



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2010 – 597 Newsy Stuff

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May 2 2010



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USA, MA, LUDLOW, APRIL 25 2010. LNG TANK EXPLODES IN LUDLOW

matthew campbell

 **Watch the Video** http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9PbFJWS_6w

 **Watch the Video** <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/BO140796/>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.cbs3springfield.com/news/local/92017829.html>

An early morning explosion rocked the towns of Wilbraham and Ludlow as a heater at the Baystate Gas LNG facility ruptured. It's not the wake-up Ned Baker was expecting on this lazy Saturday morning. "I hear the explosion followed by a hissing sound and when I came out here, I could see the flame going up over the treeline, Baker says. A part of the Baystate LNG plant was up in flames. "From the distance here, it had to be 100 feet high and 30 feet wide," Baker says, describing the flames. A huge fireball, lit the morning sky, illuminating the Chicopee River. It started with a heater, that's the piece that warms the gas during the liquifying process. It's located only 300 feet from the actual tank and at some point, it ruptured. The sounds it spewed could be heard around town. "Hearing the hissing, it's like gas was escaping something was going on out there and when I came out I saw the flame," Baker says. The flames were intimidating, but officials say no one at the around the clock operation was hurt, and no one in the town was ever at risk. The fire was put out in a matter of 15-20 minutes. "This is the first incident that's happened at the gas tank that I know of," Baker says. Baker has lived on Maynard Street for 44 years. Baystate Gas has been a neighbor to him for longer than he can remember and he says he feels safe, but still he knows, the possibility of disaster across the river. "If that tank did go, everything around here would be gone," Baker says. An internal investigation has been launched in this case. It all centers around the heater and what caused it to malfunction. Officials say the result of the investigation could take weeks to complete

<http://www.cbs3springfield.com/news/local/92017829.html>

USA, LA, TALLULAH, APRIL 25 2010. STORM: POSSIBLE NITROGEN LEAK AT CHEM PLANT TANK

Louisiana State Police say there's a possible nitrogen leak from storm damage to a tank at a chemical plant near Tallulah. Sgt. James Martin says plant officials don't know of any chemicals leaking from the Complex Chemicals plant itself. He says he does not know the extent of damage at the plant. Owner Jerry Melton did not immediately reply to an e-mail Saturday. State Department of Environmental Quality spokesman Rodney Mallett says an emergency responder is going there.

<http://www.wxvt.com/Global/story.asp?S=12369066>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 25 2010. BARGE EXPLODES IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER

The United States Coast Guard – already battling an oil spill off the Louisiana coast – responded to an unrelated tank barge explosion Saturday – approximately 72 miles (116 kilometers) up the Mississippi River from New Orleans. The barge exploded while taking on a load of benzene at the LBC Tank Terminals at Sunshine, Louisiana, Coast Guard officials in New Orleans reported. Two people were injured in the barge blast. "The extent of those injuries is unknown," the Coast Guard said in a statement released Saturday night. The fire from the blast was extinguished by firefighters. The river remained open to maritime traffic. Air monitoring was underway. Barge inspectors and Coast Guard investigators were on the scene Saturday night. "The Coast Guard has notified water intake owners near the area, but there are no reports of pollution in the water at this time," according to the Coast Guard statement. A spokesperson for the federal maritime agency was not immediately available. The river blast came at a time when officials were trying to battle a stubborn oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Rear Admiral Mary Landry said Saturday that the Coast Guard remains determined to keep an oil spill from the sunken drilling rig Deepwater Horizon from reaching Louisiana's fragile coastal wetlands and marsh - habitats for birds, wildlife and seafood alike. "Our goal is to fight this oil spill as far offshore as possible," Landry said. The Deepwater Horizon sank after a fire and explosion Tuesday, more than 40 miles (64 kilometers) from the mouth of the Mississippi River in Louisiana. Eleven crewmembers from the rig are missing, 115 were rescued. The cause of the incident is still under investigation, Landry said Saturday.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/world/view/20100425-266318/Barge-explodes-in-Mississippi-River>

USA, LA, BEAR LAKE, APRIL 25 2010. MULTIPLE GROUND STORAGE CHEMICAL TANKS DESTROYED

In Louisiana, where the tornado struck first, law enforcement in Madison Parish reported that multiple homes were destroyed. In Omega, the tornado caused significant damage to an industrial plant. An unknown number of people were injured at the plant while others were believed to remain trapped. A trained NWS spotter reported that 10 to 15 homes were destroyed in the Bear Lake Community of Tallulah, Madison County. The spotter reported that a ultra high voltage transmission town was

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down. Also near the Bear Lake Community, 12 tank cars were turned over while multiple ground storage chemical tanks were destroyed. The NWS said there were 'numerous' injuries.

http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/world/large-tornado-causes-widespread-damage-in-western-mississippi-3_100353432.html

CANADA, B.C, SURREY, APRIL 25 2010. FIREFIGHTERS TRY TO CONTAIN FUEL SPILL ON NICOMEKL RIVER IN SURREY



The Nicomekl River in Surrey is fish habitat.

Surrey firefighters are struggling to contain a spill in the Nicomekl River after getting a call Saturday morning about the strong smell of either gas or diesel near the water. The call from a resident came in at 7:30 a.m. Firefighters initially had trouble locating the spill, but later located the pungent smell on 54th Avenue near the river. They discovered a drainage pipe, believed to be connected to an industrial area, where the smell appeared to originate. The product was initially believed to be diesel oil, but investigators now say it could be gasoline. Booms were set up to mop up the spill in two locations: one near 54th Avenue and a second location close to 184th Street and 44th Avenue, where the river widens. The city of Surrey also deployed vacuum-suction tankers. "The indication now is we've mitigated the

product," said Joe DeLuca, assistant chief of operations with the Surrey Fire Department. A sheen could be seen skimming the surface of the Nicomekl this morning, but it was difficult to tell how much product spilled into the water, DeLuca said. Source of the spill is still unknown. The B.C. Environment Ministry has been notified and sent an officer to the site this morning. DeLuca says he expects the mop up to last throughout the day.

<http://www.theprovince.com/sports/amateur/university/Firefighters+contain+fuel+spill+Nicomekl+River+Surrey/2947732/story.html>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 25 2010. RENEWED LEAK FEARS FOR DAMAGED BP WELL



Fire boat response crews battle the blazing remnants of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig.

There were renewed fears of an environmentally damaging oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico after the US Coast Guard said the BP well damaged by a rig fire was leaking. Authorities said that oil was flowing into the sea at a rate of 1,000 barrels a day, reversing an earlier position that [the well had stopped leaking](#). The spillage follows a catastrophic accident last week when the Deepwater Horizon rig, operated by [Transocean](#), which was drilling the well, caught fire and sank following an explosion. Of the 126 workers on board at the time, 17 were injured, three critically, and 11 are still missing. The Coast Guard called off the active search for them on Friday. The Coast Guard and Minerals Management Service, in collaboration with BP, are working on options to contain and secure the spill. "BP, the responsible party, is required to

fund the cost of the response and clean-up operations," the authorities said. The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, established after the Exxon Valdez incident, is available to tap into. "We're seeing steady flow coming out of the piping," said Steve Carleton, senior chief with the US Coast Guard. "There is a 20 miles by 20 miles-wide sheen about 40 miles from land." On-water recovery efforts were hampered by thunderstorms, rain and rough seas in the area, but they will continue with improving weather. A total of 33,726 gallons of oily-water mix have been recovered by surface skimmers. Mr Carleton said the initial search of the well head did not reveal a leak but a survey of the piping found oil leaking in the debris. The rig – about the size of two football fields – has been found capsized on the sea floor, about 1,500ft north-west of the well site. "Remotely operated vehicles located two places where oil is leaking from the well pipe, and estimates indicate that up to 1,000 barrels of oil a day could be leaking into the water approximately 5,000ft below the surface," the authorities said. "Our response plan is focused on quickly securing the source of the subsurface oil emanating from the well, clean the oil on the surface of the water, and keeping the response well offshore," said Rear Admiral Mary Landry, incident commander. Tony Hayward, BP chief executive, said on Sunday: "We are attacking this spill on two fronts – at the wellhead and on the surface offshore. The team on the ground and those at sea have the group's full resources behind them." BP said it continued to assist Transocean's work below the surface on the subsea equipment, using remotely operated vehicles to monitor the leaking Macondo/MC252 exploration well, and was planning to activate the blow-out preventer valve. BP is preparing to drill relief wells to secure the well

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permanently. It said a drilling rig was moving into position to drill a second well to intercept the Macondo well and inject a specialised heavy fluid to stem the flow of oil and allow work to be carried out to seal the well permanently. Several lawsuits have already been filed against BP and Transocean, the rig owner and world's biggest offshore drilling company, from those injured in the incident, as well as families of the missing.

