



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 1,016 Newsy Stuff

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

November 02 2013



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CANADA, ALBA, EDMONTON, OCTOBER 24 2013. AIR POLLUTION NORTH OF EDMONTON AS BAD AS WORLD'S LARGEST CITIES: STUDY



Petro-Canada's Edmonton Refinery and Distribution Centre glows at dusk in Edmonton.

A newly published study says air downwind from a cluster of petrochemical plants northeast of Edmonton contains pollutants at levels equal to some of the world's largest cities. Other pollutants, including some known to cause cancer, also measured well above normal. And cancer rates linked to those chemicals were found to be higher in communities closest to the so-called Industrial Heartland. Although scientists don't definitively link the two, one of the report's co-authors said the findings raise concern about the possible long-term effects of exposure to petrochemical emissions. "We're suggesting a prudent approach — reduce the carcinogens now as a preventative measure," said Isobel Simpson, a chemist at the University of California Irvine and co-author of the report published online by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. An Alberta government spokeswoman said the report doesn't necessarily reflect real human exposure to the pollutants. The area, 30 kilometres northeast of Edmonton and adjacent to the town of Fort Saskatchewan, now holds Canada's largest concentration of petrochemical processors. More than 40 companies, including majors such as Shell and Imperial Oil, are spread out over nearly 600 square kilometres. Simpson said her lab became interested in 2008, when they were invited to participate in an environmental impact study for a project in the region. "We were surprised at some of the levels of volatile organic compounds we found." The team returned two years later and, over the course of two days in August, they took highly precise readings of 77 different compounds downwind of petrochemical facilities and compared them with samples taken upwind at an area farm. They found smog-causing chemicals in the air at levels comparable to — and occasionally many times higher than — some of the world's largest cities and industrial complexes. Those include Mexico City, Beijing and Tokyo as well as Houston, home to the largest petrochemical manufacturing centre in the U.S. "Each time we find the same thing," said Simpson. "We can get ourselves into an industrial plume and see concentrations for some gases that are higher than what we see when we go to megacities and go looking for dirty air." Some chemicals were up to 6,200 times more concentrated downwind of industry than in farm samples. "That is not a surprise," she said. "What's concerning is the number of carcinogens that we measured. What you don't want to see is elevated levels of those carcinogens in these plumes and that's what we saw." At least 10 chemicals found in the plumes are either known or suspected carcinogens. Benzene, conclusively linked to blood cancers, was measured at 77 times background levels. Other chemicals were hundreds of times higher. Researchers went on to find blood cancers in men in the three counties surrounding the heartland to be consistently higher over the years 1997-2006 than for neighbouring counties. "It was the blood cancers in men that stood out statistically," Simpson said. "That's occurring in the same place as the emissions of chemicals known to cause those exact cancers. "We are stopping short of saying one caused the other. But it certainly seems plausible." Nikki Booth of Alberta Environment said the department has reviewed and welcomes the study. But she said staff don't believe its findings are cause for concern. "The locations where the data was collected do not necessarily represent the locations where people are exposed," she said in an email. "Calls for an immediate reduction in emissions of known carcinogens cannot actually be supported by the data collected in the report." Staff are also concerned about methods used to collect the samples, she added. Simpson acknowledges the chemical levels reported in the study remain under the government's exposure guidelines. But she said those guidelines are aimed at short-term exposures — not long-term low levels. The study says recent research suggests there is probably no safe exposure level to benzene. "It's certainly enough for us to recommend reducing the emissions of these known carcinogens," said Simpson, "especially given that the relationship between exposures over long time periods with benzene isn't well understood."

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/health/pollution+north+Edmonton+world+largest+cities+study/9072679/story.html>

USA, ORE, MONROE, OCTOBER 24 2013. DEQ FINES MONROE GAS STATION

State environmental regulators have levied a \$6,593 fine against a Monroe gas station owner for failing to keep inspections up to date on his underground storage tank facility. The Department of Environmental Quality penalized Douglas A. Lewis for violations connected to decommissioned underground storage tanks at Monroe Fuel Inc., 125 S. Fifth St. According to the DEQ, Lewis did not complete a scheduled corrosion protection system test or renew the facility's expired temporary closure



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certificate. The program is intended to prevent underground chemical leaks. Lewis did not respond to violation notices before the appeal deadline and has lost his right to challenge the penalty, according to the DEQ. He also could face additional fines if he does not bring his underground storage tank documentation up to date. Lewis could not be reached for comment Tuesday. A phone number for Monroe Fuel had been disconnected.

http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/deq-fines-monroe-gas-station/article_8901bb92-3b70-11e3-a007-001a4bcf887a.html?comment_form=true

NIGERIA, EBONYI STATEABAKALI, OCTOBER 25 2013. KEROSENE EXPLOSION KILLS13-YR-OLD GIRL, INJURES TWO OTHERS

peter okutu

A young lady, identified as Miss Ifeoma Nwofe, was yesterday reported to have lost her life following a kerosene explosion at her parent's Azuiyokwu, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, residence. Vanguard gathered that the victim, who suffered severe burns all over her body, could not receive treatment at the Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki, where she was rushed to because of the ongoing doctors' strike. She later died at a private hospital due to lack of prompt medical attention. Other victims and siblings of the deceased, who are still in a critical condition, include Linda 8, and Chiemerie, 10. According to report, the explosion occurred as Ifeoma was trying to light the family's lantern after electric power cut. This development has raised suspicion that the kerosene might have been adulterated. Narrating his ordeal, father of the victims, Mr. Simeon Nwofe, said that Ifeoma returned home to observe her school's midterm break. "After hugging her younger ones, she decided to put on the lantern in the house and then the incident occurred," he said, adding that her remains have been taken to their hometown for burial. The Special Adviser to Ebonyi State Governor on Petroleum Products, Pricing and Distribution, Mr. Chief Ejem, promised to get to the root of the matter. He said: "We will conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and prosecute those culpable." "The government has been doing its best to rid the state of fake petroleum products, but have been thwarted by unscrupulous elements who deal on such products."

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201310240214.html>

AUSTRALIA, N.S.W, SYDNEY, OCTOBER 25 2013. ARMY EXERCISE STARTED MASSIVE BLAZE IN BLUE MOUNTAINS

david wroe& sarah whyte

 **Watch the Video**

- [Incredible N.S.W Bushfire Drone Footage](#)
- [Confirmed: Army Exercise Started Blaze in Blue Mountains](#)

 **Photo's [24]** [Lithgow Blaze Burned Through 30,000 Hectares.](#)



Kerri McGrath turns her head away from the heat as firefighters prepare the grounds of Bell with back-burning operations.

An army training exercise caused a massive fire in the Blue Mountains that ripped through more than 47,000 hectares of bushland last week, a Rural Fire Service investigation has found. The Defence Department initially refused to comment except to say its own investigation into an explosives training exercise at the Marrangaroo training area, north of Lithgow, was ongoing. A Rural Fire Service spokesman said of the blaze which before Wednesday had destroyed three homes, damaged one other and burnt down seven sheds or businesses. But the RFS on Wednesday confirmed the fire began on the Australian Defence

Force range and was sparked by explosive devices. "That was the result of our investigation," an RFS spokesman said. The Defence Department released a statement on Wednesday saying it was aware of the Rural Fire Services view and the department continued to "co-operate fully with NSW authorities investigating the State Mine fire, including the NSW Police Force investigators who will prepare a report for the Coroner". There was no total fire ban in the area when the Defence exercised were conducted. Acting Defence Minister George Brandis says he's spoken to the Acting Chief of the Defence Force, Air Marshal Mark Binskin, about the matter. "The Australian government and the Australian Defence Force take this issue very seriously and continue to fully cooperate with the New South Wales authorities, including the New South Wales



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Police, who are investigating the fire," Senator Brandis said in a statement. Senator Brandis extended his thoughts and prayers to the people of NSW affected by the fires, and says the federal government is doing "everything it can" to help NSW authorities bring the blazes under control. Fairfax Media can also reveal that army ranges across Australia are failing to develop bushfire plans in accordance with Defence rules. A source with close knowledge of army training area management said Defence brass knew of the shortcomings in setting up bushfire plans but had not acted because of a lack of resources. "There is just an amazingly casual approach to the whole thing, with no mitigation plans in place at all," the source, who requested anonymity, said. "They have known for a couple of years that these plans don't exist but they don't do anything about it because there is no money. They are supposed to have site-specific fire management plans." Army personnel who expressed concern about the lack of fire management plans had been told "don't worry ... we will get to it", the source said. But leaked internal Defence correspondence, seen by Fairfax Media, indicates that Defence's Directorate of Training Area Management knew that ranges across Australia had failed to implement bushfire plans, even though such plans were demanded in a 2011 fire protection manual. Even the use of basic measures like creating fire breaks had been inconsistent, the source said. Chapter seven of the Training Area Management Manual states that "the nature of Defence activities carries an inherent risk of starting [bushfires] ... and there must be a site bushfire management plan". These are supposed to include emergency response plans and bushfire awareness training for personnel. Fairfax Media has confirmed that Defence also started a bushfire at the weekend in South Australia through an explosives exercise. A spokesman for the South Australian Country Fire Service confirmed that Defence had been responsible for starting a fire at the Cultana training area, south of Port Augusta, on Saturday and that it was "part of an exercise". CFS crews had to send two bulk water carriers to battle the fire that took hold of scrubland within the army range but quickly brought it under control. The training area manual states that "commanders are to balance the urgency of any planned live-fire activities against the level of risk of starting a wildfire or bushfire". The rules on when live-fire exercises can be carried out are unclear. One section states that they should not be carried out without "an authorised operational imperative" if the fire danger is at a "high" level or above. A different section says they should not be conducted when there is a total fire ban. Shadow attorney-general Mark Dreyfus said the Blue Mountains fire showed the need for care "when we've got tinder dry conditions and difficult weather conditions". He noted that the RFS had been very clear the fire had been started by the army training exercise but that Defence itself was investigating the matter. "Once the investigations are complete, we'll be able to make that assessment," he said. "Of course there might be a legal issue ... you've [always] got a potential issue of liability when its possible to local the cause of a fire."

