



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 786 Newsy Stuff

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

December 13 2011



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USA, WI, DE PERE, DECEMBER 2 2011. CREWS CLEAN UP GASOLINE SPILL

 **Watch the Video** [Crews clean up gasoline spill](#)

Crews in De Pere worked to clean up a gasoline spill Thursday afternoon. Firefighters were called to the scene when people at the Kress Library complained of a gasoline smell in the basement. Crews traced the smell to a parking garage at the nearby Foundry Apartments. They believe a gasoline can was leaking and someone dumped the remaining gas into a drain that leads to the sewer. Firefighters and city street department workers then worked to suck up what remained of the gasoline in the sewer as well as soak up gas headed for the Fox River, where the sewer drains. Officials say they are confident no gasoline got into the drinking water supply. No buildings in the area were evacuated.

http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/local/green_bay/de-pere-crews-clean-up-gasoline-spill-december-1-2011

USA, WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 2 2011. NEW SCRUTINY OF WORKER SAFETY EXCLUDES SOME CHEMICAL PLANTS

chris hamby



Eastman Chemical Company's plant in Kingsport, Tenn., is a government-recognized "model workplace."

How safe are the "model" workplaces in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program? An I Watch News investigation found that since 2000, at least 80 workers have died at sites the agency considers the nation's safest, and which it exempts from some inspections. Our series reports on the preventable accidents that recur at workplaces lauded for their safety efforts, featuring contributions from our partners in the [Investigative News Network](#) and [Need To Know on PBS](#). Worries about fires, explosions and chemical releases prompted the federal agency in charge of

workplace safety on Wednesday to expand a [special inspection program](#) focusing on the nation's chemical plants. Regulators believe the industry is particularly vulnerable to such hazards, meriting the closer attention. Yet some plants will continue to be shielded from the special inspections, despite past worker deaths, because of their status as "[model workplaces](#)." "Far too many workers are injured and killed in preventable incidents at chemical facilities around the country," said David Michaels, the head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, in announcing the broadening of the pilot program, which began in 2009. Michaels said inspectors would "cover chemical facilities nationwide to ensure that all required measures are taken to protect workers." But the agency opted to exempt sites that participate in its [Voluntary Protection Programs](#), known as VPP. [As iWatch News has reported](#), more than 80 workers have died since 2000 at these sites OSHA has deemed "model workplaces" – from power plants to paper mills and shipyards. Companies, however, have rarely faced serious consequences, even when inspectors identified safety violations related to the fatal accident. The exemption from regular inspections, including those conducted under special emphasis programs, has particular resonance for companies in the chemical manufacturing industry, which is both the target of the new initiative and the largest industry sector in VPP. At least 18 of the deaths at VPP sites since 2000 occurred at chemical plants. Three of these deaths occurred at two plants owned by Eastman Chemical Company – cases highlighted in a [recent story by iWatch News](#). Regulators deemed two of them preventable and issued violations to the company, but both sites remain in VPP and beyond the reach of the newly expanded program. Michaels said in Wednesday's announcement that inspections conducted under the pilot program uncovered similar dangers to what the agency found in its program targeting oil refineries. Under that initiative, too, OSHA exempted VPP sites, but, [as iWatch News has reported](#), seven workers have died at these off-limits refineries since the program began in 2007. An OSHA spokesperson said the exemptions were "an incentive and a matter of OSHA policy."

<http://www.iwatchnews.org/2011/12/01/7540/new-scrutiny-worker-safety-excludes-some-chemical-plants>

NORWAY, OSLO, DECEMBER 3 2011. NORWAY REGULATOR: SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS IN BP SAFETY

katarina gustafsson & alexis flynn

BP's efforts to monitor and respond to sudden pollution releases such as oil spills in the Norwegian Sea suffer from "very serious shortcomings" that demand immediate improvement, Norwegian regulators said. An October investigation during drilling at the Skarv field by Norway's Climate and Pollution Agency, a directorate under the Ministry of the Environment, found that BP couldn't document how it has designed preparedness against sudden pollution releases, the agency said Tuesday.



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The report is the latest criticism of safety issues at BP, after a massive oil spill in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico in 2010 and numerous other accidents in recent years. In the wake of the Gulf spill, BP appointed a global head of safety to its executive management team. "We take this situation very seriously," Bjorn Bjornstad, director of the agency's department of control, water and international affairs, said in a statement. The investigation concluded that BP hadn't established sufficient systems to detect emergency contamination within three hours, nor could it prove that its preparations were based on national performance standards, the Norwegian agency said. "Simply put, they weren't good enough," Bjornstad told Dow Jones Newswires, adding that the agency would impose stricter control on BP during 2012. BP is now undertaking measures to correct the situation and the agency met with the energy major Friday to discuss the issue. The U.K. company told the agency what measures it will implement to comply with the regulations, and will shortly present it with a written report on the issue. A BP spokesman said the company was "well on the way" to addressing the shortcomings identified. "It isn't the case that we don't have a response plan, but we can improve and strengthen our preparedness," said Jan Erik Geirmo. The measures concern both the Skarv field and future BP activities in Norway. "Regarding Skarv specifically, we have installed a radar system--already operational--that gives us an additional oil-on-water detection program," Geirmo said. "With respect to the other aspects, we are in turn improving functions and have a plan in place to close the other gaps." The Norwegian agency also said it isn't satisfied with the preparedness for acute pollution when it comes to several other operators on the Norwegian continental shelf. The agency earlier this year had talks with both Norwegian oil and gas major Statoil and French company Total over the same issue. Statoil spokesman Ola Anders Skauby confirmed that Statoil had received an improvement notice in June related to the Halten bank in the Norwegian Sea. Skauby said that while Statoil believes "operational preparedness for sudden pollution at the Norwegian Continental Shelf has never been better," he acknowledged that there had been some cases revealed by the agency where regulations hadn't been fully complied with. Total wasn't immediately available for comment.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=113016

