

## Dangerous Goods & Hazardous Materials Group and Network

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**"RELEASE 2010 – 568 NEWSY STUFF"**

**January 31 2010**



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### **USA, CA, SANTA ROSA, JANUARY 24 2010. HWY.1 REOPENED AFTER TANKER CRASH**

*mary callahan*

Authorities have reopened Highway 1 just south of Jenner on the Sonoma Coast, nearly 14 hours after a fuel tanker overturned, the CHP said. No fuel was spilled in Friday's 9:50 p.m. crash just north of Highway 116, the CHP said. The 57-year-old driver at the wheel of the tanker also escaped injury, authorities said. But the company for whom trucker Mario Ernesto Castro was hauling the fuel wanted to offload it into other tankers for transport, and needed most of Saturday morning to do that, authorities said. The highway was finally reopened at 11:30 a.m. Saturday. The accident occurred when Castro, a Hayward resident, was headed northbound in the 2005 Freightliner and shifted to the right to provide more room for an oncoming vehicle, the CHP said. The outside wheels of his truck and trailer left the roadway and traveled through a grass ditch before he could turn the rig back onto the highway, the CHP said. But Castro was unable to gain control of the tanker, and the trailer hitch ruptured, separating the truck and the trailer and causing the tanker trailer to overturn on its side. Despite early reports that there may have been some fuel spilled, the CHP said Saturday that the tankers remained intact. In the meantime, closure signs were posted on northbound Highway 1 at Highway 116 and southbound at Meyer's Grade, until the wreckage could be cleared, the CHP said.

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20100123/ARTICLES/100129746/1350?Title=Hwy-1-reopened-after-tanker-crash>

### **USA, VA, JAMES RIVER, JANUARY 24 2010. OFFICIALS HOPE TO REMOVE 700-FOOT TANKER GROUNDED IN JAMES RIVER WITHIN A WEEK**

*peter frost*

Nine hundred tons of force. More than 6,500 feet of heavy-duty steel chain that clocks in at about 700,000 pounds. Two months of effort. Freeing the 700-foot oil tanker that became grounded in the thick muck at the bottom of the James River after November's nor'easter is proving to be a task fit for a comic book superhero. Crews this week deployed the final pieces of heavy equipment required to re-float the 37,000-ton Monongahela, the wayward ghost fleet ship that broke free from its moorings on Nov. 12 and floated a half-mile downstream before planting itself in 50 feet of mud and sand on the western bank of the river. After five failed efforts to budge the tanker over the last two months, the federal Maritime Administration, working with Titan Salvage, hopes to have the ship back in its spot with the 25-vessel James River Reserve Fleet within a week, officials said Friday. Using special hydraulic-powered pullers, three lengths of steel chain fastened to the ship's deck and steel plate anchors lodged in heavy clay 150 feet below the river bottom, salvage teams hope to inch the boat out of the mud in intervals during next week's high tides. With each chain link weighing in at 115 pounds and each chain stretching an average of 2,200 feet, setting up the equipment for the pull has been a labor-intensive and time-consuming task of its own, officials said. The first chain was attached Wednesday and crews increased the tension on it to 300 tons. Workers were preparing the second chain Friday and a third could be in place by the end of today. "Mother Nature has unleashed on us very strong forces, and we have had to (use) machines, levers and mechanical advantage to reverse what the nor'easter did," said Orlando Gotay, a senior adviser for maritime policy at the Maritime Administration. "We're doing our best to get the ship back where it belongs." Lt. Jack Smith, a Coast Guard spokesman in Portsmouth, said the ship is not an environmental threat or navigational hazard. The first efforts to remove the ship began on the first high tide following its grounding. Four tugboats each pulling at full force were unable to budge the ship on three separate occasions. Then early this month, crews tried another method: They planted 9-ton anchors 50 feet deep into the riverbed and used the same hydraulic pullers to try to dislodge the Monongahela. But twice the anchors didn't hold because of the pudding-like consistency of the mud beneath the river, officials said. That forced salvage teams to look upriver, where existing steel plates were driven into a thick layer of clay decades ago to anchor ships in the reserve fleet, which at the time numbered more than 100. Since many of those ships have since been sold for scrap, the plate anchors are no longer in use and thus available for the salvage effort. Each of the three plates crews will use as leverage to remove the ship must withstand 300 tons of force — an amount maritime officials are confident will be sufficient to get the Monongahela out of the muck. "Procedures usually call for incremental methods," Gotay said. "In other words, we'll use only as much force as is necessary."

[http://www.dailypress.com/business/dp-biz\\_monongahela\\_0123jan23,0,4580811.story](http://www.dailypress.com/business/dp-biz_monongahela_0123jan23,0,4580811.story)

### **SINGAPORE, JURONG ISLAND, JANUARY 24 2010. TWO MEN DIE AFTER INDUSTRIAL TANK ACCIDENT ON JURONG ISLAND**

Two men have died after an industrial accident at Chemicals Specialties on Jurong Island on Saturday. The incident happened at about 11am. Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) personnel said the roof of a cylindrical tank had blown off as a result of the accident. The cylindrical tank contained chemicals used in the manufacturing of brake fluids. The Manpower Ministry said its preliminary findings reveal that the Malaysian workers were installing piping to various tanks when one of the tanks exploded. The Ministry has instructed Chemical Specialties to stop all installation works on the plant. Investigations by the Manpower Ministry and SCDF are ongoing.

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/1032577/1/.html>

### **INDIA, MUMBAI, JANUARY 24 2010. MEHULGAON: HUB OF ADULTERATED PETROL?**

*mohsin mulla*

A prime suspect in the adulterated petrol racket, arrested by the Sangli police, has confessed that a well-organised system ensures that naphtha is stolen directly from the pipelines of oil companies, located at Mahulgaon in Chembur area. The naphtha is then mixed with benzene or other solvents before it is mixed with petrol. The Sangli police have so far arrested nine people, besides

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booking three others from different locations, for their suspected role in the illegal supply of naphtha for petrol adulteration. The prime suspect — identified as Ramnarayan Subedar Singh, 49 — lives in Premjiyot Housing Society at Sanpada. Singh, who runs Tusharleen Industries in Silvassa in Gujarat, was arrested on January 6. Singh, in a statement to the police, said that initially he procured the naphtha from Sagar Industries located at Bulsar in Gujarat. For the last seven months, Sagar Industries failed to supply him the naphtha, after which he started purchasing it from agents Manoj Singh and Chembur directly steal the naphtha from the pipelines of oil companies in Mahulgeon, Singh has told the police. While the police are on the lookout for Manoj Singh and Chembur, superintendent of police (Sangli) Krishna Prakash told DNA that this revelation is an indication of a well-organised syndicate. The modus operandi, as Prakash explained, is that valves are fixed at various places on the pipelines after drilling holes into them, when the pipelines are empty. When naphtha flows in through the pipelines, the valves are opened for the naphtha to flow out, which is then collected and filled in tankers. According to Prakash, there is a possibility that employees of the oil companies may also be involved. "It is unlikely that naphtha is being regularly drained out without their knowledge," another senior official said, explaining that the employees are likely to be involved in manipulating the companies' records of the oil stocks and passing the information of the time of arrival of oil in the pipelines. Although naphtha is widely used in the paint industry, it is illegally mixed with petrol to boost profit margins. Naphtha, after mixing with benzene, achieves density equal to petrol. The mixture of naphtha and benzene cost roughly around Rs32.75 per litre. Deputy superintendent of police Somnath Garge, who heads the investigation team, told DNA that this may be an interstate operation, spreading across Maharashtra, Gujarat and Jharkhand. Garge said the value of the naphtha stolen is likely to be worth crores of rupees. "Moreover, it is a major security issue as the spill could lead to a major accident."

[http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report\\_mehulgaon-hub-of-adulterated-petrol\\_1338559](http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report_mehulgaon-hub-of-adulterated-petrol_1338559)

### **NORTHERN IRELAND, BELFAST, JANUARY 24 2010. BP ADMITS PETROL HAD WATER IN IT**

A major fuel company has confirmed a shipment of petrol delivered around Northern Ireland from a Belfast terminal was contaminated with water. BP confirmed last night it was investigating how the contamination in the tainted ultra low sulphur petrol happened. The firm said that some of the petrol had already been taken by tanker to various filling stations before the discovery. So far there has been one reported breakdown as a result. A spokesman for the company said sales of the petrol were stopped as soon as it realised there was a problem. "The moment this was reported, the tank where the product came from was isolated and deliveries stopped," he said. "There are no issues with product being delivered now. We are investigating the cause. "A very small number of petrol stations have reported high water levels in their tanks. In all but one case, the water settled at the bottom of the tank and was drained." Deliveries were thought to have returned to normal last night.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/bp-admits-petrol-had-water-in-it-14648768.html#ixzz0dUNUCKkg>

### **USA, NY, WASHINGTONVILLE, JANUARY 24 2010. HOME-BREWED BIODIESEL POSES RISKS >> CLASSES EXPLAIN THE SAFEST WAYS TO MAKE FUEL**

*john sullivan*

The idea of homeowners secretly brewing diesel fuel from used cooking oil might seem like material for a movie about a post-cataclysmic, dystopian future. But the discovery of a large cache of materials and chemicals used in biodiesel production at a home in Washingtonville two weeks ago showed emergency workers and code-enforcement officials that secret biodiesel stills in our neighborhoods are more fact than fiction. And that reality has raised serious questions about the spread of the trend into our region, as well as how well local communities are prepared to deal with its related dangers. "Biodiesel is so new that no one wants to talk about it," said Jeff Dolan, building inspector for the village. The appeal of biodiesel is that its ingredients are readily available — one mixes vegetable oil, animal fat, or recycled cooking oil with methanol and a catalyst, such as lye. It's also easy to make, as Dolan found out when interviewing the North Street homeowner about how he learned about it. "The Internet," the building inspector said the homeowner told him. "You can find out anything you need to know on the Internet." But every step of the production process presents a hazard to those who don't know what they're doing, said Jerry Robock, who runs a biodiesel cooperative at the Sustainable Living Resource Center in Cottekill. Methanol, for example, is a highly flammable liquid that is also caustic. So is sodium hydroxide. Side products, such as glycerin and the water used to clean the final fuel must be properly handled and disposed of, as they can harm the environment, Robock said. That's why Robock has dedicated himself, for the past five years, to training people on how to safely and responsibly produce the material. Responsible makers of the fuel check with their municipalities about laws — such as how much methanol they can store on site. But regulatory officials have little way of knowing if a person is secretly producing the fuel unless they keep a keen watch for potential signs of an illegal site. In the Washingtonville case, Dolan grew suspicious about a reported smell of fuel in the basement of the home when no oil delivery had occurred to the house in months, he said. It was the first discovery of such a large illegal biodiesel production site in his village, he said. "We'll be looking for it (such sites) from now on," he said.