Related Stories

- [Fears ease over BP oil well disaster](#) - Apr-24
- [Explosion at BP contracted oil rig](#) - Apr-21

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5223cc78-5078-11df-bc86-00144feab49a.html>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 25 2010. MAJOR OIL SPILL LOOMS IN GULF OF MEXICO AFTER RIG DISASTER



AP In the Gulf of Mexico, more than 50 miles southeast of Venice on Louisiana's tip, a boat with an oil boom tries to contain oil spilled from the explosion and collapse of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig.

The spill had spread to a 32 by 32 kilometre area by Saturday, from the 3 by 13 kilometre area on Friday, the Houston Chronicle reported. The rig sunk about about 84 kilometres south-east of Venice, Louisiana. A major oil spill was looming in the Gulf of Mexico as US Coast Guard officials confirmed Saturday that the well at the site of an oil rig disaster was leaking. Petty Officer John Edwards told CNN that 1,000 barrels of oil - about 168,000 litres - were seeping from at least two places on the floor of the Gulf under the site. One of the leaks was at the actual well site, while a second leak was from a pipe connected to the well. The Coast Guard has been

using robotic cameras to search the area and until Saturday had found no evidence of a leak. The Deepwater Horizons rig was struck Tuesday night by an explosion, leaving it aflame until it sunk on Thursday. The cause of the explosion on the rig owned by Swiss drilling contractor Transocean Ltd had not been determined. The search has been suspended for 11 missing crew members. Another 115 crew members were evacuated, 17 were hurt in the blast. "Command has shifted focus over to containment and recovery operations," Mr. Edwards said. The rig sunk about about 84 kilometres south-east of Venice, Louisiana. The spill had spread to a 32 by 32 kilometre area by Saturday, from the 3 by 13 kilometre area on Friday, the Houston Chronicle reported. "This is a very serious spill," Rear Admiral Mary Landry told reporters Saturday. The explosion occurred as the rig was finished drilling a 6,000 - metre exploratory well for British oil giant BP. The company was scrambling to figure out how to seal the well off on the sea floor, the Chronicle reported. Heavy weather that brought lethal tornadoes to the Gulf Coast region also stirred heavy seas that forced the oil skimming boats to retreat to shore. The cleanup has already contained more than 132,000 litres of oily water mix from the surface. Another 2.8 million litres of diesel fuel had been stored on the rig and have not been retrieved. The Coast Guard has warned that a larger leak of crude would pose extreme threat to the commercial and recreational fishing industry in the Gulf and to the ecologically fragile coastline of Louisiana and other nearby states. On March 31, President Barack Obama backed new drilling for oil and natural gas off parts of the US coastline as part of the An estimated 90 rigs drilling in the Gulf of Mexico provide 1.7 million barrels of oil a day, nearly one-third of total US production.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/article409790.ece>

USA, WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 26, 2010. CSB REQUESTS PUBLIC COMMENT ON NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES STUDY ON USE OF TOXIC METHYL ISOCYANATE (MIC), INHERENTLY SAFER TECHNOLOGY ALTERNATIVES >> CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED STUDY FOLLOWS FATAL 2008 EXPLOSION AT BAYER'S CHEMICAL COMPLEX IN INSTITUTE, WEST VIRGINIA

In a [Federal Register notice](#) published April 23, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) announced it is seeking public comment on the design of a Congressionally mandated study on the use of methyl isocyanate (MIC) in the manufacturing of certain pesticides, and the feasibility of implementing safer alternatives to protect workers and the public from a potential release. The highly toxic chemical intermediate MIC is used at the Bayer CropScience pesticide manufacturing complex in Institute, West Virginia, just to the west of Charleston. An explosion at the complex on August 28, 2008, which fatally injured two workers, occurred within 80 feet of a 37,000-pound capacity storage tank of MIC, the chemical which resulted in thousands of public fatalities when it was suddenly released into the air from a pesticide manufacturing plant in Bhopal, India, in December 1984. Congress appropriated \$600,000 to the CSB for fiscal year (FY) 2010 specifically "for a study by the National Academy of Sciences to examine the use and storage of methyl isocyanate including the feasibility of implementing

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alternative chemicals or processes and an examination of the cost of alternatives at the Bayer CropScience facility in Institute, West Virginia." Prior to the Congressional action, Bayer had publicly committed to reducing its inventory of MIC at Institute from approximately 200,000 pounds to 40,000 pounds by discontinuing the production of two MIC-derived pesticides and strengthening inventory controls over its remaining pesticide manufacturing processes. "Following the Bhopal disaster in 1984, other chemical companies largely phased out the use and bulk storage of MIC due to safety concerns," said CSB Chairman John Bresland. "The goal of the NAS study is to determine whether further reductions or the elimination of MIC use are achievable at Bayer, and what are the costs of doing so. The study will also lay the foundation for better understanding how chemical companies across the country could adopt inherently safer technologies to protect the public and their workers from chemical accident hazards. Mr. Bresland said that depending on the public comments received and the availability of funding, the CSB could request the NAS to examine additional topics such as the use of hydrofluoric acid (HF) in refinery alkylation processes or chlorine in water treatment. The CSB is currently investigating two releases of toxic HF from U.S. oil refineries in 2009. The [Federal Register notice](#) asks for specific public comments on the proposed study design, the timetable for the study, the appropriate composition of the study panel, and the desirability of examining other chemicals for which inherently safer technology (IST) alternatives have been proposed. Public comments are due to the CSB by May 10 and can be submitted by email to nascomments@csb.gov or mailed as described in the notice. The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating serious chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

www.csb.gov.

USA, LA, BATON ROUGE, APRIL 26 2010. BIODIESEL MAKER ACCUSED OF POLLUTION

Biodiesel made from used cooking grease is considered "green." But the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality accuses an Iberville Parish biodiesel maker of dumping grease and glycerin - a biodiesel byproduct - into a canal behind his house. DEQ Spokesman Tim Beckstrom says the canal behind 54-year-old Tommy M. Francise's house in Plaquemine was contaminated with grease for about 100 yards downstream and 10 yards upstream. Beckstrom says Francise was arrested Friday on a felony charge of knowingly polluting state waters. He says the criminal investigation division asked for court orders to stop him from polluting and from storing oil and liquids at his house. Francise does not have a listed home number and could not be reached for comment Sunday.

<http://www.wxvt.com/Global/story.asp?S=12371404>

USA, ME, SOUTH BERWICK, APRIL 26 2010. HOME-BREW BIODIESEL POSES FIRE HAZARDS, OFFICIALS CALLING FOR REGULATION

Attempts by the environmentally conscious to turn cooking oil into biodiesel in their backyards can backfire — literally. Fires erupting in such home operations have been reported all over the country, from South Berwick, Maine, and Massachusetts to Oregon and Texas. It's unclear if anyone has died in these incidents, as the setups aren't regulated and tracked. And fire officials say that's the problem. "They're underground," said Bill Clark, an investigator with the New Hampshire Fire Marshal's office. "It's a situation where there may be an unsafe operation going on, and yet no one knows until unfortunately there's a bad consequence." "The circumstances are ripe for a tragedy." The danger lies in highly flammable chemicals, like methanol, that are used in the conversion process, according to Bob Benedetti, a flammable liquids engineer for the Massachusetts-based Fire Protection Agency. "It's easily ignited," said Benedetti, who added that regulations should be established. Biodiesel can be used in any diesel engine and burns cleaner than traditional fuel. It usually is made from used cooking oil, which many restaurants give away for free as a way to reduce or eliminate disposal costs. Finding how-to information for making the fuel and getting started is as easy as a Web search. Converters can start at less than \$400. There's also an incentive to buy such kits in the form of the federal Alternative Fuel Infrastructure tax credit, good for up to \$2,000 for a home-based system.

