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"RELEASE 2010 – 563 NEWSY STUFF"

January 12 2010



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CHINA, SHAANXI PROVINCE, JANUARY 6 2010. CHINA SHUTS DAM GENERATORS FOLLOWING DIESEL SPILL

China has suspended power generation at a major Yellow River dam to contain diesel fuel that leaked last week from a pipeline – the latest environmental disaster to affect China's waterways, considered among the world's most polluted. Beginning Dec. 30, an estimated 100 tons of diesel fuel spilled into the Wei River, which feeds into the Yellow, a water source for millions of Chinese. All six generators at the Sanmenxia power station were shut down on Saturday to hold contaminated water behind the dam and keep it from flowing toward major cities downstream that rely on the river for drinking water, said Yang Ming, a spokesman for the Sanmenxia Water Conservancy Bureau. "We may suffer some economic loss for doing so, but we need to consider the overall situation," Yang said Tuesday by telephone from the bureau's headquarters in the northern province of Shaanxi. Built in the 1960s, the Sanmenxia dam now generates 1.2 billion kilowatt hours per year – a fraction of the 19 billion kilowatt hours per year generated by Shaanxi's seven power generating dams along the Yellow. Authorities have already told 850,000 people in riverside communities to avoid using the Yellow for drinking or watering livestock. However, in a statement issued late Monday, the Shaanxi provincial government said cleanup measures, including diversion channels, floating dams, and absorbing agents, had so far proven effective in containing the spill. As of Monday, no oil slick could be seen on the Wei and oil concentration in the river averaged just 0.79 part per million (0.79 milligrams per liter), well within acceptable limits, the statement said. The Yellow, China's second-longest river, has seen its water quality deteriorate rapidly in recent years due to rising industrial discharge and dropping water levels due to the diversion of water to major cities downstream, including Luoyang, Kaifeng and Zhengzhou.

http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news_content.php?id=1147999&lang=eng_news&cate_img=35.jpg&cate_rss=news_Business

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, JANUARY 6 2010. OWNER OF DISABLED TUG RELEASES SPILL ESTIMATE >> OWNER OF TUG GROUNDED IN ALASKA'S PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND: NO MORE THAN 6,410 GALLONS SPILLED

A tugboat operator says as much as 6,410 gallons of diesel fuel spilled in Alaska's Prince William Sound when a tugboat ran aground on the same reef as the Exxon Valdez 20 years ago. Crowley Marine says the spill estimate from last month's grounding of the Pathfinder is considered a worst-case amount. Crowley says the estimate is based on an evaluation of the tug's two damaged fuel tanks, the amount of diesel on board when it ran aground Dec. 23, and the amount recovered from the two tanks after it was towed to Valdez. The estimate was reported Monday to oversight agencies including the Coast Guard and state Department of Environmental Conservation. The 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster remains the United States' worst oil spill, with nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil spilled.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9480368>

CANADA, QUEBEC, JANUARY 6 2010. ROUTE 175 OPEN AFTER MAJOR FUEL SPILL



Between 6,000 and 20,000 of fuel leaked from a tanker truck that flipped on Route 175, just outside Stoneham, on Monday.

The highway linking Quebec City to the Saguenay has reopened after a major fuel spill shut down the road for most of Monday. A tanker truck travelling northbound on Route 175 flipped on its side after it hit a patch of black ice near Stoneham-et-Tewksbury Monday morning. The driver was not hurt, but thousands of litres of fuel leaked from the truck's tank before emergency workers could contain the spill. It took most of the day for an environmental hazards crew to pump the spilled fuel. Officials said there won't be any lasting damage, and nearby residents won't be affected by any escaped fuel. It was fortunate that the spill took place on the outskirts of the town, said Stoneham-et-Tewksbury emergency coordinator Michel Chatigny. Only one home had to be evacuated, he said. "It's not a densely populated area," Chatigny said. "Inside of 12 kilometres in that region, there is only about 20 houses or chalets." Officials with Quebec's Environment Ministry, which is supervising the cleanup work said the gas, which flowed into a nearby brook is being soaked up with massive sponges. Route 175 provides the only access to the Laurentian Wildlife Reserve.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2010/01/05/quebec-highway-175-open-after-fuel-spill.html>

NIGERIA, UYO, JANUARY 6 2010. NOSDRA, DPR RESPOND TO OIL SPILL - COMMENCE INVESTIGATION

Following outcry over repeated spills occasioned by rupture from aging pipelines of Mobil Producing Nigeria (MPN) Unlimited, with another spill occurring on Friday December 4, 2009, National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) and the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) have commenced investigation on the spill. Henshaw Oguwike, the chief information officer of NOSDRA, stated that the agency had since commenced investigation to verify if there was indeed an oil spill as alleged. The investigation, which is in collaboration with Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Petroleum Resources, is a joint team effort to ascertain the cause of the spill, the impact on the people and the environment, and what efforts could be done to remediate the environment to mitigate further loss. Already, the film of oil on water hit the shoreline of the riverine communities of Ibeno on night of Friday December 11, 2009, forcing fishermen and residents of the fishing communities to abandon their abode, since the oil had destroyed their fishing gears and hampered their source of livelihood. A source within Mobil had disclosed that the spill might not be unconnected with "equipment failure" at the Idoho facility of Mobil Producing Nigeria (MPN) Unlimited. Though efforts to contain the spill by the oil giant was very frantic less than 48 hours after the incident, the oil which finally hit the shore, a distance of several kilometres into the Atlantic Ocean, shows that NOSDRA, DPR, and the state Ministry of Environment, have so much work to do in placating the people who are said to have suffered "from the insensitivity of Mobil." Earlier spills from the same facilities in 2007 and 2008, caused severe hardships on the people, while issues

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surrounding compensation have not been treated in very transparent manner, according to Chief Effiong Sunday, a community leader.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201001050256.html>

USA, PA, CLINTONVILLE, JANUARY 6 2010. TRUCK ACCIDENT NEWS: I-80 CRASH SPILLED HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

bridget hom

Hazmat officials reported to the scene of a truck spill on the I-80. Clintonville, PA ([NewYorkInjuryNews.com](http://www.newyorkinjurynews.com)) – A truck accident spilled thousands of gallons of hydrofluoric acid closed 7 miles of Interstate 80 westbound lanes Wednesday, December 30, 2009, according to WTAE. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) reported that the tanker spill closed the road from exit 35 to exit 42 of the Interstate 80, 75 miles northeast of Pittsburgh in Venango County. Crews reopened the westbound lanes Thursday morning. The Department of Environment Protection (EPA) www.epa.gov reported that the 4,200 gallons of chemical that spilled is very corrosive and is traditionally used to etch glass. It spilled over one-fourth of a mile as the truck operator attempted to bring the vehicle to a halt. Police and other official investigators are looking into what caused the tanker to split in half on the highway. HAZMAT and another environmental company were on the scene to neutralize the chemical. The teams were at the scene to probe the berm to determine if the chemicals had spilled off the sides of the road. PennDOT authorities advised all drivers in the eastbound lanes to keep their windows closed while driving to avoid any contact with the hazardous materials. As of yet, there have not been any reports of injuries, illnesses or evacuations. The investigation continues.

http://www.newyorkinjurynews.com/2010/01/04/truck-accident-news-i-80-crash-spilled-hazardous-chemicals_201001041936.html

CANADA, NS, WENTWORTH, JANUARY 6 2010. SLIPPERY ROAD CONDITIONS BLAMED FOR TANKER CRASH >> AVIATION FUEL LEAKS FROM TRAILERS; HIGHWAY 4 SHUT DOWN FOR MOST OF THE DAY TUESDAY

Highway 4 was closed for most of the day Tuesday after slippery roads sent a tanker carrying 51,000 litres of aviation fuel skidding into the ditch shortly after 7 a.m. Hazardous materials units from Amherst and New Glasgow were called in to clean up fuel that had leaked from the trailers before officials managed to stop the rupture. "The leak is plugged and a pumper truck is enroute," RCMP Sgt. John Berry, said. The truck was travelling westbound on Highway 4 when it left the highway facing east, causing the two tanks it was hauling to detach from the truck. The tanks remained on their sides in the ditch while waiting for a pumper to drain the fuel. The driver of the Seaboard marked B-train truck was treated for minor injuries at the scene by EHS. Officials said hospitalization was not required. Nova Scotia Vehicle Compliance officers, Emergency Measures Organization personnel, RCMP and Transport Canada were also assisting with the investigation and containment. "I suspect the highway will remain closed for the better part of the day and into the evening while crews transfer the fuel into another tanker truck," Const. Dal Hutchinson said in the afternoon. The hazardous materials teams had left the scene at about 3 p.m., with the aviation fuel being removed from the upset tankers. "At the moment we're waiting for heavy equipment to arrive to recover the tractor trailer from the ditch," Hutchinson said. The constable expected the highway from Exit 7 and Highway 368 to remain closed until 6 p.m. The Wentworth Fire Department and Department of Transportation were also at the scene.

<http://www.trurodaily.com/index.cfm?sid=315892&sc=68>

EAST AFRICA, JANUARY 6 2010. REPORTS: SHELL TO EXIT AFRICA NATIONS

jevans nyabiage

- **In Summary** Though largely non-committal, oil firm says it is doing a review

Realignments are in the offing following reports that oil dealer Shell is planning to quit 20 African countries. Local dealers who have a business relationship with the firm, confirmed to the Nation that Shell intends to sell its refinery, storage and retail businesses from nations where it still operates. Ms Victoria Kaigai, Shell communications manager East Africa, confirmed that the firm is reviewing its global downstream business. "Like any competitive business, Shell actively manages its global portfolio and is always seeking opportunities to improve profitability. We continuously review our global downstream portfolio in line with our more upstream, profitable approach to capital allocation," said Ms Kaigai. The firm recently disposed of businesses in Greece and expects to sell refineries in the United Kingdom and Germany. Ms Kaigai denied reports that Shell is in talks with any third parties to sell downstream business in Africa.

