

Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2010 – 640 Newsy Stuff

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September 14 2010

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UK, FAWLEY, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. CAPTAIN FINED AFTER DRINKING WHILE IN CHARGE OF OIL TANKER VESSEL

julian robinson

The captain of an oil tanker has this morning been fined after drinking while in charge of his ship, in The Solent. Rajesh Kumah Singh failed to provide a specimen of breath shortly after the 41,000 tonne Nord Fast he was in charge of docked at Fawley yesterday. Now the 41-year-old is likely to be stripped of his masters certificate after being sentenced for the offence, at [New Forest](#) Magistrates Court. The court heard how a pilot boarded the vessel as it was coming into the Solent, but once the tanker had docked, Singh admitted he had gone below and had "one or two" glasses of whiskey. Magistrates heard it was the Indian national's final voyage on the ship having resigned, and that he had drunk the whiskey as he settled a row between two crew members, after the ship had docked. Police arrived and he provided a breath test that showed he was twice the limit for driving - the same level applies at sea. On attending [Lyndhurst](#) police station, he only carried out one of two tests requested by officers. This morning he appeared before magistrates, who handed him a £1,700 fine, telling him it was a "very serious matter." Singh is due to fly back to India tomorrow to visit his family. A new master of the Nord Fast, which is currently still in Hampshire, has this morning been installed.

http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/8382036.Captain_fined_for_drinking_while_in_charge_of_vessel/

USA, W.VA, MORGANTOWN, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. TANKER TRUCK WRECK SENDS ONE TO HOSPITAL >> IT HAPPENED THURSDAY AFTERNOON ON I-68 NEAR THE SABRATON EXIT.

macall allen

[Watch the Video](#) <http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=85830>

A Penn Tank Lines tanker truck traveling West on Interstate 68 around 12:30 p.m. on Thursday when the driver lost control, according to authorities. The truck crossed the median and eastbound lanes and ended up in the wooded area. The driver was taken by ambulance to Ruby Memorial Hospital. The Monongalia County Sheriff's Department is handling the investigation.

<http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=85830>

CANADA, N.S, BARNEY'S RIVER, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. 500,000 FISH DIE NEAR TANKER SPILL >> OIL SPILLED INTO HATCHERY'S FRESH WATER SOURCE



Cleanup crews spent days at Barneys River cleaning up near the crash site.

An oil spill at Barneys River may have led to a massive fish kill downstream, Nova Scotia's environment minister says. Sterling Belliveau said an aquaculture farm on West Barneys River, in northern Nova Scotia, has lost all of its 500,000 fish. "This is a very serious situation, it's unfortunate," he told reporters on Thursday. Belliveau said the matter is under investigation, and it's too early to say what caused the fish kill. "It's certainly premature now, and I think the public and everybody in Nova Scotia may be looking at the white elephant in the room as the oil spill here," he said. "I want to emphasize that there's a number of options that can be available to cause

such a serious situation like that." On Aug. 18, a tanker-truck carrying 38,000 litres of used motor oil collided with a pickup truck on Highway 104, west of New Glasgow. Both drivers were killed. At the time, environment officials at the scene estimated thousands of litres of oil could have leaked into the nearby West Barneys River. Crews used excavators, containment booms and absorbent pads to try to clean up the fuel from the river and its banks. West Barneys River served as a source of fresh water for Barneys River Fish Farm Ltd., an aquaculture hatchery several kilometres downriver raising 500,000 rainbow trout for New Brunswick-based Cooke Aquaculture. After the spill, the hatchery tapped into another, untainted branch of the river for fresh water. Because of the restrictions on fresh water, the amount of feed given to the fish was reduced in an attempt to encourage the fish to use less energy moving in the water.

Fish Worth Up To \$900,000

Chuck Brown, the communications manager for Cooke Aquaculture, told CBC News on Thursday that the fish were believed to have died sometime over the weekend. weather events such as last week's record hot temperatures and Hurricane Earl may have also played a part in the fish kill. "We have witnessed severe weather conditions in the last two weeks, and all them options, scenarios has to be investigated," he said. The environment minister estimated the one- to two-inch fingerlings were worth between \$800,000 and \$900,000 once they matured to market value. Meanwhile, Nova Scotia's Department of Environment said Thursday that waste oil from the site, tested by Environment Canada, showed the oil did not contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and doesn't appear to have been a contaminated used oil. The oil samples were taken immediately adjacent to the accident prior to it spilling into Barneys River. Michelle Lucas, a spokeswoman for the Department

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of Environment, said in an email that department officials are continuing to monitor the site, and the clean up effort is 90 to 95 per cent complete. Last month, Environment Canada said no dead fish were found during three visits since the spill.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/nova-scotia/story/2010/09/09/ns-oil-spill-fish-kill.html>

MEXICO, MONTERREY, CADEREYTA, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. SECOND MAN DEAD IN REFINERY BLAST

A second worker has died from extensive burns received in an explosion at Mexico's third-largest petroleum refinery, the state-run oil company says. Rodolfo Montemayor Mota, a 49-year-old specialised operator, suffered burns over 80 per cent of his body after the blast at the Cadereyta refinery outside the northeastern city of Monterrey, Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said. Juan Sanchez Paz, 32, an operations engineer, was killed at the time of the explosion on Wednesday. A third worker remains in "delicate" condition after receiving burns to most of his body, while a fourth is stable following an operation, Pemex said. Four other workers have been released from the hospital, while three workers from an outside contractor received minor injuries. The company said the explosion was caused by a leak in a hydrogen recirculation compressor. Authorities are investigating what caused the leak. Two of the plant's 32 processing modules were closed temporarily as a preventive measure following the blast, reducing the plant's processing capacity from 215,000 to 200,000 barrels of oil per day. Pemex said that would not cause any fuel shortages. The explosion comes as Mexico is trying to find ways to improve its declining refining capabilities and reduce its dependence on fuel imports. One of the world's largest oil producers, Mexico has to import more than 40 per cent of the petrol it uses, a surge from just 6.9 per cent 20 years ago. Several refineries are undergoing upgrades, and Pemex is also building a new oil refinery in the central city of Tula - the first to be constructed in three decades. The country currently has six refineries. Pemex is also considering importing crude oil for the first time in decades. Company officials say importing easier-to-process light crude will improve the efficiency of its refineries.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/second-man-dead-in-refinery-blast/story-e6frf7jx-1225916932000>

USA, N.C, OCRACOCKE ISLAND, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. HEARING SET ON DEADLY OCRACOCKE FIREWORKS EXPLOSION >> MELROSE SOUTH PYROTECHNICS WAS FINED \$44,800 AFTER FOUR WORKERS FROM GOLDSBORO WERE KILLED IN THE JULY 4, 2009 EXPLOSION.

 **Watch the Video:**

http://charlotte.news14.com/content/local_news/coastal/630195/appeal-on-deadly-fireworks-explosion-to-be-held-in-oct-



A hearing has been set for next month in the appeal of a fine for last summer's deadly fireworks explosion on Ocracoke Island. Melrose South Pyrotechnics was fined \$44,800 after four workers from Goldsboro were killed in the July 4th explosion. The State Labor Department tells WITN News that the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission will hold the hearing on October 27th in Greensboro. The hearing at the Guilford County Courthouse is scheduled for two days. The South Carolina company appealed after it and the state could not reach an informal settlement on the fines and citations.

