



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 740 Newsy Stuff

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

August 11 2011



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USA, WASHINGTON DC, AUGUST 3 2011. EPA PUBLISHES RULE TO IMPROVE REPORTING OF CHEMICAL INFORMATION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is increasing the type and amount of information it collects on commercial chemicals from chemical manufacturers, allowing the agency to better identify and manage potential risks to Americans' health and the environment. The improved rule, known as the chemical data reporting rule (CDR), also requires that companies submit the information electronically to EPA, rather than on paper, and limits confidentiality claims by companies. The changes are part of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson's commitment to strengthen the agency's chemical management program and increase the transparency of critical information on chemicals. "Collecting this critical information on widely used chemicals will enable EPA to more effectively identify and address potential chemical risks," said Steve Owens, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. "The new electronic reporting requirement and limits on confidentiality claims also will bring EPA's data collection effort into the 21st Century and give the American people greater access to a wider range of information on chemicals to which their children and families are exposed every day." The CDR rule, which falls under the Toxic Substances Control Act inventory update rule (IUR), requires more frequent reporting of critical information on chemicals and requires the submission of new and updated information relating to potential chemical exposures, current production volume, manufacturing site-related data, and processing and use-related data for a larger number of chemicals. The improved information will allow EPA to better identify and manage risks associated with chemicals. EPA is requiring companies to submit the information through the Internet, using EPA's electronic reporting tool. On-line reporting will improve both data quality and EPA's ability to use the data, as well as make it more accessible to the public. Companies will be required to start following the new reporting requirements in the next data submission period, which will occur February 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012. More information about the CDR Rule and reporting program is available at:

www.epa.gov/iur

CANADA, ALB, FORT McMURRAY, AUGUST 3 2011. WORKER DIES AFTER INCIDENT AT FIREBAG SITE

FT Services reported Monday that one of its employees died of injuries sustained as a result of an incident that occurred Sunday evening at a work area on Suncor's Firebag in-situ site. The injured employee was transported to medical facilities in Fort McMurray Sunday but passed away early Monday. Emergency Services personnel have secured the scene and the appropriate authorities have been notified. FT Services and Suncor are assisting authorities to complete a full investigation into the cause of the incident. FT Services President & CEO, Michael Wandmaker said, "The FT Services family is greatly saddened by the loss of our colleague and friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this tragic time." The name of the victim is being withheld at this time. FT Services was formed in August 2006 to deliver operations and maintenance solutions to the oil and gas, mining and mineral processing, petrochemical and power generation sectors in Canada. FT Services' business model provides best practices in safety performance, asset management and turnaround management systems and project execution.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=27433

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, KORUMBURRA, AUGUST 3 2011. DIESEL SPILL CLEAN-UP CONTINUES

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-27/truck-crashes-into-korumburra-pup/2812048>



Roll over: A fuel tanker brings down power lines at Korumburra.

Contractors are continuing to clean up a diesel spill from a tanker rollover at Korumburra last week. The B-double tanker tipped onto its side, spilling 13,500 litres of diesel into the stormwater system. Tim Bessel-Brown from the Environment Protection Authority says the diesel has polluted local waterways and some is believed to have made its way into Coalition Creek. "The contractors have engaged science contractors to measure impacts both on land and in the waterway," he said. "Inevitably there is an impact on that waterway and luckily because of the flow that significant volume of diesel has been mostly confined to the small tributary."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-03/diesel-spill-clean-up-continues/2821954>

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NIGERIA, Ogoniland. AUGUST 3 2011. SHELL ACCEPTS LIABILITY FOR TWO OIL SPILLS IN NIGERIA >> OIL GIANT FACES A BILL OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOLLOWING CLASS ACTION SUIT BROUGHT ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITIES IN BODO, Ogoniland.

john vidal



The impact of an oil spill near Ikarama in the Niger delta.

Shell faces a bill of hundreds of millions of dollars after accepting full liability for two massive oil spills that have devastated a Nigerian community of 69,000 people and may take at least 20 years to clean up. Oil spill experts who have studied video footage of the spills at Bodo in Ogoniland say the spills could together be as large as the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska when 10m gallons of oil was spilt. Until now, Shell has claimed that less than 40,000 gallons were spilt. Papers seen by the Guardian show that following a class action suit in London over the past four months, the company has accepted responsibility for the double rupture in 2008 of the 50-year-old Bodo-Bonny trans-Niger pipeline

that pumps 120,000 barrels of oil a day through the community. Ogoniland is the small region of the Niger delta which threw out Shell in 1994 for its pollution but then saw eight of its leaders, including the writer [Ken Saro-Wiwa](#), executed by the government. The crude oil that gushed unchecked from the two Bodo spills which occurred within months of each other in 2008 has clearly devastated the 20 sq km network of creeks and inlets on which Bodo and as many as 30 other smaller settlements depend for food, water and fuel. No attempt has been made to clean up the oil, which has collected on the creek sides, washes in and out on the tides and has seeped deep into the water table and farmland. According to the communities in Bodo, in two years the company has only offered £3,500 together with 50 bags of rice, 50 bags of beans and a few cartons of sugar, tomatoes and groundnut oil. The offers were rejected as "insulting, provocative and beggarly" by the chiefs of Bodo, but later accepted on legal advice. Shell's acceptance of full liability for the spills follows a class action suit bought on behalf of communities by London law firm [Leigh Day and Co](#), which [represented the Ivory Coast community](#) that suffered health damage following the dumping of toxic waste by a ship leased to multinational oil company Trafiqua in 2006. Many other impoverished communities in the delta are now expected to seek damages for oil pollution against Shell in the British courts. On average, there are three oil spills a day by Shell and other companies working in the delta. [Shell consistently blames the spills on local youths](#) who, they argue, sabotage their network of pipelines. "The news that Shell has accepted liability in Britain will be greeted with joy in the delta. The British courts may now be inundated with legitimate complaints," said Patrick Naagbarton, coordinator for the [Centre of Environment and Human Rights](#) in Port Harcourt. Later this week the company will be heavily implicated by the UN for the environmental disaster in the Niger delta which has seen more than 7,000 oil spills in the low lying swamps and farmland since 1989. Shell first discovered oil in the Niger delta in 1956. According to Amnesty International, more than 13m barrels of oil have been spilt in the delta, twice as much as [by BP in last year's Gulf of Mexico spill](#). The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report, funded by Shell, will be presented to president [Goodluck Jonathan](#) on Thursday and is expected to be released on Friday in London. UNEP's report, the first peer-reviewed scientific study of more than 60 spills, is expected to say that oil pollution in Ogoniland is much worse than previously believed, having sunk deep into the water table. Many spills have not been cleared up since 1970 and the effects on the local economy, health and development have been severe. The report will not apportion blame for individual spills. International oil spill assessment experts who have seen the Bodo spill believe that it could cost the company more than \$100m to clean up properly and restore the devastated mangrove forests that used to line the creeks and rivers but which have been killed by the oil. Proceedings against [Royal Dutch Shell](#) and Shell petroleum development company (SPDC) [Nigeria](#) began in the high court on 6 April 2011. Last week Shell Nigeria said: "SPDC accepts responsibility under the Oil Pipelines Act for the two oil spills both of which were due to equipment failure. SPDC acknowledges that it is liable to pay compensation -to those who are entitled to receive such compensation."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/aug/03/shell-liability-oil-spills-nigeria>

USA, ILL, EDWARDSVILLE, MADISON CO, AUGUST 3 2011. SHELL OIL AND OTHERS NAMED IN MADISON COUNTY BENZENE SUIT

kelly holleran

A man claims he developed leukemia after being exposed to benzene while growing up near a Shell Oil plant. Greg Wells filed a lawsuit July 20 in Madison County Circuit Court against Shell Oil Company, BP Products North America, ConocoPhillips Company, WRB Refining and URS Corporation. In his complaint, Wells claims he grew up in a home at 331 South Central in Wood River where he lived until 1996. He also attended school in the Wood River community, close to Wood River facilities