But a Lot can go Wrong.

On April 13, a man in Buckeye, Texas, reportedly burned his arms and face after accidentally sparking a biodiesel fire at his home. Locally, a South Berwick man in February nearly burned down his home after a fire started in a garage he used to convert used restaurant vegetable oil into biodiesel. The 600-700 gallons of oil he had stored fed the fire, which burned down the garage, an adjoining shed, and scorched the side of his home. A fire official said the garage didn't have a proper containment unit, such as a concrete barricade, that could have prevented the fire from spreading. Kittery resident Dan Hansche, on the other hand, had better luck when he converted 10 gallons of used oil into biodiesel last year in his backyard out of "personal curiosity." He found instructions online and said the process was relatively simple, like a "chemistry class." He

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said he poured the biodiesel into a 1967 Land Rover and took it for a spin. "It ran like a champ," he said, noting it got about 22 miles per gallon. "It was very satisfying." On Feb. 24, during the South Berwick incident, firefighters responded to a home on Boyd's Corner Road after getting a report of a garage fire. They attacked it with water hoses, but the water made the hot cooking oil explode — fanning the flames. They switched to a special foam that finally quelled it. "We went in there totally blind," said Fire Chief George Gorman. "We thought it was a regular garage fire, and then there's 600-700 gallons of oil burning in the ground ... it was like a mini-refinery." The man was home at the time, but escaped when he heard the crackling of the fire. Gorman said the exact cause of the fire was not determined. Biodiesel is made from essentially a blend of vegetable oil and a converting agent like methanol, which is highly flammable. Fires can erupt if the methanol is ignited by a spark. The other danger is biodiesel and vegetable oil — which are also flammable — are typically stored in the same structure as the conversion operation and can feed a fire. Had the owner gone to the fire department beforehand for safety tips or at least said he had a biodiesel setup, the fire would have been prevented or at least mitigated, Gorman said. Peter Cooke, pollution prevention program manager for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, said people shouldn't start a home-based system in the first place. "It's just not worth doing," he said. "You could burn your house down. You could blow yourself up." Aside from those dangers, if a batch of fuel goes bad in the conversion process — as it often does with amateurs — it needs to be properly disposed of. If it's poured in the ground, it becomes an "environmental issue that's going to reverse any environmental benefits" of using a proper batch to power one's car. He recommended people buy pre-made biodiesel if they want to be more environmentally conscious. "Either that or drive less or car-pool," he said. While the danger was low with Hansche's operation because he only dealt with 10 gallons, fire officials say larger ones that involve hundreds of gallons are a recipe for disaster. Crafting government rules for home biodiesel operations may be hard to do, however, as home setups fall in a regulatory gray zone. That's because it's hard to regulate what goes on in someone's home, according to the Maine DEP's Cooke. "If you're a homeowner you can basically do anything you want in the privacy of your own home," he said.

<http://www.citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100425/GJNEWS02/304259998/-1/CITNEWS>

CANADA, OTTAWA, APRIL 26 2010. POLICE CONSIDER CHARGES IN CRASH WITH TANKER THAT CRITICALLY INJURED BOY



This tanker truck slammed into a minivan at the intersection of Fallowfield and Merivale Roads, April 25, 2010.

Ottawa police are investigating whether they will charge the driver of a family vehicle after a collision sent a six-year-old boy to hospital where he continues to fight for his life. Witnesses say a minivan was heading eastbound on Fallowfield Road when a diesel tanker truck heading north on Merivale Road struck the vehicle as it went through the intersection at about 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The diesel truck was empty at the time of the collision. The boy was sitting in the back of the van, closest to the point of impact. He was airlifted to hospital where he remains in critical condition.

Three other children, ranging in age from three to 11 years old, were also taken to hospital with not life-threatening injuries. The kids' mother was taken to hospital as a precaution. Their father was not injured in the collision.

http://ottawa.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100426/OTT_Boy_Crash_100426/20100426/?hub=OttawaHome

USA, WA, ANACORTES, APRIL 26 2010. THOUSANDS REMEMBER VICTIMS OF REFINERY BLAST

Thousands gathered Sunday to remember the seven victims of a still-unexplained explosion and fire at the Tesoro refinery now seared deeply into the region's collective memory. They filed silently into Anacortes High School beneath U.S. flags mounted on the ladders of fire trucks parked outside -- a community in grief. Inside, they listened -- and mourned -- as family and friends of the victims remembered seven people who were taken far too early -- in the primes of their lives. Four of the victims were killed instantly in the April 2 blast, and the remaining three died one by one of extensive burns in the days and weeks that followed. The sole surviving victim, Matt Gumbel, died early Saturday morning at Harborview Medical Center hours after undergoing skin graft surgery. The explosion also claimed the lives of Lew Janz, 41; Matthew C. Bowen, 31, of Arlington; Darrin J. Hoines, 43, of Ferndale; Daniel J. Aldridge, 50, of Anacortes; Kathryn Powell, 29, of Burlington; and Donna Van Dreumel, 36, of Oak Harbor. The blast occurred as employees were reinstalling a unit that had recently undergone maintenance. The unit processes highly flammable liquid derived during the refining process. It was the deadliest event at a U.S. refinery since 15 people died at a BP facility in Texas in 2005. The exact cause of the explosion is still unknown, but federal investigators believe that workers were engulfed in "a firewall" that ignited within seconds. But it wasn't their final moments and days, but their lives, that were remembered at Sunday's memorial service.

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- Hoines was remembered by his wife, Cathy.
- Janz was remembered by his daughter, Ashley Janz.
- Powell was remembered by her brother, Michael Powell.
- Van Dreumel was remembered by her husband, Jim.
- Gumbel was remembered by his sister, Amy Gumbel.
- Aldridge was remembered by his good friend, Lou d'Amelio.
- Bowen was remembered by his co-worker Gordon Zurn.

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/419019_refinery25.html

PHILLIPINES, SORSOGON, CASIGURAN TOWN, APRIL 26 2010. THREE KILLED IN SORSOGON ROAD TANKER MISHAP

At least three persons died and another was injured in a road mishap involving a fuel tanker truck and a motorcycle at dawn at the Maharlika Highway in Casiguran town in Sorsogon, a ranking police officer reported Friday. The road tragedy claimed the lives of Army Private First Class (PFC) Randy Milagrosa, 35, single, driver of the motorcycle, a member of the 49th Philippine Army Battalion based in Bulan town; Salvador Fernandez, married, driver of the tanker truck and resident of Rapu-rapu town in Albay; and an unidentified woman, who was the back rider of the motorcycle. Injured was Sammy Bolanos, married, also a native of Rapu-rapu, Albay and a crew of the ill-fated truck. The victims were rushed to the Sorsogon Provincial Hospital where the three were declared dead on arrival (DOA) by attending physicians. The victims sustained fatal wounds due to the vehicular collision, attending physicians said. Police Senior Supt. Eriberto Olitoquit, Philippine National Police (PNP) Sorsogon provincial director, said the road accident happened around 1 AM Friday at the Maharlika Highway at Barangay Boton, Casiguran town. Olitoquit, quoting initial investigation report, said the fuel tanker truck collided with a Kawasaki motorcycle driven by Milagrosa with an unidentified female back rider. Probers said the truck might have lost its control and went wayward, hitting the motorcycle and subsequently running over two houses along the national road in said village owned by Emirico Rioso and Marcial Hamor. The report did not indicate as of press time if there were people injured inside the two houses. The fatalities' bodies are now at the Labalan Funeral Homes in Sorsogon City.

