

Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2010 – 625 Newsy Stuff

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GERMANY, MOENCHENGLADBACH, JULY 23 2010. WOMAN HIT BY FIREWORKS, SUFFERS SEVERE BURNS AT SOCCER MATCH

Police say a woman suffered severe burns when she was hit by fireworks lit by fans at a friendly match in Germany between Istanbul rivals Galatasaray and Fenerbahce. Police in Moenchengladbach say the 19-year-old woman was taken to a special clinic Wednesday night after suffering third-degree burns to her back. Two other people were treated for light burns. The match, which Fenerbahce won 1-0, was interrupted for 10 minutes at one point because of smoke from the fireworks. More than 34,000 people attended the match. Police said several people suspected of throwing fireworks were arrested.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5hTX_o949gpdGaqcZuTAdAztNNzeQ

UGANDA, KAMPALA, JULY 23 2010. SWISS GROUP TAKES OVER SHELL

ibrahim kasita

A consortium led by a Swiss-based firm, Vitol Group and Elios, has taken over Royal Dutch Shell's interests in sub-Saharan Africa, including Uganda. Royal Dutch Shell is the parent company of Shell Uganda. Vitol paid between \$1.2b and \$1.5b to become the majority shareholder in the distribution and marketing sections of the giant oil company. Shell announced last year it would off-load its retail operations in Africa. Sources told The New Vision the deal covers Shell's retail, commercial fuels, bitumen and chemical businesses. It also covers the supply and distribution of oil, the liquified petroleum gas business as well as a lubricants oil. Ivan Kyayonka, the managing director of Shell Uganda, confirmed that a partner has been "identified" but declined to give details pending an official communication from the firm's Africa headquarters in Johannesburg. Vitol Group, founded in 1966 and headquartered in the Swiss capital, Geneva, is a privately-owned firm with core businesses in energy, particularly crude oil. It develops oil and gas terminals and pipelines and offers refining services. It also provides financing, insurance, re-insurance and shipping services. Sources clarified that the new operators will continue using the Shell brand in the 21-country African market, including Uganda. Shell remains a minority shareholder. This is not the first time Shell is selling its African assets. In 2008, the firm sold its interests in 15 African countries. However, it still holds onto its most lucrative activities, exploration and production. The take-over of Shell's Africa operations by Vitol brings to an end a tough bidding rivalry among oil companies such as Oilibya, Morocco Oils, Tamoil and Engen Petroleum that were contesting for the ownership of the lucrative oil business. It also means that the Vitol Group will join Total as the other big global brand in the petroleum retail business. Shell had positioned itself in the market Ugandan with earlier acquisitions of Agip and BP, but seems to be reeling from growing competition from local and Asian firms. The sell of the African business comes barely a month after Royal Dutch Shell sold similar operations in Greece at \$300m. Last year, the firm also sold some \$1.2b of non-core downstream assets, bringing the five-year total to \$11b.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/220/726652>

CHINA, DALIAN, JULY 23 2010. CNPC REOPENS DALIAN PLANT PIPELINE; SPILL THREATENS FISH FARMS

China National Petroleum Corp. resumed crude supplies through a pipeline to its refinery in Dalian after a blast at the port reduced plant operations and caused a spill that the government said may affect fish farms. PetroChina Co., a Hong Kong-listed unit, has increased production at the refinery after the pipeline started up at 10:45 p.m. local time on July 19, CNPC said in a statement on its website today. PetroChina cut the refinery's output after a pipeline explosion at the port on July 16 disrupted seaborne cargo deliveries and leaked oil into the sea. Dalian closed several bathing beaches to tourists after the spill spread across more than 183 square kilometers (70 square miles) of sea. The agriculture ministry said yesterday the slick may affect nearby fish farms if it spreads. Authorities are aiming to finish the cleanup before July 24, the official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday. The effort has been delayed by heavy rain and strong winds, it said. More than 400 metric tons of oil had been recovered as of 9 a.m. yesterday, CNPC said. A total of about 1,500 tons of oil spilled into the sea, according to the China National Radio on July 19. All the docks in the Xingang and Dayaowan areas of the port that were hit by the explosion have resumed operations, except the crude oil terminal, operator Dalian Port (PDA) Co. said on July 20. The pipelines damaged by the blast are owned by a joint venture between PetroChina International Co., a unit of PetroChina, and Dalian Port.

Cause of Explosion

CNPC's 410,000 barrel-a-day Dalian refinery is receiving 45,000 metric tons (328,500 barrels) of crude oil daily through the reopened pipeline, according to the statement today. The refinery will operate at full capacity when the crude terminal resumes and pipeline repairs are completed, state-controlled CNPC said, without giving details. The explosion was caused by a third-party quality-inspection company that didn't follow procedures properly, the China Securities Journal reported today. The blast happened when Shanghai-based Q.Pro Inspection & Technical Services Co. added some catalyst into the pipeline to

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desulfurize crude oil imported from Venezuela, the newspaper reported, citing unidentified people with knowledge of the matter. Details of the incident are still being investigated, the newspaper said. Thomas Luo, an official at Q.Pro, declined to comment on the report when contacted by Bloomberg.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-07-22/cnpc-reopens-dalian-plant-pipeline-spill-threatens-fish-farms.html>

USA, S.C, DILLON, JULY 23 2010. DILLON COUNTY CLEANS UP MASSIVE GASOLINE SPILL

jamie roger

As BP rolls into its fourth month of cleaning up a massive oil spill, state and local officials are rolling into their fourth year of fighting to control a gasoline spill in Dillon County. In November 2006, the S.C. Department of Health and Environment Control began efforts to control a 3,000-gallon gasoline spill in Dillon County near the S.C. 301 North bridge and Kintyre Road. Agency officials have been at it ever since, said Buck Graham, a program manager with DHEC. DHEC hosted a community meeting in Dillon on Thursday night about the gasoline spill to inform the public of the progress its officials and others have made and to update them on the ongoing challenges associated with controlling such a disaster. "We've had consistent complaints and we know people are concerned about it," said Donna D. Moyer, DHEC public participation coordinator. The ongoing Gulf of Mexico oil spill has made people curious about the Dillon County spill happening in their neighborhood, she said. "I think people are more aware and that's a good thing," Moyer said. Residents smell the stench of the displaced gasoline and worry for their safety and that of the nearby Little Pee Dee River, the subject of multiple disputes in Dillon County. State officials told residents Thursday the gasoline spill hasn't caused any major fish kill and that it's still safe to eat fish caught in the river. No injuries or personal harm has been reported as a result of the spill, either, Moyer said. Many residents who attended Thursday meetings were glad to get updates about the cleanup project and relieved to know the county's river had been somewhat spared from the spill. "I just want to thank you all for protecting our river," one resident told the DHEC officials Thursday. The agency said it began to act on the matter immediately after it was informed about it and soon discovered the origin of the gasoline spill was an above-ground storage tank at Butch's Food Mart. Officials said Thursday they don't know how long the storage tank had been leaking gasoline or how the leak began. They discovered hoses connected to the tank were worn and bent in some areas and may have cracked and leaked gasoline over time. The owner of the convenience store, Butch Hinson, wasn't fined by DHEC, but was placed under a consent agreement which requires him to use whatever financial resources he has to clean up the spill. The issuance of a fine to an entity or a person has to do with intent, Tom Knight, DHEC Bureau of Land and Wastewater Management program manager, said. The agency does issue fines, but it is also effectively lets the responsible party use its own funds to help solve the problem instead of using it to pay a fine, Knight said. About 40 percent of the total cost of the cleanup has come from Hinson. About 60 percent came from a trust fund accessible by DHEC. State taxpayers are only responsible for the salaries of DHEC employees working on the project, DHEC officials said. DHEC has employed about six different methods to control the gasoline spill which has affected a 300-foot-by-600-foot area in Dillon County. Some of the methods, such as booms, are being used in the Gulf Coast. Booms are much like floating walls that work to trap the floating oil. Skimmers are also used, but oil discharging agents are not, as they contain metals that are harmful to the river's delicate ecosystem and floodplains, Knight said. Graham said DHEC will be working on the project until at least 2012. The work humans can't do is being done by naturally-occurring bacteria which "eat" the gasoline, but it will take the earth as many as 30 years to wipe out all traces of the disaster.

