



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 705 Newsy Stuff

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

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USA, MI, WHITE OAK TWP, APRIL 24 2011. GASOLINE CLEANUP MAY TAKE LONG TIME >> INGHAM'S DRAIN COMMISSIONER CONCERNED OVER SAFETY ISSUES

louise knott ahern

By the Numbers

- 126,000 estimated number of gallons of gasoline released from the Marathon Pipe Line leak
 - 19,026 number of gallons that had been recovered from the ground as of Friday
 - 12,000 number of miles of pipelines in Michigan
 - 50 the number of barrels of lost product required to be considered a "significant incident" by the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
 - 3,000 estimated number of barrels lost in the Stockbridge leak
- Marathon estimates 42 gallons per barrel Sources: Ingham County Emergency Operations Center; U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Water Testing

Marathon Pipe Line LLC is offering bottled water and well testing to anyone near the site of the Stockbridge gasoline leak. To request either call (734) 676-7775.

The pipeline failure that dumped 126,000 gallons of gasoline into the soil of rural Ingham County earlier this month has raised the ire of the county's top water official, who says he's been battling oil companies for two years over the safety of their infrastructure here. Ingham County Drain Commissioner Patrick Lindemann said that even before high-profile disasters like last year's Kalamazoo River oil spill raised national awareness about pipeline integrity, he began asking fuel companies for maps of where their pipes intersect with county drains and how deeply they are buried. He wants the information to better protect his drain crews while they're working and so he can act as quickly as possible if a leak occurs near a drain that may affect the ground water. But he said his efforts have so far resulted in only scant information, indications of major safety threats and a sinking fear. "I don't think they know where they all are," Lindemann said. "Trying to get that information is like pulling teeth. There are miles and miles of pipelines out there, and I guarantee you they don't know where they all are - their exact locations - and how deep they are. My confidence level today ... is at an extremely low point." Lindemann's questions are among many that remain unanswered as crews work to recover about 100,000 gallons of gasoline still in the ground. It's still not known how long the pipeline was leaking, how far the gasoline has spread within the soil or the last time the Stockbridge pipelines were inspected. Nor is it known how Marathon will approach the situation long term, once it decides the immediate emergency is over. A plan may be available next week. One thing, however, is already clear: The incident is one of the largest gasoline spills Michigan has ever seen. "Make no mistake," said Brad Wurfel, communications director for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. "This is a big deal."

Storage Facilities

More than 12,000 miles of underground pipes deliver oil, gasoline and other volatile liquids around the state, according to the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Enbridge Inc., the company responsible for a pipeline rupture that released 800,000 gallons of oil into a creek that feeds the Kalamazoo River last year, also has a storage facility nearby. It was a Marathon pipe there that caused the leak reported on April 13, and the company now has nearly 200 full-time and contract employees working to clean up the site, according to Robert Calmus, a Marathon spokesman.

No Cost Estimate

The entire process could take years, but there are no estimates yet on how much it will cost the company, said Sgt. Robert Ott, head of Ingham County's emergency management and homeland security team. Marathon will have to dig up all the soil surrounding the leak and replace it for as long as it takes to completely remove all traces of gasoline in the ground, Ott said. He and other officials say they're confident the leak was discovered and contained to the drain quickly enough to stave off any immediate environmental or health threats. Gasoline is considered a hazardous substance because exposure can cause illness and - if consumed in large-enough quantities - death. The fumes can also cause nausea, headaches and dizziness. "Our emphasis is on ensuring that drinking water and the wells are not posing any health threat to anyone," said Dr. Dean Sienko, Ingham County medical director. "Fortunately, we have not found any evidence of contamination ... and so far my staff is telling me they do not see a threat to groundwater. But this story is not over for us. We will continue to monitor this situation to ensure there is no human health threat."

Farmer Reported Leak

The leak was discovered by a hay farmer and horse breeder who, while investigating a strong smell of gas near his land, spotted the telltale iridescent sheen of gasoline trickling into a county drainage ditch on his property next to the fuel tank

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facility. Ott said that by pure luck, his team conducted an exercise just a few months ago about how to handle a potential gas leak at the very facility where the incident occurred. "When we got the call, we were ready to go," Ott said. "It went flawlessly. But this drain runs into the Red Cedar River, and that was one of our big concerns." Lindemann said he wanted the information about pipeline locations because he feared exactly this kind of disaster. The drain where the leak was discovered leads to the Doan Creek, which eventually dumps into the Red Cedar River, which in turn feeds the Grand River. Lindemann said his greatest frustrations are with Enbridge. An Enbridge spokesman said Friday that while he was unaware of any negotiations with Lindemann's office, his company is willing to offer any information requested. "Enbridge would certainly cooperate," said Joe Martucci, a company spokesman reached at home Friday. "It's a case-by-case situation with pipelines. They would have to inspect it and take a look at the situation, and there are different things that could be possible. But it has to be handled on a case-by-case basis." Lindemann said his work has found several disturbing things so far, including:

- Enbridge pipelines alone intersect with 24 county drains in 29 different places.
- Fuel companies cannot accurately say how far all of their the pipelines are beneath drains. In some cases, Lindemann said the pipes were put in so long ago that records no longer exist.
- For the ones they can identify, the pipelines often don't meet depth requirements. In one case, a pipeline is only 6 inches beneath the bottom of a drain, Lindemann said.

The current safety standard requires that pipelines be at least 5 feet beneath the bottom of a drain, Lindemann said.

Timing Ironic

The Stockbridge incident occurred at an ironic time. It was nearly exactly one year after the disastrous Deepwater Horizon oil tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico. Michigan is one of 24 states that will divide \$2 million in grants to create or improve pipeline safety programs. It's unclear how Michigan will use its \$83,000 grant. A call to the Michigan Public Service Commission seeking comment was not returned. The U.S. Department of Transportation, which is responsible for inspections of fuel pipeline facilities, also did not return messages seeking information about inspections of the Stockbridge-area pipelines. In the meantime, the man who discovered the leak says he's ready to leave. Marvin Speer, 68, had been smelling gas for days around the 16-acre hay farm and horse pasture he owns with his wife, Cindy. His 25-year-old stepdaughter lives with them. She gets migraines, and the smell was getting to her. When he and his wife saw the gas leaking into the drain, they called it in. It's been a zoo ever since, he said. "They're doing their job as far as the cleanup goes," Speer said. "I don't think you could ask for more. "But I'm looking back there seeing trucks and fences and lights and equipment and people and rollers rolling right through the center of my hay field. I don't want to see them tearing up everything." Speer said he hasn't asked for any kind of financial compensation from Marathon for his trouble, nor is Marathon obligated to provide any. The company did, however, agree to pay for Speer's stepdaughter and 5-year-old granddaughter to stay in a hotel in Lansing for a while. "A Marathon supervisor was just here to talk to me," Speer said late last week. "I told him I'm at my wit's end. I said I don't want to be here to watch you guys tear up everything that has taken me eight years to build. His comment was that in another five, six, seven years my hay field will be back. I said, 'Sure. But am I gonna be alive? I'm 68 years old. I could be dead by then.'"

