



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 1,014 Newsy Stuff

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

October 22 2013



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AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MARLBOROUGH, OCTOBER 17 2013. TWO PEOPLE ESCAPE FROM FIRE WITH MINOR BURNS



The service station at Marlborough which caught on fire early this morning.

Update 9.03am:

Two Queensland Police Service detectives and scenes of crime investigators are on their way to the scene of last night's fire. Meanwhile, two members of the family whose home burnt down have commented on a post on the Queensland Police Service Facebook page: "Everyone is okay, some minor burns but my family is safe that all that matters!" Hannah Balgowan said. "This was the scariest thing to wake up to we wouldn't still be here if it wasn't my dad waking up he saved our lives xxx," Rachel Louise Balgowan said.

8.30am:

Two people escaped with minor burns after a fire broke out in a home on Saint Lawrence Road, near the Bruce Highway, two kilometres south of Marlborough around 12.30am. The fire spread to an adjoining service station and

accommodation donga. The home, service station and accommodation donga were destroyed in the blaze. Crews worked to protect nearby exposures and brought the fire under control around 3.45am. An exclusion zone of 800 metres, due to large gas cylinders located near the building, was initially established for precaution until fire crews arrived. Paramedics treated the two patients and they did not require transport to hospital. Fire Investigators will attend the scene today. It is understood a lot of the town's water supply was used in the efforts to control the fire.

7.30am

Ten fire trucks from both rural and urban stations were called to a fire at Marlborough overnight. A QFRS spokeswoman said the incident happened at 12.30am this morning where a fire which started in a residence spread to a nearby donga and the BP service station. "One donga, one house and one service station are no longer there," she said. Investigations are still continuing and fire investigators will be attending the scene this morning the spokeswoman said. A QAS spokeswoman said two people were treated for burns at the scene but no one was transported to hospital.

<http://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/one-house-one-donga-one-service-stationno-longer-t/2053070/>

USA, MT, BILLINGS, OCTOBER 17 2013. DEQ SEEK PUBLIC COMMENTS ON UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

DEQ Accepting Public Comments on New Underground Storage Tanks in Billings. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Underground Storage Tank program, has prepared an Environmental Assessment for a proposed underground storage tank facility. This installation will add 4 new UST systems for the newly developed FedEx 591site, located at 3815 Hesper Road, Billings, Montana. This project involves installing four double-walled fiberglass reinforced plastic underground storage tanks and associated double walled piping. The tanks will be used for the storage of Diesel, B-99 (99% Biodiesel), and Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF). System monitoring will be accomplished with internal probes and sensors for all tanks with continuously monitored piping systems. An automatic tank gauge will shut down the system on any indication of a problem. The DEQ prepares environmental assessments to inform interested government agencies, public groups, or individuals of a proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human or natural environment. The Environment Assessment for this project is published at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/UST/ea.mcp.x>. Public comments will be accepted until close of business on October 22, 2013. Comments must be in writing and can be e-mailed to ustprogram@mt.gov or mailed to the Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau, Underground Storage Tank Program at P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT, 59620-0901. Following the comment period the DEQ will determine what actions to take regarding this permit application. For more information contact Seth Hendrix, DEQ Underground Storage Tank Program, 406-444-5300, shendrix@mt.gov or visit the DEQ website at www.deq.mt.gov.

http://www.laureloutlook.com/public_notices/article_884b187c-3681-11e3-883c-0019bb2963f4.html

USA, ILL, LAKE CENTRALIA, OCTOBER 17 2013. OIL LEAK SPILLS 189 GALLONS OF OIL INTO LAKE CENTRALIA

rob sussman

An oil leak at a well managed by Citation Gas located near Lake Centralia caused 189 gallons of oil to spill into Lake Centralia on Monday. Centralia City Manager Dan Ramey announced the incident to the public during Tuesday Night's city council



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meeting, saying that Citation Gas is doing everything they can to clean up the affected area. The leak was caused by a bridge failure on the pump, which caused a part of the pump to crack. The well was shut down immediately upon discovery of the leak, but not before the oil had managed to roll downhill and into the lake. Within two hours of the leak, crews were out on the lake using skimmers and leaf blowers to remove the oil. A catch pit was dug to further contain the oil. The Illinois EPA will be on-site on Friday to assess the situation.

<http://www.wjbradio.com/LocalNews/Oil-Leak-Spills-189-Gallons-of-Oil-into-Lake-Centralia>

TAIWAN, TAIPEI, OCTOBE 17 2013. OIL TANKER SINKS IN WATERS OFF TAIWAN, MONITORED FOR LEAKS

chen chao-fu & elizabeth hsu

Coast guard authorities were on the alert Wednesday for possible oil leaks after a Honduras-registered tanker, the Yong Win3, sank the previous day about 35 nautical miles southwest of Little Liouchiou, an islet off southwestern Taiwan. The Coast Guard Administration (CGA) said two of its boats were on patrol close to where the tanker sank, monitoring the situation and checking for any oil leaks. The Yong Win3, which was carrying more than 5,000 tons of diesel fuel, sank late Tuesday after listing heavily for hours, according to coast guard officers stationed in the southern Taiwan port city of Kaohsiung. Before the ship went down, its owner sent a ferry to pick up the crewmen, who said they had sealed the tanker's oil storage compartment to prevent any leaks. A preliminary report by the CGA said there were no major leaks. The Environmental Protection Administration has been informed of the incident, CGA said.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/asoc/201310160050.aspx>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, TRICHY, OCTOBER 17 2013. MISHAP AVERTED AS LPG TANKER HITS WALL

A tanker carrying Indane liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Chennai to Madurai rammed into the compound wall of the [Tamil Nadu](#) Special Police Battalion campus in Trichy due to brake failure. Fortunately, a major accident was averted as there was no leakage of LPG. The tanker was recovered safely after a three-hour effort by the fire and rescue service personnel. The accident occurred around 1pm on the arterial road leading to Trichy city on the Chennai - Madurai four-way lane through Mannapuram. The tanker driver, Kumar, 36, of Salem lost control over the lorry which was carrying 17 tonnes of LPG near the railway bridge near Kallukuzhi. The lorry rammed the compound wall of the Tamil Nadu Special Police Battalion campus and stopped after hitting a tree. The compound wall damaged. There was panic among the people as the tanker was carrying LPG. The fire and rescue personnel made all the efforts with utmost care to recover the vehicle with crane to avoid any leakage from the tanker. Eventually, the tanker was recovered after three hours.

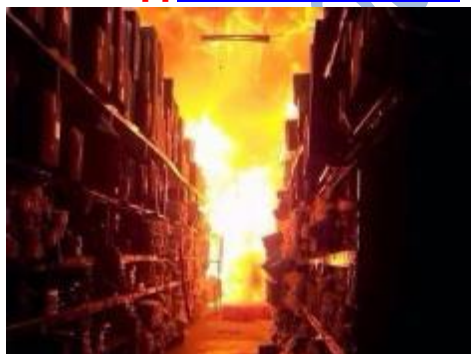
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/Mishap-averted-as-LPG-tanker-hits-wall/articleshow/24272968.cms>

THAILAND, PHUKET, OCTOBER 17 2013. PHUKET SUPERCHEAP BLAZE VIDEO CAPTURES FIREWORKEXPLOSIONS

chutima sidasathian

 [Watch the Video SuperCheap Fireworks VIDEO](#)

 [Photo's \[6\] Phuket SuperCheap Blaze](#)



Inside the blazing SuperCheap store, the inferno takes hold.

Fireworks explosions can clearly be seen in the latest video from tonight's massive SuperCheap store blaze in the heart of Phuket City. Police have said they think it's highly likely that people were inside at the time the blaze broke out. Kusoldharm Phuket Foundation workers were on standby, waiting to enter the building, and also expecting to find bodies. At Phuket City's vachira Phuket Hospital, a succession of injured people were being treated. But they were reluctant to talk about their escapes, or, like one Burmese boy, could not speak Thai. The store is known to be particularly popular with Phuket's large Burmese population and scores of Burmese workers were employed there. Phuket's annual Vegetarian Festival - a feast of fireworks - concluded on Sunday night. The blaze was still burning well after 11pm tonight with the column of flames visible from all over Phuket City. The Director of Phuket City (Muang) District,

Chuopachai Phochakul, said tonight that he had been told the building and its contents were insured for 900 million baht.



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SuperCheap is a Phuket family business, with the headquarters in Phuket City's Thepkasattri Road a traditional and popular destination for shoppers from all over the island. The chaos of the maze of aisles is what makes shopping at SuperCheap different. Finding your way out becomes part of the fun - at least until tonight. In 2011, SuperCheap surged to 25 round-the-clock convenience outlets across Phuket in just over 12 months, taking on Tops, Tesco, 7-Eleven and Family Mart. It was a matter of survival, says the family behind the iconic Phuket brand. Supercheap's manager of the 16-year operation, Boonsom Anantajaronwong, admitted to Phuketwan back then that his family saw their business under attack from brands on every corner and decided to join in. Unlike the franchise operations, SuperCheap owns its outlets. Khun Boonsom says that SuperCheap generates 3-4 billion baht in turnover these days, another indication that Phuket is a prosperous place. Long gone is the era before the arrival of the first supermarket on Phuket when expat residents would spend the best part of a whole day going from store to store to stock up the supplies they can now find with ease while pushing a wire mesh trolley.

Related Stories [Phuket City Blaze: 'Huge Fire' at Main SuperCheap Store, Police Fear Shoppers Are Dead](http://phuketwan.com/tourism/phuket-supercheap-blaze-video-captures-explosions-19016/)
<http://phuketwan.com/tourism/phuket-supercheap-blaze-video-captures-explosions-19016/>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, CAPARO, OCTOBER 17 2013. GAS TRUCK EXPLODES AT CAPARO STATION



The service station at Chickland, Caparo, where the fire occurred on Wednesday.

