people were transported to area hospitals prior to our arrival. The Tallahassee

Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team serves Region 2 of the State of Florida's 7-region response area. Region 2 covers 17 counties from the Apalachicola River to the Suwannee River.

<http://www.wctv.tv/home/headlines/Chlorine-Leak-At-Madison-Wastewater-Plant-Buildings-To-Be-Evacuated-220562351.html>

FIJI, SUVA, AUGUST 22 2013. ALARM OVER OIL SPILLS

daniel naidu

A second oil spill in two weeks in the Suva Harbour has triggered concern among environmental groups and an Australian specialist has questioned methods of dealing with such issues in Fiji. Yacht owners Barbara Ballinger and husband Peter



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Tarbox reported the oil slick to this newspaper after they said the strong fumes from the water forced them from their yacht on Tuesday afternoon. The spill came from local scrap metal company South Pacific Metals, which was also responsible for last week's spill. South Pacific Metals manager George Chambers said they had been unaware of an additional fibreglass tank of diesel on a boat they were taking until it began leaking diesel into the water. He said the company regretted the spill. He added they were handling the spill by using chemical degreasers, which breaks down oil in water. However, Adam Walters, Greenpeace Australia's Research and Investigations co-ordinator, said degreasers presented a different problem to the environment. He said in such situations, containment should be the first option and that oil booms should be in place in any area where the risk of oil spilling into the ocean was present. "Degreasers are controversial in that they mix the oil into the water, which makes it easier for oil to be taken up by organisms and have an impact on the sea," said Mr Walters, who is based in Sydney. "While it removes the eyesore of the oil on top of the water, it does not halt its effects on the ecosystem." WWF South Pacific communications manager Patricia Mallam said such spills had enormous costs on many people's livelihoods and called for improved shipping practices to prevent similar incidents in the future. Bimlesh Prasad, the events manager at the Royal Suva Yacht Club, said marine pollution was portraying a very negative image of Suva to the tourists.

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=243310>

USA, MA, MANSFIELD, AUGUST 23 2013. DRIVER ESCAPES COLLISION WITH TANKER AND CAR FIRE IN MANSFIELD

susan parkou weinstein



An Easton man escaped serious injury after he rear-ended a tanker.

A 52-year old South Easton man escaped with only minor injuries on Aug. 20 after his car was dragged under a tanker truck on Interstate 495 and caught fire. The late morning accident occurred in the center lane of I-495 northbound before the I-95 ramps. It tied up traffic for miles. Authorities say the driver was distracted and rear-ended the truck that was transporting a small load of corn syrup. The truck driver pulled over to the side of the road after dragging the car for about 300 feet. Mansfield Fire Chief Neal Boldrighini said smoke from the engine fire could be seen from the Plymouth Street firehouse several miles away from the accident scene. Firefighters quickly doused the flames and treated the driver of

the car for minor injuries at the scene. "He got away with a small wound to his arm," Boldrighini said. The accident is under investigation. A state police spokesman said the driver, who was not identified, was cited. The trucker was not injured. State police cleared the crash scene by 12:30 p.m., approximately 90 minutes after the crash.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/mansfield/news/x1868830232/Driver-escapes-collision-with-tanker-and-car-fire-in-Mansfield>

CANADA, P.E.I, BONSHAW, AUGUST 23 2013. DECADES-OLD OIL SPILL RE-EMERGES ON BANKS OF WEST RIVER >> NEARLY FORGOTTEN SPILL HAPPENED IN THE LATE 1970S



Megan Harris, with the West River Watershed, collects the thick heavy oil that oozes out of the bank. She says it's a slow, seemingly never-ending task.

A nearly forgotten, decades old oil spill in Bonshaw, P.E.I. has prompted a call for the cleanup of the West River. Exactly how the oil and how much of it got into the river is not clear. But Sheldon McNevin said he remembers what happened, steps from his home, one night in 1978. "It was a friend of mine that lost his life there. We don't know what happened. It looks as if he dozed off and left the road," he said. McNevin said the tanker dumped hundreds of gallons of crude along the river. The spill was largely forgotten but more and more of the thick, black, nearly-solid oil has been emerging along the West River's banks.

At least twice a week, Megan Harris, coordinator for the West River Watershed, goes down to the river with bucket in hand. She collects the thick heavy oil that oozes out of the bank. She said it's a slow, seemingly never-ending task. "In order to fully resolve the problem, they would need to dig it all up," she said. The Department of Environment, Labour and Justice was finally alerted last month. "Any kind of petroleum product in an aquatic environment represents some form of risk. But, what we've seen from our testing is that this is a weathered crude oil product, which has a lower toxicity," said Greg Wilson, a



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manager with the environmental land management section of the department. Wilson said cleaning up the wetland area is still a high priority, but that can't happen until they find the spill's exact location. "The first part of that is to get the consultant out there. They're going to do some testing," he said. Until there is a final plan to clean the oil up, Harris said she'll continue to do what she can with gloves and a bucket. The environment department said there's no sign that the oil has had any effect on wildlife.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2013/08/21/pei-old-oil-spill-584.html>

UK, WALES, GRONANT, AUGUST 23 2013. 8 TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AFTER CHLORINE INCIDENT AT GREENACRES CARAVAN PARK >> 2 CHILDREN AND 6ADULTS TAKEN TO YSBYTY GLAN CLWYD AFTER INHALING FUMES