<http://www.witn.com/news/headlines/102540054.html?ref=054>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER 10 2010 BOTANY BAY OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE



Botany Bay was the scene of a simulated oil spill containment exercise this week: 'Operation Broadsword' was designed to test Sydney Ports Corporation and Caltex oil-spill response capabilities. Sydney Ports has responsibility for responding to emergency situations and has an experienced team of over 100 marine operations personnel at its disposal to ensure the safety of port users and protecting the environment of Sydney Harbour and Port Botany. Sydney Ports chief executive officer Grant Gilfillan said the aim of today's exercise was to test the response of Sydney Ports to a 'Tier 2' oil spill, or a spill of between ten and 1,000 tonnes of oil. "One of the aims of the event was to ensure the containment of any spilled oil, the safe operation of all Sydney Ports plant and equipment, and the safe and effective response of both Sydney Ports and Caltex staff involved," Mr Gilfillan said. "In

addition, the exercise served to test emergency procedures and boom deployment options to prevent escalation to a 'Tier 3' oil

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spill, greater than 1,000 tonnes of oil. "Approximately 20 Sydney Ports marine operations personnel and 16 Caltex staff were involved, using a range of oil spill equipment such as containment booms, skimmers and specialised oil recovery vessels. A number of these highly-trained Sydney Ports Marine Operations crews have lent their emergency response experience to recent interstate spills including the response to the Montara/West Atlas Oil Spill in north Western Australia and currently assisting the clean-up of an oil spill in Newcastle port. "As well as conducting regular exercises to ensure we're well prepared for emergencies and oil spills, Sydney Ports also conducts random safety audits to minimise the chance of such incidents," Mr Gilfillan said. During the 2009/10 financial year, Sydney Port officers carried out 4272 audits on vessels transferring bulk oil, gas and chemicals. There were 242 dangerous goods container terminal audits, and last year Sydney Ports responded to 308 reported incidents of marine pollution. Last financial year Sydney's Ports also saw over 11 million tonnes of oil imported and exported through the dedicated berths at Kurnell in Botany Bay and Gore Cove in Sydney Harbour, an increase of three per cent on the previous year.

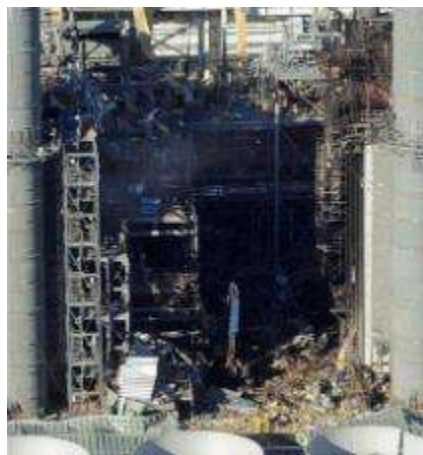
<http://tandlnews.com.au/2010/09/09/article/Botany-Bay-oil-spill-response-exercise/JMBBBUJFRV.html>

USA, CT, MIDDLETOWN, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. KLEEN ENERGY, O&G, BLUEWATER NAMED IN NEW LAWSUITS >> COMPANIES CREATED "DEADLY CONDITIONS" AND COMMITTED "WILLFUL, SERIOUS" SAFETY VIOLATIONS BEFORE AND THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE "GAS BLOW."

hillary Federico

 **Watch the Video** [Aerial Footage of Middletown Kleen Energy Natural Gas Plant Explosion](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Legal Aspects of Middletown Plant Explosion -](#)



The Kleen Energy plant is seen in this aerial photo after an explosion in Middletown, Conn., Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

Nine additional lawsuits were filed with regards to the Kleen Energy Power Plant explosion Thursday and lawyers said the grueling fight may continue for years in court. The lawsuits were brought by the families of three of the dead workers — Kenneth Haskell, 37, of New Durham, N.H, Peter Chepulis, 48, of Thomaston; and Chris Walters, 48, of Florissant, Mo. — and by six of those who were injured — Joshua Campbell, Dervan Malcom, Dennis Riley, Joseph Scovish, Brian Hawley and Kenneth Meloney. The nine suits are nearly identical and name Kleen Energy Systems LLC, the owners of the \$1 billion plant, Bluewater Energy Solutions of Atlanta and O&G Industries of Torrington, the general contractor. The three companies, thought to be partially responsible for the dangerous pipe cleaning procedure which likely caused the explosion were previously fined \$16.6 million by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration after 119 safety violations were found. According to OSHA, the three companies created "deadly conditions" and committed "willful, serious" safety violations before and throughout the duration of the "gas blow." A gas blow occurs when huge quantities of natural gas are forced

through large piping in an effort to purge the piping of any debris. A lethal combination, multiple federal agencies including OSHA and the Chemical Safety Board have become strong proponents of using safer alternatives — such as steam or nitrogen — to clean the pipes. According to Chemical Safety Board investigation records released in late June, a total of 15 natural gas blows were completed intermittently over the span of approximately four hours at the Kleen Energy plant Feb. 7. The gas being pumped through the pipes at Kleen Energy found an ignition source and exploded. "Gas company records show that some 2 million standard cubic feet of natural gas were released to the atmosphere during the gas blows at Kleen Energy on Feb. 7," said CSB Chairman John Bresland. "That, by the way, is enough to fuel a typical American home every day for more than 25 years." Currently, there are no specific federal workplace safety standards regulating intentional releases of natural gas into the workplace, though the urgent recommendations were made by the CSB if the plant is to once again open for future use. At a meeting held in early August, Kleen Energy Project Manager William Corvo revealed that the Department of Labor conducted an analysis of records and found "minor record-keeping violations and overtime wage violations." "But these violations were not related to the Feb. 7 incident," Corvo said. "It arises a conclusion that has no basis or fact." Expected to open in November, employees working at the plant were reportedly putting in 12 hour days, seven days a week. According to reports taken immediately after the incident, several employees working on the day of the explosion had been putting in an excess of 90 hours. Collected data indicates that the plant was on pace to open as early as May. It was 96 percent complete before the Super Bowl Sunday explosion. Staff at the plant were allegedly "rushed" on the day of the explosion because

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several managers wanted to get home and watch the football game, according to lawyers. Jodi Thomas, whose husband Ron Crabb was killed in the Middletown explosion, said that getting workers home should be the No. 1 concern of employers. "This tragedy should never, ever have happened. It was preventable. This is why I urge you, please, do not allow Ron's death to be in vain," Thomas said. "Real change, real protection for hardworking Americans, must come out of this. It is the only way to truly honor him and the other men who lost their lives. Their families are forever broken." Another man, New Jersey resident Nicholas Novik, suffered severe head injuries from the blast. Like a number of employees working at the plant that day, Novik's job had nothing to do with the gas blow procedure. He filed a separate federal lawsuit in court last month and is seeking \$6 million against the same three companies. All three companies have said they will appeal the proposed fines.

<http://middletownpress.com/articles/2010/09/09/news/doc4c898cc68c91b648941913.txt>

VENEZUELA, BONAIRE, KRALENDIJK, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. 2nd OIL TANK HIT BY FIRE IN DUTCH ANTILLES

A 750,000-barrel capacity crude oil storage tank caught fire in Curacao overnight and the blaze was only controlled on Thursday morning, an official at a sister facility and a trader said. Another fire was still raging at a Bonaire oil storage terminal on Thursday. Both sites in the Caribbean's Dutch Antilles belong to Venezuela's state-run oil company PDVSA.

Related Stories

- [Bopec terminal fire stops shipping](#)
- [Bonaire oil terminal still shut due fire](#)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN0924445220100909>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. 3 VERNAL-AREA MEN BURNED WHEN JUNK GAS TANK IGNITES

bob mims

Three Vernal-area men were in the University of Utah's Intermountain Burn Unit Friday after they were scorched while removing a gasoline tank from a salvage car. Uintah County sheriff's Lt. John Laursen said two of the men, Kelly Beachum, 24, and Thad Bonner, 23, were rushed by medical helicopter to the Salt Lake City hospital Wednesday afternoon. The third man, identified as Brett Bradley, 20, was transported to the burn unit Thursday afternoon. He, Beachum and Bonner were in critical condition, having suffered second- and third-degree burns over 30 to 60 percent of their bodies. Laursen said the three were injured about 3:15 p.m. Wednesday as they worked on a junked car outside a home at 473 N. 2500 West in the Uintah County town of Maeser. "They were trying to salvage a gas tank from the vehicle by using a cutting torch," Laursen said, adding that the torch ignited gasoline they were unaware was still in the tank's filler hose assembly. "The gas sprayed on all three of them and they caught fire," Laursen said.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/49329687-78/gas-tank-county-laursen.html.csp>