A truck delivering gas to a Caparo service station exploded yesterday sending nearby residents scampering for safety. There were no injuries in the blast which occurred around 6.30 pm. The truck driver and gas station employees were able to run to safety. Houses belonging to Mamin Dass and Ramdeo Bickram, both of Chickland Road, Caparo, were scorched, according to Paras Ramoutar, a former councillor for the area. He said the families would not be able to occupy their homes for several days. The explosion was heard hundreds of feet away and thick, black smoke covered the area, Ramoutar said. Traffic backed up along the Brasso Caparo Valley Road as fire officers doused the blaze. Residents from Mamoral, Brasso Piedra, Flanagan Town and Tabaguite were delayed for hours, Ramoutar said. Officers from the Chaguanas Fire Station were able to bring the fire under control. Central Division Police were on hand to direct traffic. Safety and fire officials are expected to visit the area later today.

<http://guardian.co.tt/news/2013-10-17/gas-truck-explodes-caparo-station>

USA, TEXAS, JEFFERSON CO, OCTOBER 17 2013. SEPTEMBER 2014 TRIAL SLATED IN BENZENE LAWSUIT

david yates

A September 2014 trial has been slated in a benzene suit blaming a dozen companies for a man's exposure and death. During his work as a "long-term employee" for Jefferson Chemical/Texaco Chemical Co., Jefferson County resident Donald Harrison's spouse claims her deceased husband was exposed to benzene, causing him to develop non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. As previously reported, on Feb. 11, Donald Harrison's wife, Joann Harrison, filed suit against American Cyanamid and 11 other companies in Jefferson County District Court, alleging they negligently exposed Donald Harrison to benzene despite being aware of the dangers. Court records show that on Sept. 10 a discovery control plan was entered, slating the case for trial on Sept. 15, 2014. The order further sets the discovery cutoff dated at Aug. 2. According to the lawsuit, Donald Harrison worked at the Port Neches chemical plant during the mid 1970s as a contractor and "was occupationally exposed to various toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, including but not limited to, benzene, benzene-containing products and other carcinogens." As a result of his exposure to the various chemicals, Donald Harrison developed non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, his wife claims. The suit alleges the defendants negligently failed to warn customers and workers of the dangers of benzene despite having actual knowledge. The other defendants include Cytec, Wyeth Holdings, Amoco Chemical Co., Amoco Oil Co., Atlantic Richfield Co., B.P. Amoco Chemical Co., B.P. Products North America, Chevron, Shell Chemical Company, Shell Chemical and Shell Oil. Joann Harrison is seeking damages for her husband's alleged medical expenses, mental anguish, pain, impairment, disfigurement and lost wages and for her own mental anguish, medical costs, loss of her husband's society and household services and costs for nursing care. Beaumont attorney Darren L. Brown of the Provost Umphrey law firm represents them. Judge Milton Shuffield, 136th District Court, is assigned to the case. Case No. D193-930

<http://setexasrecord.com/news/290744-september-2014-trial-slated-in-benzene-lawsuit>



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INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, THERGAON, OCTOBER 17 2013. SIX INJURED IN GAS SERVICE STATION BLAST AT THERGAON

Six people were injured when a liquified petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder exploded at a gas service station at Thergaon on Wednesday. The victims were waiting at a bus stop near the service station. The incident took place around 3pm at Ganesh gas service station in Thergaon. Bhavesh Mane (13), who was waiting at the bus stop, was critically injured. He is recuperating at the intensive care unit (ICU) of Global Hospital. The other five injured are undergoing treatment at Lotus Hospital. "We received a call about the LPG explosion at 3pm and sent out our firebrigade immediately. Six people -- Rakesh Parmar (15), Narayanlal Kharol (30), Dilip Dekhale (40), Mahendra Chawan (20), Dr Swanand Swami (37) and Bhavesh Mane (13) were injured in the explosion. Ganesh gas service does refilling of 4kg and 1.5kg cylinders. The explosion took place while a cylinder was being refilled," said fireman Gorakhnath Balachatur. "I was on my way to my shop and just passed by the gas service shop when the blast took place. I immediately called the fire safety department. They reached the spot within 10 minutes," said Amit Jhamtani (29), owner of a construction material shop.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/pune/1904529/report-six-injured-in-gas-service-station-blast-at-thergaon>

BRAZIL, BRASILIA, OCTOBER 18 2013. OILY SUBSTANCE ON UNKNOWN SOURCE SPILLS INTO LAKE IN BRASILIA



Oil floats on Paranoa Lake in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013. Oil is spreading on the surface of Brasilia's lake, around which embassies, restaurant and clubs are located. The fire department said they had not identified the cause of the spill.

Officials in Brazil's capital say they are investigating what appears to be a large oil spill on the surface of Paranoa Lake, a body of water ringed by embassies, restaurant and clubs. The local environment protection agency and the Brazilian Navy say they are trying to find out what the 3-kilometre (2-mile) long slick is composed of. Navy officials say tar used in road repair work may have spilled into the lake.

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Oily+substance+unknown+source+spills+into+lake+Brasilia/9048925/story.html>

USA, LA, HOUMA, OCTOBER 18 2013. HIGH TIDES DELAY OIL CLEANUP ON BEACHES

jacob batte

High tides are delaying the cleanup efforts of more than two tons of oil discovered Saturday near Fourchon Beach. As of Wednesday, the Coast Guard had recovered 4,167 pounds and found much more oil, although the amount wasn't available. The oil is believed to be from the 2010 BP oil spill. The last larger oil mat of about 40,000 pounds was found in June. Current projections are that the oil under the beach isn't as large but is still significant in size, said Petty Officer Michael Anderson, public information officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Incident Team. After discovering the mat Saturday, contractors have been both uncovering and recovering oil that had been buried under a little more than a foot of sand. Workers are sweeping away the top layer to identify where the oil has been. Officials suspect the mat of oil had been hidden by sand before being uncovered by the effects of Tropical Storm Karen, which lingered along the Gulf Coast earlier this month. Even though Karen's storm surge was not enough to trigger an immediate assessment, on-scene coordinators dispatched cleanup teams out of precaution, Anderson said. "When Karen's storm surge came through, it cleared a little bit off of one section (of the mat)," Anderson said. "They found some tar balls and cleaned that up, and as they walked through that day they found a section," he said. BP spokesman Jason Ryan said significant progress has been made in cleaning the Louisiana shoreline over the past three years. "A very small portion of that shoreline remains in active response under the direction of the U.S. Coast Guard, and we were aware that the storm might expose some heavily weathered residual oil in some areas," Ryan said in a statement Tuesday. "This area of Fourchon Beach is within an active area and the material that surfaced after Tropical Storm Karen eroded the shoreline is not new." The material mostly consists of sand, shells and silt and is held together by weathered, residual oil. Ryan said this is an example of BP remaining committed to removing residual Macondo material, under the direction of the Coast Guard. In the week immediately following Karen, cleanup workers gathered more than 500 pounds of tar balls and almost 400 pounds of oiled debris near the beaches. BP's runaway oil well spewed more than 200 million gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico. While the cleanup in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida has been deemed complete, there are



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still about 78 miles of Louisiana beaches considered incomplete. "Today, patrolling and maintenance activities continue on just 26 of the 3,192 miles in Louisiana's area of response, with another 52 miles in various stages of inspection, periodic monitoring or the approval process," Ryan said.

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20131017/ARTICLES/131019569/-1/living?Title=High-tides-delay-oil-cleanup-on-beaches>

CANADA, ONT, OTTAWA, OCTOBER 19 2013. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ORDERS NEW TEST TO INCREASE SAFETY IN OIL TRANSPORTATION

The federal government has issued a "protective direction" requiring any person who imports or transports crude oil to conduct classification tests on crude oil. "Our government remains committed to taking action to protect public safety, and we will take targeted action to increase the safety of the transportation of dangerous goods," said Minister of Transport Lisa Raitt. Effective immediately, any person who imports or transports crude oil must:

- Conduct classification testing of any crude oil being classified as UN 1267 or UN 1993, which has not undergone classification testing since July 7, 2013.
- Make those tests results available to Transport Canada upon request.
- Update their safety data sheets (SDS) and immediately provide them to Transport Canada's Canadian Transport Emergency Centre.
- Until such testing is completed, ship all such crude oil as Class 3 Flammable Liquid Packing Group I, when shipping by rail.

Transport Canada continues to work in co-operation with the Transportation Safety Board as it conducts its investigation into the tragic accident in Lac-Mégantic, Que. Transport Canada is building upon the safety advisories received from the Transportation Safety Board and is further enhancing the safety of railway operations and dangerous goods transportation in Canada, it said. Oil and gas are routinely shipped safely across the country every day. There are over 30 million shipments of dangerous goods every year in Canada with "99.999 per cent of them reaching their destinations without incident," said the government.