Eight people including two children were taken to hospital following a chlorine incident at a holiday park. Two fire engines and three ambulance vehicles were called to the Greenacres Caravan Park, on Shore Road, Gronant at about 2.55pm on Thursday. Owner of the park David Bancroft said two different types of chlorine had been mixed in a container which had caused a reaction and a gas release. A Welsh Ambulance Service spokeswoman said: "We were called at 2.56pm to reports of an incident at Greenacres Caravan Park on Shore Road, Gronant. "We sent a rapid response vehicle, an emergency ambulance and a patient care service vehicle to the scene. "Six adults and two children were taken to Ysbyty Glan Clwyd suffering with the effects of inhalation of fumes." Chlorine is used to keep swimming pools and Jacuzzis free of bacteria. North Wales Fire and Rescue Service sent two engines from Rhyl and Prestatyn to the scene. A fire service spokeswoman said: "We received the call at 2.55pm that there had been a release of chlorine gas. "We sent two fire engines from Rhyl and Prestatyn and one remained afterwards." Specialists were also called in to make sure the chlorine escape had been contained following the incident. Greenacres & Sunny Sands Holiday Home & Leisure Parks cater for privately owned static caravans, privately owned touring caravans and a fleet of rental static caravans.

<http://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/health/eight-taken-hospital-after-chlorine-5775083>

MALAYSIA, SABAH, KOTA KINABALU, AUGUST 23 2013. TANKER DRIVER'S ACQUITTAL: HEARING ON APPEAL OCT 1

natasha sim

The High Court has fixed October 1 this year to hear an appeal by the prosecution against the acquittal of a fuel tanker driver on two counts of having negligently caused injuries and grievous injuries to train passengers in a collision three years ago. Justice Chew Soo Ho fixed the date pending the record of appeal of the case. Pauleh Dansun, 43, who was defended by counsel Ram Singh, was discharged and acquitted by the lower court on July 17 this year on the grounds that the prosecution had failed to establish a prima facie case against him. His trial began on January 18 this year and ended on May 22 with the prosecution having called 25 witnesses to testify. On the first count, Pauleh was accused of having, through his negligence, caused hurt by an act which endangered the lives of six train passengers, aged between 20 and 64, on October 31, 2011 between 5.30pm and 5.45pm in front of a fuel station at Km 8, Jalan Kepyayan. The charge under Section 337 of the Penal Code carries a maximum of six months' jail or a fine, or both, upon conviction. Pauleh was also charged with causing grievous hurt, through his negligence, to two train passengers, aged 48 and 38, respectively during the collision between the lorry and the train at the same time and place. The charge under Section 338 of the Penal Code carries a jail term of up to two years or a fine, or both, upon conviction. The prosecution is led by deputy public prosecutor Wan Azwan Aiman Wan Fakhruddin.

<http://www.theborneopost.com/2013/08/23/tanker-drivers-aquittal-hearing-on-appeal-oct-1/>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, FISKVILLE, AUGUST 23 2013. FIRE TRAINING COLLEGE CLOSURE RUMOUR AS INVESTIGATION DRAGS ON

ruth lamperd

Speculation is mounting that the notorious Fiskville training college could be shut as WorkSafe blows its deadline investigating alleged safety breaches. Emergency Services Minister Kim Wells last week asked MFB officials at a visit to a new fire training centre in Craigieburn if the CFA would be able to use it "if Fiskville is shut down tomorrow". When asked yesterday if the State Government was considering closing the training college, spokeswoman for Mr Wells, Emily Broadbent, said: "We have no plans to close Fiskville." It is believed at least four WorkSafe investigators are sifting through 30 volumes of documents, the contents of seized computers and scores of witness statements in an investigation unlikely to be finished until the end of the year. Sources told the Herald Sun that the WorkSafe team is operating from a locked-down room, its computers quarantined



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from the main system because of concerns information had been leaked to the CFA. WorkSafe spokesman Peter Flaherty said evidence for all its investigations was kept securely and suggestions it was handled differently to other inquiries was "entirely wrong". A letter from WorkSafe to the United Firefighters Union, which brought the complaint to WorkSafe, states its new timeline took into account "the potential for further lines of enquiry to arise following ... analysis of the currently obtained material". It is alleged firefighters training at Fiskville were exposed to cancer-causing chemicals contaminating the site, near Ballan, and that the CFA had for more than a decade not told staff despite failed test results and warnings from environment consultants. The Herald Sun first exposed a cancer scare in December 2011, when former CFA chief officer Brian Potter revealed he believed his multiple cancers - and illnesses of others who trained and worked there - were due to toxic chemicals burned in training during the late '70s and early '80s. Samples were taken for scientific analysis at the site in July last year; the CFA told the Herald Sun in May that results would be publicly available "mid-year". The CFA's independent monitor - former police commissioner Kieran Walshe - recently confirmed in an interim report that results were with the CFA in draft form. CFA spokesman Gerard Scholten said yesterday the draft reports - of which there are about a dozen - may be public before the end of the year. The delay has angered the union, which claims firefighters continue to be exposed at Fiskville while "WorkSafe undertakes the most thorough investigation". "The CFA has refused to release last year's water test results for the past nine months - if there is nothing to fear, release this information and put firefighters' minds at rest," UFU secretary Peter Marshall said. The EPA has issued two clean-up notices on Fiskville and the State Government gave the CFA \$16.8 million to clean the site.

<http://www.news.com.au/national-news/victoria/fiskville-closure-rumour-as-investigation-drag-on/story-fnii5sms-1226699063928>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, AUGUST 23 2013. BLACK ELK-FUNDED INVESTIGATION BLAMES CONTRACTORS FOR FATAL PLATFORM EXPLOSION

jennifer a. dlouhy

Photo's [12] [Black Elk Platform Fire](#)



Commercial vessels spray water on the fire aboard the West Delta 32 production platform.

