



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2011 – 746 Newsy Stuff

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

**August 27 2011**



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### **Australia – Melbourne Bulk Tanker Emergency Response Day** **Thursday 8th September - Sharing lessons and improving outcomes**

#### **USA, LA, BOGALUSA, AUGUST 19 2011. PEARL RIVER SPILL CLEANUP GIVES LABORERS CHANCE TO HELP, MAKE MONEY**

*ramon antonio vargas*

Most of the hired hands that boarded dozens of boats for the task came from Louisiana and Mississippi communities surrounding the waterway, and a few of them were motivated by a desire to aid both their neighbors and themselves. "It's an opportunity to get decent pay," said Teresa Parker, 38, who made the short drive from her home in Slidell to a temporary cleanup employment tent erected at Crawford Landing on the West Pearl River. "I wanted to help (the area), too." Others, though, felt they were rescuing waters that fisheries, swamp tour operators and transportation depend on. Commercial fisherman Paul Guchereau, of Picayune, Miss., said his family so loves the Pearl that his 8-year-old son already fishes it aboard his own miniature, motorized pontoon boat. "It's a way of life here," he said. Many who sought work arrived at Crawford Landing by daybreak. Representatives of Integrated Pro Services LLC of New Orleans, which was contracted to recruit the labor to clean up the substantial fish kill blamed on the Temple-Inland paper plant in Bogalusa, turned some applicants away because they did not show up with adequate footwear. Others were denied because they resided in places not near the Pearl River — St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis had previously negotiated to have the majority of cleanup jobs given to those living in areas affected by the paper mill's dump. New Orleans resident Ronald Thomas, 44, was among those who left empty-handed. Though at least some media outlets did report that the labor available would go to those who lived along the river, he complained that officials did not do enough to alert the public. "It costs money to come up here," Thomas said as he walked back to his car. "Don't get us out here and then send us home."

#### **Grueling Condition**

Miserable conditions awaited those who Integrated Pro Services did sign up on behalf of the firm Arcadis, which was asked to oversee the cleanup. After receiving their equipment and brief safety training, workers sailed into mid-90s heat and the pungent, rotting smell emanating from perished fish and shellfish. Numerous species died after Temple-Inland discharged into the river a mixture of pulp from the paper-manufacturing process and other chemicals at levels exceeding the plant's environmental permits. Officials have blamed an equipment malfunction at the plant for the substance's higher-than-normal levels. They suspect it drastically reduced oxygen levels in the Pearl and its tributaries, suffocating thousands of fish. On Thursday, the workers used rakes, hooks and gloved hands to fish out the carcasses and store them in black trash bags. Some of the bodies floated on the surface, and others had washed up on logs drifting in the waterway. One spot was so tightly packed with dead fish that it appeared as if the carcasses paved a roadway atop the river surface. A breath of fresh air was impossible to find. Apparently none of the sweat-drenched laborers wore breathing masks of any kind — just their construction workers' helmets, orange-colored life vests, T-shirts and jeans or shorts. In all, about 50 boats carrying some 160 people had scattered along the river by the early afternoon, said Abby Cruz of Integrated Pro Services. According to St. Tammany Parish spokeswoman Suzanne Parsons Stymiest, the crews were also equipped with clipboards and pens to document the types of fish they collected. Gov. Bobby Jindal has said that Temple-Inland — which has cautiously admitted responsibility in the situation — may be investigated for possible violations of the Endangered Species Act.

The Temple-Inland facility's wastewater has already killed at least 10 Gulf sturgeon, a federally-protected species that lives much of its adult life offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and moves into rivers to spawn in the spring and summers. [Other endangered species](#) that may have been in the black liquor's path are the ringed map turtle, also known as the ringed sawback turtle, and the inflated heelsplitter mussel. Davis said officials do not know how long it may take to remove the dead fish, which prevents decaying carcasses from continuing to deplete oxygen in the waterway.

#### **Potential for More Fish Deaths Reduced**

Early into the cleanup, environmental scientist Jeff Dauzat of the Department of Environmental Quality expressed optimism about the river's resilience to the fish kill. The substance that sparked the crisis had been "diluted, dissipated and assimilated" by more than 70 miles of river it had flowed through, he said. There is still depleted oxygen in the black liquor plume, but "it is high enough to sustain aquatic life," Dauzat added. Therefore, the DEQ does not expect water quality in the Rigolets, Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne to suffer. The Rigolets connects the western, middle and eastern portions comprising the Pearl River to Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne. Dauzat attributed any dead fish that have appeared or do appear in the Rigolets

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and the lakes as the situation resolves itself to tides and currents that pushed them there. "The potential for fish deaths at this point have been greatly reduced," he said. Meanwhile, in other developments, Slidell-based lawyer Tom Thornhill filed a class action lawsuit Wednesday against Temple-Inland on behalf of people owning either land or businesses affected by the black liquor release. Thornhill's office asks those who may qualify for representation in the suit, which was filed in the 22nd Judicial District Court covering Washington and St. Tammany parishes, to call 985.641.5010.

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/08/pearl\\_river\\_spill\\_cleanup\\_give.html](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/08/pearl_river_spill_cleanup_give.html)

#### AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, DARWIN, AUGUST 19 2011. PILOT BOAT CRASHES INTO TANKER

sarah crawford



*A pilot boat is being repaired after it was badly damaged in a collision with a fuel tanker.*

The Darwin Harbour Master is investigating an incident where a pilot boat crashed into fuel tanker and had a large hole ripped in its hull. Yesterday afternoon the Darwin Port Corporation pilot boat had the large gash on its ports side repaired at Cullen Bay Slipway. Darwin Port Corporation spokeswoman Melissa Reiter said the pilot boat collided with the ship's stern on Tuesday afternoon. Ms Reiter said the large hole was above the water line so the boat managed to make it to port under its own steam. "There was a small risk that it would sink," Ms Reiter said. The pilot boat was chaperoning the fuel tanker Cyprus Galaxy into the harbour when the incident happened. Ms Reiter said the pilot boat was travelling beside the ship at

high-speed when it crashed.

[http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2011/08/19/254381\\_ntnews.html](http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2011/08/19/254381_ntnews.html)

#### USA, TX, STAFFORD, AUGUST 19 2011. TERRIFYING GAS STATION CRASH CAUGHT ON CAMERA

 **Watch the Video** <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=8313748>

Two men are lucky to be alive after nearly getting hit by an SUV that flipped into a car at a Stafford-area gas station. The accident happened around 9pm Tuesday at a gas station in the 12000 block of the Southwest Freeway. Surveillance footage sent to ABC13 via [iWitness Reports](#) shows two men walking from the convenience store back to their parked van before they suddenly start running. Moments later, an SUV tumbles into gas station parking lot and nearly hits them. The SUV rolled twice before coming to an upright position and crashing into another SUV parked at one of the gas pumps. The supervisor at the gas station tells Eyewitness News that the driver of the SUV lost control while trying to make a U-turn on the feeder road of Highway 59, but clipped the sidewalk. The supervisor said neither of the men seen running out of the SUV's way were harmed, but he wasn't sure if the driver was injured.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=8313748>

#### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, STOCKTON, AUGUST 19 2011. RESIDENTS VENT RAGE AT ORICA MEETING >> HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM LEAK

alison branley

 **Photo's** <http://www.theherald.com.au/multimedia/27129/306805/>



*The Environment Minister, Robyn Parker, is facing criticism for failing to go public about the Orca leak until days after the event.*

