

Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2010 – 623 Newsy Stuff

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July 22 2010

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NIGERIA, IBADAN, JULY 14 2010. TANKER AUTO CRASH: 23 VICTIMS GET MASS BURIAL



Wreckage of the Toyota Hiace bus.

Amidst tears 23 people including two school children who lost their lives in a multiple road accident involving six vehicles at Asejire, along Ibadan- Ife, the border town between Oyo and Osun States were yesterday given mass burial. They were buried few metres away from the accident scene which occurred about 6:30 p.m. on Monday. The accident involved a Hilux SUV with registration number OSHA 34, Hummer Toyota bus with registration number XY 639 AAA, a Toyota Hiace XS 103 AKN, Isuzu Truck number XS 449 AAA, tanker lorry whose registration number had been allegedly removed by the driver and another Mazda E2000. Daily Sun gathered that the accident occurred as a result of reckless driving on the part of the driver who was said to be coming from Ibadan end of the expressway. He was said to have lost control while descending a sloping side of the road. The vehicle veered off its lane and in the process, ended up in the middle of the

other lane and ran into an oncoming vehicle from Ife. The tanker lorry, heavily loaded with fuel before landing, collided with a Toyota Hiace passenger's bus coming from Ife end of the expressway, trapped the 19 passengers before it eventually went up in flames. It was gathered that about 44 people were involved in the accident, 23 people were burnt beyond recognition, five were seriously injured while the remaining victims escaped unhurt. Daily Sun further gathered that the only victims who could be identified among the burnt victims of the accident were two children who were between the ages of two and three years. Four policemen who were the occupants of a Toyota Hilux with registration number OSHA were lucky as they escaped before their vehicle went up in flames. The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Sector Commander for Oyo State, Godwin Oghagene, while speaking with journalists on the accidents, blamed the driver of the tanker for his recklessness while advising other drivers to be conscious that they were not the only road users. Commander Oghagene confirmed that another vehicle, Mazda E2000 with four passengers ran into the tanker, killing all the occupants, adding that another vehicle with registration number XY 449 AAA, coming from Kaduna swerved to avoid running into the tanker. Officials of the FRSC were at the scene controlling traffic while also trying to remove the wreckage of the vehicles involved when Daily Sun, visited the scene.

<http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2010/july/14/national-14-07-2010-021.htm>

NIGERIA, IBADAN, JULY 14 2010. MASS BURIAL FOR 40 VICTIMS OF IBADAN-IFE ROAD TANKER CRASH

A mass burial is being planned for the victims of an auto crash on Tuesday on the Ibadan-Ife Expressway, in which Osun State House of Assembly Speaker, Adejare Bello, lost his pilot vehicle. Adejare attributed his and his family members' narrow escape from death to an act of God. The tragedy occurred in Asejire, on the border of Oyo and Osun States, when a fuel tanker exploded and burnt to ashes over 40 people in eighty vehicles. The Toyota Hilux pilot vehicle in the convoy of Bello was burnt beyond recognition, but all the occupants escaped. He and his entourage were on their way to Lagos. The tanker, coming from Ibadan, lost control and crossed over to the other lane, blocking the lane from Osogbo. The petrol it spilled on the road was ignited. Vehicles coming from Osogbo ran into the flames. An official of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) confirmed the number of people burnt in the inferno, for whom the mass burial is planned. Bello said through his Press Secretary, Olumide Ajayi, that it could only have been divine protection that spared his life, and those of his immediate family and members of his entourage. He lamented that the accident claimed many lives, and commiserated with the families of victims. He described his narrow escape from the jaws of death as simply "an act of Allah" and prayed for the repose of the souls of those who died. "I am grateful to God and the good people of Osun State," Bello added

<http://www.independentngonline.com/DailyIndependent/Article.aspx?id=17044>

USA, VA, BLUEFIELD, JULY 14 2010. DIESEL SPILL TOPS 1,100 GALLONS

More than 1,147 gallons of diesel spilled into the Bluestone River during the Fourth of July weekend, according to new estimates from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The spill that occurred at Ammar's Inc. off of College Avenue was originally estimated at only 200 gallons. However, the estimates have since been revised to show a much larger release, John Surber, a petroleum remediation geologist with the DEQ, said. "That number kind of fluctuated around a little," Surber said. "It was more product lost. Probably a good percentage of it did hit the stream. It was probably a catastrophic release meaning more may have seeped out over time." Surber said such a larger spill is more difficult to clean up and takes longer to dissipate. However, officials who continue to monitor the stream on a daily basis are seeing improving conditions, Surber said. "The reports I'm getting today are a marked improvement," Surber said. "Because what I'm hearing today is there is no sheen observed on that stream." Surber said crews with Marshall Miller and Associates in Bluefield, Va., are continuing with the

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stream cleanup. "Marshall Miller is the consulting firm working on this," Surber said. "I think they've been monitoring daily, including over the weekend. Without getting into all of the particulars, they've taken some measures on site to try to flush out any remaining petroleum." Surber said the cleanup remains a multiple agency effort. "Obviously, the DEQ is concerned about cleaning up petroleum," Surber said. "Maybe cleaning the ducks is sort of outside of our realm. I believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is on that end. It's my understanding those ducks were cleaned. As to how their current health is, I would have to refer you over to the VDGLF." Surber said officials are hopeful that no additional fish kills or distressed animals will be located. "I'm really optimistic at this point in the game that the sheen is really cleaned out," he said. "I'm not anticipating any additional impacts from this release. But Marshall Miller will be monitoring it for a while longer to make sure."

<http://bdtonline.com/local/x536262411/Diesel-spill-tops-1-100-gallons>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI, JULY 14 2010. SPILT FUEL CAN HAVE DIRE CONSEQUENCES >> UNSAFE PRACTICES AT BUSY FILLING STATIONS ALARM DRIVERS.



En route to Dubai from Abu Dhabi, when using the Saadiyat Island road, motorists have limited options to fill up their vehicles' petrol tanks once they leave the city. Either they have to drive to Shahama — which is 40 kilometres away — or get to the major petrol station near Samha, which is 56 kilometres away from the city. The rush of motorists in the afternoon is on the higher side, as there are many daily commuters who reside in Dubai and work in Abu Dhabi. This makes refuelling an issue, as there is a long queue at both these petrol stations during the afternoon and later on in the day. On frequent trips to Dubai, during different times, a driver observed some significant safety-related issues and other matters that pose an

inconvenience to the public. Firstly, there is no petrol station on this stretch of road for about 40 kilometres — and any motorists leaving the city without enough fuel are bound to get stuck. Incidentally, there is no petrol station in the Mina area, too, which has significant heavy vehicle traffic and thus a petrol station at the exit of Mina or somewhere in the Mina area next to vegetable market or the animal market would be welcomed by all motorists who use this road. Secondly, due to the heavy rush, motorists often go to the wrong side of the petrol-filling units. The attending staff then have to stretch the hose to fill the tank. The drivers mostly sit inside their vehicles while the petrol station attendants connect the hose and then rush to the next vehicle. The weather is extremely hot and due to the pressure, fuel is often spilled all over the place until someone points it out and asks the attendant to stop and reconnect the hose. This is an extremely dangerous situation as the engines of vehicles are usually running and a mere spark from any possible source could definitely lead to a major disaster. Witnessing one such occasion, a driver made an effort to talk to the station supervisor of a major petrol station near Samha on the way to Dubai and he was told that the arrangements of filling on the wrong side, using extended hoses, has been initiated to reduce the rush. Also, there was no effort made to neutralise the fuel spilt using sand or any other precautionary safety measures. Only half a bucket of water was poured and the attendants were of the opinion that in the heat, it would evaporate quickly. People should be given instructions not to leave their cars unattended if they are being filled at the wrong side of the petrol pump. Drivers also have a major role in ensuring safety as they have to keep an eye on the process and if there is any problem, should alert the staff immediately. Safety is the responsibility of every individual. Let us not act after an incident has occurred — let us try and prevent it.