Partial Withdrawal

On January 4, the French State-funded public broadcaster Radio France Internationale reported that Shell is expected to make a partial withdrawal from the African continent this year. In 2008, Royal Dutch Shell, Europe's largest oil company moved away from 15 African countries, although it holds on to its most lucrative activities; exploration and production. OilLibya and Morocco Oil are said to be eying the firm's North Africa assets while in southern Africa, Engen Petroleum Ltd is said to be interested. If Shell goes ahead to pull out of Kenya, Total will remain the single largest global brand in the local retail petroleum business. Shell had positioned itself in the market with earlier acquisitions of Agip and BP, but seems to be reeling from growing competition from local and Asian firms. Over the recent years other global petroleum brands such as Esso, Agip, Mobil, BP, Caltex (Chevron) have vanished leaving only two global brands - Shell and Total - which combined control about 45 per cent of the Kenyan market. Mobil was bought by OilLibya, owned by the Government of Libya through Tamoil while Caltex was recently taken over by Total. The report comes as Shell officials have been insisting their BP investment are long term. On December 20, Reuters had reported that Shell was selling oil fields in Nigeria valued at up to \$5 billion

<http://www.nation.co.ke/business/news/-/1006/836464/-/heih3az/-/>

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USA, CO, PARACHUTE, JANUARY 6 2010. SPILL DISCOVERED AT SUSPECT WELL PAD

dennis webb

A spill of oil and gas contaminants has been discovered at a well pad that has been the focus of an investigation into pollution of spring water at a cabin northwest of Parachute. Chris Canfield, an environmental protection specialist in Rifle for the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, said it isn't yet known whether the spill is linked to the tainted spring water. Ned Prather became ill after drinking the water May 30, 2008. It later was found to contain benzene, a carcinogen that is a naturally occurring byproduct of oil and gas production. The pad's operator, Williams Production RMT, notified the state of the spill in December after discovering it while closing the pit. The cause of the spill and extent of contamination remain unknown, according to the report Williams filed with the state. The report said the spill consisted of hydrocarbon contamination, but it wasn't more specific. "This is the first discovery of a release of hydrocarbon on that pad," Canfield said. But he said it remains to be determined when the spill occurred, whether the spilled contaminants reached groundwater, and whether their chemical signature matches the signature of the spring's contaminants. The state initially issued notices of alleged violation against four companies in connection with the spring water contamination, before narrowing its focus to Williams' operations. A consultant for the state concluded the contamination appeared to result from a release of oil and gas condensate, and that the source probably came from the immediate east of the spring, where only Williams has facilities. Williams spokeswoman Susan Alvarar said Williams continues to believe its operations aren't the cause of the Prather spring contamination. She said the spill was discovered and reported as part of the ongoing investigation. "There's certainly no conclusions to the investigation as far as we're concerned yet," she said. She said it appears more data will need to be gathered in the spring.

http://www.gjsentinel.com/hp/content/news/stories/2010/01/04/010510_6a_spring_contam.html

USA, FLA, GAINESVILLE, JANUARY 6 2010. EPA FINES UF FOR POLLUTION

jennifer bate

UF has agreed to pay \$175,000 in federal pollution fines after inspectors discovered soil and groundwater contamination on campus from March 2008. UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes said the university has not completed its investigation of the contamination and is still trying to determine if a cleanup will be required. Environmental Protection Agency inspectors said tetrachloroethylene levels in the soil and groundwater were higher than allowed by state regulations. Tetrachloroethylene is a colorless, sweet-smelling chemical and a non-flammable organic liquid. It is commonly used in aerosol dry-cleaning products and as a metal degreaser, according to the EPA. According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, tetrachloroethylene is also known to cause liver damage and is suspected to cause cancer. At high levels, tetrachloroethylene could also cause damage to the nervous system, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. Sikes said UF committed no intentional wrongdoing. "The EPA regulations are very technical and UF had a different interpretation than the EPA of what the regulation required," she said. ZEP Formula 768, the solution in which the tetrachloroethylene originated, was used to clean lawn equipment on a concrete slab outside a maintenance building. Sikes said UF stopped using the solvent almost immediately upon learning that EPA had a concern. Based on testing around the site, Sikes said UF believes the impact of the tetrachloroethylene is limited to the area around the concrete slab next to the maintenance building. Because the EPA expressed concern solely for the groundwater and soil contamination, UF has not checked into the health of the maintenance workers who used the product. UF was also fined for lesser offenses, such as not properly labeling containers of mineral spirits and batteries

http://www.alligator.org/news/campus/article_23d8f022-f9bc-11de-bffc-001cc4c002e0.html

CHINA FACES NEW RISK: ATTACKS ON PIPELINES >> AS OIL INDUSTRY EXPANDS, NATION URGED TO PROTECT ENERGY RESOURCE

xin dingding, li jing & wan zhihong

Related reading: [Yellow River contaminated after oil leak](#)

As oil and gas pipelines are quickly extended in China to meet soaring fuel demands, the nation will face increasing threats to its environment, territorial safety and energy security, experts said. Efforts were urged recently by energy experts for the nation to protect and strengthen the pipelines in light of the Dec 30 discovery of diesel fuel leakage into a tributary of the Yellow River. The leak has spread downstream into Shanxi and Henan provinces and contaminated the drinking water of many local residents. "It is an accident but the hazards of oil and natural gas leaks exist, including pipe explosions and pollutions to water, air and soil," said Han Xiaoping, chief information officer of China5e.com, a leading energy website in China. China now has around 50,000 km of oil and gas pipelines, and will build 40,000 km of pipelines in the 12th Five-Year Plan period (2011-15), according to China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC), the country's largest oil and gas producer. And pipelines will remain a major means of oil transport because they are "safer, more economical and convenient", he said. But new problems have arisen in recent years threatening the safety of pipelines. Rapid urbanization has resulted in the reckless construction of buildings and roads within the pipelines' buffer zones in recent years, said Cao Kangtai, director of Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council. Rampant theft of oil and gas through illegal siphoning is also a major threat, he said. Thieves illegally drilled into the CNPC's pipelines 18,382 times from 2002 to 2006, causing the company a loss of more than 500 million yuan (\$72 million), according to CNPC. Oil theft is now a major cause of oil spills, said Liu Zheng, a professor from Tsinghua University, to China Daily. "Those who steal the oil from pipelines never think about the consequences on a large area of soil surrounding the pipeline," said Liu. In China, most oil pipelines are built near farmland where oil spills usually damage land and crops. Toxic substances contained in oil tend to accumulate in plants and animals, which consequentially threaten the health of humans who consume the polluted plants, he said. Moreover, oil pipelines

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could be a target for terrorists. Li Wei, director of the center for counterterrorism studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said that attempts to attack energy production and transportation infrastructure by creating explosions have been previously made in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and South America. "Though terrorists are more likely to aim at causing a large number of casualties instead of attacking pipelines in China, there is still a possibility," Li said. "Protecting oil and gas pipelines should be included in the national contingency plan, and efforts should be strengthened to monitor the safety along pipelines," Li said. A draft law to "protect oil and gas pipelines, maintain transportation safety and public safety and safeguard the national resource supply" was sent to the National People's Congress Standing Committee for a first reading in October. And security measures such as cameras have also been installed every few kilometers along pipelines, Han said. "But full monitoring is difficult to achieve on pipelines laid outside of China's territory," he said. "Once a pipeline, such as the gas pipeline between China and Turkmenistan, is attacked outside of China, a large area in China could suffer a shortage of natural gas, since it does not have enough on reserve," Han said. China is now the world's second largest oil importer and a major consumer of natural gas. Official statistics show that China imported nearly 200 million tons of crude oil last year. The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said 64.5 percent of the country's oil consumption was likely to be met by imports in 2020.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2010-01/06/content_9270041.htm

NEW ZEALAND, CHRISTCHURCH, JANUARY 6 2010. SAFETY CONCERNS AFTER THEFT OF LPG TANKS

shahra walsh

The fire service is warning thieves who stole LPG gas tanks from a Christchurch factory not to use them, as they may cause explosions or severe burns. Fire spokesperson Dave Burford said the six cylinders, stolen from an industrial site in Sockburn, were designed to release liquid LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) rather than gas and if connected to a domestic supply or to a barbecue they were likely to cause a serious fire. "Liquid LPG won't ignite on a stove or barbecue because it is a liquid. However, the liquid vapourises on contact with the air and will spread across a wide area very quickly. If someone is smoking anywhere in this area, or there is another source of ignition, it will cause a very extensive fire," he said. Burford said that the gas in the stolen cylinders was the same as the gas that led to the Tamahere coolstore explosion in 2008. The blaze at Tamahere claimed the life of firefighter Derek Lovell, 48, and seriously injured seven others. "[The LPG cylinders] must be handled carefully. Any leak is potentially extremely dangerous. We're worried for the safety of whoever has them" Burford said. The liquid LPG could also cause severe cold burns if it came in contact with skin. Burford also warned members of the public not to be tempted to purchase the cylinders, which are 1.27 metres tall and 360mm in diameter and each weighs 85kg. They have a blue top and a distinctive black stripe down one side. The Fire Service urges anyone who comes across the cylinders to report them to the Christchurch police immediately, phone 03 363 7400.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/3209653/Safety-concerns-after-theft-of-LPG-tanks>

USA, SC, CALHOUN COUNTY, JANUARY 6 2010. TANK FIRE UNDER CONTROL AT DEVRO-TEEPACK PACKING PLANT

jordan sandler

Watch the Video's <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11773740>

Fire crews from Calhoun County and neighboring counties have gotten a large structure fire under control. Officials with the fire department say the fire is at the Devro-Teepak Packing Plant located off Highway 176 near Old Swamp Road. Authorities say the fire started around 5pm in an old fuel storage tank. There was no major damage to the actual plant. A company spokesperson says the tank was considered obsolete and it was scheduled to be removed. "All of our employees and all contractors that were on site are accounted for, and no one was injured," said Guy Anderson with Devro-Teepak. Calhoun County Fire Services believes some of the substance in the tank was ignited when the tank was being cut up for demolition. Nobody was evacuated, and there was no environmental threat. The spokesperson says Devro is investigating how the fire started. He says this is the first fire they've had in many years. Calhoun County fire officials say there is no threat to the surrounding area. An investigation into what exactly caused the fire is underway.