Outraged Newcastle residents jeered and heckled Orca officials last night as they tried to apologise for last week's leak of a toxic chemical from their plant. More than 200 people packed the public meeting to seek answers, in particular why the multinational company had not told emergency services the night of the industrial accident, which would have prompted public warnings. Residents of the suburb of Stockton said the company had lost their trust and they remained angry about the three-day delay in notifying them of the leak. The residents told of children with rashes, family members with aggravated asthma and pets with irritated eyes. Orca general manager James Bonner apologised on behalf of the company. "We are

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really sorry about this incident," he said. "We are absolutely committed to it not happening again." Company representatives were repeatedly heckled by the crowd, who accused them of lying and covering up the accident. Orica's site manager Stuart Newman told the crowd that an accident like last week's hexavalent chromium leak had never happened before. He said it was caused when water got into a vent and mixed with a catalyst, creating a chemical the company was not practised in dealing with. He said the company's first priority that night had been its staff and its next major concern was stopping the hexavalent chromium running off-site and into the Hunter River. Mr Bonner and the other company representatives last night sought to assure residents that testing had found that levels of the chemical in the community were low and posed no health threat. Stockton resident Simon Rook said he was out fishing off Stockton at the time of the spill. He asked independent toxicologist John Frangos if he could assure him he would be all right. He was told "yes". John Hayes, of Mayfield, said the wind could have easily been blowing towards Mayfield, Honeysuckle or Cooks Hill. He said it wasn't a Stockton issue, it was a "Newcastle issue". "Maybe what has to happen is their licence needs to be revoked," he said. Resident Steve Abrahall asked why the company did not realise immediately that residents downwind of the leak would be affected. "Didn't the penny drop or are your control systems that lame?" he asked. "Didn't you know there was wind blowing or did you think you could get away with it?" While some residents were concerned about the suburb's reputation and property values, others were more concerned with potential long-term health effects. Many conceded that while the leak had been an accident, the company's worst mistake was the way it handled matters in the wake of the contamination. Newcastle MP Tim Owen, who was at last night's meeting, also faced a barrage of questions about the government's response and law enforcement.

#### Related Links

- [\[Broadcast Transcript\]. COMMUNITY ANGER SPILLS OVER AT ORICA LEAK MEETING](#)
- [Leak minister 'put politics before people'](#)
- [Orica faces chemical leak ire](#)
- [Minister delayed advising public of Orica spill risk](#)

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/residents-vent-rage-at-origa-meeting-20110819-1j1iy.html>

#### USA, CA, TAFT, AUGUST 20 2011. EYEWITNESS NEWS GETS EXCLUSIVE LOOK AT DEADLY SINKHOLE

carol ferguson

**Watch the Video** <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/128047113.html>

**Photo's** <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/128047113.html>



The California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources gave Eyewitness News this photo Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2011, showing the oil field near Taft where Chevron worker Robert David Taylor, of Bakersfield, died in a sinkhole that developed June 21.

Photos from an oil field near Taft give a first look at the area where a sinkhole opened up, killing a Chevron worker. State officials have banned steam injection at problem areas near two wells, and they say more steam and fluids are reaching the surface. Eyewitness News obtained photos from the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources. The images from DOGGR show a hilly area of the large Midway Sunset Field. It's the place where [Robert David Taylor, 54, was killed June 21 when he fell into a sinkhole](#). The photos show what looks like steam coming from the side of a hill, and a large darkened area. That indicates the area affected by

eruptions of water, steam, rocks and mud, DOGGR spokesman Don Drysdale explained by e-mail. Three photos are from the Chevron lease near Well 20. That's where a "surface expression" had shown up, and that's what state investigators are worried about. According to DOGGR documents obtained by Eyewitness News, surface expressions have continued to turn up in this area, and they continued to develop. Both Chevron and TRC Operating Company have now been ordered to stop steam injection in the problem areas. "The only things of which we are certain are that this is a hazardous situation and that there is a correlation between injection, fracturing, and the surface expressions we're seeing," reads a statement issued August 12 from DOGGR supervisor Elena Miller. Eyewitness News asked about injection and fracturing. Steam injection is used in some fields to help get oil out. But, it's different from a type "fracturing" that's now getting a lot of attention. Drysdale explained that "hydraulic fracturing" is being used now in natural gas production, and involves injecting fluids at pressures

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greater than the formation. The injection used in the Midway Sunset field involves forcing steam through horizontal or vertical wells in intervals of three to four days. Meanwhile, "surface expression" is the term used for the problems they're seeing in the field. Drysdale explained that means that "fluids, steam, gases and solids from underground formations are coming to the surface." The concern is the link between the expressions and steam injection. That's why Chevron was ordered to stop injection within 300 feet of the problem near Well 20, and TRC was ordered to stop steam injection within 500 feet of Well 20 on their lease. TRC was also ordered to stop any steam injection within 300 feet of their nearby well, "Bull" 9. More photos from DOGGR show the scene from the TRC location. Large dark areas are seen covered with netting, at two different levels along a hillside. Spokesman Don Drysdale said the pictures show oil and water that's coming to the surface near the "Bull" 9 well. The nets are to keep out birds, and a dirt wall's been put up to contain the oil. The DOGGR order to TRC on August 5, outlines the problems that continued after the sinkhole accident on June 21. It says at that time, more fluid and gas showed up on the surface near the "Bull" 9 well. And on August 3, two more surface problems were seen near Well 20, one of them was five feet in radius. Then on August 5, there was a "violent eruption" near Well 20. The report says rocks, fluid, steam and other materials came out; DOGGR said no one was hurt in the eruption. The photos from the Chevron lease, showing steam coming up, were taken on August 5. Drysdale explained that view includes the upper terrace of that site, and material that was "erupted from the surface expression." "Some of the rocks/material are the size of softballs and landed 50 - 60 feet from the surface expression," he said. That photo is from the area near Well 20. That's where Taylor was checking into problems, when the earth opened up under his feet. DOGGR reports indicate Taylor fell several feet below ground level into a hole containing poisonous hydrogen sulfide gas, steam and hot water. Eyewitness News called both Chevron and TRC on Thursday and left messages, neither company responded. Chevron is investigating the fatal accident, and so is Cal-OSHA. The DOGGR statement last week noted their orders banning steam injection are intended to stop oil, steam and other materials from getting up to the surface. "The fatality that occurred was a tragic incident," reads the statement for supervisor Elena Miller. "We haven't determined how the steam and oil is (sic) migrating to the surface at the site."

**Related Links** [More problems in oil field where worker died in sinkhole](http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/128047113.html)

<http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/128047113.html>

#### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, STOCKTON, AUGUST 20 2011. ORICA REPORTS ANOTHER TOXIC DISCHARGE

**map:** [Kooragang 2304](#)



*Orica is under fire again, just a week after it delayed alerting authorities and residents about a leak of the carcinogen hexavalent chromium into the air.*

The mining giant at the centre of last week's chemical spill in Newcastle has reported a discharge of arsenic into the Hunter River. Orica's Newcastle operation has reported a discharge into the river of up to 1.2 megalitres of effluent which contained concentrations of arsenic above its environmental protection licence limits. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has begun an investigation into the incident, ordering Orica to provide a full and thorough report as soon as possible. The discharge occurred on Friday morning at Orica's Kooragang Island plant near Newcastle. Orica's environment protection licence permits the discharge of arsenic to the Hunter River at a concentration of 0.05 milligrams per litre. Friday's

discharge involved a concentration of arsenic at 0.076 milligrams. "OEH does not expect the increase in the concentration of arsenic to have an impact on the health of the Hunter River," the department's statement said. Government fisheries officers have also been notified. Orica is already under fire for taking days to inform Stockton residents about toxic plumes of hexavalent chromium that escaped from the same plant last Monday night. The company did not inform the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) until 16 hours later, and it took the Government until Thursday afternoon to notify the public. High levels of hexavalent chromium in drinking water can be cancer causing, which was the crux of the real-life David and Goliath legal battle portrayed in the movie Erin Brockovich. NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell this week released the terms of reference for an independent inquiry into the Stockton incident, looking into ways to improve reporting requirements in the event of such a leak. Orica has said it regrets the "very serious" incident and will undertake a full investigation.