http://www2.scnw.com/scp/news/local/pee_dee/article/dillon_county_cleans_up_massive_gasoline_spill/232607/

USA, PA, BEAVER CO, POTTER TWP, JULY 23 2010. TWO KILLED IN POTTER PLANT BLAST

bill utterback

A small flame, placed at the foot of a homemade wooden cross, flickered at the gate to the Horsehead Corp. zinc plant for hours after two men died late Thursday afternoon in an explosion. "This will hit Monaca and Beaver County very hard," Tina Smith of Monaca, whose brother and ex-husband work at the Horsehead plant, said when she brought the cross to the gate. "We're very, very upset about this. There has always been constant worry for families who have guys working in that plant." Beaver County Coroner Teri Tatalovich-Rossi said she pronounced two people dead at the scene, but she would not provide identities pending notification of families. She said they died "in the refinery part of the plant," but causes of death would not be established until autopsies were completed, possibly today. Wes Hill, Beaver County director of emergency services, said the deaths were the result of an "industrial explosion," but its source would not be determined until after a comprehensive investigation involving the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Ali Alavi, Horsehead spokesman, said the incident occurred in a refinery column used to create zinc oxide. He said that it appeared to be "more of an explosion than a fire" and that the incident was still under investigation. He also could not identify the workers and did not know where they

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were, or what they were doing, at the time of incident. Horsehead officials canceled the midnight shift that followed the explosion, and Alavi said the plant would be closed indefinitely while the investigation continued. Hill said the initial report of smoke from the plant came to the Beaver County 911 Center at 4:30 p.m., which was quickly followed by reports of fire from an explosion. The fire was quickly contained, although it took hours for emergency crews to "render the plant safe," said Hill, who did not release details on the event until around 9:20 p.m. "Everything in the plant is safe," Hill said. "There was no danger for the public on the outside." Horsehead has had previous incidents in the last few years of fire and a chemical release at its plant in Potter Township. A fire on July 13, 2008, drew the attention of Hill in the county emergency services office, and the state Department of Environmental Protection, when it was not reported to emergency officials until five hours after it happened, according to a Times report. There was also concern that the company reported a structure fire and did not report chemicals that were involved. In June 2008, an additive to natural gas was reportedly released, according to a Times report. In June 2007, an explosion started a fire inside the plant, but Potter Township firefighters responded and no injuries were reported. Horsehead, according to its corporate website, considers its Beaver County plant to be the world's largest user of recycled zinc-bearing materials. It produces primarily zinc metal and zinc oxide.

Past Dangers at the Plant

The Horsehead Corp. plant, formerly Zinc Corporation of America, in Potter Township is no stranger to industrial accidents involving death or serious injuries. Here are some past incidents at the plant on Frankfort Road:

- July 1989: Russell Franks, then 51, of New Castle, and two other workers were overcome by a liquid chlorine tank leak. Franks was hospitalized for chlorine gas inhalation effects.
- January 1990: Floyd Patton, 51, of Center Township and Ernest Arbes, 36, of Conway were killed when they were buried under 20 tons of zinc powder.
- July 1994: James Carnegie II, then 47, of Rochester suffered severe shoulder, arm and leg injuries after he became caught in a conveyor belt.
- April 1997: Tim Sandusky, then 34, of Brighton Township suffered second- and third-degree burns when a vat of hot water and soda ash spilled on him while he was operating equipment at the plant.
- January 2004: Thomas Herman, 71, of Monaca, was crushed by a truck while he was making a delivery at the plant.
- December 2004: An unidentified worker suffered severe leg burns when he stepped into an uncovered condenser pit full of molten zinc. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined the company \$63,000 for violations associated with the accident.

http://www.timesonline.com/bct_news/news_details/article/1373/2010/july/22/two-killed-in-potter-plant-blast.html

USA, NM, MILAN, JULY 23 2010. THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF DIESEL LEAK FROM TANKS >> MILAN LISTED AS ONE OF STATE'S TOP TEN SPILLS

rosanne boyett



Computer drawing of spill beacon.

Last October fuel was released underground through faulty conduit connectors at Love's Truck Stop in Milan. Officials were unsure of the total volume leaked but estimated the number in the tens of thousands gallons. "We (the village) didn't know anything about the diesel spill until Brown (Environmental, Inc.) started working on it," according to Village Manager Marcella Sandoval. She said the spill's clean-up process is being handled appropriately. The New Mexico Environment Department has contracted with Brown Environmental, Inc. to clean up the diesel spill. The spill is located at the intersection of Horizon Boulevard and Willow Drive near the I-40 ramps. Testing indicated groundwater contamination.

The company began in December of 2009 to install 17 pumping wells and

approximately 800 gallons of diesel have been removed. Every two weeks perimeter monitoring wells are tested. To date 12 wells indicate pollution levels higher than the federal Environmental Protection Agency's acceptable standards. Petroleum spills are prioritized based on severity and that spill placed the village on the state's list of top ten sites. Contractor Bill Brown said, "Any time you sell fuel from underground tanks sooner or later you will have a leak." He noted that the Milan spill is on the state's top ten list but Grants' has sites number one and number two. More than 15 people attended the Board of Trustees' July 15 meeting including area residents, New Mexico Environment Department staff and a Brown Environmental, Inc., representative to learn about the clean up efforts. Two municipal water wells are located less than a mile from the site; well B-35 is 2,300 feet north and well B-23 is 3,500 feet south. Sentinel monitoring wells have been placed between the spill plume,

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the area of contamination, and municipal water wells. Steve Reuter, geologist manager with the state's petroleum tank bureau, stated the owner had reported the spill to the state Environment Department within 24 hours. Reuter's department investigated and the clean-up plan is in the development phase. Completion of the planning process will be followed by a 30-day public notice period. For the Love's site the pilot testing process is nearly completed and should be finalized within two weeks, said Brown. He said the company works specifically on underground storage tank leaks and the state regularly employs its services. He listed the project's goals: protect private and municipal wells; prevent further migration or expansion of the diesel plume; remove source area hydrocarbons. By law underground tank owners are required to annually test their storage equipment. The diesel leak was discovered during the business's routine testing. The company immediately shut off its customer service pumps and notified the Environment Department. To date \$575,000 has spent of the original \$675,000 allocated toward clean up of the Love's spill. The largest portion of the funds, 73 percent, has been used for installation of large-diameter recovery wells. Across the state 1,000 leaking underground petroleum tanks have been identified. The property owner pays the first \$10,000 of clean-up costs. The remainder comes from state monies, a fraction of which is generated by tankers' fees.

<http://www.cibolabeacon.com/articles/2010/07/22/news/doc4c48d7bc914e5162289038.txt>

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, JULY 23 2010. PIPELINE LEAKS IN ALASKA'S OLDEST OIL FIELD

yereth rosen

An estimated 630 gallons of oil has leaked from a buried pipeline in Alaska's oldest operating oil field, state environmental officials said Wednesday. The leak was discovered at the Swanson River oil field in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge south of Anchorage, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) said. The field, which produces both oil and natural gas, is operated by Chevron Corp. Chevron has shut in the two wells that feed the affected pipeline, said Steve Russell, an environmental program specialist with the DEC. Chevron could not be immediately reached for comment. The leaking line, which carries a combination of liquids from the wells to a tank for later transport to production facilities, lies under a grassy area, Russell said. So far it is unknown whether the line is corroded because Chevron has not been able to dig it up, he said. Other than soiling the grassy area, there has been little environmental impact, Russell said. "There's been no wildlife impact of any kind at this time that we've determined," he said. The Swanson River field was discovered in 1957 by Richfield Oil Co. of California. The oil find, accomplished on Richfield's first well, is credited with helping Alaska achieve statehood and helping Richfield grow into a major company that became known as Atlantic Richfield, or ARCO. After the oil field was developed, the area encompassing it became designated as the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Oil production at Swanson River was down to about 400 barrels a day in 2009, according to the Alaska Division of Oil and Gas website.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE66L0LN20100722?type=domesticNews>