The fatal explosion of a Gulf of Mexico production platform last November was triggered by contractors conducting maintenance work at the site, according to an investigation commissioned by the Houston-based company that owned the facility. Federal investigators are still probing what caused the explosion and fire at Black Elk Energy's West Delta 32 production platform, which killed three people and injured two others. But conclusions from [the initial third-party investigation funded by Black Elk and conducted by ABSG Consulting](#) dovetail with earlier speculation that contractors were welding a pipe that hadn't been cleared of flammable gas, igniting explosions in connected oil tanks. The ABSG

report effectively deflects blame from Black Elk Energy to a web of contractors working on the ill-fated facility, including Philippines-based DNR Offshore and Crewing Services, Scotland's Wood Group PSN and Galliano, La.-based Grand Isle Shipyard. According to the Black Elk-funded investigation, the fire can be traced back to a pipe welding operation conducted by DNR Offshore and Crewing Services, which had been hired by Grand Isle Shipyard to do the work. Around 9 a.m. on Nov. 16, 2012, the DNR workers started welding a flange on open piping that led to a wet oil tank. But ABSG Consulting said the piping was not isolated and cleared of flammable vapors before the contractors began the work. And once workers started welding, sparks ignited flammable vapors in the pipe, triggering the explosion in the wet oil tank and two connected dry tanks. Black Elk said the actions violated the company's safety practices, which require supervisors to issue permits for any so-called "hot work" [activities that involve burning, welding or other operations](#) capable of starting fires. The American Petroleum Institute also has issued a standard urging companies to test for flammable gas and take other precautions whenever conducting hot work. Contractors from Wood Group PSN who oversaw day-to-day activities on the platform issued a hot work permit the morning of the explosion, but according to the investigation, it was effectively a duplicate of the previous day's authorization, without a fresh walk through and assessment of the areas it covered. Workers also apparently missed several warning signs during the morning's maintenance work. According to the ABSG report, just before beginning welding on the flange, one worker smelled a strong gas odor but DNR personnel "could not determine the source of the gas, and they did not



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stop work." Earlier that same morning, when a pneumatic saw sliced through a sump discharge pipe leading to the wet oil tank and a clear liquid drained out of the line, workers believed it was water and continued activities without assessing the incident. Black Elk CEO John Hoffman said its contract with Grand Isle Shipyard precluded it from using subcontractors. He also faulted the company for improperly overseeing its workforce on the facility. "A serious issue in this case was Grand Isle's apparent failure to provide proper safety training and appropriate supervision," Hoffman said in a statement. Officials from Grand Isle Shipyard did not respond to a request for comment. But previously, Grand Isle Shipyard CEO Mark Pregeant rejected Hoffman's theory that sparks from workers cutting a water line ignited flammable vapors in the pipe and triggered the explosion in connected oil tanks. A 2011 lawsuit accuses Grand Isle of fraudulently hiring workers from the Philippines and forcing them to work under deplorable conditions. Grand Isle has rejected the claims. Wood Group said in a statement that safety is its highest priority. "We are committed to preventing injuries to our people and everyone we work with," the company said. "We review our procedures regularly and update them when appropriate as part of our continuous improvement program and we provide our people with the training, knowledge and tools they need to work safely and prevent accidents.: ABSG Consulting conducted its probe with an 11-person investigative team that reviewed some 650 documents gathered from the damaged facility, including photographs, schematics, maintenance records, permits and correspondence. The investigators said most contractors performing work at the site refused to allow their employees to be interviewed, given ongoing or threatened litigation. The resulting 401-page report was shared with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which is completing its own probe of the incident. A spokesman for the safety bureau said the agency had received the report and was reviewing it. "The investigation of the incident is ongoing, and a full report will be published when the investigation has been completed," the spokesman said. The safety bureau's findings could form the basis of civil penalties against any of the companies working at the West Delta 32 platform. The agency has recently begun [issuing violation notices and proposed penalties to contractors](#) working offshore, though federal laws and regulations still put the onus for compliance on offshore operators. Contractor oversight has emerged as a major factor other offshore incidents, including the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster that killed 11 workers and led to the nation's worst oil spill. Black Elk Energy has said it is still [dealing with financial fallout](#) from the fatal explosion. In the wake of the accident, the safety bureau ordered Black Elk to submit a performance improvement plan and analyze more than 300 documented mistakes and violations offshore. Regulators have not given the company approval to resume production at the damaged West Delta 32 platform, but Black Elk said it has completed repairs at the site.

Related Stories

- **Previous Problems:** [Houston's Black Elk Energy had history of violations before fatal fire](#)
- **Filipino Workers:** [Black Elk Energy contractor tied to human trafficking](#)

http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/08/21/black-elk-commissioned-investigation-blames-contractors-for-fatal-platform-explosion/?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=FuelFix&utm_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter#8547-5

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, AUGUST 23 2013. 10 HOSPITALIZED FROM TOXIC FUMES IN TEMPLE SQUARE

Watch the Video's:

- [Ten Hospitalized after Hazardous Materials Incident](#)
- [Temple Square Evacuated Following Hazmat Incident](#)

 **Click-2-Listen** [Peter Samore, reporting](#)

Photo's [12] [10 Hospitalized after Exposure to Fumes](#)

Ten people have been hospitalized after exposure to hazardous fumes in downtown Salt Lake City's Temple Square on Thursday. Officials say about 50 people were inside a small visitor's center in the Mormon Church-owned square Thursday morning when a janitor inside accidentally mixed chlorine in a bottle which contained trace amounts of sulfuric acid. Salt Lake City Fire Department spokesman Jasen Asay says the mixture created a hazardous gas, thionyl chloride, which spread quickly through the small building. The janitor and nine others were taken to the hospital in minor condition after complaining of nausea, coughing and trouble breathing. Asay says he expects they'll be released soon. Officials temporarily closed half of the square Thursday, but the visitor's center remained closed Thursday afternoon.

http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/hospitalized-from-toxic-fumes-in-temple-square/article_18e73da0-0b69-11e3-a849-0019bb2963f4.html?comment_form=true



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USA, OH, COLUMBUS, AUGUST 23 2013. SOUTH SIDE RESIDENTS BACK IN HOMES AFTER TANKER DERAILS EARLIER TODAY

Watch the Video's:

- [Dozens Evacuated after Tanker Car Derails](#)
- [Police Evacuate South Columbus Residents after Train Derailment](#)



Columbus police, fire and a hazardous materials crew investigate a lone tanker car overturned on a track on the city's South Side.