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110424/NEWS01/104240535/Gasoline-cleanup-may-take-long-time?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 24 2011. CLEANUP FROM OIL SPILL AT LIBERTY PARK POND COMPLETE

jed boal



Final cleanup efforts from the Red Butte oil spill at Liberty Park Wednesday, April 20, 2011, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Salt Lake City's worst oil spill in history still stings for the people most directly affected, but there are substantial signs of restoration. A hole in a Chevron pipeline spilled 33,000 gallons of crude oil into Red Butte Creek on June 12, 2010. The massive leak went undetected until the next morning, contaminating Red Butte Creek and flowing into the pond at Liberty Park, which was fenced off shortly after the spill. A segment of the Jordan River was also shut down to the public for several weeks while cleanup efforts continued. Since that time, Chevron spent \$2 million to scoop up 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment out of the pond

and restore it. "This basically has been a big detriment to the community," said Salt Lake City Public Utilities Director Jeff Niermeyer. Roughly a quarter of the park was closed to the public for nearly an entire year. Niermeyer worked closely with Chevron throughout the cleanup. Restoration work continues along the creek and in Liberty Park, and he says crews have replaced the concrete wall in the pond and are now in the home stretch. "There's going to be some confirmation sampling on

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some water quality in the next week, but everything is looking good," Niermeyer said. "Essentially the cleanup is all done, and now what we're doing is the restoration from the damage that was done during the cleanup." Initially, Chevron was supposed to finish April 1, but wet weather slowed progress. That disappointed the city, but they insisted the work be done properly. The company says the cleanup is now complete. The city is satisfied, and the fence will come down before May 14. But is the public satisfied? Salt Lake City resident Marina Riedel lives along the creek and has seen the damage — and cleanup — firsthand. "I feel like they've done everything that they probably should do to clean it up, but it's still not perfect," she said. Upstream, Riedel is still trying to assess the long-term damage to the creek in her yard. "Oh my gosh, it was unbelievable. This was like thick, black, viscous, like something from the opening of the 'Beverly Hillbillies.' On days like today when spring runoff is really running down the corridor, it stirs up the smell of oil," she said. "When we're down cleaning the pond out we'll still find pockets where rainbows of oil will come out for a long time. The wildlife is pretty much gone." Riedel feels something has been taken from the community, but believes little more can be done. Investigators concluded that a fierce summer storm blew a tree into an overhead power line, resulting in an electrical arc that burned a hole in the 10-inch-diameter pipeline about the size of a quarter.

From the Archive

- [Salt Lake mayor calls for indefinite shutdown of Chevron pipeline](#) – Dec. 3, 2010
- [Becker says S.L. dodged a bullet on oil spill](#) – Aug. 28, 2010
- [Chevron billed \\$125k for oil's first days](#) – June 29, 2010
- [Jordan River access cut off for oil cleanup](#) – June 15, 2010
- [Oil spill in Red Butte Creek threatens waters, wildlife](#) – June 12, 2010

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705371091/Cleanup-from-oil-spill-at-Liberty-Park-pond-complete.html>

CANADA, WINNIPEG, APRIL 25 2011. WORKERS BACK ON THE SCENE OF MAJOR FUEL SPILL

 **Watch the Video:**

http://winnipeg.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20110423/wpg_fuel_spill_110423/20110423/?hub=WinnipegHome



A worker is on the scene of a diesel fuel spill on Saturday.

CTV News has learned that hundreds of liters of diesel fuel have seeped out of the ground near the Arlington Street Bridge, three weeks after the original spill at the CP Rail Yard. Workers were back on the scene Saturday afternoon cleaning up pools of diesel that have returned. CP officials say up to 2000 gallons of fuel spilled in the original accident. They believe the diesel is seeping out of the ground because of high moisture levels.

http://winnipeg.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20110423/wpg_fuel_spill_110423/20110423/?hub=WinnipegHome

USA, OK, HARRAH, APRIL 25 2011. LIGHTNING POSSIBLE CAUSE OF HARRAH OIL TANK FIRE >> CREWS PUT OUT A FIRE AN OIL TANK FIRE NEAR HARRAH TODAY, THE OKLAHOMA COUNTY SHERIFF REPORTED.

michael kimball



A lightning strike may have been the cause of a fire today at an oil tank fire near Harrah, officials said.

No one was hurt. The fire started about 9:30 a.m. at the oil property near the 5600 block of N Harrah Road, fire [Capt. Todd Davis](#) said. Two fiberglass storage tanks near a well caught fire after a lightning strike. It took about two hours for firefighters to control the blaze, Davis said. [Oklahoma County](#) sheriff's deputies also responded to the fire, spokesman [Mark Myers](#) said.

http://www.newsok.com/lightning-possible-cause-of-harrah-oil-tank-fire/article/3561736?custom_click=masthead_topten

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AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, YEPPEN, APRIL 25 2011. DEATH TOLL ON ROADS NOW 14

adam wartten



Emergency Services crews attend the scene of a fatality involving a B-double fuel tanker and a pedestrian on the Capricorn Highway, near the Yeppen Roundabout. It has been a tragic Easter weekend on Central Queensland roads with two of the state's four deaths to late yesterday afternoon occurring in the region. A pedestrian died after being hit by a B-double fuel tanker on the Capricorn Highway, about 1km from the Yeppen Roundabout, about 3.30pm yesterday. Police said witnesses told them the pedestrian, a 29-year-old man from Zilzie, had walked or ran onto the road as the truck neared. "He has died immediately," the region's top traffic police officer, Inspector Lyle Mitchell, said. He said the driver of the fuel tanker had just started work and was shaken by the incident. "We will look at the circumstances of

the pedestrian and there will be a mechanical check of the truck," Insp Mitchell said.

<http://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/story/2011/04/25/tragedy-haunts-cq-roads-death-toll-on-roads-now-14/>

THE NETHERLANDS, ROTTERDAM, APRIL 25 2011. EXXON PRODUCTION NOT HALTED BY DUTCH REFINERY FIRE

aaron gray-block.

A fire broke out at a refinery of oil major Exxon Mobil in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam on Monday, but no injuries were reported and production was not impacted, a company spokeswoman said. Spokeswoman Ellen Ehmen said the fire erupted in the refinery's desulfurisation unit at about 0445 GMT, but was quickly brought under control. Workers resumed operations shortly after, Ehmen added. The Exxon Mobil Esso refinery is located in the Rotterdam Botlek area, a port and industrial hub for the petrochemical sector in the Netherlands. A spokeswoman for local authorities said the area had not been sealed off and the fire did not appear to have impacted other operations in the area. (Reporting by

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/04/25/exxonmobil-idUSLDE73O02H20110425>

USA, ORE, PORTLAND, APRIL 26 2011. DEQ FINES NORTHEAST PORTLAND PROPERTY OWNER FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has issued \$4,921 in penalties to Portland real estate investor Herbert Lawrence Newmark for environmental law violations associated with an underground storage tank on property he owns at Portland AirPark, 6935 NE 82nd Ave. The property contains an underground storage tank that previously was used to dispense petroleum products but is no longer in use, according to a press release. As the site's owner, Newmark is responsible for obtaining the appropriate permit registration before operating the tank in a temporary closure, as is the current situation. DEQ issued a \$946 penalty for this violation. DEQ also issued a \$3,975 penalty to Newmark for failing to maintain a valid financial responsibility mechanism to adequately close the tank. Until the tank is decommissioned, Newmark is responsible for operating and maintaining the tank in compliance with state regulations. Last July DEQ issued Newmark a field citation, which requested he submit an application for a temporary closure certificate and \$500 permit fee, and provide for financial responsibility. Newmark appealed the penalty March 21. In early April, he emptied and removed the tank.

http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2011/04/deq_fines_northeast_portland_p.html

USA, OH, DAYTON, APRIL 26 2011. HAZMAT CREWS RESPOND TO UNKNOWN TYPE OF FUEL SPILL

Hazmat crews spent hours on Monday afternoon trying to stop a spill from flowing into the Great Miami River. A fuel storage tank broke, leaking gallons of some type of liquid in a neighborhood and down a drain. Fire officials said they are not sure what was in the tank. However, the rain helped the mix move a lot quicker toward the river, but the water diluted it at the same time, authorities said. Jamy Parworth called firefighters as soon as she smelled it. "It was just a chemical smell Initially, then it started smelling like gasoline," Parworth said. She soon discovered where the smell was coming from. "Just a big black pool just starting gushing out of the tank," she said. Officials said the liquid appeared to be either kerosene oil or fuel oil, or possibly a mixture of that and gasoline. They said they believe the spill came from an old tank, containing about 110 gallons. Despite attempts to stop it, some of the mixture managed to get all the way to a water culvert on Second Street that drains into the Great Miami River. The Environmental Protection Agency was called to the scene. It had crews suck up the liquid to help prevent it from getting into the river. Officials said whoever owns the tank will be responsible for the cost of the cleanup, which will likely cost several thousand dollars.