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owned by Shell and BP. At the facilities, Shell and BP processed and stored benzene, a highly toxic chemical classified as a human carcinogen, according to the complaint. The same benzene produced at the facilities discharged into the surrounding air and water, causing Wells to be exposed to the pollutant, the suit states. Because of his exposure, Wells developed acute myelogenous leukemia, which was diagnosed in May 2010, the complaint says. Wells claims his disease has caused him to incur medical costs, to face a shortened life expectancy and to sustain mental anguish. He also has missed a substantial amount of work, causing his career to be severely damaged, according to the complaint. Wells alleges negligence against the defendants, saying they included benzene in their products even though it was a known carcinogen, failed to sufficiently test the effects of benzene on humans living in close proximity to plants and failed to alert him and other residents of air and water contamination. Wells also alleges willful and wanton conduct against the defendants, saying they released toxic chemicals into the air without attempting to clean them up, minimized and hid the dangers of benzene exposure despite their knowledge of the chemicals and committed numerous environmental violations. In his two-count suit, Wells seeks a judgment of more than \$100,000, plus costs and other relief the court deems just. Christopher W. Dysart of The Dysart Law Firm in Chesterfield and Kimberly M. Steuterman of Helfrey, Neiers and Jones in St. Louis will be representing him. Madison County Circuit Court case number: 11-L-713.

<http://www.madisonrecord.com/news/237351-shell-oil-and-others-named-in-madison-county-benzene-suit>

USA, ILL, ROCKFORD, AUGUST 3 2011. COUNTY WARNS RESIDENTS OF CONTAMINATED WELL WATER

mark stevens

 Watch the Video http://mystateline.com/fulltext-news?nxd_id=268747

Clean water is one of our most basic needs. And some Rockford Residents are finding out their water isn't safe. The two contaminated water wells are located on Soper street. They tested positive for Benzene and Gasoline. Those chemicals can cause cancer if people are exposed to them for a long time. Sharon Rush has lived on Soper street for five years. She just connected to the city's water supply last year. "My youngest daughter was starting to break out, we were all kind of having Eczema, but at that point in time the water was orange." The well water was staining their clothes and Rush says they stopped drinking it. "We were buying bottled water from Wal-Mart, I had a water dispenser, I wouldn't trust it, just because of the way it smelled." The County began warning residents late last week after state officials discovered the problem. County Environmental Health Director Larry Swacina says people in the affected area shouldn't drink their well water if it smells odd. "Go to bottled water or they can go to carbon filtration, which you can get to the store and get carbon filters." About 100 residents are affected. And most of the homes still use wells to get their drinking water. Roger Hare says the water's been unsafe for years. "I can't afford to move from where I'm at, I'm on a fixed income, Social Security and I just can't move out." Joan Kranish says her water tastes fine right now. But she'll be more cautious. "My daughter lives across town, and she comes over and picks up water for drinking, so now she won't." It's too soon to know where the pollution is coming from... or even how big the problem is. The County will be testing more wells to get that information. And right now, they're just saying if your well water smells or tastes weird, don't drink it.

http://mystateline.com/fulltext-news?nxd_id=268747

USA, MN, EAGLE LAKE, AUGUST 5 2011. SEVERAL HUNDRED REMAIN EVACUATED IN EAGLE LAKE AFTER ETHANOL SPILL

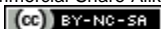


Derailed ethanol cars lay next to the track Thursday after a derailment Wednesday evening near Eagle Lake. About 300 residents remained evacuated today following the derailment of four rail cars carrying ethanol. Officials said the derailment involved no leaks, no injuries and the cause has yet to be determined.

Several hundred people have been forced from their homes in a small southern Minnesota community because train cars carrying highly-flammable ethanol have derailed and tipped over. Officials say there's no evidence the three derailed Canadian Pacific cars are leaking in the Blue Earth County community of Eagle Lake. More than 300 nearby residents were evacuated Wednesday

about 5 p.m. and have not been allowed to return to their homes. Mayor Tim Auringer said Thursday evacuation orders will

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remain in place until the railroad is finished off-loading the ethanol to other rail cars. Each car contains about 30,000 gallons of the volatile liquid. Auringer says a fourth derailed car remained upright and was removed. The Salvation Army and Red Cross set up an emergency shelter at the Eagle Lake American Legion.

Related Links

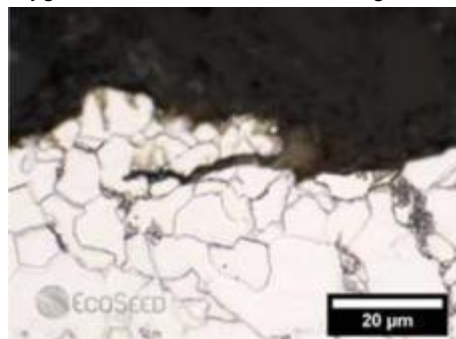
- [Eagle Lake residents allowed back after derailment](#)
- [Eagle Lake Ethanol Derailment Cleanup Begins >> No leaks found; 300 residents evacuated](#)
- [Evacuation over after Eagle Lake train derailment; cars carrying ethanol but no leaks reported](#)

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/329321/group/homepage/>

SA, WASHINGTON DC, AUGUST 5 2011. ETHANOL-LOVING BACTERIA WORSEN PIPELINE CRACKS

Micrograph of crack in X52 steel after the sample was subjected to mechanical forces for several days in an ethanol solution containing acid-producing bacteria, Acetobacter aceti. Jeffrey Sowards/N.I.S.T.

Researchers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology discovered that bacteria found in [ethanol](#) hasten the deterioration and cracking of pipeline steels. Ethanol is a biofuel that is commonly used as a fuel additive because of its oxygen content and octane rating. Moreover, modified engines used ethanol solely as fuel. Recently there have been proposals that existing gas pipelines and other infrastructure could be used to [transport ethanol](#) and increase its deployment. However, N.I.S.T. researchers exposed common pipeline steel to ethanol and found that ethanol and the bacteria found within can have a corrosive effect. "Substantial increases in crack growth rates were caused by the microbes. These are important data for pipeline engineers who want to safely and reliably [transport ethanol fuel](#) in repurposed oil and gas pipelines," N.I.S.T. postdoctoral researcher Jeffrey Sowards said. The corrosive bacterium, *Acetobacter aceti*, is known to occur in alcoholic environments – such as ethanol – and can convert that alcohol into acetic acid. It is used safely in the fermentation industry with no known adverse health effects to humans, animals or plants. However, the researchers found that, when *A. aceti* feeds on ethanol the acid produced can boost fatigue crack growth rates in pipeline by at least 25 times the level occurring in air alone. The team of



researchers used a new biofuels test facility to assess fatigue-related cracks in two common pipeline steels dipped in ethanol mixtures, including a simulated fuel-grade ethanol and an ethanol-water solution with the bacteria. Two pipeline steels X52 and X70, which are alloys of different metals, were used in the experiment. The researchers found out that simulated fuel-grade ethanol significantly increased the crack growth under typical stress intensity levels on normal operating conditions. The cracking is related to corrosion. The researchers caution that further study is needed to ensure that ethanol can be safely integrated into existing fuel transport infrastructure. Tests were also conducted that suggest that a glutaraldehyde, a biocide used in oil and gas operations, helped in controlling the growth of bacteria during passage of [ethanol in the pipeline](#). The findings of the study were presented at the Department of Defense Corrosion Conference 2011 happening this week.