**Related Links**

- [Brockovich joins Newcastle toxic leak fight](#)
- [Union push for health register after Orica spill](#)

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- [Orica to face chemical leak anger](#)
- [Orica faces chemical leak ire](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-19/newcastle-miner-reports-another-toxic-breach/2847736>

#### USA, PA, STOYSTOWN, AUGUST 20 2011. BLAST KILLS WORKER AT METAL RECYCLE >> OPENING LOCKED BOX PROVED DEADLY

*bernie hornick*

Without a key to a steel strongbox, solving the mystery of what was inside only could have ended in tragedy. And Saturday it did, with the death of George R. Rininger, 50, of Hooversville. Rininger was cutting the padlock off the box containing black powder when it exploded Friday, sending him to a Pittsburgh hospital with life-threatening injuries. He was tackling the lock with a cutting torch as an employee of metal recycling company Kantner Iron & Steel. The box was brought in by a customer, Kantner Iron owner John Toth said Thursday. Rininger was cutting it open to see what was inside before the customer left. "It could have been full of dirt, it could have been full of money," Toth said. Sadly, the box discovered while cleaning up a New Baltimore-area farm contained perhaps 75 pounds of explosives.

<http://tribune-democrat.com/local/x40350284/Blast-kills-worker-at-metal-recycle>

#### INDIA, MUMBAI, AUGUST 20 2011. OWNER 'MISSING', SALVOR THREATENS TO SELL TANKER

*kavitha iyer*



*Pavit, towed away from Juhu, is now in Dighi, Raigad.*

Three days after MT Pavit was towed away from Juhu beach to Dighi port in Raigad for repairs, the ship's Dubai-based owners and managers are untraceable, the salvage company has alleged. The company threatened today to sell the 999-tonne tanker if its dues, running into crores of rupees, are not settled. The August 15 salvage operation, it has now emerged, was carried out without the participation of Pavit's owners. The salvor, marine services company Great Offshore Ltd, which now has the ship's custody, announced that if the cost of salvage and other operations is not paid within 48 hours of demand, it would "take whatever steps may be necessary" by enforcing the maritime lien they hold over the vessel, including its sale. Pavit was adrift unmanned in the seas off Oman for a month before it beached

at Juhu on July 31, sparking outrage over the lapse in India's coastal security.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/owner-missing-salvor-threatens-to-sell-tanker/833970/>

#### USA, N.Y, MERRICK, AUGUST 20 2011. DEC: GAS STATION TANKS LEAKING INTO SOIL >> A HERALD INVESTIGATION HAS REVEALED THAT A MERRICK GAS STATION HAS BEEN LEAKING GASOLINE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS INTO THE SOIL FOR YEARS

*david weingrad*



*The Mobil gas station at Merrick Road and Beach Drive in Merrick is closed because of contamination.*

A Mobil gas station at the corner of Merrick Road and Beach Drive in Merrick has been leaking gasoline and other contaminants into the soil for years, a Herald investigation has revealed. Aphrodite Montalvo, a spokeswoman for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, said that contamination was found "in the vicinity" of the station when its three singled-walled gasoline tanks were removed recently. The tanks will be replaced by larger, double-walled tanks. Montalvo said that the contamination is a result of previous spills. The DEC's website has a database that lists all spills reported to the agency in the past 30 years. Since 1991 there have been eight reported spills at the Mobil station, at 185

W. Merrick Road. Six of the spills have occurred in the last seven years. Two oil spills in 1991 seeped into the groundwater. Five of the next six spills were gasoline, which spread into the surrounding soil. The most recent spill, on Oct. 15, 2009, involved an "unknown petroleum." In 2006 there was a spill of gasoline and methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, a fuel

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additive. MTBE increases the oxygen content in gasoline and is sometimes used in higher concentrations to fulfill the oxygenate requirements set by the federal government in the 1990 Clean Air Act, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. According to the EPA, independent experts who have assessed the health risks of MTBE inhalation have concluded that the use of MTBE-oxygenated gasoline does not pose an imminent threat to public health. In higher doses, however, MTBE can cause cancer. It was banned in New York state in 2004. A 6,000-gallon tank and two 8,000-gallon tanks were recently removed from the Mobil station, and will be replaced with a 10,000-gallon tank and a 12,000-gallon tank, according to the DEC. In addition, DEC officials said that about 750 tons of soil is being excavated from the site to prevent further contamination. According to the DEC, onsite monitoring wells were already installed on the property because of prior leaks, and the agency will regularly check the wells to ensure that contamination does not move offsite. "The best way to clean up a site is to dig any of the contaminated material out," said Bill Fonda, another DEC spokesman. "Once you have the contaminated soil out, there's no longer the potential for groundwater plumes because you're dealing with clean soil." Once the soil is excavated, Fonda explained, sampling would ensure that the area meets DEC standards.

### Chemical exposure

Fonda said that there are three kinds of exposure to chemicals such as gasoline, the first being physical contact. The second is ingestion through drinking water. But Fonda noted that Aqua Water Supply, which provides water to Merrick, among other nearby towns, must meet county, state and federal requirements when dispensing water to homes. The third kind of exposure is inhalation through water vapor. When chemicals vaporize, they can mix with the groundwater to create a plume that will move offsite, potentially into the basements of nearby homes. "In order for that to happen, something would have to have been leaking for a bit of time," said Montalvo, adding that groundwater moves slowly. A Beach Drive resident, who lives near the station and asked to remain anonymous, said that although she had noticed the construction for "a couple of weeks," she was unaware of any contamination, and she had not been informed that work was being done at the station. She added that since she was not notified of any potential health hazards, she did not believe the situation was dangerous.

### What the owners say

While the station's auto-repair shop remains open, the rest of the station is fenced off while construction goes on. A man named Teddy, who identified himself as the owner, said that construction involved only "upgrades to the facility" and that there was no gas leak, though he added that there were leaks at nearby stations. Fenley & Nicol Environmental Inc., which has a division that specializes in gas tank removal, is doing the construction work at the station. A spokesperson said that Fenley & Nicol was hired by Cumberland Farms, a convenience store chain based in Framingham, Mass. According to its website, Cumberland Farms is the largest convenience store owner and gasoline marketer in the Northeast, with 600 stores in 11 states. In 1986, the company bought all of Gulf Oil's gas stations in the Northeast, forming the Cumberland Gulf Group. In September 2010, it acquired the rights to 75 Mobil stations on Long Island, including the one at 185 W. Merrick Road. A Cumberland Farms spokeswoman said that work at the station is "routine," and that it is company policy to remove tanks when they approach their life expectancy. She also said that Cumberland Farms is paying for the project. The spokeswoman said that the company leases its stations to individuals, who are responsible for the facilities' operation and maintenance. She also said that the tanks were "observed to be in good condition, and no perforations or pitting was observed when they were removed." She added, "The contamination observed in the excavation is attributable to the historic operation of a gasoline filling station." Montalvo said that gas stations' tanks often leak. "When you remediate a site, what the DEC looks for is a good effort to remediate, and to ensure that the cleanup protects human health and the environment," she said. "With that standard, sometimes there can be some residual contamination left behind. But as long as it doesn't affect human health or the environment, that can be allowed."