NETHERLANDS, AMSTERDAM, JULY 23 2010. TRAFIGURA FOUND GUILTY OF EXPORTING TOXIC WASTE



The case involves chemical waste dumped in 2006

A Dutch court has found multinational Trafigura guilty of illegally exporting toxic waste from Amsterdam and concealing the nature of the cargo. In 2006, Trafigura transported waste alleged to have been involved in the injury of thousands of people in Ivory Coast. Trafigura denied any wrongdoing. It expressed disappointment in the ruling and is considering an appeal. The firm was fined 1m euros (£836,894) for its ship, the Probo Koala, transiting Amsterdam with its cargo. The ship then went on to unload its cargo in Ivory Coast. Trafigura employee Naeem Ahmed, who was involved in the ship's operation in Amsterdam, was fined 25,000 euros and the

captain of the Probo Koala, 46-year-old Sergiy Chertov, was sentenced to a five-year suspended jail term. This is the first time Trafigura has faced criminal charges since the toxic waste scandal unfolded in Ivory Coast's commercial capital, Abidjan, in 2006. Trafigura, an oil trading company, initially tried to clean up low-grade oil by tipping caustic soda into the hold of the Probo Koala. The company tried to unload the waste in Amsterdam for treatment, declaring it as "harmless slops". When the treatment company came back with a higher price for cleaning the waste, the cargo was shipped to Africa where it ended up in Abidjan to be handled at a much lower rate. Presiding Judge Frans Bauduin said: "Trafigura - which by that time knew of the exact composition [of the waste] - should never have agreed to its processing at such a price." Trafigura denies responsibility for the dumping of the waste and any deaths or injuries caused Trafigura said it was pleased to have been acquitted of the charge of forgery, but was "disappointed by the judges' ruling on the other two, which it believes to be incorrect". A statement from Trafigura said: "Concerning the delivery of dangerous goods, it is important that the court has noted that there was limited

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risk to human health from these slops, and indeed no damage occurred in Amsterdam." Trafigura said it was considering an appeal. A lawyer representing the company, Robert de Bree, said: "I think it's important to notice that the convictions relate to highly technical, complex legal matters and we will carefully study the judgement to look at the possibility of an appeal." Another Trafigura lawyer, Michael Wladimiroff, was quoted by Associated Press news agency as saying the company believed the Marine Pollution Treaty applied and that the court had incorrectly applied the terms of another waste management treaty. The firm also maintained that Mr Ahmed "did nothing wrong".

Out-of-Court Settlement

Greenpeace, which brought this case, has welcomed the outcome, saying it was a warning to firms not to export waste to developing countries. Greenpeace toxics campaigner, Marietta Harjono, said that further legal action should be taken against Trafigura: "We must also be very clear that justice is not complete yet, because this is only the beginning, because Trafigura has not been brought to trial yet for the deliberate dumping of toxic waste in Africa." One of those who fell ill after waste was dumped, Ivorian Guy Oulla, told the BBC: "I believe it is a very good decision because people should pay for what they do, you know. So, I agree with that decision. You know, we live in Africa and it could happen again because in Africa people do everything for money." In 2008, a court in Ivory Coast found two non-Trafigura employees guilty of illegally dumping the waste. A Nigerian national named Salomon Ugborugbo was sentenced to 20 years in jail. He was the head of an Abidjan firm, Tommy, which Trafigura said it contracted in good faith to handle the waste from the Probo Koala. Essoin Kouao, who worked as a shipping agent at the Port of Abidjan and had recommended Tommy to Trafigura, received a five-year prison term. In 2007 Trafigura paid \$160m (£104m) to the government of Ivory Coast without admitting liability. Trafigura also paid \$50m (£32m) in an out-of-court settlement to individuals in Ivory Coast who said they had been injured when the waste was spread on dumps around Abidjan.

Waste Victim's Story:

It is a good thing that they have been found guilty but it would be even better if they were sent to jail"

- [Guy Oulla's full story](#)

Timeline

- Sept 2006 - Thousands in Ivory Coast report falling ill from waste in Abidjan
- Oct 2006 - About 1,000 Ivorians sue Trafigura
- Feb 2007 - Trafigura reaches \$160m out-of-court settlement with government of Ivory Coast
- Oct 2008 - Ivory Coast court finds two people, not employees of Trafigura, guilty of dumping toxic waste in Abidjan
- Sept 2009 - Trafigura agrees to pay \$50m to people in Ivory Coast who say they were poisoned by the waste
- June 2010 - Dutch prosecutors accuse Trafigura of illegally exporting hazardous waste to Ivory Coast

Related Stories

- [Ivory Coast toxic waste claims](#) 25 JUNE 2008, NEWSNIGHT
- [Ivorian 'waste fund theft' probe](#) 21 JUNE 2010, AFRICA
- [Ivorians receive Trafigura payout](#) 03 MARCH 2010, AFRICA
- [Ivorian joy at Trafigura ruling](#) 06 NOVEMBER 2009, AFRICA
- [Ivorian dumping report published](#) 17 OCTOBER 2009, UK POLITICS

From other News Sites

- This is Money [Oil firm that poisoned 100,000 is fined](#) 18 hrs ago
- The Independent [Take toxic waste. Add caustic soda. Worry about the danger later](#)
- Sydney Morning Herald [Firm fined over Ivory Coast toxic waste](#)
- Yahoo! UK and Ireland [Dutch court fines firm over Ivory Coast toxic waste](#)
- France24 [Dutch court fines company after I.Coast waste dump](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-10735255>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, JULY 24 2010. CLEAN UP OF OIL SPILL BY CHINA BASED CARRIER IN AUSTRALIA'S NORTH EAST

Australian crews are patrolling the Port of Brisbane in Australia's north-east following yesterday's oil spill by a China-based bulk carrier. The carrier was being loaded with coal when an oil leak was detected. All major shipping was suspended while crews contained and cleaned up the oil. Maritime Safety Queensland manager, Patrick Quirk, says the ship's been stopped from leaving until an investigation is complete "It'll take as long as we find out as to why the oil got into the water," he

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says "The ship has engaged its classification society, which is its construction experts. They're on board now and they're doing a complete review and investigation. And we'll be talking to them as the process continues."

<http://australianetworknews.com/stories/201007/2963231.htm?desktop>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, JULY 24 2010. WITCO EMPLOYEE CLAIMS BENZENE EXPOSURE CAUSED MYELOMA

Michelle Massey


A former Witco employee has filed a lawsuit alleging that during his employment at the Gretna plant he was exposed to benzene products that caused him to develop multiple myeloma. Edward C. Patterson, Lavera Peterson Patterson, individually and as the legal representative of Edward C. Patterson and Lamar Patterson Sr. individually, and Edward Charles Patterson Jr. individually filed suit against Radiator Specialty Co., Travelers Insurance Co. and The Travelers Indemnity Co. on July 19 in federal court in New Orleans. Edward Patterson was employed by Witco at the Gretna plant as an operator at various times from 1966 to 1976 and 1977 through 2004. Travelers provided insurance for the Witco plant. Defendant Radiator Specialty is accused of selling various benzene containing products including Liquid Wrench to the Gretna plant. "While exposed at the work site described above, petitioner was exposed to dangerously high levels of benzene and other products containing benzene which were unreasonably dangerous materials," the lawsuit alleges. Patterson was diagnosed with multiple myeloma on May 13, allegedly due to his exposure. The defendants are accused of negligence for failing to make Patterson wear proper respiratory protective equipment, failing to warn or inform Patterson of the health hazards associated with inhalation of benzene, failing to implement a proper safety program, failing to train and instruct regarding the limitations of respiratory protective equipment, failing to maintain, repair, replace and make available necessary respiratory protective equipment and failing to monitor and evaluate the fume levels in the work environment. The plaintiffs are seeking damages for medical expenses, pain and suffering, emotional distress, mental anguish, loss of earnings, loss of earning capacity, fear of cancer and other diseases, disability, wrongful death, loss of consortium, hearing loss, physical impairment, disfigurement, and loss of society, services and consortium. The Pattersons are represented by L. Eric Williams Jr. of Williams Law Office and Richard J. Fernandez in Metairie. A jury trial is requested. U.S. District Judge Stanwood R. Duval, Jr. is assigned to the case. Case No. 2:10cv02007

<http://www.louisianarecord.com/news/228404-witco-employee-claims-benzene-exposure-caused-myeloma>

USA, PA. INDIANOLA, JULY 24 2010. NAME OF ONE OF TWO WORKERS KILLED IN GAS WELL FIRE IS RELEASED >> IDENTITY OF THE OTHER WORKER EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED MONDAY