<http://www.whiotv.com/news/27665185/detail.html>

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USA, TX, EAST MOUNTAIN, APRIL 26 2011. FATHER OF 5 KILLED IN EXPLOSION

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.cbs19.tv/story/14511174/father-of-5-killed-in-explosion>

A man burned from head to toe in a workplace explosion Friday morning in Longview dies. Investigators said Casey Scott Wallace was using a torch to cut a vehicle into pieces at Youngblood's Scraps and Metals when a fuel tank ignited and he caught fire. CBS19's Monique Bird spent time with Casey's mom and explains how his family is remembering this 36-year old father of five. Casey Scott Wallace's loved ones sorted through family pictures to show him, as the boy they remember, and as a man who's boyhood love of the military became his career after graduation. But Casey's mother, Debrah Stockstill, said he left the Army when one of his children died of sudden infant death syndrome. But, she said, Casey still kept his big heart for anyone in need. "He only had like two dollars on him," Stockstill recalled. "But there was a guy at the gas pump who that didn't have any gas money or anything. So he gave his last two dollars to that man." But what makes Stockstill proudest she said is knowing her son did his best to support his five-surviving children and wife, who wrote this about Casey. "He had love so special in the world for everyone, but not many people got to experience it." With that, Stockstill said she will be able to focus less on the explosion that took Casey's life and more on remembering him by the little things left behind. "His favorite little toy when he was a kid was GI-Joe. So I got one and I thought, I think I'm gonna put it in his casket." Wallace's funeral is Tuesday, April 26th, at 2pm at Croley Funeral Home in Gilmer. His body will be buried at Morris Cemetery in Pritchett.

<http://www.cbs19.tv/story/14511174/father-of-5-killed-in-explosion>

CHINA, NEW TAIPEI CITY, APRIL 26 2011. TIP LEADS TO DISCOVERY OF FIREWORKS STASH IN TAINAN



The Greater Tainan Fire Department yesterday said a tip led it to discover 302 cases of illegally stored firecrackers, less than two days after a powerful blast killed four people in Wugu District, New Taipei City. Aside from seizing the items, the fire department will also fine the owner of the house, surnamed Tsai, in Jente District between NT\$300,000 (US\$10,400) and NT\$1.5 million. Lee Cheng-chang, captain of the department's Fifth Brigade, said a tip that was received yesterday morning led the department to a large quantity of fireworks being kept in a building constructed of sheet metal. Since the building was located in a densely populated area, the person who tipped-off the department was worried there was the potential for a large number of casualties if there was an accident, Lee said. The series of explosions on Friday, which police believe were triggered by fireworks that were being unloaded from a delivery truck outside an incense shop, killed the truck driver, the owner of the shop, his mother and a motorist driving by, and left 35 others injured. Accompanied by police and the borough warden, Greater Tainan Fire Department officials went to the location in Jente to confirm the information given them in the tip off. After seeing the stacked fireworks in the building through a window, they called the owner of the house. Tsai said he had a legal permit for the fireworks and had only stored them in the building because his store was under renovation. However, he did not provide documents proving he was in legal possession of the fireworks. Meanwhile, as of yesterday, five of the 17 people who were injured in the Wugu blast and admitted to Mackay Danshui Hospital remained hospitalized and 12 others were discharged after treatment. The other injured people were admitted into other hospitals in the Greater Taipei area. Witnesses said they saw the truck explode as its driver was unloading fireworks from the vehicle, and then burst into flames, which police believed was corroborated by physical evidence showing the direction of the blast and the wreckage at the site. Four houses and seven cars were completely destroyed by the blasts, while houses and cars within a radius of hundreds of meters suffered extensive damage. The New Taipei City Fire Department pledged yesterday to strengthen regulations on manufacturing and importing fireworks. New Taipei City Fire Department officials said police were checking the numbers of the calls made from the driver's cellphone in the days before the accident to try to track down the original seller of the products. New Taipei City Fire Department Commissioner Huang Teh-ching said that according to the Firework and Firecracker Management Act, any person wishing to import or manufacture fireworks should obtain permission from the National Fire Agency. The act also requires detailed information to be filed with the agency regarding fireworks transactions, including transportation methods and transit routes for fireworks shipments. However, the owner of the truck in the Wugu blast had not applied for a permit to transport the goods, Huang said. The agency has previously come under scrutiny for its lax supervision of fireworks. It was censured by the Control Yuan in January last year because it "allowed a large quantity of imports of fireworks, but did not appropriately regulate them." The agency said the act was later amended in June last year to require those hoping to import fireworks to obtain a license from local fire departments or face fines ranging between NT\$300,000 and

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NT\$1.5 million. An amendment to the act proposed by Democratic Progressive Party legislators in April last year stipulated that illegal manufacturers of fireworks should serve three to 10 years in prison and pay fines ranging from NT\$2 million to NT\$10 million in the event of fatalities, while those found guilty of causing serious injury would have to serve between one and seven years in jail, as well as pay a fine from NT\$1 million to NT\$5 million. Meanwhile, an eight-year-old girl who helped save her mother's life by demonstrating bravery and calmness after their car was rattled by Friday night's explosion, was lauded for her courage. The young girl, surnamed Kuo, was in a car being driven by her mother when a series of explosions set off by fireworks rocked the area, turning the incense shop and nearby streets into a raging inferno. The girl's mother was hit in the face and knocked unconscious by flying shards of glass and was bleeding profusely. Kuo, who sustained cuts to her hands, cried for help, but she got no answer. She then ran to the driver's side of the car to help her mother, but had trouble opening the door, which was damaged by the blasts. The girl was eventually able to drag her mother out of the car before running to passers-by and getting help. The two were taken to Mackay Memorial Hospital's Danshui Branch, where New Taipei City Mayor Eric Chu paid them a visit yesterday. Chu saluted Kuo for her bravery and coolness during the emergency. According to government statistics, 40 people died in firework manufacturing related explosions in Taiwan from 1994 to 2004 — the most recent period for which figures are available.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2011/04/25/2003501623>

USA, N.Y, ITHACA, APRIL 26 2011. CONTAMINATION FOUND ABOVE FALL CREEK

liz lawyer



Employees of Cornell University and OP-TECH Environmental Services excavate soil on the east side of the building at 726 University Avenue Monday morning. Oil was found in the basement of the building in mid-March and subsequent work found oil in the ground around the building near where a tank was removed in 1995.

Crews for Cornell University's environmental health office on Monday began excavating a site suspected to be the source of an oil sheen seen on the surface of water emanating from a storm pipe on Fall Creek earlier this month. The site is near the outer wall of a university-owned building at 726 University Ave. An empty oil tank was removed from the site in the 1990s, and the source of the current contamination is a bit of a mystery to cleanup workers. "There's quite a bit of contamination," said Steve Beyers, manager of the Engineering Services Group in Cornell's Office of Environmental Compliance and Sustainability. "It's localized, but it's nasty." The contamination was first reported to the state Department of Environmental Conservation in March, and a fisherman reported seeing the sheen on the creek's surface in early April. Beyers said there were no answers forthcoming in the first day of digging. "There's not really any evidence, so we're kind of in the same place we were in before," he said. Beyers said clay in the soil surrounding the site prevented the contamination from migrating. Yet there is no explanation for why the contamination is showing itself now after presumably sitting there for several years. One possibility is an unusually high water table due to the recent rainfall. Crews will continue working at the site for three days, Beyers said.

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20110425/NEWS01/104250355/Excavation-work-begins-Cornell-site-suspected-oil-leak?odyssey=nav/head>

USA, W.VA, MOOREFIELD, APRIL 26 2011. DIESEL FUEL SPILL CONTAINED AT HARDY COUNTY SOUTHERN STATES

An estimated 2,400 gallons of diesel fuel spilled onto the parking lot of the Southern States fuel yard off U.S. Route 220 during filling of an underground tank late Sunday morning, according to the Hardy County 911 center. The incident occurred at about 11:20 a.m., when the off-road diesel fuel used in farm equipment spilled onto the parking lot and storage areas before entering a catch basin and storm drain and into a feeder stream of the South Branch of the Potomac River, according to Paul Lewis, director of the Hardy County 911 center. Most of the spill was contained in the stream with use of absorbent pads and oil-absorbent booms. Fuel that flowed into the river dissipated and was not expected to cause any problems, Lewis said. The site of the spill will reportedly be excavated, possibly to a depth of 6 feet to remove the fuel that leaked into the ground. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection responded to the scene, located on Trough Road off Cunningham Lane. The agency is investigating the incident. Moorefield and Petersburg volunteer fire departments responded along with units from Hampshire and Grant counties and the Allegany County Hazardous Incident Response Team. Absorbent pads were also

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provided by the Petersburg Oil Co., according to the 911 center. Moorefield volunteers were on the call until about 4 p.m. Sunday.

