

Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2010 – 630 Newsy Stuff

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

August 13 2010

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CHILE, SANTIAGO, AUGUST 6 2010. SHELL EYES SALE OF CHILE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

Oil giant Royal Dutch Shell has begun valuing its distribution network in Chile as it eyes a potential asset sale, local paper Diario Financiero reported on Thursday. The paper cited a notice to employees saying it was "determining the potential market interest in its businesses, in line with Shell's global strategy to concentrate itself in fewer but bigger markets". Shell has said that it's looking to dispose of between \$7 and \$8 billion worth of assets globally. It is the second-largest fuel distributor in Chile, with a 14.7 percent market share.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN0526068920100805>

USA, CA, FRESNO, AUGUST 6 2010. AREA NEAR LEAKING FRESNO TANK CLEARED



The Univar USA chemical plant, 4465 E. Florence Ave., was closed about noon Thursday after hydrogen peroxide vapors were released. The incident also forced evacuation of a Corn Nuts plant next door. About 15 workers were in each plant at the time.

A Fresno chemical plant was evacuated and shut down Thursday after gases were found venting out of a tank. The Univar USA plant, 4465 E. Florence Ave., was closed shortly after a noon release of hydrogen peroxide vapors was discovered. The incident also forced evacuation of the Corn Nuts plant next door. About 15 workers were in each plant when the problem was detected. Employees from the Corn Nuts plant were allowed to return to work about 3:30 p.m., said Gary Eberhard, public information officer for the Fresno Fire Department. He said the problem occurred because heat pressure in the chemical tank forced it to vent

gases. Firefighters cooled the tank with water cannons and remained on scene to ensure the tank will not heat up again. No homes were affected by the evacuation, Eberhard said.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/08/05/2031314/fresno-firefighters-clear-radius.html>

CANADA, AB, THORSBY, AUGUST 6 2010. THORSBY ADDRESSES GROUND CONTAMINATION CONCERNS

kate hamilton

Discussions about the remediation of the Bilar's Garage site in Thorsby continue. Although underground gas tanks were removed from the site in 2001, there is concern about residual ground contamination and monitoring of the situation is the responsibility of the landowner, in this case the Village of Thorsby. On July 13, village CAO Harold Wynne met with representatives from Alberta Environment and village consultant Millennium EMS to discuss the progress of the ongoing project. About two years ago the village received a \$200,000 grant to undertake a site condition study and subsequent development of a Risk Management Plan (RMP) for Bilar's Garage on Hankin Street, said Wynne. The site condition study – including geological testing, soil samples and ground water monitoring – has just been completed. The funding came from the Alberta Municipal Affairs' Tank Remediation Program (TRP), which was put in place several years ago with the purpose of helping communities to deal with the issue of old fuel tanks that had to be relocated or replaced.

<http://www.leducprep.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=2698372>

USA, N.C, FAYETTEVILLE, AUGUST 6 2010. TRANSIT OFFICIALS REVIEW BUS REFUELING PROCEDURES AS SPILL CLEANUP CONTINUES

nancy mccleary

Fayetteville Area System of Transit officials are reviewing refueling procedures after an inattentive worker caused about 400 gallons of diesel fuel to leak into Cross Creek, a city spokeswoman said. The move comes as workers continue to clean up the spilled fuel and try to determine whether any seeped into the Cape Fear River. The fuel spill happened Monday night when an employee walked away from the bus as it was refueling at the FAST transit center at 455 Grove St., according to the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Officials say a total of about 800 gallons of fuel spilled with about half that amount getting into Cross Creek and the city's storm water system. "Cleanup crews have accounted for the majority of the product during their processes and cannot ascertain if any fuel went into the river," Tuckey said in an e-mail Wednesday. Fayetteville firefighters, who are trained to handle hazardous material incidents, immediately began putting booms in the area to collect any leaking fuel, officials said. City stormwater workers and state officials were out early Tuesday to try and assess the damage, officials said. The concerns are that the fuel could have leaked into the river and could harm aquatic life, said Jamie Kritzer, a spokesman for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Diesel fuel acts as a poison and

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destroys stored oxygen supplies in the water, he said. The cleanup was turned over to 301 Environmental Cleanup Inc., which was continuing the effort Wednesday, Tuckey said. "The cost of the cleanup is still to be determined as it is ongoing at this time," she said. Transit officials have a policy dealing with fueling procedures, and FAST employees are being retrained in it, Tuckey said. They will also see if the policy needs any revision, she said. City officials are not identifying the employee nor will they say what, if any, disciplinary measures have been taken, Tuckey said.

Related

- [Officials say bus left unattended during refueling caused spill](#)
- [Bus fuel spills into creek](#)

<http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2010/08/04/1019013?sac=>

SPAIN, HUELVA, AUGUST 6 2010. 2 DEAD, 2 HURT IN SPAIN REFINERY FIRE -CEPSA

Two people died and another was injured in a fire on Wednesday at the Huelva refinery in Spain run by oil firm Cepsa, a company official said. The official was unable to say whether production had been affected at the refinery in southeast Spain, which normally processes about 100,000 barrels of crude oil a day. "The fire broke out on the production line into a tank. Plant and local firemen are working to put out the fire," he said by telephone, adding the fire had since been extinguished. Television pictures earlier showed plumes of smoke rising from the refinery and a worker being taken on board a helicopter on a stretcher. "Cepsa expresses its deepest sympathy to the victims' families and is at their and the authorities' service in order to explain the events," the company said in a statement. Cepsa owns three of Spain's 10 oil refineries.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE6731GL20100804>

CANADA, AB, CALGARY, AUGUST 6 2010. TRANSOCEAN FACING 249 SUITS OVER GULF SPILL

Close to 250 lawsuits or claims have been filed against Transocean, the company which owns the BP-leased offshore rig behind the huge Gulf of Mexico oil spill, a filing by the firm showed Thursday. "As of Aug. 2, 2010, 249 legal actions or claims have been filed against Transocean entities, along with other unaffiliated defendants, in state and federal courts," said the Swiss-based group. "Additionally, government agencies have initiated investigations into the Macondo well incident. "We are evaluating all claims and intend to pursue any and all defences available," it added in its quarterly report to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Transocean+facing+suits+over+Gulf+spill/3365862/story.html>

USA, NY, NEW YORK, AUGUST 6 2010. INVESTORS ASK OIL, INSURANCE GROUPS TO DISCLOSE SAFETY PLANS

nathaniel gronewold

A coalition of mostly institutional investors is demanding oil and gas companies disclose their existing safeguards and plans of action in the event of another offshore rig disaster and possible oil spill like the one experienced by BP PLC and other companies in the Gulf of Mexico. Led by Ceres, a Boston-based nonprofit committed to promoting investor activism in environmental and social issues, more than 50 U.S. and global investors sent letters to major offshore oil and gas producers. The letters request, among other things, that companies disclose their investments in spill prevention technologies, their contingency plans in the event of a deepwater well blowout and their risk exposure to possible new regulations on deepwater drilling activities. Insurance companies that back policies for the oil and gas industry also received letters from the group. Those letters ask insurers to disclose whether they are considering adjusting their relative exposure to the industry or are changing underwriting rules in the wake of the disaster. "The shareholder harm that has flowed from the BP spill has focused investor attention on governance, compliance and management systems needed to minimize risks associated with deepwater offshore oil and gas development worldwide," the investor coalition writes in a letter to Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corp., one sample of the dozens of letters sent. "We write to request additional information on the measures and programs Apache has in place for managing risks associated with its offshore oil and gas operations, as well as any changes the company plans to make in its risk management framework as a result of the BP Gulf of Mexico spill." Letters were sent to a total of 27 oil and gas companies and 26 insurance companies. Energy companies receiving the requests for information include the giants Exxon Mobil Corp., ConocoPhillips, Chevron Corp., Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Total SA and Statoil, as well as smaller producers like Apache, Marathon Oil Corp. and Tullow Oil PLC. AIG Inc., Swiss Re and Lloyd's were among the insurers receiving letters that requested disclosure. Investors seeking details on company plans and policies say the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion and spill has cost them hundreds of millions of dollars as BP shares plummeted. They characterize their request as an act of shareholders exercising their rights and protecting their interests in the companies they have invested in. "In my state alone, the nation's two largest public employee pension funds have seen the value of their BP holdings plummet by \$349 million,"