USA, AZ, YUMA, DECEMBER 2 2011. MCAS YUMA OFFICIALS FIND CONTAMINATED SOIL AFTER LEAK IN FUEL LINE

jennifer jones



Military officials continue to investigate the extent and cause of a fuel line leak at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. As of Wednesday, contractors on site have located contamination 20 feet below the ground at the initial discovery point. They have excavated nearly 1,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. Officials say the contaminated soil is being moved on to impermeable barriers at the clean-up site to prevent continued exposure to the ground and further transported to a hazardous material-approved landfill. The leak was discovered last Tuesday on the bases's flightline. Military officials are taking this incident very seriously. "Ensuring the safety of Air Station personnel and the local community is my highest priority. In order to do this, we are testing local water supplies on an ongoing basis to ensure safety compliance as well as working closely with our environmental clean-up teams to expedite the restoration and repair of the affected area," stated Col. Robert C.

Kuckuk, MCAS Yuma Station Commander.

<http://www.kswt.com/story/16170245/mcas-yuma-officials-find-contaminated-soil-after-leak-in-fuel-line>

USA, N.J, TRENTON, DECEMBER 3 2011. 14 N.J. GAS STATIONS CHARGED WITH SELLING LOWER OCTANE FUEL THAN ADVERTISED

sue epstein

Fourteen gas stations across the state have been charged with misleading consumers by selling fuel with octane levels lower than those advertised on the gas pumps. The civil charges were lodged this week by the offices of weights and measures in the four counties where the gas stations do business — Bergen, Camden, Gloucester and Middlesex, according to the state Division of Consumer Affairs. According to a statement issued by the division, the civil complaints follow a two-week campaign of unannounced octane tests, led by the New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures at 325 gas stations across the state. The tests, conducted by a joint task force of inspectors from the state and 13 county weights and measures offices, found the



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majority of stations were in compliance. The complaints filed against the gas stations charge them with violating the New Jersey Motor Fuels Act or the state weights and measures statute, the statement said. The stations face fines of up to \$1,500 for a first violation of the motor fuels act and up to \$3,000 for subsequent violations, as well as a five- to 30-day suspension of its license to operate. Violations of the weights and measures statute carry fines from \$250 to \$1,000 for the first offense and \$1,000 to \$5,000 for subsequent offenses. The stations charged in Middlesex County are: Edison Fuel Stop, Route 1 North, Edison; Fuel One Inc., Route 1 South, Avenel; Fuel One Inc., Route 1 South, Edison; North Brunswick Express Fuel, Georges Road, North Brunswick; and PAK Petroleum Citgo, Stelton Road, Piscataway. In addition, there was one station in Bergen County cited, four in Camden County and four in Gloucester County. Consumers who believe they have been cheated or scammed by a business can file complaints with the state Division of Consumer Affairs at www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov, or by calling (800) 242-5846 or (973) 504-6200.

Stations Cited

In Camden County:

- Citgo, 302 South Black Horse Pike, Blackwood, Jessie's Gulf, 720 White Horse Pike, Oaklyn, Runnemede Extra, 405 E. Clements Bridge Road, Runnemede, US Gulf, 1200 Route 73, Pennsauken.

In Gloucester County:

- Glassboro Lukoil, 100 Delsea Drive, Glassboro, Gurbittha Gas LLC Lukoil, 500 North Broad Street, Woodbury, Mantua Pike Lukoil, 897 Mantua Pike, Woodbury, US Gas/Bahadur Singh Inc., 724 Delsea Drive, Malaga

Check www.cpsj.com for a map of local gas stations cited.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/12/fourteen_nj_gas_stations_charg.html

USA, DE, DELMAR, DECEMBER 3 2011. SHED EXPLOSION UNDER INVESTIGATION BY STATE FIRE MARSHAL >> MAN MAKING FIREWORKS, THEN USED A WELDER

rose cooper

An explosion Sunday that destroyed a shed where a man said he had been making fireworks, then used a welder, is under investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office. Terry Taylor, 19, of 194 State Route 350 East, who was inside the building at the time of the explosion, received minor facial lacerations and was treated at Clinton Memorial Hospital and then released, according to the Clinton County Sheriff's Office. Clinton County Sheriff Ralph D. Fizer Jr. said a welding helmet may have kept Taylor's injuries from being more serious. "He said he was making fireworks and finished the operation, then got his welder out and started using it when the shed blew up," Fizer said. Unidentified persons at the scene apparently extinguished the fire with a hose. Deputies said the fire was out when they arrived, but the debris smelled of gun powder. Taylor said he was "welding a rake" when the shed exploded, according to the report from the sheriff's office. A bomb squad was called in to remove powders and components to make fireworks, deputies said. Shane Cartmill of the state fire marshal's office said Thursday afternoon the explosion is still under investigation. He did not confirm or deny that Taylor was suspected of making fireworks. Debris and other items are still being analyzed at the fire marshal's lab. "The investigators have a very good idea what happened, but we are waiting on some of the debris that is being analyzed," Cartmill said. "Part of the need for the analysis is to determine exactly what he (Taylor) was using," he said. Charges could be filed in the case, Cartmill said. "There are laws for making fireworks and in Ohio you must have a license for manufacturing." The Wilmington Fire Department also responded to the scene of the explosion which occurred Sunday at 4:47 p.m.