CHINA, LIAONING PROVINCE, DALIAN, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. SO, WHAT DID HAPPEN AFTER THE CHINESE OIL-SPILL?

professor chris rhodes

On the 16th of July, China experienced its first major oil-spill. The Chinese incident was also caused by an explosion (this time during the transfer of oil from a tanker to a reserve owned by the China National Petroleum Corp), but is nothing like the size of the BP spillage in the Gulf of Mexico. The amount of public information released in any level of detail has so far been scant, but in this month's Chemistry World, the British Royal Society of Chemistry has published an article which provides some update of the state of play in the aftermath of the event. Around 1,500 tonnes of crude-oil ended-up in the Dalian Bay, which is a popular resort for tourism and conferences, located in the far east of China. The initial clean-up was pretty much over in two weeks, but residual problems in safety management are highlighted. As usual, there are various estimates of the size of the resulting oil-slick, of between 150 - 450 square kilometers of ocean covered, but the main concern is that the oil might contain toxic organic contaminants that could invade the food-chain, threatening the health of humans, animals and that of the wider environment for decades to come. It is argued that a lack of technical expertise and equipment in China made the clean-up process more complicated and protracted than it need have been. Many thousands of workers were garnered in Dalian and simply sent-out in fishing-boats to collect the oil in buckets, which was then poured into storage-tanks. Since they had little or no protective equipment or were untrained in how to use what they did have, the long-term effects of their exposure to a mixture of chemical substances remains to be seen. It appears that the Dalian municipal government had only enough capacity to cope with 200 tonnes of oil, and less than the 1,500 actually spilt. While this is nothing compared to the 750,000 tonnes of oil that poured into the gulf of Mexico, for which BP are taking part of the blame along with their subcontractors, the point is made that China needs to advance its capability to provide long-term solutions to environmental problems of this kind.

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There is currently a great lack of environmental and geochemical research into oil-spills in China. The Dalian oil-spill is likely to be a microcosm of greater future catastrophes for a highly populous country that is expected to expand its oil-based personal transportation by a factor of ten to 200 million by 2020.

<http://oilprice.com/Environment/Oil-Spills/So-What-Did-Happen-After-the-Chinese-Oil-Spill.html>

USA, IN, WHITING, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. BP ADDRESSING COMPLIANCE AFTER LEAK ON 1920'S INDIANA PIPELINE

BP is working to meet compliance requirements set by U.S. regulators in order to start an Indiana pipeline where a leak was found Aug. 17 in a section built in 1928. Crews are performing inspections on the 38-mile-long pipe, which carries gasoline and diesel, said Tom Keilman, a BP spokesman. The company must take measures including reducing pressure in the line and evaluating other pipelines in the Whiting, Indiana, area, according to a "corrective action" order from the Department of Transportation. Issuing the order is "supported by the age of the pipe and circumstances of the failure, including the fact that an 82- year-old, concrete-encased" section of the pipe "with visible signs of external corrosion failed not long after the performance of an inline inspection," the department said. BP removed as much as 192 barrels of petroleum product from the site of the leak, according to the order. "A significant amount of soil must be removed to fully remediate the site," the department wrote. "Over the last few days, we've been conducting hydrostatic pressure tests as requested in the order," Keilman said. "At this point the line is still down." Before the line is started, BP is required to submit a restart plan that includes reducing maximum operating pressure to 80 percent of the highest operating pressure experienced at the White Oak Station and Crete Station in the 60 days prior to Aug. 17, the order states. The White Oak pipeline carries gasoline and diesel fuel through 12-inch and 10-inch lines from BP's 420,000-barrel-a-day Whiting refinery to fuel terminals in Chicago and Manhattan, Illinois.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-09/bp-addressing-compliance-after-leak-on-1920-s-indiana-pipeline.html>

USA, ILL, ROMEOVILLE, SEPTEMBER 10 201. ENBRIDGE SHUTS DOWN ANOTHER LEAKY PIPELINE IN U.S. MIDWEST

 **Watch the Video** <http://cbs2chicago.com/local/romeoville.oil.leak.2.1904833.html>

 **Photo's** http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/news/2691804.4_JO9_Oil-pipeline-leaks-in-Romeoville.article



A worker from Enbridge Energy skims oil off the surface of the Kalamazoo River after a pipeline ruptured in Marshall, Michigan, on Tuesday, July 27, 2010.

Enbridge Inc. shut down another U.S. pipeline on Thursday after the massive line, which runs near Chicago, sprang a leak, the company said. Enbridge closed its 670,000 barrel per day Line 6A after a leak was discovered near Romeoville, Ill. Though the size of the spill is not yet known, local fire officials said the line was shut early in the afternoon and that the oil has been contained. "We have employees on scene assessing the situation," said Terri Larson, an Enbridge spokeswoman. It's the second spill for the company in the U.S. Midwest in three months. Its 190,000 bpd Line 6B, which runs from Griffiths, Illinois, to Sarnia, Ont., was shut on July 16 after a rupture near Marshall, Michigan, spilled 19,500 barrels into a river system. Though repairs were completed last month, U.S. regulators

have not yet allowed the company to restart shipments on the line, forcing Enbridge to ration space on its remaining lines. Line 6A, which carries light, medium and heavy crudes, as well as synthetic oil from northern Alberta's oil sands, runs from Superior, Wisconsin to Griffiths and supplies oil to refineries in the Chicago region. The rupture occurred near a 159,000 barrel per day refinery operated by CITGO. Canada is the largest oil exporter to the United States and Enbridge's pipelines carry the lion's share of that crude. The closure of Line 6B has already forced down crude prices in Western Canada as producers wait for space on pipelines. The newest outage on the larger line will likely further depress prices in Canada and force refineries served by the line to find alternative supplies.

More on This Story

- [Enbridge begins pressure-testing repaired Michigan oil pipeline](#)
- [Enbridge plan raises possibility of extended Michigan pipeline shutdown](#)
- [Enbridge shuts major Canada-US line due to le](#)
- [Crude oil leak is stopped in Romeoville](#)

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Enbridge+shuts+down+another+leaky+pipeline+Midwest/3502480/story.html>

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USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. STATE OF EMERGENCY & LOCAL DISASTER PROCLAIMED >>TWO DEAD, MANY INJURED AS NATURAL GAS EXPLOSION DEVASTATES CA NEIGHBORHOOD



Two firefighters from nearby Pacifica stand awestruck at the destruction in a San Bruno neighborhood. The blaze leveled at least 53 homes

A massive natural gas explosion rocked a neighborhood in the city of San Bruno in central California on early Thursday evening, killing at least two people and injuring scores of others, officials said. A large fireball was seen by numerous witnesses around 6 p.m. PDT, setting dozens of homes on fire. Officials said the blaze was caused by a natural gas explosion, not a plane crash as initially feared as the scene is close to San Francisco International Airport. First responders via emergency scanners initially said a 'large commercial aircraft' had crashed in the area, but they later said the cause appeared to be a natural gas explosion and not a plane crash.