Related Stories

- [Australia Wildfire Cause Determined To Be Military Exercise](#)
- [Military test explosion caused Australian wildfire: fire chiefs](#)
- [Defence apologises for massive fire](#)
- [NSW bushfires: full coverage](#)
- [Explosion fears stopped firefighters](#)

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/confirmed-army-exercise-started-blaze-in-blue-mountains-20131023-2w1vt.html>

CANADA, ALBA, COLD LAKE, OCTOBER 25 2013. CNRL BITUMEN LEAK HAS LIKELY CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER, REPORT SAYS



Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) workers cleaning up the bitumen emulsion on this marsh after it seeped up through a fissure under the water at their Primrose oilsand projects north of Cold Lake, August 8, 2013. A total of four sites have this seepage occurring and to date 7300 barrels have been collected from 13.5 hectares.

Alberta Environment says bitumen leaking on CNRL's Cold Lake lease has entered aquifers and the company must take immediate steps to minimize its migration into subsurface water and soil. Sticky bitumen, which has oozed to the surface for more than six months, "has entered local non-saline groundwater aquifers, likely contaminating the groundwater," says the 15-page enforcement order issued by Alberta Environment late Monday. The enforcement order gives



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the company permission to drill more wells this winter to test groundwater at the four leak sites and attempt to stop the flow of bitumen moving up through fissures in the rock to the surface. To stop the flow, CNRL will try to identify the exact pathway the bitumen takes to the surface from deep underground, said CNRL spokeswoman Zoe Addington. Then, the company plans to drill into the fissure horizontally or diagonally to try to interrupt the flow of bitumen to the surface, she said. "Once we find the pathway, we can try to deplete any bitumen emulsion by using relief wells," Addington said. "This may stop the flow of bitumen emulsion to the surface." Any contaminated groundwater can be pumped out of the ground, she added. "We will comply with all aspects of the order and look forward to the opportunity to further our investigation in a timely manner," said Addington. The enforcement order, which sets out firm deadlines for the next two months, is used to "require immediate work," said department spokesperson Jessica Potter. She declined to comment on how much contamination is potentially happening in the groundwater that will be monitored by the company. The department will provide more information on the extent of the aquifers in the area, she added. CNRL must provide the environment department with a description of techniques that will be used to prevent further movement of the bitumen emulsion a mix of water a bitumen. The company also must also determine how far the bitumen has spread underground on water or in the soil. The company must "delineate the full vertical and lateral extent of the substance in all the non-saline groundwater" under each of the four sites and determine if bitumen has also migrated to adjacent land, says the order. Under CNRL's process, high pressure, high temperature steam is pumped deep into the formation over weeks and left there for some time to melt the bitumen. After that, it is pumped to the surface. New Democrat environment critic Rachel Notley said the new order confirms a major problem groundwater contamination that should raise a red flag about CNRL's high-pressure steam process for extracting bitumen. "A decade after that process started, Alberta still has no rules on using it such as how much pressure is safe, and under what geological conditions should it be used," said Notley. Notley said that under the order the company is still allowed to continue using high-pressure steam one kilometre from the small lake, and that's not responsible given the unresolved problems. "We should probably stop fracking there right now," she said. "They haven't been able to stop the leak and the don't know the cause." Under the order, the company must also determine the cause of the bitumen oozing to the surface, whether it is faulty well bores, fractures of the cap rock in the area "or other causes yet to be determined." Earlier this month, the environment department issued to CNRL an unprecedented environmental protection order that told the company to drain the small lake to get at and isolate the fissure on the lake bottom. The lake is now mostly drained into to nearby storage ponds the fissure will be contained.

Related Stories

- [Province orders Canadian Natural Resources to find source of bitumen leaks](#)
- [First Nations angry over being shut out of CNRL plan to drain lake, contain leaking bitumen](#)
- [Oil company CNRL ordered to partially drain lake and contain bitumen leak](#)
- [Leaky valve on CNRL's Primrose oilsands site caused process water spill](#)

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/technology/CNRL+bitumen+leak+likely+contaminated+groundwater+report+says/9069113/story.html>

USA, OH, COLUMBUS, OCTOBER 25 2013. FARM OIL SPILL PREVENTION PLANS: REQUIRED OR NOT?

peggy hall

A common joke among attorneys is that the answer to every legal question is "maybe," and that answer is appropriate when asking whether farms will be exempted from complying with the Oil Spill Prevention, Containment and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule. May 10 was the compliance deadline for the EPA rule requiring SPCC plans for farms storing above a threshold amount of oil. But several legislators have spoken out against the regulation and intend to exempt most farms from its requirements. As we reported in an earlier post, legislators successfully delayed EPA's ability to enforce the SPCC rule against farms until Sept. 23, and also drafted the legislation to exempt many farms from the SPCC rule. But while the Senate and House have each passed proposals with SPCC exemption language, they've used two different bills to do so: the Senate's Water Resources Development Act and the House's farm bill. Neither bill has passed both chambers and the SPCC exemption remains in limbo today, the date after which the EPA may begin enforcing the rule.

Seeking Clarity

In mid-August, two sponsors of the exemption, Senators Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Pryor (R-Ariz.), sent a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding SPCC enforcement. The letter clarified that Congress plans to exempt most farms from the rule and suggested that the EPA should not attempt to retroactively enforce the rule back to the original compliance



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date of May 10. Time will tell whether the senators' letter will prevent EPA from penalizing farms who did not have an SPCC plan by May 10 but had an oil spill anytime after the May 10 compliance deadline. What should farmers do about SPCC plans now?

Make a Decision

Farmers who have been waiting to see if Congress would exempt them from the SPCC rule have to make a decision: Comply now or risk penalties for non-compliance. A Few Considerations may help the Decision-Making Process:

- Operating without an SPCC plan carries financial risk. If a farm that is subject to the SPCC rule does not have a plan but does have an oil spill that discharges into a waterway, the farm will incur additional penalties for failing to have and implement an SPCC plan. These penalties vary depending upon the size of the facility and the severity of the spill; our research revealed recent fines ranging from \$1,500 to more than \$55,000. Our research also shows the cost of an SPCC plan from a certified engineer or consulting firm to begin at around \$1,000, with higher costs for larger farms.
- Only certain farms must comply with SPCC. Farms that store less than 1,320 gallons of diesel, gasoline, hydraulic oil, lube oil, crop oil or vegetable oil aboveground or less than 42,000 gallons below ground do not need an SPCC plan. All other farms might need an SPCC plan if it's possible that spilled oil could discharge into a waterway.
- Smaller, lower-risk farms can "self-certify" their SPCC plan. The SPCC rule allows farms with smaller oil storage and no history of significant oil spills ("Tier I farms") to create and implement an SPCC plan; other farms require certification by an engineer.

Tier 1 Farms

The EPA provides a model template for Tier I farms on their website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/osweroe1/content/spcc/tier1temp.htm>.

Be aware, however, that preparing the plan requires some work: a thorough assessment of the farm's oil storage, selection and installation of appropriate containment measures and proper training and response practices. For those who don't want to prepare their own plan, consider a consultant. Consulting companies offer services such as assessment, consultation, plan development, certification and future inspections.

- A farm may be able to seek a compliance deadline extension. The SPCC rule allows a farm that couldn't meet the compliance deadline to submit a written request for an extension to the EPA regional administrator for the state where the farm is located.
- There are several reasons EPA may grant an extension: because a Professional Engineer (PE) isn't available to create and certify a plan, if the farm is located in an area impacted by floods, or because facility modifications could not be completed before the deadline.

Learn More

For more on seeking an extension, visit <http://www.epa.gov/osweroe1/content/spcc/spcc-ag.htm#faq-what>.

- Insurance coverage may be at risk. Non-compliance with the law can negate insurance coverage; most insurers would likely deem the failure to have an SPCC plan after Sept. 23 as "non-compliant."
- Oil storage containment is good risk management. Even without the SPCC rule, assessing and managing oil storage and handling practices on the farm can pay off. Consider the recent case of an Ohio farm with a leaking oil tank that polluted a nearby waterway; the farm paid more than \$15,000 in fines and cleanup costs.
- While "maybe" is a good answer to whether Congress will exempt many farms from the SPCC rule, it isn't a good answer to whether farmers should ignore the SPCC regulation because of the confusion in Congress. For more on SPCC and agriculture, visit the EPA's web page <http://www.epa.gov/osweroe1/content/spcc/spcc-ag.htm#faq-what>.

<https://www.farmanddairy.com/news/farm-oil-spill-prevention-plans-required/161910.html>

USA, W.VA, PUTNAM CO, OCTOBER 25 2013. TANKER CATCHES FIRE IN GARAGE

An empty tanker caught fire Wednesday night in a garage along W.Va. 62 in Rock Branch, firefighters say. It happened about 9 p.m. Wednesday, and firefighters said it could have been much worse. The sprinkler system was able to keep the fire from damaging the building. A chemical tank was nearby, but the fire didn't reach it. No one was hurt. Investigators aren't sure what caused the fire.

