

Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2010 – 622 Newsy Stuff

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July 18 2010

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NEW ZEALAND, TE KARAKA, JULY 12 2010. PETROL TANKS DODGE BULLET

jackson payne



No More Takeaways: Te Karaka volunteer fire brigade chief fire officer Jamie Simpson looks at the damage after a fire severely damaged Rangatira Motors last night.

A petrol station at Te Karaka was "let off lightly" when its fuel tanks did not ignite as a fire tore through it last night. The township's volunteer fire brigade has been commended for its quick action in controlling the blaze at Rangatira Motors, but a takeaway restaurant at the front of the building was gutted. The fire is believed to have started in Rangatira Takeaways at the front of the building at about 7.45pm. Nine appliances from Whatatutu, Patutahi and Gisborne joined the Te Karaka volunteers because of the presence of fuel tanks, fire service assistant area manager Rob Karaitiana said. Burning truck tyres inside the building generated intensive heat and smoke damage to the workshop. Te Karaka volunteer fire brigade chief fire officer Jamie Simpson said police kept bystanders at a safe distance in case of an explosion in the fuel tanks. "Fires are all bad but this is fixable. We are lucky it was a workshop and not a wooden structure." Rangatira Takeaways manager Tere Peneha was surveying the damage this morning when The Gisborne Herald visited the scene, and said he was almost speechless. "I'm not very happy because there will be no more takeaways out here now. "I was panicking, thinking 'Did I leave the vats on or something?' " Four part-time staff were now without jobs, he said. Gary Evenbly leases workshop space at the rear of the fire-damaged building. "Just looking at it, it could have been a lot worse," he said. His worry was the damage that compressed gas cylinders could have caused, had they exploded. "Top marks to the fire brigade. The volunteers did their stuff, so well done." Robyn Peach, of Rangatira Motors, said the station's owners Sue and Wayne Clayden were holidaying in Venice when they heard the news. "There's no point being upset where she is," said Mrs Peach. "When I heard about it, I thought 'we are going to go up!' "It looked a lot worse than it is. When you see it with flames coming out of the roof, you always think the worst, but it's nothing that cannot be fixed. "We got let off lightly, really." The station is not able to use its petrol pumps until a Hawke's Bay fire inspector visits and an insurance assessor surveys the damage.

<http://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/article/?id=18357>

INDIA, ALIPURDUAR, JULY 12 2010. TANKER TOPPLES, OIL SPILL ON ROAD >> - 800 COMMUTERS STUCK FOR 5 HOURS ON ASSAM-SILIGURI HIGHWAY



Fire personnel spray foam around the fallen tanker.

An oil tanker with 12,000 litres of fuel toppled on NH31C a little after noon today, leaving almost 800 people stranded and cutting off road connectivity between Siliguri and Assam for five hours. The driver of the Bharat Petroleum tanker on its way to Barobisha on the Assam border said he was trying to avoid colliding with a group of cows that had suddenly come out of the Buxa Tiger Reserve on the national highway. "But I lost control of the vehicle and it skidded on the highway," said Parimal Barman, who suffered injuries on the head and leg. The oil spill from the tanker that spread over 30 metres prompted Kalchini police to cordon off the area, 11km from Alipurduar town. Around 300 heavy vehicles were stranded on both sides of the cordon from 12.30pm till a little after 5.30 in the evening when the road was cleared. At least 20 buses between Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri, Siliguri and Jaigaon were stuck on the highway as there are no alternative routes in the 10km stretch of the road that passes through the tiger reserve. Only a few ambulances with patients were allowed to cross the cordoned area. They were pushed by the police and fire personnel. The ambulances had to switch off their engines because of the risk of a spark. Bandana Sarkar who was on a private bus to Siliguri had to return home after three hours. "I am taking an autorickshaw to Alipurduar," she said. Only smaller vehicles like the autorickshaws could turn around and go back to the place from where they had come. Ravi Oraon from Kalchini was on his way to Calcutta with an ailing relative. They had tickets for Kanchankanya Express from Alipurduar Junction at 4.45pm. When The Telegraph caught up with him, he was already getting ready to walk a kilometre of the cordoned area and then take an auto-rickshaw. Later, he said over the phone: "We were just in time for the train. We took the right decision by not waiting any more. It was difficult for my relatives, but better than missing the doctor's appointment." Pradeep Sarkar, the officer in charge of the Alipurduar fire station, said: "We could not take the risk of even allowing the

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smaller vehicles to pass. The oil was leaking and even the smoke coming out of the silencer could ignite the fuel. We had spread foam to cut off air supply to the spilled fuel. Then we got another tanker to drain off the diesel." Sarkar said petrol was more combustible than the 8,000 litres of diesel kept in two compartments of the tanker. After a crane put the tanker back on the road a little after 5pm, it was taken to the Nimati petrol pump to drain off the 4,000 litres of petrol.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100712/jsp/siliguri/story_12672540.jsp

UK, LONDON, JULY 12 2010. US OIL COMPANY EXXON GIVEN THE NOD TO MOUNT £100BN BP TAKEOVER



Takeover plans: Oil giant Exxon have been given the nod by Washington to mount a £100billion bid for BP.

Oil giant Exxon has been given clearance by Washington to mount a £100billion bid for BP as the embattled British company undertakes a high-stakes gamble to cap the Gulf of Mexico spill. The U.S. government has told Exxon that it will not stand in its way if it chooses to attempt a takeover. Sources said the American oil group - which was responsible for the world's biggest oil spill until the disaster in the Gulf - had expressed a 'serious interest' in the deal. The development came as BP removed a containment cap on the well to put a better one in its place. During the procedure there will be no means of controlling the leak, meaning some 2.5million gallons of oil will gush into the sea until it is sealed again. Since the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded on April 20, BP has lost more than half its share value. Last night BP refused to comment on the takeover speculation - but conceded it could take seven days to place a better cap on the well.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1293944/US-oil-company-Exxon-given-nod-mount-100bn-BP-takeover.html?ITO=1490>

UK, ESSEX, JULY 12 2010. MAN BURNED HANDS AFTER POURING PETROL ONTO LIT BARBECUE IN STANFORD LE HOPE

A man burned his hands when a petrol can caught alight as he was pouring fuel onto a lit barbecue. Firefighters put out the flames after being called to Second Avenue, Stanford le Hope, at 5pm. The 26 year-old man suffered minor burns to his hands. Geoff Wheal, Corringham Fire Station Commander, said: "In this case a man was pouring petrol onto a lit barbecue and the flames flashed back into the can setting it alight. "The man threw the can onto the lawn but had already been burned. "No one should ever pour any accelerant onto a lit barbecue and petrol should never be used to get a barbecue going. "People should stick to proper barbecue lighters and carefully follow the instructions."

http://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/8266173.Man_burned_hands_after_pouring_petrol_onto_lit_barbecue_in_Stanford_le_Hope/

USA, ME, MACHIAS, JULY 12 2010. FOUR WHO SAVED MAN FROM BURNING VEHICLE HONORED AS HEROES

sharon kiley mack

Four people who contributed to saving the life of a man trapped in his burning vehicle in June at a gas station in Harrington were honored as heroes Thursday by the Washington County Sheriff's Department. Raelea Merchant, a station employee who quickly turned off the power to the gas pumps, and Nicholas Graham, Terrance Grant, Branden Lovejoy and Mark Schoppee, who pulled the victim out of his truck, received letters of commendation and inscribed plaques from Sheriff Donnie Smith. Schoppee was unable to attend the event, which took place at a Washington County commissioners meeting, but the rest were on hand to hear the victim of the crash praise their efforts. "Thank you for everything you did. In another minute or two, I wouldn't be speaking to you now," said Gardiner Crabtree, 62, of Hancock. "I owe you my life." On June 7, Crabtree apparently suffered a medical emergency while driving a medical supply delivery truck at the Circle K station on Route 1. The truck shot forward, crashed into a gas pump and set off several explosions that set fire to the vehicle and the pump. The four men who were honored worked together to free Crabtree from the burning truck. Merchant rushed outside with a fire extinguisher to assist. Crabtree said Thursday that he has nearly recovered from his injuries. On the day of the accident, Lovejoy, who had been inside the station's convenience store at the time of the crash, told the Bangor Daily News, "There were two big explosions. [Crabtree] was tangled up in the steering wheel. Mark grabbed his belt, I grabbed his feet, and Nick got his hands and we lugged him out to the side. "There was fire all around him, but you could see he was still alive," he said. "We just wanted to get him out. I guess I'd want him or someone to do the same for me." Grant and Merchant both suffered smoke inhalation and were hospitalized overnight for observation. It took fire crews from Columbia, Columbia Falls, Addison, Cherryfield and Milbridge nearly an hour to bring the blaze under control. Smith said during the award presentation that law

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enforcement officers are expected to respond to emergencies such as this "but for everyday citizens to put their lives on the line to save another human being gives us great faith." Smith said he "felt privileged to stand here and give these awards."