<http://www.cos-mag.com/emergency-management/emergency-management-stories/3621-feds-order-new-test-to-increase-safety-in-oil-transportation.html>

NEW ZEALAND, WELLINGTON, OCTOBER 18 2013. CAA REPORT RECOMMENDS REVIEW OF AIR FORCE SAFETY >> ILLEGAL SHIPMENT OF PYROTECHNIC CANISTERS

cassandra mason



A final report on the illegal shipment of pyrotechnic canisters which endangered the lives of hundreds of passengers on a 2009 Air New Zealand flight has recommended a review of air force safety. A Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) interim report last year found the Royal New Zealand Air Force breached international aviation standards by placing dangerous chemical canisters on an Air New Zealand passenger flight. A string of communication failures meant the 2009 incident which "seriously endangered" the lives of up to 379 passengers travelling to Canada was revealed by the New Zealand Herald last October. An internal air force report obtained by the Herald said the "illegal" act "seriously endangered" the lives of those on the flight and included the incident among safety failures leading up to the Anzac Day 2010 crash that killed three servicemen. CAA's final factual

report, released today, found CAA rules relating to dangerous goods needed be reviewed and tightened up in how they applied to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). The air force has, until now, had internal rules about dangerous goods but no formal requirement to comply with CAA rules when transporting dangerous goods on civilian aircraft. The report also recommended a Memorandum of Understanding be established between the CAA and the NZDF to improve the availability of technical advice, guidance and incident reporting between agencies. "The CAA's safety investigation unit, conducted an investigation into the areas found to be warranting further scrutiny by the interim report," CAA general manager of policy, systems and interventions of civil aviation John Kay said today. "In particular, these focused on the civilian elements of the incident that were not covered by the RNZAF's own investigation and procedures rules applying to the NZDF when consigning dangerous goods on civilian aircraft and the reporting procedures between the NZDF, and civilian organisations to support



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this." The Air Force "acknowledged" the report, saying it would be working with the CAA to implement its recommendations. "As noted when the CAA released its Interim Report in October 2012, the RNZAF reviewed its procedures to ensure it meets all civil and military regulatory obligations and implemented the necessary reforms in response to the dangerous goods incident in 2009," Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Peter Stockwell said in a statement. "All recommendations from the 2009 RNZAF Court of Inquiry into this incident have now been actioned."

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11142442

USA, WA, SNOHOMISH CO, LYNNWOOD, OCTOBER 18 2013. FIRE INJURES 1, DISPLACES 14 IN ALDERWOOD MANOR FOURPLEX FIRE >> HEAT SOURCE IGNITES GASOLINE FUMES.



Firefighters at the scene of the Alderwood Manor fire

One man was injured and 14 residents displaced after a two-alarm fire damaged a fourplex apartment building in unincorporated Snohomish County just north of Brier Thursday morning. The Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office determined the blaze was started accidentally. "Firefighters treated a man who was exposed to smoke and flames. He was transported by medic unit to Swedish/Edmonds Hospital. His injuries did not appear to be life-threatening," said Leslie Hynes, Public Information Officer for Snohomish County Fire District 1. "Five people safely exited the burning building." The injured man had been working in the garage of the fourplex when he stumbled and spilled gasoline; a heat source then ignited the gasoline fumes. He rented the garage in the fourplex and lives in a neighboring apartment building. Dispatchers received multiple calls at 11:40 a.m. Thursday reporting smoke and flames coming from the two-story, four-unit building in the 20400 block of 28th Avenue West in the Alderwood Manor neighborhood. Smoke was visible as firefighters approached the scene. The first crew to arrive quickly called for a second alarm to bring in more resources to contain the flames, which had already engulfed the back wall of two units. About 40 firefighters from Fire District 1, Lynnwood and Bothell were on the scene at the peak of the fire. They had the fire under control within 20 minutes,

but remained on the scene throughout the afternoon dealing with hot spots. The fire caused heavy damage to two of the four units. Other units had smoke damage. All four units are uninhabitable as a result of the fire. A total of 14 residents, including six children, have been displaced; Support 7 and Red Cross are providing assistance. None of the residents reportedly had insurance.

<http://mltnews.com/fire-injures-one-displaces-14-alderwood-manor-fourplex-fire/>

ENGLAND, KENT, OCTOBER 18 2013. RAMSGATE: FIREWORK SEIZURE SPARKS WARNING

Kent residents have been warned about the storage of fireworks after two large hauls were found in dangerous circumstances. Thousands of pounds worth of fireworks, being sold illegally from a self-storage unit, were seized by KCC's Trading Standards officers in a joint operation with Kent Police. And in a second unconnected raid, another large haul was found at a private house. In both situations, the fireworks were being sold via Facebook accounts. Those at the storage facility were found in a confined 20 sq. ft. space and contained a total of 50kg of gunpowder. Trading Standards Manager Mark Rolfe said a single spark could have caused an explosion big enough to destroy the whole depot. Although the fireworks themselves were authentic, they were being sold before the legal period for sales which runs from 15 October to 11 November. The 23 boxes retail for between £300 and £500 and, although the owners of the storage unit in Ramsgate were not aware of the precise contents, they had been asked to insure them for £11,000. Mr Rolfe said: "To picture that amount of explosive, that's two wholesale-size sacks of potatoes of pure gunpowder; which would make a fairly significant explosion. "The storage conditions were totally unsafe with standard electrical fittings running above the fireworks. The expert advice we have been given is that one spark from a failing fluorescent tube could have destroyed the building." The raid on the storage depot involved four officers from Trading Standards and four from the Kent Police Rural Partnership Team, who cut the padlock to break into the unit. A 34-year-old man was later questioned and investigations are continuing. The second raid, at a house in the Millmead area of Margate, uncovered 20kg of fireworks, also being advertised via Facebook. Mr Rolfe said: "This was not



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as big a haul as the other, but they were still being stored in a dangerous condition and could easily have caused an explosion." The fireworks have been removed to a safe store under Trading Standards control and enquiries to identify the seller are under way. Chief Insp Lee Russell, from Kent Police Partnerships and Communities, said: "We are continuing to work with Trading Standards on this issue, which is particularly important at this time of year. This is not just a matter of the damage that such incidents can cause, but the threat to personal safety and possible serious injury." Mr Rolfe said: "In both cases, these were simply ridiculous conditions for the storage of fireworks. "We urge anyone who needs to store large quantities of fireworks, or anyone who has concerns about illegal storage in their neighbourhood, to check with us about that the venue is appropriate and safe. If not, there is the chance that someone could die in an explosion."

<http://www.heart.co.uk/kent/news/local/ramsgate-firework-seizure-sparks-warning/>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, U.S DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, BOOKLET DOE/GO-102013-3861, OCTOBER 18 2013.

 **Document** [Handbook for Handling, Storing, & Dispensing E85 & Other Ethanol-Gasoline Blends](#)

The US Department of Energy has published a new edition of its "Handbook for Handling, Storing, and Dispensing E85 and Other Ethanol-Gasoline Blends."

http://www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/ethanol_handbook.pdf#!

USA, N.J, ANDOVER BOROUGH, OCTOBER 18 2013. ANDOVER CRASH CLOSES ROUTE 206

 **Photo's [5]** [Tanker Crash](#)



State Police have identified the two drivers, one who is listed in critical condition, involved in an accident between a gasoline tanker truck and a car that shut down Route 206 for almost 13 hours as responders worked to clean up thousands of gallons of spilled gasoline. Route 206 reopened at 1:50 p.m. Thursday. According to the New Jersey State Police, a preliminary investigation determined that at approximately 1:10 a.m. the tanker, driven by Harminder Singh, 21, of Carteret, was traveling northbound on Route 206 when Singh lost control and the tanker overturned into the southbound lane, landing on top of a Honda Civic driven by Serena Perosi, 27, of Budd Lake. Perosi was in critical condition at Morristown Medical Center Thursday afternoon, said hospital spokesman Rob Seman. Singh

was treated and released at the scene, said State Police Sgt. Adam Grossman. Perosi, originally of Sandyston, is a member of the Blue Ridge Rescue Squad, and a 2004 graduate of Kittatinny Regional High School. The accident occurred near the Shell gas station. Perosi had to be extricated from her vehicle and was taken to Newton Medical Center and then to Morristown Medical Center, according to Sussex County Sheriff Michael Strada. About 1,000 Jersey Central Power & Light customers were without electricity as a safety precaution, Strada said. Power has been restored to that area, according to the JCP&L online outage map. The tanker truck spilled about half of its 8,000 gallons of gasoline into the roadway, according to state police. The spill was contained as of 7:30 a.m. A reverse 911 call was sent out to Andover Borough, Byram and Andover Township residents to alert them to the road closure and possible power outages. Multiple fire departments including Byram, Green, Hampton, Stanhope, Andover Township and Andover Borough assisted. Lakeland First Aid Squad, Sussex County HAZMAT and a Foam Unit from Parsippany also responded. State police conducted the accident investigation, while Strada's office coordinated the emergency response. The state Department of Environmental Protection was on scene and hired a private contracting company to assist with the clean up. The state Department of Transportation handled the detours and road closure. Route 206 was closed from the intersection of Brighton Avenue in Andover Borough to Whitehall Hill Road in Byram Township, approximately 1.6 miles.

<http://www.njherald.com/story/23715649/2013/10/17/route-206-in-andover-borough-closed-after-crash>

USA, CA, VENTURA CO, SIMI VALLEY, OCTOBER 18 2013. JULY 4 FIREWORKS EXPLOSION RESULT OF MALFUNCTION, FIRE MARSHAL SAYS >> THE SIMI VALLEY MISHAP INJURED 28 PEOPLE.

 **Watch the Video** [Simi Valley Mishap injured 28 People.](#)

The California Fire Marshal's office has determined [a fireworks explosion](#) that injured 28 people at a Simi Valley July Fourth celebration was due to malfunction. After an in-depth investigation, the fire marshal's office, or CAL FIRE, determined the cause of the blast was the failure of a five-inch diameter, two-part fireworks display shell to function as designed. This type of



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

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shell consists of an upper shell attached to a lower shell, a fuse and a lift charge. The investigation concluded that the shell went off inside a mortar tube resulting in an explosion and several subsequent sympathetic explosions. The explosions sent debris from the fireworks, the racks holding them, and the mortar tubes in all directions from the launch site, including into a nearby crowd. A CAL FIRE report also indicates the Simi Valley Police Department has ruled out criminal activity or intent as a cause and a joint investigation by the Ventura County Fire Department and CAL FIRE determined that the show was properly permitted. Ventura County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen echoed the findings, calling the incident "a tragic malfunction." "The display was properly designed and set up. That being said, our responsibility is to do everything we can to ensure the safety of the people of Ventura County. As a result, we will be reviewing the state fireworks policies to see if additional local measures might be warranted," Lorenzen said.