Both San Francisco International Airport as well as Federal Aviation Administration

(FAA) spokesman Ian Gregor confirmed no plane had gone down in the neighborhood. Scores of emergency responders were on the scene of the disaster to battle the huge six-alarm blaze, but few details were immediately available on casualties. At least two people were found dead on the scene, while scores of others were taken to area hospitals. Karl Sonkin, a spokesman for South San Francisco Medical Center, said it received a total of fifteen patients. Nine of them were treated, released and sent home while two others were still being evaluated. The other four were sent to a burn unit at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, where a spokeswoman confirmed three of them were in a critical but stable condition. The fourth was in a stable condition. A spokeswoman for San Francisco General Hospital said it received five patients - three in a critical condition, one in a serious condition and one in a 'good' condition. Additionally, a spokeswoman for Peninsula Medical Center in Burlingame, several miles from the scene, said that five people with minor injuries arrived at the hospital by themselves. First responders at the scene said one person was found deceased on a sidewalk, while a second fatality was found inside one of the burning homes. It was not immediately clear if any people remained missing. In addition to the civilian casualties, three firefighters were also injured, although it was not immediately clear to which hospital they were transported. The blast was so strong that residents miles away were able to hear and feel the explosion. "We're fine. We heard the blast, and we can see the fire," a resident, who lives about two miles from the scene, told BNO News. "We're told it's a gas pump explosion by firefighters going by." Fire officials said at least 53 homes had been 'severely damaged' or destroyed, while 120 others sustained less severe fire damage. More than 100 residents had been evacuated to shelters. Few details were immediately available about what may have caused the natural gas explosion. "Though a cause has yet to be determined, we know that a PG&E gas transmission line was ruptured," a statement from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) said. "The priority right now is to help make the area safe. We have crews on the scene and are working with emergency officials." "If it is ultimately determined that we were responsible for the cause of the incident, we will take accountability," the company added as speculation emerged that residents had smelled a strange odor in the area for days. Joseph Schadler, a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), said their Joint Terrorism Task Force had been sent to the scene "just in case." Terrorism, however, did not appear to have been involved. Acting California Governor Abel Maldonado commended the 'swift and courageous response' of emergency responders and declared a state of emergency for San Mateo County. "I commend the swift and courageous response of California's brave emergency personnel and stand ready to expedite any recovery resources that are needed," he said. "I will be closely monitoring the situation with the California Emergency Management Agency and will ensure a swift investigation begins to determine the causes." Maldonado takes over as Acting Governor when Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is out of the state. Schwarzenegger was flying over Alaska when the explosion happened, and did not appear to have been informed about the incident. "Over Anchorage, AK," Schwarzenegger wrote on his Twitter account along with a picture of him in his plane. "Looking everywhere but can't see Russia from here. Will keep you updated as search continues," he joked. Maldonado, in his proclamation of a state of emergency, said the fire which continued to burn on early Friday threatened numerous other structures, causing evacuations of residents and the opening of emergency shelters. In addition to the state of emergency proclaimed by Maldonado, San Bruno officials also declared a local disaster.

Related stories

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- [Dazed residents flee massive San Bruno fire, gather at local shopping center](#)
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- [Massive Fire Roars Through San Francisco Suburb After Explosion](#) | ktla.com
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- [Murrieta Brush Fire 40% Contained, Firefighter Injured](#)|ktla.com

Around the Web

- [1 reportedly dead, dozens hurt in San Bruno inferno](#)|fox5sandiego


<http://channel6news.com/2010/09/two-dead-many-injured-as-natural-gas-explosion-devastates-ca-neighborhood/>

USA, CA, SAN BRUNO, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. BLAST, FIRE RAZE BAY AREA HOMES >> AT LEAST ONE PERSON IS KILLED AND MORE THAN A SCORE INJURED AFTER AN EXPLOSION ROCKS SAN BRUNO. SEVERAL BLOCKS GO UP IN FLAMES.

maria laganga, jessica guynn & robert j. lopez

 **Photo Gallery** <http://framework.latimes.com/2010/09/09/fire-in-san-bruno/#/0>

 **Multimedia** [San Bruno explosion fire map](#)

 **Multimedia** [Map: Explosion and fire in San Bruno](#)



A massive explosion believed to have been caused by a gas line break sparked an inferno that consumed a San Bruno neighborhood Thursday night, killing at least one person, leveling 53 homes, forcing residents to run for their lives and leaving about 23 people injured, a number of them with severe burns. The blast, which occurred shortly after 6 p.m., ignited a wind-driven fire that quickly destroyed or damaged more than 170 homes, set treetops on fire and illuminated the sky for miles around. Hours after the explosion, fire crews from throughout the state continued to rush to the scene, but their efforts were hampered by winds that reportedly reached more than 30 mph. As of 10 p.m., authorities had confirmed one fatality. The fire had burned across 10 acres and was 50% contained late Thursday,

a state official said. A complete search of the area proved impossible with the fire still burning into the night. "My house is gone. I'm trying to keep from just breaking down. Everything's gone," said Tina Pellegrini, whose home was near Claremont and Glenview drives. "I was in my bedroom and heard a boom," she said. "My house is shaking. I thought it was an earthquake. I get the dog to go ride it out. We look out the living room window and it was orange. I had the forethought to put on my shoes and grab my purse and run out of my house. I could feel the fire from five houses away. It was so intense." Marla Shelmadine lives four houses down from the explosion site. "We went outside. It was like an inferno," she said. "If we stayed any longer, our [skin](#) would have melted." Shelmadine, who fled with her cat and three [dogs](#), was among evacuees who gathered at the Bayhill Shopping Center to wait for word about their homes and friends. "I got them by the tail," she said of her animals. "By the time we got to the garage it was filled with smoke. The house three doors down was in flames." She said her house is gone. Some witnesses in the residential area, which is not far from San Francisco International Airport, said that the explosion sounded like a plane crash and that it rocked homes and windows. But authorities soon ruled out that possibility. Although Pacific Gas and Electric crews on scene told television news reporters that a gas line rupture sparked the explosion, spokesmen for the power company cautioned that they were still investigating. Late Thursday, the utility confirmed that one of its lines in the area had ruptured, but said that the cause of the fire had not been determined. "Our hearts and thoughts go out to those affected by this terrible, terrible tragedy," said PG&E spokesman J.D. Guidi. Neighbors and volunteer groups pitched in to help, with some residents reportedly stepping in to direct traffic away from the area. Those gathered at the Bayhill Shopping Center, a few miles from the explosion site, clustered around the Starbucks and an Extreme Pizza store and talked about what they had witnessed. Hifa Salfiti, who lives on Claremont Drive, said she and her husband were stunned by the blast. "We were sitting in the house and heard a huge explosion," she said. "We thought first of all it was an earthquake. It was beyond huge. We ran to the deck and saw a huge fire. We ran to the street and they began evacuating us. The fire was like hell." Salfiti, who was clad in her pink bathrobe, said she and her husband quickly fled. She did not know if her house was still standing. Throughout the evening, shaken people arrived at the shopping center, embracing each other and talking about their losses. Bob Marshall, the former mayor of San Bruno, a city of about 41,000, said his house was undamaged in the blast. He came to see if anybody needed help. "We were in our house. It sure sounded like a plane went over," Marshall said. "The next thing we saw, the flames, the explosion and the flames." Many who fled had no idea whether they had homes to go back to. Doug Kunze, who lives on Claremont Drive, said he was watching a football game on TV when he heard an explosion and saw fire. The cable went out and the water went out. "The fire was huge. It was 100 feet in the air," he said. "Something was continually feeding it. It got so hot you couldn't get closer than a block." He said he and his family evacuated on foot. "I'm not sure we have any place to go back to," Kunze said. "So many homes were destroyed. The neighborhood will never be the same." Dan Grassis said he heard several booms and opened the garage door to find flames and smoke. "It was like

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something you see in a war movie," he said. At nightfall, a San Mateo County sheriff's truck drove up and down street, using a loudspeaker to order people to leave. Law enforcement officials canvassed the neighborhood. Even as crews continued to fight the flames, insurance agents and construction contractors were passing out their cards at the shopping center and asking people if they could help. "Anybody with Farmers Insurance? Want to open up a claim?" shouted Doug Wong, a general adjuster with the agency. The explosion Thursday evoked memories for many in the area of a deadly November 2004 pipeline explosion in Walnut Creek, which is across San Francisco Bay from San Bruno. In that incident, a 60-foot pillar of fire erupted from a punctured Kinder-Morgan petroleum pipeline beside Las Lomas High School when a backhoe apparently clipped the high-pressure fuel line. Contractors were working to install a massive water pipe for the East Bay Municipal Utility District just a few feet from the fuel line's path. A clear account of casualties Thursday was not immediately available, but hospital officials reported caring for badly burned patients. A man and a woman in serious condition were being treated at San Francisco General Hospital, a spokeswoman said. The two, spokeswoman Rachale Kagan said, "were in critical condition due to the burns." At least three other badly burned patients were taken to St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco, a spokeswoman said. At Peninsula Medical Center in Millbrae, medical personnel were treating 10 patients with minor burns. The facility had declared a trauma alert, calling in extra personnel to deal with the emergency. As flames continued to rage out of control in San Bruno, fire crews from outlying cities and agencies poured in to help. Four air tankers, two smaller attack planes and 25 fire engines from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection were headed to the blaze, the agency said. Off-duty firefighters, some of them without their protective gear, were battling the blaze alongside overwhelmed crews from the small San Bruno Fire Department, according to news reports. The Blood Center of the Pacific issued an emergency alert and asked for people to donate blood Friday. At San Francis Hospital, a major burn center, medical crews were gearing up to treat more patients. "We do expect more victims," said spokeswoman Theresa Edison.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0910-san-bruno-explosion-20100910.0,4188551.story>