<http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/148315.html>

USA, TX, SAN ANTONIO, JULY 12 2010. MAN KILLED MAKING FIREWORKS

michelle mondo

A man mixing materials to make homemade fireworks was killed Sunday night when he miscalculated and the mixture exploded, authorities said. The incident occurred just after 7:30 p.m. at the man's home in the 5100 block of Sherry Drive on the city's Southwest Side. Police Sgt. Mark Hubbard said the man was ex-military and had a holiday hobby of making fireworks. Hubbard said alcohol was believed to be a factor in the accidental death. The man, in his late 40s, suffered severe head trauma and died at the scene. Hubbard said the man's girlfriend suffered minor injuries that were treated at the scene. Officials said the man was not believed to have worked in the explosives field in the military. Hubbard said police were still trying to reach the man's next of kin, who are also in the military.

http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/cops_man_killed_making_homemade_fireworks_98214509.html

NIGERIA, ASABA, JULY 12 2010. OIL SPILL: SHELL TO PAY N15.4BN >> OIL SPILL RAVAGES COMMUNITY.

innocent anaba



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A federal High Court, yesterday, awarded N15.4 billion as special and punitive damages against Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, SPDC, in favour of Ejama-Ebubu community in Tai Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State for an oil spill that occurred in 1970. The spill affected an area of about 255.369 hectares. Vanguard learnt that though the suit was instituted in 2001, it had gone through three judges: Justices Adamu Bello, Regina Nwodo and Ibrahim Buba, who delivered judgment in the suit. There were at least 24 interlocutory applications by the defendants and three interlocutory appeals also by the defendants, which delayed the matter. Justice Buba in his judgment said: "This is a 2001 matter that has a chequered history. The plaintiffs by their paragraph 32 of the amended statement of claims, jointly and severally claimed

against the defendants, special damages of N1.772billion, allowing for interest for delayed payment for five years from 1996 at a modest mean Central Bank of Nigeria deregulated rate for that volume at 25 per cent per annum, totaling N5.4billion. They also claimed punitive general damages of N10bn for general inconveniences, acid rain, pollution of underground water and hardship to the population, who have been deprived of the right to self sustenance, education and good life. "The plaintiffs are also asking for an order directing the defendant to de-pollute and rehabilitate the dry land swamps to its pre-impact status. The plaintiffs testified and called witnesses and tendered exhibits. The defendants who were in court, were called upon to enter their defence, but they walked away. Thereupon, the court called on the plaintiffs' counsel, Lucius Nwosu, SAN, to address the court. He submitted that this is a simple case, founded on nuisance, arising from continuing damage, as a result of crude hydrocarbon oil spillage, which admittedly occurred from the defendants' Trans-Niger Oil Pipeline, which traverses the community of the plaintiffs.

Pleadings Not Supported by Evidence

"The defendants, as oil producing companies and in the course of transporting their oil, constructed pipelines, to convey their crude oil out from their oil well to Bonny Oil Terminal for export. It is in that process that the spillage complained against did occur. It is argued that the law is settled that, pleadings not supported by evidence go to no issue. Since the defendants elected not to call evidence, all facts raised in their defence go to no issue. On the other hand, their refusal to call evidence does not relieve the plaintiffs of the duty to prove their case. "The damage claimed, as borne out by the values report Exhibit P2 was with effect from 1995 being the reporting date of the chartered valuer. This action was brought to court in 2001. Therefore, the six years limit required by the statute for tortious liability has not been breached. It is submitted that the next question for consideration, is whether the oil spillage went beyond the defendants' right of way and got into the plaintiffs land. It is argued that PW1 tendered exhibit P1, delineating the area affected by the spill, which is 255.369 hectares. It is contended for the plaintiffs that the letters, Exhibit P6, P7, P8 and P9, all accepted that 255 hectares were impacted and should be cleaned up. That apart, from all the letters mentioned, including exhibit P1 admitted that the spill occurred in 1970. "The suggestion that it happened during the war cannot be correct. It is then asked, what is the effect of the spill having shown the extent of the impact. It is contended that exhibit P4, described the area as unfit for human activities. Exhibit P5 is the report

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commissioned by the defendants themselves. Part II of exhibit P5 was referred to under executive summary and shows the effect clearly that the defendants' appointed scientists, made the recommendation as to the negative impact in that area."

Cleaning up the Spill

The court referred to some of the exhibits, including a letter dated May 20, 1991 by Shell to the Paramount Ruler of Ejamah community, offering to acquire the affected land to burn the crude oil; another letter dated August 15, 2006, on how Shell intended to clean up the 1970 spill at Ejama Ebubu as well as other letters detailing companies and phases of the clean up. The judge noted: "Indeed, exhibit P10 provides extensively the background, scope, method, certification, stakeholders engagement, etc. "I have, upon calm assessment on the unchallenged evidence of the plaintiffs, that cases cited and relied upon, which I read and come to one and only inevitable conclusion, that the case of the plaintiffs have merit and accordingly accept the evidence that is capable of belief. Indeed, from the nature of the damages caused, the amount of general damages claimed is not exaggerated. I have no doubt whatsoever, that the special damages has been proved, as the burden on the plaintiffs is a minimal proof. I also assess and award punitive general damages as claimed, having found out that the damages claimed is not exaggerated. "I therefore, enter judgment for the plaintiffs against the defendants in the following terms: judgment be and is hereby entered for the plaintiffs against the defendants jointly and severally. I make the following order: the defendants shall pay the plaintiffs, special damages in the sum of N1.7772bn made up as follows, direct value of annual renewable crops/amenities, loss of income, N44.5m, injurious affection, N613.7m; forestry N115.5m; hunting income N236.2m, animal traps N4.9m and water supply, N80m and health hazards, shock fear N100m and desecration of shrines, N1.8m. Allowing for interest for delayed payment for five years from 1996 at a modest mean Central Bank of Nigeria deregulated rate for that volume at 25 per cent per annum, totalling N5.4billion. "I also award the plaintiffs claims of 25 per cent of the said sum till the date of judgment and thereafter 10 per cent of the judgment debt till payment. The burden of proof on the minimal have been discharged by the plaintiff. I also assess and award the plaintiffs claim against the defendants in punitive terms of general damages in the sum of N10 billion for general inconveniences, acid rain, pollution of underground water and hardship to the population who have been deprived of the right to self sustenance, education and good life. "An order directing the defendant to de-pollute and rehabilitate the dry land swamps to its pre-impact status."

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2010/07/06/oil-spill-shell-to-pay-n15-4bn/>

USA, UT, SYRACUSE, JULY 12 2010. SYRACUSE FAMILY EVACUATED FROM HOME DUE TO POSSIBLE TOXIC CHEMICAL LEAK

maile tua'one

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.fox13now.com/news/kstu-syracuse-family-evacuated-due-to-toxic-chemical-leak.0.4806332.story>

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.standard.net/node/44888>



It was a restless night for a whole neighborhood here Sunday night with noisy fire department generators and flood lights surrounding a house until well after midnight where the family had reported a strange "burned metallic smell" and a suspicion of gas in their home. Police barricades kept any cars from entering the street as dozens of safety officials from a long list of agencies responded to a home at 2314 S. 3585 West after the family called 911 reporting that a portable propane and methane gas detector had gone off in their home. Although crews worked throughout the night, no one could determine what the family had smelled in their home earlier that evening. "We're beginning to wonder if we drove it out with our ventilation system," said Sgt. Brent Peters with the Davis County Sheriff's Office. Pesticide had recently been applied at the home, as well as at a couple of neighboring homes, which initially raised the concern that toxic fumes may have seeped into the dwelling from the poison. "When the firefighters and everyone rolled up, they were not taking anything for granted," said

homeowner Frank Garcia. He said he and his wife were especially concerned for their two daughters, ages 6 and 11, having heard about the incident in Layton in which two young girls died. "No one was sick," Peters said, noting that the "younger family with younger kids" was evacuated overnight to allow crews to work to determine the source of the odor. Peters said he believed crews had ruled out the pesticide as the source because they were getting chemical readings only in the home and not outside. Two other homes that had pesticide applied recently had no reading at all. Peters activated the Davis County Hazardous Materials Response Plan, involving teams from Syracuse, Layton, South Davis Metro, Sunset, Hill Air Force Base and the Utah State Response Civil Service team. He said some people were asking why such an overkill as the whole street