<http://www.petrolplaza.com/news/industry/MiZlbiY5OTq0JiYx>

USA, WA, SEATTLE, SEA-TAC AIRPORT, JULY 15 2010. 2,000 GALLONS OF JET FUEL SPILLED AT SEA-TAC



North Fuel Rack, a fueling station, at Sea-Tac Int'l airport.

About 2,000 gallons of jet fuel leaked from a truck at Sea-Tac Airport. Spokesman Perry Cooper says the fuel leaked about 5:30 a.m. Wednesday as a tanker truck was loading at a fueling station at the north end of the airport. Cooper says the fuel went directly into a containment drain that goes to the airport's wastewater treatment center. The fire department responded but there was no impact on airport operations. The spill was initially estimated at 300 gallons, but that rose to the 2,000 gallon estimate. Cooper says the truck, operated by a contractor, has been taken out of service.

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2012353594_apwaseatacspill.html

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AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MOORABBIN, JULY 15 2010. HEFTY FINE OVER MOORABBIN TOXIC WASTE

adrian ballantyne



Drums of waste left leaking at a Moorabbin factory.

A company that illegally stockpiled 100 tonnes of waste in a Moorabbin factory will have to pay more than \$330,000 in fines and compensation. Eco-Chem Pty Ltd was last week found guilty of breaching its EPA licence conditions and a clean-up notice after it leased an Ebdon St factory and stored the waste, some of which leaked. The punishment handed down in the Moorabbin Magistrates' Court mirrors the more than \$330,000 in fines handed down to the company's director, Daryl John Owens. The Leader in April reported Owens was convicted after he leased the factory, stockpiled the dry cleaning waste over a number of years and then walked away from the site. Mr Owens, who earlier apologised in court to the property owners, and his company were licensed to store just two tonnes of dry cleaning waste chemicals. EPA chief executive officer John Merritt later said the company had "left an expensive mess for others to clean up". "If you want to operate in this area, be aware you need to follow the rules," Mr Merritt said. "Stockpiling and then abandoning waste is not an option and we will take every opportunity to stamp out this activity." Mr Merritt said the company had underestimated its ability to deal with the amount of waste it collected. The penalties also put to rest the factory owner's fears that she would be forced to pay the damages.

<http://moorabbin-kingston-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/hefty-fine-over-moorabbin-toxic-waste/>

D.R CONGO, KINSHASA, JULY 15 2010. TOLL RISES TO 271 AFTER FIREBALL IN CONGO

The death toll from the devastating fuel truck explosion in the Democratic Republic of Congo 10 days ago has risen to 271, a local official said on Monday. "We're at 271 dead since the start of the catastrophe," the infrastructure minister for Sud Kivu province, Geronce Balemire, told reporters. Around 80 injured, some with very serious burns, are still being treated at four of the region's hospitals, he said. Belgium and Israel have both sent burns experts to help treat the injured. The July 2 explosion in the eastern town of Sange erupted after a fuel truck overturned and people gathered around it to syphon off its contents, despite warnings from the driver that it might blow up. The fireball created by the blast spread to a cinema hall where a crowd had gathered to follow World Cup football matches in South Africa. Many of the dead were women and children.

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100712221615833C130479

INDIA, MUMBAI, JULY 15 2010. WHO'S TO BLAME FOR MUMBAI CHLORINE GAS LEAK?



The Mumbai Police has registered a case against unknown persons under the Environment Protection Act in connection with the chlorine gas leak in Mumbai Port Trust on Wednesday, in which over 100 people fell sick. The charges included in the First Information Report (FIR) are attempt to commit culpable homicide, causing hurt by dangerous weapon, negligent conduct with respect to poisonous substance and endangering life or personal safety of others. "We have registered an FIR against unidentified persons (in the gas leakage case) at Sewri police station and started probing the matter," DCP Khalid Kaisar told PTI. "When the cylinders were brought here to the Port Trust, who imported them and why they were lying since over ten decades will be among the various things the police would look into it," he said. The DCP said the Port Trust has been guarding the cylinders and as of now the police are not holding the Port Trust responsible for the incident. Meanwhile, the

clean-up at the site is on. "Overnight three cylinders containing chlorine gas have been neutralised unto 80 per cent. One cylinder is giving a problem as its gas valve is not functioning. So neutralising that cylinder is taking time. They will take at least another 24 hours to complete the operation," said Vinay Kajla, Commandant, CISF, Mumbai Port Trust Division. At 3.15 on Wednesday morning, a gas leak from a chlorine cylinder at the Mumbai Port Trust filled the air. At least a 100 people fell sick when they inhaled the gas. The condition of eight persons, admitted in JJ hospital, is said to be critical. [\(Watch: Students affected by Mumbai gas leak\)](#) For more than six hours, fire-fighters tried to neutralize the gas filling the air with sodium

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hydroxide sprays. The major fear: that there are more than a hundred cylinders similar to the one that caused this morning's disaster lying in the same warehouse. "That is supposed to be an empty cylinder of chlorine, but sometimes you have residual chlorine which remains in the cylinder and that leaked out," explained Rahul Asthana, the Deputy Chairman of the Mumbai Port Trust. So who is responsible for them? "They were not taken by the importer and they are lying confiscated here in the hazardous cargo go-down," said Asthana. [\(Watch: Maharashtra Health Minister on chlorine leak\)](#) A 45-member team of the National Disaster Response Force was brought in from Pune to figure out how to safely dispose the remaining cylinders. "Out of 105 cylinders that have been found, 100 are clean but five still have chlorine in them. We are trying to neutralise them on the spot," SA Ahmed, Assistant Commandant of the National Disaster Response Force said on Wednesday. One container takes six hours to neutralise and these should be cleaned by Thursday morning, he added. Ahmed also said, "To ensure safety we have asked people to leave the area and have cordoned it off. Both colleges in the area have been evacuated. I have requested the state government to check if there are other cylinders like this in other locations." The big questions that officials now have to answer: Given that these cylinders were confiscated 15 years ago, why have they still not been disposed off when it was clear that these contained hazardous material? Further, why did nobody seem aware that the cylinders still had some chlorine in them? The Shipping Ministry has also ordered the Mumbai Port Trust to file a detailed report on how such a leak could occur. "The Mumbai Port Trust is checking its records to find out if any action had been taken for the disposal of hazardous material in the past," said an official statement from the Mumbai Port Trust.

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/cities/mumbai-chlorine-leak-police-file-fir-100-sick-37548>

INDIA, MUMBAI, JULY 15 2010. SHIPPING MINISTRY CALLS FOR REPORT ON STORAGE AND HANDLING OF DANGEROUS & INFLAMMABLE GOODS FROM ALL MAJOR PORTS

The Ministry of Shipping has asked all Major Ports to send a detailed report of dangerous and inflammable goods lying in the port area. The Ministry has sought exact details on the name and classification of goods, quantity, date since which it has been lying in the port, reasons and the action taken by the concerned Port Authority in each case. The report is to be submitted to the Ministry by all the Major Ports by 21 July, 2010. This direction has been given because it has come to the Ministry's notice that dangerous goods and highly inflammable material have been lying in the port areas for long periods of time causing leakages and accidents. The Ministry has therefore asserted that all the dangerous and highly inflammable goods need to be handled and stored by observing safe handling practices as stipulated in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) code. Ports have been asked to ensure all the safety norms in and around the storage area. Any dangerous goods lying in the port premises beyond the stipulated period of one month should be disposed off in the manner specified under Section 62 of the Major Port Trust Act 1963. The Ministry has further directed that goods lying under seizure by Customs Department and other enforcement agencies may be moved to their godowns at the earliest and followed up with the concerned agency for their expeditious disposal and to avoid any accidents in the port premises.

<http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=63264>

CHINA, FUJIAN PROVINCE, JULY 15 2010. CHINA'S REGULATOR PROBES ZIJIN'S ACID LEAK DISCLOSURE >> POISONS 1,890 METRIC TONS OF FISH.

Watch the Video http://english.ndtv.com/ndtv_en/ns_china/2010-07-14/771553669240.html



Dead fish lie on the bank of the Tingjiang River in Shanghang county, Fujian Province, the result of sewage leaking into the river since July 3 from the local Zijinshan Copper Mine.