<http://www.wnewsj.com/main.asp?SectionID=49&SubSectionID=156&ArticleID=194769>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, DECEMBER 3 2011. ONE DEAD, NINE VEHICLES BURNT IN LAGOS TANKER FIRE

augustine avwode

An early evening fire from a somersaulted fuel tanker yesterday claimed one life and completely burnt nine vehicles in Lagos. The incident, which occurred at the Magodo Estate Junction, about one kilometer from the old Toll Gate along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, resulted in a traffic snarl that stretched several kilometers on both sides of the six-lane dual carriage way. The gridlock flowed to adjoining roads, particularly the Mile 12 and Maryland axis of the ever busy Ikorodu Road. The accident, according to an eyewitness who identified himself as Abdulkareem, happened when the tanker, which was also completely burnt down, lost control as it tried to avoid another truck that was making a U-Turn from the other carriage way of the express



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road. As it skidded off the road, it landed on its side in a place where some auto mechanics have been using as workshop and some goat sellers have been using as their market. The impact caused an explosion that consumed a man, who was said to be one of the goat sellers. About four goats and nine vehicles were also burnt. Men of the Lagos State Fire Service battled the fire, which another eyewitness said started at about 5.20 pm till it was finally put out around 7.30 pm. Speaking to The Nation, Lagos State Chief Fire Officer, Adebayo Olayinka, said the Lagos State Fire Service deployed six engines to tackle the fire. He said: "As you can see, we are here and, thank God, the situation is under control now. There is only one casualty. You can even see him there. Then we have about nine vehicles and four goats. 'We deployed six engines from stations close to the scene of accident. That is our rule. We don't leave the job to one station and say it is your job. In a situation like this, we must all swoop on the fire. That is exactly what we have done here now," he explained. The fire razed all the vegetation and flowers along the drainage and gutter along the Magodo Estate Road. Apart from the fire fighters, men of the Lagos State Traffic Management Agency (LASTMA), the Nigeria Police and Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) were all on hand to ensure proper management of the chaotic traffic situation. A LASTMA official, who spoke to The Nation on condition of anonymity, said the agency responded quickly to the development but lamented that many road users cared little about measures adopted by the agency to ensure free flow of traffic even in the face of "general commotion and confusion". A police officer from the Isheri Division said he was not competent to comment on the incident. But he said the situation was already under control.

<http://www.thenationonline.ng.net/2011/index.php/news/28465-one-dead-nine-vehicles-burnt-in-lagos-tanker-fire.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, BOURKE, DECEMBER 3 2011. A DROUGHT OF FUEL AS FLOODS APPROACH

sally bryant

Isolated landholders in the far west of NSW fear they'll be left without fuel as a flood approaches. They've been told they can't get bulk supplies of unleaded petrol from the Caltex depot at Bourke, because the delivery truck is off the road. Landholders need large reserves of unleaded petrol to run pumps, motorbikes and other machinery. Flood waters are heading down the Darling towards Bourke after torrential rains around Moree and Narrabri in the past week. Don LeLievre says the first he heard of the fuel problem when a truck arrived with diesel only. "The truck arrived with 3,000 litres of diesel and no petrol and he said 'I'm sorry I can't bring you any petrol', and I'm not allowed to carry it in 44-gallon drums." The ABC has contacted Caltex Energy NSW and is awaiting a response.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201112/s3382100.htm>

USA, PA. DIMOCK, DECEMBER 3 2011. GAS COMPANY THAT CONTAMINATED 18 WELLS THROUGH FRACKING REFUSES TO CONTINUE PROVIDING CLEAN WATER TO RESIDENTS

tanya somanader



As Republican lawmakers rush headlong to open up land to fracking, their constituents should heed the cautionary tale told by the town of Dimock, Pennsylvania. The small town of 1,400 people agreed to let Houston-based Cabot Oil & Gas Company employ hydraulic fracturing on local land to obtain natural gas in 2008. The result: [18 water wells contaminated with methane](#). Dimock [residents' water](#) "started turning brown and making them sick, on woman's water well spontaneously combusted, and horses and pets mysteriously began to lose their hair." What's more, the value of the land the residents lived on plummeted. The situation deteriorated so badly that by 2010, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) fined Cabot, shut down several of the wells, and required the company to permanently provide drinking water to 11 families in Dimock. But this Wednesday, Cabot told Dimock residents that they're officially on their own. Cabot [ended daily deliveries of clean water this week](#), asserting that "Dimock's water is safe to drink." DEP gave Cabot permission last month to stop paying for the water, and a judge, who sits on the state's Environmental Hearing Board, "declined to issue an emergency order compelling Cabot to continue the deliveries." Now, Dimock families are left in a lurch, many unable to afford the provisions that run as high as \$100 a day:



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The decision left residents who don't think their water is safe scrambling to find alternate sources. "We are in desperate need here," said Scott Ely, 42, who is married with three young children at home. Ely, a former Cabot employee, said no option was appealing. A creek runs through his property, but the water hasn't been tested and his wife doesn't want it piped into their brand-new home. The Cabot contractor who had been supplying their water quoted him a price of \$100 a day, he said. "We're sitting here with no answers, and I cannot believe Cabot got away with this," he said. Like those in Dimock, many Americans "signed millions of leases allowing companies allowing companies to drill for oil and natural gas on their land in recent years." But as a New York Times [review](#) notes, "fewer than half the leases require companies to compensate landowners for water contamination after drilling begins;" "most leases grant gas companies broad rights to decide where they can cut down trees, store chemicals, build roads and drill;" the drilling companies "Rarely describe to landowners the potential environmental and other risks that federal laws require them to disclose" in leases; and the majority of leases "allow extensions without additional approval from landowners" so if landowners feel differently about the situation, "they may be out of luck." The Dimock situation should certainly serve as a warning to its neighboring states. In Ohio, GOP Gov. John Kasich is trying to open up Ohio's [state and federal parks](#) to fracking. While it's banned high-volume fracking, New York is currently considering some companies being fracking, a move that could potentially [jeopardize the drinking-water supply](#) for 9 million people in New York City and Syracuse. Hearings on the proposed regulations on the drilling drew [6,000 people to four public hearings](#) and have spurred more than 10,600 public comments out of concern for the future of their water supply.