A single railroad tanker car carrying 23,000 gallons of a solvent derailed on the South Side this morning, causing the evacuation of about a dozen homes and the closure of Parsons Avenue while the car was righted. The car had been filled with methyl acetate when the liquid shifted and a brake loosened, said Battalion Chief Patrick Ferguson of the Columbus Division of Fire. The tanker traveled a short distance — apparently no more than about two blocks — before hitting a runoff track designed to derail uncontrolled cars. The tanker tipped on its side about 11:30 a.m., east of Parsons Avenue and Hosack Street. None of the solvent leaked, Ferguson said. Firefighters evacuated about a dozen homes and six businesses in the area out of an “abundance of caution,” said a Columbus

police officer on the scene. Johnny Davis, 54, a Hosack Street resident, said he heard the derailment and checked out the tanker before calling 911. “I didn't see anything leaking, didn't smell anything,” he said. Parsons Avenue was closed and a larger area around the derailment site was evacuated about 3:45 p.m. while the tanker was righted and the solvent loaded onto another car. By about 6 p.m., people were allowed back in their homes, and Parsons was reopened.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/public/2013/08/22/Tanker-car-overturns-on-South-Side.html>

USA, N.J, NEWARK, AUGUST 2013. NJIT ANNOUNCES NEW UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REGULATIONS REVIEW COURSE SEPTEMBER 25, 2013

NJIT's Division of Continuing Professional Education announces new NJ Underground Storage Tank (UST) Regulations review class. The September 25, 2013, one day, six hour class will take place on the NJIT Newark, Campus. New Jersey (NCAC 7:14B Subchapter 13) requires that all personnel who install, close, test and design corrosion protection systems or perform subsurface evaluations for USTs need to be certified. Subsurface Evaluation (SSE) certification is also needed to evaluate impacts caused by unregulated USTs and UST sites that have discharges associated with them occurring prior to November 4, 2009. All owners/operators of USTs that are removed or closed in-place after November 4th, need to retain the services of a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) to conduct subsurface evaluations and remediation. This UST certification class will summarize existing UST requirements as well as NJDEP's new LSRP program and the implementing statutes and regulations.

When: Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Where: NJIT, Newark Campus

Topics of Study:

- Overview of Federal and New Jersey UST Statutes and Regulations
- Permitting
- Upgrade, Installation and Closure Requirements
- Financial Responsibility
- Technical Requirements for Site Remediation
- Site Remediation Reform Act (SRRA)
- Administrative Requirements for the Remediation of Contaminated Sites (ARRCS)
- Licensing of Environmental Professionals
- LSRP Program Update

<http://www.watchlistnews.com/2013/08/22/njit-announces-new-underground-storage-tank-regulations-review-course-september-25-2013/>



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USA, ARK, FAULKNER COUNTY, AUGUST 23 2013. HOMEOWNER AFFECTED BY OIL SPILL: "IT'LL NEVER BE FIXED"

jeannette reyes

 **Watch the Video: "It'll Never Be Fixed"**



A homeowner affected by the Mayflower oil spill sold his home and said he was left with no other option. It's been nearly five months since the oil spill that forced dozens of residents to evacuate but one homeowner said he would rather give up his home than to go back. They can't get used to the sight of strangers working away in their back yards removing what's left of the disaster that forced them out of their home. So three homeowners so far are choosing not to be around it anymore. Ryan Senia is one of them. "After seeing the homes torn up so many times, and seeing the driveways torn up and then re-cemented, and the yards re-sodded so many times, I just feel like there's no other option then to sell to Exxon," said Senia. Crews have finished landscaping all of the front yards

but it's the backyards that concern Senia. Nearly five months later, crews are still working on them, digging and re-digging where much of the oil spilled. "They keep coming back time and time again," said Senia. "So, even though it looks good on the surface, I'm worried about what's underneath." Senia said he stops by occasionally and walks through the neighborhood to see what progress is being made. Just this week he discovered something he said let him know he made the right choice. "Even just a couple of days ago I found oil just two or three house down from mine," he said. But they're concerns Senia says fall on deaf ears. Exxon cleared 22 homes for re-entry, including Senia's. It's up to homeowners to decide whether they move back in. But temporary housing will no longer be provided in approximately 30 days. In a statement sent to Channel 7 Exxon said: "The temporary housing was intended to end when homes were determined to be safe for re-entry by federal, state and local officials. It has been extended for several months beyond that time to accommodate residents' needs." But Senia says going back home for him and many of his neighbors is far from a happily ever after. "After I handed the keys over to Exxon I just don't feel like there's going to be a happy ending for many people here," he said. And all he can do now is get out as quickly as possible and wish his neighbors luck. "I'm tired of being here and I'm glad to be out from under the house," he said. "And I'm hoping that everyone in the neighborhood can get their house sold quickly." Residents who were evacuated still have the option to do what Senia did and sell their homes to Exxon. The oil company tells us they are currently having settlement discussions with these homeowners.