Related Stories

- [Simi Valley Fireworks Show Accident Injures 28 Onlookers](#)
- [Update: Fireworks Mishap Investigation Continues](#)
- [Fireworks Company Issues Statement, 'Deeply Regrets' Simi Valley Injuries](#)

<http://moorpark.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/july-4-fireworks-explosion-result-of-malfunction-fire-marshal-says>

CHINA, SICHUAN PROVINCE, DARTSEDO CO, OCTOBER 18 2013. CHINESE MINE SPILL KILLS ANIMALS, POLLUTES WATER IN TIBETAN AREA

pema ngodup, lumbum tashi & dan zhe

Polluted water from a Chinese mining site in a Tibetan-populated area in western China's Sichuan province has spilled into a nearby river, killing large numbers of fish and livestock owned by villagers, according to sources in the region. The spill last week in the Kardze (in Chinese, Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture's Dartsedo (Kangding) county has also fouled the water sources of people living in the area, a local resident told RFA's Tibetan Service in an e-mail on Thursday. "On or around Oct. 13, contaminated water from a mining site at Balang township overflowed into a 20-30 mile stretch of the river, resulting in the deaths of countless numbers of fish and other animals," including horses, sheep, and goats, RFA's source said. "The spill has also contaminated the drinking water of five to six villages," he said. "People from the villages are complaining to the Chinese authorities, but in response the officials are sending troops into the area. Locals believe the Chinese are mining lead in the area," the source added. Separately, a second source told RFA that county officials had also arrived at the site of the disaster. "They have assured the local people that higher-ups will resolve the issue," he said.

Warning against Protests

Mining had begun in the area in 2005 under the pretext of "road construction," one source said, adding that local village leaders had argued against the construction but were warned by county officials and builders that their objections conflicted with "the will of [the ruling Chinese Communist] Party and county planners." "Locals have been warned that protests against such projects will draw severe consequences," the source said. A similar spill in 2011 had also killed livestock belonging to Balang township, but "complaints to Chinese authorities yielded no results then, either," he said. "Local Tibetans have the responsibility to stop this mining," he said. "It is legal to protest against environmental destruction."

Call for Action

Following last week's water spill, Tibetan villagers carried large quantities of dead fish to township government offices and demanded that officials take action to curb the pollution, a third source told RFA's Mandarin Service, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But the government just sent in troops to tighten control." "Starting from Oct. 14, all cell phone and Internet communications have been cut off in the area," the source said. "Government officials who inspected the polluted area responded only that it will 'take time' to investigate the situation," he added. "The Tibetan protesters are very disappointed because the mining operations are still going on, and the contamination problem remains unresolved."

Frequent Standoffs

Mining operations in Tibetan regions have led to frequent standoffs with Tibetans who accuse Chinese firms of disrupting sites of spiritual significance and polluting the environment as they extract local wealth. In August, clashes between police and Tibetan protesters at Chinese mining sites in neighboring Qinghai province left dozens injured and several detained. Meanwhile, in January, Tibetan sources told RFA that Chinese-operated mines in Lhundrub county near the Tibet's regional capital Lhasa had caused "severe" damage to local forests, grasslands, and drinking water. Waste from the mines, in operation since 2005, had been "dumped in the local river, and mining activities have polluted the air," one source said.

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/mine-10182013144733.html>



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USA, UT, MORGAN CO, OCTOBER 18 2013. FIERY TANKER CRASH CLOSES I-84 FOR ROAD REPAIR

christine mccarthy

 **Watch the Video** [Portion of I-84 Shut Down by Tanker Fire Reopens](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Fiery Tanker Crash Closes I-84 for Road Repair](#)

 **Photo's [6]** [Double Fuel-Tanker Truck Crashes](#)

 **Photo's [23]** [Double Tanker 'Engulfed in Flames'](#)



Morgan County crews spent hours containing a highway fire caused by a tanker accident on Thursday morning, before pavement repair began on the westbound lanes of I-84. The driver of a semi-trailer hauling a double-tanker filled with diesel fuel was attempting to pass another vehicle shortly before 8 a.m. around mile post 108 near Taggart, said Capt. Mark Zesiger of Utah Highway Patrol. "The vehicle came around one of the corners. It would appear that he was traveling a little bit too fast to make the corner. The rear pump on the trailer rolled over," Zesiger said. "That rear tanker started on fire as a result of the rollover, fully engulfed that trailer." Thousands of gallons of fuel covered the highway. Fire crews allowed the rear tanker to burn while containing the flames around its perimeter. Authorities worried the fire would spread to the second tank. "Our main concern is breaching that tank and having that leak in and being an environmental hazard," Zesiger said. Utah Department of Transportation had

sand delivered to contain the fuel and keep it from flowing into the nearby Weber River. Troopers reopened the eastbound lanes, but rerouted westbound traffic for all of Thursday afternoon. Many out-of-state truck drivers were forced to find another way. "The impact on the freeway is significant," Zesiger said. "This is a regular commerce route, and right now we have to turn all that traffic around at I-80, mile marker 112, and then at Morgan at mile marker 103." Redirected westbound truckers inched slowly off the Henefer exit to take long detours. "I've got a long way to go. Washington," said truck driver Reggie White, waiting in traffic. "At the end of the day, as long as everybody gets where they're going safely, it's worth the wait. Lives can't be replaced."

http://www.kutv.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid_7531.shtml

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, OCTOBER 18 2013. SEMI-TANKER DRIVER VICTIM OF HIT-AND-RUN IN SALT LAKE CITY >> TRYING TO WARN OTHERS? » BIG RIG DRIVER HIT AFTER HE EXITED CRASHED SEMI.

bob mims

 **Watch the Video** [Driver of Wrecked Semitrailer Possibly Injured in Hit-& Run](#)



The Utah Highway Patrol was looking Friday for a hit-and-run suspect after the driver of a crashed semi-trailer rig was struck while walking on Interstate 80 in Salt Lake City. Utah Highway Patrol Cpl. Todd Johnson said the driver was in critical condition at Intermountain Medical Center following the 6:30 a.m. incident. The semi, hauling two crude oil tankers, crashed into a concrete barrier wall on the eastbound I-80 connector ramp to southbound Interstate 15, near 600 South. "UHP investigators believe that the driver of the semi exited the truck after the crash and then walked west behind the crash scene, possibly to warn other motorists, and was then hit by a vehicle," Johnson said. Troopers found the driver, who was not identified, lying unconscious on the left shoulder with injuries

"consistent with having been involved in an auto-pedestrian crash," Johnson said. "The vehicle ... did not stop at the scene, and there has been no contact from anyone stating they were involved in this incident," Johnson added. None of the fuel from the tankers leaked. UHP closed the eastbound I-80 connector to the 600 South off ramp and southbound I-15, diverting motorists to the 600 North exit to access I-15 and Salt Lake City into late Friday morning. Anyone with information about the vehicle that struck the victim is urged to call UHP dispatchers at 801-887-3800.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57014912-78/lake-salt-600-driver.html.csp>



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INDIA, DELHI, MATHURA, OCTOBER 18 2013. GAS TANKER CATCHES FIRE, CAUSES MAJOR JAM ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY NEAR MATHURA

surabhi malik



A gas tanker carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas rammed into a hotel on the National Highway 2 near Mathura and burst into flames today. The accident resulted in a massive jam on the NH-2, an arterial road between Delhi and Kolkata. Five fire engines were rushed to the spot to bring the fire under control. The tanker was on its way from Mathura to Delhi. Eyewitnesses said the driver lost control over the truck as he tried to dodge sales tax officers at a check post.

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/cities/gas-tanker-catches-fire-causes-major-jam-on-national-highway-near-mathura-433410?curl=1382140130>

USA, N.D, DIVIDE CO, OCTOBER 18 2013. 5- TO 7-BARREL OIL LEAK DISCOVERED IN DIVIDE COUNTY

katherine lymn,

A 5- to 7-barrel oil leak from a 1-inch oil gathering line was discovered in Divide County, the state learned Thursday. Hiland Crude, the company in charge of the line, is on site cleaning up and has stopped the leak, state Department of Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong said. Fong said the leak is near a "small slough" of water. Dave Glatt, chief of environmental health at the Department of Health, said it's always a concern when oil reaches surface water. Hiland has booms in the water to contain the oil spill, will dig out the contaminated soil and will vacuum the oil off the surface of the water, he said. A press release sent Thursday evening originally stated the spill was approximately 150 barrels of oil. A Hiland Crude employee later said the spill was approximately 10 barrels.

<http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/event/article/id/73069/group/News/>

USA, MD, SALISBURY, OCTOBER 18 2013. US 50 REOPENED AFTER TANKER OVERTURNS IN WICOMICO COUNTY

 **Watch the Video** [Route 50 Open after Crash](#)



WBOC Chopper 16 aerial photo of the crash scene.

Maryland State Highway Administration officials say US 50 was reopened Thursday evening after a tanker truck overturned between Rockwalkin and White Lowe roads near the Salisbury Bypass. Maryland State Police say Steve Bivens, 58, from Pennsylvania, was heading east on US 50, when he left the road and hit a guardrail. The collision caused the truck to overturn. Bivens was taken to Peninsula Regional Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. Police also say the truck was carrying a flammable material and was leaking fuel as result of the collision. Hazardous materials crews were called upon to assist with cleanup operations. Alcohol is not considered a factor in the accident.