<http://thinkprogress.org/green/2011/12/02/380489/gas-company-that-contaminated-18-wells-through-fracking-refuses-to-continue-providing-clean-water-to-residents/>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, SOUTH YARRA, DECEMBER 3 2011. RESIDENTS NOT TOLD OF SOUTH YARRA CONTAMINATION

nicole cridland



[You really do have to be in wonderment of the Real Estate Agent's comments and that of the concerned diligence of the local council, and of our State EPA – everyone runs for cover and admits to nothing, typifying Australia's sad demise of any control or responsibility whether regulatory or morally.... – Ed]
Workers at the site.

Residents of a Clara St development have been kept in the dark over the contamination find at the proposed Surrey Rd park in South Yarra. One resident who moved into a ground-floor apartment only seven weeks ago has terminated his lease after engaging a lawyer. Daniel Jellis said a maintenance worker explained the containment tent had been erected because benzene had been found during initial landscaping work to convert the former Stonnington Council waste transfer station into a public park. "When I heard benzene had been found I immediately got on my

skates and went straight up to the council and spoke to one of the officers," Mr Jellis said. He said council's environment and public spaces officer Geoff Ovens confirmed that benzene had been found. "I asked him if he could guarantee that nothing was coming out of there that wouldn't be harmful but he couldn't," Mr Jellis said. "Why haven't they told anyone what they're doing out there? "There are families and young kids around." Council chief executive Warren Roberts said residents in surrounding areas and the developer R Corporation had been advised of the "Master Plan works" taking place since 2008 but that Clara Mews had only been occupied in recent months. Cranecorp Real Estate Services leases apartments in Clara St and its director Anthony Ongarello said he had not been informed of a contamination clean-up before going to council on behalf of concerned residents.

<http://stonnington-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/residents-not-told/>

USA, WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 3 2011. EPA RELEASES FORMERLY CONFIDENTIAL CHEMICAL INFORMATION

As part of Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's commitment to enhance the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's chemicals management program and increase transparency, the agency is making available to the public hundreds of studies on chemicals that had been treated as confidential business information (CBI). The move is part of EPA's plan to make public the chemicals that are not entitled to CBI status. Releasing the data will expand the public's access to critical health and safety information on chemicals that are manufactured and processed in the U.S. Newly available information can be found using



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EPA's [Chemical Data Access Tool](#). EPA is increasing the availability of critical health and safety studies on chemicals that children and families are exposed to every day. We are making important progress in making this information public and giving the American public easy access to it," said Steve Owens, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. "Over the next year, we expect to review several thousand additional studies on industrial chemicals and make many of these more accessible to the public." Since 2009, 577 formerly confidential chemical identities are no longer confidential and more than 1,000 health and safety studies are now accessible to the public that were previously unavailable or only available in limited circumstances. In 2010 EPA issued new guidance outlining the agency's plans to deny confidentiality claims for chemical identities in health and safety studies under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that are determined to not be entitled to CBI status. EPA has been reviewing CBI claims in new and existing TSCA filings containing health and safety studies. Consistent with the guidance, the agency will request that the submitter voluntarily relinquish the CBI claims and make the newly available studies available to the public. EPA also challenged the chemical industry to make available information that was previously classified as CBI. To date, more than 35 companies have agreed to review previously submitted filings containing health and safety studies and determine if any CBI claims may no longer be necessary. The newly available information can be found under a new "declassified tab" using the [Chemical Data Access Tool](#), launched in December 2010 to assist the public in retrieving chemical health and safety information submitted to EPA under TSCA.

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/transparency.html>

NORTHERN IRELAND, CO ANTRIM, LARNE, DECEMBER 3 2011. UK. HAULIER & DRIVER FOUND GUILTY FOR FAILURE TO DECLARE DANGEROUS GOODS

fred caygill

On 19th February 2008 the Stranraer Police were alerted to an unaccompanied freight trailer which had been off loaded from the Larne to Stranraer Ferry. The officers noticed that the trailer was giving off a strange odour and that it was not placarded. They confirmed with the loading terminal at Larne that the content of the trailer was declared as peat. When the driver arrived at 8 o'clock that evening he told the police that the cargo was aluminium smeltings known locally as "skulls", a by product from smelting and that it gave off dangerous gases and could go on fire if it got wet. He gave the police a copy of the manifest which confirmed that the freight was aluminium smeltings. The shipper was Tinnelly International Transport, a road haulier who is no longer trading, but was investigated following an incident where an explosion occurred aboard an Irish Sea Ferry on 8th July 2007. During this earlier investigation it was revealed that there is no need to placard the trailer carrying this material under EU legislation while on the road, however under the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code it must be declared to the shipping company and the trailer must be placarded for transport by sea. At the Magistrates Court in Larne on Friday 2nd December 2011, Mr McGivern, the driver of the tractor unit that delivered the trailer to the Port of Larne, pleaded guilty to failing to declare a cargo of dangerous goods known as Aluminium Skulls and was fined £3,000 with contribution to costs of £1,000. Tinnelly International Transport were found guilty of failing to declare the cargo and failing to placard the vehicle, and was fined £10,000 and costs of £6,000. On summing up the magistrate, Mr Alcorn said: I am satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the charges are proved. It is only by the grace of God that something didn't happen. There might have been 500 lives lost. The driver knew what he was transporting and he risked every life on the ferry. Mr Alcorn compared the situation to that of the Princess Victoria which still resonates in Larne to this day. None of the guilty parties have set foot in this court in the lead up to this trial, whereas all the witnesses have been brought from Northern Ireland and Scotland because of a "couldn't care less attitude". Captain Bill Bennett, Area Operations Manager (Northern Ireland) for the MCA stated that "This was a serious breach of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code with a cargo which is known to give off gases and to explode if it comes in contact with water. P&O Ferries had already banned the product for transportation on their vessels.