<http://www.ecoseed.org/bioenergy-blog/article/9-bioenergy/10646-ethanol-loving-bacteria-worsen-pipeline-cracks>

USA, WASHINGTON D.C, AUGUST 5 2011. AFTER STRING OF PIPELINE SPILLS AND DEADLY BLASTS, CONGRESS EYES NEW SAFETY RULES

Re posted with permission of Carl Weimer of the Safe Pipelines Group <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/safepipelines/>
Republican and Democratic lawmakers are considering plans that could spur major upgrades to the nation's aging energy pipelines, driven by a string of recent oil spills, deadly natural gas blasts and what they call federal regulators' inaction. Since last summer, major pipeline accidents have destroyed neighborhoods in California and Pennsylvania and fouled waterways in Montana and Michigan. That's shaken confidence in the system and exposed gaps in oversight of the sprawling network of underground pipelines. Now, politicians from both parties are pushing measures that would tighten control of the industry, which currently gives companies broad leeway to make sure their pipelines are running safely. The new ideas include using modern technologies to detect leaks and shut down pipes during emergencies, replacing aging cast-iron pipes and tightening rules for pipeline stream crossings, all problems exposed in recent ruptures and explosions. "The fact of the matter is we have pipelines almost every-damn-where," said Democratic U.S. Rep. John Dingell, who introduced a pipeline safety bill with many of those elements last week with his Republican colleague, Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton, also of

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Michigan. "They're running through parks and refuges, in rural America and in the middle of cities and in this mobile society the risk grows all the time." Industry representatives vow to push back against technology mandates they describe as unworkable, and they oppose new rules for tens of thousands of unregulated pipelines in oil and gas fields. As Congress prepares to hold what are likely to be vigorous debates over the various pipeline safety bills this fall, regulators say they are taking a close look at how to improve their oversight of the industry. Lawmakers hope to have rules in place by next year. So far, the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration has been addressing longstanding safety concerns through the slow regulatory process, which requires agencies to give companies months of warning and allow public comment before tightening the screws on inspection regimes or safety requirements. Last year, the agency announced plans to craft new rules for pipelines carrying hazardous liquid fuels, such as the broken Exxon Mobil pipeline that spilled an estimated 1,000 barrels of oil into the flooding Yellowstone River last month. Pipeline safety head Cynthia Quarterman has since recommended more oversight over the thousands of low flow pipelines within the nation's oil and gas fields, and officials also are writing another rule to boost scrutiny of gas transmission lines. Sen. Jon Tester, who introduced a pipeline safety bill Tuesday with fellow Montana Democrat Max Baucus, said he was dismayed that the agency could not immediately say how many pipelines that ferry hazardous fuels cross the nation's rivers and streams, nor how deeply those pipelines are buried. That information is crucial so that other waterways can be evaluated in the wake of the Yellowstone spill, said Tester, whose bill would require federal authorities to review all existing data surrounding crossings in the next six months.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/federal-government/after-string-of-pipeline-spills-and-deadly-blasts-congress-eyes-new-safety-rules/2011/08/04/gIQA VzGnuI_story.html

NIGERIA, Ogoniland, BODO, AUGUST 5 2011. SHELL ACCEPTS LIABILITY FOR TWO OIL SPILLS IN NIGERIA >> OIL GIANT FACES A BILL OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOLLOWING CLASS ACTION SUIT BROUGHT ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITIES IN

john vidal



The impact of an oil spill near Ikarama in the Niger delta.

Shell faces a bill of hundreds of millions of dollars after accepting full liability for two massive oil spills that devastated a Nigerian community of 69,000 people and may take at least 20 years to clean up. Experts who studied video footage of the spills at Bodo in Ogoniland say they could together be as large as the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska, when 10m gallons of oil destroyed the remote coastline. Until now, Shell has claimed that less than 40,000 gallons were spilt in Nigeria. Papers seen by the Guardian show that following a class action suit in London over the past four months, the company has accepted responsibility for the 2008 double rupture of the Bodo-Bonny trans-Niger pipeline that pumps

120,000 barrels of oil a day through the community. Ogoniland is a small region of the Niger delta which threw out Shell in 1994 for its pollution but then saw eight of its leaders, including the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, executed by the government. The crude oil that gushed unchecked from the two Bodo spills, which occurred within months of each other, in 2008 has clearly devastated the 20 sq km network of creeks and inlets on which Bodo and as many as 30 other smaller settlements depend for food, water and fuel. No attempt has been made to clean up the oil, which has collected on the creek sides, washes in and out on the tides and has seeped deep into the water table and farmland. According to the communities in Bodo, in two years the company has only offered £3,500 together with 50 bags of rice, 50 bags of beans and a few cartons of sugar, tomatoes and groundnut oil. The offers were rejected as "insulting, provocative and beggarly" by the chiefs of Bodo, but later accepted on legal advice. Shell's acceptance of full liability for the spills follows a class action suit bought on behalf of communities by London law firm Leigh Day and Co, which represented the Ivory Coast community that suffered health damage following the dumping of toxic waste by a ship leased to multinational oil company Trafigura in 2006. Many other impoverished communities in the delta are now expected to seek damages for oil pollution against Shell in the British courts. On average, there are three oil spills a day by Shell and other companies working in the delta. Shell consistently blames the spills on local youths who, they argue, sabotage their network of pipelines. "The news that Shell has accepted liability in Britain will be greeted with joy in the delta. The British courts may now be inundated with legitimate complaints," said Patrick Naagbartonm, coordinator for the Centre of Environment and Human Rights in Port Harcourt. Later this week the company will be heavily implicated by the UN for the environmental disaster in the Niger delta which has seen more than 7,000 oil spills in the low lying swamps and farmland since 1989. Shell first discovered oil in the Niger delta in 1956. According to Amnesty International, more than 13m barrels of oil have been spilt in the delta, twice as much as by BP in last year's Gulf of Mexico spill. The UN Environment

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<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/aug/03/shell-liability-oil-spills-nigeria>

NIGERIA, Ogoniland, BODO, AUGUST 5 2011. SHELL OIL SPILLS IN THE NIGER DELTA: 'NOWHERE AND NO ONE HAS ESCAPED' >> TWO OIL SPILLS CAUSED BY SHELL IN 2008 HAVE TRIGGERED ONGOING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE 69,000 PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE VICINITY OF BODO

john vidal

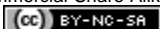


An oil wellhead in Ogoniland, Niger delta.

The air stinks, the water stinks, and even the fish and crabs caught in Bodo creek smell of pure "sweet bonny" light crude oil. The oil has found its way deep into the village wells, it lies thick in the mudflats and there are brown and yellow slicks all along the lengthy network of creeks, swamps, mangrove forests and rivers that surround Bodo in the Niger delta. The first oil ever exported from [Nigeria](#) was found just five miles away from Bodo in 1958. But chief Tella James, chair of Bodo's maritime workers, says life for the 69,000 people who live in the vicinity changed dramatically in August 2008 when a greasy sheen was first seen deep in the Bodo swamps miles from the nearest houses. Shell disputes that, saying