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was lit up and full of emergency response vehicles. He said, "I don't want to start at the short end of the stick," adding that he'll call the emergency people off if he discovers they aren't needed. When asked if the response was so extensive because of what happened in Layton, Peters said the response was the same in Layton, but "now we're highly more suspicious. It keeps us at alert because of what occurred in Layton." Garcia said his wife actually noticed an odor Saturday afternoon, but no one else could smell it. On Sunday, when he could smell it too, he got the neighbors and they brought over the portable detector. It went off after five minutes in the house, Garcia said. The neighbors called the fire department and were asked if a pesticide company had been out to the home recently. Among those assessing the situation are experts studying the molecular makeup of what they've found in the house in an effort to determine what it is. A CST team from the Army and the Air Force was on hand. Peters said they could detect up to 80 different chemicals or gasses. In the meantime, the Garcia family spent the night with neighbors.

<http://www.standard.net/node/44888>

EGYPT, HURGHADA, JULY 12 2010. HURGHADA STAKEHOLDERS FEAR MORE OIL SPILLS

cam mcgrath

A small oil spill last month in the sea near Hurghada has rekindled fears among the Red Sea resort city's stakeholders that a major incident could wipe the town off the tourist map. "Our capital is the beach," says Sameh Howaidek, chairman of the Red Sea branch of the Egyptian Hotels Association. "Any major oil spill would completely destroy our business." Hurghada has grown from a sleepy fishing village in the early 1980s into one of the biggest resort cities on the Red Sea, with over 40,000 hotel rooms. Its clear waters and world-class reefs draw over 2.5 million tourists a year, generating about US\$3 billion and providing jobs for 250,000 residents and temporary workers. The resort has grown up in the shadow of oil development. Over 180 offshore platforms dot the Gulf of Suez, squeezing the last drops from maturing subsea oil fields. Leaking well heads, "routine" spills and passing Suez Canal tanker traffic have destroyed coral reefs and blackened beaches in the northern gulf, but until last month Hurghada's resorts and protected offshore islands had been spared. On June 17 dive boat operators reported an oil slick in the waters north of Hurghada. The oil fouled over 20km of coastline including resort beaches in El Gouna and Hurghada. Black sludge also damaged several coral reefs and washed up on the shores of Tawila Island, a protected breeding area for marine birds. Environmentalists and Red Sea resort owners have criticized the government's slow response and lack of transparency in investigating the source of the spill. "Nobody informed us about the spill and no single company has said they were responsible," says Amr Ali, managing director of Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA), a local environmental NGO. "This says a lot about the liability and transparency of the oil [sector]." The government belatedly acknowledged that it had cleaned up beaches following a "limited" oil spill. A Ministry of Petroleum report released on 24 June identified four possible culprits: leakage from a passing tanker, oil containers washed out in the sea, sabotaged oil rig equipment, or hot weather causing solidified oil on beach rocks to liquefy. The report stated specifically that the leak could not have come from an oil rig. Environmental activists accuse the government of covering up evidence that the spill originated at an offshore oil platform 50 nautical miles north of Hurghada. A video posted by HEPCA on YouTube appears to show oil leaking from the rig, which is owned by state-run PetroGulf Misr. The Ministry of Petroleum estimates that no more than 40 barrels of oil were involved. Hotel owners dispute the amount and accuse the government of a whitewash to protect the responsible party from costly litigation and negative publicity. "The company responsible will have to pay a lot," says Howaidek, comparing the situation with that of BP in the Gulf of Mexico, with a clean-up bill amounting to millions of dollars. Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) officials interviewed by Al-Masry Al-Youm claimed an analysis of oil samples was "ongoing," and damage estimates were still being formulated. However, sources close to the investigations confirmed that the lab analysis was complete and conclusive, but the results were being suppressed. Ali fears those responsible for the spill could go unpunished. "The amount of contradictions here is obscene," he says. "It doesn't make sense that you go Hollywood style in patrol boats to surround fishing boats, arrest the fishermen, burn their gear, and publicly crucify them for fishing with three lines in the water, and then completely overlook an oil spill that has a million times more negative impact." Egyptian law requires that all oil handling facilities file an environment impact assessment (EIA) that identifies the risks of oil spills and includes an EEAA-approved contingency plan for containment and clean-up. Petroleum companies are required to purchase emergency response equipment for each of their rigs in accordance with their EIA. In addition, Petro Environmental Services Company (PESCo) manages four national oil spill response centers on the Red Sea located in Suez, Ras Gharib, Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheikh. "We're there as a support mechanism," says Richard Byrnes, PESCo's in-country manager. "If everyone's got everything in place they shouldn't need us. We're like the fire department. When a fire breaks out you try to put it out with fire extinguishers, but if that fails you call the fire department." That PESCo was called in to clean up the oil spill suggests that the party responsible had failed to carry out proper containment. It has also

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raised concerns about the myriad of smaller operators in the Gulf of Suez, many of which are using recycled equipment to lower the extraction costs of exhausted wells, and have fewer containment resources. "This spill is more evidence that [Red Sea oil] concessions should be limited," says Ali. "We're giving these concessions to very small companies. If this had been [a large operator like] GUPCO, they would have moved in seconds, and we would never have heard about the spill." He adds that the current Red Sea zoning regime, which integrates oil and tourism, is a misguided strategy. Oil-related activities should be restricted to the extreme north of the Gulf of Suez, far from the sensitive marine ecosystems that generate tourism revenues. Oil Minister Sameh Fahmy said Egypt was considering reducing the number of oil rigs operating in the Gulf of Suez. He added that the reduction would make it easier to monitor the remaining platforms. Last month's incident was "a wake-up call," says Ali. Hurghada might not be so lucky next time--an uncapped well can leak up to 100,000 barrels a day. "Forget talk of a spill the size of the one in the Gulf of Mexico," he says. "A much smaller one would completely destroy Hurghada as a tourist destination."

<http://www.almasryalyoum.com/en/news/hurghada-stakeholders-fear-more-oil-spills>

USA, TX, DOUGLASVILLE, JULY 12 2010. OSHA FINES TEXAS COMPANY \$152K AFTER FATAL CHEMICAL RELEASE

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Enbridge G&P (East Texas) LP with two alleged willful and five alleged serious violations following a chemical release at the company's Bryans Mill plant in Douglasville, Texas, which resulted in a worker's death. OSHA began its investigation on Jan. 10 following the fatality that occurred when four workers were replacing a faulty valve on the waste heat boiler in the sulfur plant. One employee died and another was left in critical condition when hydrogen sulfide was released from the boiler. The willful violations were issued for failing to develop and implement safe work practices for workers who process equipment or piping or who are exposed to airborne concentrations of hydrogen sulfide in excess of 50 parts per million, and for failing to provide workers with the required personal protective equipment. In this case, the company did not provide respirators. Alleged serious violations include failing to review current operating procedures; to inform contract workers of the known potential fire, explosion or toxic release hazards related to the contractor's work; and to use flame resistant clothing when breaking lines, valves and/or opening equipment. For these violations, OSHA has assessed penalties totaling \$152,100. Enbridge G&P has 15 business days from receipt of citations to comply, request an informal conference with the OSHA area director in Dallas, or contest the citations and penalties before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

<http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/southcentral/2010/07/12/111457.htm>