<http://www.wboc.com/story/23720620/wicomico-county-tractor-trailer-crash-leads-to-route-50-closure>

PAKISTAN, FAISALABAD, OCTOBER 19 2013. TWO CHILDREN KILLED, MOTHER INJURED IN FIREWORKS EXPLOSION

Two children were killed on Friday and their mother severely burned when a stack of fireworks exploded at a house in Dalawal. The explosion also resulted in the roof of the house to collapse. Dijkot police said that a heavy quantity of fireworks



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had been stocked at a house in Chak 248-RB. They said on Friday there was an explosion in the room, followed by a fire. Residents said the fireworks went off one by one as if someone was firing shots in the air. They said before they could go inside to rescue the woman and her children, the roof of the house came down. Rescue 1122 officials were called. The woman, Nadia Bibi, and her children- five-year-old Asad Ali and seven-year-old Kiran Shehzadi- were pulled out and taken to a hospital. Both the children succumbed to their injuries, while the woman was said to be in critical condition. Police were also called and the house was sealed. The station house officer said an investigation had begun. The fire was put out in two hours. Rescue officials said it had apparently been started by an electric short circuit. Rafiq Anwar, one of the neighbours, said the fireworks had been stored at the house for a wedding in the area that was scheduled after Eid. He said the explosion had been heard several blocks away. He said had the Rescue officials not arrived on time, there could have been more damage. He said the police had been informed about such illegal storages in the area, but no one had visited them. He blamed the police for the loss of the children's lives. Dijkot police said they had not been informed about the house or any other place used as a fireworks warehouse. They said the area would be raided on the orders of the district police officer.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/619270/two-children-killed-mother-injured-in-fireworks-explosion/>

CANADA, ONT, FORT FRANCES, OCTOBER 19 2013. CHEMICAL SPILL AFTER TRAIN DERAILMENT

ryan forbes



Here is the official press release from the OPP:

On October 18, 2013 at 1:13 pm, officers of the Rainy River District Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to the report of a train derailment at the Resolute Forest Product mill property. No injuries have been reported. Officers have confirmed that a single rail car containing hydrogen peroxide tipped over causing the chemical to leak. Fort Frances Fire and Rescue Service has responded and is utilizing their resources to suppress any vapours and monitor the spill area. OPP has set up a perimeter around the affected area of Central Avenue between Scott Street and Second Street in Fort Frances, ON. The public is asked to refrain from attending this perimeter until further advised. The OPP is working with emergency responders and the Town of Fort Frances to monitor and assess the situation. The Ministry of the Environment has been notified. The rail company is Minnesota Dakota and Western Railway (MDW).

MDW serves the paper mills in International Falls, Minnesota and Fort Frances, ON.

http://www.kenoraonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6750:chemical-spill-after-train-derailment&catid=1:local-news&Itemid=158

USA, TX, WEST, OCTOBER 19 2013. FIRST OF 14 EXPLOSION LAWSUITS SET FOR TRIAL NEXT OCTOBER

paul j. gately



This aerial photo taken April 18 shows what remained of West Fertilizer Co. and the some of the surrounding blast zone following an ammonium nitrate explosion on April 17.

The first of 14 lawsuits seeking damages stemming from the deadly April 17 explosion from Donald Adair and the West Fertilizer Company were set for trial on Oct. 6, 2014 on Friday. A marathon meeting of as many as 40 lawyers in District Judge Jim Meyer's 170th District Court on Friday was aimed at ironing out a schedule and beginning to outline how plaintiffs' attorneys can seek discovery on evidence, said Steve Harrison, a Waco lawyer who is serving as chairman of the plaintiffs' council. All of the lawsuits

were filed over the April 17 explosion and fire that killed 15 people, injured scores more and destroyed dozens of homes and buildings. Harrison said the hearing lasted just a little more than an hour and no one but lawyers were in the packed courtroom. Specific cases were not set for the first trial date but Harrison said it is likely the first cases heard will be those that involve deaths of firefighters or other first responders. Two more trial dates, one in January and one on March 2015, were set aside as well but again no specific cases were assigned to those dates. The lawsuits were filed individually in three different courts including the 74th, 170th and 414th District Courts and when specific cases are assigned for trial they'll be heard in the



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court in which they were originally filed, Harrison said. But the pre-trial issues have been heard by Meyer in the 170th court. The action Friday means plaintiff's lawyers can begin to gather evidence they are seeking through discovery and can begin to take depositions. Some of the cases could be settled without going to trial, McLennan County Karen Matkin said, and those will be individually dealt with. Any case that cannot be settled out of court will have to be set for trial. Cases that are set for trial and have "issues of commonality" could be heard together on one court, Matkin said, but those that do not meet those criteria will have to be set for individual trials in separate courts.

<http://www.kwtx.com/ourtown/home/headlines/West--First-Of-14-Explosion-Lawsuits-Set-For-Trial-Next-October-228404591.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, BALLARAT, OCTOBER 19 2013. UNDERGROUND MINE EXPLOSIONS ROCK BALLARAT EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD

Tom cowie



Fed Up: Ballarat East resident Tony Harris says underground mine blasts are enough to make ornaments on shelves move in his house.

Underground blasts at a Ballarat gold mine are being delivered with so much force that residents are reporting interrupted sleep, damaged walls and threats to personal safety. Ballarat East residents have compared the rumble from the daily explosions to an earthquake, with one describing it as "like a shotgun being fired seven times". Residents of Gray and Richardson streets say they are fed up with the explosions, part of mining exploration more than 650 metres underneath Ballarat. Complaints were made to Castlemaine Goldfields about the explosions as early as February, with some blasts occurring at 1am.

Graeme Barton, who lives in Gray Street, was so concerned about his frail wife falling over the company now sends a text message warning of the explosions five minutes before they occur. Mr Barton's wife suffers from a muscle-wasting disease and is forced to move around with the help of a walker. "When the explosions go off it vibrates the whole house. She's frightened she's going to fall over," Mr Barton said. "No one should have to live with that." Paul Greig, of Richardson Street, said the blasts sometimes woke him up when they went off at 6.45am. "Sometimes it gives me a fright, because you're not expecting it," he said. "The first one on February 4, which was really severe, I didn't know what was happening. I thought we were having a tremor. It really shook. The television shook." In an email to Mr Greig, Castlemaine Goldfields apologised for occasions where it had fired two explosions in the same area simultaneously. It pledged to not do so again "in an effort to reduce the surface impact". The company also changed the duration and size of the blasts, as well as ensuring the blasts did not take place between 10pm and 6.45am. Castlemaine Goldfields Ballarat Mine general manager Lance Faulkner said blast monitors used by the company had not picked up vibrations outside regulations. He said the company was open to hearing from residents disturbed by the explosions. "We understand some people are annoyed but we're trying to work with them so they're not annoyed," he said. Mr Faulkner could not say when the blasts would cease, but said the company was trying to lessen the disturbance. "We're about minimising our impact on Ballarat. We understand that the city of Ballarat is sitting on top of us," he said. Tony Harris, who lives next to Mr Barton, said the blasts were enough to make ornaments on his shelves move. "It's bloody loud. My wife's got a health problem and it affects her nerves," he said. "You can't get used to it. It's constant." Carole Storey-Smith, who also lives on Gray Street, said the force of the explosions appear to have left a large crack in the plastering of her house. "It's very frightening. When the first one happened, because we didn't know, we were scared out of our brains," she said. Castlemaine Goldfields denied any structural damage had been caused by its blasts.

<http://www.thecourier.com.au/story/1851113/underground-mine-explosions-rock-ballarat-east-neighbourhood/?cs=61>



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FRANCE, PARIS - Out-of-Fuel European Satellite to Come Crashing Down

Not really a DG-Hazmat Issue however it could be classified as such based upon whatever lands, wherever or whenever, it's interesting to know that these events happen "as a Matter of Course" and everyone is pretty blasé about the effects. I reckon it's a worthwhile and interesting issue to share [I also wonder about the mechanics of the Risk Assessment and, indeed the Assessment of the Risks ?

Don

FRANCE, PARIS, OCTOBER 19 2013. OUT-OF-FUEL EUROPEAN SATELLITE TO COME CRASHING DOWN

A satellite monitoring Earth's gravity field since 2009 will run out of fuel "in the coming days" and eventually crash, with little risk to humans, the European Space Agency said Friday. About 40 to 50 fragments with a combined mass of 250 kilogrammes (550 pounds) are projected to hit our planet within weeks of the GOCE satellite running out of fuel, according to spacecraft operations manager Christoph Steiger. "We are very close to the end," he told AFP on Friday, when the pressure in the satellite's fuel tank dropped below 2.5 bar -- the minimum required for full operation. Not yet known is when and where the fragments will impact -- over the ocean or on land. The pressure in the orbiter's tank is expected to drop to zero no later than October 26 but the engine will likely stop working before then, said Steiger. "Right now, it is not possible to predict where it will happen, it could be anywhere. The closer we get to the reentry point, the more precisely we will be able to say. "Roughly one day before (impact), one can exclude certain regions of the Earth. A few hours before, we will be able to tell with... a few thousand kilometres of precision." The Gravity Ocean Circulation Explorer (GOCE) was launched into orbit in March 2009 at an altitude of just 260 kilometres (160 miles). It has stayed aloft thanks to its unusual aerodynamic shape and an ion propulsion system. GOCE's stock of 41 kg of fuel stood at about 350 grammes on Friday. When it runs out completely, the satellite will start losing altitude, become unstable and eventually de-orbit. Most of the 5.3-metre-long (17.2-foot) spacecraft will break up at an altitude of about 80 kilometres (50 miles), said Steiger. But about a quarter of its mass will survive, hitting the surface in a trail of fragments over an area of a few hundred kilometres. "The risk is very small, but it is not zero," said Fernand Alby, in charge of space debris and space surveillance at France's National Centre of Space Studies (CNES) in Toulouse. "Per year, it is estimated that about 100 tonnes of manmade space debris is reentering (the atmosphere), out of which between 20 and 40 tonnes survive reentry... and impact somewhere on Earth," Steiger said. In 50 years of spaceflight, there have been no casualties from manmade space debris reentering, he insisted. "The risk of getting hit by such a reentering, manmade space debris is 65,000 times lower than getting hit by lightning. It is 1.5 million times lower than being killed in a home accident -- falling down the stairs or something like that." The 350-million-euro (\$465-million) mission has lasted twice as long as its initially scheduled 20 months. Scientists say it has returned reams of data on Earth's gravity field and ocean circulation. GOCE was designed and built before 2008, when international recommendations were adopted that a scientific satellite must be able to execute a controlled reentry, or burn up completely after its mission. Steiger said a global space



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debris coordinating committee was monitoring the satellite to predict its point of reentry, "and we are passing on the information to national authorities".