<http://www.katv.com/story/23225103/homeowner-affected-by-oil-spill-itll-never-be-fixed>

USA, NEB, LINCOLN, AUGUST 23 2013. ARENA AREA WILL BE CLEAN ENOUGH TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH

nancy hicks

The discovery of several small pockets of diesel fuel floating on the groundwater 20 feet underground in the West Haymarket area is "unremarkable," said Miki Esposito, director of the city's Public Works and Utilities Department. "It has no significant impact on what is coming ahead because there is no risk to human health and the environment," she said Thursday during a meeting of the group overseeing construction of the Pinnacle Bank Arena and other roads and utilities in the area. Finding additional pockets of diesel fuel is to be expected on ground that for about 100 years was a railyard, said Esposito, who used to be Lincoln's environmental compliance officer for the West Haymarket project. Construction companies working to put public water and sewer lines in the area also discovered fuel, which has been cleaned up according to state and federal rules, she told the West Haymarket Joint Public Agency before the board approved a contract for six additional monitoring wells. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality required the additional monitoring wells -- 2-inch PVC pipe connecting with groundwater-- after the pockets of fuel were found through other monitoring wells required after the JPA removed an oil plume in the area two years ago. The JPA removed contaminated dirt from an area about the size of a city block, then covered it with 3 feet of clean dirt in what is often called the "big dig." The continued monitoring is part of NDEQ requirements to limit risk. Other protections include prohibiting basements in the area and prohibiting use of groundwater. If the state believed there was any health risk, no further development would have been allowed. "If this were a big deal, it would be reflected in the budget," Esposito said. The budget remains at about \$7.5 million. But some Lincoln residents continue to be concerned about environmental problems in the West Haymarket and the cost of cleanup, said Jane Kinsey, who represents Watchdogs of Lincoln Government and is part of a group that opposed arena construction during the citywide vote on the issue. The public



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was not told about the monitoring for diesel plumes, she said. "Whether that was done because of misinformation or by design, we will leave that to the taxpayers to decide," she said. Environmental cleanup cost was one of the major concerns of people who opposed arena development in the area, she said, adding that discovery of additional fuel helps "them to see their viewpoint has some validity." Mayor Chris Beutler, who is one of the three JPA members, took issue with some of Kinsey's comments. The board has been entirely transparent in all matters relating to West Haymarket development, he said. And cleanup work has been done using best practices as identified by local, state and federal governments, he said. Beutler cut off the discussion when Kinsey began asking questions about who would pay for cleanup costs if the city ran into serious problems. "We are speculating on things that haven't happened. All kinds of things could occur in the environmental and nonenvironmental area. We don't need to speculate," the mayor said. "Honorable people have different opinions in a democracy," said Kinsey. "We want to present the other side and hope the taxpayers will not have to come up with additional money (for future problems)." Esposito also noted that the monitoring wells put in after the big dig were a matter of public record. There are several hundred monitoring wells on the old railyard, many installed in past years by the railroad as part of its cleanup work before arena development began, said Frank Uhlarik, the city's compliance officer administrator. The state Department of Environmental Quality and the federal Environmental Protection Agency generally requires verification sampling and monitoring on contaminated property, even when the risks of exposure are removed and development is allowed to proceed, Esposito said. The city will draft covenants and deed restrictions for the property that will include maintenance of a 3-foot clean soil cap that has already been placed on site, prohibition of basements and groundwater use and other controls to protect human health. The state and federal governments do not expect or require that a place like an old railyard be cleaned up to pristine conditions, Esposito explained after the meeting. Today, there are risk-based cleanup standards applied to ensure that there is no exposure to human health. Rather than chasing expensive or futile efforts to remove every bit of pollution, low levels are allowed to remain when engineering controls and/or institutional barriers are created so that there are no vapors to be inhaled and no way pollutants will touch human skin or be ingested, she said. From the beginning, the city's environmental consulting firm, HWS, which was purchased by Alfred Benesch & Co., said remediation would be in the \$5 million to \$7 million range, said City Councilman Doug Emery, a JPA member. Arena opponents said it might be closer to \$50 million, he said. "HWS was pretty close to right on the money."

Related Stories [Diesel Discovery in Haymarket Spurs more Soil Monitoring.](http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/arena-area-will-be-clean-enough-to-protect-human-health/article_86813e60-6c82-5b6a-a00e-b05c1a18dcb2.html)

http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/arena-area-will-be-clean-enough-to-protect-human-health/article_86813e60-6c82-5b6a-a00e-b05c1a18dcb2.html

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, VIRUDHUNAGAR, SIVAKASI, AUGUST 23 2013. FIREWORKS SHEDS GUTTED

Police said the explosion occurred at Chidambaram fireworks, owned by one Kumaresan at 13:30 hrs. Though the explosion caused some damage to a building near the sheds, nobody was injured as the workers had gone out for lunch, police said. The fire spread instantly due to strong winds that prevailed at the time of explosion. The reason for the explosion is under investigation, police said. Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu is a fireworks manufacturing hub.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/fireworks-sheds-gutted-113082200596_1.html

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, AUGUST 23 2013. EXXON MOBIL'S \$105 MILLION MTBE DEFEAT UPHELD BY U.S. COURT



A U.S. jury's \$104.7 million damage award against Exxon Mobil Corp for contaminating New York City wells with the gasoline additive MTBE was upheld by a federal appeals court. The award for compensatory damages to clean up contaminated wells was proper, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Manhattan said in a ruling today, denying Exxon Mobil's challenge to the 2009 verdict. The Irving, Texas-based company said it plans to appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. "We reject Exxon's argument that the jury's verdict conflicts with and is therefore pre-empted by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990," the appeals panel said, adding that the jury properly offset the award by amounts attributed to cleanup of other contaminants. New York sued Exxon Mobil and other oil companies in 2003, alleging that they knew the gasoline additive methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, would pollute groundwater. Exxon Mobil argued that state laws are pre-empted by the Clean Air Act, which required oil companies to



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reformulate gasoline to reduce air pollution from vehicle emissions. Oil companies added MTBE to make it burn more thoroughly. "MTBE has not been used for seven years, cleanup successfully continues and the myriad of data shows MTBE detections decreasing," Todd Spittler, a spokesman for Exxon Mobil, said in an e-mail. The company "will be filing an appeal to the United States Supreme Court," he said.

