



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2011 – 747 Newsy Stuff

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

**August 29 2011**



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#### **NIGERIA, BAYELSA STATE, IKARAMA, AUGUST 21 2011. OIL SPILL TRIGGERS FIRE OUTBREAK >> OVER 100 HOUSES BURNT >> HUNDREDS FLEE COMMUNITY**

*oluwole ige*

Thousands have fled the Ikarama community, Bayelsa state following an inferno triggered by an oil spill from a Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) pipeline. No fewer than 100 houses were also burnt by the fire, which has compounded the problems arising from the spill. Saturday Tribune gathered that the damage could have been worse, but for the fact that virtually all inhabitants of the community had gone to farm or proceeded on a fishing expedition. The latest disaster is coming against the backdrop of the spirited efforts by the Federal government to address the impacts of oil spill in Ogoni land, coupled with a damning report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the problem in the area. It was gathered that Ikarama had experienced no fewer than six oil spills in the last three weeks with the SPDC succeeding in clamping five of the spill sites at different locations before the outbreak of fire on Wednesday night. Although the cause of the fire outbreak could not be immediately established as at press time, sources said it was a case of sabotage. However, the Environment Rights Action Field Coordinator in the state, Comrade Morris Alagoa, who was among the first persons to arrive at the scene, told our correspondent that the distance between houses and some huts in the area was less than 20 meters. "The natives, young and old watched helplessly from safe distances how their property were consumed by the inferno, which rose up to about 25 meters or so above the ground," he said, adding that that appropriate authorities should move in to investigate the incessant spill in the community and ascertain the major cause of the outbreak of fire. In his remark, a resident, Mr. Tamunokomie E. Oba, said "the fire outbreak caused a lot of panic because crude oil is all around our dwelling and we fear the fire might spread to burn down the house." Confirming the incident, SPDC Spokesman, Mr. Precious Okolobo, said the fire was ignited by unknown persons. Meanwhile, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant, Shell, has accepted responsibility for two devastating oil spills in Ogoniland in Rivers State. The Bodo fishing community in Ogoni, sued Shell in the United Kingdom (UK), alleging that oil spills in 2008 and 2009 had destroyed the environment and ruined their livelihoods. Lawyer to the communities, Mr. Martyn Day, said his clients would seek hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation for one of the world's "most devastating oil spills". Shell told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) it would settle the case under Nigerian law. Experts who studied video footage of the spills, said they could be as large as the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska, United States (US) when 10 million gallons of oil destroyed the remote coastline, the UK's Guardian newspaper reports. Until now, Shell had claimed that less than 40,000 gallons were spilt in the country. Reports said the spillage was caused by pipelines which ran through the village. Shell stopped pumping oil from Ogoniland in 1993 after the late environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiwa, was hanged for leading a campaign against it for allegedly destroying the environment. Martyn Day, represented the 69,000-strong Bodo fishing community, said they would demand "adequate compensation immediately". "This is one of the most devastating oil spills the world has ever seen and yet it had gone almost unnoticed until we received instructions to bring about a claim against Shell in this country [UK]," he said. He said the community had three sets of claims. The first claim - for at least \$100m (£61m) - was for to clean up the area. The second one was for damages to the community land and the final one was for losses suffered by individual families, Day said. "The Bodo people are a fishing community surrounded by water. What was the source of their livelihood now cannot sustain even the smallest of fish. The spills have caused severe poverty amongst the community. According to SPDC, it had earlier mobilized a fire fighting team, but access was denied by community women blockade, who were lamenting their woes.

#### **Related Links**

- [Oil spillage, fire outbreak rock Bayelsa community](#)
- [Chaos as oil spill sparks off fire in Bayelsa](#)

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/sat/index.php/front-page-articles/5035-oil-spill-triggers-fire-outbreak-over-100-houses-burnt-hundreds-flee-community.html>

#### **NIGERIA, LAGOS, AUGUST 21 2011. NIGERIA OIL SPILL SECRET BROUGHT TO LIGHT**

*Interview with Dr. Patrick Wilmot, author and academic, London*

*The damage done from oil is so bad in the Niger Delta it has degraded agriculture fisheries and drinking water and may take 30 years or more to clean up.*

Shell has accepted responsibility for two oil spills while others remain silent in what amounts to past government's conspiracy and fifty years of criminal neglect of oil containment in the Niger Delta. The cost of the cleanup for the first five years has been estimated at one billion dollars. A UN environmental report on the situation was allowed to be funded by oil giant Shell, which

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has accepted liability. But has Shell tried to buy its way out of justice? Press TV in its Africa Today program talks with Dr. Patrick Wilmot, author and academic from London to get to the truth of the catastrophe that has been largely and intentionally hidden from the world for fifty years, until now.

**Press TV:** You are a frequent traveler to Nigeria. How concerned are you about the providence of this report by the UN; its own scientists would have looked at the evidence of long term destruction of the environment, agriculture, fisheries, drinking water - terrible contamination there - Do you accept that or do you feel you can't trust it, it must be worse because Shell funded the report?

**Patrick Wilmot:** A big multinational company like Shell cannot hope to avoid being censored by this report. So giving ten million or five million or whatever amount of money is damage limitation - it's not an attempt to completely hide the truth. If you know the Nigerian situation you can certainly get from the report what you need to find out about what this company and other companies have done. Even on television you see the picture of the oil fields and oil pipelines, it looks like a war zone. You see rusted pipes - You never see rusted pipes in any of these institutions in Europe or in America. Even if you have the slightest spill - right now over the past three days there is a concerned report about a possible oil spill in a SHELL facility off the coast of Britain - even though there's no evidence so far that the oil has come out into the water. But in Nigeria this goes on routinely. Shell may try to blame saboteurs, but I look at oil institutions in this country - there is no way I can get into those things to sabotage the place so if there is sabotage, it's negligence on the part of Shell. It means that they don't want to invest in security; they don't want to invest in pipeline.

**Press TV:** I thought they invested huge amounts of money in security particularly for their own workers who are kidnapped regularly and for the security of their own installations, which are sometimes boarded.

**Patrick Wilmot:** Yes, but I mean the pipelines, if there is sabotage, it means that you do not have the security that you have in the US.

**Press TV:** Yes, you're talking about pipelines that run over ground for kilometers.

**Patrick Wilmot:** You don't find adequate security.

**Press TV:** How should this cleanup be orchestrated? Who should actually benefit from it because I read in some newspapers here in Britain this week that this could provide employment for very large numbers of Nigerians who've seen these big companies come into their region, pollute it, destroy the farmland the environment and salt away billions and billions of dollars and take it outside the country. Couldn't Nigeria benefit from this now because it could generate an awful lot of jobs and improve the infrastructure there?

**Patrick Wilmot:** The degree of the pollution is so great that any attempt to correct it and to clean up the place will as you said generate enormous amounts of employment because the oil industry as such is capital intensive - it doesn't employ that many people and a large number of these people are foreigners. So, the people in the Niger delta, they suffer from what the oil companies do, but they don't benefit in terms of the money that is coming from the oil industry?

**Press TV:** And would you blame governments for that - I'm talking about national governments or are you more concerned about the states - the powerful governors who do have an awful lot of say about what goes on in their particular region or state?

**Patrick Wilmot:** Well, the Federal government is the leader and they make these agreements with the oil companies. Of course, the state governments are all involved because the people vote for them, so they have a responsibility to see that the oil companies and the government clean up the place. All the companies have investments from the Nigerian government so it is the responsibility of both the Nigerian government and the oil companies to see that their people in that area benefit from what is a national resource - the revenues you get from oil is a national resource.

**Press TV:** This might be a lesson this clean up for other African countries, which are fairly new to oil like Ghana-Nigeria's near neighbor - and they want to make sure they don't make the same mistakes?