<http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11773740>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JANUARY 6 2010. TRAIN UNION CALLS FOR TANKER BAN

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The Rail, Tram and Bus Union has launched a campaign to ban the long-distance transport of dangerous goods on the road. The union wants each state and territory to introduce a uniform change to their Dangerous Goods Act requiring materials such as petrol to be transported via rail. The campaign comes after a series of fatal road accidents over the Christmas holiday period. Eight people have been killed in accidents involving trucks over the last 10 days in New South Wales alone. In one incident, two young girls died when a petrol tanker exploded after hitting their car near Batemans Bay. The tanker driver was also killed, while the girls' father later died of his injuries in hospital. The union's national organiser, Bob Nanva, said a ban would help minimise truck and car collisions. "Putting hundreds of extra long-haul trucks on our roads with mums, dads and kids in the car is hardly a good thing, especially when they're carrying millions of litres of flammable petrol," he said. "We all want to do everything we can to minimise the

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risk of these tragedies from occurring on our roads again and a ban on the long-distance road transport of dangerous goods will go a long way to achieving that." Mr Nanva says transport companies need to be held accountable. "If companies put commercial goals ahead of doing the right thing by the thousands of families that depend on our roads, governments should pull them into line," he said. "In light of the carnage on our roads in recent weeks, there's no reason why the Government can't act now to ban the long-distance road transport of dangerous goods." The New South Wales Premier Kristina Keneally says the ban is a good idea, but difficult to implement. She says a different type of rail network would have to be built to accommodate the freight. "It is an attractive proposition, but one that is a complex issue," she said. "We would need to work with the Commonwealth and where we would need to work with retailers and we would need to work with motoring groups to determine the best outcome here." A spokesman for the Transport Minister says the government is already working closely with the Federal Government and other states on the transport of freight on roads, including dangerous goods.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/06/2786189.htm>

USA, NJ, ROBBINSVILLE, JANUARY 7 2010. TANKER TRUCK FIRE CLOSES TURNPIKE

Watch the Video http://www.myfoxny.com/dpp/news/local_news/100106-nj-turnpike-closure
matt fair

Firefighters managed to contain a small fire that broke out in the rear-wheel brakes of a tanker truck on the New Jersey Turnpike yesterday morning before the 22,000 gallons of fuel it was carrying could ignite. However, the incident closed the southbound lanes of the highway for nearly two-and-a-half hours as the morning rush got under way, leading to over 7 miles of backed-up traffic as New Jersey State Police diverted vehicles to I-295 at exit 7A. "When we got (the call), we immediately closed at 7A," said Sgt. Frank Babinchock, a state trooper in the Moorestown barracks. "When you've got that much fuel, you're going to take every precaution." According to authorities, the driver, Stanislav Tushnov, of New York, pulled his rig over to the side of the road and called police after his rear brakes locked up and caught fire at about 5:20 a.m. yesterday. After extinguishing the fire, emergency crews had to deal with a frozen sheet of water left on the pavement. They salted and sanded the highway before reopening at about 8 a.m. Tushnov, who police said was a driver for Georgia Oil Co., was unhurt in the incident and no other injuries were reported.

<http://www.nj.com/news/times/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-18/126284672727450.xml&coll=5>

UK, LONDON, JANUARY 7 2010. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY CALLS FOR SECONDARY CONTAINMENT AT DOMESTIC OIL INSTALLATIONS

The [Environment Agency](#) has called for the introduction of compulsory secondary containment at all new and replacement domestic oil storage installations in England and Wales, in response to [The Department of Communities and Local Government's](#) recently concluded review of The Building Regulations' Approved Document J. The call follows an economic assessment undertaken by the Environment Agency into the benefits of secondary containment at all new and replacement domestic oil storage installations. The assessment revealed that the introduction of secondary containment could prevent up to 640 environmental pollution incidents annually, with a potential saving largely to the public purse of c.£1 million per annum. The Agency has also called for domestic underground oil tanks to be regulated under amendments to the Building Regulations and has asked that that oil storage installations at residential properties should be afforded the same level of environmental protection as installations at agricultural, commercial, industrial and institutional premises. The arguments put forward by the Environment Agency, largely reflect those put forward by the oil heating industry in its response to the DCLG Review. Oil storage tank manufacturer Harlequin, has consistently argued for the compulsory introduction of secondary containment at all new and replacement oil storage installations at domestic premises - an appeal echoed by The Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC) and fellow British tank manufacturer, Balmoral. Within the past week, leading online oil tank specialist TankDepot.co.uk has also discontinued the supply of Single Skin Oil Tanks. The Derby based company has long maintained that secondary containment should be mandatory at all installations.

<http://www.oilfiredup.com/site/news/item/945>

CANADA, OTTAWA, JANUARY 7 2010. OTTAWA ORDERS STUDY INTO ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH EFFECTS OF MAKING RENEWABLE FUELS

steve rennie

The Harper government is taking a harder look at an industry that has been a political and policy darling amid soaring fuel prices and fretting about greenhouse gases. A study has been ordered into the environmental and health effects of producing ethanol and biodiesel after other countries found facilities that make renewable fuels could be behind problems with air, water and human health. "Based on global production levels from the past three years alone, there is now evidence of implications to the environment from biofuels-based ethanol production facilities," says a government document released Wednesday. "Biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel) are still viewed as 'green' energy sources by some, however criticism of biofuels has also grown remarkably throughout recent years. ... "Experiences in the U.S. and Brazil now suggest that existing biofuels production facilities are responsible for the generation of a range of new air-and water-related problems as well as recent concerns over human health." Environment Canada is now looking for a firm to come up with environmental benchmarks for biofuel production. A report is due by the end of March. The work is valued at up to \$65,000. It wasn't clear what environmental or health problems were associated with biofuel production. No one from the department was available for an interview, and details were not provided in the document. The department sent an email late Wednesday explaining the report is meant to "provide its scientists more comprehensive and detailed information to

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better identify, characterize and predict the environmental implications of biofuel production in Canada." "The commissioning of this study does not presuppose that there are any harmful effects from these facilities, nor does it change the government of Canada's commitment to renewable fuels," Paula Franchellini said in an email. The head of the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association declined to be interviewed. Instead, Gordon Quaiattini pointed to a study on his group's website showing the extent to which renewable fuels lower greenhouse-gas emissions. "Renewable fuels offer demonstrated benefits both in terms of environmental performance and economic impact," he said in an email. "We welcome the opportunity to confirm those results and, provided the methodology is fair, we have no doubt the advantages of renewable fuels will again be demonstrated." The timing of the government's report had at least one expert scratching his head. "I'm a little surprised it's coming now," said Alfons Weersink, a professor with the food, agricultural and resources economics department at the University of Guelph in Ontario. "Some of these questions were debated more in the peak of the food-versus-fuel debate, which would have been a year and a half ago, when people were blaming renewable fuels as part of the reason for the spike in crop prices." Biofuels have long been a key plank in the Conservatives' environmental platform. In the summer of 2007, the Tories pledged \$1.5 billion over nine years to boost biofuel production. The government now expects biofuel production in Canada to grow 76 per cent by the end of next year. Ottawa has also required that gasoline contain five per cent ethanol as of this year. South of the border, the Obama administration has also sought to widen ethanol production. Last spring, the U.S. president ordered his officials to spend heavily on alternative fuels. U.S. President Barack Obama said he sees biofuels as a means of weaning Americans off foreign oil and securing the country's energy supply. But the Environment Canada document notes there have been 394 reports in the U.S. over the last six years of biofuel plants running afoul of environmental and health rules. The department says much of the criticism directed at renewable fuels has been on so-called "first-generation" biofuels, which are derived from food crops. The document says not enough is known about the potential fallout from ethanol made from sugarcane and cellulose, or of biodiesel made from oil palms, soybeans and other crops. Ethanol, which has traditionally been made by fermenting corn, wheat, or sugar cane, was seen as a way to help keep prices down at the pumps while extending the global energy supply and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The industry was battered last year by the slumping world economy. Some Canadian producers shelved plans to build or expand plants, and some U.S. companies idled their facilities.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5iK6dGo9A5A92hdNEIM2u0qA8xlrQ>

USA, NY, BRUNSWICK, JANUARY 7 2010. TANKER CRASH DUMPS 1,200 GALLONS OF FUEL INTO BRUNSWICK STREAM

Watch the Video <http://www.wten.com/Global/story.asp?S=11778152> Clean-up crews returned to the scene of an oil tanker crash in Rensselaer County on Wednesday. The accident happened Tuesday night on Willard Lane in Brunswick. The truck went off the road, rolled down an embankment, and stopped in a stream. 1,200 gallons of fuel were spilled into the water and half-a-mile of the stream is now contaminated. Crews have been using pumper trucks and other cleanup equipment to take care of the mess.