INDONESIA, EAST JAVA, MALANG, JULY 12 2010. LITTLE GIRL'S CRIES A STARK REMINDER OF GAS STOVE DANGERS IN INDONESIA

amir tejo

Toddler Dwi Maisaroh cries out in pain, her tiny body swathed in bandages. "Mommy, Mommy," she cries out, unable to bear the searing pain from the third-degree burns that cover her whole body. Maisaroh and her family were injured when a three-kilogram liquefied petroleum gas cylinder exploded on July 6 at their home in Suber Rejo village, Gedangan, in Malang. The injuries to Maisaroh's upper body, face, legs and arms are so extensive and severe that nurses at Kanjuruhan Kepanjen Malang Hospital are having trouble sticking a needle into her frail body to give her pain relief. "Try and stay calm, my dear," a nurse tells Maisaroh, as she confides that she cannot find a spot on her arms to give her an injection. Maisaroh's face is bloated, red and blotched from the burns. But staff members at the hospital say she is holding up well considering her injuries and her age. Maisaroh's mother, Dwi Ismiati, can do nothing but stare at her daughter. Aside from Maisaroh and Ismiati, those injured in the explosion were Ismiati's father, Tarsit, 50, and Maisaroh's sister, Nabilatul Sadiyah, 6. Nabilatul has already been discharged because her injuries were less severe. Tarsit is being treated in another room. He told the Jakarta Globe that the explosion happened in the kitchen while he was cooking. "I did not smell a gas leak," he says. "The explosion happened as soon as Ismiati and my granddaughters walked into the house." Tarsit says he has been cooking for himself for the past three years because his wife is a migrant worker in Saudi Arabia. He says the house has two cooking areas, one using firewood and the other, in another room, LPG gas. "I was cooking with firewood. The gas cylinder was unused and behind a closed door," Tarsit says. "I did not smell a leak. However, as soon as Ismiati and the kids came in, there was an explosion. The fire spread even faster because of the firewood." He has not told his wife about the accident. "Every time my wife, Ngatini, calls my daughter, she tells her I am staying at a cousin's house. I do not want to worry her," Tarsit says. There have been at least 18 gas explosions in Malang since 2007. In Greater Jakarta, the recent string of deadly gas-canister explosions continued over the weekend when a woman was killed and her husband seriously injured. This time the blast involved a 12-kilogram canister.

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Tangerang Police said Nursiah, 51, died after the explosion at her home in Kelapa Dua on Saturday, while her husband, Sofyan, 55, remained in critical condition. Police said the explosion was likely caused when a spark from a power outlet ignited a gas buildup from the leaking cylinder. State-owned energy company PT Pertamina has again warned customers to be on alert for possible gas leaks, which often happened when changing regulators. Pertamina official Eviyanti said the less often regulators were changed the better, assuming they were in good working order. She said there were many fake regulators on the market, which meant customers had to be on alert. "Never buy anything from people who claim they are from Pertamina unless they provide proof." Gas explosions in the past few months have killed and maimed dozens of people and spread terror in many communities.

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/little-girls-cries-a-stark-reminder-of-gas-stove-dangers-in-indonesia/385294>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 12 2010. NEW CONCERNS ABOUT THE SALT LAKE CITY OIL SPILL

noah bond



The Chevron oil spill contaminated Salt Lake City water a month ago July 12. Oil remains on rocks, creek beds and in culverts. Now a group called The Citizens' Response Committee is coming forward with new questions. The group wants to make sure Chevron does everything possible to fix the environmental disaster it caused in Salt Lake City. It wants to work with Chevron. The group is thanking the Corporation for cleaning thousands of gallons from Liberty Park and other Salt Lake City waters, but the cleanup is far from over. It's likely going to take several months. Spokesman for the Citizens' Response Committee Peter Hayes invited ABC 4 to his home. "So this is my back yard," he said. Hayes is thankful a 14 man crew from Chevron spent five hours scrubbing oil from about 150 feet of the creek running through his property, but he is still concerned. Pointing to a rock he said, "This is oil. You can tell its oil see there the whole thing." He turned over several rocks and found crude oil under each one. "We want to have a positive working relationship

with Chevron and our local government we're not assuming an adversarial relationship here, but we want issues to be brought up," said Hayes. At a news conference in Liberty Park Hayes presented a list of concerns on behalf of the Citizens' Response Committee: The group would like politicians to mandate a \$15 million escrow account to offset losses to property values, Chevron to clean oil from culverts, stiff fines imposed to prevent another oil spill and an independent committee to investigate what went wrong and how to prevent another oil spill. "For us to trust Chevron completely on this. I think is a bit naive. A corporation is going to protect their interests," said Hayes. ABC 4 brought the concerns to Chevron Spokesman Dan Johnson. "We have acknowledged responsibility for this spill and we will take care of the appropriate cost associated with the clean up," he said. Hayes just wants oil removed from rocks and a culvert in his back yard, which Chevron has not yet agreed to do. "When the oil erodes it will continue to feed into the ecosystem and we'd just like to see as much of it cleaned out as possible," said Hayes. Hayes is going to bring his list of concerns to a public meeting tomorrow in Salt Lake City at Clayton Middle School. It will start at 7:00 p.m. And continue for two hours. Cleaning crews will also be at the meeting to answer questions about the cleanup.

<http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top%20stories/story/New-concerns-about-the-Salt-Lake-City-oil-spill/a9hXIFGp1EqYtUdaxqJBg.csp>

USA, IA, DES MOINES, JULY 13 2010. GAS STATION OWNER FINED OVER SAFETY VIOLATIONS

jennifer jacob

The owner of several gas stations in Iowa owes the state \$250,000 in penalties for failing to follow rules meant to prevent petroleum from leaking from underground tanks and for other violations. However, payment is complicated by the fact that Bulk Petroleum Corp. filed for bankruptcy last year, state officials said Friday. Bulk Petroleum buys gasoline from oil companies and then sells it to gas stations. Thursday, a judge in Polk County District Court ordered training for certain Bulk Petroleum Corp. employees on how to examine underground tanks for suspected leaks and how to protect tanks from corrosion. Bulk Petroleum also must adopt standard maintenance and record-keeping procedures and conduct tank inspections twice each year by state-certified inspectors, the judgment states. The company is permanently enjoined from further violations, said Geoff Greenwood, spokesman for the attorney general. The release of petroleum from underground tanks is "a substantial public concern" because it can threaten public health and natural resources, the Iowa attorney general's office argued when it sued the Bulk Petroleum Corp. of Delaware in 2007. One concern is keeping gasoline out of drinking

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water supplies. Between 2005 and 2008, state inspectors identified violations at 28 retail gas stations with underground tanks owned by Bulk Petroleum. The sites included 21 Citgo stations - in Des Moines, Davenport, LeClaire, Blue Grass, Waterloo, Burlington, Malcom, Clive, Oskaloosa and Maquoketa. Other violators were a C Store & Deli in Nevada; a Four Mile Texaco in Des Moines; two Jiffy stations in Ames and Davenport; and a Breakpoint station in Bondurant, state records show. Owners of such tanks are required to check for leaks at least every 30 days, state law says. If there is a fuel leak, it must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within 24 hours, the law says. Bulk Petroleum, which is incorporated in Delaware but has headquarters in Mequon, Wis., admitted to the violations and didn't contest them in court, state officials said. The \$250,000 penalty owed to the state is an unsecured claim, which means that secured claims will get priority. Claims against Bulk Petroleum will be decided by a bankruptcy judge. Whether Iowa gets its money will depend on the company's other debts.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100712/NEWS10/7120315/-1/LIFE04/Gas-station-owner-fined-over-safety-violations>

USA, N.C, NEWTON, JULY 13 2010. TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS IN NEWTON

joe marusak

Part of Startown Road is closed this morning after a tanker truck hauling about 8,700 gallons of gasoline overturned shortly after 5 a.m., about a quarter-mile south of Newton Fire Station No. 3. Initial crews on the scene indicated gasoline was leaking from the tanker, Newton Fire Chief Kevin Yoder said. A local HAZMAT team put dome clamps on the lid of the tanker to minimize the gasoline flow, Yoder said. As of 9:15 a.m., a clean-up crew was off-loading the gasoline. When the cleanup is complete, the truck will then be turned upright. Yoder said he expects the section of Startown Road to remain closed until at least noon today. Detours are set up at Startown Road and Highway 10, and at Rocky Ford and Startown roads.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/07/12/1558501/tanker-truck-overturms-in-newton.html>

MALAYSIA, KUANTAN, JULY 13 2010. 2 HURT IN S'PORE TANKER FIRE

Two Myanmar nationals suffered severe burns and one of their countrymen is missing after a Singapore-flagged chemical tanker they were on caught fire on Monday, maritime officials said. The accident happened in waters off Malaysia's eastern Pahang state in the South China Sea, the eastern region head of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, Syed Mohamad Fuzi Syed Hassan, told state news agency Bernama. 'The incident occurred as the Singapore-flagged ship was travelling from Vietnam to the Kuantan port with the fire breaking out when the crew were carrying out cleaning operations,' he told Bernama. Although the fire was put out quickly on the ship with 22 crew members, Syed Mohamad Fuzi said two were badly burnt while a third was believed to have fallen overboard. He said three search-and-rescue ships were patrolling the vicinity in an attempt to find the missing seaman while a helicopter was sent to bring the injured crew members ashore.

http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory_552603.html

VENEZUELA, SAN LUIS, JULY 13 200. CRUDE SPILLS MAR VENEZUELA OIL HUB LAKE MARACAIBO

marianna parraga



Waste Oil And Garbage Are Seen On The Shores Of Lake Maracaibo. Oil floats on the surface close to oil facilities at the Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela's western state of Zulia July 7, 2010. The area has been blighted in recent weeks by several leaks from the tangle of antiquated pipes, pumps and other oil installations that crisscross the lake, one of the oldest energy hubs in the Latin American OPEC member.