<http://times-news.com/local/x1465575591/Diesel-fuel-spill-contained-at-Hardy-County-Southern-States>

USA, NE, MARTINSBURG, APRIL 26 2011. UPDATE: LUCK ON MARTINSBURG'S SIDE AFTER CHEMICAL LEAK

zach tecklenburg

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kmeg14.com/story/14511615/ammonia-leak-and-evacuation-in-martinsburg>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ktiv.com/story/14511519/update-luck-on-martinsburgs-side-after-chemical-leak>



Folks in Dixon County, Nebraska are breathing a sigh of relief. Around 8:30 Monday morning, anhydrous ammonia leaked in a field on the west side of Martinsburg. A farmer was pulling a tank when it came loose from his tractor. That caused the hose to break, then the emergency valve malfunctioned and failed to stop the leak. Witnesses say they could see a cloud of anhydrous ammonia moving towards town, but it never made it into Martinsburg. Emergency officials say it's mainly because luck was on their side. "You couldn't get a block from it because it smelled so bad," said Bobbi Lamprecht. One smell and Lamprecht knew exactly what was headed straight for Martinsburg. "Ammonia. Like house cleaner ammonia," Lamprecht said. Lamprecht is the manager at Bob's Bar, but she's studying to become a first responder. "We're trained that you have to size up the scene," Lamprecht said. So she understands all too well what anhydrous ammonia can do. "It looked like a geyser," said Lamprecht. She immediately dialed 911. "It

creates a cloud that will take air out of your lungs. Luckily our crews responded fast enough to get the town evacuated," said Dixon County emergency manager Shea Scollard. Emergency crews went door to door to make sure Martinsburg's 100 residents made it out and got to a shelter in nearby Ponca. But the chemical never reached the small town. "It all kind of stayed in the field," said Scollard. Thanks to a calm wind and Sand Creek. The anhydrous ammonia initially created a cloud. The chemical is heavier than air, and once it fell to the ground, its spread was stopped by the creek bed. "Luckily it just finally dispersed," said Scollard. Haz-Mat cleared the scene around 1:00 and folks returned to their homes. "Kind of lucked out today," said Scollard. "We're very lucky," said Lamprecht. Volunteers from five area fire departments dropped what they were doing, and made it to Martinsburg within a half hour of the initial call. It took them about 15 minutes to alert folks in town and everyone within a half mile radius. Four people living near the leak were treated and released at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City. The farmer using the anhydrous ammonia also made it out safely.

<http://www.ktiv.com/story/14511519/update-luck-on-martinsburgs-side-after-chemical-leak>

ECUADOR, CARACAS, APRIL 26 2011. NEW EVIDENCE OF FRAUD FOUND IN CHEVRON VEREDICT, COMPANY DROP LAWSUIT AGAINST STEVEN DONZIGER



Chevron HQ in San Ramon, Calif.

Chevron Corporation (NYSE: CVX) has filed an amended complaint in its lawsuit in federal court in New York seeking to block enforcement and recognition of a judgment entered against the company in Lago Agrio, Ecuador. The amended complaint cites newly discovered evidence that the Lago Agrio plaintiffs' lawyers and consultants, at a minimum, provided clandestine assistance to the Ecuadorian court in drafting the judgment against Chevron. Through its U.S. discovery efforts, Chevron has obtained previously private files belonging to the Lago Agrio plaintiffs' lawyers and their co-conspirators. These files contain numerous and unique errors, large and small, and the same errors and irregularities now appear in the Ecuadorian court's judgment despite never having been entered into the trial

record. "There is no apparent explanation as to how the judgment would have incorporated these errors and irregularities without cooperation between the Ecuadorian court and the plaintiffs' representatives," stated R. Hewitt Pate, Chevron vice president and general counsel. "This is another instance of the fraud and corruption that have permeated the Ecuadorian judicial proceedings." In addition, Chevron dropped a charge from their racketeering lawsuit against an attorney who helped engineer an environmental case that resulted in an \$18 billion judgment against the company in Ecuador, filling a proposed

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amended complaint on Thursday that removes attorney Steven Donziger as a party to one of the counts. According to Court News Services, Kent Robertson, Chevron's spokesman, said Chevron dropped the charge based on "some observations that Judge Kaplan made in prior orders." "The people who own the judgment are the named plaintiffs," Robertson said. "The [Ecuadorian] plaintiffs, or the Frente, could use any attorney on the planet, but Donziger doesn't have a dog in that fight. ... Donziger and his chosen counsel will have every opportunity to explain his misconduct." Hinton was incredulous about Chevron's explanation in a phone interview. "Chevron is accusing Steven Donziger of orchestrating the fraud that would lead to the judgment not being enforceable," Hinton said, adding, "He doesn't have a dog in that fight?" Chevron is one of the world's leading integrated energy companies, with subsidiaries that conduct business worldwide. The company is involved in virtually every facet of the energy industry. Chevron is based in San Ramon, Calif. More information on the Ecuador litigation can be found at www.chevron.com/ecuador and [The Chevron Pit](http://www.thechevronpit.com)

Sources: Chevron Corp / Courthouse News Service

<http://www.petroleumworld.com/storyt11042502.htm>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 26 2011. WIDOW SUES OVER BENZENE EXPOSURE AT SHELL NORCO REFINERY

Michelle Massey

The wife of a deceased Shell Norco refinery worker has filed a lawsuit that argues her husband's death was a result of years of exposure to benzene-containing products. Lois Frank, individually and on behalf of her deceased husband Welman Frank, filed suit against Shell Oil Co., Shell Chemical, Travelers Ins. Co. and the Travelers Indemnity Co. on April 15 in federal court in New Orleans. Frank worked at the Shell Norco refinery from 1972 to 2002 cleaning tanks in the "Coke Unit," the complaint states. Frank was diagnosed with leukemia in 2002 and died as a result of the disease, the suit states. The defendants are accused of fraudulent concealment, negligence, strict product liability, concealment, misrepresentation, fraud and unjust enrichment. The plaintiff is seeking damages for physical pain and suffering, mental anguish and emotional distress, disfigurement and embarrassment, physical impairment, lost earnings, lost earning capacity, physical impairment, physical and mental disability, medical expenses, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of society, consortium, companionship, services, nurture and love and affection, wrongful death damages, survival damages, cancer, fear of cancer, increased risk of cancer, exemplary damages, court costs and interest. Frank is represented by L. Eric Williams Jr. of Williams Law Offices in Metairie and Amber E. Cisney and Richard J. Fernandez of Law Offices of Richard J. Fernandez in Metairie. A jury trial is requested. U.S. District Judge Eldon E. Fallon is assigned to the case. Case No. 2:11-cv-00871

<http://www.louisianarecord.com/news/234999-widow-sues-over-benzene-exposure-at-shell-norco-refinery>

USA, KS, WICHITA, APRIL 26 2011. ABENGOA SUES OVER ACCIDENT AT ETHANOL PLANT

Dan Voorhis

Abengoa Bioenergy, which owns an ethanol plant in Colwich, is suing a contractor over a 2009 industrial accident. In a suit filed last week, Abengoa said that it seeks more than \$3.5 million from Faber Burner Co. of Lock Haven, Pa. Abengoa bought a burner and control system from Faber to be used in ethanol production. In April 2009, Faber technicians serviced the system. The day after they left, on April 18, the boiler controlled by the burner system "experienced a catastrophic failure as a result of an explosion in the fire box." The plant sustained damage that has yet to be fully determined, but at least \$3.5 million, according to the suit. Abengoa maintains that Faber was negligent in designing, building and installing the burner. Representatives from Abengoa and Faber could not be reached for comment. Abengoa has owned the 25-million-gallon-a-year ethanol plant since buying it from High Plains in 2002. Abengoa, based in Spain, develops projects in the areas of solar energy, bioenergy, waste recycling and management, information technology, and engineering and industrial construction.