[http://www.liherald.com/stories/DEC-Gas-station-tanks-leaking-into-a-soil,34919?content\\_source=&category\\_id=5&search\\_filter=&event\\_mode=&event\\_ts\\_from=&list\\_type=&order\\_by=&order\\_sort=&content\\_class=&sub\\_type=&town\\_id=](http://www.liherald.com/stories/DEC-Gas-station-tanks-leaking-into-a-soil,34919?content_source=&category_id=5&search_filter=&event_mode=&event_ts_from=&list_type=&order_by=&order_sort=&content_class=&sub_type=&town_id=)

### MEXICO, VILLAHERMOSA, AUGUST 20 2011. MEXICO OIL THIEVES MAY STEAL NEAR \$500 MLN THIS YEAR

Mexico is set to lose nearly half a billion dollars to oil thefts this year if illegal pipeline taps continue to grow unchecked, the CEO of state oil monopoly Pemex said on Thursday. Pemex [PEMEX.UL] director Juan Jose Suarez said on Thursday organized crime gangs have stolen oil and gas worth \$285 million so far this year and could easily reach losses of \$490 million by the end of 2011. "We are losing the equivalent of about 20,000 barrels per day of crude," Suarez said at an event in Villahermosa, Tabasco, an oil producing state on the Gulf of Mexico coast. Mexico produces around 2.6 million barrels of oil

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per day. "This is putting at risk communities where we operate," he said. In December last year, oil spilling from a breached pipeline exploded killing 28 people east of Mexico City. The crime gangs, some with links to drug cartels, siphon of millions of barrels from the country's long network of pipelines and have even kidnapped Pemex workers. But more than 100 Pemex employees and contractors have been involved in the thefts over the past decade, some helping steal oil with their technical expertise. The staggering losses are a headache for the Mexican government since the state relies on oil funds for around a third of its revenues. Mexico, the world's No. 7 oil producer, is a top crude exporter to the United States and is trying to reverse a drop in oil output as production slumps at its largest, aging fields. Pemex is inviting foreign companies to operate oil fields for the first time with incentive-based contracts in an effort to inject new dynamism into the sector. The first contracts for three mature fields were awarded on Thursday. (\$1=12.2539 pesos)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFN1E77H1YS20110818>

#### USA, PA, TINICUM TWP, AUGUST 20 2011. HAZMAT SITUATION CLEARED, I-95 REOPENED

A chemical leak from a southbound tanker truck on I-95 shut down the highway and Route 420 in both directions for several hours. Other motorists noticed a leak at approximately 4:45 p.m. Friday and pulled the tanker over at the Tinicum exit. "It was leaking for about five or ten minutes after they pulled him over and then it stopped by itself," said Tinicum Assistant Fire Chief Jonathan Buschmeier, who was among the first to arrive on the scene and made the decision to close the roadways. According to Delaware County Emergency Services Executive Director Ed Truitt, the tanker truck is owned by New Jersey-based Dana Transport, Inc, and was bound for St. Louis with 44,000 pounds of acetic anhydride. Officials report that the leak has been capped, but the roads remained closed for several hours while a decontamination unit can assessed the damage and Dana representatives offloaded the tanker. I-95 has reopened and those evacuation have been allowed to go back into their homes. Acetic anhydride, used by companies for the coating of photographic film, can be corrosive and noxious. Truitt said the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is aware of the incident and a Department of Environmental Protection representative has been dispatched to the scene. "The EPA has also been contacted because of the close proximity to the wildlife preserve," Truitt said. "We sent our mobile command post down there at his request," Truitt said. "It doesn't seem to be a whole lot of product (on the road). The truck is still on its wheels. It sounds like it could be a valve malfunction." The operator of the tanker did not appear to be injured. "The driver is okay, to the best of our knowledge," Truitt said, adding that a ConocoPhillips decontamination trailer was being brought in as a precautionary measure. The incident snarled rush hour traffic in both directions and was causing backups from Philadelphia into the state of Delaware. Northbound motorists on I-95 were forced to exit at Stewart Avenue in Ridley Park and drivers heading south had to get off at Island Avenue, Buschmeier said.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8317188>

#### USA, N.M. GALLUP, AUGUST 20 2011. ONE DEAD IN GALLUP TANKER CRASH

 **Photo's** <http://www.koat.com/slideshow/news/28919369/detail.html?qs=1;s=1;p=news&dm=ss&tn=b>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C07DcFGJOk0>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2247655.shtml?cat=500>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.koat.com/r/28918161/detail.html>



New Mexico State Police say one person died and at least two others were injured Friday when a gas tanker crashed into a building in downtown Gallup. The driver of the tanker and an employee of Sun Loans were both airlifted to Albuquerque with injuries. Hazmat teams are still on scene and diesel fuel is leaking, but the fuel is from the truck pulling the tanker, police say. The tanker was empty at the time of the crash. Officials say the tanker crashed into the Sun Loans building near an intersection in a busy part of Gallup, at 491 & Maloney, in the north part of the city. The immediate area has been evacuated.

<http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2247655.shtml?cat=500>

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**USA, FLA, ST AUGUSTINE, AUGUST 20 2011. GAS STATION BLAST ROCKS ST. AUGUSTINE >> MAJOR FIRE FROM FUEL EXPLOSION PUT OUT IN 3 HOURS; 1 INJURED**

**Watch the Video:**

<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/topstories/article/215563/483/Lack-of-Communication-a-Problem-During-Gas-Station-Explosion>

**Watch the Video:**

<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/article/215516/483/Fire-at-Gas-Station-Now-under-Control--VIEWER-VIDEOS>

**Watch the Video:**

<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/article/215554/3/Man-Captures-Cell-Phone-Video-of-Fire-Explosions>

**Photo's [43]:**

<http://staugustine.firstcoastnews.com/photo-gallery/news/59022-gas-station-explosion-st-augustine>

**Photo's:** <http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/article/215516/3/Fire-at-Gas-Station-Now-under-Control--SLIDESHOW>



*Flames were estimated to reach 25 feet in the air after the explosion.*

A petroleum-fueled blaze burned for nearly hours after an explosion at a gas station in St. Augustine late Friday afternoon. The station and surrounding buildings were gutted, neighbors were displaced for hours and traffic remained diverted around the scene at 11 p.m. Authorities said a fuel was being delivered at the gas station when the explosion occurred at the BP station on state Road 16 at Masters Drive just before 5 p.m. "They had these couple-thousand gallon tanks that were actually on the side, kind of a substation of the gas station," witness Brian High said. "A fuel truck was over there, and the whole thing exploded." Officials confirmed that the one person who was injured in the initial blast was dragged away from the flames by several people, including an off-duty Jacksonville firefighter. The victim, whose name was not released, was airlifted to Shands Jacksonville Medical Center in serious condition, then transferred to the burn unit at Shands in Gainesville. Residents told Channel 4 that an explosion could be heard 5 miles from the gas station. Black smoke from the blaze not far from the St. Augustine Airport and was visible from Clay County, 25 miles to the west. "The fire spread rapidly to the buildings that were on that site," St. Johns County fire spokesman Jeremy Robshaw said. "We have a large petroleum fire of some sort -- some type of flammable liquid is burning." The Sheriff's Office initially asked residents within one-half mile of the fire to leave the area for their own safety, but that was lifted about 45 minutes later. People like Trae Wolfe, who live or work in the immediate area, were not allowed to return the rest of the night. "It literally shook the building," "It literally shook the building," Wolfe said of the explosion. "We have a concrete block, two-story building. It shook the building with a big boom and a huge fireball." Power was knocked out to about 2,000 homes and businesses.