Zijin Mining Group Co., China's largest gold producer, said the nation's securities regulator will investigate its disclosure of an acid leak at a plant in Fujian province that poisoned 1,890 metric tons of fish. The company will cooperate with the China Securities Regulatory Commission, spokesman Zhao Jugang said by phone today. Zijin, which had initially blamed rains for the July 3 leak at its copper smelter near Shanghang county where about half a million people live, delayed disclosure of the incident for nine days. Listed companies should disclose complete, accurate information on a timely basis, China's

environmental protection ministry said in statement dated July 8. "Zijin may be fined 400 million yuan (\$59 million) to 500 million yuan for the pollution," said Wu Kan, a Shanghai-based fund manager at Dazhong Insurance Co., which oversees \$285 million. "CSRC's investigation will probably focus on whether Zijin has delayed disclosure of the incident. A punishment on this

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won't cause a large fine." Zijin, based in Fujian province, dropped 12 percent on July 13 after the announcement to the lowest level in more than 15 months in Hong Kong trading. In Shanghai trading, the stock fell 3.3 percent to 5.57 yuan at 9:44 a.m.

Environmental Issues

"We're giving the local regulatory authorities the rundown on what happened from July 3 to now," Zhao said. Zijin plans to spend 200 million yuan on environmental and risks measures within a year as part of its restructuring plan after the incident, Zhao said. The Chinese government may make an example of Zijin as it seeks to highlight a more serious stance toward environmental issues, Bank of America Corp's Merrill Lynch said July 12. Waste water containing acidic copper seeped into the Ting River on July 3 from its plant, the company said in a filing to the Hong Kong exchange on July 12. Copper production at Zijinshan mine accounts for about 15 percent of Zijin's annual output of the metal, according to Guotai Junan Securities Co.

Copper Production

The plant produces 12,800 metric tons of copper a year, and will only reopen after checks by environmental authorities. A restart may not take place for at least six months, the South China Morning Post reported today, citing company secretary Zheng Yuqiang. Zheng today denied making those comments. The company can't determine when it can reopen the plant because that's dependent on the conclusion of various government investigations, Zhao said today. About 1.89 million kilograms of fish in the Mianhuatan reservoir were found dead or poisoned, Xinhua News Agency said July 12.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-07-14/china-s-regulator-probes-zijin-s-acid-leak-disclosure.html>

USA, N.M, ARTESIA, JULY 15 2010. ARTESIA REFINERY CITED FOR SAFETY VIOLATIONS BEFORE DEADLY EXPLOSION

bryant furlow



Navajo refinery.

[Artesia](#) Fire Chief J.D. Hummingbird heard the explosion at the [Navajo Refinery](#) just before 1 p.m. March 2. He stepped outside to see a large, black plume of smoke rising from the facility, which sits at the intersection of two busy highways less than a mile from the fire station. Firefighters arrived to find a storage tank, where contractors had been welding, engulfed in flames. Two of the workers, Natividad Andajo and Victor Villa, were dead. Their bodies were burned beyond recognition. Two other workers, both critically-injured, were airlifted to a hospital in Lubbock, Texas. One of them, Juan Carlos Hermosillo, 24, suffered broken arms, broken hips and fractured vertebrae. The refinery's Dallas, Texas-based parent company, [Holly Corporation](#), immediately issued a press release confirming at

least one fatality. The New Mexico [Occupational Health and Safety Bureau](#) is investigating the explosion, Bureau chief Butch Tongate told The Independent earlier this week. The exact cause of the explosion is not yet clear, but the investigation comes at a time of [increasing concern](#) about safety problems at refineries nationwide. Hermosillo, who filed a lawsuit from his hospital bed in March, claims in court records that safety inspections were not conducted before welding began the day of the explosion. "The fire was tragic and the cause is still under investigation," refinery attorney Joel Carson told The Independent in an e-mail. Four lawsuits have been filed against the refinery, Carson said: two by the dead workers' families and two by the injured workers. The company conducted internal safety reviews but cannot comment on those because of those pending lawsuits, Carson wrote.

10 'Serious' Safety Violations in Three Years

Bureau inspection records obtained by The Independent show a series of serious safety lapses at the Navajo Refinery between 2007 and 2009. A total of three Bureau inspections — a comprehensive, four-day-long inspection in December 2007 and two single-day inspections in November 2008 and October 2009 — identified a total of 11 occupational safety violations at the Navajo Refinery, Bureau records show. All but one of the violations were deemed "serious," meaning they represented a hazard or condition with a "substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result," Bureau records show. None of the violations involved storage tanks and the company remedied the identified problems within months of being cited, Bureau records confirm. Nine of the 11 violations were identified during the comprehensive 2007 inspection. That inspection was part of a nationwide effort coordinated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Navajo Refining Company President David Lamp told The Independent in an e-mail. "We always conduct our business with high regard for the health and safety of our employees, contractors, and neighboring communities," Lamp wrote. "The items identified in this investigation carried penalties of approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000 for each item, plus a requirement to take corrective action for each noted deficiency. Navajo paid total fines of approximately \$15,000, corrected the majority of the

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items in the month the report was issued, with all items corrected within three months of the report." The facility is actually composed of two separate plants: one in Artesia and another 65 miles to the east, in Lovington. The two plants are considered a single refinery because they transfer petroleum products by pipeline and both plants contribute to the same refinery process, Tongate said. The 2007 inspection identified nine violations, eight of them serious, ranging from damaged fire-proof coating on facility support beams and missing guard rails, to missing danger signs, missing electrical safety equipment and improperly maintained respiration equipment. Padlocks that ensure electrical equipment is turned off before repairs are attempted, were not properly installed, inspectors found in 2007. Two years later, during the November 2009 inspection, inspectors discovered lax lockout procedures, including the substitution of padlocks with plastic zip ties. "That's a situation where there's a piece of machinery where they are required to de-energize ... in case somebody accidentally turns it on while somebody's inside," Tongate explained. Other serious safety violations at both plants involved inadequate fireproofing. Fireproofing was cracked at damaged on a column in the Artesia plant, inspectors found in 2007. Fireproofing was an even more serious issue at the Lovington plant. "Fire proofing on several columns throughout the (Lovington) plant was damaged," a June 2, 2008 Bureau violation letter states. The safety violations identified in the 2007 inspection were corrected in summer 2008, within months of the company's receipt of Bureau citation letters, Lamp wrote in an e-mail. "Safety is our number one priority and we take all safety matters seriously," Lamp wrote. But in 2009, state inspectors found that employees had been exposed to [hydrogen sulfide](#) fumes at concentrations exceeding the federal occupational safety regulation limit of 50 parts per million. One worker was exposed to 662 parts per million — more than 13 times higher than federal safety regulations permit — without adequate personal protection equipment, inspectors found. Even brief exposures involving inhalation of hydrogen sulfide at concentrations above 500 parts per million can kill and cause permanent brain damage, according to the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ([ATSDR](#)). The Navajo Refinery, in New Mexico's southeastern plains, is the larger of state's two active petroleum refineries. It processes between 80,000 and 100,000 barrels per day of crude oil, producing gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and butane, according to the Holly [website](#), company earnings reports and the U.S. [Energy Information Administration](#). Another explosion at the Artesia plant, caused by a butane gas leak, injured 17 workers nearly 30 years ago, in May 1981. Holly Corporation owns two other refineries, in Tulsa, Oklahoma and Woods Cross, Utah.

<http://newmexicoindependent.com/59064/artesia-refinery-cited-for-safety-violations-before-deadly-explosion>

USA, NY. FISHKILL, JULY 15 2010. FAULTY SHELL BLAMED FOR NY FIREWORKS ACCIDENT

Authorities say a fireworks accident that sent errant rockets into a Hudson Valley minor league baseball stadium, injuring two spectators, was caused by an explosive shell that malfunctioned. Officials investigating last Friday night's post-game accident at Dutchess Stadium in Fishkill say the shell in a mortar set up outside the stadium misfired, causing a rack of fireworks to come apart and sending two rockets horizontally through the centerfield fence. 1 of the rockets landed near third base, while the other skipped along the infield, bounced over the stands and landed on the roof. Two people suffered minor injuries. About 3,000 people were evacuated from the stadium, home of the Hudson Valley Renegades of the New York-Penn League.