Consolidated Cases

This case is one of scores around the country by municipalities, states and individuals against oil refiners, distributors and retailers over MTBE. Many, including New York City's, were consolidated in New York federal court for evidence-gathering. A state appeals court in Maryland in February reversed two jury awards totaling \$1.65 billion against Exxon Mobil over MTBE contamination, ruling that the company hadn't made fraudulent statements and the property owners who sued hadn't demonstrated physical harm. A jury in New Hampshire state court in April ordered Exxon Mobil to pay \$236 million in damages for contaminating groundwater with MTBE. The company has appealed that verdict. The New York jury determined that it would cost \$250.5 million to treat the water and remove MTBE, which can give water a bad odor and taste and cause cancer in rodents.

No Punitives

U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin ruled that Exxon Mobil shouldn't be liable for the entire cleanup cost because the wells contained pollutants not from gasoline. She also denied punitive damages because the company hadn't recklessly disregarded risks. The wells hadn't been used for drinking water. The appeals court today rejected cross-appeals by the city. It said the lower court was correct both in ordering that the damage award take into account pollution from other sources and in denying punitive damages. The appeals court rejected Exxon Mobil's request for a retrial on the ground of juror misconduct. The company argued Scheindlin should have declared a mistrial after one juror complained that she was threatened by another. The threatened juror was released while the one who allegedly made the threat was not. Exxon Mobil claimed the dismissed juror was harassed because her opinion differed from fellow jurors'. The trial lasted 11 weeks and the jury deliberated for 11 days. It focused on a representative sample of five wells in the New York City neighborhood of Jamaica, Queens. All other defendants had settled with the city. The appeal is *In re Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether Products Liability Litigation*, 10-4329, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (Manhattan).

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-07-26/exxon-mobil-s-105-million-mtbe-defeat-upheld-by-u-dot-s-dot-court-1>

USA, LA, BATON ROUGE, AUGUST 23 2013. ONE YEAR AGO: TANKER TRAFFIC DRAMA ENDS WITH CONTROLLED BLAST (VIDEO)

 **Watch the Video:** [Tanker Traffic Drama Ends With Controlled Blast](#)



A year ago today, a tanker truck containing 8,700 gallons of highly flammable isobutane wrecked on Interstate 10, began leaking vapor and demonstrated just how bad traffic can get in the capital city. In what some called "carmageddon," I-10 was shut down before morning rush hour in both directions, sending about 100,000 vehicles onto Baton Rouge's already full surface streets, bringing the city to a halt for 27 hours. The accident occurred at 3:40 a.m. Aug. 22, 2012, between Essen and Bluebonnet Boulevard, and the interstate didn't reopen until

6:45 a.m. the next morning. The driver of a car in front of the tanker lost control and hit a retaining wall before overturning on I-10 east, forcing the tanker to come to a quick stop, police spokesman Cpl. L'Jean McKneely said. An 18-wheeler behind the tanker crashed into the tanker, destroying the tanker's valve system and causing a vapor leak, McKneely said. Authorities eventually blew two holes in a tanker truck just before midnight Wednesday, igniting a huge fireball as they prepared to move the damaged rig from the accident scene. Authorities evacuated residents within 500 yards of the accident prior to the controlled "vent and burn."

Related Stories:

- [Tanker truck explosion caught on camera](#) Updated: Thursday, August 23, 2012
- [Tanker Crash in Louisiana Leads to 2 Citations, Calls for more Roads](#) Posted August 28, 2012
- [Successful "Vent-&Burn" Pulled Off in Louisiana](#)
- [All Lanes of I-10 Reopen after Tanker Crash](#) Posted: Aug 23, 2012

<http://theadvocate.com/news/6848640-123/one-year-ago-a-tanker>



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USA, MO, SPRINGFIELD, AUGUST 23 2013. EPA CLEANING UP ABANDONED CIRCUIT BOARD FACTORY

Federal government workers are cleaning up more than 3,000 gallons of toxic chemicals left at an abandoned circuit board factory in north Springfield. The owner of the former Ozark Circuits declared bankruptcy in 2011 and left behind gallons of sludge and solutions of acids, copper and lead, the Environmental Protection Agency said. Technicians are taking samples and will eventually ship the chemicals for proper disposal, EPA on-scene coordinator Mike Davis said Wednesday. The cost of the cleanup has not been determined but it will be funded by the EPA's Superfund program, The Springfield News-Leader reported (<http://sgfnw.co/185z3fa>). Contractors won't be hired until the department knows exactly what kind of waste and how much is on site but Davis said the cleanup should be finished by October. Davis said nearby homeowners will be given information on the site and warned some toxic material could react dangerously to one another. "There's always a potential for a spill," Davis said. "People should definitely avoid trespassing. Containers aren't always in perfect integrity, and there are some open vats. So at this point, the main concern is people entering the facility." Ozark Circuits etched and cured copper wires into circuit boards with a variety of toxic solutions. In 2011, owner Rati Patel filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy and lost the building. "If there was a company that was still in good financial shape, we would try to get them to clean it up," EPA spokeswoman Dianna Whitaker said. "That's what the law requires, in fact."