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/alleggheny/24367026/detail.html>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wpxi.com/news/24366436/detail.html>

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.wpxi.com/news/24366436/detail.html>

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/alleggheny/24367026/detail.html>



The name of one of two men killed in the Indiana Township gas well fire has been released. The Allegheny County Medical Examiner identifies him as 46-year-old Kevin Henry of New Florence, Westmoreland County. The name of the other worker has not been released. Autopsies on both workers were performed Saturday. The medical examiner says the cause and manner of death are pending. The two workers died Friday morning when a shallow gas well caught fire in a wooded area with no nearby fire hydrants in Indiana Township, Allegheny County. Firefighters sprayed chemical foam in an attempt to douse the fire at the well site off Rich Hill Road. A red pool and buckets were set up in a nearby field so tanker trucks could refill with water. State officials believe "people were welding at the site and there was an explosion and the well caught fire," said Helen Humphries, a spokeswoman for the state [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#). The well, known as Murray Heirs No. 6, is owned by Monroeville-based [Huntley & Huntley](#). The DEP said it was completed in May 2008 and is considered to be a shallow well at 3,500 feet. Humphries said the well required no crew to produce natural gas, but crews sometimes went there to maintain or repair it. The men worked for a contractor hired by the well's owner to do maintenance work, Full said. A team of oil- and gas-well firefighting experts from Wild Well flew in from Texas to help local crews figure out how to put out the fire, which was extinguished around 8:30 p.m., officials said. "We're going to find out -- once this is safe -- why we have to go to Houston to bring those experts in here," county Chief Executive Dan Onorato said. "It isn't as if we don't have these shallow wells. They have been here for hundreds of years." On

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a 90-degree day, firefighters said the heat at the fire scene was so intense that their chemical spray was foaming and misting, causing a safety concern. "Black smoke, flames, and by the time we left, the second tank that's there was engulfed in flames," witness Travis Novak said. The county Fire Marshal and the DEP's Emergency Response team were called to the scene. Based in Monroeville, Huntley & Huntley is in the business of drilling and maintaining shallow gas wells, especially in eastern municipalities such as Penn Hills, Plum, Oakmont and Indiana Township. Huntley & Huntley operates 389 gas wells in the state, according to DEP figures, and is also active in Oklahoma. President Keith N. Mangini said in statement released Friday night that the company "will undertake a full investigation and cooperate fully with authorities." "Our deepest sympathies and heartfelt prayers are with the families of the victims of this accident," Mangini said. The company recently got into Marcellus Shale drilling and has partnered with Texas-based Range Resources to drill a Marcellus well on Yutes Run Road in Frazer Township, not far from the site of Friday's explosion. DEP Secretary John Hanger said in an e-mail that the well where the accident occurred Friday is not part of the lucrative Marcellus Shale, a rock formation that drillers began tapping about two years ago. Team 4's Jim Parsons reported that Huntley & Huntley has a mostly clean record with environmental regulators. The state DEP issued three violations, all of which were more than 10 years ago. According to records, Murray Heirs No. 6 was last inspected by state environmental regulators in October and found no violations. Parsons reported that the DEP has cited Huntley & Huntley for more than 70 violations at gas well sites in Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties since 2005, resulting in the company paying more than \$60,000 in civil penalties. Huntley & Huntley has since complied with all requirements that environmental regulators imposed in the cases in which it was fined, Parsons reported. As of 2007, Pennsylvania had more than 65,000 producing oil and gas wells, the vast majority of them drilled no deeper than 3,000 feet into the shallow sands underneath western Pennsylvania. The DEP estimates that as many as 350,000 wells have been drilled in the state going back to 1859.

<http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/allegheny/24367026/detail.html>

USA, IA, ELY, JULY 24 2010. MAN BURNED WHEN GASOLINE SPARKS ELY GARAGE FIRE

richard pratt

A Cedar Rapids man suffered burns when a spark ignited gasoline in an Ely garage late Thursday, authorities said. Benjamin W. Cooper, 21, suffered non-life threatening injuries and was taken by ambulance to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, authorities said. The garage fire at 1660 Walker St. was reported just before 8:30 p.m. According to the Linn County Sheriff's Office, Cooper and the home owner, Carl L. Svec, 21, were working on a car when the fire broke out. Svec refused medical attention at the scene. An investigation was continuing.

<http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Man-Burned-When-Gasoline-Sparks-Ely-Garage-Fire-99103054.html>

CHINA, DALIAN, JULY 24 2010. OIL SPILL BLAST BLAMED ON CHEMICAL BLUNDER

lulu Sinclair

 **Watch the Video** [Chinese News Release](#)



The spill covers a huge area.

Chinese authorities have blamed a chemical used to remove sulphur from crude oil for a blast that caused a massive spill on the country's northeast coast. A probe found the chemical was mistakenly pumped into pipelines after a tanker had stopped unloading crude at the port city of [Dalian](#), last Friday. The blunder triggered the huge explosion, the State Administration of Work Safety said. About 1,500 tons of oil were spilled into the Yellow Sea, off Liaoning province. The government has mobilised hundreds of fishing boats and other vessels to clean up the spill. Some volunteers have been using their bare hands to help skim the oil

from the ocean surface. A worker involved in the clean up died earlier this week after being immersed in the oil. An official estimate said the spill had affected about 170 square miles of the Yellow Sea. But reports in China later said the slick had more than doubled and stretched as far as 60 miles along the coast. About 40 special oil-skimming vessels are leading clean-up efforts with 23 tons of oil-eating bacteria being dispersed, the government says. China National Petroleum Corp, the country's biggest oil company and owner of the pipelines that exploded, released a statement on its website. It said at least 400 tons of oil had been cleaned up already. Environmental group [Greenpeace China](#) said the spill has badly affected the tourism and seafood industries. "Dalian's seafood farming and tourism industries have taken critical hits," it said in a statement, estimating that 10,000 shellfish farms have been contaminated. Fishing in the waters around Dalian has been banned until the end of August, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

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http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/World-News/China-Oil-Spill-Blamed-On-Chemical-Blunder-Amid-Clean-Up-Off-Dalian-Port-In-The-Yellow-Sea/Article/201007415669749?Ipos=World_News_First_Home_Page_Feature_Teaser_Region_0&lid=ARTICLE_15669749_China_Oil_Spill_Blamed_On_Chemical_Blunder_Amid_Clean_Up_Off_Dalian_Port%2C_In_The_Yellow_Sea

USA, FLA, TAMPA, JULY 24 2010. 2,000 GALLONS OF GAS SPILLED BY TANKER IN TAMPA

carly timmons



The gasoline tanker spilled an estimated 2,000 gallons of gasoline after hitting a pole.

According to Tampa Fire Rescue, a fuel tanker hit a cement post in the Port of Tampa, spilling 2,000 gallons of gasoline. A fuel tanker was exiting the Marathon Fuel Terminal in the Port of Tampa when the driver, 51-year-old Thomas Camery, hit a cement post. The tanker was carrying about 8,000 gallons of gas in five separate compartments. The damage caused two of the compartments to leak a total of 2,000 gallons of gasoline onto the ground at Marathon's property. Most of the spilled fuel streamed into drains on the property and then to a fuel water separator, so there should not be any pollution. Tampa Fire Rescue crews sprayed foam on the gasoline to prevent any accidental ignition of the vapors. Tampa hazardous materials team members used gas monitors to assure the fuel vapors were not getting to high levels. 6,000 gallons of gasoline on the damaged tanker is being pumped out of the tanker. Once the damaged tanker is empty, it will be moved back to the terminal property. 20th Street between Durham and Grant Streets has been closed since the incident occurred.

http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region_tampa/2,000-gallons-of-gas-spilled-by-tanker-in-tampa

USA, WI, SUAMICO, JULY 24 2010. CAR HITS GAS TANKER FULL OF FUEL; DRIVER SUSPECTED OF DRIVING DRUNK

A 20-year-old motorist was ticketed on suspicion of drunken driving Thursday after crashing his car into a tank truck loaded with gasoline at a railroad crossing. The man drove a Toyota Corolla into the rear of a gas truck that had stopped at a crossing and had its flashers on, said Brown County Sheriff's Lt. Steve Perry. No gasoline leaked from the truck although the tanker was damaged, Perry said. The crash occurred about 3:20 a.m. along Lineville Road between Velp Avenue and U.S. 41. The car was demolished. The Toyota driver was taken to a Green Bay hospital. His name was not available Thursday. The truck driver was unhurt, and faces no charges. The truck is registered to Klemm Tank Lines of Green Bay.