**Patrick Wilmot:** Yes. I think a country like Ghana, which historically has had a much more well-organized government, I think will learn seriously from the mistakes made in Nigeria. Press TV: What do you think the main things to avoid are?

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**Patrick Wilmot:** You want to make sure that the companies that are carrying out the prospecting and the production of oil have the most modern equipment - the idea of seeing a rusted pipeline; I've never seen this in Europe or America, I've only seen it in countries like Nigeria.

**Press TV:** Do you think these big companies do have the wealth, but they're using the cheapest most basic equipment in African countries?

**Patrick Wilmot:** Yes. If we look at the problem with SHELL, they have been there so long, but they have not renewed equipment. Everywhere over London you see the water companies digging up the street to replace water pipelines that have been there for years. They are underground and they are water, but they're interested in making sure you don't have these leakages. In the Delta you just see these rusted pipelines and the pipes will erode and the rust will cause them to break on their own.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/194963.html>

### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, AUGUST 22 2011. MAN LOSES LEGS IN EXPLOSION

 **Watch the Video**

<http://www.smh.com.au/victoria/man-loses-legs-in-backyard-blast-20110822-1j59d.html>

<http://media.theage.com.au/news/national-news/backyard-explosion-causes-warlike-injuries-2573127.html>

 **Photo's**

<http://cranbourne-leader.whereilive.com.au/photos/gallery/cannons-creek-backyard-blast/>

Two men are fighting for their lives in Melbourne hospitals after an improvised explosive device blew up in their backyard. The two men were mixing chemicals in a container in front of a group of neighbours at a Cannons Creek home, when it exploded shortly after 11pm (AEST) on Sunday. Both men are now fighting for their lives in Melbourne hospitals. A paramedic on scene likened the injuries to those typically found in a war zone, saying a 24-year-old man had 'complete or near amputation' of his legs and a hand. 'One (patient) had severe airway burns and the second patient suffered severe blast-type injuries, the type of injury you'd more likely see in a war situation rather than in our suburban Melbourne,' he said. The 24-year-old, with blast injuries and burns to his face and airways, remains in a critical condition in the Royal Melbourne Hospital. A 23-year-old Cannons Creek man suffered burns to his face, arms and airways and is in a critical condition in The Alfred Hospital. The 24-year-old was given a blood transfusion on the helicopter en route to hospital. 'Due to his severe blast injuries he'd lost quite a lot of blood,' Mr Meadley said. 'We were able to give him quite a bit of blood and resuscitate his blood pressure. Then we were able to give him some powerful drugs and ... put him into an induced coma.' Paramedics feared the burned airways of both men could close over, so fitted them with breathing tubes. Mr Meadley confirmed reports the explosion could be felt in nearby homes. 'I believe a lot of the neighbours who were up to a few hundred metres away felt their houses rock, so it was quite a large explosion,' he told ABC radio. Neighbour Judy Gibbs also told ABC the explosion shook her house. 'I'd gone to bed and next minute there was this great, big, loud explosion - the windows in my house shook, the whole house shook,' she said. It's believed the accident was essentially fun gone wrong. The two men were mixing the chemicals to make an improvised explosive device, possibly a rocket, in front of neighbours when the explosion occurred.

 **Related Links**

- [Man loses legs in backyard blast](#)
- [Two men hurt making "explosive substance" in Cannons Creek](#)
- [Victorian men critical after chemical explosion in backyard](#)
- [Two critically injured in chemical blast at Cannons Creek](#)

[http://bigpondnews.com/articles/National-Regional/2011/08/22/Man\\_loses\\_legs\\_in\\_explosion\\_652863.html](http://bigpondnews.com/articles/National-Regional/2011/08/22/Man_loses_legs_in_explosion_652863.html)

### BULGARIA, SOFIA, AUGUST 21 2011. BULGARIA IN TOP 3 EU COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF EFFICIENCY OF THE CONTROL IN FIGHT AGAINST DANGEROUS GOODS, SAYS CPC

Bulgaria is among the first three countries in the EU in terms of efficiency of the control in the fight against dangerous goods, said Consumer Protection Commission (CPC) Chairperson Damyan Lazarov in an interview with FOCUS News Agency. "Under the law, the producers, and respectively the traders, are obliged not to produce and release at the market goods and products, which hide risks for the health and life of the consumers. The state, and namely the supervisory body, works for the purpose to secure safety at the market. Here I would like to say that it is within the tasks and duties of the CPC to observe the

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safety of the goods and services offered at the Bulgarian market. Bulgaria is among the first three countries in the EU in terms of efficiency of the control in the fight against dangerous goods. Consumers may help in this process by filing signals and providing information," Lazarov added. "We should bear in mind that great part of the risk are not visible at first sight. For instance, it is impossible to detect if a product has too high levels of a banned chemical and whether a baby-walker, for examples, may turn dangerous if one of its elements gets broken and the broken parts are too sharp. Anyway, there are certain major rules, which may help consumers decrease the risk of buying a dangerous good," Damyan Lazarov remarked.

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n257514>

#### USA, V.I, SAINT CROIX, CHRISTENSTEAD, AUGUST 22 2011. HOVENSA REPORTS CYANIDE RELEASE FROM GASOLINE UNIT

Hovensa LLC's 350,000 barrel per day Christenstead, U.S. Virgin Islands, refinery reported a release of ammonia and hydrogen cyanide from a gasoline-producing fluidic catalytic cracking unit on Friday, according to a notice filed with pollution regulators. The notice filed with the U.S. National Response Center did not list a cause of the release of 236.5 pounds of ammonia and 2,648 pounds of hydrogen cyanide from the FCC, but said the readings were discovered during a test. Hovensa is joint-venture between Hess Corp and Venezuela's national oil company PDVSA.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/21/us-refinery-operations-hovensa-idUSTRE77K1Q320110821>

#### USA, FLA, BREVARD CO AUGUST 22 2011. AVIATION GAS POSES LEAD RISK TO THOUSANDS IN BREVARD >> LOCAL AIRPORTS RANK AMONG HIGHEST IN US FOR EMISSIONS

jim waymer



*Small piston aircraft still burn leaded gas. Planes, like those used by the Florida Institute of Technology College of Aviation, contribute to more than 1,000 pounds of lead emissions at Melbourne International Airport each year. Karl Blumfelder fills one of the school's planes.*

Nearly 1,600 children age 5 and younger live close enough to an airport in Brevard County to be at risk from leaded gasoline used by small piston planes and helicopters. With the release of a new study from Duke University and other research identifying 1 kilometer, about 0.6 miles, as a significant threshold for health risks from lead, Florida Today examined local data to gauge the potential lead threat to Space Coast residents. The threat is especially dangerous for young children, who suffer most from exposure to lead. The newspaper analysis of U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency, Census and Brevard County housing numbers found:

- About 13,480 homes and 25 schools, including eight elementary schools and seven day care centers are within the at-risk zone of an airport, heliport or private airstrip. Given Brevard's average of 2.4 residents per household, an estimated 32,350 people live within that threshold distance.
- Brevard's 20 aviation facilities emitted 1.3 tons of lead in 2008, the most recent data available. Forty percent, or 1,043 pounds, came from Melbourne International, ranking it 52nd highest for lead emissions among the nation's 20,000 aviation facilities.
- 3,500 homes, or about 8,400 people, are within that threshold of Melbourne International Airport.