<http://www.bymnews.com/news/newsDetails.php?id=95829>

USA, LA, LAFAYETTE, DECEMBER 3 2011. FEDS APPEAL JUDGE'S FINE FOR LA. OIL SPILL >> \$9 MILLION OUT OF THE MORE THAN \$240 MILLION

The Justice Department is appealing a judge's ruling that CITGO Petroleum pay only \$9 million out of the more than \$240 million in penalties government attorneys had sought in a 2006 oil spill at the company's Lake Charles refinery. U.S. District Judge Richard Haik ruled in September that CITGO should pay \$6 million to the federal government and \$3 million to the state government in a federal Clean Water Act lawsuit pursued by the Justice Department. During a trial earlier this year, The



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Advocate reports (<http://bit.ly/snCE94>) reports federal attorneys had asked for at least \$247 million in penalties, noting the magnitude of the oil spill and alleging that CITGO put profits before safety. Justice Department spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle declined to comment Thursday on details of the appeal arguments, citing a policy of not discussing pending litigation. The lawsuit was filed in response to a June 2006 spill that occurred when heavy rains caused the overflow of two tanks holding "slop oil," a mix of oil, water and other waste from the refinery. CITGO did not deny its fault in the spill but had argued against the penalties sought by the Justice Department and disputed the government's figures on how much waste oil flowed into area waterways, including the Calcasieu River. CITGO argued that about 54,000 barrels of waste oil leaked out, while government experts put the amount at 76,800. The figure is important in Clean Water Act cases because the number of spilled barrels is generally used in calculating the penalty. Haik wrote in his September ruling that he found CITGO's figures more reasonable and used the lesser figure when determining the penalties. Haik wrote that in considering the penalty, he took into account CITGO's response to the spill — the company reported a \$65 million cleanup effort. In addition to the penalties, Haik ordered CITGO to make upgrades at the refinery. The mandated upgrades include the construction of a new storage tank to prevent any future overflows of waste oil. The judge also ordered CITGO to do further clean ups if testing finds lingering effects of the oil spill in a waterway next to the refinery. The \$9 million in penalties in the civil case came on top of a \$13 million fine that CITGO had paid after pleading guilty to a criminal Clean Water Act charge in connection with the spill.

<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/article/60039--feds-appeal-judge-s-fine-for-la-oil-spill>

USA, MA, SPRINGFIELD, DECEMBER 3 2011. MICHAEL WELLSPEAK OF SOUTHWICK CHARGED WITH STEALING GASOLINE, LINKED TO OTHER FUEL THEFTS FROM SPRINGFIELD CITY VEHICLES

patrick johnson

[Watch the Video](#) [Victim led police to alleged gas thief](#)



In this police photo, gallon containers lie on the ground and a hose used to drain gasoline from the fuel tank can be seen under this pickup truck on Randall Place.

A 47-year-old Southwick man who was arrested early Friday after he was found siphoning gasoline from a truck in the Forest Park neighborhood was charged hours later with 25 additional charges in connection with a series of gasoline thefts, primarily from city-owned vehicles, police said. Michael T. Wellspeak of 158 Berkshire Ave., Southwick, was initially charged with malicious damage to a motor vehicle, larceny of less than \$250, assault with a deadly weapon: a knife, and possession of burglary tools, said John Delaney, aide to Police Commissioner William J. Fitchet. He was charged with 10 additional counts of malicious damage to a motor vehicle, 10 counts of larceny of less than \$250, and a single count of breaking and entering. Police were called to 81 Randall Place by a man who reported he was leaving work and spotted a man underneath his pickup truck

cutting through his gas line and siphoning gas into large containers. The truck owner chased the man off and followed him to a house on Sorrento Street. The man told police the man came out from under the truck and pulled a knife on him before he ran off, Delaney said. When officers went to a door at 65 Sorrento, a woman who answered the door tried to tell them no one else was there, but officers could detect a strong smell of gasoline. Wellspeak was found hiding in the apartment. Police recovered seven one-gallon containers at Randall Place, Delaney said. After he was arrested, detectives were able to link him to three other incidents between Nov. 11 and Nov. 30 where at least 10 city-owned trucks were damaged and hundreds of gallons of gasoline stolen, Delaney said. The vehicles, belonging to the city departments of Parks and Recreation and Facilities Management, each sustained damage when someone cut through the feeder line leading to each gas tank. The trucks were targeted while parked overnight at lots for the Department of Parks and Recreation, 200 Trafton Road, and Facilities Management, 233 Allen St. He was charged with 10 additional counts of malicious damage to a motor vehicle, 10 counts of larceny of less than \$250, and a single count of breaking and entering. Delaney said police do not believe he was stealing gasoline for personal use, but would hang around a gas station on Allen Street at night and offer gas at \$2 per gallon to anyone who stopped to fill up. At his district court arraignment, Wellspeak denied the charges. He was ordered held in lieu of \$10,000 cash bail, and is due back in court for a pretrial hearing on Dec. 27. David Meehan, deputy director for Facilities Management, said staff discovered three vehicles had been damaged and drained on Nov. 30. The three trucks each had 30



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to 40 gallons of gasoline. The city bought its gas in bulk for \$3.50 per gallon, which puts the cost at about \$315. With the cost of replacement parts and labor, the total damage to just the three trucks could be \$700 to \$800. Meehan said he did not understand why the trucks had to be damaged. "If he had simply siphoned the gas out, we probably would not have noticed as quickly."

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2011/12/michael_wellspeak_of_southwick_1.html

BRAZIL, RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 3 2011. BRAZIL ORDERS CHEVRON TO SHUT DOWN PRODUCTION WELL



Supply boats cleaning an oil spill around a Chevron platform operating in the Frade oil field.