<http://www.wten.com/Global/story.asp?S=11778152>

USA, FLA, HOMES CO, JANUARY 7 2010. FUEL TANKER OVERTURNS, SPILLS 500 GALLONS, DRIVER SERIOUSLY INJURED

jeff barker

The driver of a fuel tanker was seriously injured after his truck overturned Tuesday morning, according to a Florida Highway Patrol press release. The 42-year-old driver, of Graceville, Fla., was traveling north on County Road 173 Tuesday, the press release said. Just after 9 a.m., he failed to negotiate a curve near Reddick Mill Road and traveled onto the grass shoulder. His semi truck, which was carrying 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel, overturned and came to a rest on its left side, the press release said. About 500 gallons of gas spilled out. The spill was contained to a small area around the crash site, the press release said. The road closed for several hours Tuesday but reopened after the tanker was removed. Cleanup crews were working the scene. The driver was seriously injured and taken to Flowers Hospital, the press release said. The tanker was owned by the Home Oil Company out of the Dothan, Ala., area. About \$50,000 worth of damage was done to the vehicle. The accident was not alcohol-related, but charges are pending further investigation.

<http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/tanker-24454-holmes-injured.html>

USA, OK, SEMINOLE, JANUARY 7 2010. TANKER BLAST KILLS SEMINOLE MAN USING TORCH TO THAW VALVE

Watch the Video <http://www.koco.com/mostpopular/22150797/detail.html>

Watch the Video:

<http://www.kfor.com/news/local/kfor-news-seminole-truck-explosion-story,0,7142881.story>

ann kelly

A Seminole man was killed Tuesday in an explosion as he used a propane torch to thaw a frozen valve on a tanker truck. The blast at Tiger Tank Trucks south of Seminole threw Richard Basque about 12 feet, [Seminole County Sheriff Shannon Smith](#) said. Smith said Basque, 52, died instantly. Smith said it is standard practice to use a propane torch to heat frozen truck valves. "Truck drivers do this all the time, and nothing like this ever happens," Smith said. "His death was purely accidental, and a fluke." The tanker truck was used to haul salt water and crude oil. Seminole Fire Chief Bryant Baker said the explosion occurred about 9 a.m. and was felt about two miles away at a Walmart SuperCenter. It blew sheet metal off the trucking company, shattered windows in adjacent

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buildings and damaged at least one rig, he said. Nicholas Basque said his uncle had been a truck driver most of his life. He had worked for Tiger Tank Trucks for about two years but had been employed with the company on and off since 1978. Family members described Richard Basque as a hard worker and family man. "He loved his family," Nicholas Basque said. "He was always the one to hand out Christmas presents at Christmas." Richard Basque and his wife, Jennifer, had been married 31 years. They have two children and four grandchildren. He was a native of [Hawaii](#) and had lived in Seminole for about 25 years. He served nine years in the [U.S. Army](#), family members said. Smith said his investigation is complete, although [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) officials were at the trucking company Tuesday conducting their own investigation. Other employees suffered minor injuries, but none were life-threatening, he said.

http://www.newsok.com/blast-kills-seminole-man-using-torch-to-thaw-valve/article/3430228?custom_click=headlines_widget

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, KALLANGUR, JANUARY 7 2010. TANKER SPILL SEES KALLANGUR ON-RAMP REMAIN CLOSED

robyn ironside

A Bruce Highway on-ramp at Kallangur, north of Brisbane, remains off-limits to traffic today after yesterday's massive chemical spill. Up to 15,000 litres of caustic soda and diesel were spilled on the northbound entry ramp from a tanker. The spill also covered part of the highway, closing the northbound lanes for a nightmare eight hours from 1.25pm yesterday. Police are investigating the possibility the corrosive chemical leaked through a split in a pipe on the truck, causing extensive damage to the on-ramp. Repairs and an intensive clean up will be needed to the road before traffic is able to return. Police said any contact between the chemical and cars could result in damage to vehicles.

<http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,,26558253-5003402,00.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, LITHGOW, JANUARY 7 2010. HOUSES EVACUATED AFTER CHEMICAL LEAK FROM MILITARY ORDNANCE

Removing reference to chemical being confirmed as mustard gas, on updated advice from the Ambulance Service of NSW. Two people are being decontaminated after being exposed to a chemical seeping from a military ordnance at a central western NSW recycling facility, authorities say. About 50 houses and businesses surrounding the Inch Street facility at Lithgow were evacuated after a forklift punctured a cannister marked "military ordnance" about 3pm (AEDT) on Thursday, police and fire brigades said. Fire Brigades Superintendent Ian Krimmer said Hazmat crews were being flown to the scene from Sydney to identify the chemical. An Ambulance Service of NSW spokeswoman said two people were being decontaminated, and one was expected to be taken to Lithgow Base Hospital. Police said "a small number of people suffered a burning sensation" after being exposed to the substance. "There have been no injuries ... the evacuation is purely as a precaution," Supt Krimmer said. "We'll need to do some chemical sampling to try to determine the full nature of the chemical but at this stage the situation is in hand."

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/houses-evacuated-after-chemical-leak-from-military-ordnance-20100107-lwir.html>

USA, NY, ALBANY, JANUARY 7 2010. DEADBEAT POLLUTERS SQUEEZE STATE FOR \$85M >> COMPTROLLER WRITES OFF PETROLEUM CLEANUP BILLS; LITTLE CHANCE OF COLLECTION

brian nearing

In a time when the state is searching for cash everywhere, the comptroller's office has written off more than \$85 million owed to New York for cleaning up petroleum spills when the polluters refuse to pay or cannot be found. Tucked away in the latest annual report for the state Environmental Protection and Spill Fund is a paragraph in which Comptroller Tom DiNapoli admits that taxpayers have little chance of ever getting back tens of millions of dollars spent on cleanups by the state over the past three decades. The change reflects "the accurate reporting of deferred revenues for amounts not expected to be collected within the next 12 months," according to a passage in the fund's annual report for 2008-09 fiscal year, which ended last March. "We conducted a historic review, and we are more accurately reporting the amount that we think we will actually take in," said Jennifer Freeman, a spokeswoman for DiNapoli. "This is not to say that we won't continue to work with the attorney general to attempt to collect." Of more than \$208 million owed by polluters to the fund, roughly \$129 million -- or about 62 cents of every dollar -- is probably gone for good, according to the report. The year before, when the state was owed almost \$200 million, only about \$44 million was written off, or about 22 cents on the dollar. In 2009, about \$17.1 million was spent on spill cleanups, the lowest figure since 1997. DEC hires contractors to clean up spills, and submits the resulting bills to the Comptroller's office, which pays them and attempts to collect reimbursement from the property owner responsible for the mess. If the owner won't willingly pay, a branch of the Attorney General's office can take them to court. Often, a polluter drags out a case out for years or has legally vanished. Sometimes it's hard to identify the responsible party. Since 1997, the cost of running the program has risen from \$8.3 million to \$18.5 million, although part of that figure includes DEC expenses directly related to cleanups, Freeman said. Polluters repaid the state about \$9 million last year, or little more than half what the state spent on spill cleanups and less than half what it costs the state to run the fund. Spending more than it collected for the fourth consecutive year, the fund burned through more than \$22 million in cash reserves and ended 2009 some \$3.2 million in the red. That deficit was plugged by a loan from the state General Fund, Freeman said. Last year, a Times Union investigation into the fund found the state was collecting slightly more than 40 percent of what it billed polluters, and that some uncollected bills stretched back to the early 1980s. However, those bills had been counted as still being collectible over the years -- making the cleanup program's funding look larger than it actually was. Unpaid bills totalled more than \$197 million on more than 1,100 spills. Because of deadbeat polluters, the biggest share of cleanup costs are being paid for by a

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gasoline tax. That tax has been increased twice, the last time in 1998. And in 1999, a \$10.5 million taxpayer bailout was needed to keep the At the time the newspaper report was published, DiNapoli asked state lawmakers for help in giving the program more teeth to pressure polluters to pay the state. He offered legislation that would strengthen spill fund environmental liens that the state can file against a polluter's property, and require that the Comptroller's office be notified when the Attorney General's office files a judgment against a spiller. But those proposals died in committees in the state Legislature. The bills could come up again in the new legislative session, which begins today. The Civil Recoveries Bureau, the unit of the attorney general's office that represents the comptroller's office in legal actions concerning the spill fund, will be the subject of an upcoming audit by DiNapoli. It will be the first audit of any part of the Attorney General's office since DiNapoli took office in early 2007.

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=885365>

INDIA, CHENNAI, JANUARY 7 2010. TANKER FIRE: POLICE AWAITING RETURN OF OWNER

Tamparam traffic investigations officials, who are probing Tuesday's fire accident in which a tanker lorry carrying diesel was damaged at the Alandur subway, said they were waiting for the lorry's owner to return to the city from his pilgrimage to Sabarimala, to carry out further investigations. The owner of the tanker was identified as Prakash of Vyasarpadi. According to the police, the lorry, which was carrying 12,000 litres of diesel in three compartments of 4,000 litres each, was heading from Indian Oil Corporation's filling station in Manali to Santhana Agency located in Medavakkam. Interrogations with the driver of the lorry revealed that the vehicle's tyre had got stuck in a ditch in the subway at Thilaganga Nagar in Alandur. When the driver tried to forcefully move his vehicle out of the ditch, the lorry hit the centre-median and toppled, causing diesel to spill. The resulting friction might have ignited the diesel, the police said. As the fire started spreading quickly, the driver and the cleaner fled for safety. The vehicle was engulfed by the fire and damaged completely. Five fire tenders from Guindy, Tamparam and Teynampet fought the blaze till midnight, as the fire had spread to water pipelines in the subway and eventually ended up in a minor explosion at a nearby water pumping station. The fire damaged the road and the walls of the subway as the diesel permeated the porous tar of the road and the pavement causing it to rupture.