"I'm concerned about it," said Andrea Cattaneo, a mother of two whose home on Bridle Path in Hacienda Estates is less than a half-mile from Melbourne International. "You get that black dust. I'm constantly washing off my back porch." To protect her sons, Nicholas, 6, and Jack, 9, she makes sure to change out her air-conditioning filter regularly to capture any air pollutants from planes. But she still worries how lead and other air pollution might affect her family, especially as the airport expands. "It's really in those early years that lead can make an impact on children's intelligence levels," said Rebecca Anthopolos, a statistical analyst at Duke who coauthored the study on lead exposure from leaded aviation gasoline published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives. The researchers found lead-blood levels increase significantly in children who live near an airport. No level of lead exposure is accepted as safe, according to the EPA, and the agency has found serious health effects at much lower levels in blood than previously thought. The agency is considering a phase-out of lead from general aviation gasoline, called avgas, but has set no timeline. In May, Friends of the Earth, a California-based environmental group, notified the EPA it plans to sue the agency to force a timeline. But industry officials say there is no viable substitute for lead as an

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octane booster. Forcing more expensive alternative fuels too soon could batter a \$150 billion industry already in a tailspin from the recession, they say, as well as create safety concerns. "Engines could literally disintegrate on you," said Glenn Vera, director of Florida Institute of Technology aviation, which has 54 planes at Melbourne International Airport. Conservation groups counter that industry and the EPA have delayed for decades and must commit to deadlines for a phaseout. They list Melbourne International among 32 airports nationwide -- 13 of them in Florida -- that are the worst lead offenders because of high general aviation traffic and proximity to homes, schools and low-income areas. In their study, Duke researchers mathematically controlled for differences in age of housing (a main source of lead), socioeconomic characteristics and seasonal effects. They did not take into account prevailing winds, the most common takeoff and landing paths, or where children went to school. Most screened for lead were not yet old enough to go to school. Lead is measured in micrograms per deciliter of blood. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "action level" for lead is 10 micrograms per deciliter. That's the level at which CDC recommends public health officials intervene. Earlier studies at Duke suggest childhood blood lead levels as low as 2 micrograms per deciliter can have significant effects on educational performance. The researchers examined blood-screening data from 125,197 North Carolina children, measured between 1995 and 2003. On average, blood-lead levels were 3.88 micrograms per deciliter. But within 500 meters (about 1,600 feet) of airports, levels were on average 4.05 micrograms per deciliter and sometimes above the 10 microgram per deciliter EPA action level. Mercury and arsenic readily leave the body through fingernails and hair. But lead takes a long time to exit the body, usually through fecal matter and urination. While young children are most at risk, because lead harms early neural development, lead exposure also can increase risk of heart attacks and strokes in adults. Lead can affect almost every system in the body. Initially, it often shows no obvious symptoms, so it frequently goes unrecognized. But exposure can cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and at very high levels, seizures, coma and death. Studies show children with elevated lead in their blood have lower IQs, lower standardized test scores and problems with memory, learning, fine motor skills and behavior such as hyperactivity and aggression.

#### Clean Air Act

Overall, lead represents one of the biggest environmental success stories in the nation's history under the 1970 Clean Air Act. Levels have plummeted since the phase-out in automobile gas and the advent of catalytic converters. Lead was first added to gasoline in the 1920s as an octane booster. It was phased out of motor vehicles in the 1970s and 1980s, resulting in a 99 percent reduction in lead emissions by 2002. But general aviation was allowed to continue to add lead as an octane booster. Piston-engine aircraft using leaded gas now accounts for half of the nation's lead emissions into the air. Nationwide, lead emissions in 2008 were 254 tons from aircraft exhaust during landing and take off and another 296 tons during cruise flight. By comparison, lead emissions from all sources into the air reached 250,000 tons in 1972. Lead is not directly measured at most airports, heliports and private airstrips, so the EPA bases estimates on how many lead gas-burning aircraft take off and land. Some studies have found lead levels near runways more than four times higher than the usual background levels farther away.

#### Lack of Alternative

Lead in general aviation fuel suppresses early detonation, or engine knock, when the fuel in the cylinder either burns too soon or too rapidly. Piston-driven aircraft need high-octane fuel so they perform reliably at high altitude and extreme temperatures. Robert Hackman, vice president of regulatory affairs for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, said a switch to lower-octane fuel could result in lower performance, need for longer runways with more trees cleared from the flight path, and smaller payloads. "Performance for us is critical, and it's a safety issue, not just can we go faster," Hackman said. "We have not seen an alternative that makes economic sense." But environmental groups fighting to get the lead out say EPA has dragged its feet on the issue far too long. "For decades, they've known this is a problem," said Marianne Engelman Lado, an attorney for Earthjustice, which represents Friends of the Earth in its lawsuit against EPA. Friends of the Earth petitioned EPA five years ago to identify lead in avgas as a danger to public health and welfare. Earthjustice put Melbourne International on a list of 32 worst airports nationwide for threat from lead emissions, partly because they say 20 percent of the population within three miles is minority and 12.4 percent is low-income.

#### Plans to Monitor

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection does not monitor lead from airports, but has plans at several smaller airports -- none in Brevard -- to help EPA better understand the issue. EPA plans to monitor about 15 small airports in urban areas nationwide that have at least a half ton a year in lead emissions. But experts say it's difficult to determine the source of the lead, and enforcing new standards would cost money the government doesn't have. On most days, coastal sea breezes

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help dissipate lead and other particle emissions from Brevard airports. And for residents near Melbourne International such as Ed Frank, 74, who lives in Tropical Haven manufactured home park, there are bigger issues -- including the jets. "I definitely can tell sometimes when they're doing a run up on an airplane that uses jet fuel, you can smell that," said the retired charter pilot. "Sometimes you can see the residue from the exhaust." Frank said he doesn't worry about the small amount of lead from general aviation, though. "I don't see how anybody could even notice it."

### Related Links

- [Lead emissions at Brevard County airstrips](#)

<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20110821/NEWS01/108210323>

### USA, N.M. ALBUQUERQUE, AUGUST 22 2011. CRASH CAUSED HAZMAT SCENE ON NM ROAD

 **Watch the Video** [http://www.kasa.com/dpps/news/crash-caused-hazmat-scene-on-nm-road\\_3919266](http://www.kasa.com/dpps/news/crash-caused-hazmat-scene-on-nm-road_3919266)

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhVwUwUK2iU>

A crash between a car and a tanker truck causes a hazmat scene on a New Mexico road Saturday. Bernalillo county sheriff's deputies say a car headed south on Atrisco Vista near Central Avenue, veered off the road and into oncoming traffic, hitting a tanker truck carrying gasoline Saturday. The car hit the tanker's fuel tank. Dozens of gallons of diesel fuel started spewing onto the roadway. Streets in the area had to be blocked off. Drugs and alcohol do not appear to be factors in the crash. No one was seriously injured.

[http://www.kasa.com/dpps/news/crash-caused-hazmat-scene-on-nm-road\\_3919266](http://www.kasa.com/dpps/news/crash-caused-hazmat-scene-on-nm-road_3919266)

### AUSTRALIA, N.S.W, STOCKTON, AUGUST 22 2011. ORICA BOSS SUMMONED TO EXPLAIN TWO LEAKS IN TWO WEEKS

jeannette mcmahon



**Click-2-Listen** [Greg Sullivan from the Office of Environment and Heritage talks with 1233's Helen Clare](#)

**Map** [Kooragang 2304](#)



*An emergency beacon alight in front of the Orica factory on Kooragang Island.*

After a second toxic chemical leak in a fortnight, the chief of Orica has been summoned to a meeting by the State Government. And it's been revealed that in the past 10 years the company has breached its pollution licence more than 130 times. The latest leak involved arsenic and has been described as "very minor", but the Premier says the plant's performance is not good enough. The initial leak of hexavalent chromium from Orica's Kooragang Island facility led to a big clean-up in Stockton, and an angry reaction from residents over the delay in telling them about it. With the media, the State Government, pollution watchdogs and even environmental activist Erin Brockovich focused on Orica, a spill of arsenic into the Hunter River on Friday afternoon added to the company's woes. Orica describes the arsenic spill as "very minor" and says the levels equate to 70g diluted in about