Brazilian authorities ordered US oil giant Chevron on Thursday to shut down a production well at an offshore facility where a leak was discovered last month. The country's oil regulator said it issued the order after finding dangerous hydrogen sulfide gas in a production well at the Frade field, 370 kilometers (230 miles) off the Rio de Janeiro state coast. The agency accused Chevron of failing to inform authorities about the presence of the gas, discovered during an inspection last week. The US company countered that it "conducts regular monitoring of the substance" and has "safety systems and processes in place." The well accounts for "less than 10 percent" of the field's total production of about 79,000 barrels per day, according to Chevron. The US company said it "respects the decisions" of the

regulatory agency and would respond to the government's requests. "All Frade production and injection wells are safe and secure," it added. Last month, a leak in a well operated by Chevron near the Frade field unleashed a crude oil slick in the area, prompting authorities to suspend the company's exploration operations off Rio. Brazilian authorities say the spill is now under control. Chevron faces a slew of fines from federal and Rio state authorities that together could exceed \$145 million. The leak could jeopardize Chevron's access to huge new offshore oil fields, which Brazil's National Petroleum agency says have reserves that could surpass 100 billion barrels of high-quality recoverable oil. But Chevron said it was "confident it will successfully respond to the ANP's concerns and be able to resume operation of its production and injection wells in due time."

Related Links

- [Chevron's South American Headaches Continue: Brazil Shuts Down Oil Well](#)
- [Chevron: Shut Brazil Well Less Than 10% Of Frade Oil Output](#)
- [Brazil Petrobras Confirms \\$47M ANP Fine, Disputes Error](#)

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gSz4_Sn00dSzDbp1CBySwVdcwnLw?docId=CNG.8c4dcc2ad965b13f24d26452f89c2f49.741

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, DECEMBER 3 2011. WEST TOWER REPAIR 'ALMOST' COMPLETE >> CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS HAVE TO DATE RECOVERED ABOUT A MILLION LITERS OF PETROLEUM

anna liza t. villas

The First Philippine Industrial Corporation (FPIC) claimed that the basements of the West Tower condominium in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City, where petroleum had leaked were "almost completely back to its original condition." The building was inspected by FPIC President Tony Mabasa, FPIC's Bangkal remediation project manager Nards Ablaza and environment advocate Gina Lopez, along with a group of condominium residents led by unit owner Paul Cruz to assess the progress of the repair work. Gas from a nearby pipeline owned by the FPIC had leaked into the basements of the condominium, forcing the evacuation of tenants. The leak also affected several houses near the building. The company replaced the electromechanical equipment with brand new units that were submerged in water when the basements were flooded. Ablaza said the clean-up operations have to date recovered about a million liters of petroleum from the building. The FPIC also claimed to have restored power in the common areas, repaired leaking water pipes, cleaned up the lobby, corridors and roof deck, and checked the elevators. "From day one, FPIC has utilized and continues to utilize all available resources and the best expert advice to rehabilitate West Tower, as well as remediate Bangkal's affected areas. We have never waived from our commitment to get the building safe and habitable for the West Tower residents to return home to. We can only welcome their full cooperation to complete our rehabilitation program," Mabasa said. Lopez called on all concerned parties to a meeting to air their concerns



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and discuss the full spectrum of possibilities on how to best complete West Tower's rehabilitation. Another group of residents claimed that what the FPIC has been doing were "cosmetic." Manual Chuansu, one of the unit owners forced to leave the building due to the oil leak, said the lobby and basement of the condominium were newly-painted but there were still portions that show signs of leaks. Chuansu also said the FPIC "unilaterally and without permission" revised the building's sump pit pipeline, preventing water from entering the pit and endangering the structure of the whole building. "They are changing the design of the building. We have officially written the FPIC to desist from doing the move and return the pipeline configuration to its original setup. At present, the FPIC continue to refuse to do so," he said. He challenged the FPIC to present a clean-up plan and timeline covering the areas affected by the oil leak in Bangkal. "We only want an honest-to-goodness plan and not just a plan for cosmetic purposes only," Chuansu said.

<http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/343492/west-tower-repair-almost-complete>

NORTHERN IRELAND, CO LONDONBERRY, MAGHERAFELT, DECEMBER 3 2011. CUSTOMS OFFICERS CLOSE MAGHERAFELT FILLING STATION



The filling station was raided by customs officers on Thursday.

A filling station in County Londonderry has been closed by HM Revenue & Customs after it was found to be selling illicit fuel. The station in the Magherafelt area was raided by customs officers on Thursday. A 17,000 litre fuel tank, the forecourt pumps and 2,300 litres of contaminated fuel were seized. John Whiting, the assistant director of HM Revenue & Customs, warned those who buy illicit fuel of the dangers involved. "Selling illicit fuel seriously undercuts legitimate traders who should be able to operate without the threat of unfair competition," he said. "The production of illicit fuel can cause considerable damage to the environment and there is also potential for serious damage to vehicle engines."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-16010688>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, DECEMBER 3 2011. EXXON SELLS 84 GAS STATIONS IN HOUSTON

 **Watch the Video** [Exxon sells 80 Houston-area gas stations](#)

Exxon sold 84 gas stations in Houston yesterday to a local company, forcing the stations to temporarily close as the new owner took over, [according to a KPRC Local 2 story](#). Exxon sold the gas stations to Houston-based Landmark Industries, which has more than 170 gas stations in Texas under various brand names. Most of the stations are branded Timewise. Exxon has been slowly selling its company-owned gas station since 2008.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/12/02/exxon-sells-84-gas-stations-in-houston/>

USA, TX. HOUSTON, DECEMBER 3 2011. DIESEL SPILL SHUTS PIPELINE AT MAGELLAN'S HOUSTON FACILITY

Magellan Midstream Partners LP shut a pipeline after about 1,800 barrels of diesel spilled at the company's terminal complex in Houston. The leak occurred Thursday after a nipple on a lateral line failed, Bruce Heine, a spokesman for the Tulsa-based company, said in an e-mail. There was no effect on Magellan's truck-loading operations. The cause is being investigated, Heine said. "The diesel fuel is contained on Magellan's property and clean-up crews are on site and have safely recovered the majority of the product," he said.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20111203_49_E1_Magell313486