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=12804214>

USA, CA, TORRANCE, JULY 15 2010. EXXONMOBIL TO BUY VACANT OIL-CONTAMINATED LAND NEAR TORRANCE REFINERY

nick green

ExxonMobil intends to purchase a vacant, oil-contaminated plot of municipal land near its Torrance refinery in the 2100 block of Del Amo Boulevard. The move comes three years after contaminated soil from gasoline products prompted the oil giant to permanently evacuate residents from five homes in the area. The 10,225-square-foot lot sits between two of nine homes ExxonMobil eventually purchased from residents because of the contamination. The company remains in negotiations with the owner of one other home. ExxonMobil wants to demolish all the houses. "The reason we wanted to buy this piece of property was to have the whole area landscaped to look park-like," said Jon Child, the refinery's safety, health and environmental manager. "The plan is to make it look nice." The City Council on Tuesday approved an agreement to sell the property to ExxonMobil. The \$368,000 deal could take up to a year to complete, said Brian Sunshine, assistant to the city manager. The key provision in the purchase agreement, as far as city officials are concerned, is a requirement that ExxonMobil will assume responsibility for cleaning up any hazardous materials on the site. "We were in discussions with them when they were purchasing the other properties in the area," Sunshine said. "It's a surplus parcel and, looking at what ExxonMobil is planning to do with the other parcels they are purchasing, it fit." City officials plan to use the cash windfall to cover potential shortfalls in the \$30 million extension of Del Amo Boulevard. Meanwhile, ExxonMobil is working on a plan to clean up groundwater contaminated with the by-products of oil refining that are believed to have caused methane and benzene vapors to percolate

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up through the soil and prompted the evacuations. The vapors are still being detected, but in concentrations that do not pose a danger to human health, Child said. The plume of gasoline by-products sitting atop the surface of underwater groundwater was released more than 20 years ago. The plume stretches all the way to the American Honda Motor Co's U.S. headquarters on Torrance Boulevard. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board chided ExxonMobil in May 2008 for failing to complete an investigation of the contamination and submit a plan to clean it up. The company is awaiting approval of a project that would do just that, Child said.

http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_15517292

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 15 2010. STATE ISSUES OIL SPILL CITATION TO CHEVRON

derek p. jensen

Chevron must submit a complete accounting of the Red Butte Creek oil spill within 30 days, and respond "fully and truthfully" or face potential stiff civil penalties or criminal fines. Those are the mandatory terms outlined in a Notice of Violation and Compliance Order issued to the oil giant Tuesday by the Utah Water Quality Board. The expected notice calls for Chevron to submit a long-term cleanup plan that includes the remediation strategy for water bodies, rocks, banks, culverts and ditches. The plan also should address the cleanup of soils, groundwater contamination and how to reverse the biological impacts to fish, waterfowl and aquatic food-chain organisms. Since the spill of 33,000 gallons of oil was discovered early June 12, the executive secretary of the water quality board or staff members have been on site daily to monitor the affected spill area, the notice says. Signed by the water quality executive secretary, the notice was issued to Chevron Pipeline Company. Findings confirm Chevron violated a series of Utah environmental laws including the unpermitted release of a pollutant into Red Butte Creek, Liberty Park pond and the Jordan River following the discovery of a ruptured pipeline near the University of Utah's Research Park. Within 30 days, Chevron also must issue an estimate of the quantity of oil released, an accounting of cleanup efforts thus far and documentation supporting the proper disposal of the oil, the report states. Failure to comply would violate the state's Water Quality Act, subjecting Chevron to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per day. Under certain circumstances of gross negligence, the violation notice says violators can be fined \$25,000 per day. Chevron plans a second flush of Red Butte Creek Thursday at 10 a.m. The company warns that residents — especially children — should stay away from the creek during this operation. Residual oil from the creek banks will be captured by booms and collected by vacuum trucks downstream.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/49927842-76/chevron-oil-notice-creek.html.csp>

USA, TX, WISE CO, JULY 15 2010. TANK EXPLOSION INJURES 2

brandon evans

A tank battery exploded Tuesday afternoon and sent men sailing through the air in northern Wise County. It occurred at a gas well site located off Farm Road 455, several miles west of Farm Road 51. Firefighters from Greenwood/Slidell and Sanger fire departments arrived around 12:30 p.m. on the scene to find the tank crumpled and burned. The blast moved the massive metal tank several yards. The explosion covered nearby vehicles in oil and mud. Two men were injured. One was transported to Denton Regional Hospital with first and/or second degree burns. The fire was quickly contained. Workers at the site extinguished the fire by the time fire trucks arrived. The site was directly behind an Aruba Petroleum office. The site itself is owned by Gilbow Oil Field Services, a drilling fluid and tank truck company based in Bowie. "Everybody is going to be all right," said owner Jim Gilbow. "They could of all been dead. The impact knocked one big boy about 15 feet." Gilbow said it's too early in the investigation to know how the explosion occurred. He did say the man sent to the hospital was a private contractor who was welding at the site. Two Gilbow Oil Field Service employees standing nearby were knocked through the air by the blast. Neither were sent to the hospital. The explosion roared across the rolling prairie. "A company doing oil field work about a half mile across the pasture felt the explosion," said Adam North, chief of Greenwood/Slidell Fire Department. North said it appeared the explosion was caused when the electric welding arc ignited some fumes and blew up the canister. "It's a wonder we didn't have anyone killed," North said. ne witness said he heard a big boom and saw the long grass in the pasture flattened from the force of the blast. Gilbow said they are working with investigators from the Texas Railroad Commission. They are also cleaning the site. The tank probably contained a mixture of water, oil and gas. Gilbow said they've operated at the site for six years and have never experienced any problems there. North said he expects the injured welder to be released soon, and the injuries were not life threatening. The incident marks the second tank battery explosion in Wise County this year. A series of tank batteries exploded March 19 at a Devon well site west of Decatur, injuring two people.

<http://www.wcmessenger.com/news/content/EkZAEkuupFIMYdFDBk.php>

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AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JULY 16 2010. MAN ON FIRE AT WORKPLACE

A man is in a critical condition in hospital after accidentally setting himself on fire at his workplace. The 25-year-old man was decanting a drum of paint thinners at a sheet metal fabrication business in South Windsor, north-west Sydney, when he slipped in a puddle of the flammable liquid about 12.30pm (AEST) yesterday. Sparks from a nearby lathe ignited his clothing, enveloping him in flames. His colleagues attempted to put out the flames with a hose and fire extinguisher. The man was taken to the Royal North Shore Hospital suffering from serious burns to 40 per cent of his body. Police and workcover are investigating the incident.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/man-on-fire-at-workplace/story-e6frf7jx-1225892479899>