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20100723/GPG0101/100723029/Car-hits-gas-tanker-in-Suamico>

USA, MA, METHUEN, JULY 24 2010. DRIVER OF TIPPED TANKER CITED FOR SPEEDING

jim patten



Work crews were on the scene of the large fuel spill on Route 28 in Methuen the day after the crash. Here is the view looking north where crews took out one layer of pavement in an attempt to learn how far the 3,500 gallons of spilled heating oil penetrated the newly resurfaced road.

As efforts continued to clean up a 4,500-gallon home heating oil spill on Route 28, the driver of the tanker that rolled over causing the spill was cited yesterday for speeding and a yellow light violation. Methuen police Capt. Thomas Fram identified the driver as Louis Fejes, 31, of 28 Bradford Loop, Georgetown. Crews from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and ENPRO Environmental Services worked to contain the damage. Fejes, an employee of the Lawrence-based Haffner's fuel company, was at the wheel of the 2009 Mack tanker as he drove up

the off-ramp from Route 213 east onto Route 28 north. As he rounded the corner onto Route 28, the tanker rolled over coming to rest on the sidewalk and spilling much of its load of No. 2 heating oil. One witness in a car stopped at the traffic light as the tanker drove through, told police the tanker was "flying." Another witness in the car directly behind that car told police the light had turned to yellow when the truck entered the intersection and immediately turned red. He told police he watched as the truck began to tip and land on its side. He estimated the truck was traveling at 20 to 25 mph when it rolled over. Fram said state crews had ground down some of the asphalt Wednesday night to see how far the home heating oil had penetrated, and

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that more grinding would have to be done. Fram said the crews also were checking under the sidewalk where the tanker truck landed, and that the sidewalk might have to be removed as well. In addition, two catch basins also would be replaced, he said. A lot of the fuel ran through drains under Route 28 and ended up in a water impoundment area just off Route 213 at the newly reconstructed overpass, Fram said. "I've seen spills at accidents, but I've never seen anything like that 4,500 gallon spill," Fram said. Adam Hurtubise, spokesman for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, said some of the pavement would have to be replaced, and that restoration work would be done to the pavement, sidewalk and Nevins Road, after the spill was cleaned up.

<http://www.eagletribune.com/local/x1483666543/Driver-of-tipped-tanker-cited-for-speeding>

CANADA, MANITOBA, SOURIS, JULY 24 2010. HIGHWAY 19 CLOSED AFTER FUEL TANKER STRUCK ELK

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH0R9Qs7xc>

Traffic to North Vancouver Island was completely cut off for more than 24 hours after a fuel truck hit an elk on Highway 19 early Wednesday morning. RCMP Cst. Alexa Blacklock said the accident happened around 5 a.m. Wednesday on Highway 19 near the Big Tree Rest Stop, south of the Sayward Junction. The fuel truck reportedly went off the highway after striking and killing the elk. Some fuel spilled and crews worked through the night to drain the fuel tanker and right the vehicle. The highway was closed from the Big Tree Rest Stop to the Sayward Junction. The fuel truck driver suffered only minor injuries. One lane of traffic re-opened at 7 a.m. Thursday and the highway was fully open around 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

<http://www.canada.com/Highway+closed+after+fuel+tanker+struck/3312284/story.html>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, JULY 24 2010. MURPHY TO EXIT REFINING INDUSTRY

Murphy Oil Corp. announced Thursday that its Board of Directors approved plans for exiting the Company's refining businesses. The refineries at Superior, Wisconsin; Meraux, Louisiana and Milford Haven, Wales along with the retail system in the United Kingdom will be placed for sale. The Company anticipates a transaction being completed in the first quarter of 2011. President and CEO David Wood commented, "Murphy's Upstream and U.S. Retail businesses have demonstrated marked growth and financial performance over the last several years. By exiting the refining business, we can fully focus our attention and resources on continuing that growth, developing a premier international upstream business and a top quartile U.S. retail franchise." Goldman, Sachs & Co. is serving as exclusive financial advisor to Murphy during this process.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=23450&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1

USA, DE, DELAWARE CITY, JULY 25 2010. DELAWARE DRINKING WATER AT RISK: TAXPAYERS STUCK WITH \$100 MILLION MESS >> METACHEM DECLARED BANKRUPTCY, WALKED AWAY FROM DEBT AND CLEANUP EFFORT

jeff montgomery



The abandoned Metachem plant is the most polluted site in the petrochemical complex near Delaware City. Based on government promises that poisoned soils and groundwater could be cleaned, taxpayers have already spent more than \$100 million at Metachem.

Inhaling dust inside the fence at Metachem, where vapors of pesticide ingredients and dioxins swirl in the wind, could increase the risk of cancer 900 times over a lifetime. There are warning signs and padlocks around the deserted plant, about three miles northwest of Delaware City. Beyond the chain-link is a wasteland of junk parts, pooled water, chunks of concrete and rebar, a sheet-metal outbuilding surrounded by scrub forest and wetlands that feed Red Lion Creek. Federal and state environmental agencies today list six major sources of groundwater pollution in

the region northwest of Delaware City. Some contamination sources date back nearly 50 years. The single worst site is the abandoned Metachem chemical plant, where regulators are still discovering veins of pollution. Based on government promises that poisoned soils and groundwater could be cleaned, taxpayers have already spent more than \$100 million at Metachem. A plantwide review launched just before the factory went bankrupt in 2002 found that temporary wells designed to suck up pollution from groundwater failed repeatedly and operated in violation of a consent agreement for more than a decade. Many of the plant's spill-containment pads, essentially poured concrete, were inadequate, broken or missing, in some cases allowing spills to leak directly into the ground. Those oversights, including gross underestimates of pollution depths in local soils, allowed the contamination to continue spreading for years, officials acknowledge today. The big taxpayer bills started rolling in after years of uncontested company claims that time and dilution eventually would erase the problem without heavy

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construction or expense. Even as those claims continued, new pollution violations were making the problem worse. "Thirty years of misbehavior," Todd Keyser, a DNREC environmental program manager, summed up during a recent visit to the site. Former plant workers and regulators told The News Journal that a scrubber designed to catch toxic vapors instead threw "snowstorms" of paradichlorobenzene onto the ground and nearby workers. "It looked like a blizzard coming off that line some days," said James Bryant, a former vice president at Standard Chlorine, Metachem's predecessor, who left the company before its shutdown. Bryant had complained for years that the state was understating risks at the plant. The Caravel Farms resident, now retired, has repeatedly warned regulators of chemical contamination risks from dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls. Tests now show both in surrounding sediments. After one huge spill during the mid-1980s, Bryant recalled, company workers paddled across [pools](#) of chlorinated benzene in aluminum boats, while a tractor-trailer sat stranded nearby, its tires melting as the solvent reacted with the rubber. "All that just rushed down into the creek, and a lot of it's still there, more than 20 years later," Bryant said. "It's a disgrace." U.S. [Geological Survey](#) scientist Michael Boynton said that studies under way now should give a better picture of the degree to which those toxins could spread through the aquifer. "Hindsight is 20-20," Boynton said. "There's a large effect. That's no secret." Regulators have been aware of groundwater threats at the Metachem plant for decades and reported as long ago as 2004 and 2005 that benzene contamination had reached 15 times the federal safety limit 70 feet down. Even though the site sits directly above the upper part of the Potomac Aquifer, which accounts for nearly 30 percent of northern Delaware's drinking water, deeper tests at Metachem didn't begin until late last year. The most recent tests found concentrations of benzene at 26,000 parts per billion -- 5,200 times higher than [the federal government's](#) drinking water limit. Nicholas A. DiPasquale, who led DNREC from 1999-2002, said the agency has been quick to focus on groundwater problems wherever immediate public [health risks](#) surfaced. "It's a tricky business. It's difficult to take all that data and interpret it and truly understand what's going on," DiPasquale said. "People don't appreciate this, but we're still dealing with a lot of legacy issues" lingering from industrial spills. "Things can change. It's like trying to cap a well a mile under the [ocean](#). You can't see what's going on or how the contamination is behaving." Before discovery of the deeper contamination, cleanup officials said thick beds of clay would protect the deeper aquifer from pollution in shallow soils above. Regulators have since backed away from that assurance, with upper portions of the Potomac now described as "semi-confined" and vulnerable to the downward movement of toxic wastes. Metachem, which purchased the plant from Standard Chlorine of Delaware in 1998, escaped full liability for the cleanup because it operated as a limited liability company protected from many of the claims that can be lodged against corporations. A private investor group had controlling ownership of the LLC. The company walked away from more than \$65 million in debts when it declared bankruptcy -- including debts to investors -- with nothing left for government agencies to recover. Not until three years after Metachem declared bankruptcy did the EPA finally order [the U.S. Geological Survey](#) to conduct an independent study of the deep aquifers and pollution risks. That report will not be finished until 2012.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100725/NEWS02/7250303>