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said California Treasurer Bill Lockyer, trustee of the CalPERS and CalSTRS pension funds. "Investors have a right to full disclosure of the risks associated with oil companies' offshore operations and the prevention, response and governance measures they have in place to minimize those risks." Other signatories to the letter include New York City Comptroller John Liu; New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli; AFL-CIO investment director Daniel Pedrotty; and Pax World Management's vice president for sustainable investing, Julie Fox Gorte. Public fund managers in Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island also signed. Details that the investors are seeking from the oil and gas firms include:

- How much companies have invested in offshore drilling safety technology in the past three fiscal years.
- Detailed contingency plans in the event of an offshore blowout, including details on how the plan was formulated and approved by the boards of directors.
- Lessons learned from the BP Macondo spill, including evidence of how companies' drilling practices differ from BP's or how they involve superior spill prevention technologies and safeguards.
- Information on how contractors are selected and monitored.
- Disclosure on governance, including how board members or individual company managers are involved in spill response prevention and planning.

Companies receiving the letters say that it will take time for them to formulate an adequate response given the volume of details requested by the investor groups. "We've received the letter. We will review it and we will develop a thoughtful response," said Apache spokesman Bill Mintz. "We try to do better every day and when there's a major event like the Macondo blowout everyone in the industry is going to try to look at what happened and see what the lessons learned are."

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/08/05/05greenwire-investors-ask-oil-insurance-groups-to-disclose-67189.html>

NIGERIA, KADUNA STATE, AUGUST 7 2010. GOVERNMENT SEALS 10 PETROL STATIONS IN KADUNA

The Federal Government on Friday sealed 10 petrol filling stations in Kaduna State for violating the rules on weight and measures. Mohammed Sada, the North West Co-ordinator of the Department of Weight and Measures in the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, ordered the closure during an unscheduled inspection tour of the stations. He said that the affected stations, including two NNPC Mega Stations, were disciplined for shortchanging customers with about N1.80 kobo per litre. Sada said transparency and sincerity in economic transactions were key to achieving Vision 20:2020. "Getting value for money in business transactions is a major benefit of the Vision, which cannot be realised without strict adherence to the rule of law and transparency by stakeholders in the economic sector," he added. He explained that one of the goals of the Vision was to instil discipline, transparency, fairness and equity in the country's business environment. Sada said that in carrying out the exercise, the department would not spare any sector of the economy, including the oil and gas industry as well as markets, where measures, metres or kilos were used as standards for measurement. He said the exercise would continue until petrol stations complied with the rules, warning that other options of prosecution would be used to enforce compliance. Sada said the department would soon start raiding markets and stores, where instruments for measurement were applied in business transactions across the country to instil discipline in trades. He appealed to consumers to ensure that they always got value for any product or service they paid for. The outlets that were sealed include the two NNPC mega filling stations at Mando and Nnamdi Azikwe Road in Kaduna metropolis. Others are Usumania, Asaka, Royal Arms and Danamar filling stations located on Nnamdi Azikwe Road, while four petrol pumps and one diesel pump were sealed at Edi Jen filling station on Ahmadu Bello Way.

<http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/Home/5603865-146/story.csp>

FRANCE, PARIS, AUGUST 7 2010. POLICE PULL SUNKEN BARGE OUT OF PARIS RIVER

daphne rousseau

Paris river police were pulling up a barge Friday that sank in the Seine, an accident that inconvenienced tourist boats and leaked small amounts of fuel at the foot of the Eiffel Tower. A wave hit the 124-foot-long (38-meter-long) barge Eole II on Tuesday, knocking open a hood. Water poured in and the barge sank in just eight seconds. Pulling it out was a complicated, two-day effort in a busy section of the Seine during the summer tourist season. More than 500 tourist and commercial boats pass daily on this section of the river, according to river police. The driver, Jeff Fillietaz, a 62-year-old Swiss citizen, and his assistant were not injured in the accident. "I saw the boat nose-diving, I asked my assistant to immediately put on his life jacket. I knew that we would not have a long time," Fillietaz told The Associated Press. "I just had time to see a wave coming right in front of me and I got sucked into the water. I saw my life pass before my eyes. ... I held my breath for 20 seconds, waiting for the water pressure to calm down" and then came to the surface, he said. Very small amounts of fuel have leaked

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from the barge, but Commandant Michel Constant of the Seine River police said the fuel is not causing serious pollution. "Some fuel is getting away from the tank. But contrary to the oil involved in spills, fuel remains on the surface," he said. The accident forced police to bar boats from one side of the Seine and order boats to drive more slowly in the area, Constant said. The first and longest part of the rescue operation consisted of emptying 380 tons of grit from the boat with a crane and a digger. Then police divers tried to find administrative papers inside the sunken boat, needed for insurance reasons, and the driver's personal belongings. An investigation is under way into the accident, including into whether the barge was carrying too much weight. "It has happened in the past that a barge has sunk in the Seine because of a collision. But something like this, within eight seconds and because of a simple wave ... I have never seen that before," Constant said. Last week an empty tourist bus fell into the same part of the Seine where the Eole II sank, but on the opposite side.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jESi8rm7BZHyHFHshwr7x6X4E-0QD9HDVU500>

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, BOMBAY, AUGUST 7 2010. GPS TO TRACK KEROSENE TANKERS

In a bid to prevent black-marketing of kerosene, the Maharashtra government is using the Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor the movement of tankers carrying the fuel. "Where does the tanker go after it leaves the oil depot? Does it reach its destination? Where has it stopped and why? The geological map and the route of the tanker can be fed into the GPS," a note from the Food and Civil Supplies Ministry stated. If the tanker digresses from its path, officials concerned receive a message and a probe is initiated. To keep a tab on the quantities of kerosene at various distribution spots, the State is set to make use of level sensors.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article555953.ece>

INDONESIA, EAST NUSA TENGGARA, AUGUST 7 2010. GOVERNOR SEEKS MORE MONEY FOR INDONESIAN OIL SPILL VICTIMS

camelia pasandaran

The governor of East Nusa Tenggara, the province most affected by last August's massive oil spill in the Timor Sea, said on Friday that the government's compensation claim fell far short of the mark and would need to be doubled to properly compensate local fishermen for their losses. "It should be more than Rp 1 trillion [\$112 million]," Governor Frans Lebu Raya said at a working meeting for high-level officials at Bogor Palace. "We should not only take into account the current losses, but we have to consider that the rehabilitation and recovery will take a long time." Last August, the Montara oil rig blew out in the Timor Sea. The resulting slick is estimated to have covered 16,420 square kilometers of Indonesian territorial waters, including the waters near East Nusa Tenggara (NTT). The well, located 690 kilometers west of Darwin and operated by PTT Exploration & Production Australasia, a subsidiary of Thai energy giant PTT Exploration & Production, was only capped 74 days after crude first began spewing from the rig. The immediate impact of the spill has been disastrous for East Nusa Tenggara's fishermen, seaweed farmers and pearl farmers. But government officials fear the long-term fallout could be worse still. Freddy Numberi, the transportation minister, who is leading the government's claim efforts, previously said the state could seek Rp 500 billion from PTTEP for direct losses resulting from the spill, but would require a bigger payout to compensate for the long-term impacts. "In principle, [PTTEP] has agreed to pay for losses incurred, but they need time and they need to verify claims. We have requested their data for comparison," Freddy said last week. PTTEP has spent millions of dollars to spray chemical dispersants on the oil slick, but most environmental damage caused by oil spills usually occurs below the surface. The minister also pointed out that mangroves would need about 10 years to bounce back and that fish stocks in the area could take years to recover. Frans said that while most of the attention had been focused on the hardest-hit district of Rote Ndao, a total of eight districts in the province were suffering from the fallout, and many families were relying on local government aid to get by. "We are trying our best to keep their lives from collapsing, but we cannot provide direct aid forever," he said. "There should be a long-term program." President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Thursday told his cabinet to pay more attention to people affected by the oil spill. "Please intensify the negotiations with the oil company and establish good cooperation with the Australian and Thai governments," he said. He also said he wanted individuals affected by the spill to be given the first payouts from the expected compensation package.