USA, CA, SAN BRUNO, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. PHOTO & VIDEO LINKS – SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA

 **Photo Gallery** <http://bit.ly/LATimesPictures>

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USA, WASHINGTON D.C, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. EPA ESCALATES DEBATE OVER GAS-FRACTURING SAFETY AS IT SEEKS CHEMICALS USED

jim efstathiou

Federal regulators asked companies including [Halliburton Co.](#) to disclose chemicals used to dislodge underground natural gas after residents in two states where the practice is widespread were warned not to drink well water. The U.S. [Environmental Protection Agency](#) asked nine oil service companies to identify chemicals they employ in hydraulic fracturing for a study on potential threats to drinking water, the agency said yesterday in a statement. In fracturing, millions of gallons of chemically treated water are forced into underground wells to break up rock and allow gas to flow. The EPA action is likely to heighten the debate over drilling for gas locked in shale formations, which is accelerating along with concern over possible health and environmental risks. Such production may produce 50 percent of the U.S. gas supply by 2035, up from 20 percent today, according to [IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates](#). "EPA is taking seriously its charge to examine the risks associated with hydraulic fracturing," Kate Sinding, senior attorney with the New York-based [Natural Resources Defense Council](#), said in an interview. "As EPA goes forward with its studies, we may well see recommendations about what the states can and should be doing better, as well as plans for more federal oversight."

Wyoming, Pennsylvania

On Aug. 31, the EPA told residents of Pavillion, Wyoming, not to drink water after benzene, methane and metals were found in groundwater. Pennsylvania regulators issued a similar warning to residents near [Chesapeake Energy Corp.](#)'s gas wells after reports on Sept. 2 of water bubbles in the Susquehanna River. States have taken the lead in overseeing the boom in hydraulic fracturing after the EPA's oversight role was limited by a 2005 energy bill. Congress is debating legislation to give the EPA explicit authority over the process. Since 2008, 1,785 wells have been drilled in Pennsylvania's portion of the Marcellus Shale, a gas-rich rock formation from New York to West Virginia. New York regulators have placed a moratorium on new gas drilling and the state senate voted in August to prohibit new permits until May 15. The EPA will hold public hearings on the issue in Binghamton, New York, next week. "The companies have different views on whether or not they should be providing this information," [Kevin Book](#), managing director at ClearView Energy Partners LLC, a Washington-based policy analysis firm, said in an interview. "The EPA is nudging in everywhere they see what looks like state accommodation."

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Halliburton Statement

Houston-based Halliburton said it would comply with the request. "Halliburton supports and continues to comply with state, local and federal requirements promoting the forthright disclosure of the chemical additives that typically comprise less than one-half of one-percent of our hydraulic fracturing solutions," [Teresa Wong](#), a Halliburton spokeswoman, said yesterday in an e-mailed statement. EPA's request for companies to volunteer the information also went to Schlumberger Ltd.; BJ Services Co., which was acquired this year by Baker Hughes Inc.; [Complete Production Services Inc.](#); Key Energy Services Inc.; Patterson-UTI Energy Inc.; RPC Inc.; [Superior Well Services Inc.](#) and [Weatherford International Ltd.](#), according to the agency's statement. "We are pro-actively evaluating all of our wells in the area and we are prepared to take all necessary steps to remedy the situation," Chesapeake spokesman Brian Grove said in an e-mail. "Based on comprehensive field testing, the issue does not pose a threat to public safety or the environment."

'Misinformation' Campaign

Gas drilling is safe and will benefit residents and produce tax revenue, the Hamburg, New York-based [Independent Oil & Gas Association of New York](#), an industry group whose directors include representatives from Halliburton and [Talisman Energy Inc.](#), said in a statement. Critics of fracturing in New York have waged a "a calculated campaign of misinformation and ignorance," said IOGA executive director Brad Gill. "Our position is generally we have no qualm with disclosing what it is we're adding to the water we're pumping," [Joe Winkler](#), chief executive officer for Houston-based Complete Production Services, said in an interview. Since 2009, the EPA has been investigating complaints of tainted groundwater in Pavillion, Wyoming, in Fremont County, about 100 miles (161 kilometers) west of Caspar. While the latest round of tests detected petroleum hydrocarbons, including benzene and methane, in wells and in groundwater, the agency said it could not pinpoint the source of the contamination.

More Tests

Further tests are planned. The EPA is working with Calgary-based EnCana Corp., the primary gas operator in the area, according to a [statement](#). Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake was issued a notice of violation and is working with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to determine the source of gas detected in the Susquehanna River and at six private water wells this month. The Chesapeake wells haven't been fractured with water and chemicals and aren't producing gas. "This scientifically rigorous study will help us understand the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water, a concern that has been raised by Congress and the American people," EPA Administrator [Lisa Jackson](#) said in a statement.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-09/epa-asks-nine-companies-to-disclose-chemicals-for-gas-extraction.html>

MALTA, SEPTEMBER 10 2010, FIVE WOMEN OUT OF A TOTAL 169 VICTIMS HAVE DIED IN EXPLOSIONS

elaine attard

Since 1882, there have been five deaths of women due to fireworks explosions and all were not directly involved in producing fireworks, according to historian Eddie Attard speaking to The Malta Independent, yesterday. Mr Attard is better known for his research and book writing on criminality and homicides in Malta but he is also interested in keeping records on tragedies related to fireworks. He added that since 1882, 169 persons lost their life due to fireworks, five of whom were women. The first recorded female deaths due to fireworks explosions were of Concetta Sisner and Lonza Muscat known as Ta' Gardina in 1903. Ms Sisner, was the sister of the Balzan parish priest at the time, Amabile Sisner. Reader Gabriel Ebejer forwarded to The Malta Independent, an excerpt from the book Hal Balzan published in 1999. The book stated that an explosion occurred at around 8pm, as chemicals were being mixed to make colour fireworks in the feast club adjacent to Ms Sisner's residence. It was thought that some of the mixture in the air came in contact with a paraffin lamp and thus exploded. Some days later Lonza Muscat lost her life due to injuries sustained during the explosion, in which 42 persons had been injured. At the time, the philharmonic society 'La Valette' of Valletta had collected money in aid of the families of the victims and to pay for the funerals of the deceased. At the time there were no laws or regulations governing the production of fireworks explained Mr Attard. It was only in 1904 that the government started to introduce some sort of legal framework after a fireworks tragedy in Zejtun had claimed the life of five people. On 4 July, 1923, Guzeppa Bugeja, 40, lost her life after a petard fell on the roof of her house in Qrendi where she was watching a ground fireworks display with her family, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The ceiling had collapsed and others had been injured but only Ms Bugeja lost her life in this unfortunate event. More recently, a tragedy caused by a fireworks explosion in a private garage in Naxxar on 12 March, 2008, had taken away the life of Sina Bugeja, a wife and mother of two. The tragedy is considered by many as the worst to date, because it took place right in the middle of a residential area at Hal Dghejf. A 57-year-old man, known as Pawlu ta' Mniehru, who it is understood was illegally manufacturing the fireworks in the garage at the time of the explosion, also lost his life in the tragedy. Antinette Farrugia, 27,

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lost her life in the last fireworks factory explosion, last Sunday at Gharb. This was the fifth fireworks factory explosion this year, taking away the life of six people – five of the six dead all from the same family, and one family friend. The media reported that Ms Farrugia was pregnant, but this has not been confirmed.