INDONESIA, JAKARTA, JULY 25 2010. GAS CANISTER EXPLOSION WOUNDS 10 IN WEST JAKARTA

A 3-kilogram cylinder of liquefied petroleum gas exploded on early Sunday, injuring 10 people in West Jakarta. The 10 unidentified wounded people have been admitted to Sumber Waras Hospital. An Emergency Unit nurse, Susi, confirmed the admission of gas explosion victims into the hospital. She, however, refused to disclose the victims' identities. According to kompas.com news portal, the explosion took place at a house on Jl. Mandalika in Tanjung Duren of West Jakarta. Reports said there had been many LPG canister explosions across the country, killing and injuring dozens of people.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/07/25/gas-canister-explosion-wounds-10-west-jakarta.html>

UK, LANCASHIRE, JULY 24 2010. M61 LANE CLOSED AFTER SERVICE STATION FIRE

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-10742559>

Six fire crews tackled a blaze at a motorway services on the M61 this morning. A kiosk close to the BP Connect forecourt at Bolton West Services caught fire just before 7am. A member of staff raised the alarm and was later praised by her bosses for her actions. Fire crews from Chorley and Horwich rushed to the blaze, just off the southbound carriageway. Police sealed off the slip road leading to the services and the inside lane of the M61 southbound was closed for around an hour on Friday morning. Rush hour traffic slowed initially but there were no delays after 9am. Firefighters used aerial appliances to douse the flames and were still getting the blaze under control at around 10am. No one was injured in the incident. The service station has recently been taken over by Darwen-based firm [Euro Garages](#) and the company is in the process of revamping the site. A spokesperson for Euro Garages said: "There was just one person on site who acted quickly and helped to ensure that the fire

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remained confined to the kiosk building. "We are currently working with the local fire service to determine the cause of the fire. "The service area will remain closed until further notice."

http://www.chorleycitizen.co.uk/news/8288940.M61_lane_closed_as_petrol_station_burns_down/

TANZANIA, DAR ES SALAAM, JULY 25 2010. PORT AUTHORITIES SEAL LEAKING OIL PIPELINE

alex bitekeye

Authorities at the Dar es Salaam port have averted an environmental disaster after working over night on Friday to seal a leaking undersea oil pipeline. Despite the timely intervention, however, activities at the port were disrupted yesterday as efforts were made to contain the spillage after thousands of litres of diesel had leaked into the sea. A similar leakage, but of a greater magnitude in the Gulf of Mexico, not only resulted into the biggest environmental disaster in the US, but cost oil giant BP over \$3.5 billion to deal with. The permanent secretary in the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Mr Omari Chambo, said yesterday that the leakage was detected on Friday evening after workers at the port reported an unusual oil slick. He said efforts to contain the problem started immediately, and various tasks involved were undertaken by his ministry in collaboration with the Tanzania Ports Authority fire brigade. The leakage followed a burst pipeline used for pumping oil from TIPER reserves at Kigamboni to Oryx facilities on the other side of the sea, Mr Chambo said, clarifying: "After detecting the leakage, immediate measures were taken to deal with the problem. These included shutting all pipes in order to detect which one was leaking. However, we are yet to establish why the pipe burst. He said work to seal the leaking pipe was undertaken overnight by pouring chemical foam on the spillage. He warned people against buying the oil which was being collected from the sea as it was contaminated and unsafe. The operation led to congestion of traffic and people at the Kigamboni ferry area. This followed the suspension of one of the ferries as workers were engaged in supporting efforts to contain the spillage. However, several youths had a field day as they struggled to collect the oil which they later sold to dala dala drivers. Mr Chambo said areas mostly affected by the oil spill were Magogoni ferry, the Dar es Salaam fish market and the port berth for Zanzibar. The TIPER managing director, Mr Phillipe Durand, said the loss incurred was not big because the diesel leaked for only 10-15 minutes before being contained. Assuring the public not to be worried, he said only a few tonnes of oil spilled into the sea. The youths collecting the oil said the accident was a blessing in disguise for them because they were able to earn a few coins from selling it. One of them, Juma Mohammed of Kigamboni, said by noon yesterday he had collected more than 100 litres of diesel from the slick. noon

<http://thecitizen.co.tz/sunday-citizen/40-sunday-citizen-news/3224-port-authorities-seal-leaking-oil-pipeline>

USA, DE, DELAWARE CITY, JULY 25 2010. DELAWARE DRINKING WATER AT RISK: POLLUTERS PAY FOR TESTING, LEAVING PUBLIC IN DARK >> IN FLAWED SYSTEM, 'THERE'S NOT MUCH ACCOUNTABILITY'

jeff montgomery



At the Delaware City Refinery, company-paid consultants have spent years reviewing and mapping plumes of contamination caused by leaky lagoons or accidental spills of oil, gasoline, sulfuric acid and a drain cleaner-like substance used in the refining process.

Since 1991, federal officials have ordered reviews for 35 different landfills, spill areas or other problem zones at the Delaware City Refinery, ranging from slow leak damage to plumes left over from catastrophic tank failures. All of that testing was performed by firms working for the refinery. To [save money](#), government regulators typically allow polluters to hire contractors to perform environmental tests. Such arrangements often prolong studies and lead to more studies instead of solutions -- often with little public involvement, said Bill Wolfe, a former New [Jersey](#) state

environmental regulator. "Under these programs, the cleanup contractors are working for the polluter and there's not much accountability," Wolfe said. "Every once in a while, the state might ask what's going on and they'll get a progress report. The public is almost completely cut out of the loop. That's a fatal flaw." At the Delaware City Refinery, company-paid consultants have spent years reviewing and mapping plumes of contamination caused by leaky lagoons or accidental spills of oil, gasoline, sulfuric acid and a drain cleaner-like caustic used in the refining process. In 1995, Motiva Enterprises, which sold the refinery to Premcor in 2004, issued a "verification of release report" to federal regulators about a series of oil and gasoline spills. Consultant studies in 2005, 2007 and 2008, which were not released to the public at large, listed the carcinogens [benzene](#) and the banned gasoline additive methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) as "sitewide" groundwater contamination concerns.

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Bubbles of gasoline, oil, ethylbenzene, naptha and heavy metals pervade the underground landscape, according to documents obtained by The News Journal.

The Unknown

Eric Trinkle, a groundwater scientist with DNREC's Resource Conservation and [Recovery Act](#) program, is trying to monitor the pollution. "We're not only evaluating the extent of the plume, we're trying to evaluate the direction of the plume" using the refinery's research, Trinkle said. "That's one thing that's not understood widely yet, the groundwater flow and direction." Valero bought the refinery in 2005 and sold it this year to PBF Energy Partners. Motiva, a partnership between Shell Oil and Saudi Arabia's national refining company, is responsible for most of the cleanup and groundwater monitoring because the most serious spills occurred during or before Motiva's six years of ownership. But previous owners, Tidewater Oil, Getty Oil, Texaco and Star Enterprise, had all reported spills over the years. Little information from Motiva's private monitoring of pollution is readily available for public inspection. As a result, many people give up trying to find out what's happening to the groundwater. Motiva's and DNREC's public silence about the dangers has persisted, but in a document obtained by The News Journal for this investigation, Motiva acknowledged to [state regulators](#) in 2008 that pollution was escaping into Dragon Run and tainting groundwater nearly 200 feet down and a mile from the main production area. The underground plume of chemicals has now reached the edge of the company's boundary line. Motiva's consultants in 2008 declared that chemicals leaking into Dragon Run are currently too low "to pose a threat to ecological resources," but warrant further study. Threats to the deeper Potomac Aquifer outside the refinery are "unknown." DNREC has not presented these findings to the public. "I've tried to follow it, but these investigations seem to take an awfully long time, and the company sets the pace," said Al Denio, a retired chemist and Newark resident who was a member of the refinery's Citizen Advisory Committee, a group formed by the company following outcries over spills and mishaps nearly a decade ago. Industries and regulators often turn to such panels to avoid wider and potentially more critical attention from the public, said Wolfe, who today directs [New Jersey](#) Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. "Citizen advisory committees are an informal process that the companies can manipulate. It becomes window dressing that lets them avoid having to deal with local officials or the larger public."