<http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?Title=Tanker+fire:+Police+awaiting+return+of+owner&artid=ofndXeAH%7C44=&SectionID=lifojHIWDDUU=&MainSectionID=wlcBMLGbUJI=&SectionName=rSY%7C6QYp3kQ=&SEO=>

USA, ID, IDAHO FALLS, JANUARY 7 2010. FILLING UP COSTS ONE MAN \$1,600

emily florez

Watch the Video <http://www.kidk.com/news/local/80863732.html>

Thousands of people fill up their diesel tanks everyday and most don't think twice about the quality of the fuel. But after hearing one man's story, you may want to pay close attention to what you put in your truck. Eyewitness News responded to a call we received on our Eyewitness News Tip line. Scott Bishop and his wife were about home from Wisconsin when they ran out of gas. They pulled into a gas station here in town and filled up, but after less than a mile the truck died. That's where the car troubles began. Scott Bishop explains, "The truck drove great, and then after I put the fuel in I started having problems. I ended up taking it to a shop and they told me I had bad fuel. And because of the bad fuel it had ruined 3 injectors." \$64.00 in fuel turned into over \$1,600 in car repairs, and he is not the only one that's had this problem. Jeremy Pierce said, "I ended up getting my truck towed in again, and I ended up just running the diesel fuel out through my fuel filter system. I just drained it all out and then got new diesel fuel and then it worked again." In the cold months diesel drivers are supposed to use the pumps labeled Winter Blend or #1 Fuel. It is almost always just fine, but to be extra safe to your truck and pocket book here are a few tips. Be consistent in the gas station you visit, and ask what blend they use. Don't let the tank reach empty. And use an additive along with the winter blend fuel. If your truck starts running irregularly after getting gas or it starts completely dying it may mean bad fuel. A gas station corporate office said many of these incidents go unreported. The only way to fix a problem if there is one is by making it known to them. If this does by chance happen to you take your fuel sample back to the station owner and they will contact their sales representative to test the fuel to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

<http://www.kidk.com/news/local/80863732.html>

USA, NJ, WARREN CO, HARMONY TWP, JANUARY 8 2010. JANUARY 8 2010. TWO IN HOSPITAL, CLEANUP CONTINUES FOLLOWING OIL TRUCK ROLLOVER IN HARMONY TOWNSHIP *stephen j. novak*

A [New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection](#) contractor removed oil-contaminated soil today following a tanker rollover crash Tuesday in Harmony Township that left two men hospitalized. The driver of the truck, Kamal Singh, 47, of Tannersville, Pa., is in critical condition today at St. Luke's Hospital, Fountain Hill, [New Jersey State Police](#) spokesman Sgt. Steve Jones said. Singh suffered serious head injuries when he was thrown from the truck, police said. A passenger, Sukha Singh, 45, of Linden Street, Bethlehem, had to be removed from the truck and was flown to Lehigh Valley Hospital, Salisbury Township, with leg and head injuries. The hospital and police would only describe his condition as stable today. The Warren County Hazardous Materials Team worked about seven hours to contain the spill, team Chief Tom Nigro said late Tuesday. The team used booms and pads to soak up the oil, but much of it still found its way to the soil and to storm drains, Nigro said. "A lot of it had run off before we even got there," he said. The DEP this afternoon continued removing contaminated soil from the area, department spokesman Larry Hajna said. The spill did not appear to affect any streams or other water sources, he said. "At this point it appears the impacts are to soil, but we'll be doing further assessments," Hajna said. State police said the 5 p.m. Tuesday crash is still under investigation. According to a state police report, Kamal Singh was driving the 1992 Volvo tanker down a steep, winding part of Fiddlers Elbow

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Road. While taking a left turn, the weight in the tank shifted, causing the truck to tip to the right, said Jones, the state police sergeant. The truck slid on its side into an embankment, and its passenger side struck a large, flat rock, police said. Jones said the truck's speed at the time of the crash is undetermined.

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/warren-county/express-times/index.ssf/2010/01/two_in_hospital_cleanup_contin.html

USA, FLA, ROYAL PALM BEACH, JANUARY 8 2010. PICKUP TRUCK RUNS OVER MAN AT GAS STATION >> ATTENDANT SAYS MAN CRUSHED TRYING TO STOP HIS TRUCK FROM ROLLING AWAY



A man was run over by his own pickup truck at this Chevron gas station on Okeechobee Boulevard.

A man who stopped to get gas was run over by his own pickup truck at a Royal Palm Beach gas station Wednesday. The incident occurred at a Chevron station at 11711 Okeechobee Blvd. shortly before 11 a.m. Alex Guzman, a gas station attendant, said the man got out of his truck and was about to pump the gas when his truck started to roll away. The man tried to get back into his truck but was dragged and crushed against the sidewalk. Guzman said he believes the truck was running at the time and cautioned that "something that could be avoided." The victim was airlifted to an area hospital. His condition was not immediately known.

<http://www.wpbfl.com/news/22155068/detail.html>

USA, FLA, ORLANDO, JANUARY 8 2010. IS NEW GAS STATION LAW BAD FOR BUSINESS?

nick vinzant

Watch the Video

http://www.cfnews13.com/Business/LocalBusinessHeadlines/2010/1/6/is_new_gas_station_law_bad_for_business.html

Hundreds of gas stations all over Florida are closing down. A law requiring increased safety measures just went into effect Jan. 1, but it's expensive. A local gas station is open, but no gas can be sold, which is a big problem for owner Maurice Naujaim. "It's bad. The gas business is terrible right now," Naujaim said. Naujaim had to stop selling gas because of an early 1990s law that just went into effect. Under current rules, all gas stations with underground tanks must either have double linings or stop selling gas. Stations have known about the changes for years, but modifying tanks so they are up to code can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. It's money large corporate-owned stations have and many small ones don't. "It came at a very, very bad time," Naujaim said. "The economy is so bad. I have been here almost 40 years and never seen it like that." The law change has forced some stores to take even more measures. A former busy gas station near the intersection of John Young Parkway and Orange Blossom Trail is now abandoned. In Orange County alone, records indicate more than 130 stations aren't up to code. There's another 60 stations in Seminole County and a total of 1,000 across the state. Some stations like Naujaim's will try to survive by selling what they can, but others are closed, leaving gas tanks and empty structures behind. "The party for the small business man is over," Naujaim said. While the law just went into effect, it is a rule change that gas stations have known about for nearly 20 years. The [Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#) is in charge of enforcing the law. They said it is designed to protect Florida's water supply from contamination.

http://www.cfnews13.com/Business/LocalBusinessHeadlines/2010/1/6/is_new_gas_station_law_bad_for_business.html

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, JANUARY 8 2010. TRAFFIC: SEMI ROLLS, SPILLING OIL, RESTRICTS U.S. 40 TRAVEL

bob mims

semi tractor trailer rig hauling crude oil rolled over on U.S. 40 in Daniels Canyon Thursday morning. Utah Highway Patrol spokesman Cameron Roden said the accident, which occurred about 7:15 a.m., delayed traffic in both the left and right lanes for up to 15 minutes until 10 a.m., when lanes were reopened. No injuries were reported, and details on what caused the rig to roll were pending investigation. However, Roden said it appears the rig's front trailer rolled, spilling a small amount of its 5,000-gallon load onto the roadway. "We [had] Hazmat crews and health officials on the scene doing cleanup. They [had] to bring in another tanker to pump out the oil from the damaged trailer," he said.

http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_14140772

USA, OH, SPRINGFIELD, JANUARY 8 2010. 4 DEAD, 6 INJURED WHEN TANKER AND SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL VAN COLLIDE

Watch the Video <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/US/01/07/ohio.van.crash/index.html>

Story Highlights

- Paramedic Tom Freeman said all the dead were in the school vehicle
- The driver was only person in tanker truck; he was taken to hospital, said official
- I-70 eastbound in Clark County was closed as authorities investigated crash

Related Topics [Columbus \(Ohio\)](#)

Four people were killed and six injured Wednesday when a tanker truck collided with a school special needs van just west of Springfield, Ohio, authorities said. All the dead were in the van, which was carrying adults, an unidentified police officer told CNN

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affiliate WDTN. They were returning from a creative learning workshop, he said. The driver was the only person in the truck, and he was taken to a nearby hospital, said Lindsay Komlac, spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The crash happened at about 12:40 p.m. Thursday on Interstate 70 eastbound near State Route 40 in Clark County, Ohio. The truck was traveling westbound on I-70 before crossing the median into the eastbound lane, clipping a car and crashing into the van, Komlac said. Video from the scene showed a heavy blanket of snow over the interstate. The I-70 eastbound in Clark County was closed as authorities investigated the crash.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/US/01/07/ohio.van.crash/index.html>

USA, MA, WARE, JANUARY 8 2010. FATAL WARE FIRE THE RESULT OF FURNACE IGNITING NEARBY GAS CAN *nate walsh*

Firefighters battle a blaze in downtown Ware that is now being blamed on gasoline being left next to a furnace.

Fire investigators have determined a New Year's Eve fire that claimed the life of a 42-year-old man was the result of a furnace igniting a nearby gasoline container through its fumes. State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and Fire Chief Thomas Coulombe released their investigation findings Thursday morning one week after the blaze broke out at 48-50 West Main St. Resident Wesley Bzdula could not be accounted for after residents of the building fled to the street and his body was later found inside. "The matter remains under investigation but we do know that the fire started when gasoline vapors were ignited by the furnace. A gasoline container was found at the bottom of the basement stairs and the victim was found nearby," states Coan in a release sent to the media. "There is no indication of foul play." The fire marshal credited a smoke alarm for alerting residents inside the home to the fire. Bzdula had lived in one half of the duplex with his mother and sister, according to Coan, who added the mother had been home at the time but managed to escape to safety. In the wake of the fire, Coan urged residents to ensure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are installed in homes and working properly, and reminded them to never store flammable liquids like gasoline their homes. The American Red Cross had been called in to assist those displaced as a result of the fire.