*Firefighters switched from water to foam before getting the fire under control.*

All but a few had power back on by 11 p.m. St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Chuck Mulligan said the fire was contained to the property of the gas station, but several buildings were heavily damaged, possibly destroyed. Robshaw said there

would be an extensive investigation into the cause of the fire by local, state and federal agencies. The results might not be available for several days.

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/28919477/detail.html>

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#### SCOTLAND, DUNDEE, AUGUST 20 2011. MAN WHO DIED IN TRAGIC CHEMICAL TANK INCIDENT AT DIAMOND WHEEL TECHNOLOGIES NAMED AS STEVEN CONWAY

A man who died after collapsing in a chemical tank at a Dundee alloy wheel repair company has today been named by police. It is thought 33-year-old Steven Conway, of St Fillan's Road, was overcome by [acid](#) fumes and two colleagues who tried to help him had to be taken to hospital for checks after also being exposed. The [tragedy](#) happened at [Diamond Wheel Technologies](#) on the [Dryburgh industrial estate](#) on Thursday. Mr Conway had been working in the tank when he was taken ill around 1.30pm. An ambulance was alerted and the crew arrived to find colleagues of the worker trying to assist him. Onlookers watched in horror as he was wheeled into an ambulance, while a nearby nursery was told to close its windows to prevent children from being exposed to any [chemicals](#). Firefighters were summoned to deal with the incident and four pumps and heavy rescue unit drawn from several fire stations were despatched to the scene in [Baird Avenue](#) as rescue attempts were made. Speaking before Mr Conway's identity was confirmed, a police spokesman said: "Efforts to assist him were carried out at the scene and he was taken by ambulance to [Ninewells Hospital](#), where it was later confirmed that he had died." Firefighters made the scene safe and specialist hazardous material officers identified the chemicals involved. [Kevin Sparks](#), who works at neighbouring business Martin Plant Hire, said he had heard Mr Conway had been exposed to acid. He said: "I know some of the guys there and they were all standing outside looking nervous and shocked." [Chris Lundie](#), who runs Covert Cleaning opposite Diamond Wheel Technologies, said there had been a strong acidic smell shortly after the [accident](#) happened. He said: "I tried to get back just before three o'clock and they wouldn't let me down Baird Avenue but there was a smell of chemicals in the air." Staff at the nearby Little People Nursery were advised to close all windows as a precaution. [Ian Cargill](#), who leased the industrial unit to Diamond Wheel Technologies, said: "I have been notified about the accident but I don't have any more information about that." He said there was a special container in the premises used to store the acid needed to clean alloy wheels. Nobody from the company was available for comment, but its website says alloy wheels are dipped in acid to remove damage and corrosion before being repainted. The [Health and Safety Executive](#), which is responsible for investigating industrial accidents, said its officers will carry out an inquiry in conjunction with the police. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal, as is normal practice in cases of sudden death.

#### Related Links

- [Man dies in 'chemical' incident](#)
- [Garage worker dies after falling ill in acid tank](#)
- [Man dies after collapsing in Dundee chemical tank](#)
- [Mechanic dies after collapsing in chemical tank at work](#)

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Dundee/article/16612/update-man-who-died-in-tragic-incident-at-diamond-wheel-technologies-named-as-steven-conway.html>

#### PHILIPPINES, ILOILO CITY, AUGUST 20 2011. GUIMARAS MARINE ENVIRONMENT SHOWS TRACES OF RECOVERY AFTER OIL SPILL

There are traces of recovery in the marine environment in the province of Guimaras five years after the largest oil spill happened on August 11, 2006. It can be recalled that the oil tanker MT Solar I, carrying two million liters of tanker fuel, sank off the coast of Guimaras and Negros Occidental, causing about 200,000 liters of fuel to pour into the strait. The oil spill adversely affected the waters of the Visayas seas, considered as a rich fishing ground where supply of fish for the entire country come from, according to the then National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC). Guimaras Gov. Felipe Hilan Nava said he was happy to note that the marine environment is recovering even if the process takes a gradual pace. Nava has commissioned a team of scientists from various disciplines to conduct an environmental research so that the province can be guided properly with the status of the coastal and marine environment of the province. Dr. Ressurecion Sadaba of the UP Visayas, member of the team, said that there is a good implication for the recovery of the marine resources like the mangroves especially in coastal areas reached by the spillage. He said based on their studies, especially in Taklong island and the nearby area, they noticed a low presence of Poly aromatic hydro carbon (PAH), while there were more mangroves sapling noticed last year yet. On the other hand, Dr. Lemmuel Aragonos of UP Diliman and head of the team, said there are good results of their fisheries studies. "There are already many fish families present in the marine waters, and about 130 kinds of species and 50 families of fish that can now be found in the province," Aragonos said. Gov. Nava, on the other hand, said the traces of recovery made the province more vibrant and forward looking in finding ways to further improve the coastal and marine resources of the province.

<http://www.pia.gov.ph/?m=1&t=1&id=49796>

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#### USA, KS, CEDAR VALE, AUGUST 20 2011. CITY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR STORE OWNER AFTER GASOLINE LEAK

chris frank

 **Watch the Video:**

[http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/City\\_Shows\\_Support\\_For\\_Store\\_Owner\\_After\\_Gasoline\\_Leak\\_128059208.html](http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/City_Shows_Support_For_Store_Owner_After_Gasoline_Leak_128059208.html)

Earlier this week, a gasoline leak forced many Cedar Vale residents to evacuate their homes. They've been allowed to go back, but the incident caused dissension among them, with some blaming the gas station owner while others are coming to her support.

**Thursday, August 18, 2011**

Earlier this week, a gasoline leak forced many Cedar Vale residents to evacuate their homes. They've been allowed to go back, but the incident caused dissension among them, with some blaming the gas station owner while others are coming to her support. Work was finishing up on the gasoline pump Thursday. According to repairman Mark Harder, there was a slight seep under one of the dispensers. "It was buried under rock and it was hard to see. You couldn't see it." Gasoline from the leak reached city sewer lines, which sent fumes into homes. That resulted in an evacuation of as many as 150 residents according to city and county officials. Owner of the Short Stop, Shawne Clapp, says she considered not reopening the town's only convenience store because of the blame she was getting for the leak. But that changed after seeing an outpouring of support Wednesday night outside Clapp's home. "They brought me flowers and letters and it was all pretty nice," Clapp said. Oscar Mattocks helped organize the rally. "Probably between a 100 and 150 people in her front yard last night to show there is more positive support for keeping the store open than there is negative." "I'm just overly excited," Clapp said. "I was very excited to open my store this morning knowing I had all that backing." One victim hospitalized due to the fumes has since been released. All but one of the town's sewer lines were cleaned out once the gasoline leak was repaired. That allowed folks to return home.