<http://www.kansas.com/2011/04/26/1822678/abengoa-sues-over-accident-at.html>

CANADA, EDMONTON, APRIL 26 2011. POSSIBLE OIL LEAK SHUTS DOWN TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE



Crews on site just south of Highway 16 after the Trans Mountain pipeline had to be shut down due to a possible oil leak.

An oil pipeline that runs from Alberta to the West Coast has been shut down after a possible oil leak. The pipeline operator, Kinder Morgan, says the pipeline was shut down in response to a small amount of oil in a field approximately 150 kilometres west of the city. A spokesperson says the product has been found to be crude oil, and maintains there is no public health concern. But one resident has expressed

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some concern with her well water. Violet Evans has become a little more careful with her well water after her son found some crude oil on the family's property. "We weren't really concerned until they came and checked out the water, and then we thought it could seep through the soil," she said. Kinder Morgan has taken samples from the family's well water. And the company has told residents there is no cause for any health or safety concerns. But after seeing dozens of crews out at the scene Monday, Evans thinks that is a clear indication that this is big operation. "They seem worried about it, but I don't know," she said. The National Energy Board is overseeing the operation and says there has been no confirmed leak into the nearby creek. Officials are looking into what caused the apparent leak. "We're looking at what the cause will be. They will prepare the pipeline, and we want to make sure the company is ensuring that there are no further environmental issues," said Joe Paviglianiti with the National Energy Board. It's not known when the pipeline will be back up and running. In the meantime, Evans says she won't be taking any chances with her water until the family gets the test results back. "I, myself am concerned about the water. If it is polluted I want another well." The family says results from the water test should be back mid-week.

http://edmonton.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20110425/edm_oil_110425/20110425/?hub=EdmontonHome

USA, WI, STANLEY, APRIL 27 2011. IDENTITY OF WORKER WHO DIED AT STANLEY ETHANOL PLANT DISCLOSED

Paul Gulczynski, an employee at ACE Ethanol in Stanley, died Monday after collapsing at work, the company said. Gulczynski collapsed while helping to clean out a corn bin, said Neal Kemmet, president and general manager of ACE. Gulczynski's co-workers called for an ambulance and began resuscitation efforts, but those efforts were unsuccessful. "Based upon our current knowledge of the events, we believe that Paul died of natural causes," Kemmet said. The company informed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the incident and it will be investigating. ACE will fully cooperate with OSHA's investigation, Kemmet said. The ACE plant opened in Stanley in 2002. The ethanol plant was the first of its kind in Wisconsin.

http://chippewa.com/news/local/article_25d5dad8-7031-11e0-ad3a-001cc4c002e0.html

SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN, APRIL 27 2011. CHEMICALS USED IN HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: A-Z

geraldine bennett

US House of Representatives Committee releases the definitive report. US House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce releases the definitive report on [chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing](#). This 32-pager, described as the "most comprehensive national assessment to date" commissioned by Henry A. Waxman: Committee on Energy and Commerce; Edward J. Markey: Committee on Natural Resources, and Diana DeGette: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, constitutes the list of chemical compounds used in fracking fluid (excluding water). The report covers a five-year period (2005 – 2009) and in it one finds stunners like diesel, benzene and lead amongst others. Cocktail hour despite its comprehensive nature the report is not complete, but a read through it is enough to make your hair stand on end. The lack of completeness is due to some companies still either refusing or unable to submit the constituents of "proprietary" fracking fluids. "Although some companies did provide information about these proprietary fluids, in most cases the companies stated that they did not have access to proprietary information about products they purchased "off the shelf" from chemical suppliers." In other words the companies are injecting fluids containing chemicals that they themselves cannot identify. Fourteen "leading" fracking companies were called on to give the details which revealed that over 2 500 hydraulic fracturing products contained 750 chemical compounds with more than 650 containing chemicals known, or possible, human carcinogens, or listed as hazardous air pollutants. "Overall these companies used 780m gallons of hydraulic fracturing products – not including water added at the well site." [With a market capitalisation of around US\\$244bn these 14 companies include: Basic Energy Services, BJ Services, Calfrac Well Services, Complete Production Services, Frac Tech Services, Halliburton, Key Energy Services, RPC Inc, Sanjel Corp, Schlumberger, Superior Well Services, Trican Well Service, Universal Well Services, Weatherford International.](#) If one were to add the interests of Chesapeake, which owns 30% of unlisted Frac Tech Services, then Chesapeake's market cap is at US\$ 21bn. Total gas company funding – a fracking mammoth US\$265bn. A look through each listed companies 52-week share highs and lows reveals also that there's a spirit not related to the cocktail which is pushing up the price of these shares. Something reminiscent of the tech stock bubble of Silicon Valley some years back. In most cases share price lows have more than double in the period of one year. The most widely used chemical in hydraulic fracturing during this time period, as measured by the number of compounds containing the chemical, was methanol which was used in 342 hydraulic fracturing products. Methanol is a hazardous air pollutant. Some others widely used include isopropyl alcohol (used in 274 products), 2-butoxyethanol (used in 126 products), and ethylene glycol (used in 119 products). In addition, the hydraulic fracturing companies injected more than 30m gallons of diesel fuel, or hydraulic fracturing fluids containing diesel fuel, in wells in 19 states. The use of diesel fuel in fracturing fluids poses the greatest threat to underground sources of drinking water. Diesel fuel contains toxic constituents, including BTEX compounds. The BTEX compounds – benzene, toluene, xylene, and ethylbenzene

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– appeared in 60 of the hydraulic fracturing products. Benzene is a known human carcinogen. The hydraulic fracturing companies injected 11.4m gallons of products containing at least one BTEX chemical over the five-year period.

2-BE or not 2-BE

Hydraulic fracturing companies used 2-butoxyethanol (2-BE) as a foaming agent or surfactant in 126 products. According to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists, 2-BE is easily absorbed and rapidly distributed in humans following inhalation, ingestion, or dermal exposure. Exposure to 2-BE can cause haemolysis (destruction of red blood cells) and damage to the spleen, liver, and bone marrow. The hydraulic fracturing companies injected 21.9m gallons of products containing 2-BE between 2005 and 2009. They used the highest volume of products containing 2-BE in Texas, which accounted for more than half of the volume used. EPA recently found this chemical in drinking water wells tested in Pavillion, Wyoming.

Carcinogens

Ninety-five products containing 13 different carcinogens including naphthalene (a possible human carcinogen), benzene (a known human carcinogen), and acrylamide (a probable human carcinogen) surface in the mix. Overall, 10.2m gallons of fracturing products containing at least one carcinogen with Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma taking the top three exposure spots.

Hazardous Air Pollutants

These may cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or birth defects, or adverse environmental and ecological effects. Fracking companies used 595 products containing 24 different hazardous air pollutants. Hydrogen fluoride is a hazardous air pollutant that is a highly corrosive and systemic poison that causes severe and sometimes delayed health effects due to deep tissue penetration. Absorption of substantial amounts of hydrogen fluoride by any route may be fatal. One of the hydraulic fracturing companies used 67 222 gallons of two products containing hydrogen fluoride in 2008 and 2009. Lead is a hazardous air pollutant that is a heavy metal that is particularly harmful to children's neurological development. It also can cause health problems in adults, including reproductive problems, high blood pressure, and nerve disorders. One of the hydraulic fracturing companies used 780 gallons of a product containing lead in this five-year period. Methanol is the hazardous air pollutant that appeared most often in hydraulic fracturing products. Other hazardous air pollutants used in hydraulic fracturing fluids included formaldehyde, hydrogen chloride, and ethylene glycol.