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/governor-seeks-more-money-for-indonesian-oil-spill-victims/389961>

USA, IA, SIOUX CITY, AUGUST 7 2010. CHEMICALS LEAK INTO RIVER FROM SIOUX CITY CARGILL PLANT

Recent heavy rains have filled local lakes, rivers and ponds. And flooding usually follows... unless they can be drained. Sioux City's Cargill plant did just that when its storm water retention pond filled up. One problem... 160 gallons of chemicals had leaked into the pond. 300,000 gallons of storm water was dumped into Sioux City's storm water system... which leads to the

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Missouri River. The chemicals-- including hydrochloric acid-- came from a pin hole in a pipe that came from Cargill's cooling tower. Cargill has since fixed the leak.

<http://www.ktiv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12935069>

USA, MI, DETROIT, AUGUST 7 2010. CONGRESSIONAL HEARING TO ZERO IN ON PIPELINE LEAK >> BROKEN SECTION BEING REMOVED FOR TESTING

todd spangler & tina lam

As workers at the site of last week's oil spill prepared to remove the piece of pipeline that ruptured, the congressman who represents the area announced a hearing next month on the spill that sent hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River. U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, a Battle Creek Democrat, said Thursday that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee he serves on will hold the hearing in Washington on Sept. 15 to determine what happened and why. Enbridge Energy Partners reported the spill of 19,500 barrels -- about 820,000 gallons -- of oil from Line 6B near Marshall along its 1,900-mile Lakehead System on July 26, but Schauer has said the company could have reported it earlier. "The hearing will get to the bottom of the cause of the Enbridge spill and hold the company accountable for poisoning our waterways," Schauer said. "It has become clear to me that Enbridge violated federal regulations in reporting the spill in Marshall." The section of broken pipeline was expected to be ready for removal today. After it's inspected, the pipe will be tested by the National Transportation Safety Board, which has said it could take as long as 18 months to determine the cause. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also is investigating. Meanwhile, state officials said Thursday they had discovered that hundreds of fish and seven species of mussels died at Allegan Lake downstream from the spill site, after the lake's water levels were drawn down 2 feet to catch overflow from the river in the eventuality of heavy rains. Officials asked for the lake levels to be restored a foot in an attempt to save more of the wildlife.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20100806/NEWS06/8060351/Congressional-hearing-to-zero-in-on-pipeline-leak>

USA, MI, INGHAM CO, MASON, AUGUST 7 2010. CHEMICAL PLANT EXPLOSION IN MASON UNDER INVESTIGATION >> PLANT MAKES RACING FUELS, LACQUER THINNERS AND METAL WORKING FUELS.

melissa domsic

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.wilx.com/news/headlines/100169944.html>

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.wilx.com/news/headlines/100139299.html?ref=299>

• **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20100806/NEWS01/308060005/Chemical-plant-explosion-in-Mason-under-investigation>

• **Photo Gallery:**

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=A3&Dato=20100806&Kategori=NEWS&Lopenr=8060803&Ref=PH>



An explosion and fire at the Americhem chemical plant in Mason, Michigan alarmed residents but did not injure anyone and will not cause a threat to the community, according to an Americhem official.

Updated 6:20 p.m.

An explosion and fire that destroyed a building at Americhem Sales Corp. this afternoon remains under investigation. No one was seriously hurt in the incident that involved a truck containing mineral spirits, a chemical used in paint thinners. At about 3 p.m., a tanker containing up to 7,000 gallons of mineral spirits entered a weighing facility and either blew up or sparked a fire, said Bruce Whetter, Americhem's president. Employees were evacuated from Americhem, 340 North St. in Mason. "Thank God that nobody was hurt," Whetter said while firefighters battled the blaze. "It'll be a bad incident but it'll be contained and we'll be back in

business and nobody in the community has to worry about anything." Several residents stood by watching the smoke billow out of the building. "Our houses shook," said Mason resident Adrienne Niswonger, 42, who lives nearby on Okemos Street. She said she heard about three or four explosions and went to the site to see what happened. Several departments, including the Ingham County Health Department, were monitoring the situation. "We are breathing a sigh of relief," said health department spokesman Marcus Cheatham. "As far as we can tell at this time, nobody was exposed." One employee who was in the facility at the time of the explosion was taken to the hospital because of hearing problems.

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Updated 4:20 P.M.

Emergency officials say a fire at a chemical company has been contained and there were no injuries. They continue to advise the public to avoid the area of North Street in Mason due to a chemical company fire. The fire was reported around 3 p.m. Many report hearing an explosion. Americhem Sales officials said in a statement there were 25 employees at the site and all were evacuated safely. One worker who was near the explosion was hospitalized as a precautionary measure because of hearing problems. The company said the chemicals on site included solvents used for paint thinners and oils used in manufacturing. [Americhem Sales Corp.](http://www.americhem.com) is a Midwest chemical distributor and blender that carries a full line of industrial chemicals, solvents, oils and automotive fluids.

Updated 4 p.m.

Mason police officer Richard Gerard said no public evacuation orders were issued. "The Mason fire department is handling it and police are doing traffic control only at this time," he said. The Ingham County Health Department and its hazardous materials response team were dispatched to the site of the fire to determine whether people needed to be evacuated. As of 4 p.m., no evacuation order had been issued. "People on site are trying to measure what's coming out of there," said Marcus Cheatham, spokesman for the Ingham County Health Department. "We are going to make that determination as fast as we can." Cheatham wasn't sure what chemicals are stored on site and which may have been involved in the fire. He said the hazardous materials team is working to confirm that information.

Houses Shook

Police closed off streets surrounding Americhem. Smoke and flames were visible but it's unclear which building or buildings were involved. Several police and emergency teams are on the scene. A Nixle text alert states: "There is a large fire at Americhem at 340 North St in Mason. Please avoid the area. Fair traffic should use Kipp Rd. Exit from 127." The Ingham County Fair is under way. "Our houses shook," said Mason resident Adrienne Niswonger, 42, who lives nearby on Okemos. "There were at least three or four explosions around 3 p.m." She was among several area residents watching the scene unfold. "It sounded like a Dumpster dropped on the ground," said David Felt, 17, who lives on East Maple Street.

Ingham County Fair

While emergency officials routed traffic away from the fire that was heading to the Ingham County Fair, fair manager Barbara Hensinger said fairgoers are safe. The fair is east of the fire on Ash Street. Hensinger said that she heard an explosion around 3 p.m. "I think everybody was curious to what was going on," said Hensinger. "Shortly after you heard the first explosion, you saw the black smoke on the sky." Several police and fire units are on scene at the fairgrounds, Hensinger said. "People are being advised to take the southern exit, off of U.S. 127," said Hensinger. ... Right now there's no threat." Founded in 1970, Americhem Sales Corp. blends and distributes industrial chemicals, solvents, oils and automotive fluids, including racing fuels. Located on 20 acres in Mason, Americhem employs 24 people, according to its Website. Since it was purchased by Bruce Whetter in 1998, the company has been working with the State of Michigan to clean up contamination left behind by previous owners. Since then, the company has built a 500,000-gallon solvents tank farm and an enclosed, 500,000-gallon oil tank farm. <http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20100806/NEWS01/308060005/Chemical-plant-explosion-in-Mason-under-investigation>