Fishermen from San Luis on Venezuela's oil-producing Lake Maracaibo dive from their boats and minutes later return to the beach, arms loaded with piles of sticky garbage coated black with crude oil. The area has been blighted in recent weeks by several leaks from the tangle of antiquated pipes, pumps and other oil installations that crisscross the lake, one of the oldest energy hubs in the Latin American OPEC member. The world may be focused on the much bigger oil spill in the Gulf of

Mexico, but Maracaibo has suffered decades of smaller leaks that have contaminated the environment, affected local industries and even led to the idling of several U.S.-bound tankers while crude was scrubbed off their hulls. San Luis fisherman Alexander Vargas said the latest oil leaks were affecting his livelihood. "Last night I went out and caught just one fish," he told Reuters despondently. "It was such a bad night, it would have been better to stay at home." Where he lives on the eastern shores of the lake, his fellow workers have been reduced to collecting crabs, which he said have been able to

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survive the pollution better than fish. Many of those crabs are coated with oil, as are the mangrove swamps on the lake's edges. Jutting from the oil-sheened water, which sometimes gives off a rotten smell, are the rusted remains of oil equipment from years gone by. State oil company PDVSA blames the latest leaks on thieves vandalizing facilities, and says last week it recovered a large amount of equipment stolen from the lake. Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez downplays the spills, saying they only amount to a tiny eight barrels per day (bpd). Western Zulia state in which Lake Maracaibo is located produces 800,000 bpd of Venezuela's 2.9 million bpd output, according to the government. Ramirez concedes that the situation in Lake Maracaibo is "chronic", with abandoned machinery and thousands of miles of pipelines snaked "like spaghetti" on its bed. "We have taken out more than 100,000 tonnes of scrap, and repair 117 leaks each week," Ramirez told state television. The latest spills were first detected early in June, but were initially denied by PDVSA. It later acknowledged there was a problem after local media broadcast images of the leaks. It has now hired hundreds of fishermen for cleanup operations.

Truckloads of Waste

Eliseo Fermin, head of the legislative council of Zulia state, estimated that slicks from the latest leaks were now affecting 8 percent of the surface of the lake. "The pipelines are completely perforated," Fermin said. Opposition politicians who run the regional authority say the situation in Maracaibo has deteriorated since President Hugo Chavez's government nationalized 76 oil service companies in the area last year. Local officials have demanded Ramirez and the environment minister resign over the spills. But the fishermen are most concerned about how many days it will take before they can return to work on the lake. For now, in the absence of any concrete plans to stop further leaks, some are making money with the cleanup crews employed by PDVSA to try to decontaminate the shores. "We take out four truckloads full of waste every day from the 15 beaches in the Santa Rosa de Agua area," said Sergio Ortega, a foreman of one crew, whose members each receive 100 bolivars a day for their work (about \$23). The only thing PDVSA and the Zulia state authorities seem to agree on is a plan to relocate shipping terminals out of the lake to reduce risks to the environment in the future. Ramirez has said PDVSA is "rethinking" its strategy for Maracaibo production. But that is unlikely to satisfy Zulia Governor Pablo Perez, who blames a lack of development in the area on 11 years of neglect by the central government. "It's not just the lake ... It seems that being 800 km (500 miles) from Caracas is a sin," Perez told Reuters.

<http://planetark.org/wen/58750>

USA, N.J, SOUTH BRUNSWICK, JULY 13 2010. 4 YEAR-OLD GIRL INJURED BY FIREWORKS IN SOUTH BRUNSWICK RESTAURANT PARKING LOT

tom haydon

A 4-year-old girl suffered burns and bruises when she was struck in the chest by fireworks set off at a wedding celebration outside a restaurant in South Brunswick, police said. The girl and her father were walking to a car in the parking lot at the Rasoi Restaurant at 620 Georges Rd. just before midnight Sunday when 4 year old was struck by the fireworks, police Sgt. James Ryan said. The father told police the fireworks were being set off in the rear parking lot but one shot across the lot instead of up in the air, Ryan said. Police found more than 100 people in the parking lot, the sergeant said. Officers determined dozens of fireworks had been ignited, but have not yet identified the person who lit them, Ryan said. Members of the Monmouth Junction First Aid Squad treated the girl at the scene, and the parents said they were taking the child or a doctor in New York where they lived, Ryan said.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/07/four-year_old_girl_struck_by_f.html

USA, CA, SANTA BARBARA, JULY 13 2010. PROFIT PLACED BEFORE SAFETY

james murr/

Greka Oil is a local operation with wells onshore in Santa Barbara County. Greka has been in the news often in the last decade, and has a questionable record with spills. Years ago, the District Attorney's office threatened prosecution for violations. On Monday, May 24, the Santa Maria Times reported a Greka crude spill at the 6151 Dominion Road facility. On May 29, the Times reported a second oil spill at a Greka facility at 5080 Black Road. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board reached a \$1.2 million settlement with Greka over recent violations. If Greka fails to clean up and fix violations in the time frame outlined, they could be fined an additional \$800,000. A recent, deadly, man-made disaster killed 29 coal miners at the Massey Energy Co.'s Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia. It has been revealed that Massey has been cited for more than 3,000 safety violations since 1995. In 2009, it was cited for 500 violations, double the 2008 violations, and fined \$168,393. Information surfaced that Massey's non-union miners who complained about lack of safe working conditions would be fired. There are allegations about Massey's close relationship with mine inspectors. Don Blankenship, Massey's CEO, expressed his compassion about the dead miners by stating: "Violations are, unfortunately, a normal part of the mining

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process. In the case of BP's explosion of the Deepwater Horizon (DH) platform, congressional testimony by BP employees exposed trouble developing five hours before the blast on April 20. BP mechanic Doug Brown testified to Congress that there was an argument on DH between employees and an executive about a problem of excessive pressure buildup. The employees argued that heavy drilling fluid should not be removed, but a BP executive overruled them and sea water was inserted. Within five hours of this executive decision on April 20, the upsurge of gas exploded and Deepwater Horizon was in flames. Men died as a consequence of an executive decision to continue operation and ignore a safety problem. BP CEO Tony Hayward wrote, "It was both a shattering moment and a vivid reminder of the duty that a manager owes to ensure that team members safely return home to their families." Both of these disasters point to the problem of profit vs. safety. Capitalists are always trying to maximize profits. Shutting down Massey's mine to clear methane gas diminishes cash flow. BP could have left heavy drilling fluid for the safety of employees, but that would disrupt production. Greka's problems have been mostly aging equipment and poor maintenance that led to environmental degradation. Greka, Massey, and BP chose cash flow over safety procedures. These kinds of decisions tend to transform capitalists into sociopaths, people whose behavior turns anti-social for various reasons, and too often profit replaces concern for humans and ecosystems.

http://www.santamariatimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/article_571f86f6-7a9c-11df-b634-001cc4c002e0.html