30 swimming pools full of water. Greg Sullivan from the Office of Environment and Heritage told 1233's Helen Clare of his reaction to news of the arsenic spill. "I was both concerned and disappointed to hear about this incident of the arsenic discharge by Orica on Friday," he says. "The latest incident is a minor one compared to others and it's very unlikely to have any impact on public health or the environment. "But, look, the Premier's made clear that two incidents in two weeks is just not good enough and Orica really need to pick up their game. "I understand that the residents are very concerned, I'm very concerned, two incidents in two weeks is obviously too many. "We're concerned there might be systemic issues at that plant." Greg says as a result of those concerns, the chief executive of Orica has been summoned to a meeting with the head of both the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the chief executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage in Sydney today. "And they'll be delivering the Premier's very clear message that these two incidents in two weeks is not good enough, and they'll be demanding that Orica improve the operations of that plant," he says. "But I need to also be clear we're not trying to shut the plant down, there are 400 employees and their families that rely on that plant." Greg confirmed that over the past several years there have been two prosecutions of Orica, as well as previous prosecutions of the company that preceded it, Incitec. The company has also been sent penalty infringement notices and warning letters. The Nature Conservation Council is

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calling for a wider public inquiry and wants the State Government to examine its industrial pollution laws. "I think these two incidents taken together have been a bit of a wake-up call for us," CEO Pepe Clarke says. "Most of us assume that our industrial facilities comply with the pollution laws. "Our assessment of Orica's facility, based on publicly available information, has revealed that in the last 11 years since 2000 Orica has breached the terms of its pollution licence every year, except in 2004, with a total of more than 130 breaches. "So it seems this is much more common than we realised." Pepe says there have been several unlawful releases of arsenic previously, as well as another release of hexavalent chromium. "We need not only a thorough investigation of these two most recent incidents at Orica, but also a review of their performance over the last decade," he says.

### Related Links

- [Orica's record: 131 pollution licence breaches since 2000](#)
- [Residents fuming over second Orica leak](#)
- [Second Orica spill prompts calls for wider inquiry](#)
- [Government demands answers from Orica](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2011/08/22/3299181.htm?site=newcastle>

### USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, AUGUST 22 2011. SLC OIL-SPILL CONTINUES TO COST CHEVRON BIG BUCKS; TESTING TO RESUME

Chevron's clean-up of two Salt Lake City pipeline oil spills has cost the company \$75 million, and will continue to add up. According to the Salt Lake Valley Health Department, testing of water and soil samples will begin August 23 at dozens of locations along Red Butte Creek. Signs will be placed in 21 areas along the riparian corridor, advising citizens how they can report any contact with oil residue. People in the area have reported strong petroleum odors, particularly after it rains. The city believes all of the 1,200 barrels of oil that spilled in June and December of 2010 have been cleaned up, but extensive testing and observation will be used to insure the safety of the area. A late, high spring runoff could have dislodged residue and moved it downstream. Spilled oil can show up in ground water years after the actual event. Initially, the June spill killed all of the fish, aquatic insects and many older, large trees. Only half of the insect numbers have returned a year later. The June spill was the most extensive, sending around 800 barrels of crude oil down Red Butte Creek into Liberty Park. Following a federal investigation, Chevron was fined \$423,600, improved leak detection, and [spent nearly a year cleaning and refurbishing the park's lake](#). The [second spill was considerably smaller](#) and probably slowed by freezing temperatures. About 500 barrels contaminated soil but did not enter the creek. Chevron received a violation notice from the Utah Water Quality Board after both incidents.

<http://www.examiner.com/political-buzz-in-salt-lake-city/slc-oil-spill-continues-to-cost-chevron-big-bucks-testing-to-resume>

### USA, UT, WEST BOUNTIFUL, AUGUST 22 2011. TANKER HAULING GASOLINE ROLLS IN W. BOUNTIFUL, SPILLING CONTENTS

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=16909560&autostart=y>

 **Photo's** <http://www.ksl.com/index.php?page=1&sid=16909560&nid=460#1>



A semi-trailer has rolled in West Bountiful, spilling out its contents into the city's storm drain. Around 7 p.m. the semi rolled near 500 South and 800 West in the business district of West Bountiful after the tanker hit the center barrier and rolled, spilling more than two thousand gallons of gasoline onto the roadway. The majority of the gasoline has made its way into a storm drain. "We have crews downstream," said Jim Rampton of the South Davis Metro Fire. "We deployed booms to try and see if we could isolate the spill." Authorities said residents don't have anything to worry about at this time, and no evacuations have been reported in the area. The driver got some gasoline on him when trying to turn off a valve, but was treated at the scene and was released. Streets have been closed off in the area as crews attempt to keep more gasoline from spilling onto the roadway and further down the storm drain. Fire officials said the roads will likely open around 3 a.m.

<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=16909560&autostart=y>

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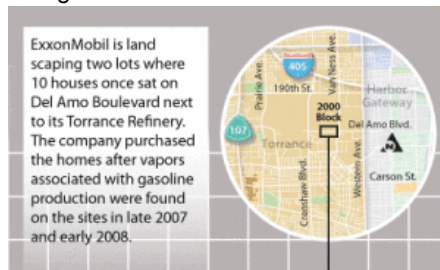
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### USA, CA, TORRANCE, AUGUST 22 2011. TAINTED TORRANCE LOTS TO GO GREEN

*nick green*



Almost four years after toxic byproducts of gasoline production were found on the lots of 10 Torrance homes near ExxonMobil's Torrance Refinery, the company on Monday will begin rehabilitating the sites. The now vacant Del Amo Boulevard homes purchased by the company from their owners will be demolished. Sites on both sides of the street - for a total of 1.3 acres - will be restored with more than 20 native species of trees, shrubs, plants and grasses. "We came up with a landscaping plan that's modeled after Madrona Marsh," said spokesman Patrick B. Henretty, referring to the 42-acre city-owned vernal marsh on Madrona Avenue. "Our challenge was how do we make something that looks like a conservation area for the community, rather than just a vacant lot?" Madrona Marsh naturalist

Tracy Drake consulted with the company to review the landscaping designs and ensure their accuracy. Similar marshes once dotted the entire Los Angeles Basin. Up to 175 cubic yards of earth will be imported to create a landscape that gently rises from the sidewalk to the rear of the lots so that the entire area is visible for security reasons. Vernal pools will dot the tracts. And while the sites will be visible to the public, they will be inaccessible, protected by what likely will be a wrought-iron fence. The plan was presented in June to local residents of the tight-knit neighborhood, many of whom have lived for decades in what was once a Latino-dominated barrio unique in the city. "Everybody is happy they're going to do that because they didn't want it to stay like an open field," said Irene Ordaz, whose 83-year-old husband was born on the street and who has lived there since 1944 herself. "It looks nice in the blueprints they showed us," she said. "What else can they do with the land?" Not much. Gasoline byproducts, including potentially carcinogenic substances such as benzene and methane, were found on the lots in concentrations exceeding state levels. "Off-gassing" vapors were blamed for the contamination, although the source was never conclusively discovered. Suspicion fell on a nearby ExxonMobil tank farm. Another potential source, state officials said at the time, was a massive plume of contaminated groundwater 70 feet below the surface of the ground. ExxonMobil since the mid-1980s has treated the plume that stretches from the refinery as far away as the American Honda headquarters in downtown Torrance. State Regional Water Quality Control Board officials criticized the company for not doing more to clean up that polluted groundwater. Another nine homeowners worried about the value of their homes received financial assistance from the oil company in the form of a price protection program, should they be unable to sell at market prices because of concerns surrounding the contamination. But some homeowners in the area subsequently complained they were unable to sell their homes and ExxonMobil did nothing to help when banks foreclosed. A vapor extraction system will be installed on the two lots to control the so-called off-gassing. Work should be completed within 13 weeks.