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100123/NEWS/1230322/-1/NEWS>

### **USA, GA, ATLANTA CITY, JANUARY 24 2010. TANKER TRUCK FIRE FORCES CLOSURE OF PART OF GA. 96**

*becky purser*

The brakes caught fire on a tanker truck carrying liquid methanol fuel early Friday, forcing the closure of a section of Ga. 96 for several hours. Houston County's Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency Director Jimmy Williams said the vehicle fire was

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quickly extinguished without any type of explosion or chemical leak. The back of the trailer did suffer some fire damage, he said. But because the integrity of the tanker was compromised, the 5:10 a.m. vehicle fire resulted in the closure of Ga. 96 from Ammons Road to Ga. 247 until 1:30 p.m., Williams said. Traffic was detoured away from the area. It took time for another tanker to arrive, the methanol to be transferred and for the damaged vehicle to be removed, he said.

<http://www.macon.com/197/story/995959.html>

### **USA, TX, PORT ARTHUR, JANUARY 24 2010. OIL SPILL AT TEXAS PORT DUMPS 450,000 GALLONS**

A tanker ship loaded with oil in the Port of Port Arthur, Texas, collided with two barges being towed by a tug boat, resulting in a spill of about 450,000 gallons of crude, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. No injuries were reported, but a 50-block area around the port was evacuated out of caution, as the tanker was carrying a type of oil containing sulfide. The portion of the port where the collision occurred will remain closed until it is deemed safe for workers and other vessels to return, Petty Officer Richard Brahm said. The [Coast Guard](#) has deployed 4,000 feet of boom, which helps corral the oil, with 10,000 more feet available for cleanup. Also on the scene are oil skimmers, three boom vessels, four 25-foot Coast Guard boats, the Coast Guard cutter Manowar and authorities from the local police and fire departments. The spill is in a "very still" area of the waterway, which is helping contain it, Brahm said. "There is almost no water flow in the area, so the oil isn't spreading out," he said. The port is primarily for industrial use, but Coast Guard Capt. John J. Plunkett said there are environmental concerns to marsh areas both up- and downstream of the spill. He said the spill hadn't reached those areas. The Coast Guard did not indicate how long cleanup will take. The investigation into the cause of the collision is ongoing. [Port Arthur](#) is about 100 miles east of Houston, near the Louisiana border. The biggest oil spill in U.S. history occurred in 1989 when the Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in the Gulf of Alaska, resulting in the spill of 11 million gallons of crude.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/US/01/23/texas.oil.spill/index.html>

### **USA, TX, PORT ARTHUR, JANUARY 24 2010. COLLISION CAUSES CRUDE OIL SPILL IN PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS**

**Watch the Video:**

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704562504575021540843701582.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_sections\\_news](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704562504575021540843701582.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_sections_news)

A collision between an oil tanker and two barges resulted in a major crude-oil spill in the port of Port Arthur, Texas, the U.S. Coast Guard said Saturday. One of the barges tore a hole on the side of the tanker vessel Eagle Otome at about 9:30 a.m. CST, spilling 11,000 barrels of crude oil, or 450,000 gallons, the Coast Guard said in a news release. The Sabine Neches Waterway is closed to all vessel traffic along Port Arthur's river front, the statement said. The Coast Guard, which has established a perimeter around the spill, said it is investigating the causes of the collision. Senior Chief Petty Officer Mike O'Berry said that there were no injuries reported among the crews of the vessels. He added that the Port Arthur waterway was closed to both incoming and outbound traffic pending further assessment of the situation. "It's a major spill and we're ready to respond to that," he said. Port Arthur, located about 90 miles east of Houston, is home to key fuel-producing facilities such as the 275,000-barrel a day Motiva refinery, jointly owned by Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Saudi Arabian Oil Co; Total SA's 174,000 barrels a day refinery, and Valero Energy Corp.'s 310,000 barrels a day refinery. Valero spokesman Bill Day said in an email that the spill is having "no impact" on the company's Port Arthur refinery. The refinery has offered emergency equipment to the U.S. Coast Guard, and is "standing by to help," Mr. Day said. Motiva and Total haven't replied to requests for comment. The Port Arthur spill can be described as large, according to the classification established by the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd., which tracks oil spills around the world. According to the ITOPF, large spills are those that are more than 700 metric tons. The size of the Port Arthur spill is estimated at about 1,500 metric tons. The spill is the second to afflict the Texas coastline in recent times; in October, a supply vessel crashed against a Liberian-flagged oil tanker offshore of Galveston, resulting in an 18,000 gallon oil spill—equivalent to about 429 barrels of oil or 58 metric tons. Senior Chief Petty Officer O'Berry said that there was not an estimate of how many vessels are waiting to come into port because of the incident. The Houston Chronicle reported that local law enforcement evacuated a six-by-five block area near the collision because of a leak of hydrogen sulfide.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704562504575021540843701582.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_sections\\_news](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704562504575021540843701582.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_sections_news)

### **USA, TX, BEAUMONT, JANUARY 24 2010. LOUISIANA PETROLEUM COMPANY GUILTY IN SBA LOAN FRAUD SCHEME >> FRONTIER PETROLEUM ORDERED TO PAY \$200K FINE FOR MONEY LAUNDERING**

U.S. Attorney John M. Bales announced January 20 that a Louisiana-based company pleaded guilty for its role in a fraud and money laundering scheme in the Eastern District of Texas. Frontier Petroleum Corporation pleaded guilty to money laundering today before U.S. District Judge Ron Clark. Subsequently, the company was sentenced by Judge Clark and ordered to pay a fine in the amount of \$200,000. According to information presented in court, Frontier Petroleum Corporation obtained a Small Business Administration (SBA) guaranteed loan in the amount of \$480,000.00 for the purchase of a convenience store in Lake Charles, La., from a Port Arthur company in March 2004. The SBA is an independent agency within the executive branch of the government that was created by Congress in 1953 for the purpose of encouraging the development of small businesses by, among other things, guaranteeing certain loans (or portions of loans) made by lenders to small businesses and thereby enabling the small businesses to obtain long-term credit that otherwise would not be available on reasonable terms and conditions. The SBA will issue guarantees of up to 90% of loan value. Generally, as a condition of receiving an SBA-guaranteed loan, the principal(s) of the small business are required to put a certain amount of their own money into the business. This "equity injection" reduces the need for debt, provides a cushion which helps the business endure economic slumps, and improves the collateral as security for the loan. Prior to

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receiving the SBA-guaranteed loan, representatives of Frontier Petroleum provided documentation purporting to show that the corporation had met the condition of providing an equity injection of \$120,000.00 of the company's own money in support of the loan. These representations were knowingly false, as Frontier Petroleum Corporation never had the required equity injection. Instead the \$120,000.00 represented as being the company's own funds, were actually loaned to Frontier Petroleum by the seller of the property, in violation of SBA loan provisions. The SBA-guaranteed loan to Frontier Petroleum Corporation closed on March 26, 2004, and the proceeds were then wire-transferred to the seller company's bank in Port Arthur, Texas. Then, on March 31, 2004, \$314,602.34 of the SBA loan proceeds were wire-transferred from one bank account of the seller's company into another bank account of the seller's at SouthTrust Bank in Port Arthur, Texas. Since the funds that were transferred on that occasion constituted proceeds of the SBA loan that was obtained fraudulently by Frontier Petroleum Corporation, the transfer from one bank account to another to conceal the identity of those funds was money laundering. The case against Frontier Petroleum Corporation was the result of a 24-month joint investigation by the SBA-Criminal Investigation Division and the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") Criminal Investigation Unit. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys James Peacock and Joe Batte.

[http://www.ntxe-news.com/artman/publish/article\\_59587.shtml](http://www.ntxe-news.com/artman/publish/article_59587.shtml)

### **USA, NH, NASHUA, JANUARY 25 2010. FOUR PEOPLE INJURED IN EXPLOSION AT INDUSTRIAL PLANT**

*patrick meighan*

**Watch the Video** <http://www.wmur.com/news/22321814/detail.html>

**Watch the Video** <http://www.necn.com/Boston/New-England/2010/01/23/5-injured-in-Worthen/1264285887.html>

Four people were injured, two seriously, in an accident Saturday morning at an industrial plant on Spit Brook Road, according to city fire officials. A small explosion occurred inside Worthen Industries at 3 E. Spit Brook Road at 9:12 a.m., said Deputy Fire Chief Michael O'Brien. It happened when workers were making welding repairs to an industrial process, O'Brien said. Two of the injured workers sustained lacerations and burns deemed to be serious, O'Brien said. Trauma teams were activated at St. Joseph Hospital and Southern New Hampshire Medical Center, where each of the injured workers were taken, O'Brien said. From there, the two workers were flown by helicopter to Boston hospitals, O'Brien said. The status of the two workers was unknown as of Saturday afternoon, and their names were being withheld pending notification of family, O'Brien said. The two less seriously injured workers were being treated at local hospitals, O'Brien said. Worthen Industries lies on the portion of Spit Brook Road between the D.W. Highway and the Merrimack River. According to the company's Web site, Worthen Industries has 14 business groups that develop adhesives and coatings for industrial products. An employee who answered a door there Saturday afternoon said the company wouldn't comment on the accident, and referred the reporter to the Nashua Fire Marshal. The incident is under investigation by the fire marshal's office and Nashua police, O'Brien said. Also, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration had been notified, O'Brien said. East Spit Brook Road was partially blocked at the time of the emergency call, according to Nashua police. Because that portion of the road is a dead end, traffic was not affected, police said.