Up to the Job?

James Bryant, who has watched problems at the refinery unfold since taking a job at the nearby Standard Chlorine plant in the 1970s, questioned whether DNREC is up to supervising the refinery cleanup. DNREC began monitoring the job when the EPA pulled out in 2003. "They didn't get any more people to do the work when they took over for the EPA," Bryant said. "Their focus has always been on trying to give people a break, and letting them off without doing a cleanup." Although DNREC does have a full-time environmental engineer assigned to the refinery, the agency has eliminated four water quality and water resource jobs since it began supervising the cleanup. A better picture of the extent of the pollution should emerge in the coming months, DNREC officials said, as results are finalized from refinery-supervised tests during November in nearly 200 shallow and deep wells at the refinery.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100725/NEWS02/7250304>

CHINA, DALIAN, JULY 25 2010. CHINA'S OIL SPILL THREATENS INTERNATIONAL WATERS

The world's largest energy consuming country is plagued by an oil spill predicted to cause long-term ecological damage. China is employing a mixture of primitive and advanced materials in its efforts to clean up the country's biggest oil spill, the [Telegraph](#) reports. The spill coincides with an announcement by the International Energy Agency, an intergovernmental energy policy advising organization, that China has surpassed the United States to become the [world's largest energy consumer](#). Volunteers have used everything from their [hands](#) to chopsticks, as well as other rudimentary materials to aid China's recovery efforts from an oil slick along the country's northeast coast. Other methods have included the use of 40 oil-skimming vessels and nearly 800 fishing boats to aid human efforts already underway on the shore. Oil barriers and oil-eating dispersants have also been employed, according to [Xinhua](#). Officials hope to prevent the spill from contaminating international waters the [Washington Post](#) reports. Heavy winds have accelerated the dispersal of oil and caused the size of the oil spill to double, according to the [BBC](#). The week-old oil spill released an estimated 11,000 barrels of crude into the Yellow Sea after two pipelines exploded at a [port in Dalian](#). The explosion ignited a fire that took 15 hours to contain, the [AP](#) reports. By Wednesday, China's oil slick covered approximately 165 square miles. Environmental groups maintain that the ecological damage from the pollution caused by the Dalian spill will persist for years to come. "The oil spill will pose a severe threat to marine animals, and water quality, and the sea birds," said Huang Yong, deputy bureau chief for Dalian, China Maritime Safety Administration, according to the [AP](#). Oil has already reached popular tourist beaches such as Jinshitan Golden Beach and Boshiwan according to [Greenpeace](#). Many beaches remain off limits, which has been a blow to businesses during the height of the summer tourist season. The slick has also jeopardized the region's seafood farming industry as an estimated 10,000

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shellfish farms have been contaminated. Fishing around Dalian has been banned until late August the [AP](#) reports. Officials are investigating the the explosion of the pipeline, which is owned by China's largest oil firm, China National Petroleum Corporation. The spill has disrupted economic activity in the port and limited oil shipments to southern China's industrial factories, [Foreign Policy](#) reported. The Dalian port is China's second largest port for crude oil imports. According to local media, the port has been the subject of safety concerns for several years. A 2006 National Environmental Protection Bureau study on the oil industry identified five projects that could be potential risks and re-iterated the need for precautionary safety measures the [China Global Times](#) reports. In the wake of the Dalian oil spill, Chinese officials have urged local transport authorities to evaluate all ports that handle dangerous chemicals, according to the [New York Times](#).

<http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/2010/world/chinas-oil-spill-threatens-international-waters/>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, TINANA, JULY 25 2010. \$20,000 BLAZE AT SERVO

jocelyn watts & loretta bryce



Firies douse the United service station bowser that was destroyed yesterday morning when a gas bottle exploded while being incorrectly filled.

A gas bowser at United service station on Gympie Road, Tinana, was destroyed yesterday when a 59-year old man tried to fill his 9kg gas cylinder at the wrong one. Brad Coleman from United said that instead of asking for a qualified technician to refill the cylinder the man attempted to fill it himself at a bowser meant only for cars. "He had a fridge in his car and it started up and with the vapours from the gas cylinder, it ignited." A police spokesman said the man left the scene soon after the fire started at 8.45am but there were no suspicious circumstances. "He left because he had burns to his leg. It was just an unfortunate accident." Maryborough Fire Service station officer Steve McLaren said firies cut off power to the bowser and used a CO2 extinguisher to douse the flames. "When we arrived it wasn't completely

out so we put down a foam blanket. The servo was evacuated and the entrances shut off." Mr Coleman said the estimated cost of damage was in excess of \$20,000 as well as loss of business over the next few days until the bowser was replaced.

<http://www.frasercoastchronicle.com.au/story/2010/07/24/bowser-mistake-sparks-20000-blaze-at-servo/>

INDIA, ANKLESHWAR, JULY 25 2010. TWO DIE IN BLAST AT AGRO-CHEMICAL FACTORY IN ANKLESHWAR

Two workers died and six others were injured after a major fire broke out on Friday evening at an Ankleshwar-based agro-chemical company following a blast in the reactor. According to Disaster Prevention and Management Centre (DPMC), a portion of the building collapsed in the incident. The company has been closed for now. The incident took place around 8.15 pm on Friday when a blast ripped through the reactor at Uma Organics and Chemical Ltd. The company, which is located on plot number 3816, manufactures meta phenyl diamine, a raw material used in fertilisers. "Not many were hurt in the incident as it was the time for shift change. Most of the workers had left and those in the night shift were yet to arrive. There were around eight persons in the company at the time of incident. Our preliminary investigation shows the boiler was overstuffed, which created a pressure causing the blast in the reactor," said sub-inspector K R Patel of the Ankleshwar GIDC police station.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Two-die-in-blast-at-agro-chemical-factory-in-Ankleshwar/651249>

USA, VA, FRONT ROYAL, JULY 25 2010. FIREWORKS INJURE THREE AT CARNIVAL

m.k. luther

An explosion injured three firefighters who were shooting off fireworks at the Front Royal Volunteer Fireman's Carnival on Thursday night. Emergency services received the call at 10:15 p.m., according to Warren County Fire Chief Richard Mabie. One of the injured firefighters, Dale Sibert, 49, was transported to Warren Memorial Hospital with second- and third-degree burns to his abdomen, according to a news release from the Warren County Fire Department. The two other firefighters -- Larry Oliver, 46, and one whose name and age were not immediately available -- were treated at the scene for non-life threatening injuries, Mabie said. The firefighters are certified pyrotechnic technicians and were working for Schaffer Pyrotechnics, according to the release. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation, Mabie said. "We are looking really hard at the possibility of malfunctioning mortars," Mabie said. Authorities believe six 4-inch "aerial mortars" detonated within the firework tube, or shell, scattering "shrapnel-like plastic and wood," the release states. Investigators are considering the possibility that one mortar failed to exit the firing tube prior to exploding, resulting in a chain-reaction failure for the row of tubes. "Why it did that, we are not sure," Mabie said. Reports of alleged mortar malfunctions on fireworks made by the same

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

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company are also being investigated, according to the release. The large-scale aerial mortar fireworks were being set off approximately 1,000 feet from the crowd, Mabie said, and no spectators were injured. An estimated several hundred to 1,000 people attended the fireworks show. The fireworks show started around 9:30 or 9:45 p.m., Mabie said, and typically lasts for about 30 minutes. "They really weren't even in danger," Mabie said. "This was really at the end of the show." The Frederick County Fire and Rescue Department fire marshal's office is assisting Warren County Fire and Rescue Department with the investigation, Mabie said.