[http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/City\\_Shows\\_Support\\_For\\_Store\\_Owner\\_After\\_Gasoline\\_Leak\\_128059208.html](http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/City_Shows_Support_For_Store_Owner_After_Gasoline_Leak_128059208.html)

#### US, ILL, DETROIT, AUGUST 20 2011. CLASSIC CAR OWNERS DECRY ETHANOL

The presence of ethanol an alcohol additive made from corn in gasoline is hardly noticed by consumers. "Most likely, you're getting ethanol everywhere you drive in the country," generally with 10 percent added ethanol, said Kirk McCauley, a spokesman for the Service Station Dealers Association of America. Federal regulators leave it to the states to decide whether pumps must be labeled disclosing that they dispense fuel blended with E10. About a dozen states don't require ethanol labeling on gas pumps. Classic car buffs say 10 percent ethanol already in widespread use hurts their vehicles. But the Environmental Protection Agency says it's safe. Periodically, when an old car breaks down or a chain saw or boat motor self-destructs, the owner blames ethanol-blended gasoline. Trade groups for the ethanol industry and corn producers vigorously dispute such complaints, saying ethanol is safe for any new car and that, for older cars, parts can be adapted and fuel additives used during storage as safeguards. The makers of engines and other parts side with classic-car owners and their mechanics. "You can have people keeping a collector car in the garage, taking very good care of it, but the ethanol in there is corroding the vehicle," said Stuart Gosswein, senior director of federal government affairs for the Specialty Equipment Market Association, which represents manufacturers of racing and custom auto parts. This year, the EPA approved allowing even more ethanol — a 15 percent mix. That proposal upset automakers and small-engine companies, who said that at 15 percent ethanol even newer cars and newer small engines would be damaged. "We're basing our concerns on the cars that are on the road today," and on the corrosive effect that 15 percent-ethanol fuel could have on fuel pumps, fuel tanks, hoses and emissions parts, said Gloria Bergquist, vice president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, a trade group that includes the Detroit Three automakers and other manufacturers, including Toyota and Volkswagen. The alliance, along with other trade groups, sued the EPA in January to stop the introduction of E15. Small-engine manufacturers are concerned about the effects on boat motors, chain saws and lawn mowers. Despite the lawsuit, the EPA approved the sale of E15, with labels, for vehicles made in model year 2001 and later. That's drawing cheers from the American Coalition for Ethanol, a Washington-based trade association of ethanol producers and corn growers, who say ethanol is perfectly safe for cars and small engines sold today, and say it's boosting the economy by adding jobs in corn-growing states. Foes of ethanol worry that E15 will become the norm in time and they won't be able to tell when they are buying it. "The answer is not to stop this 15 percent ethanol, it's to get all of the ethanol out of gasoline," said classic-car mechanic Ed Syrocki, owner of EMS Classic Car Care in Warren, Mich. Officials at the Renewable Fuels Association, representing the ethanol industry, said ethanol fuels can be safely used in old cars if

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owners adapt the fuel systems with new parts. Association spokesman Matt Hartwig said the cost would "be minor in comparison to what (owners) would be willing to spend on the exterior of the car, for example."

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/business/s\\_752484.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/business/s_752484.html)

#### USA, TX, TEXAS CITY, AUGUST 20 2011. TC DIKE, PORT CLOSED AFTER OIL LEAK

*t.j. aulds*

The Texas City Dike and the Port of Texas City were shut down Friday night after an oil spill at a dock owned by BP. But it was the company hired by the barge company to load the oil that is being blamed for the spill. A barge owned by Buffalo Marine Service was loading heavy bunker oil at Dock No. 34 at the Port of Texas City about 5:30 p.m. when the oil spilled, BP spokesman Michael Marr said. AccuTrans Marine Management Services was hired by Buffalo Marine and was responsible for transferring the fuel from BP's docks to the barge, officials said. An incident report named AccuTrans as the company responsible for the spill, Texas City Homeland Security Director Bruce Clawson said. It's estimated that as much as 60 barrels — 2,500 gallons — of the oil spilled into the water. It is likely the final estimate of how much leaked will be much lower, various sources said. Bunker oil, known as No. 6 Oil, is used for the operation of boilers on ships. "Since the incident began, BP has been in continuous contact with the barge owner, the city of Texas City, the Coast Guard and Garner Environmental to assist in the response," Marr said. "BP will continue to coordinate with all the relevant parties to support the response." The cause of the leak is being investigated. No one from Buffalo Marine Service was immediately available for comment on the spill. The company buys the oil from refineries and offloads it onto ships, according to the company's website. AccuTrans officials also could not be reached late Friday night. The slick stretched from the port to near the base of the Texas City Dike, promoting city officials to shut down the dike, Texas City Homeland Security Director Bruce Clawson said. Even in the dark, the sheen could be seen stretching across the water between the dike and Shoal Point. A closer look along the rocky-edge of the dike revealed a collection of black-brown oil washing up. Clawson ordered the dike to close at 8 p.m., and Texas City police officers asked visitors to leave the area. Texas City police directed dike visitors to Skyline Drive on the hurricane levee. Crews from Garner Environmental were on the water setting up booms to capture the spilled oil, Clawson said. It's unclear how long the dike and port area will remain closed, Clawson said. Garner Environmental crew were using oil booms to direct the oil slick towards a small beach area at the base of the dike. From there the oil and water mixture was to be sucked up by vacuum trucks. Bunker oil, also known as fuel oil, is dense and extremely difficult to clean up. It coats birds and shorelines effectively. It also carries a strong odor, which is one of the reasons the dike was closed, Clawson said. Clawson said he would check on the incident at about 5:30 a.m. today to determine when the dike would reopen. He said the dike may have to remain closed until the sun came up to help evaporate the oil and water mixture.

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story/251726>

#### USA, WASHINGTON D.C, AUGUST 21 2011. CHEMICAL MUNITIONS STILL PLAGUE DC NEIGHORHOOD

*patricia kime*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to tear down a \$3.4 million home in northwest Washington, D.C., because it was built on a disposal pit for the Army's World War I-era chemical weapons manufacturing plant. Excavations at the house since 2000 have uncovered smoking canisters of arsenic trichloride, liquid mustard, munitions and hardware related to the Army's chemical warfare program, which operated at nearby American University from 1917 to 1918. The recommendation to raze the home is another chapter in the Corps of Engineers' ongoing effort to clean up Spring Valley, the affluent neighborhood located next to AU. "The preferred remedy will be the removal of the home," said USACE project manager Brenda Barber. "It has the potential to be returned to a residential lot" after 12 to 18 months of cleanup, she said. According to a report drafted for the Corps, the home site contains hazardous levels of arsenic and could also have chemical weapons-related debris buried beneath its foundation. In the past decade, the Corps has removed 400 pounds of laboratory glassware, munitions and 100 tons of soil from the lot, about one-third of an acre in size. The Corps of Engineers says the contamination is contained and does not endanger public health. "First and foremost, there is no current risk to the public. The site is secure and the risks are contained," Barber said Aug. 19. Since 1993, when construction workers uncovered World War I-era chemical weapons rounds in the neighborhood, the Corps of Engineers has sought to clean up the area. The Corps tested soil at 1,602 Spring Valley homes for arsenic, removing and replacing soil at 140. It has uncovered nearly 600 pieces of ordnance and found intact containers of chemicals and chemical warfare agents. In 1996, landscapers planting a tree at the home of American University's president the house next door to the proposed tear-down were overcome by fumes after unearthing laboratory

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glassware. In 1998, the Corps found mortars, smoke bombs and chemicals related to the manufacture of the blister agent Lewisite in the yard of the other adjacent home, belonging to the ambassador of South Korea. In 2006, Washington conducted a public health survey on the neighborhood, finding that overall health was good with cancer rates lower than those of the general public and mortality rates equal to similar communities. But it did find a slightly elevated number of cancers associated with arsenic exposure, such as bladder, kidney and skin cancers, compared with the control community of nearby Chevy Chase, Md. Anecdotally, neighbors speak of odd cancer clusters and incidences of tumors in seemingly healthy individuals. Kathy Loughlin, the owner of 4825 Glenbrook Road, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1997; she recovered. District Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton has lobbied for Congress to fund an advanced health survey for the neighborhood; In July, she proposed an amendment to the House's fiscal 2012 defense appropriations bill for a \$1 million review. The amendment was defeated, but according to her office, she received assurances from Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., the defense appropriations subcommittee's ranking member, for help trying to use Defense Department funds for the purpose. "Thankfully, studies have shown that the overall community health status of Spring Valley is good, but we need to continue to monitor the health of residents who reside near the site," she said in a statement. The estimated cost of tearing down 4235 Glenbrook Road NW and cleaning up the lot is \$13.5 million, not including compensation for the structure, according to the Corps of Engineers. The unoccupied house is owned by American University. The Corps has spent \$190 million since 1993 to cleanup the neighborhood, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2011/08/military-chemical-munitions-plague-washington-neighborhood-081911w/>