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/557558-196/four-people-injured-in-explosion-at-nashua.html>

### **MALAYSIA, NORTHERN PERAK, TAIPING, JANUARY 25 2010. TANKER BURSTS INTO FLAMES IN PARKING LOT**

A lorry tanker laden with fuel burst into flames at a parking area in Simpang Halt here yesterday. Several cars and motorcycles parked under a shed were also damaged in the 8am incident but there were no casualties. Thirty-five firemen in four fire engines from the Kamunting, Taiping and Bagan Serai stations rushed to the scene and the blaze, which spread to an adjacent semi-wooden building, was brought under control by 10am. Taiping OCPD Asst Comm Yusof Mohd Diah said the driver of the tanker lodged a police report over the incident, saying that the fire was caused by some sparks from under the vehicle. He was making a turn at the site when he noticed the sparks, said ACP Yusof. He said initial investigation showed that there was no foul play.

<http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Malaysia/Story/A1Story20100124-194052.html>

### **USA, PA, LANCASTER, JANUARY 25 2010. RUPTURED GAS LINE SPARKS LAWSUIT**

An hour's chore in 2008 sparked what is likely to be a multiyear lawsuit after a backhoe operator punctured a gasoline pipeline near the junction of Weaver and Auction roads, Rapho Township. The pipeline is owned by Buckeye Pipe Line Transportation LLC, of Breinigsville, Lehigh County. The section of conduit in question crosses Kreider Farms land via an easement. Buckeye is suing Kreider Farms and MountainSide Excavators Inc., both Manheim companies, to recover more than half a million dollars it says it's owed for cleanup and remediation. About 2,323 gallons of gasoline leaked out of the ruptured pipe, according to a civil suit filed in Lancaster County Court June 26, 2009. That's considered a large spill, according to Teresa Candori, spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Protection. She said in an e-mail that DEP tracked 132 gasoline spills over the past three years, including seven of at least 1,000 gallons. In 2005, according to news accounts, nearly 43,000 gallons of gas leaked from a Buckeye Pipe Line tank farm near Macungie. A 63,000-gallon spill was reported after a bulldozer ruptured a Sunoco gasoline transmission pipeline three years ago in Northumberland County. Attorneys for Buckeye Pipe Line contend that mopping up the fuel in Rapho has been costly and time consuming. The site remains fenced off, according to Ronald E. Kreider, president of Kreider Farms and a defendant in the lawsuit along with his father, Noah W. Kreider. "They have some kind of sophisticated pumping system" to vent vapors from the soil. The incident happened June 12, 2008, according to court documents. Ronald Kreider said the backhoe operator initially contained the spilled gas by building a dike around it. "There was no indication" of water contamination, added Kreider, who said the accident happened during a light grading job around a farm building's dock. Pipeline company workers responded quickly and have followed state Department of Environmental Protection guidelines to mitigate the spill, said James R.

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Adams, a Barley Snyder LLC attorney representing the Kreiders. "Everybody's been pretty cooperative in trying to take care of it," Adams said. Court papers mention an amicable relationship among the parties. Still, there's that matter of money. Typically, Adams added, the point of civil litigation is to determine who is responsible for picking up the tab. "We're just sorting through that right now." According to the suit, Buckeye's control center learned of the breach through an independent monitoring system and immediately started emergency shut-down procedures. The lawsuit accuses the defendants of breaching their pipeline easement contract with Buckeye by disrupting use of the conduit. The plaintiff also accuses the defendants of negligently damaging Buckeye property and of "negligence per se" for failing to promptly alert Buckeye and local authorities to the spill. Buckeye shouldered the cleanup burden, according to the suit; it is owed \$506,082.29 and "continues to incur costs." Company officials could not be reached for comment. Maria Gonzalez Calvet and John Goodchild, Philadelphia attorneys representing Buckeye, did not return calls to their offices. Defendant Arthur L. Groff, president of Mountainside Excavators Inc., also did not return a call. Jeffrey Rettig, a Harrisburg attorney representing Mountainside, refused comment on the case, as did Scott Grenoble, a Lebanon attorney representing Nationwide Agribusiness. Erie Insurance Group and Nationwide Agribusiness provide coverage respectively for Mountainside and Kreider Farms, according to the suit. Both insurance companies were dismissed as parties in the lawsuit last fall. Meanwhile, Ronald Kreider said, work on the dock area has long been completed. "It was a small job." Resolution of the pipeline case is expected to take a lot more time. "I'm looking for it to be resolved in the next couple of years," Kreider said.

<http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/247863>

### AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, JANUARY 25 2010. NOPSA READY TO TAKE OVER ADMINISTERING OFFSHORE WELL INTEGRITY & SAFETY REGULATIONS

The [NATIONAL Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority](#) (NOPSA) says it has the appropriate experience to take over the administration of offshore well integrity and [safety regulations](#). NOPSA made the statement in a submission to the Montara Commission of Inquiry, following the Montara oil and gas leak in 2009. Currently, NOPSA is responsible for the [OHS](#) of people at offshore petroleum facilities not the integrity of wells. According to NOPSA, its recent submission to the Montara Commission of Inquiry documents the leak occurred because of a well integrity failure and recommends legislative change to create a more focussed and better resourced administration for regulating the integrity of wells. NOPSA is also conducting a separate investigation into the Montara incident to determine if the operators of the Montara wellhead platform and the West Atlas drilling unit have breached [OHS laws](#). The investigation is ongoing. The Commission of Inquiry was established by the Federal Minister for Resources and Energy following the Montara Incident.

[http://www.safetowork.com.au/news/nopsa-ready-to-take-over-administering-offshore-we?utm\\_source=20100125&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletters](http://www.safetowork.com.au/news/nopsa-ready-to-take-over-administering-offshore-we?utm_source=20100125&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletters)

### TURKEY, KILYOS, JANUARY 25 2010. OIL SPILL IN ISTANBUL AS CARGO SHIP RUNS AGROUND

*jennifer hattam*

From my window, I can inevitably see -- at least when it's not snowing out -- a flotilla of cargo ships waiting their turn to pass through the Bosphorus Strait as they make their way from the Mediterranean to the [Black Sea](#). This week, one of the approximately 10,000 such vessels that traverse the famous continent-splitting waterway each year ran aground in bad weather and broke in half, spilling 96 tons of fuel oil and 25 tons of diesel oil into the area's bays and out to sea. On Tuesday, the Moldovan cargo ship the [Orçun C](#) crashed near Kilyos, a popular beach-resort area of Istanbul at the Black Sea entrance to the Bosphorus. As cleanup crews began their work, local residents expressed concerns about the lack of effective oversight governing shipping on the strait. "Even a simple fisherman knows the weather conditions around here," Sinan Kayaci, a restaurant owner and fisherman, told the [Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review](#). "How is it that a ship crew does not know and does not take the appropriate precautions?"

#### 9,000 Ships with Dangerous Cargo

A few days before the accident, the Turkish Coast Guard had held a meeting on maritime safety on the Bosphorus, the paper reported:

According to [the Coast Guard's] report, transiting ships carried a total of 101 million tons of petrol in 2001 alone. "Turkey is among the top 10 countries for shipping accidents. In the last 50 years, there were 500 ship accidents that took place in the Bosphorus," its report said. "Between 2004 and 2008, the number of ships that passed through the Bosphorus reached 49,000," Coast Guard director Salih Orakçı said, adding that nearly 9,000 of them carry dangerous cargo.

Though the environmental impact of the Kilyos spill remains to be assessed, the threat posed by such a large volume of traffic on often choppy, crowded waters seems clear. Stories about ships running aground -- even crashing into waterside homes -- are common enough here that they generally get little more than a mention around the dinner table or newsroom. A muddle of laws governing international shipping on the strait adds to the problem.

#### Muddled Maritime Laws

Though ships are forbidden by Turkish national law from entering the Bosphorus in stormy weather, they can ask for a captain from the Turkish Maritime Organization to guide them through in situations of diminished visibility. The 1936 Montreux Convention regulating international shipping in the straits, however, does not require such assistance, and outweighs local legislation. Most of the ships on the strait are from Malta, [Russia](#), Ukraine, and Panama and thus can take advantage of the international convention. According to the U.K. publication [The First Post](#), many even traverse the tricky waterway without a pilot at all. "This area is important,

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both ecologically and historically," said Banu Dökmecibaşı, a campaign manager for Greenpeace Mediterranean. "In places like this, where the maritime traffic is heavy, the laws should be reconsidered."

<http://www.treehugger.com/files/2010/01/oil-spill-istanbul-cargo-ship-runs-aground.php>

### **USA, CT, OXFORD, JANUARY 25 2010. AFTER 3 YEARS, OXFORD OIL SPILL CLEANUP STILL UNDER WAY** *quannah leonard*

More than three years after an underground fuel tank ruptured on the grounds of Quaker Farms School, the cleanup work continues and the costs mount. In November 2006, nearly 3,000 gallons of heating oil leaked from a 6,000-gallon, fiberglass underground storage tank. A cleanup firm has recovered nearly all of that, but it will take years to mop up about 300 gallons that remains in the ground. Russell J. Dirienzo, principal geologist with Arcadis, the company working on the cleanup, said finding and recovering the spilled oil is not a simple problem. The oil is following a pathway in the cracks and fractures in the bedrock, he said. It's hard to predict where it will go. But Arcadis has a handle on it, Dirienzo said. Monitoring wells placed around the school grounds show how much oil is left and where it is moving. There are 18 monitoring wells on site. Two groundwater recovery wells pump groundwater into a treatment system. Oil then is separated out into a drum; the water is treated by carbon and then discharged into the storm drainage system. The company has a permit from the DEP to do that discharge, Dirienzo said. The system operates out of a wooden shed next to the school. It runs 24 hours a day. Arcadis was retained by the town in February 2007, and work started in April. In the beginning, eight monitoring wells showed oil, Dirienzo said. That dropped to four wells, and for the first time in December 2009, one well in the parking lot showed nothing, he said. Sampling of the monitoring wells shows that the oil is moving away from the school in a southwesterly direction toward Great Oak Middle School, next door to Quaker Farms, Dirienzo said. But he expects the oil to break down and dilute to untraceable levels long before it reaches the school. Arcadis has monitoring wells between Great Oak and Quaker Farms to make sure the contamination doesn't reach Quaker Farms, he said. Quaker Farms School doesn't operate on well water, but from a public water supply system, he noted.