<http://www.nvdaily.com/news/2010/07/fireworks-injure-three-at-carnival.php>

USA, DE, DELAWARE CITY, JULY 25 2010. VALERO SETTLES SUIT OVER 2005 DEATH OF WORKER

jeff montgomery

An out-of-court settlement has ended a bitterly fought wrongful death lawsuit filed by survivors of a Maryland man who suffocated in a Delaware City Refinery production tower in November 2005. Terms of the agreement between Valero Energy and the family of John J. Ferguson Jr., were not disclosed. A co-worker who died in the same accident, John Lattanzi of Laurel Springs, N.J., settled for about \$7 million in 2008, according to a document filed in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania. Attorneys for Ferguson said multiple, avoidable safety failures, mistakes and bad decisions by Valero managers led to the deaths of both men. Neither was adequately warned that they were working atop a refining unit that was filled with nitrogen gas, the family's lawsuit claimed. "The Ferguson family is very, very happy with the settlement. Our law firm is very happy with the settlement," said attorney Robert E. McCann. "The family is relieved that the tragedy is finally behind them and the case is resolved." Bill Day, a spokesman for Valero, confirmed that an agreement was being drafted, but said he could not disclose details. The settlement emerged as a second trial was about to begin in Philadelphia, and after Valero unsuccessfully sought a second delay. Company attorneys claimed that adverse publicity over BP's Gulf of Mexico oil well would bias jurors against Valero and other oil firms. A first attempt to put the case to a jury earlier this year ended in a mistrial and contempt of court finding against an attorney for the Ferguson family. The attorney was accused of failing to abide by a judge's orders on questioning of witnesses and other transgressions, including references to alleged company decisions to dangerously rush the maintenance work to maximize profits from high gasoline prices following Hurricane Katrina. A decision on sanctions is pending; Valero officials have asked for more than \$100,000 from the attorney to cover costs from the delay.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100724/NEWS03/100724012/Valero+settles+suit+over+2005+death+of+worker>

USA, ILL, DOLTON, JULY 25 2010. GASOLINE SPILLS INTO DOLTON SEWER SYSTEM

Firefighters in south suburban Dolton are reportedly responding to a large spill of gasoline into the sewer system. The HazMat incident happened at 15401 Cottage Grove, according to a Dolton Fire Dept. dispatcher, who could not provide further details. According to unconfirmed fire dispatch reports, the HazMat was called about 7:30 p.m. after about 30 gallons of gasoline spilled into the sewer system. Crews remained at the scene at 8 p.m. Dolton police refused to comment on the incident Friday night.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=7572530>

CANADA, B.C, SIRDAR, JULY 25 2010. DRIVER SURVIVES HIGHWAY 3A OIL TANKER BLAZE

brian lawrence



A tanker truck carrying used transformer oil caused this blaze south of Sirdar on Wednesday afternoon.

The driver of a tanker truck is fortunate to be alive after his truck and two trailers rolled down an embankment and caught fire on Wednesday afternoon two kilometres south of Sirdar. "Crews arrived on scene to see a large plume of heavy black smoke and flames towering over the highway," said Wynndel-Lakeview Fire Department Chief Dayle MacRae. "The first concerns were containing the fire to the site of origin and controlling vehicle traffic." The driver of the truck — carrying used transformer oil, a non-regulated product — had already escaped from the wreckage and was tended by ambulance at the scene. Twenty-three firefighters from WLF and Creston Fire Rescue responded to the call, which shut down Highway 3A and the nearby railway for about six hours. "The oil was allowed to burn off while fire crews contained the blaze to a relatively small area around the tanker and also successfully extinguished spot fires on the opposite side of the highway that endangered several homes," said

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MacRae. No homes were damaged by the blaze, and most firefighters left the scene by 12:30 a.m. on Thursday. A small crew stayed overnight to monitor the situation.

http://www.bclocalnews.com/kootenay_rockies/nelsonstar/news/99144539.html

USA, PA, ROBESON TWP, JULY 25 2010. DEP CREW HELPS CLEAN UP GASOLINE SPILL IN ROBESON TOWNSHIP

Faulty seal on underground pump causes leak at Turkey Hill along Morgantown Road. An emergency crew from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection helped clean up a gasoline leak at the Turkey Hill Minit Market in Robeson Township, officials said Friday. A faulty seal on an underground pump at the store, 3248 Morgantown Road, caused the leak, which sent gasoline into a storm water channel and nearby stream, said John Repetz, a DEP spokesman. The leak was discovered Monday and reported to DEP on Tuesday, Repetz said. The leak has been stopped, but crews have been monitoring the area, he said. As of Friday, there was no gasoline in the water, but an odor was present, Repetz said. "Whatever was present has been cleaned up," he said Friday. The gasoline pumps were turned off while Turkey Hill's emergency cleanup contractor worked to repair the leak and clean up the gasoline, Repetz said. The leak was repaired Wednesday, and the pumps are back in service, he said. Absorbent booms and pads were used to remove the gasoline from the stream, and the storm water system was flushed and cleaned. Repetz said Turkey Hill is still trying to determine how much gasoline was spilled. It was unclear if any wildlife was impacted by the spill.

<http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=236720>

INDIA, WEST BENGAL, BURDWAN, JULY 25 2010. 3 DIE IN VEGETABLE OIL TANKER BLAST IN WEST BENGAL

Three persons were killed in a vegetable oil tanker blast today when it was being repaired using gas cutters at Burdwan in West Bengal. Two youths - Indranjit Konar and Tapas Tudu - died on the spot and another mechanic Buddhadeb Murmu died after he was brought to the Burdwan Medical College and Hospital, the police said. The tanker blew up when the accumulated gas inside it came in contact with the spark at Kuchut village beside an oil mill, the police said. The workers of the oil mill later ransacked the office and agitated demanding compensation for the victims and more safety measures for the workers, the police said.

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_3-die-in-vegetable-oil-tanker-blast-in-west-bengal_1413955

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 26 2010. ONE STILL IN HOSPITAL AFTER FIREWORKS ACCIDENT

lindsay whitehurst

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ksl.com/index.php?id=148&sid=11712769>

One person remained hospitalized Sunday with injuries from fireworks that shot into a crowd of people during a Pioneer Day celebration the night before, according to the Salt Lake City fire department. A total of 10 adults and children were hurt when a line of commercial roman candles fired into a group of dozens of people watching the display at Herman Franks Park, 1300 South and 800 East, said fire department spokesman Scott Freitag. Most people were treated at the scene, though one other adult was also treated at a local hospital and has since been released. The accident happened about 10:15 p.m., when the first of four fireworks tied in a line to a chain link fence inside the park malfunctioned and exploded in the tube, Freitag said. It caused the other three tubes to detach from the fence and shoot northward into the crowd. Each roman candle was a tube with six mortars inside; between eight and 15 shot at the crowd. Most of the injuries happened when people were hit by shrapnel from the explosions, though some people were burned and others were trampled when people ran. Firefighters are investigating why the tube exploded and why it caused the other tubes to fall. "If the tube that failed did not cause the others to come down, we would have been fine," Freitag said. Though the fireworks were shot off from Herman Franks Park, most of the approximately 60,000 people watching were in Liberty Park across the street. Those injured were at Herman Franks, sitting on the lawn outside the chain-link fence. The display passed a Salt Lake City fire department inspection Thursday, Freitag said. The audience was about 30 feet further away than the standard required distance of 210 feet. The company that put on the show, Draper-based Lantis Fireworks and Lasers, is a longtime provider of fireworks in Salt Lake City, Freitag said. He could not remember another fireworks related accident in the city. Lantis did not immediately return a call for comment. The show was controlled by a computer and a few more fireworks went off properly before organizers were able to halt it. While Freitag said fireworks accidents are typically "very rare," several people also suffered minor injuries earlier this month when malfunctioning pyrotechnic device accidentally sent fireworks into the VIP section of the audience at Provo's Stadium of Fire concert on July 4.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/49988112-76/crowd-fireworks-anderson-lake.html.csp>

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