<http://www.wggb.com/Global/story.asp?S=11785713>

USA, PA, BENSALEM, JANUARY 8 2010. TANKER CRASH SNARLS TRAFFIC AT BENSALEM EXCHANGE

 **Watch the Video** <http://cbs3.com/local/Overturned.Tanker.Halts.2.1411407.html>



An overturned tanker is snarling traffic near the Bensalem Exchange of the Pennsylvania Turnpike at Route 1. At about 12:30 p.m. Thursday the tanker, which was hauling about 8,000 gallons of fuel flipped on the exit ramp. Emergency crews responded to the scene to help repair a minor leak and off load fuel from the overturned tanker to another tanker on scene. According to turnpike troopers, there are no environment hazards at this time and all exit and entry ramps from the Turnpike and Route 1 at that interchange have been shut down until the transfer of fuel has been completed. The truck was sitting on its passenger side and the driver had been trapped but has since been transported to Aria's Torresdale Campus in Philadelphia. The driver's condition is unknown. Officials have not yet given a time table for when the on and off ramps will reopen.

<http://cbs3.com/local/Overturned.Tanker.Halts.2.1411407.html>

UK, BRISTOL, JANUARY 8 2010. 3 PEOPLE >> GAS EXPLOSION AT BRISTOL CITY DEPOT

Investigations were under way today into a gas explosion which left one man with severe burns and two other people injured. The blast at the [BOC Tradequip](#) outlet in [Whitby Road](#), St Anne's, left a man in his 50s with what paramedics described as "extensive" burns to his groin, arms and face. He was taken to the specialist burns unit at [Frenchay Hospital](#). The other two men, thought to be in their 40s or 50s, were taken to [Bristol](#) Royal Infirmary, one with minor burns to his neck and the other with concussion and hearing problems. Police sealed off a large area around the site while firefighters worked to put out a blaze that followed the initial blast. A 200-metre cordon around the site was set up by police because of fears of further explosions and led to the evacuation of the nearby [Avon](#) Meads shopping and leisure park, with businesses including the Showcase cinema forced to shut down. Rail services were also affected, with services from Temple Meads station to Bath suspended and replaced by bus services. Other services were being diverted via [Bristol Parkway](#) because of the closure, which it is believed could be in place through much of today. Avon Fire and Rescue Service has already started an investigation into the incident and Health and Safety Executive inspectors were also due to visit the site, on an industrial estate shared with more than half a dozen other companies, including a number of car dealers. Emergency services were called to the BOC Tradequip base after two gas cylinders exploded at around 2.45pm yesterday. Great [Western Ambulance Service](#) said the incident was believed to have happened as the man who suffered the most serious injuries was capping a canister of acetylene, a gas which burns at a high temperature and is commonly used in welding. The service sent paramedics in rapid-response vehicles, ambulances and incident support officers to the scene. Whitby Road was sealed off at the roundabout exit opposite [Sainsbury's](#) and hundreds of cars were seen leaving the site following orders from police to evacuate. Shoppers from the Avon Meads centre were also evacuated at 4.30pm, after officers extended the cordon around the scene for safety reasons. Acting inspector Marc Milliner of Avon and [Somerset police](#) said: "Around 40 police officers were mobilised to deal with the situation. "On our arrival we initially set up a 150-metre cordon but extended that cordon further after discussions with the fire service. The cordon was set up for public safety because of concerns about possible further explosions." Avon Fire and Rescue Service spokesman [James Blaydon](#) said: "A deluge system, which is in effect an industrial

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scale sprinkler system, operated to control the fire, which has now been contained. "This is a multi-agency operation and is likely to operate for an extended period of time." Witnesses working on the estate said they heard a loud noise just before 3pm. Volkswagen dealer VW Heritage alone evacuated more than 40 members of staff from their branch in Pioneer Park. Employee Justina Bior said: "We heard explosions twice, the roof of our building was shaking. I know two people have been hurt, hopefully they are alive. I was so scared." Nick Gabriel, also of VW Heritage, said: "All I heard was this whooshing noise. We were not told what was going on, just to evacuate." The safety cordon was expected to be in place until this morning at the earliest, with a possibility it could still be in place this afternoon. Train services faced severe disruption after the section of the railway line that runs alongside the depot was closed. Six trains travelling from Bath Spa to Temple Meads at the time of the explosion had to wait several hours before being taken to Bath. A shuttle bus service was set up to serve Bath Spa, Chippenham and Swindon, while services from Bristol Temple Meads to London Paddington were redirected from Temple Meads via Bristol Parkway. Replacement bus services were also run from Keynsham and Oldfield Park, and a shuttle operated between Westbury and Swindon. The incident was reported to the Health and Safety Executive as a matter of routine by police and inspectors are set to attend the scene in the next week to collect evidence and then determine whether a full investigation should be carried out. Spokesman Wailim Wong said: "We will be looking into it, we will decide whether it merits an HSE investigation. "In this case I understand it was related to explosives. We have a special team for explosives but they work on a national basis." BOC – formerly known as the British Oxygen Company – supplies gases, chemicals and equipment to companies worldwide. It is the second gas explosion at the same BOC outlet in the St Anne's area of Bristol in four years. The previous incident was in May 2006, when two people were hospitalised after an explosion in part of the factory that works with dissolved acetylene. A year earlier a 200-metre exclusion zone was set up when an acetylene cylinder overheated and firefighters had to be called in but there was no explosion in that incident. In a statement following yesterday's incident BOC said: "BOC would like to express its concern for those who have been injured. "Our emergency shutdown procedure was initiated and our deluge system activated to control the fire, which Avon Fire and Rescue Service have now confirmed has been contained. BOC very much regrets the inconvenience that has been caused to the local community."

Related Articles

- [Three Burned In St Phillip's Gas Explosion](#)
- [Rail delays after gas explosion at Bristol city depot](#)

<http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk/homepage/injured-gas-explosion-Bristol-City-depot/article-1687682-detail/article.html>

CHINA, GANSU PROVINCE, LANZHOU, JANUARY 8 2010. DEATH TOLL RISES TO SIX IN NW CHINA CHEMICAL PLANT BLAST

 **Photo's** http://china.globaltimes.cn/society/2010-01/497185_3.html

 **Photo's** http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/07/content_12772684.htm

 **Watch the Video** <http://english.cctv.com/program/newshour/20100108/102705.shtml>

 **Watch the Video** <http://english.cctv.com/program/chinatoday/20100108/101138.shtml>



Picture taken on Jan. 7, 2010 shows smoke and fire billowing from a factory in which an explosion occurred in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province. The explosion broke out in the factory at about 5:30 p.m.

Six people are dead after a chemical plant blast in northwest China's Gansu Province, said company executives Friday. "Six bodies were recovered from the scene," said Li Jiamin, deputy general manager of the Lanzhou Chemical Company of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC). One seriously injured person was in a critical condition, said Li. Five with minor injuries were being treated in hospital. Nine more people were kept in hospital for observation. All of them are in Lanhua Hospital, Lanzhou. The fire was under control, said Wang Xinjian, of Lanzhou Municipal Public Security Bureau. The blast occurred Thursday

afternoon at the plant run by the Lanzhou Chemical Company near the provincial capital of Lanzhou. The dead and injured were all CNPC employees. An initial investigation showed a gas leak was the cause of the blast. Police are investigating the incident. The plant was 30 km from downtown Lanzhou. Residential buildings near the plant were not affected, officials said.

Related Stories

- [2 killed, 5 missing in chemical plant explosion in NW China](#)
- [Chemical plant explosion kills two in NW China](#)

<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/international/201001/Death-toll-rises-to-six-in-NW-China-chemical-plant-blast-888496/>

USA, RI, PROVIDENCE, JANUARY 8 2010. RI JUDGE OKS \$176M SETTLEMENT IN DEADLY CLUB FIRE

eric tucker

A federal judge overseeing lawsuits stemming from a Rhode Island nightclub fire that killed 100 people endorsed a \$176 million settlement Thursday, bringing survivors and victims' relatives closer to receiving money and moving years of arduous legal wrangling toward a final resolution. Senior U.S. District Judge Ronald Lagueux also authorized the creation of a trust fund to hold the settlement money for the more than 300 people who sued after the 2003 fire at The Station nightclub. "I think this is a red-letter day for The Station fire case," Lagueux said. "This is a win-win-win situation." The judge approved the settlement as well as

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formulas for determining how the money is to be distributed among the survivors and relatives of those killed. Survivors who were most severely injured stand to receive the largest shares -- in some cases, several million dollars. The dozens of children whose parents were killed or injured will also be compensated. Those amounts vary widely based on whether the parent died or was injured and on the age of the child at the time the fire occurred. Victims could start receiving their money within months. Citizens Bank and Paul Finn, a Massachusetts lawyer and mediator, were appointed co-trustees of the fund. The Feb. 20, 2003, fire at the club in West Warwick began when a pyrotechnics display used at the start of a concert by the 1980s rock band Great White set ablaze soundproofing foam around the stage. Besides the fatalities, the blaze caused a panicked rush toward the front exit and more than 200 people were injured. The dozens of people and companies sued after the fire -- including foam manufacturers, the club's owners, Anheuser-Busch, Clear Channel Broadcasting and the town of West Warwick -- agreed to settle for a combined \$176 million rather than risk going to trial. None of the defendants admitted liability. Separate criminal charges from the fire were resolved in 2006. Club owners Jeffrey and Michael Derderian pleaded no contest to 100 counts of involuntary manslaughter, admitting they installed the flammable soundproofing foam. Former Great White tour manager Daniel Biechele pleaded guilty to the same charges for igniting the pyrotechnics without a permit. Michael Derderian and Biechele were sent to prison. Both have since been released. "We'd like it to be over because it's just a constant reminder of everything that's happened," said Claire Bruyere, whose 27-year-old daughter, Bonnie Hamelin, died in the blaze. She said the settlement money would be especially helpful to families who are having financial problems. Survivors and victims' relatives will mark the seventh anniversary of the fire with a memorial service at the site next month.