USA, CA, RODEO, AUGUST 7 2010. RODEO REFINERY REACHES SETTLEMENT FOR WASTEWATER DISCHARGE

katherine tam

The ConocoPhillips refinery in Rodeo could be fined \$600,000 for discharging wastewater that breached water quality standards into San Pablo Bay. The refinery also would purchase new equipment to stop a future release, under a tentative order from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board that awaits final approval. Samples of the discharge in 2008 and 2009 showed the refinery did not meet effluent limitations, including 21 times for acute toxicity, nine times for selenium, once for copper and once for chlorine residual. The water board found that the improper use of filters in the startup of a sulfur plant and a mechanical problem in another unit led to some of the violations. The water board and the refinery have reached a settlement agreement and a proposed fine that might become final if officials do not receive major objections or comments from the public by Aug. 23. About half of the fine would go into a state fund designated for cleanup and restoration projects. Another chunk, \$190,000, would be used to redesign a culvert where Pinole Creek runs under Interstate 80 so steelhead trout can pass. The refinery must install new equipment or make upgrades by Oct. 1, 2011, to improve the quality of the water discharged from its plant. The measures are intended to prevent a repeat of what happened, said Yvonne West, staff counsel at the board's Office of Enforcement. "These enhanced compliance projects are aimed at bringing them beyond compliance and provide safeguards to it happening in the future," West said. Dave Black, a member of a Good Neighbor group of residents from Crockett and Rodeo that monitors the refinery, said he is pleased a regulatory agency is tracking it. He

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added, "No fine is going to fit any sort of violation like that. The profits they make offset any sort of penalty." A refinery spokesman confirmed that a settlement agreement had been reached with plans to upgrade its system. The effects of some of the latter violations were not as bad as they could have been because the use of a deepwater diffuser diluted the toxicity, according to the tentative order. The refinery had three violations earlier from July 2003 to August 2005.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15696998?nclink_check=1

USA, IA, FAIRBANK, AUGUST 7 2010. VICTIMS IN CRASH THAT SHUT DOWN HAWKEYE ETHANOL PLANT IDENTIFIED

dennis magee

• **Watch the Video** http://wfcourier.com/news/local/article_458d5c9c-a16b-11df-8394-001cc4c03286.html

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Fire-Departments-Called-to-Fairbank-Ethanol-Plant-100112974.html>

• **Watch the Video** http://wfcourier.com/video/#vmix_media_id=17076883

The passenger of a crash near an Iowa ethanol plant was killed, and the driver was injured. Brad William Higgins, 49, of Fairbank died, while Corey Allen Annis, 23, of Fairbank was airlifted to Covenant Medical Center and reportedly in critical condition. The crash near Hawkeye Renewables could shut down the plant for at least 48 hours. Mike Loeffler, a spokesman for Northern Natural Gas, said a crew is assessing the condition of a pipeline station damaged when a vehicle left Iowa Highway 281. The car plowed through a chain-link fence, crashing into the pipeline. Higgins was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene, according to Fairbank firefighter Jason Kayser. Emergency personnel used Jaws of Life equipment to extricate Annis from the severely damaged car. He was airlifted to Covenant Medical Center and was reportedly in critical condition. Officials evacuated the ethanol plant because the collision caused a gas leak. Workers shut down the plant before leaving, according to Kayser, the fire department's operations officer during the incident. The accident was reported at about 5:30 a.m. The flow of gas was shut off about two hours later. "You could hear it from way far away. It was obviously leaking," Kayser said. The crew fixing the 6-inch line will replace a valve and may have to make additional repairs, Loeffler said. "There was a small leak, and that's why we are going to proceed as safely as possible," Loeffler said. Work at the moment, however, is "complicated by the fact that there was an accident on the scene," he added. "We know that the plant operates 24 hours a day, and we want to get them back online as quickly and safely as possible," Loeffler said. Northern Natural Gas is a subsidiary of MidAmerican Energy and is based in Omaha. The company operates more than 15,000 miles of natural gas pipeline, moving 5.3 billion cubic feet of gas per day, according to its website.

Earlier Story

josh nelson

One person died in a wreck near an ethanol plant, according to Buchanan County Sheriff Bill Wolfgram. Emergency crews were called to the Hawkeye Renewables ethanol plant early Friday after a car crash ruptured a natural gas line next to the facility. The ethanol plant was evacuated while crews worked on the leak, said Rick Wulfekuhle, emergency management coordinator for Buchanan County. Members of the Fairbank and Oelwein fire departments, Northern Natural Gas Co. and other first responders were called out to get the leak contained. Details weren't available on the cause of the wreck, which occurred before 8 a.m., but an air ambulance crew was called out to assist with victims, Wulfekuhle said. Courier staff at the scene said it appears a single vehicle, apparently westbound on Iowa Highway 281, left the roadway and traveled through a field some distance before striking a Northern Natural Gas facility near the plant.

http://wfcourier.com/news/local/article_458d5c9c-a16b-11df-8394-001cc4c03286.html

USA, VT, MONTPELIER, AUGUST 7 201. COURT: VERMONT CAN'T COLLECT ON POLLUTION CLEANUP

dave gram

The state can't collect from a succession of owners of a property in downtown Barre that was polluted by a former dry cleaning shop, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled Friday. The justices on Friday upheld a lower court's decision to penalize the state for delaying its disclosure of evidence it had against the bank it had sued, now known as TD Bank, which owned the property for seven months after a foreclosure in the late 1990s. That penalty effectively barred the state from introducing evidence it said it had that the former Howe Cleaners Inc. shop on Depot Square in Barre had released the chemical perchloroethylene, which has been linked to cancer, into soil and groundwater around the shop, including during the time that the bank owned the property. The state has spent about \$350,000 on the cleanup of the site, with the federal Environmental Protection Agency spending hundreds of thousands of dollars more, R. Bradford Fawley, a lawyer for the bank, said Friday. Vermont law often allows the state to recoup costs like that from private property owners who can be proved responsible for the pollution. In the Barre case, though, the state resisted demands by the bank - and orders by Judge Mary Miles Teachout in Washington

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Superior Court - that it disclose to the bank what evidence it had that pollutants were emitted from the building during the bank's seven-month ownership. The dry cleaning shop had shut down years before, with the space being used as a bakery in the interim; the bank foreclosed on the bakery, Fawley said. The state was slow to produce the evidence of the bank's liability, at one juncture failing to show up at a deposition - a meeting at which sworn statements are taken before a trial, the justices found. Eventually, the judge told the state it could not bring the evidence to court even after it disclosed it, effectively ending the state's suit against the bank. Messages left Friday for two lawyers in the attorney general's office who were involved in the case were not immediately returned. "The court's refusal to overlook the state's egregious noncompliance simply because the state cooperated after the sanction was invoked is an entirely supportable act of discretion," the justices said. The state also targeted Howe Cleaners, with which it reached a settlement, Fawley said, and it went after a more recent owner of the property, the 9 Depot Square Realty Trust and its trustee, John Fiore. In addition to granting summary judgment - essentially saying the state's case wasn't worth bringing to trial - to the bank, the lower court did the same for the Realty Trust. In a portion of its decision it decided 3-2, the Supreme Court upheld that part of the lower court's decision, saying the Realty Trust should be excused from liability because when it bought the property, an environmental assessment gave it a clean bill of health. That portion of the decision drew dissenting opinions from Chief Justice Paul Reiber and Associate Justice Denise Johnson. Both said the environmental assessment later turned out to be negligent. Reiber said the lower court should have let a jury decide whether it was reasonable for Fiore and the trust to rely on it.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9HE8GH00.htm>