USA, MI, HAZEL PARK, JULY 16 2010. I-75 READY A YEAR AFTER BLAST >> TANKER EXPLOSION AT NINE MILE LED TO LONGER BRIDGE, OVERHAULED ROADWAY

tom greenwood

One year ago today, the chilling words "a gas tanker has exploded in the ditch!" sent Hazel Park firefighters scrambling onto Interstate 75 to battle an inferno under the Nine Mile overpass. A speeding, out-of-control car had crossed several lanes to smash into a lumbering gasoline tanker. The collision caused oily orange and black flames to dance hundreds of feet high. Temperatures of more than 1,200 degrees caused bridge beams to soften and sag, finally dumping half of the overpass 30 feet onto the roadway below. On Monday, the Michigan Department of Transportation intends to reopen the freeway after wrapping up a one-year, \$14 million reconstruction project at Nine Mile and I-75; a project that included a newer, longer bridge and rebuilding a mile of freeway. The federal government picked up 90 percent of the \$14 million tab -- including \$4 million for the new bridge -- through emergency relief funds, according to MDOT. The crash occurred at about 8 p.m. on a sultry summer evening. Saied Haidarian-Shahri, an Iranian student pursuing a Ph.D. in computer science from Wayne State University, was speeding north on I-75 when he lost control of his Honda Civic and collided with a fuel tanker being driven by Michael St. John. The impact tore the cab from the tanker, which was hauling 13,000 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel. The tanker then crashed and exploded beneath the bridge. Jody Cicero, the driver of a Meijer semitruck, swerved to avoid the crash and had to abandon his vehicle beneath the bridge. Cicero escaped, but his truck was destroyed when the span collapsed. All three drivers escaped with minor injuries. Shahri, St. John and Cicero could not be reached for comment. "That was a busy day for us," Hazel Park Fire Chief Ray DeWalt said. "We'd had a house explosion earlier in the morning, and I had finally gotten home after cleaning up and doing paperwork. I looked out my back window and saw smoke on the horizon. At the same time, my pager went off." DeWalt only knew two things: There was an explosion "down in the ditch," and that he had to get to where his guys were "right now." "The heat was like a blast furnace," DeWalt said. "Guys were spewing water and foam on it, but we didn't know what kind of product it was because we hadn't talked with the driver yet." At one point, a wave of superheated air hit DeWalt's men. "It came right up through the ditch," DeWalt said. "It made our rookie firefighter run back about 15 yards. I said, 'Where are you going, son? Get back in there. This is what being a firefighter is all about.' He went back." City Manager Ed Klobucher heard the explosion from his house. "I could see the plume of smoke and flames from home," Klobucher said. "By the time I arrived, half the bridge had already collapsed; it was that quick because of the heat. It was so hot you could hear the steel screaming. It was definitely an eerie sound."

The Aftermath

According to Klobucher, the city pumped more than 1 million gallons of water at the fire. Total cost to the city was \$78,000 on top of \$32,000 in mutual aid fees to fire departments from Ferndale, Royal Oak and Madison Heights. The entire \$120,000 tab was picked up by the federal government with the support of U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, D-Royal Oak. Cleanup began the day after the explosion with MDOT crews knocking down the remaining half of the bridge. The freeway was closed for about a week while crews repaved the charred pavement, but the east and west sides of Hazel Park were separated for months while crews removed and replaced the bridge. The reconstruction wasn't without controversy when MDOT had to lower the freeway by up to 4 inches to meet clearance requirements beneath the new bridge as well as for safer driving and better drainage. "We almost went out of business," said Carol Barney, owner of Hazel Park Collision Shop, near the freeway. "It was very tough on all of us, the Wendy's across the street and the rental shop next door. Even the gas stations had it rough; the only people buying gas were the crews working on the freeway." Barney was happy to hear that the freeway was finally finished, but now faces a new problem. "Now they've started resurfacing the service drives along the freeway," she said. "Not to say that they don't need repairing; the service drives are just terrible. But we'll get through it."

'It was a Miracle'

As for the car's driver, Shahri received a citation for speeding and was fined \$150, outraging many. Protests grew louder when Shahri briefly indicated that he was going to fight the citation. At one point, someone left a copy of the Michigan Secretary of

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State booklet "What Every Driver Should Know" on the steps of Shahri's home in Clawson. He later issued a statement apologizing for the incident and expressing thanks no one was seriously injured. For DeWalt, the most tension-filled moment came after the fire was out. "There were removing the bridge debris off the freeway," DeWalt said. "I was afraid they'd pull up the bridge and find a victim under there, but there was no one. I hate to think about what would have happened if had been rush-hour traffic. "It was a miracle that no one was killed ... a miracle."

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20100715/METRO02/7150413/1414/I-75-ready-a-year-after-blast>

USA, OH, COLUMBUS, JULY 16 2010. COMPANY TO PAY \$4 MILLION TO CLEAN UP OLD GAS STATIONS >> FOUR STATIONS IN DAYTON, ONE IN HUBER HEIGHTS ON LIST FOR CLEANUP.

steve bennish,

Click [here](#) to download a list of Premcor sites statewide tied to the settlement.

A Texas oil refining company that the state says allowed petroleum to leak from 55 underground storage tanks will pay \$4 million in penalties and clean up the former Clark gas station sites, Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray and Ohio Department of Commerce Director Kimberly Zurz announced Thursday, July 16. Cordray said the Premcor Refining Group Inc., based in San Antonio, has agreed to 26 separate consent orders filed in the counties where petroleum had been released. This agreement will clean up 55 former gas station sites in Ohio result in \$4 million in civil penalties. In Montgomery County, there are four sites in Dayton: 5780 N. Main St.; 5430 Brandt Pike; 1655 North Gettysburg Ave., and 6004 North Dixie Drive. In Huber Heights, the station is at 5114 Old Troy Pike. Two other area sites are included: in Butler County, 631 Hamilton-Cleves Road; and in Shelby County, 822 Wapakoneta Ave., Sidney. "This agreement will give these Ohio communities peace of mind, knowing both that the sites will be properly examined and that those responsible will be held accountable," Cordray said. Premcor owned and operated Clark gas stations throughout Ohio, where petroleum was illegally released and not properly examined for its environmental impact, Cordray said in a prepared news release. The agreement orders Premcor to pay \$3,000 per county for enforcement costs, a total of \$78,000 for 26 counties, in addition to the \$4 million in civil penalties.

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/company-to-pay-4-million-to-clean-up-old-gas-stations-813270.html>

USA, FLA, ST LUCIE CO, FT' PIERCE, JULY 16 2010. TRACTOR-TRAILER CATCHES FIRE AT GAS STATION PARKING LOT >> FLAMES SPREAD TO TANKER TRUCK PARKED NEXT TO TRACTOR-TRAILER

A tractor-trailer fire in Fort Pierce prompted the evacuation of two nearby businesses Thursday morning. The St. Lucie County Fire District was called to the truck fire at the parking lot of a BP gas station on Okeechobee Road about 8:30 a.m. Firefighters extinguished the flames about 30 minutes later. "I thought it was going to blow up," witness Antonio Battle said. "I thought it was going to explode." WPBF 25 News obtained cell phone video of the fire from an employee working at a nearby Waffle House. The owner of the tractor-trailer said he was inside the Waffle House eating breakfast at the time. "I knew it was trouble," he said. Flames began to spread to a tanker truck that was parked next to the tractor-trailer, prompting authorities to evacuate the gas station and Waffle House. Both businesses were reopened after the fire was extinguished.

<http://www.wpbfl.com/news/24267726/detail.html>

USA, MI, DETROIT, JULY 16 2010. I-275 CLOSED AFTER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SEMI OVERTURNED

Northbound I-275 near Metro Airport was closed into the evening after a semi truck carrying hazardous materials overturned Wednesday morning. Michigan State Police said the tanker, which overturned near Eureka Road, was carrying multiple chemicals and appeared to be spilling hydrogen peroxide. A hazardous materials team was at the scene. Sgt. Al Neal of the State Police said it appeared that another vehicle trying to exit to eastbound I-94 at the last minute clipped the tanker, whose driver then lost control. Romulus police said no serious injuries were reported in the wreck. There were extensive backups on the northbound freeway and slowdowns on the southbound side.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20100715/NEWS05/7150598/1322/Regional-news-I-275-closed-after-semi-overturned>

INDIA, MANALI/CHANDIGARH, JULY 16 2010. LEH-MANALI HIGHWAY BLOCKED BY OIL TANKER

anand bodh,

A 32-year-old man in need of urgent medical help died as district officials failed to reopen Leh-Manali road while trying to save some influential politician's oil tanker. The tanker broke down and blocked the road for two days and the only way to reopen it is to push the tanker down the mountainside, which the officials are too scared to do. As a result, more than 2,500 people and 400 vehicles are stalled. The name of the politician isn't yet known. Mandi-resident Guli Lals, who was on his way to Manali on