<http://www.independent.com.mt/news.asp?newsitemid=111841>

MALTA, VALLETTA, SEPTEMBER 10 2010. ARE FIREWORKS FACTORIES STICKING TO SAFETY RULES?

Addressing the media shortly after officially congratulating lawyer Peter Grech in his new role as Attorney General, Justice and Home Affairs Minister Carm Mifsud Bonnici yesterday said an inquiry on fireworks factories was launched to “ascertain whether fireworks factories are adhering to the stipulated and necessary safety measures as outlined by the ministry years before”. In the wake of the Gharb fireworks factory explosion last Sunday, which claimed the lives of six persons, Dr Mifsud Bonnici announced the appointment of a board of inquiry to identify the potential causes of such accidents and make recommendations for better safety at fireworks factories. Sunday's blast was the fifth fireworks factory explosion this year. Other explosions took place in Qormi, Zejtun, Gharghur, and Mosta, claiming the lives of 10 persons so far. “No one as yet knows the reasons behind these explosions. They could be the result of negligence by the fireworks makers or, as rumour has it, that some of the explosions occurred because some of the material imported to make fireworks in Malta is of an inferior quality. “While magisterial inquiries are under way, it is time to put to rest once and for all this speculation, which has mainly come about of late from the local media. The Maltese and especially relatives of the victims have the right to know the truth behind all these unfortunate explosions,” said Dr Mifsud Bonnici. Speaking to The Malta Independent on Sunday, in the wake of the explosion at the 15 August Santa Marija fireworks factory in Dwejra last August, Servolo Delicata, a member of the fireworks inspectorate in the Justice and Home Affairs Ministry, commented that there were multiple factors that triggered the fireworks factory explosions in recent years, and that the increased use of materials of inferior quality could very well be one of the reasons. Mr Delicata was also of the belief that the blast at the fireworks factory in Dwejra, limits of Mosta, could be the first to have been caused by igniters. Concern over the quality of materials being used in the manufacture of fireworks has been growing among enthusiasts in recent months. According to Mr Delicata, most worrying is the use of a metal fuel dubbed in Malta as ‘magal’ – derived from the word magnalium and its abbreviations of Mag.Al or Mg.Al. Dr Mifsud Bonnici called, however, for calm about the whole issue. “Feasts are part of the local tradition, and they will always remain so. Calls for a moratorium on the issue are, in reality, simply not feasible. “Despite all these explosions, there are a lot of fireworks makers and factories that have never been involved in any accidents and carry out their work to utmost perfection. “As part of the inquiry, the board is considering comparing how fireworks are made in Malta and how they are made abroad. Moreover, some of the materials which are used to make these fireworks will be collected and compared with those of foreign factories. “Such an inquiry will take time, so it is useless setting a deadline for it to be concluded. What I want is a meticulous and strict inquiry,” he said. The work of fireworks licence holders to be reviewed annually What concerned him most from this “chain of unfortunate events”, said Dr Mifsud Bonnici, was the explosion of the 15 August Santa Marija fireworks factory, since it was “one of the safest factories around”. When asked whether licences of fireworks makers are reviewed on a regular basis, Dr Mifsud Bonnici replied: “The work conducted by all licence holders, and which is carried out in fireworks factories is reviewed on an annual basis by experts in the field. If a factory or a licensee is not sticking to the obligatory safety procedures, the licence is revoked and the person has to re-apply. “What goes on in these factories is scrutinised and analysed regularly, leaving no room for error. And yet, for some reason, these explosions continue to take place. It is time for the country to finally find out why some of them have been blown to bits,” said Dr Mifsud Bonnici. According to a legal notice, those wishing to lend a hand in the manufacturing of fireworks have first to file an application with the police. The applicant is normally assisted, for the first few weeks, by someone with a wealth of experience in the fireworks field. After learning the ropes, the applicant is then analysed by an expert, going through certain tasks alone, and if successful, is granted a licence to work in fireworks factories. Licences range from D, which is that at the lower end of the scale and means that the person has a basic knowledge of fireworks, to A, the highest licence obtainable, which normally signifies that the person is competent in the making and manufacturing of fireworks. Maltese law also stipulates that works cannot be carried out in fireworks factories unless there is someone in the premises holding an A licence.

<http://www.independent.com.mt/news.asp?newsitemid=111839>

UK, SOMERSET, SEPTEMBER 11 2010. WOMAN DIES AFTER A39 TANKER COLLISION NEAR STREET

A woman has died after the car she was driving collided with a fuel tanker in Somerset. Emergency services were called to the A39 at Walton, near Street, following reports of the accident on Friday afternoon. She was taken to hospital by air ambulance, but died shortly after arriving. The driver of the tanker was unhurt and his load of kerosene was not spilled on to the road.

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"Anyone who witnessed the collision which happened at 1410 BST, on 10 September, is asked to contact police. "The road is expected to be closed for some time," a force spokesman said. Traffic in the area was reported to be heavy and police were urging motorists to find an alternative route.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-11265750>

UK, LONDON, SEPTEMBER 11 2010. GAZPROM MAY BUY TOTAL'S UK PETROL STATIONS >> SOURCES IN RUSSIA TOLD THE GUARDIAN THAT THE ENERGY GROUP'S OIL ARM, GAZPROM NEFT, WAS LOOKING AT THE PETROL STATION ASSETS



Tank you and good night ... Total exit

The Russians may be coming – to a petrol station near you, if the latest upheaval in the oil industry comes to pass. French energy group Total wants to sell off up to 500 UK forecourts and Gazprom from Moscow is an interested buyer. The Muscovites have long eyed a major move into Britain but backed off after ideas of taking over British Gas triggered a minor political earthquake in Westminster. Gazprom declined to comment about its latest plans, but well-placed sources in Russia told the Guardian that its oil arm, Gazprom Neft, was looking at the petrol station assets. Total, which was recently fined £3.6m for its role in the Buncefield fuel refinery fire in Hertfordshire in 2005, said it was reviewing the future of 480 directly owned forecourts and contracts to supply 300 franchised-out stations. The French company accounts for 9% of the UK market, selling more than 3bn litres of fuel and lubricants each year, and recently put its Lindsey oil refinery in North Lincolnshire up for sale. But the company, which employs 6,500 staff and is said to support 35,000 others, says it will not quit the country. Gazprom, which is controlled by the state, provides a quarter of all mainland Europe's gas. The Kremlin has been accused by the west of using energy as a political weapon after it cut off supplies to the Ukraine and Belarus.

Gazprom Neft is keen to expand outside Russia. It recently bought the service stations and other interests of the main oil company in Serbia. David Clark, a former UK government adviser who has been critical of Gazprom in the past, said he did not see any possible strategic threat from Russia buying British petrol stations but added: "I don't understand why a heavily indebted Gazprom goes round buying downstream assets when it needs to spend large amounts on getting gas out of the ground." Britain and Russia have enjoyed an uneasy political relationship over the past decade but Russian oligarchs have bought up everything from Chelsea football club and the Independent newspaper to auto firm TVR. BP, which is one of Russia's biggest foreign investors through the joint venture TNK-BP, has also been through turbulent times. BP and some other oil companies have long claimed that retailing petrol in Britain brings relatively little reward given the intense competition from supermarkets. They point out that the bulk of the pump price goes to the government in tax. Critics have often argued that the claims are motivated by an attempt to calm angry motorists who resent the very high fuel prices in Britain and the massive global profits produced by the oil majors. Almost 2,000 petrol stations have closed over the past six years, with big oil companies preferring to spend their money on the "upstream" exploration and production side of the business, where profit margins are higher.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/sep/10/gazprom-neft-total-petrol-stations-gas>

USA, MT, BIG FORK, EVEN VALLEYS, SEPTEMBER 11 2010. FUEL TANKER TRAILER ROLLS ON HIGHWAY 35 NEAR BIGFORK



Photo Gallery http://www.dailyinterlake.com/news/local_montana/article_ee288db6-bd1f-11df-8349-001cc4c03286.html



A fuel tanker truck had its pup trailer fall into a ditch Friday morning after the driver began to turn right off of Montana 35 onto Highway 209 and attempted to avoid a school bus that was turning right off of Highway 209. The Bigfork Fire Department, Montana Highway Patrol, the Montana Department of Transportation, and Bolsters Towing reported to the scene. Another truck (pictured) was brought to the scene to siphon gas from the fallen trailer, from which minimal gas leaked and contained by crews.