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/08/22/3578644/epa-cleaning-up-abandoned-circuit.html>

PHILIPPINES, CEBU CITY, AUGUST 23 2013. WHO PAYS FOR RUINED MANGROVES? >> DIVERS PLUG ONE OF TWO SOURCES OF OIL SPILL

jose santino s. bunachita, norman mendoza, jhunnex napallacan, cherry joy quito



As divers rush to seal off a leaking fuel tank in the sunken MV St. Thomas Aquinas, the environment office computed the cost of damage to mangroves at more than P6.5 million. The amount will be slapped as damage compensation for 328 hectares of ruined mangrove plantations covering 12 barangays in Cordova town and Lapu-Lapu City, an official said. A demand notice has to be sent for the cost of damage, rehabilitation and replanting for government-supervised mangrove plantations, said Regional Executive Director Isabelo R. Montejo of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR 7). "As to which company is responsible to pay the damage compensation or absorb the cost for rehabilitation of these confirmed damaged mangrove plantations will depend on the final results of the fact-finding investigation conducted by the Philippine Coast Guard and the Maritime Industry Authority," Montejo said. The figure is based on a cost of P20,000 per hectare of damaged mangrove areas. Most of the mangroves that died were less than one meter tall. The plants died of heat and suffocation with little or no supply of carbon dioxide needed in the process of photosynthesis which happens in the stem and leaves, the DENR said. The hydrocarbons in crude oil or fuel emit or discharge a heating effect.

Coastal Cleanup

Burlap bags and empty water bottles tied with rope were cast out to sea yesterday as improvised oil spill booms to soak up traces of oil from the Aug. 16 collision of the MV St. Thomas Aquinas and cargo ship Sulpicio Express Siete. Hundreds of students, barangay workers, government employees and private volunteer groups spent the Ninoy Aquino holiday in the coastal cleanup

led by Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Paz Radaza starting 7 a.m. The death toll in the sea accident has reached 71, as anxious families continue to flock to the Cosmopolitan Funeral Home hoping to identify their missing kinfolk. Six more bodies were recovered, including the remains of a boy and girl. The ferry carried 870 people when the ship was hit in the right side near the rear by the cargo vessel's bow. Most of the 754 passengers were rescued. Six days after the collision, divers were able to plug one of two sources of the oil leak from the vessel which sank off Lawis Ledge in Talisay City, south Cebu. "We found out that there were two leak sources of the oil and we have successfully plugged one of the sources," said Capt. Daniel Sarmiento yesterday. He said the second leak was spewing "manageable" amounts of oil. This has to be sealed before the rest could be



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September 07 2013



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siphoned from the tanks. Sarmiento, who was involved in the 2006 Guimaras oil spill, assured that Cebu's situation was not as bad as that in Iloilo province. "There is only minimal oil on top of the water. It's not even one millimeter," he said. He estimated that 40,000 liters of bunker fuel remain in the MV St. Thomas Aquinas and that sealing the source of the leak would take two weeks. The ship was carrying 120,000 liters of bunker fuel, as well as 40,000 liters of diesel oil and lubricant oil for the engines. Four Japanese technical divers from Nippon Salvage did their first dive survey yesterday, said Jero Onkobo, team leader. A multi-national team of 73 technical divers, including Coast Guard personnel and private volunteers, joined the dive at 5 a.m. to 10 a.m., a period considered most favorable with clear visibility and fair weather. The Japanese divers and Malayan Towage and Salvage Corp. were hired by 2GO which owns the sunken ship. 2GO assistant vice president Lito Salvio said efforts to locate and contain the source of the oil spill would continue today as their top priority. In the 2006 Guimaras oil spill, oil tanker MT Solar 1 sank during a storm off the coast of Guimaras. It carried 2 million liters of bunker fuel of which 500,000 liters spilled out in the sea, affecting marine sanctuaries, mangroves and fishing communities in Iloilo and Negros. For last week's collision that resulted in an oil spill that reached Mactan island, DENR 7 said it will also compute the economic valuation to include protection cost; opportunity lost; tourism and heritage value; and provisioning value of the ecosystem such as food, medicine and others. The DENR yesterday released its assessment report by a seven-member quick response team (QRT). It said 328 hectares of planted mangroves contracted by nine peoples' organizations (PO) in Cordova town and one PO in Lapu-Lapu city were destroyed. These plantations were set up in 2009 to 2012 under the agency's integrated coastal resource management project (ICRMP) funded by the Asian Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility for mangrove rehabilitation and reforestation. The DENR will also do an inventory of "natural stand mangroves" not covered by the program. The largest area affected by the oil spill was 76 hectares of planted mangroves of the Nagkahiusang Mananagat sa Bang-Bang in Bang-Bang, Cordova. This was followed by 69 hectares of the Nagkahiusang Mananagat sa Calawisan in Lapu-Lapu city.

How Can a Shipping Firm be Forced to Pay?