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foot, collapsed and died, having caught a chill, said an eyewitness. Angry passengers said they were stranded without food and warm clothing. Efforts over two days to remove the vehicle have failed. The stranded passengers' pleas for pushing the vehicle down to make way for their vehicles are not being entertained. The BRO cut part of the mountain to make way for smaller vehicles.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Leh-Manali-highway-blocked-by-oil-tanker/articleshow/6169634.cms>

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, JULY 16 2010. ALERT RAISED ON BATAAN OIL SPILL

vg cabuag



The Philippine Coast Guard on Thursday dispatched an oil-response team to Bataan after two tankers capsized in the area due to Typhoon Basyang, as the death toll of the fishermen who were drowned at sea at the height of the storm climbed to 11. Coast Guard spokesman Arman Balilo said of the six maritime incidents they were monitoring involving 67 fishermen, 11 people were confirmed dead and 43 others remain missing. Balilo said they are still gathering details that led to the sinking of the FB Alicia in Bataan but of the 10 fishermen onboard, seven reportedly died and three are still missing. Six of the fatalities were identified as Apad Capilyad, 22, of Masbate; Joven Aban, 20; Leoncito Omppad, 32; Regie Nodalo, 24; Marcelo Abella, 28; Noel Salomon, 40; and a certain Eddie. About 3:30 p.m. on July 14, the Coast Guard Station in Lucena reported that two fishing vessels FB Joan and FB Godswill 1

capsized in the vicinity of Balesin Island in Quezon province. There were 15 people onboard the two vessels but they were only able to rescue one person, Wendel Alvarez, who was brought to the nearby Polilio Island. Balilo said four fishermen died and the other 10 have yet to be found.

The Coast Guard also sent an oil-spill response team in Bataan after MT Devorah-Uno, which was fully loaded with liquefied petroleum and 3,000 liters of vessel fuel, was found by the agency half-submerged in the vicinity of Petrochem, in Limay, Bataan. Another vessel, MT Jors of Ocean Coast Shipping which was fully loaded with 497,000 liters of bunker oil and 5,000 liters of vessel fuel, ran aground at the vicinity of Planters Pier, barangay Lamao, Limay, Bataan. Five other vessels—MT Angat, MT Palo Alto, MV BMC Saver, MV B and 3 and MV Humero—were also found aground in the area, Balilo said. "The oil-spill response team personnel were dispatched to augment personnel in Bataan and to be able to respond in case of oil spill in these vulnerable areas," the Coast Guard said.

http://businessmirror.com.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=27743:alert-raised-on-bataan-oil-spill&catid=23:topnews&Itemid=58

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, JULY 16 2010. OIL SPILL THREATENS BATAAN WATERS >> POISON LURKS IN HIGH SEAS



The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is monitoring the condition in Bataan's seas amid threats of a possible oil spill following the sinking of two tankers off the province on Thursday. Two tankers carrying tons of oil and LPG tanks sank off Limay, Bataan. This happened a day after 9 barges smashed into each other in the waters off Mariveles at the height of Typhoon Basyang. In Mariveles, the Coast Guard has begun efforts to contain gasoline and crude oil spilling from barges that either ran aground, or capsized. Meantime, PCG Station Commander Lieutenant General Geronimo Tuvilla said they have put a response team on stand-by to deal with any eventuality arising from the Limay tanker-sinking. But residents are worried, and authorities said there is reason to be concerned. One of the tankers sank near a petro-chemical factory, and local authorities said this may have disastrous

consequences. "Once may leak, pag may spark, cause yan ng pagsabog. Ang LPG pa naman very volatile chemical yan," said Edilberto Cruz, Administrator, Baranggay Lamao, Limay Bataan. But while the threat of a new disaster lurks after the typhoon, some residents are already grieving their loss. The family of Noel Salomon, who perished from Basyang, are grieving. Salomon, was among 15 fishermen who went missing at the height of the typhoon after their fishing boats sank. His body was among the 14 recovered on Thursday. Salomon, the family breadwinner, left behind a pregnant wife and eight children. Salomon's wife Noralyn is at a loss on how her family can carry on. Juliet Magallanes and Maricel Paghubasan also lost their husbands to the same tragedy. The search continues for one more missing fisherman. Meantime, authorities are also conducting efforts to find 15 other fishermen who went missing in Catanduanes. According to the National Disaster

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Coordinating Council (NDCC), as of Thursday 6 p.m., 36 people--12 in Central Luzon, 30 in CALABARZON, 4 in Bicol region-- have died from Basyang. A total of 18 have been injured and 46 were still missing. The initial damage to infrastructure and agriculture was estimated at P74 million. A total of 945 houses were destroyed, and over 10,000 damaged. More than 30,000 families or 150,000 people were affected by Basyang, with 1,757 families or nearly 9,000 people still in evacuation centers.

Fish Kill

Aside from the loss of lives and damage to infrastructure, Typhoon Basyang also dealt a blow to the fishing industry. In Camarines Sur, tons of tilapia have been lost after a fish kill struck Lake Buhi. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said Typhoon Basyang may have sent up wastes that had settled at the bottom of the lake, poisoning the fish. They added an excess of sulfur and water lilies in the lake may have also caused the fish kill. Experts are now looking into what actually caused the fish kill. Fish is selling cheap in Lower Bicutan, Taguig, which has become a virtual public market, after the typhoon damaged fish corral resulting in a sizeable fish haul.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/07/15/10/oil-spill-threatens-bataan-waters>

SOUTH AFRICA, WESTERN CAPE, KNYSNA, JULY 16 2010. MAN BURNT IN PETROL STATION FIRE

A petrol attendant was severely burnt when a fire broke out at a petrol station in Knysna on Thursday, Western Cape paramedics said. The 43-year-old man was pumping diesel out of a fuel tanker and he caught alight when some diesel spilled on him, ER24 spokesman Tristan Wadeley said. The man sustained severe burns and was stabilised by paramedics before being rushed to Knysna private hospital in a critical condition

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=139&art_id=nw20100715172506626C252799

USA, TX, GALVESTON, JULY 16 2010. TANKER RUNS AGROUND IN HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL



Tanker run aground on Houston Ship Channel.

The Coast Guard is working to free a tanker that ran aground in the Houston Ship Channel. The chemical tanker Isabel Knutsen, a 523-foot ship, ran aground Wednesday in the southeastern corner of the intersection of the intracoastal waterway and the Houston Ship Channel. The Coast Guard says it will oversee the transfer of cargo to reduce the ship's weight, as well as the salvage of the chemical tanker. The tank ship is carrying approximately 15,520 metric tons of liquid chemical cargo and approximately 663 metric tons of fuel oil. The vessel is currently stable, structurally intact, and not discharging any oil or cargo. Vessel traffic in the region continues as normal. Tugboats unsuccessfully attempted to free the ship which became stuck after reportedly losing steering just before 6am Wednesday morning. The cause of the grounding is under investigation.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7557373>

USA, VT, BRANDON, JULY 16 2010. GAS STATION TANK LEAKS INTO NESHOBE RIVER



A warning to Brandon residents-- stay out of the Neshobe River because of a gas leak. Officials estimate about 170 gallons of gasoline leaked into the stream Wednesday from a neighboring gas station's underground tank. The tank has been drained to prevent any more gas from leaking. The fire department set up capture zones to prevent as much gas as possible from continuing downstream. Environmental engineers say the next step will be to identify the environmental impact. "We are in the process of determining how much has seeped into the ground, how much has escaped along surface waters, and how much we have been able to contain," said Elias Erwin of Lincoln Applied Technology. Officials say a third

containment center will be set up along the waterway as a precaution in case rain flushes more gas downstream.