USA, WI, ST ANNA, AUGUST 8 2010. NIOSH: USE OF FOAM LED TO WIS. LODD

Steven Koeser



A report released this week by NIOSH into the death of a St. Anna last year found that the application of foam to a dumpster fire led to the explosion that killed him. Firefighter Steven J. 'Peanut' Koeser was killed on the night of Dec. 29 and six other firefighters along with a lieutenant and a junior firefighter were injured when a burning dumpster exploded outside Bremer Manufacturing. Crews responded to the fire at approximately 7:33 p.m. and arrived at the scene to find approximately two-foot high bluish green flames emitting from the dumpster, according to the report. The incident commander examined the contents of the dumpster using an attic ladder and found aluminum shavings, foundry floor sweepings, and a 55 gallon drum. Crews sprayed close to 700 gallons of water on the fire but it had no affect. It was then decided to switch to foam and approximately 100 gallons were put on the fire, but there was still no

change in the fire conditions. Just over twelve minutes on scene, the contents of the dumpster started sparking then exploded sending shrapnel and barrels into the air and in the direction of the firefighters, according to report. According to the medical examiner's autopsy report, the 33-year-old firefighter died from multiple injuries as a result of blunt force trauma. Medical records showed that all of the firefighters' injuries were caused by the explosion. A lieutenant sustained lower back and spinal cord injuries; three firefighters and a junior firefighter experienced temporary hearing; one firefighter had back pain and temporary hearing loss; another had a neck sprain and a bump on his head; and one firefighter sustained second degree burns to the left elbow, right flank and a broken right hand, according to the report. NIOSH identified the following items as key contributing factors in this incident:

- Wet extinguishing agent applied to a combustible metal fire.
- Lack of hazardous materials awareness training.
- No documented site pre-plan.
- Insufficient scene size-up and risk assessment
- Inadequate disposal/storage of materials.

NIOSH made the following recommendations following its investigation:

- Ensure that high risk sites such as foundries, mills, processing plants, etc. are pre-planned by conducting a walk through by all possible responding fire departments and that the plan is updated annually.
- Ensure that specialized training is acquired for high risk sites with unique hazards, such as combustible metals.
- Ensure that standard operating guidelines are developed, implemented and enforced.
- Ensure a proper scene size-up and risk assessment when responding to high risk occupancies such as foundries, mills, processing plants, etc.
- Ensure a documented junior fire fighter program that addresses junior firefighters being outside the hazard zone.

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/niosh-use-foam-led-wis-lodd>

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USA, TX, HOUSTON, AUGUST 8 2010. EXXON SUES U.S. FOR TEXAS REFINERY CLEAN-UP COSTS

anna driver

- Exxon seeks to recover more than \$45 mln
- Suit says gov't controlled Baytown complex in wartime
- Gov't says it did not have operational control of plants

Exxon Mobil Corp is suing the United States to recover more than \$45 million in clean-up costs at its refining and petrochemical plants in Baytown, Texas, saying the government controlled the facilities during World War Two. Exxon argues it should be reimbursed for what it spent to clean up toxic substances around the complex because the government assumed ownership and or "substantial operational control" of the plants throughout the war in the 1940s and up to the Korean War in the early 1950s, according to a lawsuit filed in federal court in March. "The wartime-related operations at these plants resulted in the generation and disposal of a significant amount of waste at the Baytown site," the lawsuit said. In a separate filing, the government denied it had assumed operational control over the facility during wartime. The Baytown plant, owned by Exxon predecessor Humble Oil, began as a small refinery around 1920. During the 1940s, Exxon says, the government reconfigured and expanded the plant to make war-related materials including aviation fuel, rubber and toluene, the lawsuit said. The refineries and five other production plants at Baytown generated "substantial hazardous waste" that was disposed of at the site, while treated wastewater was discharged into nearby bodies of water, including the Houston Ship Channel, the oil company's complaint said. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, the owner or operator of a facility is responsible for response costs for the release of hazardous materials, Exxon's lawsuit said. "Since 2004, ExxonMobil has been working in good faith with the government to resolve these claims," Exxon spokeswoman Kristen Hellmer said in a statement. "In light of the looming statutory deadline to file our contract action, ExxonMobil has determined it necessary to proceed with filing our contract claim." Exxon said that it still hopes for an amicable resolution. "Exxon is liable as the current owner and operator of the Baytown complex, and as the owner and operator of the Baytown refinery when the disposal of hazardous substances occurred," the U.S. government said in its response to Exxon's complaint. A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Justice declined additional comment. "For Exxon, this is chicken feed, it's barely a rounding error on their annual budget," said Tom "Smitty" Smith, state director of consumer environmental group Public Citizen. Exxon reported a net profit of \$7.56 billion in the second quarter. Exxon and the government had engaged in confidential settlement discussions, which have so far been unsuccessful, the two sides said. Exxon's Baytown complex, located about 25 miles east of Houston, is home to the largest refinery in the United States. The facility also has a chemical plant, an olefins plant and a plastics plant. A hearing on the case is set for Sept. 24 in U.S. District court in Houston, where the case was transferred from the Eastern District of Virginia. The case is Exxon Mobil Corporation v United States of America, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, No. 10-02386.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN0613987120100806>

USA, OK, ENID, AUGUST 8 2010. POLICE PREVENT TRAIN SEMI-TRUCK ACCIDENT, EXPLOSION

lance west

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.kfor.com/news/local/kfor-news-enid-prevents-train-semi-explosion-story,0,5141058.story>

Two fast-thinking Enid officers helped prevent a fiery explosion Thursday evening. A tanker truck, hauling 8,000 gallons of jet fuel, stalled on some train tracks near Vance Air Force Base. Detective Robin Bench and K-9 Officer Ryan Fuxa raced to the tracks at 800 W. Southgate with no time to spare. A locomotive, loaded with cars was less than a mile down the tracks, on a collision course with the stranded 18 wheeler. Officer Fuxa said, "We didn't have time to mess around. There was no time for an evacuation of the area. We had to do whatever it took to get that truck moved in time." The cops flagged down a large truck, recruited the driver and grabbed a heavy-duty chain from a nearby business. They were able to pull the stranded tanker off the tracks just seconds before the gates dropped. Lt. Eric Holtzclaw said, "Most likely, you would have had a large-scale explosion. We'd be talking fatalities. These officers are heroes."

<http://www.kfor.com/news/local/kfor-news-enid-prevents-train-semi-explosion-story,0,5141058.story>

USA, TN, MEMPHIS, AUGUST 8 2010. TANKER LEAKS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN MIDTOWN

candace mccowan

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.wreg.com/news/wreg-hazmat-tanker-midtown,0,2742319.story>

Fast Facts:

- Hazmat crews were called into Midtown Memphis this morning.
- Someone discovered hydrochloric acid leaking from a railroad tanker.

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- Crews were able to get it cleaned up, but not before threatening an evacuation and shutting down traffic.

More than a dozen fire trucks filled the area on Southern Avenue between Haynes and Semmes around 6 am. Andrea Bailey had no idea what was going on. "I came in from work and I pulled up in the driveway and I saw all these fire trucks and all kind of police and stuff. I stopped a lady out there and she said it was some kind of hazardous [material] going in the air," said Bailey. She lives at the corner of Haynes and Southern Avenue just blocks away from the leaking railroad tanker. There were fumes rising from the top of the container which was filled with hydrochloric acid residue. "I'm wondering what's going in my house, is my house blowing up? That's what I really thought," added Bailey. "Workers were working on the tanker truck, there were bolts on the top that rusted out and it was allowing vapor to be released from the tanker," said LT. Wayne Cooke from the Memphis Fire Department. At the height of rush hour traffic, Southern Avenue had to be shut down for about a half a mile while hazmat crews worked to contain the leak. MATA buses were even called into the scene for a possible evacuation. The good news is they were turned around. Since it was only residue, Hazmat crews say it wasn't dangerous for people in the area. Southern Avenue was reopened around 9 Friday morning.