#### USA, TX, STAFFORD, AUGUST 21 2011. TERRIFYING GAS STATION CRASH CAUGHT ON CAMERA

 **Watch the Video** <http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/bizarre&id=8315901>

Two men are lucky to be alive after nearly getting hit by an SUV that flipped into a car at a Stafford-area gas station. The accident happened around 9pm Tuesday at a gas station in the 12000 block of the Southwest Freeway Surveillance footage sent to ABC13 via [iWitness Reports](#) shows two men walking from the convenience store back to their parked van before they suddenly start running. Moments later, an SUV tumbles into gas station parking lot and nearly hits them. The SUV rolled twice before coming to an upright position and crashing into another SUV parked at one of the gas pumps. The supervisor at the gas station tells Eyewitness News that the driver of the SUV lost control while trying to make a U-turn on the feeder road of Highway 59, but clipped the sidewalk. The supervisor said neither of the men seen running out of the SUV's way were harmed, but he wasn't sure if the driver was injured.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/bizarre&id=8315901>

#### UK, SUSSEX, BILLINGSHURST, AUGUST 21 2011. FIRE AT CONEYHURST FUEL DEPOT

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-14601242>

Around 100 people were evacuated and a main trunk road closed after an inferno ripped through a fuel depot near Billingshurst last night (August 19). More than 50 firefighters scrambled to Four Seasons Farm at Coneyhurst just before 10pm and quickly established a 200m cordon. However, as the severity of the fire became apparent, this was extended to 600m about half an hour later. Gas canisters and other hazardous materials stored on the site meant a large number of people from nearby residential properties had to be evacuated to Billingshurst Village Hall - which had been opened up as a rest centre by Horsham District Council - and the Selsey Arms pub in Coolham. Meanwhile, a multi-agency operation between emergency services and local authorities was quickly put in place. A South East Air Support Unit helicopter provided downlink video of the incident to assist fire officers in their assessment of the scale of the blaze. One evacuated resident was Mark Betts, a local businessman who's company - Universal Trailers - and home are based on land adjoining the fuel depot. At the time he was attending a party with around 50 to 60 guests on his property just yards away from the blazing inferno. He said: "The first I knew about it was around 10.30pm when somebody tapped me on the shoulder and said 'look - is that your office alright?'. "My initial reaction was one of fear for my business, my livelihood. People at the party were quite frightened. "I went round to my business premises and as I walked there I could hear the crackling and feel the heat, and then you could hear the gas bottles exploding and then hissing as they flew off - it was like gun shots. "When I got there I realised it wasn't us. "The fire brigade came really fast but at first it was just too dangerous for them to go in so they just watched it burn." The owners of Four Seasons Fuel Limited, a family run business with three generations in the industry, are currently abroad. Two male family members, who were looking after the house at the time of the blaze, were reported to be 'in floods of tears'. "We feel really sorry for them, it's three generations of families and it's all gone up in smoke," said Mr Betts. The party-goers were evacuated

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

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via police riot vans to the Selsey Arms pub, based at Coolham crossroads off the A272, from 11pm to 12pm. Francet Du Plessis, pub Manager, said: "Police escorted a large group here and when we saw them come in we kept the pub open so they had somewhere to stay. "Two guests stayed overnight here - free of charge - because they couldn't get back and had no where to go. "We ordered taxis for the rest of the guys to get home and they were all gone by 2.30am. "We didn't mind at all, I would expect someone to help us out if we were in need - it's a small community and we've got to look after each other." Sussex Police kept a section of the A272 closed until 2.15pm this afternoon (Saturday August 20). No casualties have been reported and all residents have now returned to their homes 'at their own risk'. There is no indication of the cause of the fire at this stage, say police. Steve Clack, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service's deputy district commander for Horsham, said: "The first crews on the scene were faced with a significant and well-developed fire so an immediate decision was made, working with Sussex Police, to set up a safety cordon to ensure public and firefighter safety. "Crews have made steady progress throughout the night and I'm pleased to say that the fire is now out. "We anticipate that fire crews will remain in attendance throughout the day to assist the fire investigation officers as their investigation into the cause of this fire can now begin." Inspector Paul Williams, of Sussex Police, said: "This has obviously caused major disruption and upheaval and I should like to thank everyone affected for their co-operation and patience. "Thankfully, nobody has been injured in this incident and people have now returned safely to their homes."

[http://www.westsussextoday.co.uk/news/local/update\\_fire\\_at\\_coneyhurst\\_fuel\\_depot\\_1\\_2984919](http://www.westsussextoday.co.uk/news/local/update_fire_at_coneyhurst_fuel_depot_1_2984919)

## INDIA, MUMBAI, AUGUST 21 211. 60,000 TONNES OF OIL POURED INTO OUR SEA

shailesh bhatia



*Ship accidents over 29 years have led to irreversible ecological disaster in Mumbai's backyard.*

The Indian Coast Guard, designated as the first response agency to combat oil spills in our territorial waters, has released some startling statistics. Over 60,000 tonnes of crude oil has been spilt into the Arabian Sea in the last 29 years, sparking concern over the irreversible damage to marine life. The spill in the Arabian Sea caused by 23 ship accidents since 1982, amounts to over half the total oil spilt along the entire Indian coastline. Close to 1,13,000 tonnes of oil has been spilled along the country's coastline due to 74 ship accidents in the same time frame. "Things have been particularly bad in the last two years. The oil spill from MV Rak earlier this month, was the second successive blow for the Mumbai coast in the monsoon, which is breeding season for a majority of the marine species. Last

August, MV Chitra spilt over 800 tonnes of oil into the Arabian Sea. There is a limit to which ecological balance can be maintained. Once damaged, it may take years to recuperate," said Deepak Apte, deputy director of BNHS's conservation department. Maritime expert Joseph Fonseca, who procured these figures from the Coast Guard (Sunday Mid Day has a copy), said the number of vessels docking into the two city ports is on the rise. A dearth of experienced seafarers implied that accidents are bound to escalate. "Marine officers attain the rank of Captain in barely six to eight years, while in the past, they could only command a ship after 12 to 15 years. A lack of experience could be one of the causes for an increase in these accidents," said Fonseca. Captain Dinesh Jairam, a senior maritime professional, who has been in the industry for 30 years, agreed. According to him, qualified seafarers were opting for shore jobs, which has led to a dearth of experienced seafarers on the ship. Over 70 per cent of accidents at sea are due to human error. In spite of all the technological advancements in the navigation sector, at the end of the day, all machines are operated by humans, who must have the right expertise," he said. President Indian National Ship-owners Association for Mumbai Sabyasacchi Hajara said one reason for senior mariners taking shore jobs could be that India is a growing economy. "Though life at sea is more comfortable compared than it was, if seafarers find lucrative shore jobs that do not involve long time spans away from family, it is natural that they would opt for those." According to Chairman of the Maritime Association of Shipowners Shipmanagers and Agents (MASSA) Captain Shyam Jairam, the only remedy is adequate training and mentoring to curb human error.