that a weld broke in September 2008 in the 50-year-old trans-Niger pipeline that takes 120,000 barrels of oil a day at high speed across the Niger delta. Either way the spill was not stopped until 7 November 2008. By that time, as much as 2,000 barrels a day may have been spilled directly into the water. A month later in December 2008 the same pipeline broke again in the swamps. This time Shell did not send anyone to inspect or repair it until 19 February 2009. According to oil spill assessment experts who have studied evidence of the two spills on the ground and on film, more than 280,000 barrels may have been spilled. Bodo is at the epicentre of several pipelines that collect oil from nearly 100 wells in the Ogoni district and there have been plenty of minor spills in and around the communities over the years. But this was far more serious, says Nenibarini Zabby, head of conservation at the [Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development in Port Harcourt](#). "This was an exceptionally sensitive ecosystem," said Zabby. "The spill lasted a very long time and it spread with the tides. The health of people is at risk. The company needs to compensate the people but they must also recover the environment," said Zabby. Chief James, assistant secretary to the Bodo council of chiefs and elders, said every family had been affected by the disaster. "Nowhere and no one has escaped," he said. "This has caused serious poverty to everyone. Nearly 80% of people here are fishermen or they depend on the water. They have lost their livelihoods. People are leaving the community in their hundreds to search for greener pastures. We used to live beautifully. People caught so much fish we could sell it to the cities. Now we have no hope," he said. A Bodo woman said social problems had followed the environmental ones. "People go hungry, there is more petty stealing," she said. According to the community leaders, youths from the area started to steal oil and refine it in illegal camps only after the two spills occurred. "It was the negligence of Shell which compelled people to steal. When our livelihoods were destroyed the youth went to places where they learned how do bunkering. They were desperate. They learned from others to steal. It was to survive," says Groobadi Petta, president of the Bodo city youth federation. Sylvester Vikpee, a barrister and legal adviser to the council of chiefs, said Shell had not responded humanely to the disaster. "They do not know the scale of the devastation. One of the richest companies in the world has done this to us. We have tried to talk to them and asked them what they plan. They have told us nothing." The Niger delta is one of the most polluted regions in the world, with [more oil spilled across the region each year than spilt in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010](#). According to Nigerian government figures, there were more than 7,000 spills between 1970 and 2000, and there are 2,000 official major spillage sites, many going back decades, with thousands of smaller spills still waiting to be cleared up. More than 1,000 spill cases have been filed against Shell alone, but while the company has been fined many times by courts in Nigeria for pollution

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incidents, appeals can take years and communities complain that proper clean-ups and compensation money never reaches them. "For decades claims have swirled around in the Nigerian courts getting nowhere. Having a venue to bring claims in a proper structured way will revolutionise the process and hopefully ensure that the Nigerians who have suffered loss from the many, many spills, will have a much more ready outlet for their grievances and claims," said Martyn Day of Leigh Day and Co. Shell, [which admitted to spilling 14,000 tonnes of oil in 2009](#), works in partnership with the Nigerian government in the delta, but argues that that 98% of all its [oil spills](#) are caused by vandalism, theft or sabotage by militants and communities and only a minimal amount by deteriorating infrastructure. No one from the Shell petroleum development company in Nigeria was available to comment on the Bodo spills this week, and a spokesman for [Royal Dutch Shell](#) in London said the company could not say anything while the case was ongoing. "That Shell has now accepted responsibility for the massive spill at Bodo is surprising only in the sense that it is out of place for polluters of this sort to bow to the truth. We only hope that now they will wake up and accept responsibility for other places in the Niger delta," said Nimmo Bassey, chair of Friends of the Earth International from Lagos.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/aug/03/shell-oil-spills-niger-delta-bodo>

CHINA, TIANJIN, AUGUST 5 2011. CONCERN OVER SUSPECTED OIL BELT IN BOHAI BAY

Officials in this coastal city have detected a suspected oil belt in the coastal waters of Bohai Bay, which could be evidence of the worsening impact of a massive oil leak that began in June. "The suspected oil belt is about 3 kilometers long and 3 to 4 meters wide," Zhang Jinguo, an official at the Tianjin Oceanic Administration, said on Thursday. Zhang said that no oil slick has been detected, and whether the substance in the water is an oil belt will not be confirmed until test results are released. A fisherman was the first person to notice the suspected oil belt on Monday. "A water sample has been sent to the State Oceanic Administration and the results will come out by the weekend, possibly Friday," Zhang said. Patrols are monitoring the area, he added. Liu Fenglin, director of the press office of the State Oceanic Administration's North China Sea Branch, said it takes at least one day to test the water sample and officials will release the results as soon as possible. All the three provinces and one municipality around Bohai Bay - Hebei, Shandong, Liaoning and Tianjin - have reported fresh oil belts in seawater or dried oil drops on the shore since the Penglai oil spill. The leak, which started on June 4 and has yet to be stopped, polluted 3,240 square kilometers of seawater at its peak, according to the administration. The test results by the North China Sea Branch showed that oil belts from Tangshan, Hebei province, and Jinzhou, Liaoning province, are not from the oil leak at the Penglai 19-3 oilfield, while the oil drops in Liaoning's Suizhong and Hebei's Jingtang ports appear to have come from the oilfield. "If it is really from the oil spill, we will immediately begin assessing the impact upon marine ecosystems and resources, according to information already collected," Zhang said. So far, there has been no significant impact on coastal waters, according to the Tianjin Oceanic Administration. "After the fishing season begins, we will examine whether there is any change in the content of organic substances in fish, whether they display toxic symptoms and whether their growth is abnormal," Zhang said. Some people in Caijiapu village in Tianjin near the suspected oil belt raise shrimp in pond water, which is usually pumped from nearby seawater. Liu Guangshen, a fisherman and boat captain in Caijiapu, said villagers have not been using much seawater for aquaculture in recent weeks. An official from Tianjin Oceanic Administration, who did not want to be named, said that to safeguard the marine environment near Tianjin, officials would remove oil slicks during future patrols. ConocoPhillips China, the operator of two leaking oil platforms in Bohai Bay, said on Wednesday that more oily mud had been detected near a leaking platform, and this was likely to increase the volume of its oil spill to a new high. The size of the new discovery is still being determined. The company said the total amount of oil and oil-based drilling mud was about 1,500 barrels.

<http://english.eastday.com/e/110805/u1a6035907.html>

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, AUGUST 5 2011. EPA TAKES ACTION AGAINST BUFFALO AREA GAS STATION OWNER TO PROTECT GROUND WATER

john martin

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has taken action against Schmitt Sales, Inc. of Buffalo for improperly managing underground tanks used to store gasoline and other fuels at two of its facilities in the Buffalo area and eight other locations throughout the state. Petroleum releases from underground storage tanks can contaminate ground water, making it unsafe to drink, pose fire and explosion hazards, and damage people's health. EPA cited Schmitt for failing to: properly test and maintain records of corrosion protection, install or operate overfill prevention devices, properly close out of service tanks, and maintain records of leak detection monitoring. "Underground petroleum leaks can spread quickly and contaminate ground water and soil, which is why it is critical for gas station owners to monitor their tanks," said EPA Regional Administrator Judith A. Enck. "I encourage all gas station owners to properly maintain their underground fuel storage tanks and guard against

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potential leaks." The Buffalo-area gasoline service stations owned or operated by Schmitt that are named in the complaint are Tubby's Corner Quick Stop in Angola and Schmitt's Robo Mart in Williamsville. The other Schmitt-owned service stations are: Brooks Super Duper in Cattaraugus; Dutch Hollow Market in Avon; Echoes on the Lake in Hammond; Parkview Market in Mayville; Pine Valley Busy Mart in Pine Valley; T-Burg Foodline, Inc. in Trumansburg; Cassadaga Supermarket in Cassadaga; and Ducky's in Friendship. EPA's complaint alleged that the owner and/or operators failed to:

- Test the protection system that is designed to prevent corrosion, in twelve underground tanks;
- Provide adequate overfill prevention equipment for five underground tanks;
- Properly cap off and permanently close two underground tanks; and
- Maintain adequate records of leak detection monitoring in nine tanks.

EPA regulations require owners and operators to maintain underground storage tanks to avoid leaks into the environment. In addition, the regulations require owners and operators to clean up leaks to restore and protect ground water resources, and provide a safe environment for those who live or work around these sites. About 625,000 underground storage tank systems exist nationwide, and more than 375,000 leaking tanks have been cleaned up over the last decade.