INDONESIA, JAKARTA, JULY 13 2010. NATIONAL POLICE BLAME ILLEGAL GAS TRANSFERS FOR EXPLOSIONS

Comr. Gen. Ito Sumardi, National Police chief of detectives, has blamed the illegal transfer of subsidized gas on the spate of explosions terrifying the nation but his comments appear to contradict other investigators who say that many of the cylinders appear to have been illegally made. National Police have pointed the finger firmly at criminals illegally transferring liquefied petroleum gas from Indonesian government subsidized gas cylinders to unsubsidized 12-kilogram containers. Comr. Gen. Ito Sumardi, National Police chief of detectives, says a total of 40 gas cylinders had exploded throughout Indonesian between January and July this year, of which 15 involved the three-kilogram cylinders and the remainder the larger containers. "The cause of the explosions was illegal gas transfer," Ito said during a news conference at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources on Monday. Ito said opportunistic criminals — who have maimed or killed dozens of people as well as terrorized communities — were making money by transferring subsidized LPG to the larger cylinders. The cylinders were also normally only filled with nine kilograms of LPG, creating even more profit, he said. "After the illegal gas transfer is completed, the perpetrators will reseal the cylinders but the seal looks different with the original factory seal," Ito said. "So the public should check the condition of the seal whenever they buy gas cylinders." The comments appear to contradict earlier police explanations. Officers have previously stated that many of the cylinders had been illegally manufactured, including with fake components and even fake Pertamina logos. Aside from the death and injury toll and damage, the illegal refilling practice is costing the government Rp 2.7 billion (\$300,000) in damages every month, Ito said. The news conference was also attended by ministry officials and officials from state oil and gas company Pertamina. Ito also urged members of the public to report suspicious cylinders or gas-filling operations to the police. He said police had already conducted a number of raid, including in Bantar Gebang in Bekasi and Surabaya in East Java. "We have arrested three perpetrators from Bantar Gebang and we are awaiting reports from East Java Police about the legal process in Surabaya," he said.

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/national-police-blame-illegal-gas-transfers-for-explosions/385568>

INDONESIA, WEST JAKARTA, CENGKARENG, KALI ANGKE, JULY 13 2010. TWO CRITICALLY INJURED IN LATEST GAS CYLINDER BLAST

The terrifying spate of gas cylinder explosions in Indonesia continued on Tuesday morning with another detonation causing injuries, damage and panic in the capital. The explosion occurred in Kali Angke, Cengkareng, West Jakarta, at 5 a.m., severely burning a mother and her son. The woman, Samini, 35, sustained severe burns from head to toe while her son, Arjun, 14, suffered burns to his head, neck and arms. They were rushed to Sumber Waras Hospital. First Insp. Ratna, head of detectives with Cengkareng Police, said one of the victims was turning on a three-kilogram, state subsidized gas stove when she smelled gas. "The explosion happened within seconds," Ratna said, adding that the explosion was so strong it blew a hole through one of the walls. Ratna said police believed the gas cylinder was faulty, echoing ongoing concerns about the safety of the cylinders produced for the state. Earlier in the morning, another three houses were engulfed in flame after a fire was sparked in the kitchen of a home belonging to a person who operated a catering business. A 12-kg-gas cylinder allegedly exploded during the blast on Jalan Puri Mutiara in Cilandak, South Jakarta, though police do not believe the cylinder caused the fire. "The fire was likely caused by the recklessness of the catering employees," Cilandak Police Chief Comr. Azhar Nugraha alleged. Azhar said the three employees were in the kitchen when the fire started. "It's possible that they were drifting off [to sleep when the fire started]. There was a gas explosion but it was not the original cause of the fire because the regulator

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and the hose were still intact," Azhar said. There were no injuries. "We have isolated the crime scene and will question several witnesses," Azhar said. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has ordered a thorough investigation into the succession of gas cylinder explosions throughout Indonesia, which have injured or killed scores of people throughout Indonesia. State energy company Pertamina has begun distributing certified hoses and regulators to replace counterfeit ones in a bid to curb the number of explosions. Police also say that they are cracking down on warehouses illegally filling and refilling the cylinders.

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/two-critically-injured-in-latest-gas-cylinder-blast/385561>

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, JULY 13 2010. PETRON PLANS TO SELL UP TO 40% STAKE IN COMPANY

cris Iarano

Petron, the Philippines biggest oil refiner by capacity and sales, Monday said it's prepared to sell up to 40% of its shares to foreign investors to raise \$1 billion to finance its expansion. Petron is already holding talks with several foreign groups, including Thailand's PTT PLC, Chairman and Chief Executive Ramon Ang told reporters at the sidelines of the company's annual general meeting. "We are ready to sell up to 40% to foreign investors," Ang said in Filipino. "They could help us in our expansion." Petron's expansion plans include increasing its capacity to produce white fuels, such as gasoline and diesel, as well as raising its output of petrochemicals and aromatics. New investors in Petron could find a seat on the board, after Monday's annual shareholders meeting endorsed a proposal to increase the size of the board to 15 from 10. Ang told the meeting new investors in Petron "will bring in \$1 billion in investments, that's why they will require board representation." Petron President Eric Recto said foreign investors may also invest through joint venture companies to undertake specific projects for the multistage expansion of its 180,000 barrel-a-day refinery north of Manila. The refinery upgrade, which could cost the company around \$1.6 billion, includes the construction of a 70-megawatt power plant. The planned power plant will use the petroleum coke produced by the refinery and is expected to be operational by 2012. Meanwhile, Petron Monday also announced it acquired a 40% stake in Petrochemical Asia HK Ltd., the owner of Philippine Polypropylene Inc, known as PPI. Petron said it has the option to increase its stake to 51%, but didn't provide financial details of the transaction. It said the investment is part of its strategy to further diversify into petrochemicals to boost revenue. PPI owns a polypropylene plant near Petron's refinery. That plant has a capacity to produce up to 160,000 metric tons of polypropylene a year. In a related development, PPI has entered into a technical services agreement with Integrated Refinery and Petrochemical Co., an affiliate of PTT, to prepare for the start-up of the polypropylene plant. Asked about the results for the second quarter, Recto declined to give a specific numbers but noted the performance during the period was tempered by ructions in European economies, which caused volatility in oil prices and currency exchange rates. "The recent volatility in Europe has dampened what could have been a very, very good year. But the results will still be positive," he said. Philippine conglomerate San Miguel Corp. and U.K.-based Ashmore Group are the major shareholders of Petron.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=23329

USA, N.M, FARMINGTON, JULY 13 2010. FARMINGTON ACID SPILL LEADS TO NEIGHBORHOOD EVACUATION

ryan boetel

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWux9GWEuF4>

An acid leak Sunday at Schlumberger Well Services prompted 911 calls describing burning throats and eyes, and stopped traffic on Bloomfield Highway from Dustin Street to Browning Parkway until Monday morning. No one was seriously injured in the spill, which was reported to the Farmington Fire Department at about 5 p.m. Sunday by employees from a nearby business, Battalion Chief Troy Brown said. "It appears some acid leaked out of the tank," Brown said. "We don't know why." Firefighters originally tried to neutralize the acid with soda ash, which was ineffective. "(The spill) was bigger than I expected," Brown said. The last major acid leak in Farmington was at a Halliburton Oil Services in June 2006. As firefighters in hazardous material suits pumped the 1,200 gallons of acid into another tank early Monday morning, conditions took a turn for the worse and nearly 50 people who live in the area were evacuated, Brown said. High temperatures and strong winds kept the acid vapor at bay Sunday night and residents originally were told to stay inside and not to use their air conditioners. After midnight, the temperature and wind speed dropped, causing the vapor to become more potent in the area. The fire department calculated wind speed and ground trajectory and determined the neighborhood south of Browning Parkway on Hines Road needed to be evacuated. "We felt it was a dangerous situation and we needed to get those people out of there," Brown said. Twenty-three people were evacuated to Bluffview Elementary School just before 3 a.m. Monday, said Donna Wade, a disaster response coordinator for the Red Cross. Police evacuated about 50 people in the middle of the night who were threatened by a plume of acid vapor, Farmington Police Sgt. Pat Cordell said. Kelly Miller, who lives in the area, said it was a frustrating night. He was on his way home at 6 p.m. Sunday and was stopped by roadblocks near the Rimrock Hotel on Bloomfield

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Highway. His fiancée was in the home, and he was not allowed to go there. He spent the night trying to sleep in his car until he was allowed to return home at 8 a.m. "It was frustrating because nothing that happened made sense," he said. "If they're going to detain us I understand, but if they're not letting me come (home) then why are they letting her stay there?" Cordell said police got information from the fire department and tried to keep people away from potentially dangerous acid vapor. "We want to limit liabilities to citizens," he said. "To keep a person who could be a victim out of an area is better than to let them in and need to take them out later." Phone calls made to Schlumberger were not returned and employees at the facility on Bloomfield Highway declined comment Monday. The company uses acid to service wells.