### Disaster Timeline

MV Rak sank in the Arabian Sea on August 4, 2011. Had 60,000 tonnes of coal and at least 300 tonnes of fuel oil. Two tonnes of oil has been leaking into the sea every hour since August 6. There are reports that another vessel is presently drifting towards Mumbai. MV Pavit abandoned off the Oman coast on June 29, 2011 drifted to Mumbai and was grounded at Juhu

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Versova beach on July 31. MV Wisdom owned by a Singapore company lost her tow 10 nautical miles off Mumbai on June 11, 2011. It was grounded at Juhu beach. Though oil slick was observed on the beach, there are no confirmed reports on how much was spilt. January 30, 2011 naval vessel INS Vindhagiri suffered damage after a Cyprus flag merchant ship MV Nordlake collided with it at the entrance of Mumbai harbour.

<http://www.mid-day.com/news/2011/aug/210811-Mumbai-coast-Ship-Drowning-Oil-spill.htm>

#### USA, TX, TEXAS CITY, AUGUST 21 2011. TEXAS CITY DIKE, PORT REOPEN AFTER OIL SPILL

t.j. aulds

 **Watch the Video** <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8317816>

 **Photo's** <http://galvestondailynews.com/photographs/gallery/251974>



*A Garner Environmental worker uses a power washer to spray oil off rocks along the Texas City Dike on Saturday. More than 2,000 gallons of bunker oil spilled forced the closure of the Port of Texas City and the dike.*

The Texas City Dike and Port of Texas City were closed for more than 13 hours Friday and Saturday after an oil spill at one of the port's docks sent a sheen of heavy fuel oil into Galveston Bay. City emergency management officials and the U.S. Coast Guard confirmed the spill happened while crews were loading a barge at a dock controlled by BP. Officials said BP is not responsible for the spill. Instead, the barge company, Buffalo Marine Service, was named the responsible party. A barge owned by Buffalo Marine was loading heavy bunker oil at Dock No. 34, a dock

belonging to BP, at the Port of Texas City about 5:30 p.m. Friday when the oil spilled, Texas City Homeland Security Director Bruce Clawson said. Officials estimate that 50 barrels — 2,100 gallons — of oil spilled, the Coast Guard reported.

#### Over-Filled Tanks

Petty Officer Prentice Danner, a Coast Guard spokesman, said crews over-filled one of the barge tanks and let the oil spill over into the water before the feed could be shut off. Initially, the company hired by the barge owners to pump the fuel, AccuTrans, was named the responsible party. But by Saturday morning, the Coast Guard named Buffalo Marine Service the responsible party, Danner said. As the responsible party, Buffalo Marine will pay for the cost of the cleanup. Unified Incident Command spokesman Henry de La Garza said officials from Buffalo Marine were not available for comment. Bunker oil, known as No. 6 Oil, is used for the operation of boilers on ships. It is dense and difficult to clean up. It coats birds and shorelines effectively. It also carries a strong odor, which is one of the reasons the dike was closed, Clawson said. The dike was closed at about 8 p.m. Friday and reopened at about 9:30 a.m. Saturday. The port was closed soon after the spill and opened at 9:30 a.m. Saturday as well.

#### The Cleanup

Crews from Garner Environmental set up booms to capture the spilled oil. A sheen of the spilled oil could be seen even in the dark along the water between the dike and Shoal Point. Oil collected along the rocky shore of the dike near the pier's south base. It was unclear what type of environmental impact the spill oil would have, and while acknowledging ship and barge traffic was at a standstill after the waterway was closed, port spokesman Jason Hayley did not have an indication of how many ships or barges were delayed. A shrimp boat docked at the dike was surrounding by the oil sheen and would have to be cleaned before it could go out again, officials said. At daybreak cleanup crews were using power washers to get the oil off the rocks along the dike, and a vacuum truck, with a capacity of pumping 100 gallons a minute, was removing the oil-saltwater mix from waterway between the dike and Shoal Point.

#### Anglers Wait to Launch

Cleanup continued after the opening of the dike, but dike goers were told to stay away from the one-mile stretch of the dike's south shoreline where crews were working. The \$5 per car entry fee to the dike returned when it reopened. Many anglers who arrived at the bait camps at the dike's entrance early Saturday were shocked to find that the dike closed. "This is the first I heard about it," Ronnie Butler, of Splendor, said as he waited in the parking lot of Boyd's Bait Camp a few hundreds yards from the dike. "I didn't even hear it on the (radio) news coming down here." He and friends planned to launch at the dike and fish along the jetties, but the delay in opening the dike changed the group's plans. His fishing buddy Daniel Miranda, of Splendor, said he's been fishing at the dike since he was a child. He didn't consider the oil spill to be too big a threat.

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"Nothing much I can do about it," he said. "(Stuff) happens, I guess. It's just bad that when I get ready to go fishing something like this happens. But what can you say?"

#### Crowds Steady, Fishing Suspect

The initial closure and word of the spill did not appear to hurt dike traffic. Hundreds of cars streamed onto the dike soon after it reopened. With the exception of the area where crews were working, dike goers packed much of the available space along the pier. Merlin Henry of Pearland was worried about the effect the oil slick would have on fishing. The active member of the Coastal Conservation Association Texas said when he found out about the spill, his first thoughts were about fish and wildlife. "It seems to be OK," Henry said. "It wasn't a bad situation. (Crews) were able to contain it, so it was good." There were no reports of dead fish or birds as a result of a spill, Clawson said. Officials did not have an estimate on when the cleanup would be complete.

#### Related Links

- [Cleanup after oil spill near dike](#)
- [Oil spill near the Texas City Dike](#)
- [Texas City dike, port remain closed after spill](#)
- [TC dike, port closed after spill](#)

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story/251974>

#### MALASIA, ALOR SETAR, JANUARY 21 2011. RM20, 000 WORTH OF PETROL AND DIESEL SEIZED



*A team of soldiers foiled an attempt by seven men to smuggle 10,220 litres of diesel and petrol into Thailand.*

The incident occurred at 8.15am yesterday in Kuala Nerang, near the Kota Putra Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex (CIQ) at Durian Burung. The fuel had a market value of about RM20,000. The seven men aged between 30 and 45, including two Thais, were detained as they tried to smuggle out the fuel in five pick-up trucks and two cars. The vehicles were all Thai-registered. "The bonnets of the vehicles had been modified to accommodate a huge fuel tank fixed with fuelling pipes," commanding officer of the 3rd Regiment Royal Artillery Lt-Kol Kamarularif Ramli said at the Padang Terap district police headquarters yesterday. Extra large: Lt-Kol Kamarularif showing the modified fuel tank in one of the pick-up trucks in Padang Terap yesterday. "The total fuel loaded in the

modified tanks was 9,910 to 10,220 litres of petrol and 310 litres of diesel." The case will be investigated under the Control Of Supplies Act 1961 which provides for a fine of up to RM15,000 or two years' jail or both upon conviction. "We will be handing over the case to the Kedah Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Department for further investigation," he said. On July 27 last year, the army stopped two pick-up trucks and seized 560 litres of petrol from suspected smugglers at the border.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/8/21/nation/9341582&sec=nation>

#### USA, UT, TOOELE, AUGUST 21 2011. HAZMAT CREWS RESPOND TO FUEL SPILL NEAR SALTAIRE

Watch the Video <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=16896487>



Authorities have responded to a hazardous materials incident at the Salt Lake County Marina near Saltair. The Unified Fire Authority responded to an abandoned boat that started to sink, leaking fuel into the marina early Saturday morning. Officials said about 40 gallons of fuel have entered the water. Hazmat crews are on the scene attempting to absorb the fuel.

<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=16896487>

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