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131018/out-fuel-european-satellite-come-crashing-down>

USA, LA, BATON ROUGE, OCTOBER 20 2013. OIL COMPANIES, ENVIRONMENTALISTS OPPOSE FED RULES FOR REMOVING SUNKEN OIL RIGS

cristina corbin

Photo's [5] [Scientists Say Oil Rigs, Whether in Operation or not, help form Artificial Reefs, Boosting Fish Populations.](#)



Oil companies and environmental groups may spar over off-shore drilling, but there's one thing they can agree on: Leaving scuttled rigs on the ocean floor creates a rich environment for coral, endangered species and other marine life. The Gulf of Mexico – home to approximately 3,600 offshore oil and gas platforms – is set to lose a third of those structures in the next five years, which many claim will destroy almost 2,000 acres of coral reef habitat and the seven billion invertebrates that thrive on or near the platforms. Such organisms include federally protected species, like scleractinian corals, octocorals, hydrozoans and gorgonians. Despite an unlikely consensus that the decommissioned rigs create prolific ecosystems, a law enacted more than 30 years ago requires that many

of these platforms be ripped from the ocean floor – in turn destroying a habitat used by countless organisms for feeding, spawning, mating and maturation. Pressure to remove the old rigs comes on two fronts. A 1970s federal law, enacted before the benefits of leaving them on the ocean floor were understood, called for companies to remove them. Though still in effect, subsequent state rulings that cited the boon to marine life that the rigs can provide conflicted with it. The older law was not strictly enforced until the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which left hundreds of rigs damaged and unusable. Even then, it appears to be in conflict with state laws, federal programs and even scientific consensus. Oil companies also find it in their interest to remove some of the rigs – despite the estimated cost of \$3 million – because they can be held liable in perpetuity for navigational hazards caused by the sunken wreckage. "Rigs-to-Reefs," a nationwide program developed in the mid-1980s by the former Minerals Management Service – now the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement under the U.S. Department of the Interior – advocates for some decommissioned offshore oil and petroleum rigs to become artificial reefs for the vast organisms that inhabit the ocean floor. "The program is beneficial to all parties involved," said Nat Spencer, a principal at Meridian Ocean Services, a U.S.-based subsea contractor currently conducting reef survey in the gulf with a Saab Seaeye Falcon DR remotely operated vehicle. "The oil companies save decommissioning costs, the states increase their tax revenue through sport fishing, and the environmentalists see increased or steady fish populations on the platforms as well as a steady stream of annual recorded data about those populations," Spencer told FoxNews.com. "It's a misconception that the rigs are left over the capped wells. The platforms are all severed from their original bases, then relocated to new areas which are separate from the original drilling locations." Environmental groups, like EcoRigs, a non-profit group based in southern Louisiana, say the issue of removing the rigs is a complex one. Steve Kolian, the group's founder, told FoxNews.com that the 1970's law conflicts with legislation enacted in the 1980's and 90's that protects marine organisms – like the 1979 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which was amended in 1996 to protect marine organisms and reef communities from destruction. That act prevents protected organisms such as scleractinian corals, hydrozoans, octocorals and gorgonians from being removed from the structure they live on. "In the 1970's, they made the platform removal regulations but they had no idea that there were all those protected species on there," said Kolian. "It conflicts with the later laws that protect marine organisms." Kolian said a common misperception is that the oil well and platform are connected. The wells are required to be capped by pumping them with concrete once they are no longer in commission. The platforms, meanwhile, are "just metal structures," according to Kolian. "The platforms are not guilty of producing green house gas or spilling and all those other things associated with the oil industry," he said. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., who serves on the Environment and Public Works Committee, introduced legislation in May that would increase the use of decommissioned Gulf platforms as artificial reefs, as part of the Rigs to Reefs program. "We in the Gulf Coast are familiar with how idle rigs can develop into fertile marine habitats, home to some of the best fishing in the world," Vitter said in a statement Wednesday to FoxNews.com. "These artificial reefs are incredibly important to the growth and sustainability of the economy and environment in the Gulf." Vitter argues that his bill, if enacted, known as The Artificial Reef Promotion Act, will bring the decades-old Rigs-to-Reefs program



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"into the 21st century." The act requires that 20 new reef planning areas be created after a year of enactment, including six off each of the coasts of Texas and Louisiana, three off the coasts of Mississippi and Alabama, and five off of the coast of Florida. Critics of the Rigs-to-Reef program argue that a rusting steel rig may be detrimental to the environment and say more scientific research is needed to assess the long-term impact on aquatic life. And some commercial fisheries claim artificial reefs damage their fishing nets and also pose a navigational hazard. Adding to the complexity of the issue, is the requirement that oil companies spend money to maintain the rig for as long as it sits on the ocean floor. "Once you put that oil rig there, you're responsible for it forever. So there is a benefit to the oil company to get it removed," said Paul Cozic, director of Hell Divers' Spearfishing Club, which advocates a moratorium on the removal of oil rigs. "Every time they pull these rigs up, they destroy endangered species and all kinds of snapper," Cozic said. "People travel all over the world to see the type of coral and marine life that's on these rigs."

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/10/19/oil-companies-environmentalists-oppose-fed-rules-for-removing-sunken-oil-rigs/>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, OCTOBER 20 2013. CONCERN OVER AGE OF COOTES' FUEL TANKERS

jacob saulwick



Fatal Crash: The accident at Mona Vale on October 1 which left two motorists dead.

Fuel tankers used by the company involved in the fatal crash at Mona Vale this month are older on average than the typical Australian car, according to tightly held information made available to investors. Cootes, the biggest fuel transport company in Australia, has been under scrutiny since one of its tankers ran out of control on a bend in Mona Vale, bursting into flames and killing two motorists. Fairfax Media can reveal the average age of Cootes' fuel tankers is 11.7 years. The average age of the prime movers in Cootes' oil and gas fleet is 7.5 years. Both are understood to be older than vehicles used by other major firms in the industry. The founder and long-time owner of Cootes, Ian Cootes, said when he sold the company 13 years ago it did not keep prime movers beyond five years, and the average age of fuel tankers was also a lot less than it is now. Mr Cootes said tankers could last longer, if they were well cared for. "It would appear to me that if the brakes failed in metropolitan Sydney there was a maintenance issue," Mr Cootes said. Mr Cootes said the current owners of the business, McAleese, had been trying to improve the condition of the fleet. But Cootes had only been owned by McAleese for a year - before then it was owned by CHAMP Private Equity. Mr Cootes said the fleet had been "run down" under its previous owner, which was CHAMP. McAleese had been trying to list its business on the sharemarket before the Mona Vale crash, which claimed the lives of Subaru driver Peter Wem, 73, and a passenger aged 71. The cause of the crash remains subject to investigation, though brake failure is suspected. McAleese

has since postponed the stockmarket listing. The details of the age of the fleet were in a prospectus released to potential investors before the crash, and have not before been revealed. The prospectus shows the oil and gas fleet was nearing the end of its life. Prime movers have a "useful life" of eight to 12 years and fuel tankers 15 to 20 years, according to the prospectus. The average car in Australia is less than 10 years old. McAleese did not respond to calls. CHAMP says that Cootes fleet maintained an outstanding reputation for service and safety in the period it was owned by CHAMP. The private equity firm says it emphasised safety and driver training when it owned the transport and logistics firm. The Sun-Herald reported last week safety recommendations made by a coroner after another Cootes tanker rolled and exploded in 2009 had not been implemented at the time of the Mona Vale tragedy. However CHAMP says that it started to buy new trucks with "stabilisers" after the 2009 accident, and had begun a program of retro-fitting stabilisers onto older trucks. National Secretary of the Transport Workers Union Tony Sheldon said the age of the fleet "raises the question of whether this is unsafe equipment". Ian Cootes sold his company to a firm called Ion in 2000, which then sold it on to CHAMP in 2005. Mr Cootes said



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the latest crash had been devastating for him. "I'm hoping the outcome of all this will be a re-think of compliance standards. "At the end of a day if a vehicle isn't safe to be transferring dangerous liquids then it shouldn't be on the road."




 **Related Stories** [Law and Order: Police crackdown on heavy duty vehicles](#)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/concern-over-age-of-cootes-fuel-tankers-20131019-2vtjd.html>

CANADA, ALTA, GAINFORD, OCTOBER 20 2013. 'GREAT BIG FLAMES WAY UP HIGH,' WITNESS SAYS OF GAINFORD DERAILMENT, EXPLOSION >> GAINFORD EVACUATED AS EMERGENCY CREWS BATTLE MASSIVE FIRE

cailynn klingbeil & brent wittmeier

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [A CN tanker train carrying oil and gas derailed in a hamlet west of Edmonton](#)
- [Explosion, Huge Fireball in CN Tanker Train Derailment in Alberta](#)
-  **Photo's [14]** [Gainford Train Derailment](#)
-  **Photo's [7]** [CN Fuel Cars Derail, Explode West of Edmonton](#)
-  **Photo's [4]** [Explosion, Huge Fireball in CN Tanker Train Derailment in Alberta](#)



Officials declare a state of emergency after a train carrying liquid petroleum gas and crude oil exploded in Gainford, Alta. RCMP Air 1 helicopter captures an explosion after a train derailed in Gainford, Alta. on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013.