http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2010/01/07/ri_judge_oks_settlements_in_deadly_club_fire_case/

SOUTH AFRICA, EASTERN CAPE, MTHATHA, JANUARY 8 2010. "VERY DANGEROUS" TOXIC SPILL SHUTS DOWN PART OF N2

Eastern Cape Police have confirmed that a portion of the N2 freeway will be closed until at least Saturday following a very dangerous toxic spill. Spokesman Superintendent Mzukisi Fatyela said that a truck and trailer which had been transporting sulphuric acid along the route had leaked some of the chemicals onto the road. This has occasioned a shut down of 4 kilometres running from Mthatha to Dutwa. Fatyela emphasised how dangerous the chemical was confirming that it will affect people's eyes and skin. If they come into contact with it the toxin can cause serious burns and tissue damage. Sulphuric acid is used, inter alia, in car batteries and the Superintendent pointed out that 3 wheels of a truck that used the road after the toxic spill were damaged. People and their animals are warned to avoid the area until the clean up operation is finalised which is believed to be sometime during Saturday. In addition motorists would be advised to use alternative routes.

http://www.therichmarksentinel.com/rs_headlines.asp?recid=3644

USA, ARK, BATESVILLE, JANUARY 8 2010. TANKER OVERTURNS, SPILLS, CAUSES EVACUATIONS

Watch the Video <http://arkansasmatters.com/content/news/fulltext?cid=283171>

Just before 3:30 Thursday afternoon, Glen Willis the Independence County Emergency Coordinator, said the driver of a semi carrying propane flipped his rig spilling the gas. Willis says all of the 9,600 gallons has leaked from a tear in the seam of the truck onto the highway and into a corn and soy farm. The truck is owned by STI out of Arkadelphia. He says for hours, company officials tried to get a HazMat crew to the scene to help clean up the mess, but none was certifiable enough to handle this type of spill. It happened on Ramsey Mountain on Highway 167 on the south side of Batesville near the 'Welcome to Batesville sign. Traffic in and out of the area has been stopped. A shelter has been set up at the Southside School District. Willis says crews had to wait for officials to come from the Arkansas Propane Board to give them the okay to remove the truck. Just before 1 o'clock Friday morning, the highway had been reopened to traffic.

<http://arkansasmatters.com/content/news/fulltext?cid=283171>

USA, FLA, DANIA BEACH, JANUARY 9 2010. FIRE CHARS GAS STATION

Watch the Video <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/MI140558/>

A South Florida gas station is expected to reopen a day after a fire broke out and destroyed several pumps. The incident occurred just before 3 p.m. Thursday at the Chevron near Old Griffin Road and Federal Highway. According to Dania Beach Fire Rescue, the owner of the station tried to clean up a small gas spill with a vacuum, when an electrical charge sparked the fire. The blaze destroyed several pumps; however, no one was injured. The power was shut off to the gas station and traffic was re-routed while crews worked the scene. The gas station is expected to reopen Friday.

<http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/MI140558/>

USA, IND, CLAY CO, JANUARY 9 2010. SEMI CATCHES FIRE AT VALLEY GAS STATION

Watch the Video <http://mywabashvalley.com/content/fulltext/?cid=97822>

Photo's <http://mywabashvalley.com/content/fulltext/?cid=97822>

Firefighters put out a semi that caught fire around 10:00 p.m. Thursday at the Pilot Gas Station at Interstate 70 and State Road 59. The Clay County Sheriff's Department tells us the driver got out safely, but the semi was fully engulfed at the fuel pump. Firefighters evacuated the gas station while they put out the fire.

<http://mywabashvalley.com/content/fulltext/?cid=97822>

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CHINA, HEBEI PROVINCE, SHIJIAZHUANG, JANUARY 9 2010. COMPANY EXECUTIVES ADMIT COVERING UP 14 DEATHS, NEGLIGENCE BLAMED FOR GAS LEAK

The death toll from a gas pipeline leak at a north China steel plant has risen to 21 after company executives admitted covering up 14 deaths, while investigators said installation workers' negligence caused the leak. Initial investigation showed that installation workers failed to cut off gas supply after they finished welding the pipeline, which led to the accident. Thirty workers were poisoned while assembling a furnace Monday in Puyang Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. in Yangyi town, Wu'an City of Hebei Province when the accident happened. The company originally reported on Tuesday that 16 workers were poisoned in the accident, of whom seven were confirmed dead and the other nine were receiving treatment. The case was reported to Wu'an Municipal Administration of Work Safety at 8:20 p.m. Monday. The administration dispatched officials to hospitals where the injured were being treated to investigate the incident. The police arrested Zhang Fugui, deputy general manager of the steel company, and put Liu Qinglin and Pei Qingfeng, who were in charge of work safety at the plant, under home surveillance. Wu Zhisen, vice director of Wu'an Municipal Administration of Work Safety, Wang Xueshu, head of Yangyi town, and Li Haisheng, deputy chief of Yangyi town, were sacked for failing to ensure work safety and to detect the cover-up. Puyang is a private company with more than 8,000 employees, among the top 500 manufacturing companies in China. The installation workers were from a company based in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/08/content_12778031.htm

USA, HI, HONOLULU, JANUARY 9 2010. SMUGGLED-IN FIREWORKS EXPOSE SECURITY FLAW

willie espero [Chairman of the Senate Public Safety & Military Affairs Committee]

Another New Year celebration has ended and once again calls for a complete ban on individual fireworks can be heard. If residents would just follow the existing laws, I feel the calls for a ban would be very limited. Unfortunately, many people blatantly disregard our laws, and many residents are frustrated and angry at the perceived lack of action being taken by law enforcement. I have heard that booming bombs started as early as September in some areas of Oahu. I know by Thanksgiving it is common to hear the bombs or see illegal aerial fireworks in residential neighborhoods. Our dilemma at the Legislature is our constituency is divided when it comes to an outright ban. There are those who say fireworks are an island and Asian tradition that is celebrated by many families. Others feel the noise and smoke are too much for those with breathing problems and pets in particular. With a split constituency, there is no consensus among lawmakers on what should be done. A few months ago the Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee conducted a hearing at the state Capitol focused on the smuggling of illegal aerial fireworks into Hawaii. One gaping hole we found was in our domestic containers brought into Hawaii from the mainland by Matson and Horizon. Only about 5 percent of those containers are randomly inspected. Thus if at least 100,000 containers are imported, at least 95,000 are not inspected at all. It's easy to see where some of the illegal contraband is coming from. Conversely, when it comes to containers from abroad, 100 percent are inspected. The threat from foreign shores is serious but I question the wisdom in the drastic discrepancy between foreign and domestic container inspections. Apparently the threat of domestic contraband does not rise to the level of foreign contraband, and this mentality must change. State and federal officials must address this open sieve when it comes to container inspections. It does not make sense to place a high priority on foreign containers and a low priority on domestic containers. The state Department of Agriculture advised me that agricultural containers are 100 percent inspected from the mainland to combat invasive species. If we can provide resources for invasive species, we should be able to increase resources for other contraband such as explosives and illegal drugs. We also found that explosives are arriving by mail. Mail courier companies like FedEx and UPS, for example, do not routinely X-ray packages for explosives. The Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration are involved here, and I was told passenger planes get more scrutiny and attention than mail cargo planes. In one instance for example, fireworks were discovered only because the package had broken open. Lacking an outright ban of fireworks, what should the Legislature do? One place to seek assistance is the Department of Homeland Security. The state should request federal funding to improve our port and airmail security since a dirty bomb or other high explosives detonated in Waikiki or downtown would have devastating effects on our economy. More resources for law enforcement to catch and convict blatant law breakers are needed as well. Stronger penalties and punishment are also warranted. Many people know individuals who broke the law or are still breaking the law with booming bombs or illegal aerial fireworks. Local attitudes must change and family members or others must become responsible and stop illegal activity. If this does not happen, an outright ban on individual fireworks is a strong possibility. Finally, in this election year, ask your elected officials and those running how they feel about fireworks. This issue is not likely to go away.

http://www.starbulletin.com/editorials/20100108_Smuggled-in_fireworks_expose_security_flaw.html

USA, NC, DURHAM CO, JANUARY 10 2010. DRY CLEAN CHEMICALS CAUSING PROBLEMS AFTER MORE THAN THREE DECADES

chris cowperthwaite

State health officials are working with a Durham property owner to try to clean up decades of chemical contamination on the site of an old dry cleaner that closed in 1975. The problem is a solvent called tetrachloroethylene (nicknamed "perc") which every dry cleaner used to pour down drains, and wasn't found to be dangerous until the 1980's. It can cause cancer, respiratory problems, neurological disorders and other problems. According to Jamie Kritzer with the state [Division of Waste Management](#), there are 2,000 contaminated sites throughout North Carolina, including 13 in Durham. It's a problem not just for the individual property, but neighbors as well. Among the plants in Laura Drey's yard are little flags marking five "vapor wells" on her property. "It tells if there's

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contaminants coming up through the soil," said Drey. That's because she lives next door to a former dry cleaner, at the corner of West Club Boulevard and Watts Street. Last spring, state health officials discovered that Drey's property has dangerous levels of perc vapors. "I plan on moving," said Drey. "As soon as I can find another house." The problem is that Drey has lived next door to the old business for 24 years, and she's worried that the damage may have already been done. She's not the only one. "I don't think people are worried about driving past or walking past or that sort of thing," said Linda Wilson, president of the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association. "I think the people whose homes are closest to that contamination site are very worried." The neighborhood association is worried about everything from health issues to property values. "There is significant contamination," said Wilson. "This is probably one of the worst sites around." State officials say they don't know the full extent of the problem because they have to demolish the old building before they can really get a good look at the contamination underneath; only then can they start thinking about getting rid of the contamination. That demolition can't happen until health officials work out an agreement with the current property owner. State officials will eventually excavate soil from under the building and possibly pump in safe chemicals that attack and bio-degrade the bad ones. Right now the neighborhood association is in the process of trying to set up a meeting in the next month or so where they would have anybody from the community come and ask the state questions about things like their health and how this site will potentially be cleaned up.