<http://www.rep-am.com/news/local/462671.txt>

### **CHINA, BEIJING, JANUARY 15 2010. 'FIVE JAILED' FOR POLLUTING CHINESE CITY'S WATER - PETROCHEMICALS**

Five people have been jailed for spilling industrial waste into a drinking water source, causing the supply for a city of five million people to be cut off for a week, state media reported Saturday. Three petrochemical company managers in Huai'an, eastern China, hired two private contractors in February last year to empty waste into an irrigation ditch connected to the city's drinking water supply, Xinhua news agency said. Residents reported a strange smell coming from their taps, leading to an investigation into the chemical firm, and Huai'an was forced to cut off its drinking water for a week, the report said. A local court on Friday handed down five jail terms ranging from nine to 29 months, Xinhua reported, citing court sources. Three others were given suspended sentences. The court also fined the firm one million yuan (146,000 dollars) and ordered it to pay compensation of 350,000 yuan to the water company. Public health crises caused by chemical spills are frequent in China. In 2005, a similar incident polluting the River Songhua led to the interruption of the drinking water supply for a million people in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jPoq9lCHB3v0\\_GApky48kzVjkUfw](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jPoq9lCHB3v0_GApky48kzVjkUfw)

### **USA, NJ, MIDDLESEX CO, JANUARY 25 2010. GAS LEAK DETECTORS SHOULD BE MANDATORY**

Here's a question bounded in contemporary events in the area of Middlesex County involving gas leaks with resultant explosions and property damage/loss. Why aren't gas leak detectors, which the public can obtain at reasonable cost, or home units manufactured currently in Korea, China and India, widely available? From what I can tell it appears only hand-held detectors are available here in the USA. I've tried Home Depot and Lowe's, two of the major home stores, and found nothing but smoke/CO gear. I'm told by clerks, "they don't make them," however there is one listed in the scores of smoke/CO detectors on the Home Depot Web site that is a combo CO/gas detector, but it wasn't in-store. They do make more overseas. One would think insurance companies would encourage obtaining and installation of these units, as well as fire departments. They mandate carbon monoxide detectors and heat/smoke detectors, but is there no interest in early warning alarms for one of the most common disasters? I personally witnessed the outcome of such a natural gas leak on Hollywood Drive, Woodbridge, some years ago, again with the gas company on scene. Within a few seconds a beautiful home was reduced to a heap of rubble when the gas trapped within detonated. Fortunately no one was injured. If the occupants had been inside they'd have been crushed. Perhaps the newspaper journalists can bite into this issue and excite the providers of gas service to get such a piece of equipment out there ASAP, or even mandate installation of them for those of us using their HAZMAT product — before more people perish or homes are destroyed. I would also say that as with the other detectors, they should be mandated in public and commercial dwellings, and should also be in private homes. More public education again in media would help too. Some folks seem to have forgotten the basics in the presence of a gas leak, which basically is simply to "get out now." Don't look for the leak. Don't turn anything on or off. Don't waste time opening windows. Leave. But if you don't smell it or hear an alarm, your kids, pets and you are dead.

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20100124/OPINION02/1240310/-1/newsfront/Gas-leak-detectors-should-be-mandatory>

### **USA, OK, CUSHING, JANUARY 25 2010. LIGHTNING IGNITES OIL TANK**

An oil storage tank owned by Blueknight Energy Partners LP caught fire Wednesday night after a lightning strike, and the blaze burned into Thursday morning, firefighting officials and company executives said. Oil burned in the 55,000-barrel tank at the Cushing hub, a delivery point for benchmark West Texas intermediate crude. Blueknight is the former SemGroup Energy Partners,

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a onetime subsidiary of SemGroup Corp., which emerged from bankruptcy last year. Cushing Fire Chief Brant Kerr said damage from the fire threatened the "integrity" of the tank, which may require repairs. He estimated that 1,000 barrels of oil were lost. The blaze started at the top rim of the tank and was isolated there, Kerr said. No one was reported injured in the lightning strike or blaze. A Blueknight spokesman, Brent Gooden, said in a statement: "The chief and his department have done a great job managing the fire. From the company's perspective, we are not in a position to accurately confirm how many barrels of crude burned in last night's fire until we complete our assessment." Blueknight has about 6.7 million barrels of storage capacity at the Cushing hub. Bloomberg News reported that the tank was leased by Nexen Inc. of Calgary, Alberta, and contained oil from a combination of sources, including the Rocky Mountains.

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3804336>

### FRANCE, PARIS, JANUARY 25 2010. TOTAL TO CLOSE DUNKERQUE REFINERY -REPORT

French oil giant Total will announce the closure of its refinery close to Dunkirk in northern France, where some 780 people including sub-contractors work, on Feb. 1, a newspaper said on Sunday. The 137,000 barrels-per-day Dunkirk plant has been shut for an unspecified duration since Sept. 15 due to poor demand and margins. An extraordinary meeting with the central workers' body will be held on Feb. 1 to discuss the refinery's future, union officials have said. Citing unnamed sources, French newspaper La Tribune said in a preview of its Monday edition that Total will convert the site into a fuel storage centre employing some 30 to 50 people. The paper said Total head Christophe de Margerie tried to explain the move to Prime Minister Francois Fillon in a meeting early last week, though in any case the decision is likely to anger unions, who have staged strikes at various refineries. A source close to the situation told Reuters earlier this month that Total was considering shutting the Dunkirk refinery because it had failed to find a buyer.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE60N0KZ20100124?type=marketsNews>

### USA, W.VA. KANAWHA COUNTY, BELLE, JANUARY 25 2010. UPDATE: DUPONT WORKER DIES AFTER CHEMICAL LEAK, 'SAFETY PAUSE' UNDERWAY

*carrie jones*

A DuPont worker taken to the hospital after a chemical leak Saturday has died. The plant will remain on what officials are calling a "safety pause" until all operations at the plant are deemed safe.

#### UPDATE @ 11:45 P.M. Sunday

A nursing supervisor at CAMC tells WSAZ.com that Carl Fish, the DuPont employee taken to the hospital after exposure to the chemical Phosgene, died Sunday evening. Family members say Fish was taken to the hospital after one of the chemical leaks at the plant Saturday.

#### UPDATE @ 8:00 P.M., Sunday

Family members tell WSAZ.com the DuPont employee taken to the hospital after exposure to Phosgene is Carl Fish. Family members say as of Sunday night, Fish has been put in an induced coma at CAMC General Hospital. A nursing supervisor at CAMC tells WSAZ.com Fish is under evaluation.

#### UPDATE @ 4pm Sunday

Employees at the DuPont plant in Belle have a new job priority: to make sure all operations are running safely. The plant was put on a "safety pause" Saturday after three chemical leaks were reported in just two days. Bill Menke, Belle Plant Manager, says the series of incidents was unusual, but they need to be addressed. "The incidents that we had over the last two days are unacceptable to us," Menke said. "When we see signals that say we are not operating the way we want, we take dramatic actions." When a leak happens, it is protocol to shut those operations down until officials can figure out why it happened and how to prevent it from occurring again. The three operations that had leaks on Friday and Saturday are shutdown. The "safety pause" calls for any operation that may not be running safely to be stopped as well. "We are going through each one of our units step by step, procedure by procedure, pipe by pipe to ensure that they can and are being operating safely," Menke said. Kanawha county officials released information stating that the "safety pause" would last for two weeks. Menke says there is no timetable set for their evaluation. He says operations at the plant will be opened as they are deemed safe.

#### Update @ 7:00 P.M.

DuPont officials will meet Sunday to discuss temporarily closing their plant in Belle. Metro 911 officials say that the announcement comes after three recent incidents at the plant site. The company is planning to shutdown production for two weeks. DuPont officials are scheduled to meet Sunday to discuss when the closure will take place. Dale Petry, Kanawha County Emergency Services Director, says it was DuPont's decision to close down. Friday, plant workers discovered a Methyl Chloride leak. Officials now believe that 1900 pounds of the chemical vapor may have leaked out over a five day period. Saturday, two leaks were reported at the facility. A Sulfuric Acid leak set of the fume alert around 7:45 a.m. Saturday. Then in the afternoon, another chemical leak was found. According to a press release from DuPont, Saturday afternoon a site employee was exposed to the chemical Phosgene from a leaking transfer hose. The employee was taken to the hospital for treatment and observation as part of the standard protocol for exposure to this material.

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### Original Story

For the second time this week, a chemical leak at the DuPont plant in Belle has been reported to emergency officials. Metro 911 says a fume alert sounded at the plant at 7:45 a.m. Saturday. The leak was secured before 8:30 a.m. Workers determined that less than 20 pounds of Sulfuric Acid escaped from a line. An investigation is still underway to determine what caused the issue. No injuries were reported from the leak and there were no adverse affects on people living in the surrounding communities.

<http://www.wsaz.com/charleston/headlines/82516382.html>

### AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, JANUARY 26 2010. EPA PROBES SANTOS OIL LEAK

[Map: Whyalla 5600](#)

South Australia's Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is investigating whether oil and gas producer Santos breached its licence when oil was found to be leaking from tanks at its Port Bonython plant near Whyalla. Hydrocarbons were detected under the plant 20 months ago and a \$15 million barrier to stop it leaking into the sea has been completed. Greg Hill from the EPA says the extent of the contamination is unknown but additional conditions have been imposed on the company's licence for the site. "Conducting a detailed risk assessment to determine if and what impacts the incident may have had on the site and adjacent to the site and also looking at remediation options," he said. "We've also required Santos to engage an auditor to independently review the works that are being done on the site in terms of the assessment and remediation works." Mr Hill says the authority is investigating any potential breaches of the company's licence. "There are a range of possible offences in the legislation which we're investigating - causing environmental harm, breach of licence conditions, etcetera," he said. "We're not in a position to say at the moment whether any of those offences have occurred, but we're certainly investigating those aspects."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/25/2800294.htm?section=business>

### INDONESIA, JAKARTA, JANUARY 25 2010. EXPLOSION DID NOT AFFECT REFINERY: PERTAMINA

State oil and gas company PT Pertamina says there was an explosion at its facility in Cilacap in Central Java on Sunday, but that the incident had not affected production. Pertamina spokesman Basuki Trihora Putra said the explosion was a result of a flash occurring in a lubricant oil cooler unit, which was far from the oil refinery facility. "The main refinery facility is safe and production has not been affected," Basuki said. Pertamina Cilacap public relations chief Kurdi Susanto told Antara that two employees had been admitted to hospital following the explosion. "They were conscious but in a state of shock," Kurdi said. Earlier in the day, Cilacap residents were shocked by the explosion, which they said had caused earth tremors. The Cilacap refinery supplies 60 percent of fuel to Java.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/01/24/explosion-did-not-affect-refinery-pertamina.html>