<http://www.wreg.com/news/wreg-hazmat-tanker-midtown,0,2742319.story>

USA, N.Y, BUFFALO, AUGUST 8 2010. CAUSE OF ETHANOLTANKER TRUCK FIRE UNKNOWN

rachel kingston



A tanker truck carrying ethanol fuel caught fire and shut down the Thruway in both directions on Friday afternoon, causing lengthy delays for motorists. State Police say the driver of the westbound Flying J tanker was able to stop the truck on the right shoulder of the I-90 after the flames erupted, around 2:45 PM. The driver escaped, uninjured. The fire was out and all lanes were reopened about an hour later, but delays persisted through the evening rush hour. At one point, traffic on the 90W was logjammed almost all the way to the Pembroke (48A) exit, the 90E was a parking lot as far back as William Street (exit 52A) in Cheektowaga, and the 290E was bumper-to-bumper back to Millersport Highway. The cause of the fire is being investigated.

<http://www.wben.com/Cause-of-Thruway-Truck-Fire-Unknown/7863464>

USA, DE, DELAWARE CITY, AUGUST 8 2010. SUPER SODA CENTER STORE OWNERS SETTLE STORAGE TANK CASE FOR \$2 MILLION

The United States has settled alleged violations of federal and state underground storage tank regulations at 17 gas stations in Delaware and Maryland formerly owned by Duncan Petroleum Corp. The case stems from the alleged failure of Robert M. Duncan and Duncan Petroleum Corp., owners of Super Soda Center Stores, to comply with the regulations governing underground storage tanks at Duncan's 17 gas stations in the two states and for failing to perform compliance tasks under a 2006 Consent Agreement. Duncan had agreed to complete the tasks in order to bring five of the Maryland gas stations into compliance with the underground storage tank regulations. According to the Department of Justice, Duncan will pay a \$2 million penalty for these violations on or before Dec. 15, 2010, plus interest that began accruing on August 2, the date the Stipulation and Order was filed with the court. The civil judicial complaint was filed on Dec. 17, 2008, under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act alleging violations of Delaware and Maryland underground storage tank (UST) regulations requiring that owners and operators of petroleum UST systems: 1) provide release detection for underground storage tanks; 2) provide release detection for underground piping; 3) provide and annually test line leak detectors; 4) provide overfill protection; 5) investigate and report suspected releases; 6) provide and test cathodic protection systems; 7) inspect impressed current protection systems; and 8) maintain corrosion protection on out-of-service UST systems. According to DOJ, the company failed to comply with one or more of these requirements at each of the facilities. "These defendants violated their obligation to bring several large underground storage tanks into compliance with the law," said Ignacia S. Moreno, assistant attorney general for DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "The precedent-setting \$2 million civil penalty that they will pay in this settlement is appropriate in light of the unacceptable risk created by their misconduct." The eight Delaware gas stations were located in Seaford, Bridgeville, Rehoboth, Dover, and Camden. In Maryland, there were nine locations in Salisbury, Snow Hill, Cambridge, Chestertown, Easton, Federalsburg, and Preston. "By refusing to comply with the terms of the consent decree defendants endangered the lives of citizens of Delaware and Maryland," said David C. Weiss, U.S.

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attorney for the District of Delaware. "This settlement holds defendants accountable and demonstrates that such misconduct will not be tolerated." With millions of gallons of gasoline, oil and other petroleum products stored in underground storage tanks throughout the U.S., leaking tanks are a major source of soil and groundwater contamination. EPA and state UST regulations are designed to reduce the risk of underground leaks and to promptly detect and properly address leaks which do occur, thus minimizing environmental harm and avoiding the costs of major cleanups. For more information on EPA's underground storage tank program, visit www.epa.gov/swerst1/
<http://eponline.com/articles/2010/08/07/super-soda-center-settles-storage-tank-case.aspx>

CHINA, SHANDONG PROVINCE, YANTAI, ZHAOYUAN, AUGUST 8 2010. 16 KILLED IN EAST CHINA GOLD MINE FIRE AS RESCUE WRAPS UP



Rescuers prepare at the site of fire in Zhaoyuan, Yantai City, east China's Shandong Province, Aug. 7, 2010. A fire broke out at the Luoshan Gold Mine run by Lingnan Mining Co. Ltd. in Zhaoyuan, east China's Shandong Province, at about 5 p.m. Friday.

Rescuers lifted the last group of seven miners to the ground Saturday noon at a gold mine in eastern China where an underground blaze initially trapped more than 300. Sixteen miners had been killed in the accident, officials said. Most of the casualties were suffocated after inhaling toxic smoke. Some of them died in hospital, said medical workers at the Luoshan gold mine in Zhaoyuan City, Shandong Province. The majority of the more than 39 miners being treated in local hospitals did not have life-threatening conditions, doctors said. "We smelt a pungent odor and suspected

something might have gone wrong. We closed the vents and waited to be rescued," said Lu Ming, a miner being treated in the People's Hospital of Zhaoyuan. Local officials said the sudden fire broke out at the mine at about 5 p.m. Friday after an electric cable caught fire. A total of 329 miners were working underground at the time. The underground blaze was put out hours later and power supply gradually restored. Xinhua photographers at the mine saw medical workers walk some of the last rescued miners to ambulances. The miners appeared in good health but had their eyes covered by white cloth to avoid sudden exposure to the sun. The cause of the accident is being investigated, official said, and the owner of the mine, run by Lingnan Mining Co. Ltd., had been taken into police custody, though the mine was fully licensed. Luo Lin, head of the State Administration of Work Safety, led a ten-member work-team to Zhaoyuan Saturday. Previously, top provincial officials had arrived at the scene to oversee the rescue and investigation. Mining casualties in China have been declining lately due to strengthened safety measures but the country is still plagued by mining accidents. Also on Saturday, a gas outburst trapped six miners underground at a coal mine in Shifang City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, local authorities said. The rescue is underway while there is no report of casualties yet. Previously this week, two separate coal mine gas leaks in southwest and central China killed 27 miners in total. Last year, 2,631 people died in 1,616 coal mine accidents, according to official statistics. The numbers were much lower than those from a year earlier.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-08/07/c_13434226.htm

INDIA, MUMBAI, AUGUST 8 2010. CARGO SHIPS COLLIDE, SPARK OIL SPILL SCARE >> 33 CREW MEMBERS RESCUED; OFFICIALS FEAR LEAKED FUEL HAS SPREAD UP TO 3 NAUTICAL MILES

vinay dalvi & aneesh phadnis

Watch the Video:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Major-oil-spill-fears-as-ships-collide-off-city/articleshow/6273458.cms>



Fuel spills out of the M S C Chitra after the collision with M V Khalijia-III damaged its bow.

Thousands of litres of fuel spilled into the sea posing a serious environmental risk when two merchant vessels collided near Mumbai Port on Saturday morning. The incident occurred about 8 nautical miles from the Mumbai port at 9.40 am when M S C Chitra was proceeding out of Jawaharlal Nehru Port while the other merchant vessel M V Khalijia-III was moving towards the Mumbai Port. According to the Mumbai Port Trust officials, Khalijia 3 control room tried to contact M S C Chitra on all VHF channels,

requesting a change of direction but there was no response from the other side. The collision damaged the bow (front portion) of M S C Chitra, which tilted 25 degrees. Its fuel tank too was severely damaged, which caused the oil spill, sources said. "The

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situation is quite serious. Fuel is leaking out. Coast Guard is trying its best to control the spill and has deployed a chopper and two ships for anti-spillage operation," said a source. "M S C Chitra was carrying around 2,662 tonne fuel, 288 tonne diesel and 88 tonne lubricants," said a source from the Coast Guard. "Due to the impact of the collision, two containers from the M S C Chitra fell into the sea," said a Mumbai Port Trust officer. The oil spill spread up to 2-3 nautical miles around the ship. Although anti-spillage operation is underway, coast guard will be able to launch a full-scale effort only on Sunday owing to dim visibility and rough weather. Earlier, crew members of M S C Chitra were rescued after it was severely damaged during the collision near Prongs Reef Light House. "All the 33 crew members of the vessel were rescued by Tug Vamsee III and a Coast Guard ship," said the source.