The pup trailer on a City Service Valcon fuel tanker truck out of Kalispell is on its side in the ditch at the junction of state highways 35 and 209 on the southern edge of Bigfork. There are no injuries and no fuel was spilled, Tyler Reed of the Montana

Highway Patrol said. "We're just trying to hoist the trailer out right now and we should be on our way," Reed said at 11:15 a.m.

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The wreck occurred just before 7 a.m. Friday. Reed said the northbound tanker truck was making a righthand turn onto Highway 209 when one of the pup trailer's tires was sucked in by the soft shoulder. That caused it to roll. The truck and main trailer remained upright. Reed said no citations were issued. The Montana Transportation Department's motor carrier services is on the scene.

http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/article_9cb88508-bd01-11df-a8fa-001cc4c03286.html

USA, FLA, OSCEOLA COUNTY, SEPTEMBER 11 010. TANKER OVERTURNS IN OSCEOLA COUNTY, UNKNOWN WHAT TANKER WAS CARRYING

 <http://www.wesh.com/slideshow/news/24959525/detail.html>



A fuel tanker overturned on Friday on Buena Ventura Boulevard near the intersection of Competition Drive. Buena Ventura was closed to traffic in both directions. An Osceola Fire Department spokesperson said there was no information on what the tanker was carrying. The spokesperson said the tanker is not leaking. Two people were trapped after the incident, authorities said. A medical helicopter could be seen at the incident to transport patients.

<http://www.wesh.com/news/24959367/detail.html>

USA, N.J, PARSIPPANY, SEPTEMBER 11 2010. TANKER TRUCK CRASH IN PARSIPPANY, NJ KNOCKS OUT PHONE SERVICE

 **Photo Gallery:**

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=C0&Dato=20100909&Kategori=NEWS01&Lopenr=9090801&Ref=PH&Profile=1005&SectionCat=NEWS01>



An accident occurred at about 7:30 a.m. Thursday in the area of Meadowbluff and Old Dover roads, involving a tanker truck.

An accident between a tanker truck and a pick-up truck on Old Dover Road knocked out telephone service in the area, including to some county social service offices and full service wasn't expected to return until this evening, officials said. Complete details on the crash, including the identities of the drivers and their conditions, were not available Thursday night. The tanker truck was carrying the chemical bioxide, a non-hazardous substance used by waste water treatment plants, according to Scott DiGiralomo, coordinator of Morris County's Office of Emergency Management. DiGiralomo said only a small amount of dioxide leaked from the truck, and that crews were working to transfer the remainder of the

substance Thursday night. Parsippany Police Officer Earl Kinsey said the accident caused communication service outages affecting county social service offices on West Hanover Avenue. Joe Garifo, a Morris County information officer, confirmed that there were significant communication problems at the Office of Temporary Assistance and Morris View Healthcare Center. He said there were also "partial" phone service outages at the Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans. The Youth Shelter and Juvenile Detention Center have full telephone access, Garifo said. As a result, the Office of Temporary Assistance was unable to provide electronic benefits transfer cards that would enable cardholders to access benefits. While the office could still receive new applications, it would be unable to process them until next week, Garifo said. Clients with emergencies can come to either the Hanover Avenue or Dover offices to be seen by a social worker and other emergency assistance such as food or gift cards will be provided based on need. Regular telephone service is also disabled at Morris View Healthcare Center. However, the facility is equipped with two-way radio communication, cell phones and e-mail communication, ensuring that all residents are safe and families can communicate as needed, according to Garifo. The county has established emergency cellular service for anyone trying to reach the Office of Temporary Assistance or Morris View Healthcare Center.

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The number to call in case of an emergency for the Office of Temporary Assistance is 973-207-7448. The office may be reached by e-mail at mcota@co.morris.nj.us. The Morris View number to call in case of an emergency is 973-295-0194.

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USA, WASHINGTON DC, SEPTEMBER 11 2010. CSB CHAIRPERSON RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO CONGRATULATES FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FOR PASSING ORDINANCE REQUIRING SECURITY MEASURES AROUND HAZARDOUS OIL AND GAS SITES



The CSB issues the following statement from CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso:

"Yesterday, the Board of Supervisors of Forrest County, Mississippi, passed an ordinance requiring critical security measures, including fencing and signage, be placed around hazardous oil sites. I congratulate the Forrest County supervisors for taking this vital step in protecting human lives, particularly those of teenagers and young adults who like to hang out at these sites in rural areas. "The Board's action today means positive action will result from the tragic deaths of 18-year-old Wade White and 16-year-old Devon Byrd who were killed on October 31, 2009, when a natural gas condensate tank, located in a clearing in the woods near the

home of one of the boys in the town of Carnes, Mississippi, suddenly exploded. "It is my hope that authorities throughout Mississippi and other states with similar oil sites take this kind of action which will save lives." A report issued by the county's emergency management office in July 2010 stated there were 119 oil and gas sites in the county. Of these, only a small percentage were fenced. According to the Forrest County Board of Supervisors, the ordinance requires the following in and around oil sites:

- Continuous fencing five feet high, topped with one strand of barbed wire. The distance of the fencing from the tanks will be determined by the county fire marshal.
- Each gate must be marked with a sign warning that the facility is an oil and gas site, stating it is a "no smoking" area, and containing the name of the site licensee and permit holder, the company's 24/7 emergency phone number, the emergency 911 address, and the number of the county sheriff. Other signs must be posted along the fencing at intervals to be determined by the fire marshal.
- Vehicle or pedestrian gates must be locked as well as
- any "door, hatch, ladder, airway, stairwell, or similar device controlling access to any improvement associated with the facility."

The ordinance also states that its passage does excuse any oil site licensee or permit holder to fail to install or maintain any other safety feature at any oil and gas facility as may be required or indicated in a law or industry standard. The law is scheduled to take effect 90 days from the date the ordinance is finalized by requirements supplied by the fire marshal of the county. On April 13, 2010, the CSB Board urged oil and gas production companies, state legislatures, and regulators to ensure that oil and gas tank sites are properly secured and have appropriate warning signs to discourage entry. The Board also urged parents and teachers to educate teens about the potentially deadly risk from these sites. On August 19, 2010, at an informal legislative hearing in Jackson, Mississippi, the CSB's Chairman Moure-Eraso called on Mississippi legislators and officials to increase safeguards at the oil and gas sites across the state. Dr. Moure-Eraso pointed out that the CSB has found accidents have occurred at rural oil and gas sites in states across the country, killing and injuring children, teenagers, and young adults. These individuals were seemingly unaware of the significant explosion and fire hazards at oil and gas production well and storage sites. According to a CSB investigation, 26 similar accidents at oil and gas sites resulted in 44 fatalities among teenagers and young adults between 1983 and 2010. The Board found that since 2003 alone, oil and gas site explosions caused 16 deaths to members of the public, all less than 25 years old. A 2003 explosion in Long Lake, Texas, killed four teenagers; a 2005 explosion in Ripley, Oklahoma, killed a 19-year old man and a 20-year-old man; a 2007 explosion in Mercedes, Texas, killed three teenagers; and a 2007 explosion in Routt National Forest, Colorado, killed two teenagers. Many explosions reportedly occurred when victims inadvertently brought a cigarette, match, or lighter into contact with vapor from storage tanks. The CSB convened a task force to look into state and federal rules and regulations governing the safety and security of oil and gas production sites. A draft report and recommendations from the task force will be considered by the board this fall. At a news conference and public meeting in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on April 13, 2010, the CSB released the