<http://www.epa.gov/oust>

USA, IN, INDIANAPOLIS, AUGUST 5 2011. TANKER DRIVER KILLED; TRAFFIC SNARLED IN CRASH >> CREWS OFFLOAD GASOLINE FROM WRECKED TANKER

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/28749378/detail.html>

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



The exit ramp where the driver of a tanker trailer loaded with gasoline was killed early Wednesday morning in a crash will remain closed for at least 24 hours. The crash happened about 12:40 a.m. at the westbound Crawfordsville Road ramp to northbound Interstate 465. Indiana State Police said the truck went off the right side of the ramp for an unknown reason, scraping along portable concrete barriers that were there because of road construction. "At the end of the concrete barriers, the vehicle's right side tires dropped off into a ditch, and the vehicle and trailer overturned onto its top," said ISP Sgt. Rich Myers. The driver was identified as Shawn Sullivan, 47, of Delphi. Hazardous materials crews from Speedway, Indianapolis and the Indianapolis International Airport were called in to offload the 8,000 gallons of leaking gasoline onto another tanker. About 3,000 gallons of gasoline spilled, but crews said they think they were able to prevent long-term environmental risks. "It's a construction zone,

and it had been cleared of much of the brush, allowing them easy access," said Everett Cheney, Speedway fire division chief. ISP said the ramp won't likely reopen until well beyond Wednesday's evening rush because soil and asphalt contaminated with gasoline will have to be removed and replaced. Some drivers were confused about where to go when they found the ramp closed. That caused a backup on High School Road. "I'll probably have to put in my GPS how to get home," said motorist Kim Schwamberger. National transportation officials said Wednesday's crash highlights the dangers involved in transporting hazardous materials and that more needs to be done to prevent these types of crashes, [6News' Chance Walser](#) reported. "These are accidents that are often fatal for truck drivers. In the trucking industry, you have a lot of interest in fixing this because these are very dangerous accidents for a truck driver to get into," officials said. Indianapolis big rig driving instructor Jeffrey Carr said that there's not much extra training for drivers who haul hazardous liquid materials. "The liquid has a mind of its own, and it will have the tendency to try to move that vehicle, or keep it moving in the direction that it wants to go, which is to roll over," Carr said. NTSB officials said that improvements in better tank design and steeper ramp grades will go a long way in keeping truck drivers and other motorists safe.

Previous Stories:

- August 4, 2011: [Ramp Stays Closed Day After Fatal Crash](#)
- August 4, 2011: [Tanker Driver Killed; Traffic Snarled In Crash](#)

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/28749378/detail.html>

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USA, MA, NANTUCKET, AUGUST 5 2011. TANKER FIRE DESTROYS CADDIE CAMP BUILDINGS AT SANKATY HEAD GOLF CLUB

emily kay

 **Photo Gallery** <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150250861435766.324608.255864560765&type=1>



Fire crews worked to douse this blaze at the Sankaty Head Golf Club caddy camp on Tuesday morning.

A Tuesday morning fire at Sankaty Head Golf Club destroyed three buildings that were part of the private Nantucket island club's caddy camp. There was one reported injury from the blaze, which firefighters put out after arriving on the fiery scene at the only remaining caddy camp in the country at about 10 a.m. Tuesday. Residents of the island 24 miles out to sea could see the thick black smoke from the fire for miles, according to Nantucket's [Inquirer and Mirror](#). The fire began after a local gas distributor filled the camp's kitchen propane tanks from a tanker truck. As the driver removed the hose, a spark set the tanker on fire, a Sankaty Head staffer who requested anonymity told us Wednesday morning. The fire quickly spread from the kitchen and mess hall to one of the

club's five residence halls, destroying virtually all the belongings of 24 of the loopers, none of whom was in residence at the time. The truck driver, whom the I&M identified as Mark Phillip, called 911 and alerted the campers immediately after the fire started, said the Sankaty Head spokesperson. "Luckily, nobody was there and everyone had gotten out," he said. Four residence buildings remained intact and members of the private club had donated cots, roll-away beds, towels, toiletries, and clothing to the kids who lost their property in the fire. Sankaty Head, a links course built in 1923 that sports a [working lighthouse](#), "absolutely" plans to rebuild the buildings that the fire destroyed, according to the employee. The Sankaty Head Foundation runs the boys' camp, which is situated between the 11th and 13th fairways of the links-style golf course. Founded in 1930, the camp has outlasted others in the U.S. that have gone the way of persimmon golf clubs as motorized carts came into favor. As part of the foundation, club members raised \$5,000 in 1961 to create the camp, according to [Nantucket Today](#). The eight-week season, which runs from late June through the end of August, costs each of 60 boys some \$5 per day for room and board, according to the publication. New caddies may pocket up to \$5,000 by carrying the bags of members for the summer, while old hands can make up to \$8,000, said Nantucket Today. As for the private club itself, [Golfweek](#) ranked Sankaty Head No. 87 on its 2011 roster of Top 100 classic courses. The club opens its fairways and greens on the eastern end of Nantucket to [non-members in May and October](#).

<http://www.waggleroom.com/2011/8/3/2341974/fire-destroys-caddy-camp-buildings-at-sankaty-head-golf-club>

USA, CA, CLOVERDALE, AUGUST 5 2011. FUEL TRUCK OVERTURNS ON HWY. 128 > 1 MAN KILLED, THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF FUEL SPILLED

A 23-year-old man was killed Tuesday when his car was hit by a fuel tanker truck on Highway 128 near Cloverdale, the California Highway Patrol reported. According to the CHP, the collision occurred around 8 p.m. when the driver of a 2007 Peterbilt fuel tanker truck headed westbound lost control of the truck and the rear trailer overturned near the Sonoma County line. The trailer then collided with a 2005 Toyota Camry headed east and driven by a 23-year-old man from the Santa Rosa area who died from his injuries. Mendocino County Sheriff's Office spokesman Capt. Kurt Smallcomb said Wednesday afternoon that his office was still attempting to positively identify the deceased man and notify his family. The driver of the truck was Terry Wood, 56, of Santa Rosa, and he was uninjured. The tanker was carrying approximately 4,400 gallons of fuel, both diesel and gasoline, and it is estimated that 4,000 gallons of fuel spilled onto the roadway and into a nearby drainage ditch. The roadway was closed while environmental health and fire department crews responded, and the California Department of Transportation reported at 1 p.m. Wednesday that one lane of the highway was reopened. "Highway 128 is a very important connection for people along the Mendocino Coast, especially for people heading south, so we really pushed to get it open," said CalTrans spokesman Phil Frisbie Jr. As of Wednesday afternoon, Frisbie said there is one-way traffic control near the accident scene and motorists should expect delays of "not more than 10 minutes." He said there is no estimated time for when both lanes will be open, and the cleanup will take "some time, days at least." "It all depends upon the amount of soil that needs to be cleaned up," Frisbie explained. "They have to be able to excavate all of the contaminated soil, then replace it with clean soil." The traffic controls will be in place 24 hours a day.