http://www.daily-times.com/ci_15503231

CANADA, AB. CONKIN, JULY 13 2010. DEVON ENERGY REPORTS ALBERTA OIL SANDS WELL LEAK

edward welsch

A blowout at one of Devon Energy Inc.'s sands wells in northeastern Alberta over the weekend sprayed an oil mist into the air for nearly 36 hours, the company and regulators said Monday. Devon employees discovered a leak in one of the producer wells at the company's 35,000 barrel-a-day Jackfish facility mid-day Saturday and managed to seal the leak by midnight Sunday, a Devon spokeswoman said. No one was injured and regulators said there was no danger to the public. The Alberta Environment ministry and the Alberta Energy Conservation Resources Board are investigating the cause of the leak. Jackfish is a two-year-old "in situ" oil sands project, in which pairs of wells are used to inject steam underground to soften oil sands, and then to pump back up a mixture of oil sands and steam. The project has 28 such well pairs, and the leak occurred in one of the older sections of the project, the Devon spokeswoman said. The blowout shot an oil-steam mixture about 30 to 40 feet into the air, most of which fell back onto Devon's lease, the spokeswoman said, though some was carried off the site by the wind. She said the company was tracking where the oil went and set up containment booms downstream of a nearby creek as a preventative measure. Jackfish is located in a relatively remote area, but is about 12 miles from the small town of Conklin, Alberta. Devon said it doesn't yet know how much oil was released, nor the cost of repairing the well. Devon is currently building a second Jackfish project nearby of the same size, which will be complete by the end of the year. Construction was not affected by the blowout, the spokeswoman said.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/devon-energy-reports-alberta-oil-sands-well-leak-2010-07-12>

SOUTH AFRICA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, BUFFALO CITY, JULY 13 2010. DIESEL SPILL ACTION AVERTS POLLUTION



Local spillage experts pour sawdust and other substances on spilt diesel to absorb it after a fuel tanker capsized on the eZiphunzana Bypass and Sunnyside Road intersection yesterday.

A fuel tanker carrying 14 000 litres of diesel capsized at the eZiphunzana Bypass and Sunnyside Road intersection yesterday, emptying its contents onto the road and a nearby stormwater drain. The accident happened at lunchtime when the truck turned onto Sunnyside Road from the bypass along the Mdantsane access road and the tanker tipped over. The driver, the Dispatch was told, immediately called the city's emergency services, who rushed to the scene. The accident prompted municipal officials to close the bypass while they remounted the tanker back onto its carriage, and started a clean-up operation to ensure that the diesel did not run into

the nearby river which flows through Duncan Village. Buffalo City municipal spokesperson Samkelo Ngwenya said after it spilt onto the road, the diesel ran through a nearby stormwater drain to a point where it flows into the stream. "Booms were, however, placed at the mouth of the drainage system thereby preventing the diesel from entering the stream," he said. When the Dispatch arrived at the scene just before 2pm yesterday, officers from the traffic department were keeping a watchful eye on the road's heavy flow of traffic while different teams of experts were busy at the site. An official said they were using sawdust and other material to absorb the diesel from the tar and prevent it from flowing further down the road. Another team had rushed to place further absorbents at the mouth of the river, while another team from the municipality's health section was trying to identify the best spot to collect water samples. These, they said, were to determine the extent of the contamination caused by the diesel. Paramedics were also on standby to ensure no one was injured during the cleaning up and containing of the spillage, while firemen worked with almost all the teams to ensure safe co-ordination. "There is no threat to any person living in the area; roads are safe to be used," Ngwenya said after the operation.

<http://www.dispatch.co.za/article.aspx?id=417310>

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CANADA, MONTREAL, JULY 13 2010. SHIP'S FUEL LEAKS INTO ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY >> CONTAINING SPILL THE PRIORITY, OTTAWA SAYS, PROBE TO FOLLOW



Ship drifted off course after engine failure Monday evening

Public security officials say they will be able to contain a bunker fuel spill that shut down the St. Lawrence River Seaway for several hours on Monday night. The fuel tank of the Canada Steamship Lines vessel Richelieu was punctured when it ran aground around 7:30 p.m. after it lost power near the Côte-Sainte-Catherine lock, south of Montreal. CSL keeps emergency booms aboard all its ships, and deployed them immediately after the Richelieu ran aground, said Andrew Bogora, a spokesman for the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. The breach was fixed just after 11 p.m., but an unknown amount of fuel escaped, possibly as much as

200 tonnes, according to SIMEC, another company handling the containment and cleanup. The spill initially covered approximately 500 square metres, forcing emergency crews to shut the seaway and lock as a precaution. On Tuesday morning, the South Shore Canal and the lock remained closed to support containment efforts around the ship, which is currently tied up on the lock's approach wall. The lock acts as a funnel for the spilled fuel, explained Quebec public security services spokesman Yvan Tremblay. "And if you close the funnel, we have a very nice element that will limit any containment spread," he said in an interview with CBC's French-language service.

Divers Dispatched

A warning about the spill was issued to neighbouring towns, including Candiac, Sainte-Catherine and La Prairie, where public health authorities will monitor their water filtration systems for any sign of fuel. Divers dispatched to the site to examine the ship's reservoir found a hole the size of a basketball. A helicopter surveyed the area to measure the spill. The CSL vessel was carrying wheat. It's not clear how many people were on board, but the Richelieu usually operates with a crew of 23 workers. No one was hurt in the incident. About five other ships will be affected by the canal closure.

Canada has 'Tough' Maritime Regulations: Minister

Federal Transport Minister John Baird said he's monitoring the situation closely. "We have our officials on hand. We'll do everything we can to assist local officials," said Baird. "Obviously there'll be an investigation. The first priority, obviously, is to contain the spill." Baird defended Canada's standards and regulations for maritime transportation, in light of the spill. "We have tough regulations in this country, and we'll do our level best to enforce them." An official from the Transport Ministry emphasized the department's "polluter-pay principle." "If any company breaks the rules, we will hold them to account," said James Kusie, director of issues management and parliamentary affairs at Transport Canada, in an email to CBC. "The freighter will not be authorized to navigate until further notice. A Transport Canada inspection will have to be conducted before the freighter receives proper clearance to resume its operations." CSL is the country's largest maritime company. Former prime minister Paul Martin bought CSL in 1981, and handed operations over to his sons in 2003. The cleanup will take about two days.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2010/07/13/tanker-spill-montreal.html>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MACKAY, JULY 14 2010. TIRED FUEL TANKER TRUCKIE IN ROAD CRASH

Truckie David Brady was driving an empty B-double fuel tanker towards Mackay when he crashed on the Peak Downs Highway between Nebo and Eton. It was 9pm on March 29 and he told police he felt tired about 10 minutes before the single-vehicle crash and had planned to stop a short distance up the highway at Blue Mountain and have a rest. However, he crashed, narrowly escaping injury. The highway was blocked for an hour while the tanker and dog trailer were recovered. "Fortunately there were no oncoming vehicles at the time or there could have been a fatality," prosecutor Sergeant Sabine Scott told the Mackay Magistrates Court on Monday. Brady pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention and the case was adjourned to September 3 for sentencing to allow him to do a defensive driving course.