Montejo said a multipartite memorandum of agreement (MOA) would have to be executed among the local government units of Cordova and Lapu-Lapu city, POs, DENR, and the company to "critically seal off important arrangements or agreements including the post-care programs and activities like rehabilitation and other similar activities." The amount collected as damage compensation should be placed in a government depository bank as a trust fund to be used for rehabilitating, reforesting and other activities that may be agreed in the MOA. The team assessed nine barangays in Cordova severely hit by the oil spill, namely, Bangbang, Buagsong, Day-as, Catarman, Poblacion, Alegria, Gabi, Pilipog, and San Miguel. Also, barangays Calawisan, Babag, and Suba-basbas, all in Lapulapu city were affected. Test results of oil and grease from water samples taken at the accident site and other parts in Cordova and Lapulapu will be out Friday.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/472181/who-pays-for-ruined-mangroves>

USA, MA, WORCESTER, AUGUST 23 2013. CHEMICAL SUICIDE ATTEMPTS ON THE RISE

linda bock

Chemical, or detergent, suicides originated in Japan at the turn of the century and spread around the world from there. In Massachusetts, there have been 15 chemical suicides in the past three or four years, according to David M. Ladd, director of the state's Hazardous Materials Response Division. The last chemical suicide attempt was in Worcester on July 17, and elicited a Tier 2 response by one of the state's Regional Response Hazmat Team. A woman tried to kill herself by mixing toilet bowl cleaner and calcium lime rust remover to create hydrogen sulfide, a lethal gas. While the vapors killed her dog, the woman was rescued by Worcester firefighters and a state hazardous materials team. She was hospitalized. Public safety officials would not comment on her condition. Mr. Ladd said there had been speculation that those types of suicides were on the rise, but he said statistically it was very hard to say if a trend was developing. He said that years ago state officials researched chemical suicides and the risks they pose to others, and have kept up-to-date on the hazards, even as far as being in touch with Scotland Yard. First responders on the day of the Worcester incident were warned about the potentially deadly mix in a note posted on the woman's bedroom door, "Caution, hydrogen sulfide." The incident brought a massive public safety response to the apartment complex at 10 Nuttall Lane, because of the potential for harm to first responders and others. State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said Massachusetts has the only statewide regional hazmat response program in the country. There are 270 trained and certified hazmat technicians and 21 hazmat vehicles in the state. The state is divided into six regions, by fire district, with a hazmat response team for each district. Worcester is part of Region 3, and of the 45 hazmat technicians on the team, 16 are Worcester firefighters. "Their presence and involvement," Mr. Ladd said, along with city



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officials, "was particularly helpful." Among the challenges on July 17, the location was an apartment complex. "This was kind of a unique situation," Deputy Fire Chief Geoffrey Gardell said. He said chemical suicide attempts are "usually inside a vehicle." The Nuttall Lane incident was the second known chemical suicide attempt in a building in Massachusetts. Six firefighters broke down the apartment's front door. Their meters detected hydrogen sulfide, and they smelled a strong odor like rotten eggs. Firefighters backed out once they saw the note, and the regional state hazardous materials team was called. The team found a woman in her 30s lying on her bed, unconscious but breathing. Neighbors first reported a foul smell about 7:30 that morning. Local and state teams said they had to follow precise protocols, especially in light of the potentially dangerous and unusual situation. Once hazmat teams were able to enter the woman's apartment, they were able to get her out and decontaminate her in three-and-a-half minutes, according to a physician who was at the scene, before the woman was rushed to a city hospital. Tenants were allowed back into their apartments several hours later. Mr. Ladd said city officials did an excellent job of keeping the residents informed, as well as dealing with their short- and long term concerns since the suicide attempt. Worcester police investigated the incident.

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20130729/NEWS/307299584/1003>

SIERRA LEONE, FREETOWN, AUGUST 23 2013. AFRIGAS AND TOTAL SIERRA LEONE AGREE DISTRIBUTION DEAL

Afrigas, Sierra Leone's leading LPG supplier, recently announced signature of a Vendor Agreement with fuel retailer TOTAL Sierra Leone, making Afrigas and Afrigas accessories available to customers across Sierra Leone through one of the country's largest distribution networks. The deal, which means that Afrigas's distinctive yellow bottles will soon become a familiar site on TOTAL Sierra Leone's service stations nationwide, comes as welcome news to many potential Afrigas users, aware of the benefits of LPG but denied ready access to the product. Speaking shortly after concluding the agreement Afrigas CEO, Jihad Swaid, said, "Since we launched in September 2012, households across Sierra Leone have come to understand the economic and environmental benefits of cooking with LPG, particularly when compared to traditional fuels such as wood or charcoal. However many potential users, particularly outside Freetown, have not had access to the product. This agreement with TOTAL Sierra Leone will change that, making Afrigas LPG available in major towns across the country through TOTAL Sierra Leone Service stations." Following signature of the agreement at a well-attended orientation workshop held for TOTAL station dealers, educating them on the merits and uses of LPG and Afrigas and familiarising them with techniques for the safe handling, display and storage of the bottles. As well as Afrigas LPG, accessories such as burners, grills, stoves and regulators will also be on sale. Making Afrigas LPG available to provincial customers will, it is hoped, help reduce the ruinous deforestation of the environment for wood and charcoal as well as reduce respiratory ailments caused by the inhalation of smoke from cooking fires. Commenting on the new agreement Ted Mugisa, Marketing Manager of TOTAL Sierra Leone, said, "TOTAL Sierra Leone has long been known for the sale of high quality fuel. We are delighted to be partnering Afrigas in this initiative, which will enhance the customers shopping experience by providing a one-stop-shop for all their fuel and convenience shopping requirements.

http://news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_200523484.shtml

CANADA, ONT, SARNIA, AUGUST 23 2013. SUNCOR BENZENE UPDATE



Suncor is working on site preparation this week to install a pipe in the South Vidal Street ditch. Company spokesperson Jennifer Johnson says it will safely carry clean ditch water through the area that tested positive for benzene August 7th. It's the second time the chemical has been found in an existing remediation site set up in 2006 after it was detected in soil around underground pipelines. Johnson calls the pipe a long-term, robust approach to what the company has been doing since test results came back positive. Johnson says Suncor will conduct regular testing of the ditch water at their sluice gate to ensure no impacted water is flowing to the community. Installing the pipe is expected to

take two weeks and Johnson says traffic on Vidal Street should not be affected.

<http://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2013/08/22/suncor-benzene-update/>



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