<http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Tanker-Catches-Fire-in-Garage-229028971.html>



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AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, GEORGETOWN, OCTOBER 25 2013. CALTEX PULLS OUT AS DROUGHT SETS IN

charlie mckillop



Map: [Georgetown 4871](#)



Hear: [Warren Devlin says the drought is causing sleepless nights for him and other business owners who depend on the cattle industry](#)



Warren Devlin has taken a swipe at large corporations, in particular Caltex, for not supporting grazing communities in crisis.

Caltex has come under fire for pulling out of a drought-stricken North Queensland town its supplied with fuel for the past six years. Former mayor and Georgetown business owner Warren Devlin says his roadhouse and supermarket carry about \$400,000 a month in outstanding accounts, but when he asked his fuel supplier for more time to pay his bill, it cut supply and cancelled the account. Mr Devlin says the loss of confidence of major companies during drought has devastating and wide-reaching effects on small rural towns. "I think these major global companies really, really should take a good look at themselves, a good look at their business model," he said. "It's imperative that they support the people when

the times get tough, instead of the tough get going, you know what I mean. "It is difficult times and when those people in the major cities can just sit there and make those decisions without any emotions or without responsibility, it just saddens me. "So, yeah, we move on." Caltex declined to be interviewed, but in a statement indicated 85 per cent of its retail network was operated by independent franchisees. It says there are a number of factors which led to the company and the site in Georgetown parting ways, though Caltex does not deem it appropriate to comment further. As state and federal agriculture ministers ponder what more they might do to support drought-stricken graziers, Mr Devlin speaks candidly of the financial pressures of running a business when cash flow dries up and debt is spiralling. "I don't think people realise the stress that small business actually carries when this sort of thing happens to your community, but on the other hand, I'm not one to cry poor and want a hand out either, so I find myself in a very difficult position," he said. "My partner and I, we knock off between 10.30 and 1.30 every night and the alarm goes off at 5 o'clock and we start again, seven days a week. "It's bloody hard, it's all I can say.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-10-24/caltex-pulls-out-as-drought-sets-in/5043468>

USA, GA, EVANS, OCTOBER 25 2013. COMPANY ADMITS GAS MIXUP AFTER MOTORISTS COMPLAIN OF CAR TROUBLES

 **Watch the Video** [Company Admits Gas Mixup](#)



From engine to undercarriage Willie Scott keeps his Toyota Forerunner in showroom condition. "I am a stickler on how a vehicle runs. It is a machine and should run like a machine," says Scott. But after fueling up last night at the Circle K on Old Evans Road Scott says his SUV started belching out clouds of white smoke and is struggling to keep running. "The smoke that's what is confirming it is in fact diesel," says Scott. He went back to the station, and says a clerk told him a tanker truck driver had accidentally refueled an underground gasoline tank with diesel fuel. News 12 was there last night as tanker trucks siphoned the diesel fuel out and replaced it with regular gasoline. Scott says he was put in contact with Circle K's corporate office to file a claim. "Someone was supposed to contact me I haven't been contacted to this point yet," says Scott. News 12 left several messages with Circle K's regional office but have not heard back. We did find out it was a driver with A&W Oil Company in Augusta who was responsible

for the mix up. An A&W manager declined an on camera interview but told us that it is not an uncommon error and there are procedures to prevent this sort of mistake and that it was human error. While Scott says he is taking his truck to a dealer for repairs, he says he will be sending Circle K the bill. "Right now they gave me an estimate beginning around \$400 to clean the



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fuel system," says Scott. Meanwhile A&W Oil Company which is responsible for the mishap says the tanker driver was trained properly and added that the company will likely be responsible for reimbursing Circle K for any reported claims in this matter.

<http://www.wrdw.com/news/onyourside/headlines/12-On-Your-Side-Fuel-mixup-leaves-some-motorists-with-car-troubles-229152261.html>

USA, MN, BENSON, OCTOBER 25 2013. ACCIDENT NORTH OF BENSON BLOCKS ROADS



The early morning accident was just north of Benson on Hwy. 29. There were no serious injuries or danger to the public.

Minnesota 29 north of Benson could be blocked until at least 10 a.m. Thursday due to an accident between a pickup hauling two field anhydrous ammonia tanks and a semi-tractor trailer truck. One person was taken to the Swift County Hospital by ambulance complaining of possible neck injuries. The Swift County Sheriff's Office received a call about 6:47am, of the accident about 1 mile north of Benson on Highway 29. A pickup pulling two 1,000 gallon field nurse anhydrous tanks struck a patch of ice on the bridge and rolled into the ditch on the north side of the bridge. At this time, most of the product has been released and there is no emergency to the immediate area, the sheriff's office said. Agencies responding to the scene were Swift County Sheriff's Department, Benson Fire Department, Benson Ambulance, Benson Police Department, Minnesota State Patrol, and the Swift County Emergency Manager.

<http://www.swiftcountymonitor.com/articles/2013/10/24/accident-north-benson-blocks-roads>

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, OCTOBER 25 2013. SHIP CAUSES OIL SPILL IN BOHOL 20 YEARS AFTER IT SANK

A ship which sank almost two decades ago has caused an oil spill off Panglao, Bohol, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said. PCG spokesperson Cmdr. Armand Balilo said the spill originated from cargo ship M/V Wilcon, which sank off Barangay Tangnan in Panglao in 1994. Balilo said the oil slick measured 50 by 25 meters during the last inspection. He said the recent earthquake in the province may have triggered the vessel to release oil. Personnel from the PCG Marine Environmental Protection are now in the area to contain the spill.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/10/24/13/ship-causes-oil-spill-bohol-20-years-after-it-sank>

USA, N.Y, MANHATTAN, OCTOBER 25 2013. ECUADOR JUDGE TESTIFIES TO TAKING BRIBES IN CHEVRON SUIT

christie smythe

A former Ecuadorean judge who presided over a pollution case against Chevron Corp. testified that he and a colleague who issued a \$19 billion judgment against the company in the environmental lawsuit were bribed. The judge, Alberto Guerra, took the stand yesterday in Manhattan federal court during the trial in a racketeering suit in which Chevron alleged that the verdict in Ecuador was procured through fraud. Guerra has said in a declaration filed with the court that he was paid thousands of dollars by lawyers for the plaintiffs to steer the case in their favor. Another former Ecuadorean judge who issued the \$19 billion ruling, Nicolas Zambrano, was promised \$500,000 from the proceeds, Guerra said in the November filing. Guerra said he also routinely ghost wrote judgments for Zambrano and was paid for those services.

Legal Saga: [Diary of the legal drama in lawsuit against Chevron](#)

"It could not seem as though all of the orders were being issued for the benefit of the plaintiffs," he said through an interpreter in court yesterday, explaining why some of the rulings he was involved with favored Chevron. "The idea was to not have it look suspicious." Guerra said in court that he was given the bribes sometimes in the form of deposits in his bank account and other times in envelopes filled with \$20 and \$50 bills. Zambrano has denied that he was bribed by the plaintiffs and that Guerra or the plaintiffs were involved in writing his decisions. He may testify later on behalf of lawyers for the Ecuadorean plaintiffs, who sued over pollution in the Amazon rainforest, the attorneys said.

20-Year Battle

Chevron, the second-largest U.S.-based energy firm, claims that lawyers for the plaintiffs, led by Manhattan attorney Steven Donziger, engaged in a scheme to extort money from the company during a 20-year legal battle over pollution in an Ecuador oil concession. The company is seeking an order from U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan barring lawyers for the Ecuadoreans



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from trying to enforce the 2011 pollution judgment in countries where Chevron has assets. Central to the "scheme to defraud and extort Chevron is the fact that Ecuador's judiciary has developed systemic weaknesses and corruption," the San Ramon, California-based company said in a complaint filed in February 2011. "The conspirators are aware of this fact, and have sought to exploit it." The company alleges Donziger and his associates "lobbied" judges by meeting with them outside of court and intimidated them by inciting protests. Donziger claims his tactics were lawful and that Chevron engaged in similar activities.

Guerra's \$326,000 Donziger claims that Chevron has agreed to pay Guerra at least \$326,000 through 2015 for cooperation and favorable testimony. Guerra said in his November declaration that the company paid him for computer equipment and for gathering evidence useful to the case and not for the testimony.

On the Stand: [Chevron lawyers describe 'shake down' in Ecuador trial](#)

In the environmental case, Donziger and other lawyers for indigenous people in Ecuador's Lago Agrio region sought damages for Texaco Inc.'s alleged dumping of toxic drilling wastes from 1964 until about 1992 that polluted about 1,500 square miles (3,885 square kilometers). The lawsuit continued against Chevron when it acquired Texaco in 2001.

Petroecuador, Texaco

Chevron contends that state-owned Petroecuador, a former Texaco joint-venture partner, is responsible for most of the pollution. Texaco paid \$40 million to clean up its share and was released from liability under agreements with Ecuador in 1995 and 1998, Chevron said. An international arbitration tribunal affirmed the accords' validity in September. Randy Mastro, a lawyer for Chevron, told the judge in opening arguments in the nonjury trial on Oct. 15 that Donziger could get as much as \$1.2 billion if the judgment is collected in full. During the openings, Richard Friedman, a lawyer for Donziger, denied his client had engaged in any bribery or other wrongdoing and instead compared him to civil rights leaders. "Like Thurgood Marshall, like Ralph Nader, like a host of human rights lawyers before him, Mr. Donziger understood you need legal and social change," Friedman told the judge. The racketeering case is Chevron Corp. v. Donziger, 11-cv-00691, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (Manhattan). The appeals court case is In Re Naranjo, 13-00772, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (Manhattan).