<http://www.mumbaimirror.com/article/2/20100808201008080153407203bf73cd6/Cargo-ships-collide-spark-oil-spill-scare.html>

CHINA, SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHENGDU, AUGUST 8 2010. 1 DEAD, 5 TRAPPED IN CHINA'S LATEST COAL MINE GAS LEAK

One miner has been killed and five others trapped by a sudden gas outburst at a deep coal mine in southwest China's Sichuan Province Saturday, local authorities said. More than 100 rescuers arrived at the coal mine in Hongbai Township, Shifang City, after the accident occurred around 9 a.m. Saturday down a pit about 3,500 meters deep, officials said. Operations at the pit in question had yet to start. Miners were cleaning the shaft when the accident occurred, they said. Hongda Red Star Mining Co., Ltd. ran the mine responsible for the pit. It is not yet clear if the mine was licensed. Authorities are probing the case. It is the third gas leak to hit China's coal mines in a week. Twenty-seven people were killed in two prior accidents in southwest and central China. Also, 16 miners died after being trapped in a gold mine fire in Zhaoyuan City, east China's Shandong Province since late Friday. All of the other 313 miners were rescued by Saturday noon.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-08/07/c_13434576.htm

USA, WA, YAKIMA, AUGUST 8 2010. PUMP POLICE ENSURE CUSTOMERS GET WHAT THEY PAY FOR

philip ferolito

Jay Draper pulls into the Ahtanum General Store and pumps five gallons of high-grade gasoline into a measuring canister on the back of his trailer. Although he stops the pump at exactly five gallons, the reading on his canister is slightly more. "So he's giving the customer some," he says before grabbing the medium grade spigot to test it. With countless families hitting the highways for vacation, more than a few occasionally wonder if they are getting their money's worth at the pump -- especially when gas prices seem to rise each summer. Draper is just one of 14 inspectors with the state's Weights and Measures Program who make sure motorists get a square deal. Gas pumps are generally checked on a 28-month cycle. The one Draper is checking this day was last inspected in February 2007. He knows because stickers are placed on pumps informing customers when they were last inspected. Pumps are allowed a plus or minus margin of error of six cubic inches - which amounts to about six ice cubes - for each five gallons measured. Pumps that come up short more than that amount are taken out of service until they are brought into compliance. If pumps come up short three times or more of the allowable margin, then station owners could face fines anywhere from \$100 to \$5,000 per violation, something that rarely occurs, says state Weights and Measures manager Kirk Robinson in Olympia. "We try to work with them," he says. "A lot of times just taking the device out of service usually motivates the owner to get into compliance." But it's not just gasoline meters and quality that they're inspecting. The office also checks large truck scales, grocery store food scales and cash registers to assure accurate weights and prices. Our job is just to monitor to make sure everyone is doing good business," Robinson says. His office, which is under the state Department of Agriculture, handles about 700 complaints a year, of which only about 22 percent are valid, he says. Much of those complaints come when there is a spike in gas prices, he says. One of the more common complaints is meter jumping, when the meter jumps to five cents before its lever is pushed to pump gas, a problem often caused by a vapor lock in the system, he says. Problems are found in only about 8 percent of the state's roughly 52,000 fuel pumps, he says. Half of those pumps end up giving customers more than what the meter says, he adds. "It's about a 50-50 split in ones taking away or giving to the customer," he says. While Draper inspects the amount of fuel each dispenser at the Ahtanum General Store is pumping on this recent morning, his colleague, Shane Snyder, is checking octane and ethanol levels and whether there is any presence of water in the fuel. Snyder fills a clear jar with fuel and finds no sign of clouding that the presence of water would cause. Working from the back of his truck, he pours some of the fuel from the jar into a smaller one with a lid and sets it atop an electric device that uses an infrared light to measure octane and ethanol levels. It's octane level 91.9. "Which is fine," he says as he pours the fuel back into the larger jar. Each grade of fuel must meet national octane and ethanol standards. All fuel that is tested or measured goes back into the station's underground tanks from which the pumps draw from. Next, Snyder puts a paste on a long wooden measuring stick and drops it into one of the underground fuel tanks. Water turns the paste white.

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Diesel storage tanks are only allowed one inch of water at the bottom. Ethanol fuel tanks, only a quarter of an inch. Snyder pulls out the stick, and it shows less than an eighth of an inch. Condensation naturally accumulates in tanks, and station owners make pumping it out part of routine maintenance, Robinson says. If storage tanks have more water than allowed, the fuel cannot be sold until the water is pumped from the tank, which can be done without removing the fuel. "They don't like to be shut down, like any business, so they're usually right on it," he says.

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_pump_police.html

UGANDA, MASAKA TWP, AUGUST 8 2010. FUEL TANK OVERTURNS NEAR MASAKA TOWN

dismus buregyeya



The fuel tank that overturned at Kijabwemi in Masaka district.

Residents of Kijabwemi and Kyabakuza suburbs near Masaka town emptied a fuel tank, which over turned at Kijabwemi T-junction on the Masaka-Mbarara highway. The incident occurred at about 5:00am on Friday, when the driver lost control of the tank, which was heading to Kigali. The tank belonged to Etelec Company in Kigali. The tank driver, whose name could not be established, was rushed to Masaka Hospital with multiple injuries, the Masaka traffic officer, Stephen Muhozi, said. "The driver must have fallen asleep while the vehicle was moving, resulting in the accident," he said. Muhozi added that he was at Matanga on the Masaka-Kampala Road, when he received a call about the accident. He said on reaching

the scene, he found residents siphoning fuel from the tank using basins and jerry cans. Muhozi said the Police with the help of the army dispersed the residents to avoid a fire out break. Muhozi said the tank was carrying diesel but noted that the situation could have gone bad if it was petrol, which is highly flammable. He said the slippery road had caused several accidents, involving other trucks, motorcycles and pedestrians. Residents of the area suggested that the T-junction should be widened to reduce accidents.

<http://www.sundayvision.co.ug/detail.php?mainNewsCategoryId=7&newsCategoryId=128&newsId=728085>

USA, TX, MASON, AUGUST 9 2010. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION: STATIC ELECTRICITY SPARK CAUSED AMERICHEM CHEMICAL PLANT BLAST

susan vela

Watch the Video:

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20100808/NEWS01/8080542/1001/NEWS/Americhem-chemical-plant-blast-fire-still-under-investigation>

Static electricity caused a catalytic spark that caused an explosion and fire Friday at an Americhem Sales Corp. building, according to a preliminary investigation. "That's what we're saying right now," said Sgt. Robert Ott of the Ingham County Sheriff's Office and the county's Homeland Security and emergency management coordinator. "When those guys are loading and unloading those trailers, they're supposed to be grounded to prevent any type of static. The driver said he was grounded. (However), there's nothing else out there that would have caused the spark." Bruce Whetter, Americhem's president, maintains the tanker that entered the company's weighing facility around 3 p.m. Friday containing 500 gallons of mineral spirits most likely exploded, destroying the building. "It's not likely we had a spark because everything is grounded," he said. "We're thinking it had to be some kind of an explosion. We've been doing this here 13 years the same way. I've been thinking about this for two days now and I'm not sure what could have happened." Americhem's insurance company is scheduled to start its investigation Monday, when Whetter plans to continue doing business with customers. Whetter expects cleanup to continue for a few more days. Employees were evacuated from Americhem, 340 North St., when the fire happened. No one was seriously injured. Homeland Security is involved because of the chemicals stored at the site. Americhem is a Midwest chemical distributor and blender carrying a full line of industrial chemicals, solvents, oils and automotive fluids. While the agency is investigating the matter because of the chemicals stored on site, Whetter added: "We are not a high-risk chemical facility as determined by Homeland Security. "We do handle hazardous material, but not extremely hazardous material." Whetter said the amount of damage at the site will be assessed Monday. Cleanup crews were out until Saturday morning at the site of the explosion. He added deliveries are scheduled for Monday. "We wanted everything to get back to normal for the community as soon as possible," Whetter said. "This is my responsibility." No one was seriously injured, but employees were evacuated as Mason firefighters brought the blaze under control. Officials of the Ingham County Health Department, which monitored the blaze, determined there was no need to evacuate residents in the area. Neighbors reported hearing about three

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or four explosions. The blast could be heard more than a mile away at the Ingham County Fair. Americhem Sales Corp. is a Midwest chemical distributor and blender that carries a full line of industrial chemicals, solvents, oils and automotive fluids.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20100808/NEWS01/8080542/1001/NEWS/Americhem-chemical-plant-blast--fire--still-under-investigation>

USA, MI, MARSHALL, AUGUST 9 2010. MICHIGAN OIL SPILL CAUSED BY 5-FOOT TEAR IN PIPELINE

jeffrey jones



Cleanup workers prepare to secure absorbent booms on the Kalamazoo river after an oil pipeline leaked oil into the river near Marshall, Michigan July 31, 2010.