### USA, RI, BLOCK ISLAND, JANUARY 25 2010. FUEL LEAK POSTPONES OLD HARBOR PROJECT

*peter voskamp & dan west*

The Old Harbor renovation project, which was just getting underway in recent weeks, will be postponed until next fall due to gasoline contamination discovered by contractors in the soil near south dock last week. Town Manager Nancy Dodge made the announcement at Wednesday's Town Council meeting. As of press time neither the extent nor the source of the contamination was known; a geoprobe was expected to be on the island Thursday to learn more. "We'll know more about the fuel mitigation costs [Thursday], but it didn't seem to just be a trace of gasoline, there was a strong odor," said project Clerk-of-the-Works Sam Bird. "Right now we don't know if it is centered around the end of the pipe or if there were pinholes going up the whole thing leaking gas for years," he added. Initial tests showed a fuel count in the soil to be in the 70 parts-per-billion to 90 ppb range; 20 ppb is the threshold, he said. "It means you will have to live with the old dock for one more season," said Bird. The contamination is near where a gas pump was in operation many years ago. According to Dodge, contractor Narragansett Dock Works said it would hold its bid price until next fall, which she called "a very good offer." Voters agreed to spend \$2.7 million to undertake the long-awaited project. "The comment I've been hearing from island residents is 'well there goes another million,'" said Town Councilor Ken Lacoste. Dodge said the biggest concern was time. "We had a tight but doable time schedule," Dodge told the council. "But even a delay of a week or two could put us in a position where we wouldn't be done for the start of the season." Even if the contamination ends up being minor, the time required to prepare a disposal plan with the state Department of Environmental Management could take weeks off the project's timeline. The question was asked if work could go forward on the west dock instead. Bird said he wasn't sure since the new design would have it tie in with the south dock. A potential benefit of the delay would be working in concert with the Army Corps of Engineers effort to replace the east dock, which is expected next fall. Finance Director Amy Dodge said in a separate interview that Narragansett Dock Works would be reimbursed for expenses and work to date, including the purchase of steel for the new south dock bulkhead.

[http://www.blockislandtimes.com/view/full\\_story/5633420/article-Fuel-leak-postpones-Old-Harbor-project?instance=home\\_news\\_1st\\_right](http://www.blockislandtimes.com/view/full_story/5633420/article-Fuel-leak-postpones-Old-Harbor-project?instance=home_news_1st_right)

### NEW ZEALAND, HAWKES BAY, JANUARY 26 2010. AUTHORITIES LOOKING FOR POLLUTER OF OIL OFF HAWKES BAY COAST

*max patmoy*

Marine authorities want to hear from the skipper who reported seeing a large oil spill off the coast near Blackhead beach. Maritime New Zealand received a report of a large oil spill about 13 miles off the coast last week. Authorities took to the air twice, using the

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Coastguard Air Patrol, to try find the oil spill, but failed to see it. Hawkes Bay Regional Council spokesman Bryce Lawrence says the skipper who reported seeing the oil slick thought it was about 2 kilometres square. Mr Lawrence says this would be a sizable spill and of concern so they'd like to trace the oil. He says without finding the oil slick, they have no way of tracing any offender.  
<http://www.hawkesbay.co.nz/index.php/201001257991/Locals/Local-News/Authoroties-looking-for-polluter-of-oil-off-Hawkes-Bay-coast.html>

### **USA, W.VA, PARKERSBURG CO, JANUARY 25 2010. TWO GAS LEAKS AT TWO GAS STATIONS >> TWO FUEL LEAKS AT TWO DIFFERENT LOCAL GAS STATIONS ARE SAID TO BE UNRELATED.**

*lauren weppler*

**Watch the Video** <http://www.wtap.com/news/headlines/82565067.html>

Sunday evening fuel leaks at two local gas stations happened within minutes of each other, and despite the timing officials said they seem to be unrelated. The first gasoline leak happened around 6:30 Sunday evening at the 7-Eleven gas station on 13th and Avery Streets in Parkersburg. Firefighters said the cause was a worn gas hose. Moments later another leak happened at a separate 7-Eleven on Grand Central Avenue in Vienna. A customer allegedly left the pump running, went inside and then the gas overflowed. "The best thing I can tell you is stay with your car when filling up don't assume that it will automatically kick off. It can create a hazardous situation, and make a mess if it doesn't kick off," said Steve Scholl the Deputy Chief of Vienna. The customer of the Vienna 7-Eleven had to pay \$99 dollars for the amount of gas that overflowed. Parkersburg and Vienna firefighters cleaned up the fuel that leaked at both locations.

<http://www.wtap.com/news/headlines/82565067.html>

### **USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, JANUARY 25 2010. CHEVRON: COOPERATING WITH EPA IN ALASKA PROBE**

*elizabeth bluemink*

Search warrants served on two Cook Inlet oil facilities last week were based on federal environmental regulators' suspicions that Chevron Corp. had knowingly violated its air pollution permits and made false statements, court filings show. An Anchorage federal court magistrate on Jan. 7 authorized the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division to seize computers, files, photos and other records at Chevron's Trading Bay Production Facility and Granite Point Tank Farm. In an affidavit, EPA Special Agent Matthew Goers told the judge that his agency had obtained sufficient information to suspect that Chevron and possibly its subsidiaries, managers and employees had committed felonies, including Clean Air Act violations and false statements to the federal government. The searches occurred Jan. 12 and 13, with federal investigators flying to the two remote, on-shore Chevron facilities on the west side of Cook Inlet in an Alaska Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter, according to state and federal officials. Chevron on Thursday said it is cooperating with the investigation but declined to discuss the EPA's court filings. "In May of 2008, we provided the government with voluntary disclosure relating to these issues and have been cooperating with the government's information requests since that time. We take such non-compliance allegations seriously," the company said in a written statement, provided by Chevron spokesman Mickey Driver. At Trading Bay and Granite Point, Chevron subsidiary Union Oil Co. of California processes and stores crude oil from several Cook Inlet production platforms. The company then ships the oil to the Tesoro refinery in Nikiski.

#### **Shut-Off Equipment**

The alleged violations began in 2006, when Chevron shut down a vapor control unit for two of its oil storage tanks at Trading Bay. In 2007 or earlier, the company also shut down the vapor control units for oil storage tanks at Granite Point, according to Goers' affidavit. The vapor control units were designed to capture vapor from the oil before it escaped the tanks and reuse the vapor as fuel. Shutting the units down allowed a significant amount of air pollution to escape from the tanks, Goers wrote. Chevron had described the tanks to regulators in 2006 and 2007 as "insignificant sources" of pollution that emitted no more than 2 tons per year of volatile organic compounds and 2 tons per year of hazardous air pollutants. Both groups of chemicals are regulated as toxic pollutants that can cause health problems. Instead, the Trading Bay tanks released more than 100 tons per year of volatile organics into the air from 2006 to 2008, according to Goers, citing Chevron estimates. The Granite Point tanks released more than 15 tons per year of crude oil vapors in the same time period, he said in the affidavit. In 2008, Chevron sent a letter to state regulators saying it had potentially been violating its Clean Air Act permit at Trading Bay since shutting down its vapor control unit two years earlier. It requested that regulators invoke a federal policy that waives or reduces fines for companies that self-report their own violations. In 2009, a state inspector visited Granite Point and pointed to its tanks, asking how its vapors were recovered. A Chevron operator told her that its vapor control unit "was not operating at the time because a necessary compressor was not operating." Regulators later learned that the unit had shut down in 2007, Goers wrote in his affidavit. On the day of the state inspection, Chevron sent a letter to state regulators, asking to amend its previous filings about air pollution at Granite Point. The company said that it hadn't adequately described the air emissions at the tank farm when it applied for a permit in 2006, according to the affidavit.

#### **False Statements?**

The purpose for the search warrants was to seize documents and other evidence that might show whether the company knowingly withheld information and gave "material false statements" to environmental regulators, the affidavit said. From 2006 to 2008, Chevron submitted documents to environmental regulators saying that its Cook Inlet facilities complied with their air permits. In 2007, company officials told regulators that they were still using the vapor control system at Trading Bay, and that the tanks were not venting to the atmosphere, Goers wrote. Goers also interviewed current and former Chevron employees who described

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problems with the vapor control system at Trading Bay before its shutdown in 2006, he wrote. "Problems attributed to the vapor recovery system by current and former Chevron employees include the following: fugitive vapors escaping from the roof of the tanks, improperly sized compressors, damaged and/or inoperable circuit boards, insufficient parts, repair requests which were unsupported by management, and various other problems with the system which tend to indicate that the vapor recovery system was not functioning properly, may have been out-of-service for extended periods of time, and then eventually led the vapor recovery system to not function," Goers wrote. Chevron officials told state regulators that it deactivated the vapor control unit for its Granite Point tanks because the company wasn't producing enough natural gas to operate the compressor it used to guide the vapors into the unit, according to the affidavit. U.S. Magistrate Deborah Smith signed the warrants to search and seize records at the two facilities, which are not accessible by road. The Alaska Army National Guard confirmed Thursday that it flew the agents to western Cook Inlet to conduct the searches.

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=20669](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=20669)

### UK, HOLSWORTHY, JANUARY 25 2010. POLLUTER PAYS THE PRICE FOR OIL POLLUTION

A Holsworthy man was recently ordered to pay £3,000 in fines and costs after diesel oil escaped from his agricultural contractor's yard into a stream, in a case brought by the [Environment Agency](#). On April 17, 2009 Agency officers visited Wayside Yard, Redpost, Bridgerule near Holsworthy and saw a large metal fuel tank stored outside. The tank was fitted with an isolation valve, connecting hose, electrical pump and nozzle. Fuel was leaking from the isolation valve. A small stream at the rear of the tank had an oily sheen on the surface. The officers also saw several 200 litre drums in a concrete yard behind the main storage tank. At least one of the drums appeared to be overflowing with oil. On April 20, 2009 the yard operator, Malcolm Newton, was contacted by the Environment Agency and strongly advised to clean-up the site. He was sent a copy of the latest Oil Storage Regulations leaflet. Soil and water samples taken from the yard and nearby stream were found to be contaminated with a 'heavy lubricating type oil.' Malcolm Newton said the drums stored on the site contained waste tractor oil. The main tank was used to re-fuel his agricultural contracting vehicles. 'Site operators must ensure they are compliant with the Oil Storage Regulations and take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of pollution from spillages and leaks. This is even more important when, as in this case, oil is being stored in close proximity to a watercourse,' said Robin Duffy for the Environment Agency. Malcolm Newton, of 40 Southlands, Bridgerule, Holsworthy was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 in costs by Barnstaple magistrates after pleading guilty to one offence under the Water Resources Act 1991.