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=12815774>

USA, N.J, DOVER, JULY 16 2010. HAZ-MAT TEAM CALLED FOR DOVER, NJ, HEATING OIL TANK LEAK

tehani schneider

A 275-gallon, above ground oil tank at a Sammis Avenue home was discovered by the homeowner to be leaking Wednesday night, fire officials said. Approximately 10 to 15 gallons of oil leaked from the tank before firefighters were able to stop the flow,

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said assistant fire Chief Jon Filosa. The Dover Fire Department responded to the home at 91 Sammis Avenue after the homeowner noticed oil leaking from the tank around 7:30 p.m. and called the firehouse directly, Filosa said. The homeowner, his wife and son had evacuated the house, Filosa said. Firefighters responded and plugged the leak, and were assisted by Picatinny Arsenal Haz-Mat in transferring the remaining oil out of the tank into 55-gallon drums, Filosa said. The process took a little over three hours, he said. "The drain plug at the bottom rusted out," Filosa said, of the source of the leak. "The homeowner tried to collect what he could to stop (the oil) from getting into the concrete or grass." It was unclear how old the oil tank was. The fire department was also assisted by Morris County Haz-Mat in cleaning up the spilled fuel. Dover Police notified the state Department of Environmental Protection about the spill, Filosa said.

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20100715/UPDATES01/100715032/Haz-mat-team-called-for-Dover-heating-oil-tank-leak>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, BRUNSWICK, JULY 16 2010. DRY-CLEANING FIRM DEMOLISHES FLATS ON LAND IT HELPED POLLUTE

ben butler

The dry-cleaning company Spotless is mopping up after ending a legal stoush over contaminated land, and is knocking down a block of flats at the centre of the dispute. The flats, in Brunswick, Melbourne, have never been occupied because of contamination leaching from former subsidiaries of Spotless operating two doors away. Last week Spotless dropped its appeal against a 2007 Victorian Supreme Court judgment that found it partly liable for the contamination. It has agreed to pay Premier Building and Consulting \$4 million; the developer had sought \$10 million. Spotless, which bought the site from Premier in 2007, hopes demolition work will be completed by the end of next month. Once finished, drycleaning chemicals must be removed, a process that will cost \$2.7 million. Discovery of the contamination in 2003 sent Premier to the wall. Its bankers appointed receivers and filed the Supreme Court claim against Spotless. After a six-month trial in 2006 and 2007 Spotless won on two of three grounds but lost the third. In his judgment, Justice David Byrne castigated Spotless for using the corporate veil to shield itself from fallout from the actions of its subsidiaries. It "reflects no credit on the commercial morality of those whose decision it was that this position be adopted", he said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/drycleaning-firm-demolishes-flats-on-land-it-helped-pollute-20100715-10cnw.html>

INDIA, WEST BENGAL, DURGAPUR, JULY 16 2010. GAS LEAK IN DURGAPUR PLANT, 25 TAKEN ILL

About 25 workers were taken ill after carbon monoxide and methane leaked from a blast furnace of Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) on Thursday morning — a day after a chlorine gas leak in Bombay Port Trust landed over a hundred people in hospital. At 11.45 am, some morning shift workers of the steel plant, five of them women, working inside blast furnace number 2 (BF-2), complained of drowsiness and suffocation. They were soon admitted to Durgapur Steel Plant Main Hospital. Sources said of the 25 workers, four were permanent employees of the DSP, while the others were on contract. "Preliminary investigation has revealed that there was some leakage of blast furnace gas from the scrubber area of the gas cleaning plant of BF-2. This was rectified immediately and plant [operations](#) are continuing as normal," said B Kanungo, Chief of Communications Officer of DSP. Of the 25 who had fallen sick, four were admitted to the ICCU unit as their condition was declared critical. "The leakage had occurred when the walls of a plant chamber got damaged due to increased air pressure," said R Rajasekharan, Superintendent of Police, Bardhaman district. Rathin Roy, Mayor of Durgapur municipality, who visited the hospital at 2 pm, said: "I was told by some workers that a leak happened last night too. But nobody paid any heed to it. The contractor told them to come to work as usual in the morning. Carbon monoxide leakage could have been fatal, but thankfully no serious mishap has occurred." "There has obviously been negligence on the part of the DSP authorities. Otherwise, how can an incident like this happen?" he added. General [Manager](#) of Maintenance of the DSP Saibal Nandy, however, said negligence can only be ascertained after a detailed inquiry. "Factory Inspector Mrinal Ranu has been intimated about the incident and an inquiry will be conducted under his supervision. A committee headed by a General Manager of the plant has been asked to inquire into the matter and give a report within three days," said Kanungo.

<http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/gas-leak-in-durgapur-plant-25-taken-ill/647295/>

INDIA, MUMBAI, JULY 16 2010. MUMBAI PORT TRUST OFFICIALS IGNORED REPORT ON POSSIBLE LEAK

sharad vyas,

Blatant disregard for rules and regulations by officials of the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) was responsible for the near-fatal chlorine gas leak at the Haji Bunder warehouse near Sewri, which saw more than 120 people hospitalised on Wednesday. An initial probe reveals that officials in the docks department ignored an inspection report dated two years ago suggesting that there was a possible leak and a process be set into motion for the safe 'disposal' of the toxic gas in the abandoned cylinders.

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The report was submitted to them by an assistant docks manager. Senior officials in the docks department not only turned down the request saying "there was no need" for the cargo to be shifted as it was "no longer" hazardous, but also called off the process of appointing an assistant manager (hazardous cargo). The post has been lying vacant since 2007. Under a directive from the shipping ministry, MbPT is conducting an enquiry led by deputy chairman Shreekanth Singh into the accident; the committee will submit its report soon. Access to port records has revealed that the chief controller of explosives (JCCE) had not given an NoC for the sale. In fact, the JCCE had suggested in May 2008 to systematically 'de-gas and then clear the cargo'—which arrived from Dubai on April 4, 2001, on two vessels, MV Rossanna II (with 17 cylinder units) and Tamatiki (with 42 units), but was allegedly abandoned by the importer. Sources, however, say said that no steps were taken. Of the 141 cylinders lying with the MbPT, 59 canisters from a single importer, Agro Gases, have come under the scanner, as the leak was from this consignment.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Mumbai/Mumbai-Port-Trust-officials-ignored-report-on-possible-leak/articleshow/6174321.cms>

INDONESIA, JAKARTA, JULY 16 2010. INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA JOIN FORCES FOR MONTARA OIL SPILL



The aftermath of the West Atlas rig explosion, seen in this file photo, and the massive oil spill that came as a result is being assessed by ministers from Indonesia and Australia.

The Indonesian and Australian governments have decided to take action on the oil pollution in the Timor waters off Indonesia resulting from the Montara oil field explosion in August 2009, a minister said on Thursday. "The fact is that both the Indonesian and Australian governments are in the same position and concerned that the oils spill have affected the environment," said Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa. Both countries have conducted environmental research on the matter, he said in a joint press conference after meeting his Australian counterpart Stephen Smith at his office. Marty said that both governments hold PTT Exploration and

Production (PTTEP) Australasia responsible. A special meeting led by the Indonesian Transportation Minister was held to establish a team to mediate with PTTEP. "All we have to do is to develop a synergy with the Australian government in strengthening our efforts," Marty said. The Australian Foreign and Trade Minister, Stephen Smith, said that Australian Minister of Resources and Energy and Minister for Tourism Martin Ferguson made an inquiry of the causes and asked for an assessment from the Indonesian government.

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/indonesia-and-australia-join-forces-for-montara-oil-spill/386153>

UK, LONDON, JULY 17 2010. FIRMS ORDERED TO PAY ALMOST £10M OVER BUNCEFIELD BLAST

Watch the Video <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jul/16/buncefield-companies-fined-fire-oil>



Firefighters at the Buncefield oil depot in Hemel Hempstead, on the outskirts of London, in December 2005.

Five firms have been ordered to pay almost £10m between them in combined fines and costs for their parts in the Buncefield oil depot explosion. French energy giant Total must pay £6.2m for failing to protect workers and the public over the 2005 explosion. Hertfordshire Oil Storage Limited (HOSL) must pay £2.4m and British Pipeline Agency Ltd must pay £780,000. TAV Engineering Ltd and Motherwell Control Systems were told at St Albans Crown Court they must pay £1,500 each. Total were fined £3.6m with £2.6m costs, Hertfordshire Oil Storage Limited received a £1.45m fine with £1m costs and British Pipeline Agency Ltd must pay a £300,000 fine plus £480,000 costs. Motherwell Control Systems 2003 Ltd and TAV Engineering Ltd were

both fined £1,000 with £500 costs.