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_18614430

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USA, MA, BOSTON, AUGUST 5 2011. HUB COPS STOP TANKER LEAKING GAS

richard weir

A "leaking" Quincy-bound tanker hauling 12,000 gallons of gasoline past the Freedom Trail, Quincy Market and other tourist spots before being pulled over by [Boston Police](#) yesterday shows why fuel trucks should be banned from using Hub streets as shortcuts, city officials said. "The slightest spark could ignite the gasoline and cause a catastrophe here in the city," Boston Transportation Commissioner Thomas J. Tinlin said of the Cape Cod tanker that had picked up a load in Revere and was dripping fuel from a valve under the rig when inspected. The tanker company could not immediately be reached for a comment. "This truck is bringing no value to the people who live, work or visit this city. It's not delivering to a local gas station," Tinlin said. "It's purely cutting through to get to Quincy to drop off their load." The Herald reported Sunday that Mayor [Thomas M. Menino](#) is leading the charge to pass legislation banning fuel and gas trucks that are not making local deliveries from using city streets by diverting them to Route 128. But a Route 128 business group, fearful that such a ban would only export the problem to the suburbs and add more congestion there, vowed to pack public hearings on the proposal.

http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/2011_0803hub_cops_stop_tanker_leaking_gas/

USA, TN, MEMPHIS, AUGUST 5 2011. TWO ALARM FIRE AT MEMPHIS VALERO REFINERY

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.wmctv.com/slideshow?widgetid=34113>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.myfoxmemphis.com/dpp/news/local/two-alarm-fire-at-valero-refinery-20110805>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kait8.com/story/15215594/two-alarm-fire-at-memphis-valero-refinery>



Officials are monitoring air quality in Memphis after a two alarm fire at the Valero Refinery sent a huge plume of black smoke into the sky just before 7:30 Friday morning. Firefighters were told there was a major explosion and people from the surrounding areas reported feeling the blast. "I was inside a 3 story building when I hard a big boom and the whole building shook," said Chris Haley, who was three miles away. An Action News 5 crew was at LeMoyné Owen College, five miles from the refinery, and felt the explosion. Fortunately, officials say all of the company's workers are accounted for and no firefighters were injured. Officials at the refinery, in the 400 block of West Mallory, haven't said what caused the explosion. The fire was brought under control shortly before 8:00 a.m. "Refinery personnel have monitored air quality, and no impact to the community is expected," said Valero spokesman Bill Day. "Both crude units at the plant have been shut down, and refinery personnel are conducting a damage assessment at this time." Day said the company didn't have a timetable for

restarting operations.

<http://www.kait8.com/story/15215594/two-alarm-fire-at-memphis-valero-refinery>

USA, MD, SALISBURY, AUGUST 5 2011. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FOUND AT LINENS PROPERTY ARE 'NOT REASON FOR ALARM'

sarah lake

- Soil samples collected in March have confirmed the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons, which leak from an abandoned underground tank.
- Tests also revealed significant pesticide contamination as well as arsenic levels "slightly greater than the residential clean-up standard."
- Also detected were levels of iron and manganese below regulatory guidelines, several feet of petroleum floating on the water table and several feet of ash in the abandoned incinerator stack.

As daunting as the 32-page environmental assessment of the former Linens of the Week property may be, officials say the results are "pretty straightforward." According to Jim Carroll, program manager for the Land Restoration Program at the Maryland Department of the Environment, the report reflects previous assessments commissioned by the property's former owner. "The bottom line is this report confirms there are issues at the site, and while these issues are reason for concern, they are not reason for alarm," Carroll said. "These are things that can be addressed." Soil samples collected in March have confirmed the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons, or fuel oil, which leak from an abandoned underground tank. This comes as no surprise to the city or the MDE, as fuel oil contamination was visibly present on-site -- at 6 feet down, the soil shifts from

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a light brown color to black. Tests also revealed significant pesticide contamination -- likely the result of spraying to control insect populations -- as well as arsenic levels "slightly greater than the residential clean-up standard ... however below levels anticipated in the Eastern Maryland Counties," states the report. Also detected were levels of iron and manganese below regulatory guidelines, several feet of petroleum floating on the water table and several feet of ash in the abandoned incinerator stack. The assessment did not directly test for asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyl components or lead-based paint, but the final report states all are likely present due to the structure's age. "Pipe wrap and floor tile potentially containing asbestos were observed in the building. Electrical equipment and lighting fixtures may contain PCB laden components," the report states.

Building Removal

The MDE's Oil Control Program has an offer on the table to remove the leaking 10,000-gallon underground gas tank and surrounding contaminated soil, if the city foots the bill for the demolition of 25 percent of the building. The proposal is under consideration by the City Council, and a final decision regarding whether to proceed is contingent upon solicitation for construction bids. The council was presented a cost estimate of \$15,000-\$20,000 but could not determine Monday night whether the cost included removal of harmful materials, such as asbestos and lead-based paint. Mayor Jim Ireton confirmed Tuesday that the bidder, Bennett Construction, had taken removal of harmful materials into account when drafting the estimate. About \$8,500 of 2005 Community Development Block Grant funding is available to cover a portion of the cost, leaving the city with a balance of about \$11,500. Once demolition of 25 percent of the building is complete, the MDE will move in. According to Ireton, demolition of the remaining structure is estimated at \$75,000-\$100,000, and the city will seek grant funding to complete the work.

Redevelopment

Officials have not reached consensus on whether redevelopment of the property will be residential or commercial; however, Habitat for Humanity has expressed interest in building affordable homes on the parcel. Because the land could be slated for residential development, measures to ensure containment of harmful substances are more stringent. Carroll said the MDE evaluates risk based on exposure to people. "It's more stringent when you have people living on the property 24 hours per day, as opposed to people working on commercial property for eight hours per day," he said. "Also, a residential scenario has a more sensitive population that includes children and senior citizens." Carroll said a vapor barrier -- an impermeable membrane that will prevent vapors of harmful substances from migrating up through the soil -- can be installed beneath the ground, and a clean fill cap -- clean soil to replace potentially contaminated topsoil -- can be put in place to minimize risks of exposure. "If you eliminate the exposure pathway, and in this case it's putting into place a clean cap and vapor barrier, you're eliminating that risk," he said. "The MDE returns periodically to test the land to ensure these controls are still effective."

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20110803/NEWS01/108030386/Environmental-issues-found-Linens-property-not-reason-alarm->

USA, CA, RICHMOND, AUGUST 5 2011. CHEVRON FINED \$170,000 FOR NOT FULLY REPORTING POLLUTING RELEASES

mike taugher

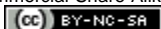
Chevron has agreed to pay \$170,000 to air quality regulators for underreporting pollution from the flaring system at its Richmond refinery. A gas line at the refinery was sending gases to the flare stack in a way that bypassed the refinery's flare monitoring system. That meant that in flaring events on 27 days between 2005 and 2009, the company underreported how much pollution was released from the flare, according to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Both Chevron and a spokesman for the air district said the amount of unreported pollution was not large. "It was not deliberately done," Chevron spokeswoman Melissa Hollander said of the mistake that allowed one of the lines to bypass the monitoring equipment. "As soon as it was discovered, it was fixed and reported to the air district," Hollander said. "We've been really dedicated to reducing our flaring." Refinery flares are the highly visible flames that occasionally come out of tall stacks at refineries. They are meant to safely release pressure and prevent explosions. Flaring can be controversial when the gases released bypass pollution control equipment.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_18617889

KYRGYZSTAN, BISHKEK, AUGUST 5 2011. BLAST ROCKS FIREWORKS WAREHOUSE IN KYRGYZ CAPITAL

A series of blasts rocked a warehouse storing fireworks in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek on Thursday, the emergencies service said, injuring at least one person and sending plumes of smoke over the city. The warehouse was located near an open-air market which was full of people during the afternoon incident, with rescue officials saying they were still inspecting the site and searching for potential casualties. "We are trying to determine if nearby apartment buildings have been damaged," the head of

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the emergencies ministry's fire service Daniyal Tairov told AFP. It was not immediately clear what caused the initial explosion, which sparked a fire which was later extinguished. Officials said blasts could still be heard coming from the warehouse after the last flames went out. The incident occurred a month after another blast at what officials said was a fireworks warehouse killed 15 people in the nearby Central Asian republic of Turkmenistan.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011%5C08%5C05%5Cstory_5-8-2011_pg14_7

USA, MN, WADENA, AUGUST 6 2011. FOUR PEOPLE INJURED IN TANKER-CAR CRASH

Four people were injured Thursday when a passenger car was hit by a tanker truck on State Highway 29, near the Otter Tail/Wadena county border. Curtis Howard, 57, of Menahga, was driving his tanker east on the highway when Ronniedale Lannes, 49, of Deer Creek, attempted to merge his car onto the road, the Minnesota State Patrol reported. Lannes allegedly did not yield to the truck, which had the right-of-way, and the vehicles collided. The truck drove over the hood of the passenger car and then rolled, eventually stopping in the south ditch. The two drivers, as well as Jeremy Croskey, 28, and a 12-year-old boy, both of Menahga, all received non-life threatening injuries. They were all taken by ambulance to Tri-County Hospital.