<http://www.oilfiredup.com/site/news/item/955>

### USA, NC, HICKORY, JANUARY 25 2010. FOUR ALARM FIRE AT LOCAL CHEMICAL PLANT LEAVES DOZENS UNEMPLOYED

**Watch the Video:** <http://www.catawbavalleycitizen.com/2010/01/25/four-alarm-fire-at-local-chemical-plant-leaves-dozens-unemployed/>

**Photo's :** [25] <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=8126&id=100000534371314&l=ba0e39de80>

Members of the Longview Fire Department were called to Tailored Chemical Products, Inc & Tailored Foam, Inc. around 8pm Sunday night after citizens nearby reported an explosion at the company. The company produces commercial glue and foam insulation used in construction. Officials say a handful of employees was inside the facility working when the explosion occurred. None of the employees were injured. The exact cause is still unknown, however one employee told us that he believed it was related to a transformer that malfunctioned inside the facility. Firefighters quickly arrived and began accessing the scene. They learned the facility housed extremely flammable chemicals, including ethanol and methane. They were concerned that the room housing these chemicals would be exposed to the fire and risk a huge explosion. Longview Fire Department requested the assistance of numerous nearby fire departments including Hickory, Icard, Lovelady and Mountain View Fire Departments. They were able to logistically coordinate their response and keep the fire contained to the portion of the building NOT containing the explosive chemicals. Kenya Carson lives beside the facility. She said that she and her family were watching television when the explosion occurred. "Our walls shook and there was several really loud booms," she said. "It sounded like our windows were going to blow out." Officials evacuated Carson and her family from their home. Additional homes were also evacuated, as officials were concerned about the fire spreading or the toxicity of the smoke. One local man said he lived about a half mile away and heard the explosion. He and his family were eating dinner and thought someone was setting off fireworks. They later heard the parade of fire trucks responding to the fire and thought they would go check it out. As fire fighters fought the intense fire, employees of the company showed up to watch their employment go up in flames. Some stood and wept in the cold rain, wondering what the future holds for them. Others stood silently watching the seventy-five foot flames tear apart their workplace. The business employed approximately 150 people. Firefighters and hazardous material crews will be on scene all night to watch for hot spots and flareups. The Catawba County Fire Marshal's office was on the scene and will be investigating the fire.

<http://www.catawbavalleycitizen.com/2010/01/25/four-alarm-fire-at-local-chemical-plant-leaves-dozens-unemployed/>

### USA, TX, PORT ARTHUR, JANUARY 25 2010. CLEANUP UNDER WAY IN 462,000-GALLON OIL SPILL OFF TEXAS

Crews removed about 46,000 gallons of oil from waters near Port Arthur, Texas, on Sunday, roughly 10 percent of the oil spilled a day earlier when a tanker collided with two barges, a U.S. Coast Guard officer said. An estimated 462,000 gallons of crude oil leaked from barrels aboard the tanker, forcing the closure of the port in southern Texas, Petty Officer Larry Chambers told CNN.

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The Sabine Neches Waterway near Port Arthur also was closed. It was unclear Sunday when the port, about 100 miles east of Houston, Texas, will reopen or when crews will finish the cleanup, he said. "We certainly want it to be done as soon as possible, but with that said, safety is the main issue," Chambers said. "We're not going to open the port until it's determined that vessels can pass through cleanly, safely and not cause any further damage." No injuries were reported when the Exxon Mobile-chartered tanker -- the 807-foot Eagle Otome -- collided Saturday with two barges being towed by a tug boat. The tanker was carrying about 570,000 gallons of crude oil to Exxon's Beaumont refinery when it crashed, Exxon Mobile spokesman Kevin Allexon told CNN. The cause of the crash was unknown, but is under investigation, he said. "We are very concerned about how this could have happened," Allexon said. "We are very concerned about the impact to the environment, to the community. No one wants to see this happen." [The port](#) is primarily for industrial use, but it is not far from wetlands. None of the nearby marshes or sensitive wildlife were adversely affected, Chambers said, but one heron was "oiled." The bird was alive and undergoing treatment, he said. An evacuation order that was imposed in a 50-block area around the port after the collision was lifted. That area was evacuated Saturday out of caution, as the tanker was carrying a type of oil containing sulfide. Fifteen skimming vessels sailed the area recovering the oil and workers dropped more than 45,000 feet of boom -- fencing-like material -- to keep the oil from spreading, Chambers said. More than 500 people were involved in containing and cleaning the spill, said Darrell Wilson, spokesman for Malaysia-based AET Tanker Holdings, the owner of the tanker. The biggest oil spill in U.S. history occurred in 1989 when the Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in the Gulf of Alaska, resulting in the spill of 11 million gallons of crude.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/US/01/24/texas.oil.spill/?hpt=T2>

### UK, EXMOUTH, JANUARY 26 2010. PETROL LEAK AT EXMOUTH FILLING STATION

A petrol leak occurred at an Exmouth filling station last week. Fire crews responded to a report of a strong smell of fuel at the Shell Garage in Exeter Road last Friday, January 22, at around 11.33am. Two fire appliances from Exmouth and a gas detector from Exeter attended. The crews confirmed a strong smell of petrol emanating from the forecourt. The electrical supply to the fuel pumps had been isolated. A spokesperson for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue service said: "This was a small leakage of petrol from an underground fuel tank on the forecourt. "Fire crews used an Environment Agency spill kit to absorb the petrol spillage and isolated the forecourt pumps." The care of the incident was left with the manageress of the fuel station.

<http://www.exmouthherald.co.uk/exmouthherald/news/story.aspx?brand=EXJOnline&category=news&tBrand=devon24&tCategory=newsexh&itemid=DEED25%20Jan%202010%2009%3A53%3A29%3A727>

### UK, LONDON, JANUARY 26 2010. PETROL RETAIL BODY WARNS OF JOB LOSSES

Planned rises to the business rates of independent petrol stations in England and Wales could cost 1,000 jobs, their trade body has warned. RMI Independent Petrol Retailers Association (RMI Petrol) said the estimated job losses would come when up to 200 petrol stations have to close. RMI Petrol said some of its members expect to see their bills rise fourfold from 1 April. HM Revenue & Customs's Valuation Office Agency said it was aware of concerns. "The Valuation Office Agency has been meeting with representatives from the industry to listen to their concerns and will continue doing so," said a spokeswoman. "The valuation officers have a statutory duty to carry out revaluation of business premises every five years."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8478737.stm>

### INDIA, MYSORE, JANUARY 26 2010. DIGITAL PUMPS TAMPER-PROOF: DEALERS COMMITTEE

Clearing doubts over fraudulent petrol pumps, the Mysore Petroleum Dealers Coordination Committee has said that the digital pumps are tamper-proof. But, customers need to keep an eye on the meter to check quantity of fuel dispensed with. This comes after people objected to the quantity of fuel dispensed at a petrol pump in Hebbal last week. "We want to reiterate that the digital petrol pumps cannot be tampered with. And, 90 per cent of the bunks are digitized," S K Dinesh, vice-president of the Karnataka Petroleum Dealers Association, told reporters. But he said customer need to keep tab on the quantity. "We cannot check the quantity of fuel for all customers. This is impractical considering the volume of traffic to the bunks throughout the day," he said. Every petrol bunk has a five-litre measure calibrated by the weights and measure department. The customer can ask the bunk to fill the five-litre measure before filling the fuel. This is to ensure that they are not cheated, he stated. Dinesh, president of Indian Oil Corporation Dealers Association, said they will also make available 1 litre and 2 litre measures at the bunks. R Narayana Swamy, president of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Dealers Association, denied that customers were cheated at the HPCL bunk owned by corporator Nandeesh Preetam, son of BJP MLA H S Shankarlingegowda. There are chances that delivery persons may not have reset the meter, he admitted. Dinesh said the bunks have filter papers to check the quality too which can be used by the customers. If the white filter paper remains stainless after 1 minute of poring of a drop of fuel, it indicates that the product is pure, he explained. Even the density can also be checked by the visitors, he stated.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysore/Digital-pumps-tamper-proof-Dealers-committee/articleshow/5500202.cms>

### UK, WOLVERHAMPTON, JANUARY 26 2010. PETROL STATION IS HIT BY FIRE

 **Photo's** <http://www.expressandstar.com/2010/01/25/petrol-station-is-hit-by-fire/>

A petrol station in Wolverhampton was shut today following a fire on the forecourt. A forecourt attendant averted a potential disaster at the 24-hour BP garage on Stafford Road, Fordhouses. One of the overhead lights on the forecourt is thought to have short-circuited at around 3am yesterday, causing sparks to ignite fuel fumes on the ground. Flames quickly engulfed a petrol pump and spread to the roof, setting light to the canopy and damaging the plastic overhead sign. The attendant, who was working alone,

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raised the alarm just in time as the blaze threatened to engulf other pumps. Two fire crews from Fallings Park were called to the scene and police closed off Stafford Road as smoke billowed across the carriageway. Crew commander Karl James said: "The fuel pump was well alight when we arrived and the flames had spread onto the roof and started to burn the canopy. "Four of the crew wearing breathing apparatus managed to stop the fire in its tracks. It could have been very nasty if it had spread to the other pumps."