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/10/24/ecuador-judge-testifies-to-taking-bribes-in-chevron-suit/>

USA, ILL, LEMONT, OCTOBER 25 2013. CITGO REFINERY FIRE EXTINGUISHED IN LEMONT

jason knowles

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Citgo Illinois Refinery Shut Down after Fire](#)
- [Fire at Citgo Refinery Lights Up Sky over Lemont](#)
- [citgo Refinery Fire Extinguished in Lemont](#)

 **Photo's [8] No Injuries In Citgo Refinery Fire in Lemont**



Will County environmental experts said crude oil fueled the fire at a CITGO refinery in Lemont. Officials say employees and residents near the plant say the air is safe to breathe. Huge flames and plumes of smoke shot out of the CITGO refinery for about three hours on Wednesday night before firefighters got it under control. An employee said crews were working on a valve when the leak of crude oil caught fire. However, fire officials have yet to release an official cause. As for the quality of the air around the refinery, a CITGO media spokesperson said no reportable admissions of chemicals were detected Thursday morning. Last night, Will County Emergency Management Director Harold Damron said chemical levels discovered during the fire were "below the threshold of concern." "The

length of the fire how long it might take them to put out could create a different situation but in this case they were able to shut off the supply of oil to the fire which allowed them to extinguish it relatively quickly last night," Damron said. "The duration of the fire was three hours. So if this was a situation where we might have a fire burning for you know, many more hours or days it could create a different situation." Few people live close to the industrial area where the refinery is located, but residents a few miles out were able to see the smoke hovering above. "My main concern right now is the quality of the air coming over this area right now," said Joe Ebert, Lemont resident. Residents who believe they may have been impacted by smoke or residue on their property may call the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency complaint hotline at 1-888-372-1996. The IEPA says it



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is working with CITGO personnel to determine any impacts to the surrounding areas and monitoring air quality. The CITGO refinery is in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Recent records show 1 air pollution citation. The company released a statement: The crude unit fire that was reported last night at the CITGO Lemont Refinery has been extinguished and there were no injuries. Air monitoring showed no readings of any hazardous materials and the work of repairing the unit and investigating the cause has begun. At this time we do not have a schedule on when the crude unit will again be operational but we will provide updates as more information becomes available. The refinery operations have been significantly reduced, but we do have some downstream units still in operation. We would like to thank our neighboring municipalities, Will County Emergency Management Agency and all of the first responders for their assistance. The safety of our employees and the surrounding community remains our first priority.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=9299230&vid=9299099>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, OCTOBER 26 2013. ANADARKO ERECTS NEWEST OIL PLATFORM IN THE DEEP-WATER GULF

simone sebastian

 **Watch the Video's [3]** [Anadarko's Lucius Platform](#)

 **Photo's [29]** [Anadarko's Lucius Platform](#)



Anadarko has released a series of videos providing a cool look inside the journey of its Lucius platform, [the company's latest technological marvel](#) to work in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico. The massive facility, which can process 80,000 barrels per day, now is floating 340 miles southeast of Corpus Christi, Texas. Earlier this year, the spar hull — the enormous floating cylinder that supports and stabilizes the structure — made a month-long trip from its construction site in Pori, Finland to a shipyard in Corpus Christi.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/10/24/anadarko-erects-newest-oil-platform-in-the-deep-water-gulf-video/>

USA, N.D, BISMARK, OCTOBER 26 2013. ONEARLY 300 OIL SPILLS WENT UNREPORTED TO NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SINCE 2012; STATE TESTING WEBSITE

james macpherson



Steve Jensen walks near the site of an oil spill he discovered outside of Tioga, N.D., on Friday, Oct. 11, 2013. Officials took nearly two weeks to tell the public about the break in a Tesoro Corp. pipeline that happened in a remote area of North Dakota.

North Dakota, the nation's No. 2 oil producer behind Texas, recorded nearly 300 oil pipeline spills in less than two years, state documents show. None was reported to the public, officials said. According to records obtained by The Associated Press, the pipeline spills — many of them small — are among some 750 "oil field incidents" that have occurred since January 2012 without public notification. "That's news to us," said Don Morrison, director of the Dakota Resource Council, an environmental-minded landowner group with more than 700 members in North Dakota. Dennis Fewless, director of water quality for the

state Health Department, said regulators are reviewing the state's policies for when to publicly report such incidents after a massive spill was discovered last month in northwestern North Dakota by a wheat farmer. State and company officials kept it quiet for 11 days — and only said something after the AP asked about it. Soon after the AP published its report Friday, the Health Department announced it is testing a website to publish information on all spills reported to the department. North Dakota regulators, like in many other oil-producing states, are not obliged to tell the public about oil spills under state law. But in a state that's producing a million barrels a day and saw nearly 2,500 miles of new pipelines last year, many believe the risk



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of spills will increase, posing a bigger threat to farmland and water. "We're certainly looking at that now and what would be a threshold for reporting to the public," Fewless said. Taking notice of the recent criticism, the state issued a statement Oct. 17 on an estimated 7-barrel oil spill in Divide County, which borders Canada in far northwestern North Dakota. The state also is mulling a better system to track spills in-house, Fewless said, from their origin to cleanup status. Dave Glatt, chief of the department's environmental health section, said the website announced late Friday would likely go live in two to three weeks. He said officials are still considering how large a spill should trigger a public announcement in addition to being published on the website. A spill-tracking system would be valuable for the public, said Louis Kuster, who raises wheat near Stanley in northwest North Dakota. Farmers and ranchers rely on land for their livelihood, so information on spills that could threaten land or water supplies "absolutely is important for us to know," he said. Between coffee-shop talk and chatting with neighbors, nothing much happens around the fourth-generation farmer's land without him knowing about it — except when it comes to oil spills. "What you don't know, nobody is going to tell you," Kuster said. Earlier this month, Kuster and his neighbors noticed truckloads of oil-tainted dirt being hauled away from an adjacent farm. It was allegedly from a broken pipeline, but no one really knows for sure, he said. "We have no idea how big the spill is and why it happened," he said. "I'd try to get more information from the state but I'm too busy getting my harvest in." North Dakota officials have urged pipeline industry to officials to quickly — and safely — expand the network to keep pace with record production in the oil patch. The state has about 17,500 miles of pipelines, including the addition last year of 2,470 miles, roughly the distance from New York City to Los Angeles. For almost two weeks, no one knew about a break in a Tesoro Corp. pipeline that was discovered Sept. 29 in a remote area near Tioga. Officials say no water was contaminated or wildlife hurt, but the spill was one of the largest in North Dakota's history, estimated at 20,600 barrels. Oil oozed over an area the size of seven football fields. Records obtained by the AP show that so far this year, North Dakota has recorded 139 pipeline leaks that spilled a total of 735 barrels of oil. In 2012, there were 153 pipeline leaks that spilled 495 barrels of oil, data show. A little more than half of the spills companies reported to North Dakota occurred "on-site," where a well is connected to a pipeline, and most were fewer than 10 barrels. The remainder of the spills occurred along the state's labyrinth of pipelines. "The public really should know about these," Morrison with the landowner group said. "If there is a spill, sometimes a landowner may not even know about it. And if they do, people think it's an isolated incident that's only happening to them. North Dakota also had 291 "incidents" this year that leaked a total of about 2,209 barrels of oil. Data show that all but 490 barrels were contained and cleaned up at the well site. In 2012, there were 168 spills reported that leaked 1,089 barrels of oil; all but 376 barrels were contained on site, data show. Only one incident — a crash involving an oil truck last year — was reported publicly. Department of Mineral Resources director Lynn Helms — the state's top oil regulator — said regulators worry about "over-reporting" spills. The goal, he said, is to find a balance to so that "the public is aware of what's happening but not overwhelmed by little incidents." Kuster believes most people would like to immediately know about even the smallest spill, because even a barrel of spilled oil likely could ruin water sources and take untold acres of cropland out of production. He also said timely, accurate and accessible information would hold companies and regulators accountable. "It would tell me if there is enough oversight and why these accidents happen and if they could have been avoided," he said. "Right now, you don't know if there is a spill unless you find it yourself."

Related Stories

- [ND wants answers on ruptured pipeline inspections](#)
- [ND waits 11 days to tell public about oil spill](#)

<http://www.startribune.com/business/229264531.html>

PAKISTAN, KARACHI, OCTOBER 26 2013. SC ORDERS REMOVAL OF OIL TANKER TERMINAL FROM CLIFTON

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the removal of an oil tankers' terminal and other encroachments from Shireen Jinnah Colony in Clifton within three days. The order was issued over a petition filed by Shagufta Bibi, a resident of Clifton's Block 1, who sought the shifting of the oil tankers' terminal from the locality. She complained that heavy oil tankers were parked on both sides of a main road in Block 1 and its surrounding areas. She alleged that the oil tankers' operators had encroached upon streets, causing environmental hazards and affecting the residents' privacy, as families could not move freely due to vehicles' activity. A two-member bench, headed by Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali, directed the KMC coordinator to file details of oil companies that ought to pay their shares of the money needed to build an oil tankers' terminal in Zulfikarabad. Adjourning the matter till October 31, the court also issued notices to the chief secretary and Karachi's commissioner, directing them to file a progress report on the project.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintWriterName.aspx?ID=4&URL=Jamal%20Khurshid>