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safety video ["No Place to Hang Out: The Danger of Oil Well Sites."](#) which is aimed at educating young people on the hazards of socializing at the sites, a popular though sometimes deadly pastime among teenagers and young adults in rural areas. Chairman Moure-Eraso said at the hearing in Jackson, "The CSB encourages the state of Mississippi to be a champion of oil site safety for the rest of the country. I encourage the oil and gas industry, state legislatures, and federal and state regulators to learn from these tragedies and to take immediate action. The lives of too many young people are being lost when they could be easily saved by securing the oil sites with fences and warning signs." 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 - DIGITALJOURNAL.COM, SEPTEMBER 11 2010. NEW STUDY: OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP WORKERS SUFFER LONG-TERM ILLNESSES

 Watch the Video <http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/297358>



Containers of the dispersant Corexit stand unguarded near the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

A long-term study of clean-up workers associated with the Prestige oil spill off Spain's northwest coast in 2002 has been published and may provide data on potential health problems facing Gulf coast clean-up workers linked to the BP oil spill of 2010. A new study, *Health Changes in Fishermen 2 Years After Clean-up of the Prestige Oil Spill*, was published late last month in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and sheds light on long-term health issues surrounding oil spill clean-up workers. [The study](#) was conducted by Spanish researchers with an objective of assessing "respiratory effects and chromosomal damage in clean-up workers" two years after their exposure to the oil spill. Many of the workers were local fishermen who helped in the massive effort to clean the beaches along Spain's Costa da

Morta, or Coast of Death. About 20 million gallons of oil spilled into the sea when the Prestige broke open and sank along Spain's northwest coast. The researchers' study found that persons participating in the Prestige oil spill were associated with "persistent respiratory symptoms, elevated markers of airway injury in breath condensate, and chromosomal damage." Of particular importance is the fact that the Prestige oil spill and BP's debacle are significantly different. For one thing, the BP spill was about 10 times larger than the Prestige spill and lasted for months. Second, the BP spill was primarily light crude oil whereas the Prestige spill was carrying heavy fuel oil. The BP catastrophe also relied heavily on the use of carcinogenic dispersants, to the tune of at least 1.8 million gallons, to help keep the oil submerged and away from Gulf coast beaches. Dispersants were not used as intensively on the Prestige spill. The BP spill also relied on collecting and burning surface oil, creating huge billowing clouds of black smoke spread over a vast area of the Gulf region by ocean breezes. This was not the case for the Prestige spill. What makes the Prestige oil spill disaster unique is that, among the 38 supertanker oil spills which occurred during the last 50 years, it is the only spill to monitor oil spill clean-up workers long-term for illnesses. A similarity each spill shares is their severity. The Prestige spill is Spain's largest environmental disaster and the BP calamity is the largest man-made disaster in US history, to date. In her analysis of the study, Gina Solomon, a scientist at the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#), said: "This type of chromosomal damage has been associated with increased cancer risk and has been reported previously in other workers exposed to benzene, which is a constituent of oil." The study's findings come at a time when [evidence is mounting](#) that pollution from the BP nightmare is contaminating Gulf coast residents and oil clean-up workers bodies. Blood tests on Gulf coast residents are now showing levels of exposure to toxic chemicals associated with crude oil and dispersants. Among the chemicals beginning to make their mark are ethylbenzene, xylene and hexane. The [Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals](#) has released its latest report on the health impacts related to the BP catastrophe, with data compiled through Sept. 4. It has found there were 399 reports of health complaints in the state that are believed related to oil spill and dispersant exposure. The general population constitutes 86 of that number and 313 associated with clean-up workers. Most frequently reported symptoms include headaches, nausea, dizziness, vomiting, fatigue/weakness, and upper respiratory irritation. Solomon added in her analysis: "The bottom line is that we can't assume that all the findings of this study will necessarily apply to workers in the Gulf, but the study certainly raises serious concern about long term respiratory and cancer risks to oil spill clean-up workers, and underscores the need to protect workers, provide them with access to medical care, and follow-up their health status in the future."

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USA, IN, LIBERTY TWP, SEPTEMBER 11 2010. IND. FIREFIGHTERS VIOLATED OSHA REGULATIONS IN RESCUE ATTEMPT - TWO MEN DIED AND TWO FIREFIGHTERS WERE OVERCOME BY FUMES AFTER ENTERING A WELL PIT.

The heroic confined-space rescue efforts of Liberty Township volunteer firefighters on May 26 has landed them in hot water. State officials say the volunteers violated occupational safety and health regulations. As a result, the township fire department is taking corrective action to avoid having to pay a \$1,500 fine imposed by the Indiana Department of Labor. An investigation by DOL found that a team of firefighters who were not trained in confined-space rescue entered a 5-foot-diameter by 12-foot-deep well pit to rescue four people -- including two firefighters -- who had been overcome by muriatic acid vapor and/or hydrogen sulfide. Plumber Eric Dalton, 40, and his assistant, Justin Benson, 19, both of Anderson, died after the incident at 5009 E. Centennial Ave. Volunteer firefighters Rick Compton Sr. and Brian Buck were overcome by fumes as they tried to rescue the two men, who had entered the pit to make repairs. It is not out of the ordinary to use muriatic acid to clean well pumps, pipes and other components with sulfur buildup and corrosion. Both firefighters survived. Compton and Buck had arrived on the scene in their personal vehicles and street clothes ahead of their fellow firefighters, who were traveling in fire trucks with rescue gear. Compton and Buck entered the well unaware of the dangerous fumes below. All four men were unconscious when other firefighters arrived. Assisted by Muncie firefighters trained in confined-space rescue, volunteer firefighter Miles Waters, wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus, harnessed the victims so they could be pulled out. "What they're complaining about is we weren't trained to do what we were doing," said Brent Devine, chief of the Liberty volunteer fire department. "We are not trained in confined-space rescue." As a result, the fire department is changing its rules "to make sure we are not doing anything we are not trained in," Devine said. "We also have stopped the use of all personal vehicles driving to the scene like Rick and Brian did." Devine told DOL that it would take his department three years to train and equip firefighters for confined-space rescue. "All we can do in the future is get there, recognize the confined space, and call for a confined-space rescue team," Devine said. The Muncie Fire Department has such a team. In the meantime, Liberty Township firefighters, based on the strong recommendation of DOL, are completing technical rescue awareness courses provided through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. The class provides basic background to help firefighters identify confined spaces, to be aware of the dangers involved, and to reinforce the message that confined space rescue is too dangerous to attempt without proper training and equipment. Knowing what they know now, would the volunteer firefighters have sent the untrained Waters into the hole to rescue his fellow firefighters? "The DOL asked us that, too," Devine said. "We would have done the same."

<http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/thestarpress/access/2133887411.html?FMT=FT&FMTS=ABS:FT&fmac=4e279398d45e775ca5f9249eb077eb7d&date=Sep+9%2C+2010&author=SETH+SLABAUGH&desc=Volunteer+firefighters+involved+in+a+May+well-rescue+violated+labor+laws>

USA, HI, HONOLULU, SEPTEMBER 11 2010. DOLE CANNERY REOPENED AFTER NEARBY EXPLOSIONS FORCE EVACUATION

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=13135413>

Fire officials allowed occupants back into the Dole Cannery in Iwilei late Friday afternoon after several explosions and a suspected vapor leak on an adjacent lot caused an evacuation lasting several hours. Fire crews were called to the scene shortly before 1:30 PM when witnesses reported hearing a loud boom. Fire officials confirmed that six explosions occurred at around 1:15 PM. The first one was very loud and was followed by five smaller blasts. Six workers were decontaminating soil on the lot through remediation. It's a chemical process and somewhere along the way, something went wrong. That's when folks heard the loud boom. The incident occurred on a vacant lot between the building site of the new Lowe's store fronting Nimitz Highway and the Dole Cannery. Police shut down Pacific Street and Iwilei Road for several hours during the incident. Fire officials declared the situation stabilized late Friday afternoon. The property was turned back over to the company Westin Solution. No property damage or injuries were reported.

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