INDIA, DULIAJAN, DECEMBER 4 2011. FIRE AT OIL STATION, ULFA CLAIM REFUTED

A major fire broke at the Central Browser Unloading Station (CBUS) of the country's second largest oil major, Oil India Limited at Tipling, adjacent to the oil collecting station-3 beside the Duliajan-Digboi road around 2 pm today. Two browsers, one carrying crude oil and the other condensate oil, caught fire while unloading, prompting shutdown of the CBUS. According to information available, the crude oil-carrying browser caught fire first, which then spread to the condensate-carrying browser waiting for unloading, and finally spread to the reserver point of the CBUS, where the crude oil from the producing wells were being unloaded. The fire was contained around 4 pm after hectic efforts by fire-tenders. There is no report of any casualty, except minor injuries to both the drivers of the browsers while fleeing the fire. Meanwhile, refuting the claim by the anti-talk



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faction of the ULFA that an explosion triggered by it led to the fire, the Dibrugarh district administration stated in a statement, after an inquiry into the incident, that the oil tanker caught fire while unloading the crude oil due to sparks. "It is not an act of sabotage and there is no casualty," the statement read. An OIL spokesperson, who had stated that the reason of the fire could be ascertained only after a detailed enquiry, also dismissed the possibility of any sabotage.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=dec0311/at05>

USA, FLA, SANFORD, DECEMBER 4 2011. DOZENS OF CANCER VICTIMS SETTLE TAINTED LAKE MARY GROUNDWATER SUIT

rene stutzman



Maps [400 Rinehart Rd, Lake Mary, FL 32746, United States](#)

More than three dozen former factory workers have settled their multimillion-dollar five-year legal battle against [Siemens Corp.](#) and [General Dynamics Corp.](#) over toxins they allege the companies carelessly dumped into drinking water, causing them to develop [cancer](#). "I'm just glad it's over with," said Gladys Elder of Sanford, a 32-year employee at the plant at 400 Rinehart Road in [Lake Mary](#) that manufactured telecommunications equipment. Elder, 70, developed kidney cancer a decade ago, and she, like dozens of others, accused the plant's owners of making her sick by carelessly handling solvents. Plant employees used toxins, including trichloroethene (TCE), to manufacture and clean circuit boards and other equipment. In 2001, Siemens AG, the plant's then-operator, ordered employees to stop drinking the water. That's because it had discovered TCE, a chemical linked to cancer in laboratory animals and suspected of doing the same in humans, in the plant's tap water. Workers had used TCE from the time the plant opened in 1968 as a Stromberg-Carlson Corp. facility (a subsidiary of General Dynamics Corp.) until 1986, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Workers had poured the used solvent into 55-gallon drums that eventually became rusty and leaky and at times poured it down drains and sinks, according to the suit. It then seeped into groundwater beneath the plant and was pumped back inside, where employees used it to wash their [hands](#) and brew coffee. Before the plant closed in 2003, it was operated by five companies or business ventures, including [United Technologies Corp.](#), Marconi Communications Inc. and Siemens. Each was a defendant in the suit. Attorneys for those companies did not return phone calls this week. Neither did the workers' lead attorney, Paul Byron. But former employees confirmed the deal, saying it had been brokered several weeks ago. Individual members received different amounts, said lead plaintiff Wallace Brottem, 58 of Eustis, who suffered myelodysplastic syndrome, a condition similar to [leukemia](#). He would not say how much his payout would be but said he doubted it would cover the \$1 million-plus in medical bills he's accumulated. His attorneys, he complained, were allowed to keep 44 percent of the settlement. Many of the employee-plaintiffs died while the suit was pending, Elder said. She said a confidentiality agreement barred her from disclosing how much she would be paid, money that she would begin receiving after the first of the year.

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/seminole/os-tce-settlement-20111202,0,98997.story>

USA, AZ, YUMA, DECEMBER 4 2011. AMMONIA BLAST INJURES 12

chris mcdaniel

 **Watch the Video** [12 people transported to YRMC >> ammonia leak](#)



Emergency personnel and workers mingle outside a vegetable cooling plant along Avenue 4E and Gila Ridge Road after an ammonia leak Friday evening.

Two people who were exposed to an anhydrous ammonia explosion are currently being treated in a Phoenix hospital. They were severely injured while working at a vegetable packing shed Friday afternoon. According to the Yuma Fire Department, the incident occurred at about 3:50 p.m. at Yuma Express Cooling, 4139 E Gila Ridge Road. Joel Faz, who was driving in the area, witnessed the explosion unfold. "There was a semitruck in front of me and a car right in front of me," he said. "The semi-truck made a turn, and as we started to go again, there was a huge explosion." According to Faz, who had his window open, there was a boom so

deafening, "it hurt my left ear. I was right there in the street right at the intersection where it happened." Faz saw two men try to escape the explosion. "They were in between two tanks," he said. "Right when it happened, one guy came running out first,