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USA, IN, INDIANAPOLIS, OCTOBER 26 2013. GAS LEAKS INTO STORM DRAINS NEAR CARMEL GAS STATION; ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS INVESTIGATING CAUSE

michael boren

Environmental experts are investigating a leak at a Carmel gas station that allowed some fuel to pour into storm drains, The Indianapolis Star has learned. The leak was discovered Thursday morning at the Circle K gas station at 10598 North College Ave. It's not yet known how much gasoline leaked into storm drains, but officials say it presents no threat to the public or the city's drinking water. "It was probably just enough to give off the odor" of gasoline, said Hamilton County surveyor Kent Ward, "and not enough to actually cause a real problem with the water quality." The surveyor's office first received a report Wednesday of a gasoline smell in the storm drains in the area. An official from the office and the Carmel Fire Department went manhole to manhole but didn't find anything conclusive, Ward said. On Thursday morning, officials from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management investigated and opened the manhole that leads to a gas storage tank below the Circle K gas station. Gas was found gushing inside, and environmental officials had to pump it out. The station closed its gas tanks to stop the leak, but its convenience store remained open. IDEM officials were at the station again this morning investigating the source of the leak. Barry Sneed, an IDEM spokesman, said it could have come from the storage tank or adjacent pipes, among other areas. "It's really kind of at the investigative phase right now where we're trying to determine what caused the leak," Sneed said. IDEM will investigate how long the leak was going by comparing how much gas was left in the tank to how much customers pumped and how much gas the station received in its last load. The leak comes amid a heated debate about a new Rickers gas station at 146th Street and Gray Road in Carmel. Supporters have said it will boost the economy, while opponents have warned of problems such as environmental risks to underground water supplies. The gas that leaked into the storm drains near the Circle K gas station, Sneed said, would not go into the water supplies. Ward, the surveyor, estimated such leaks happen in Hamilton County about once a year.

http://www.indystar.com/article/20131025/NEWS/310250032/Gas-leaks-into-storm-drains-near-Carmel-gas-station-environmental-experts-investigating-cause?nclink_check=1

USA, S.D, SIOUX FALLS, OCTOBER 26 2013. GARAGE FIRE STARTED BY RACING FUEL, SPACE HEATER



Mike Erickson stands in the doorway of the house he owns in the 600 block of South Willow Avenue where Sioux Falls Fire and Rescue responded to a structure fire Friday. The doorway separates the garage from the main part of his house. The home is a half-mile east of the Great Plains Zoo. Erickson credits the firewall in his garage for preventing the blaze from moving to the main part of the house.

A garage was minorly damaged by fire Friday afternoon in central Sioux Falls. A homeowner at 616 S. Willow Ave. was winterizing his motorcycle when he took off the gas tank and placed it on a table in the garage. When he walked away, the tank fell off the table. The person he was working with ran to stop it, but racing fuel from the tank was already running toward a space heater in the garage. The heat ignited the fuel and started a fire. The owner wasn't able to put out the fire with an

extinguisher, so the pair left the garage and called Sioux Falls Fire Rescue. The garage door came down and smothered the flames. No one was hurt, and the fire was contained.

<http://www.ksfy.com/story/23791420/garage-fire-started-by-racing-fuel-space-heater>

USA, TX, WEST, OCTOBER 26 2013. REPORT ON THE BLAST EFFECTS OF AMMONIUM NITRATE AVAILABLE TO THE FIRE SERVICE

mary jane dittmar

In August, AristaTek, Inc., a provider of [hazardous materials](#) response solutions, prepared the brief "[Ammonium Nitrate Estimated Blast Effects](#)," which was the basis of a presentation made by Texas State Fire Marshal Chris Connealy before members of the Texas House of Representatives [Homeland Security](#) & Public [Safety](#) Committee. The hearing was scheduled in response to the devastating explosion at [West \(TX\) Fertilizer Company](#) earlier this year. The brief, AristaTek explains, included a blast effects table for [ammonium nitrate](#) quantities ranging from one ton to 300 tons and expert commentary on how to interpret the blast effects table. The company's [hazardous materials](#) response software, PEAC-WMD, and its staff of in-house chemists/engineers were used in the developing the report. Marty Herrin, chief of the Williamson County [hazmat](#) team



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and a long-time PEAC user, was the liaison between Connealy and AristaTek. After the [West \(TX\) incident](#), the Texas State Fire Marshal contacted Herrin and asked about obtaining a predictive model for explosive damage for [ammonium nitrate](#), explains Bruce King, co-founder and CEO of AristaTek. The state and Herrin wanted an Excel file on predicting the potential damage involving the explosion of different quantities of the substance so they could estimate the potential dangers of such explosions. [AristaTek](#), realizing that the brief could also help other entities in assessing these types of hazards in their communities, decided to make the report available to qualified emergency planning/response/zoning officials. "The problem for the emergency planners in many communities is making sense of the chemical inventories and the potential hazards they represent if a catastrophic event were to occur," notes King. The brief, as well as the company's PEAC-WMD software, he adds, should be helpful for communities with local ammonium nitrate stockpiles to understand the possible consequences and analyze their regulations and best practices to determine "if the businesses storing or shipping this substance are doing things right." The company is offering a copy of the brief to [fire departments](#)/fire marshals, local emergency planning committee/emergency management agency officials, and other public safety/health professionals. The report is available at <http://www.aristatek.com>. Additional information may be obtained from C. Scott Bunning, AristaTek, Inc., at the above Web site or by calling +1 (307) 721-2108 812.

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2013/10/report-on-the-blast-effects-of-ammonium-nitrate-available-to-the-fire-service.html>

CANADA, B.C, HARTLEY BAY, OCTOBER 27 2013. JACK KNOX: \$50 MILLION EFFORT TO DEFUSE SHIPWRECK'S TIME BOMB >> U.S. ARMY TRANSPORT SHIP BRIG.-GEN. M.G. ZALINSKI HAS BEEN LEAKING FUEL SINCE SINKING IN 1946

jack knox



USAT Brigadier General M. G. Zalinski was a U.S. Army transport ship that served in World War II. It sank in 1946 in the Grenville Channel in British Columbia's Inside Passage. [Launched](#): 1919

[Builder](#): American Ship Building Company

Way, way, way up the B.C. coast, a brand-new floating village has popped up in the middle of nowhere, part of a \$50-million effort to pump oil from an old shipwreck before it breaks apart and fouls the coast. The project is also, some say, yet another indicator of Ottawa's determination to see Alberta bitumen shipped via tankers from pipelines to the Pacific. The salvage effort involves the Brigadier General M.G. Zalinski, a U.S. army transport ship that sank in Grenville Channel, about 100 kilometres south of Prince Rupert, during a vicious storm in 1946. The site is 20 kilometres northwest of the native village of Hartley Bay, just up the channel from where B.C. Ferries' Queen of the North sank in 2006, and smack in the middle of the controversy over the proposal to ship oil by tankers from nearby Kitimat. The timing isn't lost on those watching the progress of Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline plan, whose fate hinges on a National Energy Board recommendation in December. The federal government has been roundly criticized for its lack of ability to respond to a spill on the West Coast. The salvage operation addresses some of those worries. The skills developed during the Zalinski project, including running the show through a new Prince Rupert-based incident command system, will enhance the Canadian Coast Guard's ability to lead the response to an oil spill. "We looked at this as an opportunity to get out in front," says coast guard assistant commissioner Roger Girouard. "I hope what we learn is how to do complex things co-operatively." But

he says this isn't just about oil tankers. The north coast is poised for a shipping boom — liquid natural gas, more grain exports, China's voracious appetite for coal — and the coast guard needs to be ready. Besides, the Zalinski is a potential time bomb that has been ticking for 67 years. The 70-metre ship hit the rocks near Lowe Inlet on Sept. 26, 1946, while ferrying army supplies from Seattle to Whittier, Alaska. The crew of 48 was rescued by a tug and SS Catala, a passenger ship. The ship lay on the bottom, largely forgotten, until a passing U.S. Coast Guard cutter spotted an oil slick in September 2003. A commercial



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airline pilot spotted more oil a month later, the gunk fouling five kilometres of shore. Suspecting the oil was from a wreck, the coast guard sent down a remote-controlled vehicle that found the Zalinski 34 metres deep, upside down on a cliff. Attempts were made to patch the cracks in its corroded hull, and mariners were advised to avoid anchoring or fishing in the area. In the spring of 2012, the ship began belching up oil again. Divers patched the cracks, but more leakage occurred this January and March as the hull deteriorated. "We were seeing a trend up here," Girouard says. "Whenever there was a little shaker, we'd see a burp." So now the stage is set for the effort by Dutch salvage specialists Mammoet to remove the oil by "hot-tapping" — warming the goop and pumping it to the surface. Three accommodation barges, including what is usually a floating fishing lodge, will house about 100 people, many of whom will toil in shifts, two weeks on, two weeks off, for the next couple of months. Two other barges carry the equipment; one gives the helicopters somewhere to land. A salvage barge should be positioned over the wreck on Saturday. New cell towers on the mountainside allow phone communication. The B.C. Environment Ministry has people there. Local native communities are represented. So are spill-response workers. They began setting up a month ago, and hope to be done by Christmas, though that depends on the condition of the wreck, the amount of pollutants trapped inside and the snottiness of the weather. The currents rip through Grenville Channel; salvage divers will have to work mostly at slack tide. First off, divers have to take a look at the condition of the hull and dip the tanks to figure out how much oil is left. The Zalinski had up to 650 tonnes of bunker fuel on board, but no one knows how much remains. The manifest included lubricant, tonnes of paint, 40-gallon drums of gas, and a dozen 500-pound bombs, all of which could be anywhere. "She's sitting on her back," Girouard says. "It's going to be a jumbled mess." The goal, he says, is to remove all the pollutants they can, with the least impact on the environment.