South Africa Takes a Position

Five days after this report quietly made its entrance in the USA, South Africa took the lead as a developing nation in [placing a moratorium on fracking](#). Details are as yet unknown save to say that South African civil society sought to stop fracking before it led to what the USA and Canada have already been exposed to. In the meantime the US EPA study continues and results are expected around 2013/2014. In the final analysis and where Shell officials did not err during their Karoo trumpeting session, was to state for the record that not all of the chemicals injected at high pressure into the underground are retrieved. In a DoE report of July 2010, prepared by Argonne National Laboratory under the title Water Management Technologies Used by Marcellus Shale Gas Producers, it was clearly stated that although some fracturing fluids are removed from the well at the end of the fracturing process, a substantial amount remains underground.

<http://www.moneyweb.co.za/mw/view/mw/en/page295046?oid=535997&sn=2009+Detail&pid=287226>

USA, AKA, ANIAK, APRIL 27 2011. ANIAK SUFFERS ANOTHER FUEL SPILL; THREE HOMES EVACUATED >> HAZARD: RESIDENTS LIVING NEARBY EVACUATED; SCHOOL CLOSED.

lisa demer

A gasoline spill discovered Monday at a tank farm in Aniak led to the evacuation of three nearby homes and a one-day closure of the village school and post office, the state Department of Environmental Conservation said in a report Tuesday. The school and post office reopened Tuesday, and residents returned home, the DEC said. Several area roads were closed initially, and River Avenue remains closed as a precaution. Gasoline is an explosive and fire hazard and can be dangerous for health if its vapors are inhaled. Aniak is on the south bank of the Kuskokwim River, some 317 miles west of Anchorage. None of the fuel seeped from a containment area at the tank farm, which is operated by Crowley Petroleum Distribution, the DEC said. Crowley estimated the spill at nearly 2,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline. The capacity of the leaking tank is 21,000 gallons; it held 6,500 gallons when gauged last week, according to figures provided to the DEC by Crowley. Volunteer firefighters applied a water-based foam to the containment area to reduce explosive vapors from the gasoline. Crowley hired response contractors, which focused Tuesday on transferring thousands of gallons of fuel remaining in the leaking tank to another tank, said Jim Butler, a spokesman for Crowley. As of Tuesday afternoon, about 6,000 gallons of a fuel-water mix had been pumped from the secondary containment area to another tank, the DEC report said. The water is from snow melt, Butler said. The fuel

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apparently leaked from a small hole in the tank, Butler said. The spill is under investigation, and the cleanup continues. This is the second spill in less than two months at a tank farm operated by Crowley in Aniak. The first one was discovered March 8 at a different tank farm, two miles downriver from the current spill. Just under 7,000 gallons of aircraft fuel spilled when a tank valve was left partially open, the DEC said.

<http://www.adn.com/2011/04/26/1829651/aniak-suffers-another-fuel-spill.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, APRIL 27 2011. 7-ELEVEN CELEBRATES 50TH MOBIL STORE



Just six months into its acquisition of Mobil's retail fuels business, 7-Eleven today reached its 50-store milestone with the simultaneous openings of three outlets in Queensland, Victoria and NSW. CEO Warren Wilmot says the opening of three stores in one day is the result of an incredible effort from the 7-Eleven team and partners. "We're excited that the conversion program is moving along as planned," Wilmot says. The new stores are located in Southport (Qld), Upwey (Victoria) and Blaxland (NSW). Wilmot says the program has so far been a success, with stores overtaking their previous year's performance after an average of six weeks of being converted to the 7-Eleven brand. "While every store is different, we are very pleased with the strong growth results in both merchandise sales and profit that we are seeing so early in the life of our new stores," he says. With almost all of the planned conversion stores now franchised, it is a testament to the strength of the

7-Eleven brand that more than 50 percent of the stores have been taken up internally by existing franchisees and corporate staff and their family members. "It is very encouraging to see so many of our current Franchisees interested in getting additional stores," Wilmot says. "It is a clear indicator of their belief and confidence in the 7-Eleven franchise system," he says. The average sales growth in the converted stores is currently running at 5.1 percent when compared to the previous year's sales.

<http://www.qbr.com.au/news/articleid/73378.aspx>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, FUJAIRAH, APRIL 27 2011. OIL SLICK WASHES ASHORE IN FUJAIRAH



Fujearah's coastline has been hit by oil pollution many times over the past years.

Fujairah's shores were again hit by oil pollution believed to have been caused by sludge dumped by crude tankers plying the Gulf water off the emirate, a newspaper reported on Wednesday. The smelly black oil tar dotting the sandy beaches off Dibba crippled fishing in that area, damaged at least 30 boats and killed a large number of fish before municipal teams launched a clean-up drive, Alkhaleej said. The tar pollution on the beach came after small oil slicks were seen in the water off Sharm and Aqqa areas, the paper said. "We have succeeded in dealing with the pollution and the area is now clean," the paper quoted Hussein Al Yamahi, head of Dibba municipality, as saying. Fujearah's coastline has been hit by oil pollution many times over the past years and officials have blamed oil

tankers and other vessels shuttling the Gulf water. The UAE has enacted laws to penalise vessels dumping waste in its territorial waters but some of them are still violating these laws and throw sludge and other waste after washing their oil tankers. Fujairah, the only UAE emirate located outside the Gulf, is the main regional fuel depot for the more than 100 tankers passing daily through the strategic Hormuz Strait, the Gulf's only water way through which at least a fifth of the world's crude oil exports pass.

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/oil-slick-washes-ashore-in-fujairah-2011-04-27-1.385955>

USA, CA, SANTA ROSA, APRIL 27 2011. 2 HURT IN CHEMICAL BLAST AT AGILENT

henry k. lee

Two people were injured, one critically, in a chemical explosion Tuesday at a Santa Rosa company, authorities said. The blast happened at Agilent Technologies on Fountaingrove Parkway at about 10:30 a.m. and forced the evacuation of more than 100 employees. A determination is expected to be made today on whether the building is deemed safe so employees can return, said company spokesman Jeff Weber. A male Agilent engineering employee who was working on a machine suffered critical injuries in the blast and was transported to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, where he was being treated for burns on

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his face Tuesday night, Weber said. A woman who is employed by another company and works at the Agilent campus suffered a minor head injury from falling objects, Weber said. A chemical buildup on the bottom floor of one of the company's four buildings caused the explosion, Weber said.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/04/26/BAI1J7O7O.DTL&tsp=1>

INDIA, MADURAI, APRIL 27 2011. FIREWORKS UNIT BLAST KILLS 2 NEAR SIVAKASI

Two men were killed and four seriously injured when some chemical mixture exploded in a fireworks unit near Sivakasi in south Tamil Nadu on Tuesday. The accident occurred when the factory foreman went into the storage room where the chemicals were stored and opened the sacks to distribute it to the workers to make the pieces of fireworks, police said. The fireworks unit, owned by R Kanagavel, is located at Narikudi near Sivakasi. The workers had reported for duty as early as 7am. At around 7.30am, five of them had gone to the storage room to receive the chemicals for mixing. Foreman Shiva (33) was opening the chemical cans in the room when there was a loud explosion and two men Irulandi (37) of Thiruvudapuram and Chelladurai (28) of Subramaniapuram were charred to death instantly. Four others, P Suresh (28), Vijayakumar (33), Pon Irulandi (46) and Shiva sustained serious injuries and were rushed to a private hospital in Madurai. Suresh (25) of Krishnapuram was admitted to the government hospital in Sivakasi. Firefighters fought the fire for more than two hours before bringing it under control. There are about 50 rooms in this unit and the storage godown was completely gutted in the accident. Virudhunagar DRO C A Raman told TOI that they would be able to determine the cause of the accident only after a detailed enquiry. "But, it seems that chemicals like sulphur and perchlorate had been stored in the room and workers have to be very cautious in such places where even the smallest friction, such as movement of feet can cause explosions," he said. The DRO said the condition of three of the injured was critical. [Maraneri police](#) have registered a case. Incidentally, the factory also manufactures hand grenades for the military. Accidents at fireworks units continue to haunt Sivakasi. Eight persons were killed in an accident near Virudhunagar in the district on January 21 this year and six persons were killed in another explosion in a fireworks unit near Tuticorin on March 28. Last year, eight persons, all of them revenue staff and police personnel, were killed when they raided an illegal unit near Sivakasi in August. Twenty persons were killed in 22 accidents last year. In 2009, 33 workers were killed in 23 accidents.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Fireworks-unit-blast-kills-2-near-Sivakasi/articleshow/8094948.cms>