<http://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/2011/08/05/four-people-injured-in-tanker-car-crash/>

NIGERIA, ABUJA, AUGUST 5 2011. UNEP Ogoniland OIL ASSESSMENT REVEALS EXTENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND THREATS TO HUMAN HEALTH

 **Document** The Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland report www.unep.org/nigeria

The environmental restoration of Ogoniland could prove to be the world's most wide-ranging and long term oil clean-up exercise ever undertaken if contaminated drinking water, land, creeks and important ecosystems such as mangroves are to be brought back to full, productive health. A major new independent scientific assessment, carried out by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), shows that pollution from over 50 years of oil operations in the region has penetrated further and deeper than many may have supposed. The assessment has been unprecedented. Over a 14-month period, the UNEP team examined more than 200 locations, surveyed 122 kilometres of pipeline rights of way, reviewed more than 5,000 medical records and engaged over 23,000 people at local community meetings. Detailed soil and groundwater contamination investigations were conducted at 69 sites, which ranged in size from 1,300 square metres (Barabeedom-K.dere, Gokana local government area (LGA) to 79 hectares (Ajeokpori-Akpajo, Eleme LGA). Altogether more than 4,000 samples were analyzed, including water taken from 142 groundwater monitoring wells drilled specifically for the study and soil extracted from 780 boreholes.

Key Findings

Some areas, which appear unaffected at the surface, are in reality severely contaminated underground and action to protect human health and reduce the risks to affected communities should occur without delay says UNEP's Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland. In at least 10 Ogoni communities where drinking water is contaminated with high levels of hydrocarbons, public health is seriously threatened, according to the assessment that was released today. In one community, at Nisisioken Ogale, in western Ogoniland, families are drinking water from wells that is contaminated with benzene- a known carcinogen-at levels over 900 times above World Health Organization guidelines. The site is close to a Nigerian National Petroleum Company pipeline. UNEP scientists found an 8 cm layer of refined oil floating on the groundwater which serves the wells. This was reportedly linked to an oil spill which occurred more than six years ago. While the report provides clear operational recommendations for addressing the widespread oil pollution across Ogoniland, UNEP recommends that the contamination in Nisisioken Ogale warrants emergency action ahead of all other remediation efforts. While some on-the-ground results could be immediate, overall the report estimates that countering and cleaning up the pollution and catalyzing a sustainable recovery of Ogoniland could take 25 to 30 years. This work will require the deployment of modern technology to clean up contaminated land and water, improved environmental monitoring and regulation and collaborative action between the government, the Ogoni people and the oil industry. Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director, said the report provided the scientific basis on which a long overdue and concerted environmental restoration of Ogoniland, a kingdom in Nigeria's Niger Delta region, can begin. "The oil industry has been a key sector of the Nigerian economy for over 50 years, but many Nigerians have paid a high price, as this assessment underlines," he said. "It is UNEP's hope that the findings can break the decades of deadlock in the region and provide the foundation upon which trust can be built and action undertaken to remedy the multiple health and sustainable development issues facing people in Ogoniland. In addition it offers a blueprint for how the oil industry—and public regulatory authorities- might operate more responsibly in Africa and beyond at a time of increasing production and exploration across many parts of the Continent," said Mr Steiner. "The clean-up of Ogoniland will not only address a tragic legacy but also represents a major ecological restoration enterprise with

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potentially multiple positive effects ranging from bringing the various stakeholders together in a single concerted cause to achieving lasting improvements for the Ogoni people," said the UNEP Executive Director. UNEP today presented its report to the President of Nigeria, The Hon Goodluck Jonathan, in the Nigerian capital Abuja. Among its other findings are:-

- Control and maintenance of oilfield infrastructure in Ogoniland has been and remains inadequate; the Shell Petroleum Development Company's own procedures have not been applied, creating public health and safety issues.
- The impact of oil on mangrove vegetation has been disastrous. Oil pollution in many intertidal creeks has left mangroves—nurseries for fish and natural pollution filters- denuded of leaves and stems with roots coated in a layer of bitumen-type substance sometimes one centimetre or more thick.
- The five highest concentrations of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons detected in groundwater exceed 1 million micrograms per litre (µg/l) – compared to the Nigerian standard for groundwater of 600 µg/l.
- When an oil spill occurs on land, fires often break out, killing vegetation and creating a crust over the land, making remediation or revegetation difficult. At some sites, a crust of ash and tar has been in place for several decades.
- The surface water throughout the creeks in and surrounding Ogoniland contain hydrocarbons. Floating layers of oil vary from thick black oil to thin sheens.
- Despite community concerns, the results show that fish consumption in Ogoniland, either of those caught locally or purchased from markets, was not posing a health risk.

The report says that fish tend to leave polluted areas in search of cleaner water. However, the fisheries sector is suffering due to the destruction of fish habitat and highly persistent contamination of many creeks. Where entrepreneurs have established fish farms for example their businesses have been ruined by an "ever-present" layer of floating oil.

- The Ogoni community is exposed to hydrocarbons every day through multiple routes. While the impact of individual contaminated land sites tends to be localized, air pollution related to oil industry operations is all pervasive and affecting the quality of life of close to one million people.
- Artisanal refining (a practice whereby crude oil illegally obtained from oil industry operations is refined in primitive stills), is endangering lives and ultimately causing pockets of environmental devastation in Ogoniland and neighbouring areas.
- Remote sensing revealed that in Bodo West, in Bonny LGA, an increase in artisanal refining between 2007 and 2011 has been accompanied by a 10% loss of healthy mangrove cover – or over 307,380 square metres.
- Remediation by enhanced natural attenuation (RENA) – a way of boosting the ability of naturally-occurring microbes to breakdown oil and so far the only remediation method observed by UNEP in Ogoniland – has not proven to be effective.
- Currently, SPDC applies this technique on the land surface layer only, based on the assumption that given the kind of oil concerned, factors such as temperature and an underlying layer of clay, hydrocarbons will not move deeper. However, in 49 cases UNEP observed hydrocarbons in soil at depths of at least 5 m.

Next Steps Recommendations

Through a combination of approaches, individual contaminated land areas in Ogoniland can be cleaned up within five years, while the restoration of heavily-impacted mangrove stands and swamplands will take up to 30 years. However, according to the report, all sources of ongoing contamination must be brought to an end before the clean-up of the creeks, sediments and mangroves can begin. The report recommends establishing three new institutions in Nigeria to support a comprehensive environmental restoration exercise. A proposed Ogoniland Environmental Restoration Authority would oversee implementation of the study's recommendations and should be set up during a Transition Phase which UNEP suggests should begin as soon as possible. The Authority's activities should be funded by an Environmental Restoration Fund for Ogoniland, to be set up with an initial capital injection of US\$1 billion contributed by the oil industry and the government, to cover the first five years of the clean-up project. A recommended Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre, to be built in Ogoniland and supported by potentially hundreds of mini treatment centres, would treat contaminated soil and provide hundreds of job opportunities. The report also recommends creating a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Restoration in Ogoniland to promote learning and benefit other communities impacted by oil contamination in the Niger Delta and elsewhere in the world. Reforms of environmental government regulation, monitoring and enforcement, and improved practices by the oil industry are also recommended in the report.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/unep-ogoniland-oil-assessment-reveals-extent-of-environmental-contamination-and-threats-to-human-health>

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USA, WI, ROTHSCHILD, AUGUST 6 2011. LANE OPENS AS ROTHSCHILD GAS TANKER CRASH CLEANUP CONTINUES

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://centralwisconsinhub.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20110805/WDH0101/110805012/Update-Lane-opens-Rothschild-gas-tanker-crash-cleanup-continues>