Related Stories

- [Wikipedia – USAT Brigadier General M. G. Zalinski](#)
- [Canadian Coast Guard Announces Significant Environmental Protection Operation](#)
- [B.C. Shipwreck's Oil Cleanup Makes Waves](#)
- [Wreck of the Zalinski - History of the Zalinski](#)

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/jack-knox-50-million-effort-to-defuse-shipwreck-s-time-bomb-1.671939>

USA, N.D, BELFIELD, OCTOBER 27 2013. BRINE SPILL REPORTED NORTHWEST OF BELFIELD

About 150 barrels of brine water leaked from a pipeline at a disposal site, pipeline company Encore Energy Partners reported Wednesday. Some of the brine water got into Blacktail Creek about 20 miles northwest of Belfield, but state Director of Water Quality Dennis Fewless said it now seems to be mostly contained by beaver dams and low-level crossings. The spill is on U.S. Forest Service land, so the forest service, state Health Department and Encore are working to determine the size of the spill. Encore has sent trucks and pumps to the site to remove the saltwater from the creek. The leak is stopped and the pipeline is out of operation now, Fewless said. "We want this brine water removed from Blacktail Creek," he said. Division of Oil and Gas spokeswoman Maxine Herr said the cause of the pipeline rupture had not been determined.

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/416423/group/News/>

NIGERIA, KADUNA STATE, IGABI, MARABAN JOS, OCTOBER 27 2013. 6 KILLED IN KADUNA TANKER EXPLOSION



Six persons were killed on Friday night in a fire from a tanker explosion in Maraban Jos, Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recalls that FERMA had constructed a trailer park at the Maraban Jos axis of the Kaduna-Zaria expressway to reduce the high rate of fires caused by petrol tankers and accidents caused by articulated trucks parked along the road. Alhaji Abdullahi Kwarau, the Chairman of Igabi Local Government Council, said that the accident, which occurred on Friday night, involved two fuel-laden tankers. He appealed to the state government to expedite action on the construction of more trailer parks on major roads in the state to avoid a recurrence of such accidents. Gov. Mukhtar Yero of Kaduna State, who condoled with the families of those who died in the accident, urged drivers, particularly those of petrol tankers, to be extra vigilant while driving or parking their vehicles. He assured the people that efforts were underway to ensure the timely completion of new trailer parks being constructed in Igabi, Kagarko and Birnin Gwari Local Government Areas. Yero said that



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the state government was also collaborating with the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure the speedy completion of ongoing road projects to forestall recurring accidents on the major roads.

Related Stories

- [Tragic News: 6 People Die as 2 Fuel Tankers Explode in Kaduna](#)
- [Tanker Explosion Kills 6 in Kaduna State](#)
- [2 Tanker-Driver 'Joins' where Death Visits Daily](#)

<http://www.africanspotlight.com/2013/10/26/6-killed-in-kaduna-tanker-explosion/>

ENGLAND, SOUTHAMPTON, OCTOBER 27 2013. ROYAL NAVY OFFICER IS SMACKED WITH A £100,000 BILL FOR CRASHING YACHT INTO 870FT TANKER

natalie chalk



By the grace of God, there could have been an absolute catastrophe - Prosecutor Charles Row

A Royal Navy officer who crashed his racing yacht into a bright red 870ft tanker despite seeing it from five miles away was yesterday ordered to pay £100,000 in costs. Roland Wilson, who has since left the Navy and is now a lieutenant in the RN Reserves, was also fined £3,000 after a five-day trial. He was convicted of failing to keep a proper lookout and two counts of impeding the passage of a vessel. He denied all charges. Footage of the incident during the world-famous Cowes Week regatta has been viewed nearly a million times on YouTube. District Judge Anthony Callaway told Wilson at Southampton Magistrates' Court: "Fortuitously there was no loss of life. This was a serious incident. The potential

for an even greater consequence was apparent." He blamed Wilson for failing to take evasive action. Married father-of-one Wilson, 32, of Stanley, Perthshire, skippered the 33ft yacht Atalanta of Chester which collided with the Hanne Knutsen on the first day of the 2011 regatta. A substantial part of the court costs was to pay for expert witnesses. Mr Row said Wilson, who owned the yacht which had seven crew members on board, sailed "perilously" into the path of the 138ft-wide tanker. One crew member suffered minor head injuries and another abandoned ship. Wilson said the tanker sounded its horn to indicate it was turning but did not carry out the manoeuvre, leaving him in a dangerous position in front of the vessel. The court heard Wilson saw the vessel five miles away. Another yacht had lost power, forcing the tanker to change course. Captain Jeremy Smart, of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, said later: "It was very fortunate Mr Wilson's actions did not result in tragic consequences."

Related Stories [Former Royal Navy lieutenant in court after crashing racing yacht into a 870ft oil tanker](#)

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/439210/Royal-Navy-officer-is-smacked-with-a-100-000-bill-for-crashing-yacht-into-870ft-tanker>

THE NETHERLANDS, THE HAGUE, OCTOBER 27 2013. SLIPPERY JUSTICE FOR OIL SPILL VICTIMS

yemisi akinbobola



A boy standing in a canoe holds a hose pipe to siphon oil from a spillage site on a river in Bodo community in Ogoni region of the Niger Delta.

Lessons for Uganda as Nigerian Villagers Lose Lawsuit against Oil Giant

In a stunning and dramatic legal ruling that echoed from the serene court chambers in the Netherlands to the heart of rural Niger Delta in Nigeria, the District Court of The Hague dismissed all but one of the lawsuits brought against Royal Dutch Shell, an Anglo-Dutch oil and gas company, by a group of farmers seeking compensation for the environmental damage caused by the company. The lawsuit was filed in 2008 by four fishermen and farmers accusing

Shell of ruining their livelihoods through environmental degradation. The claims centred on oil spills that occurred between 2004 and 2007 at the Ibibio-I oil well in the village of Ikot Ada Udo in Akwa Ibom State. The villagers wanted Shell to repair the damages caused to their communities by cleaning up the oil spillage, adequately maintaining pipelines to prevent future leaks



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and paying compensation for loss of livelihoods. The court's ruling revived the old debate on the activities of multinational oil companies in Nigeria. When commercial oil exploration began in the region in 1958, many people felt it was the dawn of prosperity for the country. But decades later, pollution and other environmental damage have led to a feeling of discontent and to protests—sometimes violent ones. The quest for justice and human rights has taken the people of Niger Delta to the courts in Nigeria, and more recently to the United States and the Netherlands. Oil exploration and production in the Niger Delta region is a joint venture of multinational oil companies including Royal Dutch Shell, the United States corporations Chevron, Exxon-Mobil and Texaco, Agip (Italy), Total (France), and the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. Shell Nigeria alone accounts for about a fifth of Nigeria's total oil production. The Niger Delta people's ongoing concerns were vividly captured in a 2011 report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), published after a two-year scientific evaluation of Ogoniland in Rivers State. The evaluation covered 69 sites and revealed serious environmental and public health concerns. The UNEP report found contamination in the soil, groundwater and vegetation. It further found that "illegal activity" around the oil pipes had also contributed to environmental devastation. The same environmental problems that UNEP identified had triggered activism in the Ogoniland region in the early 1990s, with numerous lawsuits filed within Nigeria against oil companies such as Shell and Chevron. But according to Nnimmo Bassey, an award-winning environmental activist and head of the advocacy group Environmental Rights Action in Nigeria, this did not stop the companies from damaging the environment through gas flaring, the burning of natural oil. When the courts have fined the companies for damages, "the corporations have just laughed it off; they've just not paid attention to [the] fines," Mr. Bassey told Africa Renewal. For their part, the companies have denied the charges, arguing that the damage was being caused by oil spills from pipelines destroyed by criminals looking to make profits from illegal oil. The villagers' failure to get compensation in Nigeria pushed them to file lawsuits outside the country. Evert Hassink, campaigner at the Dutch environmental organisation Friends of the Earth, says such cases don't bring "good solution for the victims" or "lead to a better oil field practice." This despite that some 400,000 tons of oil have spilled in the region over the last 30 years as a result of corroded and poorly maintained pipelines, destroying the environment and ecosystem, according to Friends of the Earth.

Transnational Justice

The first lawsuit against Shell outside Nigeria took 13 years to be heard in court. It was filed in 1996 by the family of Ken Saro-Wiwa, an author and activist, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, under the Alien Tort Statute, a 1789 law that gives non-U.S. citizens the right to file lawsuits in U.S. courts for violations of international law committed outside the U.S. Although Shell settled out of court in 2009 and agreed to pay the Saro-Wiwa family \$15.5 million, it denied the charges that included complicity in human rights abuses and inhumane treatment of the Ogoni people. "Transnational litigation arises in circumstances where the legal system in the country where the harm occurs is not capable of providing justice locally," said Robert Percival, the director of environmental law at the University of Maryland in the U.S., in an interview with Africa Renewal. "As a result, the victims will try to sue these companies in [the companies'] home countries." According to The New York Times, "while the pollution damage itself was not in dispute [in the Nigerian case], Shell argued that the spills had been caused by so-called bunkering—oil theft from the pipelines—as well as outright sabotage." "This ruling will enable more people to understand what is happening on the ground in Nigeria," said Jonathan French, a Shell spokesman. "We have this rampant problem of criminal activities: oil theft, sabotage and illegal refining. That is the real tragedy of the Niger Delta." The District Court of The Hague, on 30 January 2013, agreed with Shell about most of the spills that had occurred around the villages of Goi and Oruma. So did Mutiu Sunmonu, the managing director of Shell Nigeria. "In the past years we have seen a decline in operational spill volumes. These spills, however, were caused by sabotage and the court has, quite rightly, largely dismissed the claims." The court dismissed all the claims except for one, for which it ruled that it was reasonable to demand a duty of care from Shell for the "people living in the vicinity of the Ibibio-I well and especially fishermen and farmers." It ruled that Shell therefore should have taken "security measures to prevent sabotage" and as a result was liable for damages. The ruling appeared to give hope to advocates of international law that anyone could file a lawsuit in any country—or so it seemed until three months later, when the US Supreme Court ruled in April 2013 against the use of the Alien Tort Statute, which has been part of US law for more than two centuries. The case had been filed by Esther Kiobel, the wife of the late Barinem Kiobel, one of the Ogoni Nine activists executed by the Nigerian military government in 1995. The court ruled that "nothing in the ATS's [Alien Tort Statute's] text evinces a clear indication of extraterritorial reach." "The court essentially said that we should presume that the first US Congress in 1789 did not intend to allow the US courts to hear cases based on tort that happened outside the US, and I think that is wrongly decided," said Professor Percival. Despite this apparent setback, the ruling may not have much of an impact on cases from abroad, as "it was already so difficult to win these cases." There is



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hope, however, for a landmark ruling made by the Economic Community of West African States Court of Justice in December 2012, which ordered Nigeria to take measures "to ensure restoration of the environment of the Niger Delta," to prevent environmental damage and to "take all measures to hold the perpetrators of the environmental damage accountable." The hope is that this will set a precedent for the future in reforming Nigeria's legal system, or at least ensuring that Nigerians will have recourse to justice within their own country. "I think that's the trend of the future, that you will see developing countries being encouraged to improve their own legal systems so that they can provide justice," said Professor Percival. That, perhaps, is a beacon of hope for the people of Niger Delta.