<http://www.expressandstar.com/2010/01/25/petrol-station-is-hit-by-fire/>

### **MYANMAR, [BURMA] YANGON, JANUARY 26 2010. MYANMAR TO PRIVATIZE ALL FUEL STATIONS BY MARCH, SOURCE SAYS**

Myanmar plans to privatize its state-owned petrol and diesel stations by end of March, according to business community source. 'We have been informed by authorities that private companies are to take over all state-owned fuel stations by March 31,' a prominent businessman who requested anonymity said. The military government has strictly controlled all fuel-related [business](#) including filling stations since 1962. 'It was very surprising to learn the importing and selling of petrol and diesel was to be transferred suddenly to the private sector,' he said. The ruling junta recently announced the privatization of more than 100 [businesses](#) and properties, but petrol stations were not included in the list. 'We have just formed an association under the Union of Myanmar federation of chambers of commerce and industries to take it over from government and run this [business](#),' a businessman involved in the discussions told the German Press Agency dpa. Tay Za, a leading tycoon in Myanmar with close ties to top junta generals, will head the new association, the source said. 'I think we will see more privatizations in various sectors before election,' he said. There are more than 250 fuel stations nationwide, according to the official website of the Energy Ministry.

[http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/business/news/article\\_1528171.php/Myanmar-to-privatize-all-fuel-stations-by-March-source-says](http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/business/news/article_1528171.php/Myanmar-to-privatize-all-fuel-stations-by-March-source-says)

### **USA, NC, AMELIA CO, JANUARY 26 2010. OVERTURNED TANKER TRUCK IN AMELIA COUNTY >> VEHICLE WAS CARRYING 8,000 GALLONS OF FUEL, SOME HAS SPILLED**

sandi cauley

**Watch the Video** [http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-tanker-overturms-amelia\\_0,1972099.story](http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-tanker-overturms-amelia_0,1972099.story)

**Photo's** <http://www.wcnc.com/news/local/Overturnd-tanker-truck-closes-Highway-321-82600202.html>

A tanker truck carrying 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel has overturned on route 307 in Amelia County. The driver has been pulled from the vehicle and is expected to be okay, however, hundreds of gallons of fuel has leaked out of the truck. The spill has been contained and is not expected to contaminate any nearby waterways. Crews are now working to upright the vehicle and clear the scene. The accident happened around 10:30 a.m. and is still under investigation. Use alternate routes around this accident, as traffic has been affected.

[http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-tanker-overturms-amelia\\_0,1972099.story](http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-tanker-overturms-amelia_0,1972099.story)

### **GHANA, TEMA, JANUARY 26 2010. TOR FIRE: THE INSIDE STORY**

Source at the Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) has narrated what he claimed was the exact cause of the fire that gutted the loading rack of the facility, killing two persons. The fire outbreak has worsened the precarious petrol situation in the country with shortages recorded in some parts of the nation. The nation's capital, Accra is not spared the display of 'no petrol' sign at most filling stations, in addition to shortages of aviation fuel. According to a statement issued by the Ghana airport Company, aviation turbine fuel supply to the Kotoka International Airport (KIA) has been suspended following the fire outbreak at the loading gantry of TOR. In a press statement signed by Ghana airport Company Managing Director, Doreen Owusu-Fianko, the company requested airlines to refuel from neighbouring countries. However, according to the TOR source, the fire resulted from a spark from one of the batteries of a truck loading at the gantry at the time of the incident, starting the deadly inferno, which subsequently burnt down three of the six loading racks as well as some tankers at the facility. He expressed surprise at the suggestion by a section of the public that the fire might have been started by persons believed to be sympathizers of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and denied reports that it was started after a driver had tried using a stone to kick-start his loaded truck by hitting the battery. Narrating how the whole thing started, the source who prefers to remain anonymous, remarked that because of the continuous movement of fuel tankers around the rack, one part of the floor around the first rack got worn out, which made it difficult for tankers to load. For that reason, most tanker drivers always prefer being loaded at an area just before the worn-out surface. Playing a recorded conversation between him and the driver whose tanker was alleged to have started the fire, the source explained that the said driver had mentioned to him that it was a spark from his truck's battery, which started the fire and not what, was being speculated in public. "You see, what the driver told me was that after the loading, he did not close the covers of the tanker when he tried to move his truck, adding that he wanted to do that when he crossed the worn out area," the source said. "Because the tanker covers were not closed, when the truck staggered, some of the premix splashed out and poured around the engine area of the truck which started the fire and sadly killed two of our men," he added. He said the driver, on realising what had just happened, took to his heels before the fire gutted other parts of the loading rack as well as his tanker and other at the facility. "It is sad how some persons are using this unfortunate incident to play their political games. I believe that most of my colleagues are not happy about that comment. The issue should be looked at as a national disaster," he lamented. As a result of a fire outbreak last Tuesday at the loading rack of the Tema Oil Refinery (TOR), two deaths were recorded. One of the deceased workers, Thomas Ebo Friar, who was due to retire next month,

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burnt to death beyond recognition on top of one of the racks. Another worker, whose name was only mentioned as Humphrey, said to have recently returned from London where he had gone for holidays, sustained severe burns and died later. Separate committees have been set up by Management of TOR and the Ministry of Energy to investigate the cause of the fire, with the Ministry announcing that it expects the committee to finish its work in about three weeks' time. The charred remains of Thomas Ebo Friar was reported to have been interred at the Kpone cemetery over the weekend and that of Humphrey was yet to be interred.

Source: Daily Guide/Ghana

<http://news.peacefonline.com/news/201001/37179.php>

### **USA, WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 26 2010. BOARD VOTES TO INITIATE INVESTIGATION ON ACCIDENTS AT DUPONT CHEMICAL FACILITY IN BELLE, WEST VIRGINIA**

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today voted to initiate an investigation of recent accidents at the DuPont chemical complex in Belle, West Virginia, following a release of highly toxic phosgene on Saturday that fatally injured a veteran operator. DuPont officials told the CSB that a braided steel hose connected to a one-ton capacity phosgene tank suddenly ruptured, releasing phosgene into the air. An operator who was exposed to the chemical was transported to the hospital, where he died the following day. The phosgene release followed two other accidents at the same plant this week, including an ongoing release of chloromethane from the plant's Hexazinone unit, which went undetected for several days, and a release of sulfur dioxide from a spent sulfuric acid unit. The plant announced over the weekend that it would be shutting down a number of process units immediately for safety checks. Speaking for the three-member board, Member William E. Wright said: "The Board is concerned by these releases, which had tragic consequences, and will proceed with an investigation to understand why these unfortunate events occurred." Mr. Wright cautioned that the new case would likely delay efforts to complete other investigations that are being conducted by same investigative team, including those at the Bayer CropScience facility in Institute, West Virginia, and an Ohio environmental services company. Including DuPont, the CSB has 17 open investigations, the largest number in its 11-year history. In voting to approve the investigation, the Board noted that the CSB was aware of six other releases from the plant since December 2006. The DuPont Belle complex is a large facility that is regulated under the EPA Risk Management Program and the OSHA Process Safety Management standard because of the volume and hazards of the materials it handles and the potential risk to workers and the community. CSB investigator Johnnie Banks will lead the four-member team which is expected at the site on Tuesday.

[www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov).

### **USA, TX, HOUSTON, JANUARY 26 2010. \$1.5 MILLION FINE FOLLOWING WORKER DEATH**

A waste management company was fined \$1,477,500 for scores of alleged violations of OSHA standards following an investigation into an explosion that killed a worker at the company's facility in Houston, Texas. The fatality was the third death in less than a year at this employer's facilities. Two hydrogen sulfide exposure-related deaths at a related facility in Port Arthur, Texas, occurred in December 2008 and April 2009. The company is challenging penalties totaling \$224,400 that OSHA proposed following those incidents. Following an investigation into the Houston incident, OSHA asserted that 15 pieces of electrical equipment used in the tank wash area were unsafe because of the presence of flammable and combustible vapors. Other alleged violations include: failure to ventilate tanks in which employees were working; exposing the workers to toxic atmospheric hazards; failure to separate stored flammable and reactive chemicals; failure to implement all aspects of the process safety management standard; failure to provide proper respiratory protection; failure to provide confined space rescue equipment and adequate fall protection; failure to implement an emergency response plan and adequate energy control procedures; failure to store compressed gas cylinders safely; and failure to label hazardous chemicals. In total, OSHA cited the company for 69 willful or serious violations.

<http://safety.blr.com/news.aspx?id=115188>

### **MALAYSIA, SETIU, JANUARY 26 2010. ONE WORKER DIES, 2 INJURED IN PALM OIL MILL BLAST**

A Bangladeshi worker was killed and two Malaysian workers were seriously injured after a gas tank exploded during welding at a palm oil mill near here today, police said. Setiu district police chief DSP Saik (rpt) Saik Othman Abdul Hamid said the incident happened at about 11am when the three workers were welding the tank situated 13 metres above ground at the rear of the Felda-owned Chalok Palm Oil Mill. "The tank exploded during the welding process and the three workers were thrown off by the blast. Two of them fell down while one fell into a hole in the tank," he said. He said the explosion, which occurred about 600 metres from the main entrance of the mill, resulted in the death of the Bangladesh worker on the spot. The body was sent to the Setiu Hospital. Saik Othman said the two local workers, one a Chinese and the other an Indian, were rushed to the Sultanah Nur Zahirah Hospital. Their condition is reported to be stable. He said the identities of the workers had yet to be established. Hariri Salahuddin, 35, said he and a co-worker were unloading oil palm bunches from a lorry when he heard a loud explosion. "I saw a man getting hurled out and became afraid. I ran to safety," he told reporters at the scene.

[http://www.nst.com.my/Current\\_News/NST/articles/20100125181247/Article/index.html](http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/articles/20100125181247/Article/index.html)

### **AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, CAIRNS, JANUARY 26 2010. GAS TANKER BREAKS THROUGH MARLIN WHARF**

A crane safely removed a 15-tonne gas tanker from the Marlin Wharf in Cairns after its wheel smashed through a wooden-plank footpath this morning. The Origin Energy tanker was backing into Al Porto Café at the Reef Fleet Terminal about 9am to fill up restaurant gas cylinders when the vehicle's front right wheel broke through the wharf's wooden footpath during the routine

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operation. The tanker was not leaking any fuel and a crane helped take the weight off the front wheel allowing the undamaged truck to safely drive from the scene.