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20110805/WDH0101/110805012/Updated-Gas-tanker-overtakes-Rothschild-northbound-lanes-39-blocked-?odyssey=nav|head>



The driver of a gas tanker truck that crashed this morning in Rothschild suffered only minor injuries, according to the Rothschild Police Department. The tanker truck was driving from Stevens Point when it crashed shortly after 5:30 a.m. in a construction zone in the northbound lanes of Interstate 39 near Business Highway 51, according to a news release. The tanker truck struck a guardrail and overturned in a ditch, police said. A Wausau Daily Herald reporter at the scene said that the cab of the truck was twisted and badly damaged in the crash. The driver was taken by ambulance to Ministry Saint Clare's Hospital in Weston. Traffic will be restricted in the northbound lanes until the early afternoon. At 9:45 a.m., the left, northbound lane was re-opened while cleanup and the investigation into the crash continues in the right lane. Immediately after the crash, northbound

traffic was detoured to Business Highway 51 to Highway 29 westbound and then back onto I-39/Highway 51. The Daily Herald reporter said northbound traffic on I-39 was backed up for about one mile and that Wisconsin State Patrol troopers were on the highway helping direct traffic. The tanker truck was carrying 7,000 gallons of fuel and a 2,700 diesel fuel tank on the truck began leaking after the crash, State Patrol spokesman Bert Nitzke said. Nitzke did not know how much fuel has leaked out. The Marathon County hazardous material team is at the scene cleaning up the fuel, Nitzke said. The road will be closed as the remaining fuel is removed from the tanker truck and the spilled fuel is cleared from the roadway.

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20110805/WDH0101/110805012/Update-Lane-opens-Rothschild-gas-tanker-crash-cleanup-continues->

USA, GA, DECATUR, AUGUST 6 2011. MOTORIST RESCUED FROM FLAMING CAR AFTER SLAMMING INTO GAS PUMPS

mike morris

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/28762610/detail.html>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.cbsatlanta.com/story/15210012/car-catches-fire-at-dekalb-gas-station>

 **Watch the Video** <http://tucker.patch.com/articles/tucker-man-saves-gas-station-crash-victim#video-7266158>

 **Photo Gallery** <http://tucker.patch.com/articles/tucker-man-saves-gas-station-crash-victim#video-7266158>



A DeKalb County gas station was the scene of a dramatic rescue early Thursday when an out-of-control car slammed into gas pumps and erupted into flames. The car, which was involved in a collision at the intersection of Clairmont and Briarcliff roads near I-85, careened out of control into the pumps at the Chevron station on the corner. The car and two gas pumps caught fire. Edgar Evans, who works as a night watchman at a nearby auto repair shop, saw the crash and ran to help the driver. "You could see the expression on the guy's face as he whizzed past me," Evans told AM750 and now 95.5FM News/Talk WSB. "He was scared, he was out of control, there was nothing he could do." Evans said that as he ran up to the car, flames were "already everywhere," and the driver told him, "I can't get out, I can't get out." "I popped his seat belt off and tried to grab him, but his head was hooked in the air bag," Evans told WSB. Evans said he grabbed the man "like in a full nelson" and was able to pull him from the

burning car. He said the man, who appeared to be in his 50s, told him he worked at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Evans credited God and a burst of adrenalin for giving him the strength to help the motorist. "Three or four days ago, I

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couldn't even walk," he told the station, recounting a trip to the hospital emergency room earlier this week. "They said I had rheumatoid arthritis," he said. "But God gave me the energy and strength to reach in there and get him out. I just thank God the guy's all right." The car and two gas pumps were heavily damaged by the fire, along with one end of the canopy covering the station's pumps.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/dekalb/motorist-rescued-from-flaming-1074741.html>

ZIMBABWE, SUNNINGDALE, AUGUST 6 2011. POLICEMAN DIES OF PETROL TANKER BURNS

A senior policeman died on Wednesday of burns he sustained when a fuel tanker blew up in Sunningdale recently and caught fire. He was caught up in the inferno while trying to restrain people from siphoning fuel from the tanker. Detective Assistant Inspector Baltimore Jamari who was attached to the Vehicle Theft Squad died on Wednesday afternoon at Harare Central Hospital where he was receiving treatment. This brings to 12 the number of people who have died from the June explosion. Ten people are still admitted at the hospital. A family spokesperson yesterday said when the incident occurred, Detective Asst Insp Jamari who was standing a few metres away from the tanker tried calling Harare Central Police Station after noticing that fuel was gushing out of the tank, posing danger to residents. "That is when the explosion occurred and he was burnt. His car, a Nissan Sunny was also burnt. "All along he was receiving treatment at Harare Central Hospital but died today (Wednesday) at around 1300 hours," he said. The spokesman said burial arrangements would be announced soon and mourners were gathered at Highlands Police Camp. Detective Asst Insp Jamari is survived by his wife and five children. Last month, four more people succumbed to burns sustained in the Sunningdale petrol explosion, bringing the death toll to 11. The four, who were admitted at Harare Central Hospital, were burnt when a fuel tanker they were siphoning fuel from burst into flames. The explosion claimed mostly Sunningdale residents and other passersby who were scrambling for free petrol. Three people died on the spot, while an unknown number was reportedly burnt to ashes on June 11. Sixteen others were seriously burnt and rushed to Harare Central Hospital for treatment. A commuter omnibus and a private car were also reduced to shells. The occupants, however, escaped unhurt.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201108050434.html>

MALAYSIA, PERLIS, KANGAR, AUGUST 6 2011. MAN TURNS KITCHEN INTO SHOWROOM FOR FIREWORKS

Of all the places, a man turned his kitchen into a 'showroom' for fireworks and firecrackers. "The fireworks and fire-crackers were neatly arranged in the kitchen like a showroom for the customers to pick and choose the items," Perlis police chief SAC Zull Aznam Haron said. Police picked up the 52-year-old man at 5.15pm Thursday after raiding his house in Taman Kemajuan and seized 31 types of fireworks and fire-crackers valued at RM3,000 from the kitchen and bedrooms of the house. The man has been remanded for four days. The case is being investigated under Section 8 of the Explosives Act 1957 with a maximum jail term of seven years or a fine of up to RM10,000, or both, upon conviction. Zull Aznam said the banned items had been brought into the country from abroad. He hoped that people would inform the police of those playing with firecrackers as the police had not issued any permit to do so.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/8/5/nation/20110805161733&sec=nation>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, SIVAKASI, AUGUST 6 2011. CRACKER UNIT BLAST CLAIMS 7

Six women workers were killed in an accident following an explosion that took place in a fireworks factory near Sivakasi on Friday. Seven other workers were injured. Kanagaprabhu owns a fireworks unit at Kalayarkurichi village near Sivakasi. The unit is producing fancy fireworks and has about 200 workers. Around 2.30 pm, the workers were having their lunch when the chemicals scattered outside the chemical mixing room were being swept. There was a sudden explosion there, said to be due to friction. A minor fire broke out there and five of the women workers had sought shelter in a room nearby. When the fire started spreading to the room, the workers had tried to get out but could not do so and died in the room itself due to asphyxiation. Seven who were having lunch nearby also sustained burn injuries. Those killed were identified as Those killed were identified as Angammal (50), of Pudukkottai, Shanmugathai (48) of the same area, Avudathai (53) of Kadaneri, Mamta (26) of Bihar, Veerammal (50) of Kadaneri, Ammaponnu (40) and another Veerammal (50). Among those injured were four women. They were admitted to Sivakasi GH and later shifted to a private hospital. Minister for Information Technology R P Udayakumar, Collector M Balaji and SP Najmal Hoda visited the factory. M Pudupatti police have registered a case.

<http://expressbuzz.com/states/tamilnadu/cracker-unit-blast-claims-7/301522.html>

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