<http://www.independent.co.ug/news/news-analysis/8373-slippery-justice-for-oil-spill-victims>

USA, CA, MODESTO, OCTOBER 27 2013. FATAL TANKER ACCIDENT WEST OF MODESTO

The California Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal accident west of Modesto. According to the CHP, the accident occurred at 8 a.m. Friday at Finney Road near North Avenue. A 55-year-old man from Turlock, whose name has not been released pending notification of next of kin, was driving a 2009 Freightliner south on Finney as Efrain Garcia, 53, of Modesto was turning from North onto Finney in a 1997 GMC 3500 truck. As the vehicles passed going in opposite directions, the left side of farm equipment Garcia was towing hit the Freightliner. The Freightliner driver lost control of the truck, which went off the road and hit a Modesto Irrigation District power pole. The pole was sheared off, dropping wires down onto the road. The tanker came to rest on its side in an adjacent field. Garcia was not injured. Alcohol or drugs are not considered to be a factor in the crash, the CHP said in a news release.

<http://www.modbee.com/2013/10/25/2993132/fatal-tanker-accident-west-of.html>

AUSTRALIA, N.S.W, BOTANY, OCTOBER 28 2013. LEAKING TOXIC SLUDGE REPORT KEPT QUIET BY CHEMICAL GIANT

natalie o'brien



Residential outrage may spark an independent review of potential mercury contamination near Orica's Botany site.

Chemical giant Orica has tried to keep secret a potentially damaging report into whether the dangerous metal mercury might have been leaking off site from its former chlor-alkali plant, which it operated at the Botany Industrial Park for almost 60 years. The report, written by two University of Sydney professors 20 years ago, only recently came to light when a former Orica employee revealed its existence. It was written after revelations that about a kilogram of mercury a day was being lost from the site. A company spokesman said the secrecy was because 'Orica has concerns the report must be seen in the

correct context'. It is understood that the report, a copy of which is now in the possession of the Environment Protection Authority, concluded that the mercury was going down the drain which ran from the Botany site to Malabar. The secrecy has sparked outrage among residents, who had to fight to get the EPA to agree to an independent review of potential mercury contamination around their homes, after being repeatedly told there was no reason to believe the situation needed investigation. They have called for the report to be released for public scrutiny. Long-time resident and campaigner Len Mahoney said it was "absolutely astounding" Orica could withhold information that could be critical to the health and safety of residents. "What gives them the right? We have the right to know, and it makes you question what else they are holding that we don't know about," he said. Labor's leader in the upper house, Luke Foley, has threatened to use a parliamentary call for papers to order the EPA to release the document. Greens MP Mehreen Faruqi said: "Given Orica's toxic waste legacy, it is imperative that they fully disclose all activities past and present likely to endanger the health of the surrounding community." Orica expressed concerns about giving a copy to the EPA and did so on the strict condition that the report be viewed only by the EPA and a panel set up to consult on an independent review of potential off-site mercury pollution. The EPA told panel members the document could be viewed at its offices but its contents had to be kept confidential. NSW EPA chief environmental regulator Mark Gifford denied it had agreed to secrecy but said: "It is the EPA's practice to not release third party documents without permission from the owner." A company spokesman said the secrecy was because "Orica has concerns the report must be seen in the correct context" and that the latest risk assessments of the mercury contamination - which have been approved by the EPA - considered 30 more up-to-date reports. He said the report recommended



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improvements for effluent treatment to ensure compliance with the then Sydney Water Board's requirements, and the majority of those recommendations were adopted. A spokesman for Environment Minister Robyn Parker said the report would be made public after the review was completed. The document, titled "Review of the mercury pollution abatement programme at ICI Operations Botany" by W.A. Davies and R.G.H. Prince, dated October 1991, was written after Orica, then known as ICI, tried to reassure the public in a 1990 newspaper ad that it was reducing the amount of mercury going down the sewer pipes. The sewer led to Sydney Water's Malabar treatment plant, where it was disposed either by going into the ocean at Malabar headland before 1990, or subsequently into the deep ocean outfall, or into sludge waste deposited to authorised landfill.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/leaking-toxic-sludge-report-kept-quiet-by-chemical-giant-20131027-2w9pz.html>

ICELAND, HVERAGERDI, OCTOBER 28 2013. ETHANOL FIREPLACE EXPLODED OVER 7 PEOPLE IN ICELAND



Ethanol Fireplace.

The police, fire department and ambulances with doctors and nurses were sent to a residential area in Hveragerdi, South Iceland, yesterday because of an explosion. It is believed that an ethanol fireplace exploded inside the house, but the fireplace had been installed recently. According to the police the house did not take fire, and it went well to extinguish the fireplace and the room it was in. Seven people were in the house, married couple with their children and grand children and they all got burned to some extent. A man around 60 and a boy born in 1997 received second degree burns and were both taken to a hospital in Reykjavik, but the others were taken to a hospital in Selfoss. The household's

dog also got burned and was taken to a vet. The furniture were damaged in the explosion but it is believed that the house itself is not damaged.

<http://www.newsfoiceland.com/home/culture/daily-life/item/2395-ethanol-fireplace-exploded-over-7-people-in-iceland>

USA, CA, COMMERCE, OCTOBER 28 2013. 2 INJURED AS BIG-RIG CRASH IGNITES 8,000 GALLONS OF OIL ON 710 FREEWAY

ann pride

 **Watch the Video**

- [Truck with 8K Gallons of Oil Explodes off SoCal Freeway](#)
- [Some Lanes on the 710 have Opened Following Tanker Fire](#)
- [Commerce Streets Engulfed in Flames](#)
- [2 Injured as Big-Rig Crash Ignites 8,000 Gallons of Oil on 710 Freeway](#)
- [Big Rig Crashes & Burns on 710 Freeway](#)

 **Photo's [7] Fiery Tanker Truck Crash on I-710**



Charred remains of the big rig dangling off of SB 710 freeway at Washington. Large hazmat op underway.

A double tanker truck caught fire on the southbound Long Beach (710) Freeway in Commerce Sunday morning, prompting the California Highway Patrol to close the freeway. The call came in at 9:37 a.m. that a big rig had gone over the side of the freeway and exploded into flames, according to the CHP. The CHP initially said a second truck was also on fire. But witnesses told KTLA 5 it appeared that only one truck was involved. The truck driver was burned and suffered critical injuries, the Los Angeles County Fire Department said in a news conference Sunday afternoon. The truck driver managed to get out of the big rig before rescue crews arrived, the fire department said. A second person, believed to be on a street below, suffered moderate injuries, officials said. The freeway was closed in both directions between Washington Boulevard and



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Interstate 5 for about 90 minutes as firefighters battled the flames, according to the CHP. The northbound direction reopened at about 11:00 a.m., the CHP said. All southbound lanes were closed until further notice, according to the CHP. The cause of the crash was under investigation.

<http://ktla.com/2013/10/27/two-big-rigs-burning-on-southbound-710-in-commerce-freeway-closed/>

INDIA, GOA, PANAJI, OCTOBER 28 2013. TAR BALL DEPOSITION ON GOA'S BEACHES AFFECTING MARINE LIFE

Tar ball deposition on Goa's beaches, a regular phenomena from June to October every year, is affecting the marine life in the coastal waters of the state, says a new study. Scientists at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Goa initially thought that the tar ball deposition was due to off-shore oil exploration, oil tanker accidents, oil-well blow-outs, accident or deliberate release of bilge and ballast water from ships. However, when there were depositions on the Goan beaches, even though no cases of oil spills or accidents were reported in 2010 and 2011, the NIO decided to conduct further study on this. To carry out the study the NIO also collected samples from Baga, Candolim, Calungute and Mandrem beaches from North Goa and Velsao, Betalbatim, Colva and Benaolim from South Goa. "There were no reports of oil spills in the Arabian Sea or on the Western coastal belt. We assume that some unknown spills or tanker routes might be the cause for the formation of present tar balls," the study said. The study states that after the oil spill, weathering process also cause half of the oil to disperse within 24 hours. After 24 hours, depending on the sea state, water-in-oil emulsion is formed and this increases with the salinity of water. The winds, waves and turbulence at sea surface cause the emulsion to break into smaller pieces, which eventually become tar balls.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/tar-ball-deposition-on-go-a-s-beaches-affecting-marine-life-113102700074_1.html

USA, W.VA, VALLEY GROVE, OCTOBER 28 2013. 6,000 GALLON DRILLING SPILL DAMAGES OHIO COUNTY HOUSE, ENTERS CREEK



More than 6,000 gallons of water and a non-toxic clay mixture called drilling mud from a MarkWest operation entered the basement of Becky and John Wiczorkowski's house in Valley Grove last week, media outlets reported.