<http://durhamcounty.mync.com/site/durhamcounty/news%7CSports%7CLifestyles/story/46609/dry-clean-chemicals-causing-problems-after-more-than-three-decades>

SOUTH AFRICA, EASTERN CAPE, MTHATHA, JANUARY 10 2010. ACID SPILL CLOSES N2 BETWEEN MTHATHA AND DUTYWA

lubabalo ngcukana



Corrosive: Cleaners use road lime to clean up an acid spill on the N2 between Mthatha and Dutywa that saw a section of the road closed to traffic for two days.

Vehicles travelling on the N2 between Mthatha and Dutywa had to use a gravel road detour of about 10 kilometres after an acid spill. A section of the main route was closed on Thursday after a truck which had apparently developed a leak spilled sulphuric acid on the road. The spillage took place just after 5am, forcing frustrated motorists to take the detour at Mqhekezweni village, which rejoins the N2 in Qunu. Arrive Alive provincial spokesperson Tshepo Machaea said the sulphuric acid was, according to experts, 98 percent corrosive.

This meant it could harm or cause damage to any substance or person exposed to it. Yesterday mechanics had to be called in after four trucks which used the road shortly after the acid spill were damaged. Not only were the tyres of the trucks, ruined, but parts of the vehicles were also damaged and could not function after being exposed to the acid. "The instruments in the vehicles were completely affected, airbags blew up, gears jammed and mechanics had to be called to the scene to assist," Machaea said. The acid stretched over a distance of four kilometres on the road. The grass along the side of the road started going black. There were no injuries reported. When the Saturday Dispatch visited the area yesterday, about 15 cleaners from Tanker Services in Durban had their hands full trying to clean up the spillage using a powder substance called road lime. Machaea said they expected the cleaning up to take place until today, and possibly longer. Last night he said they were expecting to open at least one lane and use "stop" and "go" signs to control traffic. Machaea said tests were being done by specialist assessors to see if the single lane which was to be opened could be used by motorists. Police spokesperson Superintendent Mzukisi Fatyela said people living near the affected area were advised to keep their children away from the road. They also advised them to make sure their livestock steered clear of the road where the acid had spilled. Fatyela, who went to the scene shortly after the spillage happened, described the acid as "extremely strong". "I immediately felt discomfort in my nose. It was very smelly and my eyes were also tearful while I was there. It does seem like an extremely dangerous chemical," Fatyela said.

<http://www.dispatch.co.za/article.aspx?id=371951>

USA, IND, BRAZIL, JANUARY 10 2010. TRUCK CATCHES FIRE AT GAS STATION IN INDIANA

Watch the Video <http://www.keyc.com/node/32266>

A scary moment at a truckstop in Indiana last night...A semi catches fire at the Pilot Gas Station near the Interstate 70/SR 59 interchange in Brazil, Indiana. The trailer was full of plastics. The gas pumps were shut off and everyone was evacuated from the gas station as a precaution. Officials think the fire started in the truck's engine compartment. The driver of the truck says he went in to pay for gas and when he came out, the truck was on fire. Firefighters were hampered by frozen hydrants near the gas station, as well as snow and icy road conditions. No injuries were reported and the gas station was not damaged.

<http://www.keyc.com/node/32266>

USA, CA, SANTA CRUZ, JANUARY 10 2010. ON THE HUNT FOR SANTA CRUZ'S EXPLOSIVE PAST

Slideshow:

http://www.pressbanner.com/pages/full_story/push?article=On+the+hunt+for+Santa+Cruz-s+explosive+past%20&id=5487008&instance=home_news_lead_story

Barry Brown's cerulean eyes sparkle behind his glasses when he talks about gunpowder. Or, more specifically, the black gunpowder that was produced at the California Powder Works, which operated on more than 200 acres along Highway 9 midway between Felton and Santa Cruz in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The 70-year-old retiree knows more than a thing or two on the

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topic — he's in the process of writing a book (already 400 pages deep) and regularly gives tours of the site for Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History. The former television director and cameraman recently received his second Dolkas Award (\$1,000 to a project that advances community awareness about regional history) from the Museum of Art and History and a grant from the Hagley Museum and Library in Delaware for the work he's dedicated his energy to for seven years. "I hope to finish the book in the next year and then move on to write a screenplay," said Brown, whose fascination for the subject is infectious. The California Powder Works was created in 1861 by San Francisco capitalists wanting to profit off the need for black gunpowder production on the West Coast. The Works operated until 1914. Over the site's 50-year history, there were 50 explosions and fires that left many people dead. Shrapnel propelled by the blasts still scars the surrounding redwoods. "The lumber yards still won't take any trees from the area because of that," Brown said. Now a community known as Paradise Park, the site is home to 369 residences, many of them built on top of the old concrete wheel mills. Everyone who lives there today is a Freemason or Eastern Star member, including Brown. "When I retired here, being a fairly active guy, I needed something to do," Brown said. "In the process of prowling the park, I saw remnants of gunpowder and discovered some old photos of the powder mills." Soon after his discovery, Brown signed up for classes to learn how to restore the old photographs. "I picked up names and stories of the powder mill along the way," he said. "My grandfather also told me some stories, because he lived here in 1905. It became personal at that point." Brown's dedication can be seen all over the park. He produced all of the 30 self-guided tour signs, which are filled with historical references, stories and restored photographs spread throughout the 136 acres. Brown explained that the site was originally chosen to produce gunpowder because it combined the three most important elements for manufacturing the product: The San Lorenzo River was a water source, the surrounding forests supplied the wood, and the proximity to the ocean was ideal for shipping. Just three short years after the site started operation, the California Powder Works became the first black powder producer on the West Coast and the largest and most prolific maker of explosives, including brown prismatic powder and smokeless powder. "The plant supplied guns for the Great White Fleet in Manila during the Spanish American War," Brown said. The operation began shutting down as the need for black powder declined and the Santa Cruz population expanded, Brown said. Most of the buildings were sold for scrap, and the plant was completely closed by 1914. The area was abandoned for the next 10 years until a group of Freemasons bought it for summer campsites, which developed into the more permanent community there today, Brown said. Walking through the park, with its historical covered bridge, old mansions and cannon remnants, it's easy to see how Brown's fascination took shape. "It's really amazing what these people did here back then," Brown said. "I think it's a very relevant history to spread."

http://www.pressbanner.com/pages/full_story/push?article=On+the+hunt+for+Santa+Cruz-s+explosive+past%20&id=5487008&instance=home_news_lead_story

USA, WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 10 2010. ATF PUBLISHES 2009 LIST OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS SUBJECT TO LAW

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) published a notice in the Federal Register today containing the list of 237 explosive materials that are subject to federal law and implementing regulations. This list covers not only explosives, but also blasting agents and detonators, all of which are defined as explosive materials in the United States Code chapter regulating the importation, manufacture, distribution, receipt, and storage of explosive materials. The Department of Justice must publish and revise the explosives list annually, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 841. The 2009 list does not contain any new terms. However, ammonium perchlorate composite propellant (APCP) has been removed. As a result of a court decision in March 2009, APCP is no longer regulated under federal explosive laws. The list is comprehensive, but is not all-inclusive. Therefore, an explosive material may not be on the list but may still be within the coverage of the law if it meets the statutory definitions. Some of the explosive materials on the list include: dynamite, black powder, pellet powder, safety fuses, squibs, detonating cord, display fireworks, igniter cord, and igniters. ATF has jurisdiction for the enforcement in Title 18 U.S. Code, Chapter 40, as amended by the Safe Explosives Act in 2002. As such, ATF is the federal agency primarily responsible for administering and enforcing the regulatory and criminal provisions of federal laws pertaining to destructive devices (e.g., bombs) and explosives. ATF has the experience and ability to detect, prevent, protect against, and respond to explosives incidents resulting from improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Since 1978, ATF has investigated more than 25,000 bombings and attempted bombings, more than 1,000 accidental explosions, and more than 22,000 incidents involving recovered explosives or explosive devices. The majority of these bombings involved the use of IEDs. ATF is the primary source of explosives investigative and training support throughout the world.

[The 2009 List of Explosive Materials](#)

[More information about ATF](#)

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/atf-publishes-2009-list-of-explosive-materials-subject-to-law-81025347.html>

USA, MI, JACKSON, JANUARY 12 2010. ALBION WOMAN RUN OVER AT JACKSON GAS STATION

A 61-year-old Albion woman was accidentally run over by a vehicle at a Jackson gasoline station Saturday, police say. Chest and leg injuries were not initially thought to be life-threatening, but the woman was transferred from Allegiance Health to the University of Michigan Hospital for treatment, according to the Blackman Township Department of Public Safety. The woman, whose name was not released, was hurt about 3:35 p.m. at the Shell station at the corner of West Avenue and Boardman Road. Blackman public safety officers reported the woman slipped and fell while walking behind a vehicle near the gas pumps. Just after she fell to the ground, the vehicle backed over the woman with first the rear and then the front tires, officers reported. The incident remained under investigation Saturday night.

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2010/01/albion_woman_run_over_at_jacks.html

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