<http://www.voxbikol.com/bikolnews/4419/three-killed-sorsogon-road-mishap>

VENEZUELA, CARACAS, APRIL 26 2010. NO ONE INJURED IN FIRE AT VENEZUELAN REFINERY



A fire broke out at a refinery in northwestern Venezuela, but no one was injured and there was no environmental damage, state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela S.A., or PDVSA, said. The fire started Saturday at 1:25 p.m. at the Cardon refinery in the Paraguana Refining Center. "The event did not cause any injuries or environmental damage, thanks to the quick response of emergency prevention and control personnel," PDVSA said. The Paraguana complex, which includes Cardon and two other refineries, is one of the largest facilities of its type in the world, with a processing capacity of 940 million barrels per day (bpd). "The plant was shut down as part of safety and prevention measures to protect the personnel and installations," PDVSA said, adding that operation would resume once an inspection was completed. The fire started after a blast at the Cardon Refinery's catalytic plant, Venezuelan media reported. The blaze burned for about 40 minutes, Globovision said. A March 29 fire at

Cardon caused minor damage, PDVSA reported at the time. Venezuela, which produces 3.1 million bpd of crude, is the world's fifth-largest oil exporter and one of the main suppliers to the United States.

<http://www.iaht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=355964&CategoryId=10717>

USA, WYO, GREEN RIVER, APRIL 27 2010. COMPANY CLEANS 84,000-GALLON OIL SPILL

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality says cleanup work continues after a pipeline break caused about 84,000 gallons of crude oil to spill in the Bridger Valley. DEQ Emergency Response Coordinator Joe Hunter says officials believe the April 5 break was caused by pressure in a corroded segment of the pipeline. The spill occurred near Robertson in southwest Uinta County. Bridger Lake LLC of Louisiana owns the pipeline. Hunter says the company shut the line after discovering the leak and reported the incident in a "timely manner." Plans call for the oil-contaminated soil to be stockpiled on site and then disposed of. Hunter says some of the oil leaked into an irrigation ditch, but none of it "got into any live waters."

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_c93f2ab4-50c3-11df-ac0b-001cc4c002e0.html

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USA, MD, FREDERICK, APRIL 27 2010. PLAINTIFFS ADDED TO WATER CONTAMINATION SUIT

kate leckie

The number of plaintiffs involved in a multibillion water contamination lawsuit appears to be growing, according to documents filed at the Frederick County Courthouse. In addition, lawyers for the plaintiffs have filed a fifth cause of action seeking damages. In March, lawyers for 20 Frederick County families filed suit seeking \$40 million in damages for each of 60 plaintiffs over gasoline leaks from the Green Valley Citgo station in Monrovia. The \$2.4 billion suit sought \$10 million for each of the 60 plaintiffs on four causes of action: negligence, strict liability of an abnormally dangerous activity, private nuisance and trespass to land. This month, lawyers amended their complaint to add 15 plaintiffs from the area as well as an additional cause of action -- public nuisance. The damages in the suit now seeks \$50 million in compensatory and punitive damages for each of 75 plaintiffs for a total of \$3.75 billion in damages. Furthermore, the suit also seeks \$300 million on each cause of action to restore the water supply, according to court documents.

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1942772>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, CHARLEVILLE, APRIL 27 2010. TANKER DRIVER INJURED

lacey burley

A tanker driver has been critically injured after rolling his tanker full of bitumen near Charleville. The 32-year-old man broke both his arms and suffered chest and back injuries when the truck crashed on the Diamantina Development Road, 70kms west of Charleville, at 11.15pm on Sunday. Motorists helped the driver out of the upside-down tanker before emergency services arrived. Paramedics rushed the man to the Charleville Hospital. He was then airlifted to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane by the Royal Flying Doctor Service yesterday. It is believed he may also have suffered a fractured pelvis. Firefighters were on the scene for more than 12 hours as the liquid tar bitumen had spilled. A Queensland Fire and Rescue Service spokeswoman said the bitumen was 190 degrees Celsius while it was being transported. The spill measured 130 metres long and four metres wide and was still oozing yesterday morning. Charleville police said the rolled truck and the debris forced the road to be blocked. "We're very fortunate that it (the bitumen) was all contained within a roadside drain," the police spokesman said.

<http://www.thechronicle.com.au/story/2010/04/27/tanker-driver-injured/>

USA, AR, MAMMOTH SPRING, APRIL 27 2010. TANKER CARRYING ETHANOL OVERTURNS

keith boles

Watch the Video <http://www.kait8.com/Global/story.asp?S=12378580>



What could have been a huge, possibly fatal fire or an enormous bio-disaster was prevented this morning just outside Mammoth Spring. A tanker truck carrying 75 hundred gallons of ethanol ran off Highway 63 South, rolled on its side and began leaking. I learned Monday that 63 is one of the main transit routes for chemicals from Springfield... South. And this particular stretch of highway has seen more than its fair share of accidents involving hazardous materials. "Unfortunately this curve has, we've been here many times. This is nothing new. This little stretch of road here is pretty bad on big trucks." Says Heath Everett from the Fulton County Haz-Mat team. Ethanol is a volatile liquid commonly known as pure grain alcohol. And the tanker was hauling a lot of it when it wrecked. Everett, "What we had here was an 18 Wheeler traveling South on Highway 63 out of Mammoth. He misjudged this

curve and wound up in the ditch. He was carrying 75 hundred gallons of ethanol." The tanker was operated by FMC Transport out of Willow Springs, Missouri, and joins the parade of chemicals that move along this highway every day. Everett, "This road is the major chemical thoroughfare from Springfield to Memphis. You got all that barge traffic to Memphis and they use this road to haul loads to the barges or from the barges." Everett says they have worked accidents involving gas trucks, propane trucks and other materials including a truck load of cyanide all around and at this same accident site. Monday's accident received responses from the Arkansas State Police, Highway Police, Fulton County Haz-Mat, Mammoth Springs Fire Department and State and Fulton County Highway Departments. When the tanker finally came to rest it began to leak, nearly a thousand gallons. Any haz-mat spill is obviously a big problem but this problem with this accident was compounded by its location. Everett, "We're on this slope so we've got chemical running down the ditch, but he also wrecked on a cross drain so the chemical is running under the road and coming out into this field so we've had to have 2 different points of containment." Containment was done by plugging up the cross drain and covering up the other run off with dirt. Then came the risky part of

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off loading the cargo to another truck but first they had to drill holes into the tank. Crews used a hole saw to cut 6 inch diameter holes all along the tank then began to pump into a tanker from the same company. Even with the tankers contents being pumped into another truck, the flash hazard still existed. Everett, "We'll get wreckers in to move that truck and were fixing to bring in more dirt and more foam to cover the vapor up so we can let some of this traffic through." Traffic was backed up for miles in either direction since many of the trucks had no place to turn around to bypass the accident. Due to the large amount of leakage the ethanol pooling in the drain pipe would have to be pumped out and all the soil in the ditches and the pasture that received run off will have to be removed by a clean up crew. The driver was taken to the Fulton County Hospital where his injuries were believed to be non life threatening. No word yet as to the actual cause of the accident and whether the driver would be cited or not.

<http://www.kait8.com/Global/story.asp?S=12378580>

USA, CO, GLENWOOD SPRINGS, APRIL 27 2010. OXY USA AGREES TO NEARLY \$650,000 IN FINES

Oxy USA has agreed to pay nearly \$650,000 in fines after regulators said they found pit leaks that caused oil and gas contamination of spring waters near Parachute. The company signed a proposed settlement that includes a fine of about \$390,000 related to leaks in an unlined pit in the Cascade Canyon area and \$257,400 over a torn liner at Rock Springs. If approved by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, the \$390,000 fine would be among the largest imposed by the commission. The contamination was discovered in 2008. Regulators say Oxy operated pits without necessary permits, and water tests detected benzene levels well above allowable amounts. Oxy admits no liability under the settlement.

http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_14961710

USA, VA, BOTETOURT CO, APRIL 27 2010. TANKER FIRE SHUTS DOWN I-81

A vehicle fire in Botetourt County near northbound mile marker 148 on I-81 caused a 7-mile backup, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation. Carpentieri said at 5:23 p.m., a tractor-trailer belonging to a Texas-based transport company caught fire, causing the driver to pull off to the side of the road. "The next thing you know the tractor was engulfed in flames," Carpentieri said the driver told a trooper. The driver was not injured. Crews were able to separate the tractor from the trailer, which was hauling toxic material, Carpentieri said. He was unaware what type of material was being hauled but said the truck's placard described it as combustible when exposed to heat.