[http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci\\_18723461](http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_18723461)

### USA, ILL, ROCKFORD, AUGUST 22 2011. INVERSTIGATION CONTINUES OVER CONTAMINANTS FOUND IN LOCAL WATER WELLS >> THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES ON CONTAMINANTS FOUND IN MORE THAN A DOZEN LOCAL WATER WELLS.

The investigation continues on contaminants found in more than a dozen local water wells. 22 more samples were taken earlier this month after the initial two showed some levels of gasoline. All additional samples showed levels of contamination. So far, the source of the contamination has not been determined. That's why residents in the neighborhood just east of the Cottonwood Airport are advised not to drink their tap water. However, one expert says drinking that water isn't families' only concern. Chris Nidel, Chemical Engineer Attorney, says, "Compare that to 20 to 40 gallons of water in the shower or bath, that's hot water, where those VOC's are going to go airborne and you're going to stand in that shower for ten or 15 minutes relaxing and breathing in that contamination." Nidel also says constant exposure to such contaminated water could cause

[http://www.wifr.com/home/headlines/Inverstigation\\_Continues\\_Over\\_Contaminants\\_Found\\_in\\_Local\\_Water\\_Wells\\_128163318.html](http://www.wifr.com/home/headlines/Inverstigation_Continues_Over_Contaminants_Found_in_Local_Water_Wells_128163318.html)

### CHINA, BEIJING, AUGUST 22 2011. OIL SPILL SHAME

The investigation, jointly organized by seven central government departments into the oil spill involving ConocoPhillips China in Bohai Bay is long overdue given the continuing leaks and the uncooperative attitude from the subsidiary of the Houston-

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based US energy giant. The State Oceanic Administration (SOA) revealed that the joint investigation team convened a meeting on Saturday to hear reports from ConocoPhillips China and China National Off shore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), ConocoPhillips' partner in the oil field. The team involves the ministries of environmental protection, transportation, agriculture, land and resources, State Administration of Work Safety and State Administration of Energy Resources. ConocoPhillips China has reported nine new oil leaks, which proves that the company has failed to take effective action since the first leaks were discovered in the middle of June and that the situation is deteriorating. All the actions the joint investigation team has ordered the company to take, including doing all that it can to stop the leaks, conducting a thorough risk assessment to prevent any further oil leaks and undertaking a clean up, are measures the company should have been taking two months ago. The reluctance of the oil firm to take the necessary actions and shoulder its responsibilities – as well as its apology that came two months after the first leaks were discovered - shows its arrogance. It has turned a deaf ear and blind eye to the environmental damage and heavy economic losses suffered by Chinese fisheries. Its open defiance of China's maritime watchdog sends the message that this firm lacks any social responsibility. This environmental disaster also shows that the maritime watchdog alone does not have the means to make a foreign firm abide by Chinese laws and regulations governing the exploitation of maritime resources. The joint investigation team has so far not imposed any penalties and even fines on ConocoPhillips China and its partner CNOOC, which in turn are also yet to mention how much they will pay in compensation for the damage its oil spills have caused. The Chinese government needs to seriously consider what measures it can introduce to punish foreign firms that violate Chinese rules. The latest monitoring and surveys show that the oil in the water around the Penglai 19-3 oil field is thicker than several days ago. This suggests that before they can begin a clean up ConocoPhillips China and its partner CNOOC still have a lot to do to stop the leaks. Let's hope the joint investigation team will push the oil companies to take the necessary steps to reverse the situation.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2011-08/22/content\\_13159809.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2011-08/22/content_13159809.htm)

#### **USA, N.J, MAHWAH, AUGUST 22 2011. GETTY GAS STATION CLOSED DUE TO DIESEL SPILL >> HAZ MAT RESPONDERS CALLED IN TO CLEAN UP WINTER'S POND.**

*don e. smith jr.*

The Getty gas station on Route 17 North was temporarily closed as town and county first responders are investigating a diesel spill that was seen on Winter's Pond. Mahwah Police Chief James Batelli confirmed the matter is being treated as a criminal investigation. According to a statement released by the Mahwah Police Department, at 8 a.m. a man walking his dog observed the "oil sheen on the water" around Winter's Pond. The dog walker called 911 and police traced the spill up the Masconicus Stream and to the Getty gas station on Route 17 North in Mahwah. "Officers observed a significant amount of what appeared to be diesel fuel on the blacktop surface of the gas station," said Batelli. He said that a shipment of diesel fuel had been delivered at 1 a.m. "Computer records showed a discrepancy of approximately 150 gallons between what was delivered (pumped from the truck) and what was actually put into the underground tanks," said Batelli. After the diesel fuel spilled, the fuel had flowed down Route 17 North, into a storm drain which lead to the Masconicus Stream and into Winter's Pond. The Mahwah Fire Department's Haz Mat team and were able to place "booms along the stream to contain the spill." Batelli said the Bergen County Haz Mat team arrived and assisted with the investigation. Mahwah Police Officer Kevin McComb was able to contact the fuel delivery driver who explained he knew about the spill but "but did not believe it significant enough to notify authorities." Batelli said authorities must be contacted for spills of five gallons or more. However, because of the 150 gallon discrepancy "the Mahwah Police have been joined by representatives of the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice to determine if criminal charges will be filed." Batelli said an independent clean up organization was called to clean the stream and pond. The clean-up finished late Sunday morning and water samples were taken for testing.

<http://mahwah.patch.com/articles/getty-gas-station-closed-due-to-diesel-spill>

#### **USA, ME, PORTLAND, AUGUST 23 2011. MAINE OIL COMPANY FINED FOR CLEAN WATER VIOLATIONS**

*paula ballentine*

A Maine heating oil company has agreed to pay \$50,000 to settle EPA claims that it violated the Clean Water Act and federal regulations designed to prevent oil spills from reaching waterways. Fabian Oil, Inc. sells heating oil, gasoline, and other petroleum products from several facilities in Maine. According to EPA, Fabian failed to maintain and fully implement Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans at three of these facilities. After EPA performed inspections in 2009-10, Fabian produced revised, updated SPCC Plans for the facilities and proceeded to implement them. The implementation

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work included installing concrete pads to contain potential spills from tank truck loading areas, updating spill control equipment, and performing oil tank integrity testing. Because Fabian's old SPCC Plans were out-of-date and only partially implemented, Fabian's three facilities were not fully prepared to deal with oil spills or to prevent spills from having potentially serious environmental consequences. EPA's oil spill prevention regulations and SPCC Plan requirements help ensure that tank failures or accidental spills from oil-storing facilities do not lead to oil contamination of surface waters, such as rivers or streams, which could harm human and ecological health. These regulatory requirements generally apply to facilities with above-ground oil storage capacity of more than 1,320 gallons. Fabian's three violating facilities have storage capacities of 30,000 to 60,000 gallons. "Because oil spills can do significant damage to the environment, it's very important that facilities handling and storing oil do everything possible to minimize the risk of oil spills," said Curt Spalding, regional administrator of EPA's New England office. "It's much easier and less expensive to prevent pollution before it occurs."

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/1ef168c67ef12f7c852578f400679708?OpenDocument>

### AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, MYALUP, AGUST 23 2011. GAS TANKER ROLLS OVER ON OLD COAST ROAD NEAR MYALUP

*phil hickey & katie robertson*

A multiple vehicle crash and gas tanker rollover is causing chaos on a major road south of Perth this morning. Police and firefighters are at the scene of the rollover on Old Coast Road in Myalup near Ludlow Road, about 140km south of Perth. The multiple vehicle crash occurred about 5am in the southbound roadway near Johnston Road. It is understood a Kleenheat Gas tanker has rolled over. Police spokesman Sergeant Gerry Cassidy said there were no injuries in the crash but there was a slight gas leak from the tanker. "There has been a big exclusion zone made there," he said. Sgt Cassidy urged motorists to avoid the area if possible. Northbound traffic is being detoured at Riverdale Road and southbound traffic is being detoured at Johnston Road.