CHINA, NEW TAIPEI, APRIL 27 2011. NEW TAIPEI TO BE COMBED FOR FIREWORKS

New Taipei City will spend up to a month trying to track down all the illegal hoards of fireworks and firecrackers in the city, Mayor Chu Li-lun said yesterday. According to reports, the city's fire department will spend a month checking the city's vacant apartments and houses, warehouses, and containers in an attempt to prevent public hazards created by people trying to bypass government scrutiny. The move came after the April 22 blaze in the city's Wugu District, which killed four and left 38 injured, and the seizure of illegal hoards of firecrackers and fireworks in the city and other parts of the country over the past few days. The city government is also a victim, Chu declared at a city government meeting to deal with the aftermath of the blaze, questioning how such lapses in public safety enforcement can happen. This is also the question many people are asking, he added. A lot of public property, such as roads, traffic lights, and schools has been damaged, and the city government has expended a lot of resources, and will expend more, on disaster relief and post-disaster reconstruction, said New Taipei's top official. Expressing regret over the appalling casualties, Chu vowed to help the families of the victims secure compensation from the culprits. At the meeting, Chu told the city's fire department to review the matter and come up with a comprehensive report on the issue by Friday, April 29. The report will have to address such issues as whether or not supervision has been inadequate, whether or not laws are being properly enforced, and whether or not existing laws and regulations have loopholes. Investigations conducted by the police and prosecutors point to Wanta Fireworks, a trucking company and Hsinhsin Tang—the incense and paper money vendor burnt down in the blaze—as likely culprits, Chu said, adding his administration will sue them, or whomever is found to be liable, for damages. Speaking at the meeting, Huang Der-ching, commissioner of the city's fire department, reported on how his department had been dealing with the aftermath, saying inspectors from his department had conducted safety checks at 504 locations, including incense vendors and Buddhist establishments, on April 24 alone. According to Huang, illegal hoards of fireworks and firecrackers were seized in the city's Luzhou and Sanchong Districts and six illegal retailers of firecrackers and fireworks were caught in the city on that day. The offending retailers have all been punished, said the fire chief.

Illegal Fireworks in Kaohsiung

In another development, officers from Kaohsiung's fire department, tipped off by concerned residents, yesterday seized eight tons of illegal firecrackers in a residential area in the port city. A total of 400 cases of fireworks and firecrackers in 13 20-foot

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containers, all under lock and key, were found in an empty lot within shouting distance of a residential block. If accidentally detonated, the haul could damage over 500 homes located within a radius of 500 meters. Even the city's Sanmin High School, which is 800 meters, could also be affected. According to the city's fire department, the containers and all their contents belong to a man surnamed Tsai, who runs a fireworks business. The man, summoned to the lot to open the containers, claimed he rented the lot from a relative as storage space. Residents in the neighborhood call for stiff punishment for Tsai. According to the Kaohsiung Fire Department, Tsai can be fined up to NT\$1.5 million for keeping such a large amount of hazardous goods in a residential area.

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/national/national-news/2011/04/27/300188/New-Taipei.htm>

USA, WA, PORT OF TACOMA, APRIL 27 2011. TACOMA HAZMAT TEAM FIGHTS CARGO SHIP SPILL

Cleanup continues onboard a cargo ship at the Port of Tacoma after an early morning hazardous material spill on Tuesday. Tacoma Fire Department spokesman Joe Meinecke says an ink solvent used in printing leaked out of a container aboard the Hyundai Oakland. "The major threat with that particular chemical is it is highly flammable," says Meinecke. No one was injured, but several crew members complained of burning eyes. The spill was contained to the ship. None of the chemical got into the water. Crews clad in protective suits are using other solvents to clean up the spill. It's not the first emergency response on board the Hyundai Oakland. Last month the ship set off radiation detectors, with radiation found inside an air filter near the engine room. It was disposed of by Department of Health officials.

<http://mynorthwest.com/?nid=11&sid=469461>

USA, WA, POULSBO, APRIL 27 2011. FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO HAZMAT FIRE

Poulsbo Fire Department and Navy Region Northwest responded to a dumpster fire this morning at 11am. The dumpster, which contained titanium shavings, was located at the Twelve Trees business park, on Pioneer Way just off Highway 3. Hazmat crews chose to allow the fire to burn itself out, as water or foam could make the fire worse. Firefighters cooled the nearby structure and the outside of the dumpster with water to prevent more ignitions. Battalion Chief Chris Morrison said, "Our main concern with this type of fire is to keep the area clear of bystanders, as the fumes can be hazardous to your health. There was also some concern about an underground gas line that led to nearby propane tanks, and there were barrels that contained oil products in close proximity. We wanted to ensure the fire didn't get too hot and spread to the nearby building." The business uses titanium to make prosthetic limbs and the business manager said an employee was attempting to weld a crack in the dumpster when the contents ignited. There were no injuries from the fire extinguished itself in just under 3 hours.

<http://www.king5.com/your-news/120741964.html>

USA, OK, TULSA, APRIL 27 2011. HOLLY CORP. SUSPENDS OPERATIONS AT SITE OF FRIDAY'S REFINERY FIRE



A refinery facility that was the scene of a large tanker fire last Friday has been shut down, the company that owns it announced Monday. The Holly Corporation suspended operations at its West facility crude unit after a "mechanical failure" was discovered Friday night, a company spokesperson said. Repairs are scheduled to take place over the next several days. The fire itself recieved no mention anywhere in the company's short statement. Company estimates figure that output from the Tulsa refinery is expected to decrease by 50%. According to its website, the Dallas-based Holly Corporation is an independent petroleum refiner and marketer that produces gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel and other specialty products.

http://www.kjrh.com/dpp/news/local_news/holly-corp.-suspends-operations-at-site-of-friday%27s-refinery-fire

INDIA, RAJASTHAN, JODHPUR, APRIL 27 2011. ALERT DRIVER PREVENTS TRAGEDY

A tragedy was today averted when the driver of a tanker, which had caught fire, drove the vehicle away from the crowded area here. The tanker had caught fire while unloading fuel at a petrol pump near Bombay Motor Circle here this morning, police said. But the driver displayed presence of mind and drove the blazing tanker in a deserted location, three km away from here, they said. "Nisar Khan drove the vehicle through the crowded roads to a deserted place... Some vehicles were damaged when he tried to speed away," they said. Fire tenders rushed to the spot but the vehicle was half burnt till then.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/alert-driver-prevents-tragedy/662709.html>

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UK, WEST MIDLANDS, WALSALL, APRIL 27 2011. TEEN SETS GIRLFRIEND ON FIRE THROWS PETROL ON BBQ

A man accidentally set his girlfriend alight when he threw petrol on to a disposable barbecue. Lindsey Plant's legs were engulfed when the container of fuel caught fire and fell on her. Lindsey, 19, right, suffered 36% burns to both legs and had to be flown to hospital. Boyfriend Chris Flintoff, also 19, had had trouble lighting the barbecue so he poured petrol on from a dish. But when the dish went up in flames, he hurled it behind him – not knowing she was there. Chris's grandad Ronald Poole, 68, said: "The bowl hit her legs and it caught fire. "He managed to put it out with his hands but she's burnt terribly. It's all the way down her legs to her ankles. She's going to have a skin graft tomorrow. They've been together for two years now. He's absolutely devastated." He added: "You don't expect anything like that to happen but petrol is deadly." The Midlands Air Ambulance was called to the scene in Walsall, West Midlands, on Saturday afternoon. Lindsey, a university law student in Sheffield, was treated at the scene before being flown to a Birmingham hospital.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2011/04/26/teen-sets-girlfriend-on-fire-throwing-petrol-on-barbecue-115875-23086781/>