<http://www.dailymercury.com.au/story/2010/07/14/tired-truckie-nebo-eaton-mackay/>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, JULY 14 2010. XYLENE FUMES DRAMA AT BRISBANE GRAMMAR PUTS FIVE STUDENTS IN HOSPITAL, AFFECTS ALMOST 200 PEOPLE

kristen shorten

Five students are in hospital and almost 200 people have been assessed by ambulance officers after being exposed to chemical fumes at a Brisbane private school. Seven ambulance crews were dispatched to assess 181 people exposed to fumes at Brisbane Grammar School in Spring Hill about 9am. Five students were transferred to Royal Brisbane and Womens

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Hospital in a stable condition for observation, after students and staff complained of headaches, nausea, itchy eyes and breathing difficulties. It is believed the chemical was used about 7am. Acting operational supervisor Jamie Smith said students presented symptoms about 8.30am. "QFRS had been out to investigate the strong smell of solvent that had been used," he said. "We dispatched some specialist response vehicles and paramedics. "I think it might have had something to do with some maintenance work. A Brisbane Grammar School spokeswoman said the students were affected by a sealant used on a surface in construction work at the school. The construction work was outside the room where the students were affected but air conditioning sucked the fumes inside. She said the students affected were from Years 9 to 12 and they had all been assessed and returned to classes except for those who were taken to hospital. The school principal was unavailable to comment.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/fumes-drama-at-brisbane-grammar-affects-15-children-and-20-adults/story-e6freon6-1225891525129>

USA, FLA, TAVARES, TAVARES, JULY 14 2010. NEW TRAILER ASSISTS LAKE COUNTY WITH PUMP OUTS OF RESIDENTIAL HEATING OIL TANKS



Charlie Cox, environmental programs supervisor for the Lake County Department of Environmental Services, sets up a portable oil pump at the agency's office Friday, July 9, 2010, in Tavares. The department offers homeowners free removal of oil from underground tanks through the Home Heating Oil Recovery Program to prevent contamination of groundwater from leaked or decomposed tanks. Pulled on a refurbished dual-axle trailer cart donated by the Lake County Fire Department, the locally manufactured tank and a non-electric siphoning system allows it to be used to transfer fuel between generators in storm conditions, Cox said.

Emily Pastor spent years searching for someone to empty an underground heating oil tank that was no longer being used. Back in 2004, hurricanes damaged the furnace in Pastor's home, so she switched to an electric heat pump. She's never used the furnace since. However, she knew there was heating oil still in the tank, but didn't know how to get rid of it until the county started offering a free pump-out service. "For four years we've been looking for someone to do this," Pastor said. "It's taken a lot of worries off my mind." The threat of oil contamination should

worry any homeowner who might have an underground heating oil tank on their property, said Environmental Programs Supervisor Charlie Cox. Since most homes in Lake County haven't used heating oil furnaces since prior to the 1970s, the tanks have sat in the ground unattended and unmaintained. Left to the passage of time and exposure to the elements, the tanks corrode and leak, he said. "Eventually, these metal tanks with no protection are gonna rust and they're gonna empty out," Cox said. "That's not a maybe, they will. We're just trying to stop this stuff from getting into the water table. You start polluting even the superficial water table, it affects so many people in Lake County and the state of Florida." Cox says the county has recovered about 3,200 gallons of oil since 2005 when the program first started, but when the cost to perform the service got too expensive, the county decided to do it in-house. So Cox built a rig from a dual-axle trailer donated by Lake County Fire Rescue. It is outfitted with a 280-gallon tank bought from a manufacturer in Tavares, an air compressor, a diaphragm pump and 150 feet of hose. "I'm hoping once a week I can go out and perform a pump out," Cox said. "It's a good program and once we get the word out there a little more, we will be busy." Cox said he's already drained about 54 tanks since the Department of Environmental Utilities, Water Quality Services Division, took over responsibility for the program. The service is free to all Lake County residents. Funding comes from civil penalties collected and forwarded to the Pollution Recovery Trust Fund. "There's no tax money that goes into this program," he said. One of the first calls Cox got came from a Eustis resident who remembered when her home's 300-gallon tank was topped off decades ago. The next day her family installed a heat pump and never used the furnace again. So all that oil had just sat there for 30 years, he said. Since many homes in the area have changed owners over the years, residents may not be aware if there is a tank buried on their property. Cox said if they see two pipes located about six to 10 inches apart, that's usually a good indicator. While they shouldn't worry about their safety, he does suggest they call him to set up an appointment to inspect the tank location. "It's not gonna blow up," he said. "It's kerosene and it's hard to ignite and that's the reason it's still there. Odds are, if these things were full of gasoline, it would have evaporated, but this stuff is a heavy oil, so it pretty much sits there."

<http://www.dailycommercial.com/localnews/story/071310oilpumper>

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USA, OH, PREBLE CO, NEW PARIS, JULY 14 2010. PREBLE COUNTY CLEANS UP FORMER GAS STATIONS >> OHIO RECEIVES \$8 MILLION GRANT TO TAKE CARE OF UNDERGROUND TANKS

pam tharp

Two closed Preble County fueling stations are part of a statewide effort in Ohio to clean up aging and unused underground fuel tanks. The former Sparks Fuel Center on U.S. 40 and the former Union 76 station on East Main Street in Eaton are among 28 fuel stations statewide scheduled for assessment and remediation by the state. Fourteen test wells were drilled last week at the former Sparks Fuel Center. The wells will be monitored for any petroleum contamination in the groundwater, said Cara Keithley, spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Commerce. Ohio received \$8 million from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to assess and remediate sites with underground storage tanks that might have had petroleum releases, Keithley said. The effort under way in Ohio is the first mass-scale cleanup of its kind in the state, according to the Department of Commerce. The program includes underground storage tanks in all eight regions of Ohio. Preble County Commissioner David Wesler said the county has made cleaning up the New Paris site a priority. Remediation grants for the abandoned station have been sought since 2006, Wesler said. "It's only a half-mile away from National Trail schools. National Trail is on well water and so are the residents nearby," Wesler said. "We applied for several EPA grants in [the past](#), but Ohio has gotten very little money and there are hundreds that need cleaning up." One of the ARRA program's requirements is the owner be unable to clean up the property. Property owner Bill Sparks closed his [gas station](#) after a November 1992 tornado blew through the site and destroyed the building. Sparks said he'll give the 13-acre property to the county when it's cleaned up. Nobody wants it until that's done, he said. The site was a fueling station for more than 40 years, Sparks said. "The tornado lifted the roof off the building and moved it a foot over. It jerked the pumps off the islands and tore out the underground wiring," said Sparks, who is retired. "I was done. I couldn't afford to fix it and I can't afford to do anything with the tanks. I pumped them out as far as I could when we closed." Three years ago, Wesler recruited contractors and citizens to volunteer to remove the former fuel center's damaged building. The Jefferson Township trustee now mows the site, Wesler said. "It had become a place for vandalism and there were rodents," Wesler said. "We had a dozen volunteers, a trackhoe, loaders and trailers. Wysong donated gravel and Rumpke donated containers and we had it mostly cleaned up in one day." The county has no plans for the property once the site is clear of contamination, but its location on U.S. 40 could make it attractive for new businesses, Wesler said. "We're just trying to clean up Preble County. I've been persistent about this property and that's key because a lot of money goes to cities," Wesler said. "It's great for Preble County that (the state) is doing work here."

<http://www.pal-item.com/article/20100713/NEWS01/7130313>

USA, OK, TULSA, JULY 14 2010. MAGELLAN TO BUY BP PIPELINES, TANKS FOR \$289 MILLION

Magellan Midstream Partners LP, the owner of fuel pipelines stretching from the U.S. Gulf Coast to Minnesota, agreed to buy systems that link Texas refineries, along with 7.8 million barrels of Oklahoma oil storage, from a BP Plc unit for \$289 million. The pipelines deliver crude to and ship fuel from refineries in the Houston area, the largest U.S. oil-processing center, Tulsa, Oklahoma-based Magellan said today in a statement. The storage is at Cushing, Oklahoma, a supply hub for refineries where Magellan has been building tanks holding 2 million barrels of oil to enter the market there. Customers for the pipelines include BP's Texas City, Texas, refinery. Bruce Heine, a Magellan spokesman, said in an interview. BP is contracted to use almost all of the usable storage at Cushing for several years, he said. "This puts us into business at Cushing pretty quick," Heine said. "We've got some commercial opportunities to add value for our unit holders." The deal is scheduled to close within 60 days, subject to regulatory approval. BP's Texas City refinery can process 475,000 barrels of oil a day, according to the Energy Department in Washington.

Before the Spill

Magellan and BP began talks before the London-based company's April 20 well disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, Heine said. The company's leaking well has caused the largest U.S. oil spill, cost BP more than \$3.5 billion so far, and triggered plans for asset sales to raise cash. Magellan was the winning bidder at an auction of the storage and pipelines, Heine said. "These assets will facilitate our strategy to develop our existing East Houston terminal into a key distribution point for crude oil to Gulf Coast refineries," Chief Executive Officer Don Wellendorf said in today's statement. The daily capacity of the gasoline line is 240,000 barrels and the distillate pipeline can handle 96,000 barrels, Heine said. The crude line supplies BP's Texas City refinery and connects to the East Houston terminal, which may be a route for increased imports of Canadian oil, Heine said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-07-13/magellan-to-buy-bp-pipelines-tanks-for-289-million.html>

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