[http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2010/01/25/89535\\_local-news.html](http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2010/01/25/89535_local-news.html)

### **USA, TX, BAYTOWN, JANUARY 26 2010. SULFURIC ACID TANKER AMONG DERAILED CARS**

*cindy horswell*

Union Pacific brought in heavy equipment late Monday to remove eight cars that had derailed in Baytown, including one filled with sulfuric acid and another with antifreeze, authorities said. Baytown's hazardous materials team inspected the cars that tumbled from the track about 12:20 a.m. on the north side of the Coady railroad yard and found no leaks, said Baytown's Asst. Fire Chief Victor Medrano. The cause of the mishap remains under investigation, railroad officials said. The train that slid from the track services the petrochemical industry in the Baytown area. Two of the eight derailed cars were transporting potentially hazardous and the rest contained "some various residues," he said. No injuries were reported.

<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story/mpl/hotstories/6834417.html>

### **USA, CA, LONG BEACH, JANUARY 27 2010. LONG BEACH TO PAY \$6.2-MILLION SETTLEMENT OVER VIOLATIONS OF PETROLEUM AND WASTE OIL STORAGE RULES**

*louis sahaun*

In the first enforcement of its kind against a public agency, the State Water Board on Tuesday said it has reached a \$6.2 million settlement with the city of Long Beach for extensive violations of regulations governing the storage of petroleum and waste oil in underground storage tanks. "The State Water Board will not tolerate violations of these important environmental protection laws," board director Reed Sato said, "and will take swift action against all violators, whether public or private." Long Beach has failed to perform required testing and monitoring and failed to install leak prevention equipment at 40 of its underground storage tank facilities, many of which are located at city fire and police stations. The prevention systems are designed to ensure that toxic substances stored in the tanks do not leak and pollute groundwater resources. The city did not deny responsibility for the violations, Sato said. Under terms of the settlement, the city will pay \$1.5 million in cash within 30 days, in addition to \$200,000 in reimbursement for the board's costs of enforcement. The city is also required to provide \$2.5 million in financial assurance will become due and payable if the city violates the underground storage tank laws again in the next five years. "To send the message to other underground tank owners and operators that this type of violation is significant and will not be tolerated," Sato said, the settlement requires that the city take out a full page advertisement in the Sunday edition of the Long Beach Press Telegram.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/01/long-beach-fined-62-million-for-violating-petroleum-and-waste-oil-storage-regulations.html>

### **UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC, QATAR, JANUARY 27 2010. BETTER SAFETY SYSTEM FOR PETROL PUMP/ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTS WILL SOON BE INSTALLED IN ALL PETROL-FILLING STATIONS IN QATAR TO CHECK FUEL LEVELS**

*sarmad qazi*

Petrol stations in Qatar have been asked to install electronic devices to check fuel levels in reservoirs as part of new safety measures being implemented in light of the recent blast at a station in Doha. In an exclusive interview, Petrol Station Executive Committee (PSEC) chairman Engineer Saad Ali al-Kubaisi told Gulf Times the new electronic instruments should start to arrive in the country by April and usage would become mandatory by June. Some 50 passengers of a bus were injured when the underground storage tank at the petrol station in the Hilal area exploded in October. "During investigations, we found certain safety instructions had been ignored. One was the lack of a safety aspect of the storage tank compartment," said al-Kubaisi, who is also Qatar Petroleum (QP) HSE director. "There was an opening in the sand which coupled with ageing, allowed air to enter the tank and mix with the fuel," the official said, while maintaining that the incident was "rare" not only in Qatar but anywhere in the world. Reservoirs are encompassed by concrete chambers filled with layers of compacted sand to absorb vapour. "Reaching the target of June is important for us also, as chances of vapourisation increases during summer," committee member Hassan Ali al-Qasbi, the director of Industrial Inspection & Monitoring at the Ministry of Environment (MoE), explained. Apart from QP and MoE, the PSEC, which was set up in 2007 on the directives of HH the Heir Apparent, has representation from Woqod, Civil Defence and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning. Further, the 70 petrol stations currently operating in Qatar will be subjected to a regular inspection system, al-Kubaisi said. "An international consultancy is studying the conditions of petrol filling stations in the country," al-Kubaisi noted. The exercise is likely to conclude this year, leading to the issue of a law regulating the functioning of petrol stations in the country. The law is likely to cover issues like pollution, leakages and spills. According to him, the strategy is not to disturb the stations while eliminating latent threats. The officials admitted that an evaluation of the petrol stations in Qatar had revealed problems with their inspection and monitoring systems, but insisted that PSEC was there to correct them. "The pace of development in Qatar was so rapid. For the purpose of comparison, Woqod's latest announcement of its plan to open 100 more petrol stations (with associated facilities) makes sense. There's room for more refuelling points especially in suburbia," al-Kubaisi added. PSEC is responsible for liaising among the various state agencies, providing plans for rehabilitation and licensing of petrol stations, as per pre-defined standards in accordance with international guidelines. PSEC evaluates and enforces regulations that range from safety to security to environment. PSEC is also engaged in cross-border sharing of expertise, as evident from a recent visit to the UAE, officials pointed out.

[http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=339280&version=1&template\\_id=57&parent\\_id=56](http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=339280&version=1&template_id=57&parent_id=56)

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### **AUSTRALIA, NSW, OURIMBAH, JANUARY 27 2010. 8 HURT IN OZ DAY BONFIRE EXPLOSION**

**Map:** [Ourimbah 2258](#)

Eight people suffered burns when an Australia Day bonfire exploded at Ourimbah on the New South Wales central coast. Police say about 100 people were at the fire in the paddock of a rural property last night at about 8:30pm (AEDT). Officers believe a large amount of fuel was poured on the fire, sparking the explosion. Eight people between the ages of 14 and 20 were treated for burns - three are in a serious condition. Five of the injured are expected to be treated at the burns unit at Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital. Police are investigating.

[http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/27/2802098.htm?WT.mc\\_id=newsmail](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/27/2802098.htm?WT.mc_id=newsmail)

### **NAMIBIA, WALVIS BAY, JANUARY 27 2010. HUGE UNDERGROUND DIESEL LEAK AT WALVIS**

*adam hartman*

When employees of Dany Construction in Walvis Bay wanted to pump diesel from an onsite depot about two weeks ago, they found the 25 000 litre tank empty, exposing an underground fuel leak due to a broken pipeline. Dany Construction's Attie van der Westhuizen was not available for comment because he was out of town. The Walvis Bay Municipality's Water and Waste Management Department confirmed the incident and are now working with the company and BP Namibia to correct the problem. According to the Walvis Bay Municipality's Rian Archer, who is responsible for hazardous waste management, it is believed that about 100 000 litres of diesel had leaked during a period of about two months. "The company informed us immediately when they noticed something was wrong. They played open cards with us from the beginning to solve this problem," Archer told The Namibian. Further investigations revealed that the pipeline between the tank and the pump was damaged underground. Archer said the fuel infrastructure was apparently built by BP in 1988. "It's a big mess that won't be sorted out overnight. It will take a lot of consulting and clean-up to rehabilitate the area," he said. According to him, the spill will not affect the harbour town's groundwater resource, which is 30 km outside of town; not should it have any serious environmental consequences. He said because of the location of the site, combined with tidal seawater pressures, the spill will be contained in an underground pocket and not flow into the ocean, "The diesel will be contained in an area, and it will have to be drained and pumped out from underground. The polluted ground in the area will also have to be removed and replaced by clean ground. It's a big job," he said. Archer said all depots at Walvis Bay would have to be inspected to ensure that infrastructure is in proper condition and that underground systems would have to be brought above ground to ensure easy repair and maintenance.

<http://www.namibian.com.na/news/full-story/archive/2010/january/article/huge-underground-diesel-leak-at-walvis/>

### **USA, TX, AUSTIN, JANUARY 27 2010. WOMAN CITED AFTER LEAVING VEHICLE WHILE FUELING**

*mike rose*

Roughly eight gallons of gasoline spilled at an Austin gas station Saturday when a woman stopped watching her pump, but the mess was quickly cleaned up. The incident occurred at Reed's Fourth Avenue at around 4 p.m. Firefighters responded to the spill, but because of the large amount of water on the ground because of melting ice, the gas was diluted, and the store wasn't shut down, according to a police report. The 36-year-old woman told police she went into the store for just a minute or two while her car was fueling. When she noticed gas spilling, she quickly ran to her vehicle, the report states. The woman was cited for not being present at the pump while fueling her vehicle.

<http://www.austindailyherald.com/news/2010/jan/26/woman-cited-after-leaving-vehicle-while-fueling/>

### **USA, TX, GALVESTON, JANUARY 27 2010. INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT AT BP OIL REFINERY RESULTS IN \$1.72M VERDICT**

A worker at BP's Texas City oil refinery has been awarded \$1.72 million by a Galveston jury in an [industrial accident lawsuit](#). The verdict was handed down on January 15th in the 10th Judicial District Court, in favor of Ernesto Tamez and his wife, Maria. Tamez filed his [personal injury lawsuit](#) against Maxim Crane Works for liability arising from an accident at the BP Plant where he worked on January 18, 2006. Tamez was hit by an oil burner that was elevated by a crane operator who worked for Maxim. Tamez suffered a crush damage injury to his back, neck, shoulder and ribs, requiring extensive surgery. The jury found Maxim Crane Works fully liable for the industrial accident after plaintiffs argued that the operator moved the oil burner without first receiving an "all clear" signal to indicate that no one was in harm's way. The operator also allegedly moved the burner in a way that unbalanced the load. The damages award includes \$300,000 for lost wages, \$550,000 in medical expenses and \$170,000 for Tamez's wife. BP's Texas City Refinery is the third-largest oil refinery in the United States, and has been the subject of [several major safety incidents](#). As recently as September, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration hit BP with an \$87.4 million fine for not complying with a safety agreement made after a March 23, 2005 explosion and fire that killed 15 workers and injured more than 170 others. In February 2009, BP Products North America agreed to pay \$180 million to resolve a separate [environmental lawsuit over benzene emissions at the oil refinery](#). That case involved violations of a 2001 consent decree and Clean Air regulations which were identified during inspections by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) following the March 2005 blast. Under the terms of that settlement, BP agreed to spend \$161 million to address their Clean Air Act violations by setting up better pollution controls, enhanced maintenance and monitoring devices and improving their internal management practices. Another \$6 million was designated to fund a project to reduce air pollution in Texas City and \$12 million was paid as a penalty.

<http://www.aboutlawsuits.com/industrial-accident-at-bp-oil-refinery-7820/>

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