Emergency crews are monitoring a massive fire burning after a tanker train carrying oil and gas derailed west of Edmonton overnight. Thirteen cars — four carrying petroleum crude oil and nine carrying liquefied petroleum gas — came off the tracks around 1 a.m. in the hamlet of Gainford, about 85 kilometres west of Edmonton on Highway 16, halfway between the Seba Beach overpass and the old Gainford Hotel. Emergency crews responded shortly after 1 a.m. to

reports of an explosion. Jim Phelan, Parkland County fire chief, told a news conference that one car carrying liquefied petroleum gas exploded, causing damage to several other cars. No injuries have been reported. Ken Lemke, the MLA for Stony Plain, said some CN workers were taken to hospital for observation but released. Residents for miles around saw and heard a "large fireball," Phelan said. "There's been no explosion or similar event like that since," he said. "How it exploded, and why, that's yet to be determined." Phelan said crews on scene are allowing the product to burn off. "We're better off to allow it to vent and burn," he said. "It's unsafe to start fire-suppression activities." Of the 13 cars that derailed, only three are considered compromised, Phelan said. Parkland County has declared a local state of emergency for Gainford and the immediate surrounding area. All area residents are to avoid the area until further notice. The cleared area extends 1.6 kilometres from the epicentre of the derailment. The entire community of about 100 people has been evacuated, said Carson Mills, a spokesman for Parkland County. Elaine Hughes, who lives in a trailer park near the derailment site, woke up to a blast that shook her home. She immediately thought of the Edmonton tornado of 1987, which she lived through. Her room was bathed in orange light from flames she estimated were about 100 metres away. "I went flying out of bed and I go look out the window, I could see great big flames way high in the air," Hughes said. "Then the flames went out and there was nothing but black smoke." Devon Cadwell, 15, was in bed in his home about two kilometres away from the scene, but awoke to a blast "so powerful it shook the house." He got up and went outside to bring the horses in. "We could see puffs of smoke and fire," Cadwell said. Cadwell said that around 1:30 a.m., he and his family were told they didn't have to leave, but to be ready to evacuate. At about 5:30 a.m., the family was evacuated. They went to a cousin's home. A reception centre has been set up at the Entwistle Community Centre. Gainford residents are being put up in hotels and restaurants. Forty-three firefighters from four fire districts are on scene, using 12 pieces of equipment. They are alongside law enforcement officials, CN personnel, Transportation Safety Board investigators and Alberta government staff. Edmonton Fire Rescue's hazardous materials team is on-site. Edmonton police helicopter, Air-1, flew overhead during the night and into the morning. Alberta Environment staff are on-site and will be setting up air monitoring equipment to check air quality downwind of the site, said Alberta Environment spokeswoman Robyn Cochrane. Phelan said there is a little bit of black smoke that comes and goes but no indication yet of air-quality issues. Government firefighters and equipment including a helicopter are being used to help out county staff with any grass fires in the area. "We just won't know the extent, from an environmental point of view, until it's all said and done,"



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Cochrane said. "We'll work with the company on containment and then also remediation." A stretch of the highway, also Highway 16 traffic has been rerouted north along secondary Highway 765, westbound along secondary Highway 633 and returning southbound on secondary Highway 757. The portion of the highway is expected to be rerouted for the next 24 to 48 hours. Gainford is about 20 kilometres west of Wabamun, along the same CN Rail line where on Aug. 3, 2005, 43 cars of a westbound CN freight train derailed, spilling 700,000 litres of heavy fuel oil and 88,000 litres of pole treating oil into and around Wabamun Lake, and forcing the evacuation of 20 people. The Transportation Safety Board investigation found that the train derailed when the rail beneath it broke due to defects. CN pleaded guilty to three charges under provincial and federal environmental legislation and was fined \$1.4 million. Parkland County Mayor Rod Shaigec said Saturday he feels fortunate that the Gainford derailment was not of the magnitude of last summer's deadly train explosion in Lac Megantic, Que. Forty-seven people died in July when a Montreal Maine & Atlantic Railway train carrying highly flammable oil rolled into the town centre and exploded, levelling more than 30 buildings. A public information line has been established for the Gainford derailment. The number is 780-968-8400.

Related Stories

- [Oil-By-Rail Labelling Rules Tightened](#)
- [A look at some accidents involving trains in Canada in the last six months](#)
- [Parkland County residents evacuated after CN train carrying oil, gas derailed](#)
- [Gainford train derailed, LPG cars catch fire and explodes](#)

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Great+flames+high+witness+says+Gainford+derailment+explosion/9057485/story.html>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, OCTOBER 20 2013. HOW MILITARY, POLICE AID OIL THIEVES - SHELL •SAYS NIGERIA LOSES \$1BN MONTHLY •IT'S A SUBTLE BLACKMAIL - MILITARY

emmanuel adeniyi & chris agbambu



Following the incessant illegal oil bunkering in Nigeria's oil sector, which has witnessed an upsurge in recent times, the Royal Dutch Shell has accused the Nigerian security forces of aiding oil thieves and profiting from such a deal. The company, which alleged further that the country lost \$1bn monthly to the illegal operations, also disclosed that it was planning to sell four of its onshore oil blocks in the country. The company said that its decision to sell off the blocks was informed by governmental failure to checkmate bunkering in the Niger Delta as well as the relentlessness of the bunkerers who steal an average of 100,000 barrels of crude per day. Due to bunkering, oil production in the country has dropped to 400,000 barrels per day instead of 2.5 million bpd capacity level. According to a report obtained by Sunday Tribune, the constant theft of large volumes of oil from the company's numerous pipelines is allegedly aided by politicians, security forces, oil industry personnel and traders as well as other

miscreants who hibernate at creeks and swamps in the Niger Delta to bilk the nation to the tune of about \$1 billion each month. The company, which pioneered Nigeria's oil business from Oloibiri oil field in 1958, has also closed down its Trans-Niger pipeline that used to pump about 150,000 bpd oil to the giant refinery at Bonney, because the pipeline was holed at different points by oil thieves. The report posted by John Domovan blamed the act on lack of political will from the Federal Government and various state governments, where oil was being explored, and government's failure to checkmate activities of oil thieves, saying it has further emboldened the bunkerers who use their local and international connections to steal crude from pipelines. According to Shell's head of communication, Philip Mshelbila, "there is a sophisticated organisation..." that specialises in oil bunkering in the Niger Delta, saying their operation is "clearly not just local," but "a wide network" of criminals who make money from the illegal activity. A statement credited to the company also confirmed that there was little or no measure put in place by government to end the illegal activity, as those who were supposed to protect pipelines in the country aided bunkering. It will be recalled that a recent report by the Royal Institute for International Affairs similarly revealed that Nigeria's oil was being stolen not just from pipelines, but also from tank farms, export terminals, refinery storage, ports and even wellheads. "Officials and private actors disguise theft through manipulation of meters and shipping documents. Proceeds are laundered through world financial centres and used to buy assets in and outside Nigeria, polluting markets and financial institutions overseas, and creating reputational, political and legal hazards," the report added. Reacting to the story, the



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Director, Defence Information, Brig. General Chris Olukolade, said that it was a subtle blackmail and that anyone with real evidence against the JTF should forward such to the appropriate authority for investigation and action. According to him, the JTF is carrying out its mandate successfully by checking and curtailing illegalities in the creeks and cannot turn around and be doing other things. He said the military welcomed proof of such allegations, stressing that if such complaints were received, Nigerians would see what happened next.

[http://www.tribune.com.ng/news2013/index.php/en/component/k2/item/24337-how-military-police-aid-oil-thieves-shell-%E2%80%A2says-nigeria-loses-\\$1bn-monthly-%E2%80%A2it%E2%80%99s-a-subtle-blackmail-military.html](http://www.tribune.com.ng/news2013/index.php/en/component/k2/item/24337-how-military-police-aid-oil-thieves-shell-%E2%80%A2says-nigeria-loses-$1bn-monthly-%E2%80%A2it%E2%80%99s-a-subtle-blackmail-military.html)

INDIA, PUNJAB, MOHALI, OCTOBER 20 2013. MAJOR ACCIDENT AVERTED DUE TO CHLORINE GAS LEAK FROM CYLINDER: 2 TAKEN ILL

There was high tension in Sector 24 Saturday morning after chlorine gas leaked from a cylinder that was being ferried by a municipal corporation (MC) truck. The defective cylinder was being taken from Water Works department in Sector 12 to the corporation's treatment plant in Mohali Phase-11 to stop the leakage. A small amount of leakage was observed when the cylinder was kept at the Water Works department. It was decided to transfer the cylinder to a treatment plant to stop the leakage.. However, mid way near Park View hotel in Sector 24, the leakage increased significantly and a makeshift arrangement was made to diffuse the gas by digging a pit, filling it with water and submerging the cylinder in it. About 15 kg gas was left in the cylinder having a capacity of 90 kg, the police said. The driver of the truck ferrying the cylinder had informed the police when he found that the leakage had increased. The police reached the spot along with three fire brigades, an ambulance and a bomb disposal squad. The cylinder was submerged in water filled in a five-foot deep pit dug up nearby for the purpose. The pit was later covered with mud after the gas was completely diffused. A few police personnel present at the spot suffered nausea and vomiting due to the gas leakage. Some of them were taken to Government Multi Specialty Hospital, Sector 16 for treatment. The fire brigade first shot water at the cylinder to bring down its temperature. Then, five foot-deep pit was dug with the help of a JCB machine. The pit was filled with water and the cylinder was submerged in it to diffuse the gas. Meanwhile, the police blocked the traffic coming from both sides of the Sector 24/15 dividing road.