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/244683>

USA, CA, CARSON, APRIL 27 2010. TOXIC SOIL LURKS BENEATH CARSON NEIGHBORHOOD

jeff gottlieb,



Rosemary Noval walks up her driveway on Panama Avenue in Carson. She and her husband, Rudy, are living in one of the 285 homes found to be sitting atop dangerous levels of toxic substances.

The discovery of methane gas and benzene has transformed a 50-acre neighborhood into an environmental case study — a reminder of Southern California's history as a center of the oil industry. When Ron and Belinda Oglesby moved into Carson's Carousel neighborhood in 2003, they saw a solid, middle-class area where homeowners set down roots and lived for decades, where Santa Claus paraded through the streets on a firetruck and children returned to buy their own homes. This, they told themselves, was the perfect place to raise their three kids.

Six years later, they noticed workmen drilling holes and leaving cryptic white marks

on the streets. By last summer, they had discovered what the sudden activity meant: Preliminary tests under the direction of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board had found dangerous levels of potentially explosive methane gas and benzene under the 285 homes of the Carousel tract. In some spots, tests found benzene at concentrations seldom seen, levels that could significantly increase cancer risks for residents. The discovery has transformed a 50-acre neighborhood of palm trees and quiet streets into an environmental case study — a reminder of Southern California's history as a center of the oil industry and the problems of ground pollution that continue to dot the region. "How can you get a good night's sleep?" Belinda Oglesby said. "I tell my husband, 'Get me out of here,' but where are we going? Who'd buy our house? It's like a nightmare that never goes away." Things have only seemed to get worse. In March, the water quality board told residents not to eat fruit or vegetables grown in their backyards. Shell Oil Co., which once stored millions of gallons of crude oil in giant tanks where the houses now stand, sent letters to more than 20 homeowners recommending they minimize contact with

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"exposed soil in your yard." Many residents have begun anxiously wondering about their health. Oglesby worries about whether contamination caused her weak immune system, the chronic rashes her daughters have developed and the 10-year-old's memory problems. A neighbor, Rosemary Noval, has the same questions about her husband's previous bout with cancer. Others ask about the tar-like substance that sometimes bubbles up into their lawns or through cracks in their patio. Noval said she worries that her years of gardening have exposed her to dangerous chemicals, especially after she watched investigators pull dark, wet soil from her backyard that smelled like oil. "The garden is where the soul feels at home," she said. "That's how I feel when I'm in the garden. Now I'm no longer happy in my garden because I know what's underneath." "Our lives are full of uncertainty and heartache and disappointment," she said. "That's our lives now. It's been ripped from us." The contamination in Carson was discovered by accident. Two years ago, the state Department of Toxic Substances Control was investigating the site of an old chemical plant west of the Carousel neighborhood when workers found benzene and other petroleum products in the soil and groundwater. Because the chemical plant had rarely used those products, investigators concluded they had migrated from elsewhere. The old Shell tank farm was the most likely suspect. Starting in 1924, Shell had stored oil in what were essentially giant concrete bathtubs covered with wood. The tank farm operated in conjunction with a refinery 1 1/2 miles to the east until the mid-1960s, when the tanks were demolished and Shell sold the property. The first homes were built on the site around 1970, state records indicate. Alison Abbott Chassin, Shell's external affairs manager, said the oil company sold the 50 acres as is, and it was the responsibility of the developer to clean up the site. Shell officials also have said there could be causes of contamination other than the oil tanks. Gene Freed, Shell's project manager, said chemical residue at some homes could have been left behind by previous owners who enjoyed fiddling with cars, or been from pesticides or other household chemicals. The company found no contamination in a house it tested near the spot on Neptune Avenue where benzene levels were highest, Freed said. "It could be as simple as the gardener spilled gasoline there when filling up his lawn mower," he said. "There are all kinds of things we're finding that are not related to our operations." Tracy Egoscue, the water board's executive officer, said no developer would be allowed to build on the Carousel tract today. Regardless of what the environmental laws were when Shell sold the land, the company now is legally responsible for cleaning it up, she added. Shell was slow to cooperate with the investigation, Egoscue said. "Initially they were dragging their feet," she added. The agency sent the company a notice of violation in April 2009. Most residents have joined a lawsuit against Shell and others including developer Barclay Hollander Corp., which was bought by Dole Foods, according to attorneys involved in the case. Tom Girardi, the homeowners' attorney, said Shell knew the area was polluted when it sold the property in 1966. "It's the most despicable situation I've seen in 40 years of doing this," said Girardi, who represented plaintiffs in the case against Pacific Gas & Electric made famous by the movie "Erin Brockovich." He said it was Brockovich who alerted him to the situation in the Carousel neighborhood. Sam Unger, the water board's assistant executive officer, said the Carousel tract "has the potential to be a very large cleanup, complicated by people living on it." In several previous cases around the country, oil companies, chemical firms and developers have ended up paying tens of millions — sometimes hundreds of millions — of dollars to clean up polluted sites and buy homes that were built on top of polluted soil. The homeowner lawsuit claims Shell found "significant levels of benzene" at 66 of 73 locations the company drilled, mostly streets and other public areas. In a letter to the water board, Girardi said the cancer risk exceeds the federal Environmental Protection Agency's level of risk by a factor of 1,400. At the high level, the concentration of benzene in soil gas would be estimated to cause one additional cancer case for each 10 people who breathed it for 30 years of a 70-year lifetime. Several experts interviewed by The Times said they were surprised at the benzene levels. David Siegel, chief of the Integrated Risk Assessment Branch of the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, said if testing finds such levels inside homes, he would be worried not only about long-term affects, but short-term problems such as birth defects and neurological problems in children. Martyn T. Smith, a professor of toxicology at UC Berkeley, said the key is how much benzene is entering people's houses. Even if the levels in homes turns out to be low, however, a child playing in the dirt or a dog digging with a child nearby could lead to considerable exposure, he said. "I would be highly concerned about such a site," he said. The level of benzene found so far "boggles my mind," said Stephen Lester, science director for the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, an environmental advocacy group that focuses on communities at risk from toxic chemicals. "It poses serious risks for homes and anyplace where it could reach the public." Shell is now testing homes and digging for more samples under water board supervision. The company is splitting the samples with Girardi's firm. Early this month, Girardi's investigators dug a 7-foot-deep trench in the frontyard of Adolfo Valdez's beige ranch-style house. They hit oil mixed with the dirt at about a foot and a half, said Mark Zeko, principal hydrogeologist for Environmental Engineering and Contracting Inc. The air around the house smelled like a gas station. Valdez, a longshoreman who has done extensive remodeling to the house himself, tells his four daughters they can't kick the soccer ball around in the frontyard any more. "I wish I could leave," he said. "I wish they could put me up in a rental house. What are we supposed to do?" A house two doors down was in escrow when the buyers learned about the contamination and

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pulled out. Carson Mayor Jim Dear said he hoped the attorney general will file a civil suit against Shell. He thinks Shell and the water board are moving too slowly. "Put yourself in the shoes of someone living there," he said. "Not knowing if it's a dangerous environment is psychological torture." That's how Matt Priest feels. Priest grew up on Marbella Avenue and bought a fixer-upper four doors down from his parents in 2003. The longshoreman figures he's spent \$100,000 on copper plumbing, a new electrical system, granite counters and a stainless-steel double oven. Lumber and drywall are stacked in the living room, and he wonders whether he should bother continuing with the renovation. The smell of gas permeates the house. His mother has a rare liver disease, and his father has a disabling brain condition. At 42, Priest has an enlarged prostate, and he wonders if the contamination contributed to these medical problems. "I'm hoping they'll buy us out and knock down the houses," he said. "I don't want to live here anymore. Every day I live here is a bad day."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-carousel-shell-20100427,0,588699.story>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 27 2010. OIL SLICK FROM RIG COLLAPSE SEEN FROM SPACE

 **Photo's** <http://www.livescience.com/environment/gulf-oil-slick-seen-from-space-100426.html>



The oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico that resulted from the explosion and collapse of an oil rig can be seen in this image from NASA's Aqua satellite.