MALAYSIA, APRIL 27 2011. BALI BOMBERS WAVE OF TERROR PLANS >> TERRORIST GROUP ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO ATTACK CALTEX AND EXXON/MOBIL OPERATIONS IN THE MALACCA STRAITS

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.skynews.com.au/topstories/article.aspx?id=605846&vld=2359147>

New WikiLeaks documents have revealed the Kuta tourist district was not the preferred target of terrorist group Jamaah Islamiyah in the 2002 Bali bombings. The whistleblower website says the terrorist group originally planned to attack Caltex and Exxon/Mobil operations in the Malacca Straits or a goldmine. This plan was later deemed too difficult and Kuta became the target. The documents also reveal the original plan for the September 11 terrorist attack in 2001, also involved bombing passenger planes over cities across South East Asia. It is alleged terrorist leader Osama Bin Laden scaled down the attack, confining it to the United States, when the logistics proved too difficult. Meanwhile, the alleged mastermind of the 2002 Kuta bombing, Hambali, is unlikely to ever be charged for the attack because of "evidentiary" problems.

<http://www.skynews.com.au/topstories/article.aspx?id=605846&vld=2359147>

USA, FLA, INDIAN RIVER CO, APRIL 27 2011. HOA BALKS AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK, THWARTING HURRICANE PLANS FOR ELDERLY COUPLE

George and Roseann Elsbree used to be seasonal residents of Indian River County. They would live here from September until mid-May, when they returned to their home outside of Syracuse, N.Y. Beginning this year, they are staying put. Mobility issues — George is 95, Roseann is 86 — have forced them to become year-round residents of Florida. Which means they'll be here during the heart of hurricane season. The prospect of a hurricane hitting the area, which happened in 2004 and '05, has Kathy Sherlock and her siblings — all of whom live in the Syracuse area — trying to take precautions on behalf of their mother and stepfather. Their Garden Grove home, built in 2000, survived Frances, Jeanne and Wilma. That's why Sherlock is comfortable with the thought of her elderly relatives being holed up in the home should another hurricane strike. A key part of the plan, of course, is a generator. It's an insurance policy of sorts against the electricity going out for an extended period. "With a long-term outage, I don't know if they could handle that humidity without any air conditioning in the house," Sherlock said Monday in a phone interview from New York. "I would feel so much better if they had a generator." Her mother decided a generator with an underground storage tank was the best option. Sherlock's cousin (her mother's niece) had such a system installed and recommended it to Roseann Elsbree. The 500-gallon propane tank would be buried in the front yard of the home. Once in place, it would be out of sight to anyone in the neighborhood. There's only one problem: The Garden Grove homeowners' association won't allow it. The association's bylaws state: "No inflammables except propane for grills and fuel for lawn mowers in federally approved containers shall be stored anywhere on the Properties." It should be noted the bylaws were rewritten in 2003, long before underground tanks gained their current level of popularity. So, with that in mind, I find the Garden Grove HOA denying an underground storage tank rather perplexing. "Undoubtedly, when this rule was put in the bylaws, they were thinking of above-ground tanks, which admittedly are an eyesore," said Bill Broocke, owner of US Generator. "But the tanks we put in are underground and not visible." Broocke said his company has installed underground tanks in developments all over the county. He called this situation "unusual." Mel Schalois, president of the Garden Grove HOA, says the board is "legally bound by our documents." It's his view that storage tanks are prohibited in the bylaws. The only way the wording can be changed, he said, is at the annual meeting in December. Approval by a majority of homeowners would be required to change the wording. Schalois lives across the street from the Elsbrees, and he's sympathetic about their situation. But legally, he said, nothing can be done. He encouraged the Elsbrees — and their children — to come up with a

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Plan B for a hurricane. He said a special-needs shelter is one option. According to Sherlock, evacuating in the event of a hurricane would be very difficult — both physically and mentally — for her stepfather. "George feels very secure in the house," she said, "and he gets very nervous when he's not in it. ... He does not want to go into a nursing home, and we're trying to do everything possible to keep him home." Bob Hanmer, sales manager for US Generator, believes the Garden Grove HOA is "living in the Dark Ages" by not allowing underground storage tanks. "I think they're scared of the word 'propane.' It's an archaic, outdated way of thinking," he said. "The tanks are built to national codes — they're extremely safe. Once they're in the ground, they're secured in a way that they'll never float up in case of a flood." Sherlock said a portable generator is not an option because her mother would not be able to maintain it. The generator with an underground storage tank requires little maintenance, as it has an automatic transfer. The total package — including a 17-kilowatt generator and 500-gallon storage tank — runs about \$11,000, according to Hanmer. "She really, really wants this," Sherlock said. There's something to be said about peace of mind.

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2011/apr/25/russ-lemmon-hoa-balks-at-underground-storage-for/>

USA, PA, LOYALSOCK TWP, APRIL 27 2011. SUPERVISORS TO VOTE TONIGHT ON CHEMICAL TANK PLACEMENT IN FRONT OF SCHOOL

Loyalsock Township supervisors will vote tonight on the land development plan submitted by NFG Midstream Trout Run for the construction of an interconnect station at 1775 Liberty Drive. At the station, natural gas will be conditioned and measured for transfer into the Williams/Transco pipeline. Part of the conditioning process includes injecting the gas with a chemical to give it a distinctive odor, said Dwayne Lawson, company manager. The odorant will be stored in a 4,000-gallon underground tank. Plans initially called for the use of methanol mercaptan as the odorant. Methanol mercaptan, according to its Materials Safety Data Sheets, ranks a four, the highest ranking, for flammability and is known to be toxic to the environment. Lawson said the company now plans to use a milder chemical with a class 3 hazard ranking, the same class as gasoline. The chemicals have raised concerns for the Williamsport Area School District because the tank will be 1,000 feet in front of Lycoming Valley Middle School. "We have two wells, and I'm concerned an underground tank could contaminate them," said James Dougherty, school principal. "There is any number of ways an unplanned event could impact the 700 people in the building." Dougherty added the school is not looking to stand in anyone's way but simply wants to hold the company accountable and make sure it is doing all it can to prevent accidents. Lawson said the double-walled tank will be equipped with 20 alarms, all of which transmit to a 24-hour dispatch center for emergency response. He also said the company would train area first responders on how to handle an incident should one arise, but the company has a solid safety record. "We have a very good safety record," he said. "We operate thousands of miles of pipeline and have never been cited for a violation of safety requirements." The plans already have been approved by both the county and township planning commissions. The supervisors also will hold a conditional-use hearing for the construction of a communication tower at the same site. Tonight's meeting is at 7:30 at the township building, 2501 E. Third St.

<http://www.sungazette.com/page/content.detail/id/563193/Supervisors-to-vote-tonight-on-chemical-tank-placement-in-front-of-school.html?nav=5011>

USA, CA, LOS ALAMITOS, APRIL 27 2011. A WELCOME SIGHT >> AN UNDERGROUND GAS TANK IS REMOVED FROM THE POLLUTED FORMER ARCO STATION, SIGNALLING PROGRESS TOWARD THE CLEANUP PHASE

paige austin



A tank is removed from the site of the PCH Arco Station in Seal Beach Friday April 22, 2011

An underground gas tank from the infamous PCH Arco station was hauled away recently, much to the relief of neighboring residents eager to see the station gone and the pollution beneath it cleaned up. Workers began tearing down the Arco station at 5th Street and PCH this month. Multiple gas tank leaks spanning decades spilled gasoline into the soil, and tests found that the spill was off-gassing benzene, a known carcinogen, into people's homes. Three homes were evacuated and treated last year to stem the flow of hazardous gases into the homes. The residents were able to return home, but the gas station's closure and cleanup plan were

put on hold for months, pending approval from the Coastal Commission. Once the contamination is cleaned, a new gas station will replace the old Arco, said city officials.

<http://losalamitos.patch.com/articles/a-welcome-sight#photo-5761030>

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