Related Stories

- [Gas leak: 22 taken ill](#)
- [Leakage of chlorine gas lands 22 in hospital](#)

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/major-accident-averted-due-to-chlorine-gas-leak-from-cylinder/1184825/>

USA, N.C, WILSON, OCTOBER 21 2013. TANKER CRASH, GAS SPILL CLOSES U.S. 301

corey friedman

A fuel tanker crash flooded U.S. 301 with gasoline Saturday night, closing the highway in both directions. Officials planned to close a stretch of U.S. 301 through the night and into Sunday morning. Wilson County Emergency Management Coordinator Gordon Deno said there's no estimate of when the highway will reopen. "As long as it takes to safely offload that gasoline onto another tanker and make sure it's not a hazard to anybody driving through," Deno said. The Sheetz tanker flipped upside down in the crash, which was reported around 10 p.m. Deno said the tanker can hold 8,700 gallons of gas. Officials didn't know how much gasoline had spilled. The crash happened on the 7000 block of U.S. 301 South outside Lucama. Wilson County sheriff's deputies and paramedics rushed to the scene along with firefighters and state troopers. The N.C. Highway Patrol is investigating the crash.

<http://www.wilsontimes.com/News/Feature/Story/Tanker-crash-closes-U-S--301>

AUSTRALIA, N.S.W, RUTHERFORD, NEWCASTLE, OCTOBER 22 2013. TRELOAR PLACED INTO LIQUIDATION

belinda-jane davis

The Treloar Group has been placed into voluntary liquidation and Sydney-based administrators have been appointed. Moore Stephens was appointed as the administrators yesterday and have already started gathering information about the business which will influence decisions about its future. Liquidators Michael Hird and Trent Hancock are handling the proceedings but have not been able to say how many jobs will be lost at this stage. Mr Hird did confirm that the company would meet with employees at the Rutherford plant this morning and a meeting with creditors would be held at the end of next week. "At this stage we are gathering information," he said. "I can't comment on job losses at the moment because it's too early to tell. We will have to look at the information and make some decisions." Australian Workers Union and Australian Manufacturing



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Workers Union delegates will support employees at the meeting today. AWU organiser Paul Delaney was disappointed that administrators would break the news to workers instead of management and said the union would fight for workers to be paid their full entitlements. "Some employees have been there for more than 20 years and the entitlements they should get are theirs, so we will be fighting for that to happen," he said. "It's unfortunate that no senior management will be there to explain the state of play to employees. "There are some employees who still believe that they will be starting work at 6am just like any other day." Mr Delaney said he was working with the AMWU delegates to find out how long the company had been heading down the path to liquidation. Workers received a phone call from management on Monday telling them to collect their personal belongings. This followed increasing speculation about the company's future after employees saw trucks removing equipment from the premises during the weekend. Workers were told not to turn up yesterday because Ausgrid was upgrading power to the site but they would receive full pay for day. Treloar Group chairman Raymond Fisher said on Monday that the company had been affected by the downturn in the manufacturing industry and increased competition from China and India.

Related Stories

- [Liquidator delivers bad news to Treloar Group employees](#)
- [Treloar placed into liquidation](#)
- [Media Statement by Treloar Group Trading Pty Ltd
ASIC - Notice of Meeting of Creditors](#)

<http://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/1828593/treloar-placed-into-liquidation/>

SPAIN, MALAGA, OCTOBER 21 2013. PETROL STEALING RING DISMANTLED



Guardia Civil have dismantled an illegal ring that allegedly stole diesel from a national oil transport and distribution company. Fifteen people have been arrested in the so-called Carafe Operation including their alleged leader, a Lithuanian man, who is claimed to specialise in this type of theft. According to Guardia Civil, the organisation accessed pipelines by digging three metre holes in difficult access areas. Then they extracted the fuel after carefully perforating the pipes, Guardia Civil added. The necessary tools for these perforations were provided by two men from Huelva, who have also been arrested. The extracted diesel was sold to a transportation company in La Rinconada (Sevilla). The illegal organisation had started an administrative process to open a company in order to launder the illicit money, Guardia Civil stated. Seven vehicles, several

mobile phones and 6,500 litres of diesel worth €10,000 have been seized in the operation. The arrested have been remanded in custody.

<http://www.euroweeklynews.com/news/axarquia-malaga-east/item/116450-petrol-stealing-ring-dismantled>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, CHENNAI, OCTOBER 21 2013. METER RIGGING ON THE RISE AT CHENNAI PETROL STATIONS

A growing number of fuel stations in the city are failing to dispense the specified quantity of diesel or petrol though the meter may show otherwise. Inspections conducted by the legal metrology department at various petrol pumps in the city have exposed the magnitude of fraud. Petrol pumps have been found to tamper with meters of the dispensing machines, giving customers less than they pay for. Officials say some fuel stations in the city start dispensing petrol or diesel when the meter shows 10 ml instead of zero. A few drops of fuel saved per motorist translates into a profit of several lakhs every month for the dealer. Statistics obtained by TOI from the legal metrology department revealed that there has been a gradual increase in cases of meter tinkering at fuel stations in the city. The number of fuel outlets booked for manipulating meters or dispensing less fuel in the city has increased from eight in 2009-10 to 28 outlets in 2012-13. Records say that 82 fuel outlets in the city were booked and nearly one lakh rupees have been collected in fines from them since 2009. Officials said dealers replace the standard sensor cable in the meter with a specifically-designed sensor to manipulate the meter reading. Many motorists say they suspect they were cheated at some outlets but have not lodged complaints. "In some fuel stations, the staff try to divert our attention from the meter. Usually, those using cars never step out of their vehicles and pay the amount without checking the meter," said S John, who was duped recently in Adyar. But many motorists are not aware where the complaints against fraud are to be lodged. "The legal metrology department should publish their contact numbers in all fuel outlets. The department should cancel licences of such dealers permanently and impose severe fines on such fuel stations," John added.



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Officials in the legal metrology department said that they do suspend the licence of the dealer if the fuel supplied is found to be more than 25ml short of the specified quantity. "The licence is renewed only after the meter is reset. If there are any doubts regarding the quantity of fuel dispensed, customers can then check the quantity of fuel using a five-litre jar available in every fuel pump," an official said. R Desikan, consumer activist and founder trustee of Consumer Association of India (CAI), agreed that several people in the city have been cheated because of meter tampering. "As dealers are not making much profit, they engage in such practices," he said. Tamil Nadu Petroleum Dealers' Association vice-president K Suresh Kumar denied the allegations. "The number of violators has come down gradually in the last few years. Oil companies are conducting regular inspections to ensure the quality and quantity of fuel," he said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Meter-rigging-on-the-rise-at-Chennai-petrol-stations/articleshow/24457474.cms>

INDIA, WEST BENGAL, HOWRAH, OCTOBER 21 2013. TAR SPILL SHUTS SETU LANE TO NABANNA

A portion of the approach road to the Vidyasagar Setu, barely a few metres from the recently-inaugurated Nabanna building, had to be shut down on Saturday after 2000 litres liquid bitumen or tar spilled on the road from a tanker that was carrying it. Though a thick layer of tar spreading over almost 60 metres on the road triggered a traffic snarl, since it was Saturday the traffic could be diverted without much hassle using the other flank of the road. Work is on at a war footing to remove the layer of tar by Sunday, as chief minister Mamata Banerjee will resume work at Nabanna from Monday, the day the state secretariat reopens after the Puja. Sources said that around 2.30am on Saturday, a tanker carrying tar that was coming from Haldia crossed the toll plaza to enter the Kolkata-bound flank of the bridge. Just after crossing the toll plaza and moving about 100 metres, the tanker's engine suddenly stopped stalling the vehicle on the road. The driver and the assistant of the tank then asked the driver of a car that was crossing the area to push the tanker from behind so that the engine can be started. However, the valve lock of the tanker accidentally got broken and the tar spilled on the road. Soon, the layer of tar became thick after coming in touch with the air outside and spread over almost 60 metres area on the road. started to come out off the tanker and spread all over the place. It spread over almost 60 meter of stretch as a layer occurred after coming in touch of the outer air and covered three lanes of the Kolkata bound toll plaza approach. As the day progressed, traffic movement was disrupted as the vehicles could not move over the thick 5-inch layer. Later in the day, the matter was brought to the notice of the HRBC authorities, who then rushed to the spot and hired three agencies to peel off the layer. Though work was done throughout the day, a huge portion of the tar layer is yet to be removed. Senior HRBC officials, who were at the spot to monitor and supervise the work, said: that work to peel off the layer and remove it from the road started immediately after they got news. "The layer is expected to be removed completely from the road by Sunday evening," said an official. The driver and assistant of the tanker were later arrested. One flank of the Vidyasagar Setu approach road very near to the Nabanna building in Howrah was shut down after more than 2000 liters of liquid bitumin or tar accidentally spilled off from a tanker that was carrying it on Saturday and created a thick layer spreading almost 60 meters on the Kolkata bound approach lane of the bridge.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/Tar-spill-shuts-Setu-lane-to-Nabanna/articleshow/24416236.cms>

PHILIPPINES, QUEZON, OCTOBER 21 2013. GAS STATION NETWORK EXPANDING

Fuel Retailer Unioil Petroleum Philippines, Inc. will open another gasoline station in Quezon City by end-October following completion of five new stations in Luzon since the year began, a top company official said on Friday. "For 2013, we have already opened five stations as of today. We have another one opening within two weeks," Kenneth C. Pundanera, Unioil president, said in a text message. Mr. Pundanera said the three of the five new stations that are already operating are located in Quezon City and the remaining two are in Makati City and in Bataan province. These stations were completed between August and October. "The one that will open in two weeks is also in Quezon City," he said, recalling there were 33 retail stations as of end-June. Of these stations, 21 are in Metro Manila and the rest are in Cavite, Laguna, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga. Last July, Mr. Pundanera said Unioil earmarked about P400 million to build 20 retail stations every year until 2015 to reach the company's target of additional 60 stations. Asked on the status of the remaining 14 stations planned for this year, he said these are under various stages of development. "Four of them are under site negotiation and the others are in the permitting stage," he said, adding that all of them will still be located in Luzon. Mr. Pundanera said last July that the company has no immediate plans of expanding to the Visayas or Mindanao. "We don't have plans on that yet because we still have to saturate a lot of areas in Luzon," he had said then. -

<http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Corporate&title=Gas-station-network-expanding&id=78188>



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