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/gas-tanker-rolls-over-on-old-coast-road/story-e6frg13u-1226119401596>

### NIGERIA, LAGOS, AUGUST 23 2011. SABOTAGE CAUSES NIGERIA OIL SPILLS, PRODUCTION HALT: SHELL



*A man tries to separate the crude oil from water in a boat at the Bodo waterways polluted by oil spills attributed to a Shell equipment failure.*

pipeline in Nigeria since the start of the month, the company said on Monday, while damage to another line has caused a temporary production halt. The six spills have occurred along the Okordia-Rumuekpe trunk line at Ikarama in Bayelsa State in the oil-producing Niger Delta region, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant said in a statement. A fire broke out at one of the spill sites on August 18, but it has since been put out, the company said. The spills were caused by "hacksaw cuts by unknown persons," it said. The six leaks have been repaired, though an activist has said spilled crude has not been sufficiently cleaned up. "The 33-kilometre line receives crude oil from two flowstations which were shut down as SPDC worked to repair the leaks," it said.

SPDC is Shell's Nigerian joint venture, the Shell Petroleum Development Company. In a separate incident on Sunday, "another three hacksaw cuts were reported on the nearby Adibawa delivery line. SPDC is mobilising to repair this line and production is shut-in." "We are concerned by the increasing cases of sabotage at Ikarama and appeal to those causing these incidents to stop for the sake of the environment, their personal safety and well-being of the communities," Shell vice president Tony Attah said in the statement. Pipeline damage and associated spills are common in the Niger Delta region as a result of oil theft to feed the lucrative black market. Militants claiming to be fighting for a fairer distribution of oil revenue have also regularly blown up pipelines, though such attacks have decreased since a 2009 amnesty deal. Shell said in the statement that more than 75 percent of all oil spills and more than 70 percent of oil spilled from its Nigerian joint venture facilities in the Niger Delta from 2006-2010 were caused by sabotage and crude theft. Activists say oil firms such as Shell have not done enough to prevent such incidents. A UN report earlier this month said decades of oil pollution in the Ogoniland area of the Niger Delta, located in neighbouring Rivers state, may require the world's largest ever cleanup. Nigeria is Africa's largest oil producer and the continent's most populous nation.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20110822-sabotage-causes-nigeria-oil-spills-production-halt-shell>

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#### ARGENTINA, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, BAHIA BLANCA, AUGUST 23 2011. PETROBRAS SHUTS ARGENTINA REFINERY UNIT ON FIRE

- Petrobras says small fire was controlled quickly
- Operations recently restarted after earlier explosion

Brazil's state oil company Petrobras said on Monday a fire interrupted operations at a refinery in Argentina where an explosion this month killed a worker and forced the facility to be temporarily closed. Petrobras said it halted operations at the vacuum unit of the 31,000 barrel-per-day Bahia Blanco facility after a small fire that the company said it controlled quickly. "Despite being a minor event, activities were suspended at the unit with the problem," the company said in a statement. "At the moment, the company is carrying out a revision of all of the refinery's operational procedures." The refinery had been shut for several days after an Aug. 10 blast in the plant's rest area killed one worker and injured another. Earlier in the day, an official in the town of Bahia Blanca, where the refinery is located, said the incident created concerns about the facility's operations. "We will do an evaluation this week," said Eduardo Conghos, deputy environmental secretary of Bahia Blanca, in a telephone interview. "This

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN1E77L1N120110822>

#### USA, MI, COLUMBIA TWP, AUGUST 23 2011 TWO MEN HURT BY EXPLODING MORTAR INSIDE PICKUP CAB

Two Adrian men were injured Sunday afternoon in Columbia Township by an explosion in the cab of their moving pickup truck. Columbia Township police and fire responded to the call, in the area of Dearmyer and Cement City roads, at about 4:05 p.m. Sunday. The occupants of the truck — a 22-year-old driver and 23-year-old passenger whose names had not been released this morning — were conscious and talking when officers arrived, but suffering from serious injuries. The cab of the 1995 Chevrolet pickup truck showed significant damage from an explosion, police said, as well as what appeared to be the remains of a mortar-type explosive device similar to what is used for fireworks shows. The driver told a police officer that someone in a passing vehicle tossed an explosive device through the window while they were driving. Witnesses told police they had seen both men run into a nearby bean field carrying several items. The men returned empty-handed, the witnesses said, then collapsed on the side of the road shortly before police and fire personnel arrived. Both men sustained injuries to the front of their bodies. They were treated at the scene by Columbia Township Fire Department, Addison Ambulance and Jackson Community Ambulance, then flown by helicopter to the University of Michigan hospital. Due to the possibility of explosives having been thrown into the field, two canine officers were requested. The Allegiance Health System bomb-detection canine unit responded, as well as an officer from Blackman Township. The field contained a dense crop of beans, making it extremely difficult to search. The dogs located one long fuse segment near the edge of the field. Following the canine search, Columbia Township police and fire personnel set up a grid search pattern, and within a half hour located a total of four additional unexploded mortars. Two were three-inch mortars, one was a four-inch mortar, and one was a one-inch tube mortar. An explosion-proof container was obtained from the Brooklyn Department of Public Works, and all the explosives that were located were then secured and removed from the scene. Police said this morning that the investigation is ongoing, and they do not know the condition of the two Adrian men.

**Updated at 1:45 p.m:** Columbia Township police have checked with the hospital and report that both men are listed in fair condition.

<http://www.lenconnect.com/news/x1837753999/Two-men-hurt-by-exploding-mortar-inside-pickup-cab>

#### USA, PA HORSHAM TWP, AUGUST 23 2011. DEP EAGER TO TEST HORSHAM WELLS FOR CONTAMINATION >> FIVE HOMES HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR HIGH LEVELS OF PCE, MAKING DRINKING WATER UNSAFE.

*theresa katalinas*

Approximately one-quarter of Horsham residences with well water — which could be unsafe to drink — have reportedly been unresponsive to requests from the state Department of Environmental Protection to test wells free of charge. In all, an estimated two dozen properties in the area of Limekiln Pike and Grindleton Lane use well water, according to DEP Environmental Trainee Carly Nagle. Of those, 15 of the properties have had their wells tested; and at least six of the property owners have not responded to Nagle's well survey questionnaire, or her requests to conduct testing. Testing began in June as part of DEP's regular monitoring following a previous contamination stemming from nearby Glemser Brothers, which had at one time operated a gas station, Township Manager Bill Walker said. Five of the wells tested since June were found to have PCE contamination. The levels — more than five parts per billion — make the water unsafe for drinking or cooking, DEP officials

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said during Monday night's Horsham Township Council meeting. "Immediately when it was found we delivered bottled water," Nagle said. "There's going to be more investigation going on." Testing will continue quarterly; monitoring wells will be installed to help determine the direction of groundwater flow and, eventually, to identify a responsible party for the spill of what DEP HSCA Supervisor Timothy Cherry described as an industrial solvent containing chlorine molecules, commonly used as a metal degreaser or carpet cleaner. Officials said the hope is for the remaining homeowners with wells to allow DEP to conduct free well testing, which, DEP Community Relations Coordinator Lynda Rebarchak said typically costs \$250. "We normally don't have people not responding," she said. Resident Rich Kirkman, one of the five whose well tested positive for contamination, said he's tried unsuccessfully to convince his neighbors to have the testing done. And, after being tested in June and later in August, the latter showing a 20 percent increase in contamination, Kirkman told the council, "this problem's not going to go away." "I don't want to see this happen, it be studied to death or it become a vote about what's more popular," Kirkman said. "It's a matter of health ... Even the cats are drinking bottled water." Councilman Gregory Nesbitt directed Walker to draft a letter to unresponsive residents requesting that they agree to have their wells tested. "I would encourage every resident to participate," Nesbitt said. Fran Worthington, whose well tested positive for high levels of PCE two weeks ago, said it's the first time in the 59 years her husband has lived at the house that there's ever been a problem with the safety of well drinking water. Even with contaminated water, switching to public water is not in the immediate plan. "I love my well water," Worthington said. For residents living in the circle of Limekiln Pike and Grindleton Land who would like to have their wells tested, free of charge, call Carly Nagle at 484-250-5730, or e-mail her at [cnagle@state.pa.us](mailto:cnagle@state.pa.us).