Timing 'Miraculous'

Judge Sir David Calvert-Smith said: "Had the explosion happened during a working day, the loss of life may have been measured in tens or even hundreds. "The failures which led in particular to the explosion were failures which could have combined to produce these consequences at almost any hour of any day. "The fact that they did so at 6.01 on a Sunday morning was little short of miraculous. "So too was the fact that not one of the few people on the site or in the surrounding area on that Sunday morning lost their lives." Total UK company secretary Lee Young apologised "to all those who have been

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affected by the incident", adding that the firm fully accepted "our responsibilities for the events that took place at Buncefield in 2005". But Hemel Hempstead MP Mike Penning has condemned the level of fines and said he would ask Attorney General Dominic Grieve to assess whether they were too lenient. "I am deeply disappointed at the leniency of the financial fines. "None of this money will compensate my constituents who are still waiting for compensation for having their businesses, lives, homes and health destroyed by an industrial disaster which should never have happened and was obviously completely preventable. "I will be using the powers I have as an MP to ask the Attorney General if he thinks that the sentence has been unduly lenient. "Frankly these fines are an insult to my constituents." The explosion, on Sunday 11 December 2005, is widely thought to have been the largest in peacetime Europe. It measured 2.4 on the Richter scale and could be heard 125 miles away.

'Like Earthquake'

Jurors had earlier been told that the environmental damage from the blast was still not known and could last for decades. The courtroom at St Albans was told the name Buncefield would be forever linked to the explosion. A massive vapour cloud ignited when 250,000 litres of petrol leaked from one of its tanks. Residents described the impact as being "like an earthquake" and lawyers said it was "miraculous" that nobody was killed. Many businesses were affected so badly they were forced to close. Judge Calvert-Smith said the after-effects of the blast had taken a huge toll on the local community. "Apart from the short or medium-term physical injuries and the much longer term emotional and psychological injuries suffered by those close to the explosion, families have had to cope with disruption to education, to employment and, so far as homeowners are concerned, to a dramatic drop in the value of their homes, even when repaired," he said. "The name Buncefield is now inextricably linked to the explosion." HOSL was found guilty of failing to prevent major accidents. Total UK admitted failing to ensure the safety of workers and members of the public. British Pipeline Ltd also admitted two charges in connection with the explosion, failing to prevent major accidents and limit their effects, and causing pollution to enter controlled waters. The blast injured 43 people and homes and businesses were destroyed.

'Destroy Lives'

Gordon MacDonald, from the Health and Safety Executive, said "Five companies have been held to account publicly for the failings that led to the Buncefield explosions. "This is the culmination of a thorough and complex investigation carried out by the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive into what was Britain's costliest petro-chemical accident. "Incidents like the explosion at Buncefield are exceptionally rare. But they shouldn't happen at all. "Risks created by these industries must be managed effectively because when things go wrong in this sector, the consequences are severe. "It can destroy lives, shatter local communities and cause damage to the environment which can last for generations." In a statement, Mr Young, who is head of legal at Total UK, said: "I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate how sorry we are to all those who have been affected by the incident. "We fully accept our responsibilities for the events that took place at Buncefield in 2005 and recognise the devastating consequences that the incident has had on the surrounding communities and businesses. "This was an unprecedented incident from which we and the industry have learnt many lessons."

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<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-10660356>

UK, LONDON, JULY 17 2010. TOTAL ISSUES BUNCEFIELD APOLOGY FOLLOWING £3.6M FINE

leigh jackson



Buncefield fuel depot fire

Oil company Total has issued an apology for its part in the Buncefield explosion after it was fined £3.6m plus costs in a Health and Safety Executive and Environment Agency prosecution. The incident, which occurred in December 2005, is understood to be largest peacetime explosion in Western Europe. At the hearing, Total UK were fined £3.6m plus £2.6m costs, Hertfordshire Oil Storage Limited £1.45m plus £1m costs and British Pipeline Agency (BPA) Ltd £300 000 plus £480 000 costs. Motherwell Control Systems 2003 Ltd and TAV Engineering Ltd were both fined £1,000 and each ordered to pay £500 in costs. Lee Young,

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Total UK Head of Legal and Company Secretary said: "On behalf of Total UK, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate how sorry we are to all those who have been affected by the incident. "We fully accept our responsibilities for the events that took place at Buncefield in 2005 and recognise the devastating consequences that the incident has had on the surrounding communities and businesses. This was an unprecedented incident from which we and the industry have learnt many lessons." However, Des Collins a solicitor who represented a number of the people affected by the explosion said that the fine did not go far enough. He said: "The sentences handed down today by Mr Justice Calvert-Smith at St. Albans Crown Court to the five companies found to be in serious breach of health and safety standards at the Buncefield Oil Depot is hardly even a slap on the wrists for endangering the lives and livelihoods of so many. Mr Collins added: "It serves as a useful reminder to those operating and managing potentially lethal energy supply plants and depots, in particular those in areas with a significant population density, that they have no choice but to adhere to the very strictest health and safety standards in both the development of such sites and in the ongoing management of their systems and operations."

[In April, Total applied to the Supreme Court for leave to appeal a civil judgment that found the company 100% liable for claims resulting from the 2005 Buncefield depot explosion.](#)

<http://www.postonline.co.uk/post/news/1723112/total-issues-buncefield-apology-following-gbp36m-fine>

USA, TX, GALVESTON, JULY 17 2010. PICKUP IGNITES, EXPLODES AT SERVICE STATION

chris paschenko

 **Watch the Video** <http://galvnews.com/blog/3410>



Firefighter Nathan Vaughan douses the engine of a pickup that caught fire at the Valero station on Harborside Drive in Galveston on Thursday. The fire damaged an 18-wheeler parked next to the burning pickup.

A sulfur plant company's truck caught fire Thursday, and the fuel tank exploded as firefighters battled to bring the blaze under control. No injuries were reported from the fire, which erupted shortly after 11 a.m. in the parking lot of Valero, 8220 Harborside Drive, Galveston Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Smith said. A Galveston sulfur plant employee drove the truck to a filling station and parked it next to a tractor-trailer owned by Naegel Transportation, of Houston. The blaze started in the pickup's engine compartment, but the cause wasn't immediately known, Smith said.

The amount of sulfur that collected on the pickup's undercarriage contributed to the intensity of the blaze, Smith said. While extinguishing the blaze, firefighters also prevented one of the tractor-trailer's 100-gallon diesel tanks from rupturing, Smith said. The explosion of the pickup's fuel tank sounded like a cannon shot. The heat from the fire melted a nearby fuel pump and damaged the tractor-trailer and its metal boom cargo. Firefighters and police blocked traffic on Harborside for about 30 minutes. Although gasoline leaked into storm drain and ignited, no sheen reached Galveston Bay, Smith said.

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=d359e409d18e47ac>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JULY 17 2010. HANGING TANKER TRUCK CLOSES ROADWAYS

alexander supgul

 **Watch the Video** <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=resources/traffic&id=7557434>



Roadways in vicinity of U.S. Highway 59 North and the 610 Loop were closed due to efforts to upright a tanker truck that was hanging off a north Houston freeway ramp. The tanker was carrying isopropyl alcohol which is highly flammable and Houston Fire Department emergency responders and members of the hazardous materials response team helped to offload that material. The 18-wheeler truck overturned on the U.S. Highway 59, Eastex Freeway northbound ramp, to the 610 North Loop at approximately 1:30 p.m. Thursday. The cab of the truck was left hanging over the ramp, but crews were able to place the entire body of the truck safely onto the road. The driver contacted his transport company to send another truck to help transfer the chemicals in the tanker. A heavy wrecker truck arrived and towed away the cab of the tanker truck at approximately 3 p.m. Thursday. HFD urged drivers to avoid the the Eastex Freeway and 610 area for several hours before the emergency road

closure was announced.

<http://www.myfoxhouston.com/dpp/traffic/100715-tanker-truck-hangs-off-freeway-ramp>

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