The oil slick that is expanding from the site of an oil rig collapse last week has been spotted from space by a NASA satellite. An estimated 42,000 gallons of oil per day are leaking from an oil well in the Gulf of Mexico after an oil rig caught fire and then sank into the ocean waters last week. The only oil evident in the water at first was that which had been on the rig itself at the time it exploded on April 20. Over the weekend, officials working on the [oil spill](#) discovered that water was also leaking from the pipe that led up to the rig from the well some 5,000 feet (1,524 meters) below on the seafloor. NASA's Aqua satellite [took a photograph](#) of the affected area on Sunday, April 25, in which the oil slick — which currently covers an area 48 miles

long (77 kilometers) and 39 miles wide (63 km), according to news reports — can be seen. The Mississippi Delta is the center of the image, and the oil slick is a silvery swirl in the lower right. The oil slick may be particularly obvious because it is occurring in the sunlit area, where the mirror-like reflection of the sun off the water gives the Gulf of Mexico a washed-out look. The slick may contain dispersants or other chemicals that emergency responders are using to [control the spread of the oil](#), and it is unknown how much of the 700,000 gallons of fuel that were on the oil rig burned in the fire and how much may have spilled into the water when the platform sank. An emergency response effort is underway to stop the flow of oil and contain the existing slick before it reaches wildlife refuges and beaches in Louisiana and Mississippi.

<http://www.livescience.com/environment/gulf-oil-slick-seen-from-space-100426.html>

USA – ETHANOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COALITION, APRIL 27 2010. QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE: FUEL GRADE ETHANOL SPILLS & E85 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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From the Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition: The US Department of Transportation's National Response Team (NRT) has released their Quick Reference Guide: Fuel Grade Ethanol Spills (including E85) information. This information is the first of its kind, providing critical information for the emergency response community in the unlikely event of an ethanol spill. The reference guide covers response criteria

topics from chemical properties including a comparison of fuel ethanol and gasoline properties, environmental response techniques as well as general health and safety information. It also includes valuable regulatory and waste disposal information. As the use of ethanol continues to expand across the country, it is important that those responsible for the safety of these communities are well prepared and trained for responding to ethanol related emergencies. Becoming familiar with the NRT Quick Reference Guide is an essential part to first responder training. This guide outlines health and safety precautions to take such as protective clothing suggestions, evacuation considerations and other safety concepts that must be followed when facing an ethanol emergency. Also covered are varying water effects a first responder may experience due to different water types mixing with an ethanol spill, such as still or slow water, large deep water bodies, flowing or fast water, and small shallow water bodies. This guide is critical for all emergency responders to know and should be readily available to first responders at headquarters and out in the field on duty. The Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition (EERC) wants to make sure that those involved with ethanol safety are well trained and prepared for any ethanol emergency response. For more

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information on ethanol safety, please visit www.ethanolresponse.com. [With thanks to Tim Butters of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group]

<http://www.ethanolresponse.com/>

USA, TX, NEW LONDON, APRIL 27 2010. 1 DEAD, 1 INJURED IN OIL FIELD EXPLOSION >> EXPLOSION LEAVES TWO FAMILIES HOPING FOR HEALING

layron livingston

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kltv.com/global/story.asp?s=12374145>



The investigation continues into what exactly caused a fatal, early morning explosion. The body of Melissa Helsel-Williams, 24, was found near a group of oil well tank batteries, around 1:30, Monday morning. She was pronounced dead on-scene. The explosion happened near County Road 111 in Rusk County. Authorities also found Joseph Crisp, 24, just yards away from the explosion site. He is in critical condition at a Shreveport hospital. A crew worked to clean the mangled metal from the scorched site. The exact cause of the explosion is still to be determined, but sources told us it was likely a cigarette lighter that ignited fumes venting above the tank batteries. We're told the tank that exploded was still in service, but not full. "There are always explosive gases contained within the tanks," said Ron Duncan, chief deputy with the Rusk County Sheriff's Department. Duncan said Crisp was blown nearly 180 feet into the nearby woods. "I got a phone call

around 2 a.m. saying, there's been an accident," said Cara Anderson, Crisp's sister. "We grabbed the kids and left." When we spoke to Anderson, she'd just arrived from visiting her brother in the hospital. She said her brother suffered injuries to his head, spine, and spleen. He also has burns on a quarter of his body. "Accidents happen," she said. "God takes who he wants to take." We are told Crisp was found groaning, but conscious, when firefighters arrived. He told authorities his friend, Melissa Helsel-Williams, was somewhere nearby. Sources revealed her body was found underneath the shell of the blown-up tank. "To us, [she] was... 'Bootsie Kay,'" shared Jerry Smires, Williams' uncle. Smires joined other family members outside a relative's home near New London. "Her heart was so big, and she was so beautiful," he said. "She loved family and would do anything for anybody," said Angela Smires, Williams' cousin. Jerry Smires just happens to live within yards of the explosion site. "I thought, 'My goodness, a plane has hit, or something,'" he recalled. "It was so loud!" Smires said he has visited the tank battery before. "Never thought anything about it." Smires said his niece leaves behind a husband of three years.

<http://www.kltv.com/global/story.asp?s=12374145>

USA, TX, NEW LONDON, APRIL 27 2010. 1 DEAD, 1 HURT IN EAST TEXAS TANK EXPLOSION



Melissa Helsel.

A fiery tank explosion in east Texas has left a woman dead and a man seriously burned. Rusk County Justice of the Peace Jerdy Wolverton says the cause of the explosion early Monday near New London is sought. Wolverton identified the woman who died as 24-year-old Melissa Helsel of New London. The Rusk County Sheriff's Office says an injured man was airlifted to LSU Medical Center in Shreveport. His condition was not immediately available. Wolverton told The Associated Press that the man suffered burns. Wolverton says the storage tank was believed to have been empty, but fumes might have been present. He says emergency crews put out the fire. New London is about 120 miles southeast of Dallas.

<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/ap/tx/6976318.html>

NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE, NOUMEA, APRIL 27 2010. GORO START-UP PARTLY STOPPED AFTER ACID SPILL-VALE >> COMPANY PROBING SPILL OF 690 CUBIC METRES OF SOLUTION

- Commissioning halted in one extraction unit
- Vale says no injuries or damage to environment

Vale said on Monday that it had partially halted commissioning work at its already delayed Goro nickel operation in New Caledonia following an acid spill. Vale Inco spokesman Cory McPhee said the company was investigating the spill of 690 cubic metres of acid-containing solution. He said the spill had been "contained", and had caused no injuries or damage to the

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external environment. The project, which is expected to eventually produce 60,000 tonnes of nickel a year, has been repeatedly delayed over the past 18 months. Part of that delay was due to a smaller acid spill a year ago which made it into the outside environment. The company said last week that it was getting closer to production, but had been delayed due to "hiccups" in the commissioning. McPhee declined to speculate on how the spill might impact the timeline. "It's too early for us to speculate on that," he said. "This just happened. We just want to make sure we're diligent and looking at what took place so we understand why and to prevent it from happening in the future," he said. He said commissioning had been stopped in the extraction unit where the spill occurred, but was continuing elsewhere. The \$4.3 billion project, located in the French island territory of New Caledonia in the South Pacific, has been closely watched as it is one of a new breed of large nickel laterite mines that are expected to account for a growing proportion of global nickel supply.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2619932820100426?type=marketsNews>

NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE, NOUMEA, APRIL 27 2010. NEW CALEDONIA NICKEL PLANT SPILL PROBED AS LAUNCH AGAIN DELAYED

The government of New Caledonia's southern province and the Vale-Inco nickel company are this week investigating the circumstances of a spill of 670,000 litres of a solution containing acid. The company said nobody was injured and last week's spill was contained by the tailing dams. The incident has alarmed the Rheebeu Nuu environmental group, whose leader, Andre Vama, has told Noumea's daily newspaper that he questions the viability of the huge plant, which cost about four billion US dollars to build. A major acid spill into the lagoon during testing a year ago set back the planned launch of production, which had earlier been scheduled for late 2009.