Oil that fouled a Michigan river system spewed from a rip less than five feet long in an Enbridge Inc pipeline, a company executive said on Saturday after crews extracted the ruptured piece. The pipeline, part of Enbridge's system that carries most of Canada's crude oil exports into the United States, ruptured nearly two weeks ago near Marshall, Michigan, and there is still no estimate when it might be restarted. Looking at the length-wise tear does not provide enough information to determine what caused 800,000 gallons of heavy crude oil to spill into the

Kalamazoo River system, said Steve Wuori, president of Enbridge's liquids pipelines division. Under the watch of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, crews extracted a 50 foot (15 meter) section on Friday and it is being shipped to Washington for analysis, officials said. "I would think it will be late tomorrow before the replacement section is welded into place," Wuori told reporters in conference call to discuss the incident. Authorities must approve Enbridge's restart plan before it can resume shipping crude on the 190,000 barrel a day pipeline, called Line 6B. Even then it will likely run at reduced rates. The Environmental Protection Agency had enforcement officials at the excavation as they investigate whether Enbridge was negligent in the period leading up to the July 26 spill, EPA administrator Susan Hedman said. The pipeline serves refineries in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Ontario that produce more than 700,000 barrels a day. At least three plants have cut output and others have been forced to seek supplies on alternate pipelines. The spill represents one of the largest pipeline leaks in recent U.S. history. It arguably gained increased profile against the backdrop of the much bigger BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

<http://planetark.org/wen/59077>

USA, CA, FRAZIER PARK, PINE MOUNTAIN, AUGUST 9 2010. GASOLINE TANKER CAUSES SCARE ON "S" CURVES NEAR PINE MOUNTAIN.

6:50 p.m. breaking news report a gasoline tanker overturned on the mil potrero "s" curves this afternoon. But Captain Jake Sherley of the Kern County Fire Department's Pine Mountain Station 58 said at 7:30 p.m. that there was no overturned tanker. "The tanker was having a hard time making it up the grade. He missed a gear and rolled back down, jackknifing against the barrier rail. There was no spill and no fire hazard," Sherley said. The caller reported that CHP alerted all regional fire units. Sherley said that after Engine 58 inspected the scene, fire units stepped down and CHP was left in charge. A tow truck helped stabilize the tanker and put it on its way. The caller said there was a great deal of speculation in Pine Mountain Village about the possible consequences if the truck had overturned.

http://mountainenterprise.com/atf.php?sid=7305¤t_edition=2010-08-06

NIGERIA, ENUGU, ABAKPA NIKE, AUGUST 8 2010. 10 PERISH IN ENUGU TANKER ACCIDENT

petrus obi

About ten persons were believed to have died following a fatal accident that occurred yesterday in the Abakpa Nike area of Enugu when a kerosene-laden tanker lost control and crushed people as well as kiosks by the roadside in the process. As at Saturday morning when our reporter visited the accident scene the burnt body of one of the victims was still trapped under the vehicle. It was further gathered from a mechanic whose workshop is very close to the scene that more bodies were still under the vehicle. Eyewitnesses told Sunday Sun that the tanker driver had been flagged down by members of the Civil Defense Corps who were on duty in the area but a heated argument forced one of the civil defense men to jump into the lorry to drive the vehicle to their office. He however lost control of the vehicle and in the process knocked down kiosks located near the road killing people believed to be resting in some of the kiosks. The long tanker fell in the process and is believed to have trapped some people who as at the time of this report were yet to be rescued or their bodies freed from the rump. Mr. Chigozie Ani, a mechanic, who narrowly escaped death told our reporter how he alongside some other lucky people saw the imminent danger

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as the lorry lost control and ran for their lives. He disclosed that most of the people trapped under the tanker were his customers who had come to repair their motorcycles. "Look at all these motorcycles here, the owners are nowhere to be found and I believe they are trapped there. Some of them were chatting with their backs turned to the road when it happened and I am sure that if this tanker is lifted at least five people will be found there." A Hausa man who sells suya, Mallam Danjuma, was still visibly shocked by the accident, could not find words to explain what happened but the mechanic narrated that Danjuma was serving him suya and had gone in to bring pepper when it happened. Three persons whose identities were yet to be known as at the time of filing this report died instantly while the fourth person, one out of two that were rushed to the hospital was said to have also given up. Reacting to the incident, the State Commander of the Civil Defense Corps, Mr. Raimi Sikiru noted that his men were on duty when the incident happened and blamed drivers for not always obeying uniformed men. Also speaking to our reporter the Enugu State Sector Commander of the Road Safety Corps, Mr. Fumsuk Soumsuck said he could only confirm the death of three persons insisting that the claims that people were trapped can only be confirmed when the tanker is lifted.

<http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2010/aug/08/national-08-08-2010-004.htm>

USA, S.D, HURON, AUGUST 9 2010. FUEL SPILLING INTO RAVINE LAKE; SOURCE UNKNOWN

Workers continue to search for the source of diesel fuel spilling into Ravine Lake in Beadle County. County emergency management director Tom Moeding says absorbent booms are soaking up the fuel flowing from a storm sewer outlet into the lake. The spill was reported Thursday afternoon by a woman who smelled the fuel while fishing. Moeding says the fuel was tracked to the sewer outlet, but the source wasn't found. Workers from a private company are expected to search Monday for the source.

<http://www.kcautv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12945055>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, SOUTH YARRA, AUGUST 9 2010. CHILDREN HURT IN CHEMICAL ATTACK

[Map: South Yarra 3141](#)



The children were in Bray Street, South Yarra, when chemicals were thrown at the pram.

Two young children have suffered burns to their faces after they were hit by chemicals thrown from a rooftop in Melbourne. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade says a mother was walking down Bray Street in South Yarra with the children in a pram just before 1.30pm (AEST). The substance landed in the pram, hitting the children. It is believed the substance was a corrosive tile cleaner. The children, a five-month-old boy and a two-year-old girl, have been taken to the Royal Children's Hospital in a satisfactory condition. Police are investigating the incident. Witnesses say two boys were seen running from the area. Waitress Agatha Rao was working at a nearby restaurant when she says the mother ran in screaming. "They were just covered in this soapy stuff, I didn't really know what it was, obviously some sort of chemical," she said. "They were all red, they had all these dots all over them, they were all burnt." "It was really, really disgusting, it's just horrible."

http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/08/09/2977611.htm?WT.mc_id=newsmail

USA, IA, FAIRBANK, AUGUST 9 2010. SECOND MAN DIES FOLLOWING CAR WRECK AT ETHANOL PLANT IN FAIRBANK

The driver of a vehicle that crashed into a natural gas line at an ethanol plant has died. Authorities say Corey Allen Annis, 23, of Fairbank, who lost control of his 1998 Pontiac Firebird, died Saturday. Brad William Higgins, 49, died at the scene Friday. The car rolled and then slammed into a fence Friday morning at the Hawkeye Renewables ethanol plant and ruptured a gas line. The ethanol plant was evacuated as crews sealed the gas leak. Gas service to the plant was restored by Saturday evening.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100809/NEWS/8090315/1001/NEWS/Second-man-dies-following-car-wreck-in-Fairbank>

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