<http://horsham.patch.com/articles/dep-eager-to-test-horsham-wells-for-contamination>

### USA, CA, LINCOLN, AUGUST 24 2011. FEARS FOR THOUSANDS OF CALIFORNIA HOMES AS 30,000-GALLON FUEL CARRIAGE CATCHES FIRE AT RAILWAY DEPOT IN SUBURBS

damien gayle

#### Watch the Video

- <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/08/24/3857515/evacuation-in-place-as-lincoln.html>
- <http://www.kcra.com/video/28954593/detail.html>
- <http://www.news10.net/news/article/151424/2/Possibility-of-explosion-at-Lincoln-propane-fire-increases>

#### Photo's:

- <http://www.news10.net/news/article/151424/2/Possibility-of-explosion-at-Lincoln-propane-fire-increases>
- <http://www.news10.net/news/article/151424/2/Possibility-of-explosion-at-Lincoln-propane-fire-increases>

#### Slideshow

- <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/08/24/3857515/evacuation-in-place-as-lincoln.html>
- <http://www.kcra.com/slideshow/news/28953463/detail.html>



*As the Lincoln Fire Department and other area fire agencies battled the blaze, the Lincoln Police Department evacuated area homes, businesses and schools just after noon.*

Firefighters have set up four fixed hoses to soak the tanker to in an attempt to keep its temperature down and prevent an explosion as the propane burns off. At the moment the gas is burning off as it exits the 29,000-gallon tanker through a vent. Any attempt to extinguish the flames directly runs the risk of creating a gas cloud that could ignite into a massive fireball, fire officials warned. Highways have been shut, businesses closed and the area's schools will miss the first day of term because of the continuing danger, said the Lincoln Fire Department. The Placer County Sheriff's Department activated reverse 911 calls to residents to evacuate the area under threat, KXTV-TV reported. Officials told Lincoln resident Roza Calderon

that it could be anywhere from a couple of days to a couple of weeks before she could return home. Safety fears: A firefighter looks as flames lick from the top of the burning fuel tanker. There are fears that it could yet explode. 'They said they would let us know tomorrow,' the 26-year-old accountant said late last night. 'In the meantime I think we're just going to be staying in a hotel.' Calderon was staying with her husband, daughter and mother at a hotel in Sacramento, about 40 minutes away. Lots of people seemed to be checking into rooms and every hotel they stopped at between Lincoln and Sacramento was full, she

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

**August 29 2011**



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said. Fire Department spokesman Daniel Berlant estimated that only 70 per cent of those inside the mandatory evacuation zone had actually left. He told KXTV-TV: 'Anybody who chooses to stay behind is risking their life and the lives of their family by doing so. Highway 65, a major commuter thoroughfare between Sacramento and Lincoln, was closed near the inferno, the California Highway Patrol said. Authorities could not say when the road would be reopened. Staff members of a high school and middle school in the evacuation zone were told to leave Tuesday afternoon, KXTV-TV reported. Students weren't present at the school and the Lincoln Fire Department said the first day of classes - scheduled for Wednesday at 11 schools - has been cancelled. It was unclear how the tanker caught fire. A worker who was tending to the tanker was hurt and transported to a local hospital, although no details on the extent of the injuries were available.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2029476/Thousands-California-homes-risk-burning-30-000-gallon-fuel-tank-threatens-explode.html>

### USA, NV, BAKER, AUGUST 24 2011. SOUTHBOUND INTERSTATE 15 NEAR BAKER REOPENED AFTER FUEL SPILL



All lanes on southbound Interstate 15 were open by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday morning after a multiple car pileup spilled thousands of gallons of fuel Monday afternoon. There were no injuries in the collision, but the fuel spill caused the overnight closure of southbound lanes as crews repaired the asphalt and cleaned fuel from a waterway. According to a California Highway Patrol report, the chain reaction collision began after a Ford Taurus became stranded in Baker around 2:30 p.m. Monday. Another motorist helped "push" the vehicle onto Interstate 15 southbound at Kelbaker Road, but had to stop when the lane narrowed. The Taurus stopped in

the right lane on the Mojave River Bridge, which forced a semi truck carrying 5,000 gallons of fuel to slow to a stop without hitting the Taurus, according to the report. Another semi truck was unable to stop and tried steering to the left, but still collided with the left rear of the fuel truck. About 500 gallons of fuel was spilled into a drainage ditch during the collision. The second semi continued veering left into the left lane and struck the guard rail, which caused a Jeep Wrangler traveling in the left lane to strike the center guard rail, according to the report. The cause of the collision is still under investigation, but the CHP report ruled out drugs or alcohol as factors in the crash.

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/baker-11451-fuel-interstate.html>

### RUSSIA, ASTRAKHAN, ASHULUK, AUGUST 24 2011. 6 KILLED IN WEAPONS DEPOT BLAST

*alexey eremenko*



*Russian soldiers hold air defense exercise at Ashuluk training ground in Russia's Astrakhan Region.*

Six soldiers were killed and 12 injured on Tuesday in a blast at an anti-aircraft missile facility in the Astrakhan region, the fourth such incident since April, the Defense Ministry said. The blast took place outdoors at the Ashuluk facility, the ministry said in a statement that did not report the condition of the injured or the cause of the blast. A spokesman for military prosecutors in the Southern Military District said investigators are "not ruling out any version, but the violation of safety rules during destruction of old ammunition remains a priority one," RIA-Novosti reported. A source in the Astrakhan police also told the news agency that the ammunition had been mishandled, but did not elaborate. The Lifeneews.ru tabloid

cited two conflicting sources, both unidentified, that said the soldiers were preparing obsolete missiles for destruction or that the rockets were new and intended for test launches. All those injured were shellshocked and hospitalized in serious condition, the tabloid said. A military spokesman told RIA-Novosti that they were being evacuated by helicopter. Ashuluk is located six kilometers from the barracks and 60 kilometers from the nearest settlement, which ensured that no civilians were hurt in the explosion, news reports said. In June, some 28,000 people were temporarily displaced by a blast at a Urals arms depot near the village of Pugachyovo in Udmurtia, allegedly caused by a discarded cigarette. A conscript was killed, 95 people were injured, and more than 2,000 sought psychological help during the incident. In May, 12 people sustained injuries in a similar explosion at an arms depot in Bashkortostan, also blamed on the mishandling of old ammo. Forty buildings, including 14 residential ones, were destroyed in the blaze that followed. In April, a blast at an old arms depot in the Lipetsk region village of

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Kadinka, where old gunpowder was being destroyed, killed four. President [Dmitry Medvedev](#) threatened to "strip epaulets" from those responsible for the Udmurtia blast, but no discharges have been reported for military top brass.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/6-killed-in-weapons-depot-blast/442561.html>

#### USA, TX, BEAUMONT, AUGUST 24 2011. ORANGE COUNTY WOMAN SUES COMPANIES OVER HUSBAND'S EXPOSURE TO BENZENE

*michelle keahey*

Shortly after her husband died from cancer, an Orange County woman has filed a lawsuit against his former employer claiming the company knew for decades that their products contained toxic chemicals that could cause their employees to develop a deadly cancer. Gloria Jacobs, individually and as representative of the Estate of Daniel Jacobs, deceased, filed suit against The BF Goodrich Co., Bayer Corp. doing business as Indiana Bayer Corp., Honeywell International Inc. formerly known as Allied Signal Inc., and Lanxess Corp. on June 30 in Orange County District Court. The defendants removed the case to the Eastern District of Texas, Beaumont Division on Aug. 19. According to the allegations, Daniel Jacobs was exposed to toxic and carcinogenic benzene and benzene-containing products during his employment with BF Goodrich/Polysar in Orange County. He developed acute myelogenous leukemia and died on April 29. The defendants are accused of gross negligence for exposing Daniel Jacobs to benzene, failing to timely and adequately warn workers of the dangers of benzene and benzene containing products, failing to take necessary engineering, safety, industrial hygiene and other precautions and failing to provide training to ensure that the Jacobs was not exposed to toxic or carcinogenic chemicals. The plaintiff is seeking punitive and exemplary damages, interest and court costs.