<http://www.rnzi.com/pages/news.php?op=read&id=53203>

USA, CO, PUEBLO, APRIL 27 2010. EARLY WEAPON DESTRUCTION AT PUBLIC MEET TODAY >> LOCAL GROUP SAYS PLAN IS NOT WELL THOUGHT-OUT.

john norton

The Army's Explosive Destruction System is one of four processes being studied for destroying part of the stockpile at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. The EDS cuts open weapons with an explosive charge and then chemically neutralizes the mustard agent inside.



Officials of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program will be in Pueblo today to hear public comment on a proposal to start early destruction of weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. A controversial environmental assessment has found no significant impact from the plan. The public meeting is scheduled from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Olde Towne Carriage House, 102 S. Victoria Ave. ACWA's manager has been asked by Pentagon officials to come up with a program to begin weapons destruction here earlier than planned so that there is no

break in U.S. efforts between the closing of the last incineration plant and the time the Pueblo water neutralization program comes on line late in 2014. The proposal could destroy as many as 125,000 of the 780,000 weapons. Several methods are being studied, including the Army's own unit that splits open the shells and chemically neutralizes the mustard agent and three private vendors' devices that blow up the weapons, destroying the shells and mustard agent. Also under consideration are three Explosive Destruction Technology Systems offered by private vendors and used alone or in conjunction with the much slower EDS if the Pentagon decides to accelerate the program. All of the systems have been used either in the United States or other countries and the explosions are fully contained inside blast chambers. Members of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission have been critical of the environmental assessment, saying it does not address many of their concerns, including what will happen to the residue.

 **Related Stories** [Chem weapon monitoring suit settled](#)

http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/article_c1de3ada-51b8-11df-b89d-001cc4c03286.html

USA, FLA, ESCAMBIA CO, APRIL 27 2010. AVIATION FUEL SPILL FOULS INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY

Escambia County officials, the Coast Guard and state environmental agencies are on site tonight at an aviation fuel spill along the Intracoastal Waterway near Big Lagoon State Park. The spill was reported about 3 p.m. by people near the Theo Baars Bridge, Escambia County Commissioner Gene Valentino said. The spill is about a mile long and has been reported along the waterway from Big Lagoon State Park to Innerarity Point Road. By 5 p.m. efforts began to contain the spill by an

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environmental company coordinated by the Coast Guard, Valentino said. Escambia County Fire and Rescue, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and county environmental officials were working at the scene trying to evaluate the damage caused by the spill. Containment booms have been placed along the waterway. The source of the spill is not known at this time and remains under investigation, Valentino said. "I urge boaters and swimmers out of the water for the next 48 hours until the Coast Guard says the spill is contained," Valentino said. County officials plan to launch a boat tomorrow morning from Big Lagoon State Park and search the area to determine the scope of the spill, Valentino said.

<http://www.pnj.com/article/20100426/NEWS01/100426017/1006/news01/Aviation-fuel-spill-fouls-Intracoastal-waterway>

MALTA, KERČEM, APRIL 27 2010. LUNZJATA VALLEY CLEANED OF OIL SPILL

matthew xuereb & david schembri



Left: Before and after (right) Lunzjata Valley in Kerčem was cleaned from spent oil and diesel.

The hundreds of litres of spent oil and diesel that flowed into Lunzjata Valley in Kerčem, as a result of the Good Friday blackout, have been cleaned up and the valley turned to its previous state. The power failure, which plunged Malta and Gozo into darkness on April 2, also affected a public sewer system which overflowed into the valley. An estimated 400 litres of oil and diesel, which had been illegally dumped in the sewage system, had to be painstakingly removed manually by Malta Environment and Planning Authority employees. This oil was

released into the watercourse when the pumping station failed. The Lunzjata Valley, which leads down to Xlendi, forms part of the Wied tal-Kantra Natura 2000 site and is protected under EU regulations because of its ecological importance. The site hosts species and habitats of national and European importance. The valley itself is home to the only known Gozitan population of the Maltese freshwater crab (*Potamon Fluvatile Lanfrancoi*), which is endemic to the islands and ever decreasing in density because of a variety of reasons, including habitat degradation. A Mepa spokesman said the authority put in all its resources and efforts into ensuring that the least possible damage was caused to this ecosystem. It worked in close collaboration with the police, the Water Services Corporation, the Civil Protection Department and Alpha Briggs, a company focusing on emergency response services for the containment and recovery of oil spills. The oil slick had extended considerably downstream. Now that the clean-up operation has been concluded, the authority is carrying out in-depth studies to establish the extent of the damage to the watercourse and the plants and animals that depend on it. A number of specimens of the freshwater crab were noted on site following the clean-up but the status of the population is still unknown and requires further assessment, the spokesman said. A spokesman for the Water Services Corporation said it was in the process of installing a special "supervisory system" which would detect possible overflows well in advance of them happening. This would enable it to act as soon as a power failure results in a possible overflow of sewage. Moreover, the spokesman said, the corporation was also looking into installing generating sets with automatic changeover in the coming weeks, enabling pumping stations which end up without power to get it from nearby stations. The installation of generators at each of the 100 pumping stations across the islands, 13 of which are critical and considered as very important, was not feasible, the spokesman said, since most would end up resembling "mini power stations".

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20100427/local/lunzjata-valley-cleaned-of-oil-spill>

USA, KS, SOLOMON, APRIL 27 2010. GAS LEAK CLEANUP ONGOING

Tom Prochaska noticed a distinct odor of gasoline as he stepped out of his house Friday afternoon. "It was a pretty heavy smell," he said. The farmer checked his fuel tanks and detected no leaks, and decided to expand his investigation. Prochaska drove onto Buffalo Road about 5 miles northwest of Solomon and noticed liquid natural gas coming out of the ground about 400 yards east of his farm home. The leak was near Cole Creek that was full of runoff water from a four-inch rain earlier last week. The fuel from a ruptured eight-inch main line, was gushing into the waterway, headed for the Solomon River. Rory Tillett, director of Ottawa County Emergency Management, estimated 1,970 barrels -- 82,740 gallons -- spilled from the line. "It ran open for an hour and a half before it was shut down," Tillett said. Prochaska acted quickly, calling 911 to report the leak. Dispatchers took the call at 5:07 p.m., Tillett said. Prochaska then phoned neighbor Tracy Turner, and they blocked traffic from Buffalo Road until emergency workers arrived. The Prochaskas -- Tom and Patty -- were among approximately 10 people who were evacuated from their homes Friday night. They spent Friday night in a Salina hotel and returned home Saturday afternoon. Officials with the Mid-America Pipeline -- owned by Enterprise Products, of Houston -- rushed to the scene, along with emergency workers from Bennington and Salina. The company sent a technician by helicopter, Tillett said. The leak was

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stopped Friday evening, said Alan Siemer, Enterprise Products' central region operations manager. "They're being pretty proactive. I'm proud of them," Tillett said Sunday. The crews worked late Friday night, Prochaska said, and some emergency workers and pipeline workers were on the scene all night. "They're still at it today," he said Sunday afternoon. By then, Prochaska said the gasoline smell had dissipated at his farmstead. While the flow of fuel was stopped, fixing the leak has been troublesome, Tillett said, thanks to muddy conditions. Another pipeline carrying anhydrous ammonia -- owned by Magellan Pipeline -- runs parallel to the ruptured line. "They've got the leak isolated, but they're having difficulties with the repairs," Tillett said. "We're still working on the leak," Siemer said at 6 p.m. Sunday. Tillett said it could be another two to three days before repairs are complete. "That thing broke in a waterway. It's not been an easy fix," he said. A professional hazardous materials crew from Wichita, HazMat Response, has been on the scene since Friday night. Kenny Simmons of HazMat Response said he could not comment on the operations. The Prochaskas said they were told that the pipeline carries gasoline before it has received additives and is sold as fuel for automobiles. At that stage, it's known as liquid natural gas, Tom Prochaska said. An environmental company is also in the area of the leak, taking soil and water samples. "They've got gauges and windsocks all through the area," Tillett said. Several "booms" were placed in the creek, he said, to catch the fuel floating on top of the water. "There's quite a bit of stuff collected already," Tillett said.