State regulators are investigating spills from a drilling operation in Ohio County that damaged a house and entered a creek. More than 6,000 gallons of water and a non-toxic clay mixture called drilling mud from a MarkWest operation entered the basement of Becky and John Wiczorkowski's house in Valley Grove last week, media outlets reported. Drilling mud from the operation also entered Little Wheeling Creek twice last week. Department of Environmental Protection. About 30 fish, mostly minnows, died, spokesman Tom Aluisse told The Intelligencer and Wheeling-News Register. The drilling operation, which crossed under the creek and U.S. 40, is part of MarkWest's pipeline

infrastructure in Ohio County. Aluisse said that the drilling mud infiltrated natural fractures in the rock and entered the creek. "It happens," he said. "In the industry they call it inadvertent return." Becky Wiczorkowski said that 4 feet of drilling fluid and water entered the basement of her house. "Before I realized what was happening, I saw the living room ceiling separate from the wall and I could see outside," she told the newspaper. "One of the (pipeline) guys told me the house moved off of its foundation and I should get out and stay out." The cause of the fish kill hasn't been determined. MarkWest and DEP officials say drilling mud is not toxic. But Benjamin Stout, a biology professor at Wheeling Jesuit University, is not convinced. "The facts do not add up," Stout told the newspaper. "They should do a laboratory sampling (of the drilling mud) and show us the results. That will tell if it is non-toxic." Aluisse said that a large amount of mud concentrated in a small area removes oxygen from the water, and small fish cannot survive in such an environment. MarkWest spokesman Robert McHale said that he believes the fish were trapped in a dry area resulting from workers damming the water upstream and downstream on either side of the drilling mud to contain it. A bypass was created for clean water to flow through the area. MarkWest will conduct a stream remediation after drilling is completed, Aluisse said. The Division of Natural Resources cited MarkWest in August after a landslide ruptured a natural gas liquids pipeline, causing a fish kill in a tributary of Fish Creek in Wetzel County. "The Wetzel County accident was an isolated incident and there is no reason to believe it will happen again," McHale said. "As far as the Valley Grove problem, we are doing everything we can to minimize the potential for inadvertent returns to happen again."



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McHale said that the company is working with state regulators to resolve the Wetzel County citations. The company also is working to determine what went wrong in the incident involving the Wiczorkowski house. "Prior to setting up, professional engineers came in and did subsurface investigations," he said. "Every component of the job had been planned out in advance." Aluise said that the drilling mud entered the basement through an uncased well underneath the house. MarkWest workers implemented a contingency plan immediately to address the problem and to accommodate the homeowners, McHale said.

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201310270145>

ENGLAND, LANCASHIRE, OCTOBER 30 2013. FUEL TANK BLAST FIRM FINED £91K AFTER WORKER SERIOUSLY BURNT



The HSE said Fuel Proof Ltd did not need to use the flammable solvents to clean the tank.

A Morecambe firm has been ordered to pay £91,000 by Preston Crown Court after a worker cleaning a fuel tank was seriously injured in a blast. Karol Robaczewski, 38, of Morecambe was inside a fuel tank when he was engulfed by a fireball on 9 September 2011. The court heard it caused severe burns and left him almost completely paralysed and reliant on a wheelchair. Fuel Proof Ltd, which makes airport fuel tanks, admitted safety failings at an earlier hearing. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said Mr Robaczewski was cleaning the inside of the tank using a cloth with a highly flammable solvent

when he unplugged a lamp which was getting hot.

'Appalling & Shocking'

As he did so, a spark caused an explosion, the HSE said. The fire melted the visor on his mask and his protective suit and only the elastic from the collar and cuffs were left. Mr Robaczewski suffered multiple burns including to his arms, legs and face. His hair and eyebrows were burnt off and his lips badly burnt. The HSE investigation found Fuel Proof had failed to carry out any risk assessment on the cleaning of the tanks. It also found there was no supervision of workers or monitoring of the fumes in the tank and masks and lighting provided were "entirely unsuitable". Fuel Proof Ltd was fined £66,000 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £25,000 after pleading guilty to breaching section 3.1 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Rose Leese-Weller said: "Karol suffered horrific injuries in the explosion and will need to use a wheelchair for the rest of his life. "It is shocking that Fuel Proof allowed workers to use a highly flammable solvent to clean the inside of fuel tanks for four years without giving a single thought to the risks. "What's even more appalling is that there was never any need for workers to use solvents to clean the tanks, as the company now uses soapy water to clean them out."

'Life will Never be the Same'

Mr Robaczewski said: "I wish that what has happened to me never happens to anyone else. I am not able to lift my arms, move my legs and feet or hold anything in my fingers and hands. "Every morning after breakfast, I am moved into my wheelchair and stay there until it's time for bed. "I am not able to do anything I used to do before the accident such as drive, go to karate sessions or play my trumpet which I played since the age of 12. "I can't play football with my son or give my children a cuddle, and my life will never be the same again."

Related Stories

- [Dad Paralysed in Fuel Tank Explosion](#)
- [Fuel firm fined over explosion](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-24726232>

USA, FLA, CAPE CORAL, OCTOBER 30 2013. BOAT DEALERSHIP GAS PUMP APPROVED

chuck ballaro

Cape Coral City Council had a lot of questions to ask the owner of a boat dealership that wanted to put a fuel pump at his business at Del Prado Boulevard and Southeast 46th Lane. After some assurances and a few concessions, though, council unanimously overturned a decision by the Planning & Zoning Commission in June and allowed Jim Figuerado to install a fuel pump at his business at 1531 S.E. 46th Lane. Figuerado will have to scale down his plans. The proposed 2,500 gallon fuel



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tank was reduced to 1,500 gallons. He must provide a device to eliminate any possibility of spillage into the canal and have someone qualified to dispense the fuel. The approval also includes required fencing and setbacks and bollards around the perimeter of the pump. Hours of operation will be limited to between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. "We worked with them and they worked with us and we're satisfied with the decision," Figuerado said. "We had to give them peace of mind from a safety aspect. It gave them comfort and if we didn't compromise, it would've been a different answer." Councilmember Marty McClain was least assured and made a motion to uphold the P&Z's original ruling, worried about the possibility of tank puncture and aesthetics. But as the quasi-judicial hearing went on, he slowly came around to approval. Councilmember Chris Chulakes-Leetz asked if Figuerado might reduce the tank size. Figuerado agreed, saying that he wanted a larger tank so he would get gas at a cheaper rate, that smaller deliveries take longer, and it would end the rash of five-gallon containers that come into his place, which increases the chance of contamination of the water. Figuerado said all gas would be dispensed by a staff member, which he said was a condition for him to get insurance, and that the double-walled tank stood little chance of rupturing or leaking. The smaller tank would also make the area more aesthetically pleasing, since it would no longer stick out above the top of the six-foot vinyl fence and all the boats on the lot would hide the area fairly well. "I have no problem with downsizing the tank. If this gets done, I can see the other marinas asking for larger tanks, too," Councilmember Lenny Nesta said. That didn't stop council from ruling to overturn the P&Z ruling and allaying McClain's concerns. "As long as all of the standards are met because it's right on the water. Today's technology offers a better product than what's across the canal," McClain said, adding he agrees the ruling could result in other places possibly asking for similar tanks. "It's difficult to reject them if they're willing to accept the criteria. That would set the stage for it," McClain said. "Accessibility to purchase fuel is a good idea because the city doesn't have anywhere where you can purchase gas."

<http://www.cape-coral-daily-breeze.com/page/content.detail/id/537085/Boat-dealership-gas-pump-approved.html?nav=5011>

USA, LA, ST. AMANT, OCTOBER 31 2013. TANKER SPILLS GASOLINE AFTER HITTING UTILITY POLE IN ASCENSION PARISH MONDAY NIGHT



A Lavigne Logistics gasoline tanker truck hit a roadside utility pole Monday night on La. 431 in Ascension Parish, puncturing two tanks that leaked 1,200 gallons of gasoline into a small ditch, authorities said Tuesday. Roads were shut and electricity had to be cut in the St. Amant community for several hours after the crash about 7:22 a.m. Monday at the intersection of Gold Place Road and La. 431, authorities said. St. Amant volunteer firefighters and other responders feared gasoline might leak into an electrical box that operated a nearby traffic light, St. Amant Fire Chief James LeBlanc said in a news release Tuesday. Contractor OMI Environmental Solutions later put out earthen and absorbent boom to contain the spilled gasoline, said Tim Beckstrom, state Department of Environmental Quality spokesman. Air monitoring did not detect explosive concentrations of vapor, he said. Jared Sandifer, Louisiana State Police spokesman, said the driver was cited for careless operation. The driver told

responding Ascension Parish sheriff's deputies he was making a right turn north from Gold Place onto La. 431 when the crash happened, parish Sheriff's Chief Deputy Tony Bacala said. Bacala said the driver told deputies he was unfamiliar with the area and did not realize how sharp the turn is. The rear end of the truck went into the ditch and the tankers right side slid into the pole, rupturing the tanks, which each held about 1,000 gallons of gasoline. The leaks were halted and the wreck was hauled away. Electricity was restored and traffic reopened early Tuesday, authorities said. Beckstrom said Lavigne Logistics has hired a contractor, Ellis Environmental, to develop a plan to sample and remediate the spill.

<http://theadvocate.com/home/7444378-125/tanker-spills-gasoline-after-hitting>



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