<http://www.setexasrecord.com/news/237729-orange-county-woman-sues-companies-over-husbands-exposure-to-benzene>

#### USA, IN, WHITING, AUGUST 24 2011. PORTION OF BP'S WHITING REFINERY CLEARED FOLLOWING CHEMICAL RELEASE >> HYDROGEN SULFIDE



Some workers at BP's Whiting refinery were moved from a section of the property Tuesday after monitors detected high levels of a chemical that can cause health problems, officials there said. No injuries were reported and there is believed to be no threat to the community. According to Brad Etlin, spokesman for BP's Whiting Refinery, around 5 a.m., monitors detected elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide at the refinery. Etlin said "non-essential contractors" near the monitor were moved from the area near the monitor. "There is no indication of elevated readings outside of refinery," Etlin said. "We are doing additional monitoring to investigate the situation." According to the the federal Agency for Toxic

Substances and Disease Registry, exposure to low concentrations of hydrogen sulfide may cause irritation to the eyes, nose, or throat. It may also cause difficulty in breathing for some asthmatics. As of 12:30 p.m., Etlin said the source of the leak had been detected and crews were working to address the issue. The leak occurred on a seal on a unit compressor, he said. Readings on monitors in other parts of the refinery early in the afternoon continued to show no spread of the chemical away from the source of the leak, he said.

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/whiting/article\\_5e5c6e34-cf17-59ed-8089-151e4d71f746.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/whiting/article_5e5c6e34-cf17-59ed-8089-151e4d71f746.html)

#### USA, TX, HOUSTON, AUGUST 24 2011. ABBOTT ALLEGES DILUTED GASOLINE

*bryan cohen*

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott filed a lawsuit Thursday against a petroleum company for allegedly defrauding customers by diluting medium and premium grade gasoline with regular unleaded fuel. Petroleum Wholesale L.P., Sun Development L.P. and related defendants allegedly sold improperly diluted premium gasolines at 143 of their Texas-based locations. These allegedly fraudulent acts are violation of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. Abbott alleges that the fuel dilution scheme, known as cross-dumping, was discovered during a prior enforcement action that alleged that the defendants calibrated their gasoline pumps to deliver less fuel than was actually disclosed to customers. Abbott alleges more than 1,000 instances in which the defendants illegally cross-dumped fuel at 143 locations across Texas. Many of the alleged cross-dumping incidents occurred at service stations in and around Harris County, Texas. The incidents allegedly occurred from 2005-2008. As of the filing date of the state's enforcement action, the defendants had refused to provide the state with documents evidencing their conduct after 2008. In addition to operating Sunmart Travel Centers & Convenience Stores, the defendants also operate approximately 80 service stations that are licensed by the state to sell fuel under branding agreements with three major fuel

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companies. Because branded stations feature brand-name products with performance-enhancing additives such as valve cleaning and fuel injection products, those gasolines are marketed for their superiority over other fuels. As a result, if customers pay for a brand-name gasoline but actually receive generic or additive-free gasoline, they are being deceived about the nature of the product they are purchasing. According to the enforcement action by the state, the defendants allegedly also sold unbranded fuel at branded stations and hid the conduct from their branded fuel providers. Abbott also alleges that the defendants improperly sold conventional fuel in locations that required reformulated fuel. Reformulated fuel includes detergents and oxygen and has a chemical composition that is intended to reduce carbon-monoxide emissions. The federal Clean Air Act requires densely populated areas that exceed certain levels of air quality, like Houston, to sell reformulated fuel. The state's enforcement action seeks a temporary and permanent injunction against the defendants in addition to civil penalties up to \$20,000 for each violation of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. The cross-dumping case is the state's third enforcement action against Petroleum Wholesale. In November, a Harris County jury rendered a verdict of at least \$30 million against Petroleum Wholesale L.P. and PWI GP LLC for illegally and deliberately calibrating their gasoline pumps to deliver less than a full gallon of fuel. A Harris County district court is currently reviewing the state's motion to reinstate the jury verdict in that case. The first enforcement action was resolved in December 2009, when the company was ordered to pay \$100,000 for failing to properly protect its customers' personally identifying information, which is in violation of state identity theft prevention laws.

<http://www.legalnewsline.com/news/233595-abbott-alleges-diluted-gasoline>

#### **USA, N.J, GLASSBORO, AUGUST 24 2011. HAZMAT TEAM RESPONDS TO HYDROGEN PEROXIDE LEAK OUTSIDE COCOA FACTORY**

A tanker was apparently leaking hydrogen peroxide outside a cocoa factory here Monday night, prompting a response from the county's hazmat team. The tanker was leaking at ADM Cocoa on Ellis Street, reports indicated. Hydrogen peroxide, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency, is corrosive in a concentrated form and can be explosive in not stored under proper conditions. The clear, colorless liquid is infinitely soluble in water. Agricultural pesticide products usually contain no more than 35 percent hydrogen peroxide, which is usually diluted to 1 percent or less when applied, according to the EPA.

[http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2011/08/hazmat\\_team\\_responds\\_to\\_hydrog.html](http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2011/08/hazmat_team_responds_to_hydrog.html)

#### **INDIA, KARNAL, AUGUST 24 2011. KARNAL UNIT RUN ILLEGALLY FOR 8 YRS**

*anita singh*

The cracker factory that claimed the lives of five labourers in a blast on Monday was being run illegally for the last eight years. Its four owners had no licence to operate it. The factory did not even have the safety equipment on premises. Besides, it employed children between the age group of 10 and 12 years for work. Located barely 10kms from the district headquarters, it had been inspected two times between 2009 and 2010 and rapped eight times, yet never sealed. In an apparent bid to cover up the lapse, deputy director, labour department, Sunil Khurana said the owners had applied for a licence and even deposited the requisite fee but had been denied the document as it did not meet all the required conditions. Had the fire in factory, which is located at a short distance of 1.5km from well populated areas of Kunjpura and Mughal Majra villages, spread to its storehouse, the toll could have been higher. Spread over 7 acres, the factory has over 250 workers and had around 30 of them working at the time of the blast. Kunjpura police have registered a case against the owners -- Pankaj Bharti, Deepak, Yogesh and Dinesh. The government has announced that the owners will have to pay Rs 5 lakh each for the dead and Rs 2 lakh to those injured in Monday's incident. Meanwhile, asked about lapses on the part of labour department, the minister said action would be taken against the accused only after a high-level probe fixes the blame. It was learnt that those who had died on Monday included two women. Nine persons out of the injured including three children, women and four men were shifted to [PGI Rohtak](#) in view of their conditions. The doctors at the civil hospital said that the death count could go up as the condition of some amongst the injured was critical. The minister said that a high-level probe would be ordered and only after that action could be taken.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Karnal-unit-run-illegally-for-8-yrs/articleshow/9714576.cms>

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