<http://www.sajournal.com/news/story/gas-leak-follow>

UK, DONCASTER, EDLINGTON, APRIL 27 2010. CHILDREN BURNT >> EMPTIED A CAN OF NITROUS METHANE MODEL CAR FUEL



Fire crews were called on Monday.

Seven children in Doncaster suffered burns, some of them severe, when they caused an explosion trying to light a fire with model car fuel. The youngsters, aged between seven and 13, poured nitrous methane on a brazier when they tried to start the fire in Edlington, Doncaster. The fuel ignited and exploded, causing severe burns to the faces and chests of some of the children. It is thought some of them could be left permanently scarred. Crews were called to the address at about 1745 BST on Monday.

'Wall of Flames'

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (SYFRS) said none of the group were believed to have suffered life-threatening injuries, but some may be scarred for life due to the severity of the burns. Steve Makepeace, of SYFRS, said: "It exploded in

front of them so obviously they're going to be faced with a wall of flames coming at them. "[They were] probably surrounded by flames for a few seconds while it all burnt away, but in that time the heat is enough to burn your skin very badly." Edlington station manager Neil Baugh said it was the second such incident he had attended in a matter of weeks. He said: "It appears that young people had been trying to get the fire going when they poured this model car fuel - nitrous methane - on to it. "It is so volatile it just explodes, and some of this group have suffered some severe burns. "It appears to be a bit of a trend and it is extremely worrying. "I would urge young people not to play with fire of any kind, and definitely not with accelerant such as this fuel or petrol." Doncaster Council said its children's services department had been involved with some of the children in the past but none of them were subject to child protection plans.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/south_yorkshire/8645801.stm

USA, ARK, MALVERN, APRIL 27 2010. SPILL ON I-30 CREATES HAVOC

A trailer carrying an estimated 800 gallons of diesel fuel created havoc along the westbound side of Interstate 30 Friday afternoon. According to Arkansas State Trooper Cpl. Robert Batson, Rene Ramirez of Horn Lake, Miss., an employee of L&T Construction out of Hernando, Miss, was driving a truck west along I-30 from Southaven to Louisiana when his trailer broke free from his truck around the 93 mile marker. The trailer, which was described as being 16 feet long with a 1,000 gallon tank attached, went off the right side of the highway, traveling down an embankment and rolling over into a creek. According to the caller who contacted 9-1-1, he looked into his rearview mirror and saw something drive off the highway into the wooded area. Two deputies with the Hot Spring County Sheriff's Department, Barbi Koder and Travis Browning, were first on the scene, and they followed the tracks left by the trailer to make sure there was no one injured, as they did not know there was not a vehicle involved. ProMed Ambulance arrived shortly afterward, and the deputies came back up the embankment, coughing and feeling nauseated. The pair told the paramedics that there was no vehicle, but there was a strong smell similar to that of pesticides coming from the trailer. The trailer, they said, also had "Poison" placards displayed. The pair was then taken to HSC Medical

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Center where they were treated and released. Cpl. Batson responded to the scene from Arkadelphia, and he then took control of the scene. Southwest Volunteer Fire Department, Rockport/Mt. Willow VFD and Malvern Fire Department all responded to the incident, and they evacuated residences within a half-mile radius of the incident. Hot Spring County Department of Emergency Management Director David Ratcliffe arrived shortly thereafter, and the Hot Springs Fire Department and Lake Hamilton Fire Department were also dispatched to the scene due to the fact that it was a hazardous materials incident. A team from the HSFD suited up upon arrival to check the scene to determine what was in the tanker, and after a few minutes, they were able to determine that the tank contained diesel fuel. Cpl. Batson said that there was no poison and no leak, so there is no danger to life or property. Traffic was backed up for several hours due to the incident and its cleanup.

<http://www.malvern-online.com/content/view/201487/92/>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 28 2010. OIL SLICK COULD BECOME WORST IN US HISTORY

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The Deepwater Horizon rig caught fire and collapsed killing 11 workers.

Coastguards in the US have warned the spill from the site of an oil rig collapse could become one of worst in US history if the well is not sealed. The slick covers an area 48 miles long and 39 miles wide close to the Mississippi Delta. Attempts to seal the leaking well using robot submarines operating some 1,500 meters (5,000 feet) down on the ocean floor have so far failed. And a huge oil slick a 600 mile (965-kilometer) circumference is threatening the coast of Louisiana. There are fears a shift in winds could push it inland this weekend. The US authorities said they were considering a controlled burn of oil captured in inflatable containment booms floating in the gulf to protect the shorelines. Rear Admiral Mary Landry said:

"I am going to say right up front. The BP efforts to secure the blowout preventer have not yet been successful." "If we don't secure the well, yes, this will be one of the most significant oil spills in US history." [BP](#), which leases the site known as the [Deepwater Horizon](#) platform, says an estimated 42-thousand gallons of oil is leaking into the Gulf of Mexico every day after the rig caught fire and sank last week killing 11 workers.

http://bit.ly/DG_Group

USA, MS, JEFFERSON CITY, APRIL 28 2010. HAZARDOUS WASTE COMMISSION REFERS CASES TO AG'S OFFICE

Two facilities with underground storage units, including one in southwest Missouri, are being referred to the Missouri Attorney General's Office for alleged violations of the state's Underground Storage Tank Law. The referrals are being made by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Hazardous Waste Management Commission. In southwest Missouri, the commission cited a facility at Highway 37 and Gibbs Avenue in Pierce City. The site, for which an owner was not named, contains four steel underground storage tanks that have been temporarily closed. According to a DNR news release, an inspection of the tanks showed that three of the four contain five or more inches of petroleum product, and the state has no documentation to verify that the tanks have been adequately protected from corrosion. The tanks, according to the release, must be permanently and properly closed, and the owner has not paid registration fees for the tanks. DNR also cited a former Rowland's Amoco station in St. Joseph for similar violations. The commission is asking the attorney general's office to compel the site owners to comply with the law and seek civil penalties, according to the release.

<http://sbj.net/main.asp?SectionID=18&SubSectionID=23&ArticleID=86844>

USA, ILL, CHICAGO, TINLEY PARK, APRIL 28 2010. TINLEY PARK INVESTIGATING SPILL IN LOCAL CREEK

Investigators in Tinley Park are trying to determine whether a petroleum-based product discovered in a local creek came from a local service station, Tinley Park Fire Chief Ken Dunn said this afternoon. Dunn downplayed the amount of petroleum product found yesterday in the south-flowing creek on the 7700 block of 159th Street. The creek flows from Orland Park into a detention pond in Tinley Park. Because the liquid was floating on top of the water, it looked like there was more oil in the water than there actually was, Dunn said. "It never would have set the creek on fire." Investigators initially thought fuel had leaked from an overfilled gas tank into a storm sewer and then into the creek. Baffles put in place yesterday helped absorb the product this morning. "The creek is cleaner today than it was yesterday," Dunn said. Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and State Fire Marshall's offices have said the product likely will evaporate without causing any significant environmental harm, Dunn said.

<http://www.chicagobreakingnews.com/2010/04/tinley-park-investigating-spill-in-local-creek.html>

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