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and he was about ten feet in front of the shock wave. The guy behind him was engulfed in that." The shock wave, "literally picked him up," Faz said. "It looked like he was off the ground about two or three feet for about five or six feet, until he finally hit the ground running again. It was an unbelievable sight. It just blew me away." The plume of ammonia smoke was about 45 feet high, Faz noted, adding that people who were evacuating a nearby building ran right into it when they exited. "The alarms started going off immediately, and they were going out all the exits, and they didn't know what they were getting into. The wind carried it toward the southeast where everybody was evacuating. They were running into the plume of ammonia. Once they got in the cloud, they still had to try and get away." The first YFD units to arrive on scene found multiple victims with varied degrees of ammonia exposure. The most severe exposure victim was transported immediately to Yuma Regional Medical Center by a YFD Rescue truck. Exposure to anhydrous ammonia is extremely dangerous, and large doses can be fatal. According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, ammonia is highly irritating to the eyes and respiratory tract, and can cause swelling and narrowing of the throat and bronchi, coughing, and an accumulation of fluid in the lungs. Prolonged skin contact can cause pain and corrosive injury. Exposure to concentrated vapor or solution can cause pain, inflammation, blisters, necrosis and deep penetrating burns, especially on moist skin areas. Skin contact with compressed, liquid ammonia, which is stored at -28°F, causes frostbite injury and may also result in severe burns with deep ulcerations. After the first victim was transported to YRMC, YFD personnel, working in cooperation with Rural Metro ambulance personnel, evaluated patients and readied them for transport. Eleven additional patients were transported to YRMC. Two, including the first victim transported by YFD, were flown out to medical facilities in Phoenix. Three YFD and four Rural Metro personnel were also decontaminated and evaluated for exposure to ammonia. Yuma Police Department personnel blocked off traffic on Gila Ridge Road between Avenue 3E and Araby Road during the incident to facilitate access and movement of emergency vehicles. Traffic remained blocked for approximately two hours. The street was reopened at about 6 p.m. As emergency medical operations were underway, YFD hazardous materials technicians and Yuma Express Cooling employees confirmed the leak had been stopped and took additional actions to stabilize the situation. The leak was believed to have been caused by a failure of a connection to a condensing coil on a cooling tower, YFD said. The incident is under investigation.

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/ammonia-74914-yfd-right.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, ALTOONA, DECEMBER 4 2011. MOBIL ASKS FOR HALT ON REZONING BID

mark russell



Mobil refinery in Altona.

OIL giant Mobil wants the government to intervene to stop controversial plans for a residential development near the Altona refinery. Mobil has asked Planning Minister Matthew Guy to block Hobsons Bay City Council rezoning an area of land known as Precinct 13, east of the refinery, from industrial to residential. The company believes any rezoning of the precinct will jeopardise the long-term viability of the Altona refinery. The refinery is registered as a major hazard facility because it stores, handles and processes large quantities of flammable products. "Inappropriate planning decisions in the past have allowed residential developments to substantially encroach on refinery facilities and this has created issues between the refinery and its neighbours," Mobil spokesman Alan Bailey said. "Mobil does not want to see this situation exacerbated." Hobsons Bay City Council's Peter Gaschk said the council had received applications from three landowners to allow a residential development on their land within Precinct 13, which extends from the Geelong-Melbourne railway line to Kororoit Creek Road and east from Maddox Road to the back of residential properties fronting Eliza Place and Hygeia Avenue. The council had asked for more details before amending the

planning scheme. "If the council supports a rezoning of the site and the Minister for Planning grants the council authorisation to prepare and exhibit an amendment to the planning scheme, the views of Mobil and surrounding land owners would be considered," Mr Gaschk said. "As with the redevelopment of any brownfield site, contamination issues need to be carefully addressed. This matter will be considered in the council's assessment of any future applications to amend the planning scheme." Mr Bailey said the Environment Protection Authority Victoria recommended a two-kilometre buffer be maintained between residential developments and heavy industry such as the Altona refinery. "All the land within Precinct 13 lies within two kilometres of the refinery's main process area. It is important to maintain existing buffer zones to ensure that the refinery can continue to operate without adversely affecting surrounding land users." Rezoning of Precinct 13 was inconsistent with state planning policies on the use of contaminated land, he said. Much of Precinct 13 land was contaminated because it had



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previously been a council tip. The Altona refinery supplies half of Victoria's fuel needs, producing up to 13 million litres of refined products per day - enough to fill more than 300,000 cars.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/mobil-asks-for-halt-on-rezoning-bid-20111203-1ocl3.html>

VIETNAM, HANOI, DECEMBER 4 2011. MAN BURNED WHILE TALKING ON PHONE AT GAS STATION

tuoi tre



Vu Trong Khanh being treated at Saint Paul Hospital in Hanoi

While talking on his cell phone at a Hanoi petrol station Hanoi yesterday, a man was severely burned by a flame that came from nowhere and engulfed him. The terrible incident occurred at about 7 pm, November 30, when Vu Trong Khanh, 34, of Hanoi's Gia Lam District, stepped into the toilet of the station near Phu Dong Bridge, Long Bien District, to answer a phone call. As soon as he began talking on the phone, a flame came out of nowhere and covered him, severely burning his head, face, arms and legs. Khanh had come to the station to get vouchers of petrol, the station said. People who witnessed the accident took Khanh to Saint Paul Hospital for emergency treatment. Khanh suffered burns over 60 percent of his body, including respiratory burns, said Dr Nguyen Thong, head of the hospital's burn department. He was in a

fatal condition and could hardly speak, Thong added. "This is the first time the hospital has treated someone suffering from such an accident," he said. "A few studies have shown that high-frequency radio waves from a mobile phone in use can ignite gasoline vapors and cause a fire," the doctor said. Therefore, everyone should refrain from using their cell phones at gas stations to avoid similar awful accidents, he added.

<http://www.tuoitrenews.vn/cmmlink/tuoitrenews/society/man-burned-while-talking-on-phone-at-gas-station-1.53219>

USA, TN, WILSON CO, DECEMBER 4 2011. ONE PERSON INJURED WHEN TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNED

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.newschannel5.com/story/16175797/one-person-injured-when-tanker-truck-overturnd>



Emergency crews have responded to a wreck involving a tanker truck hauling water in Wilson County on Franklin Road. Officials with the Tennessee Highway Patrol said the tanker overturned around 2:00 p.m. Friday. The wreck occurred on Franklin Road near Highway 109, just north of Central Pike. THP officials said the driver of the truck, 68-year-old Lloyd Dotson of Portland, lost control of the vehicle when rounding a curve on Franklin Road and struck an electrical pole before overturning in a ditch. The driver was trapped inside the cab of the truck and crews had to work to free him. The driver was transported by ambulance to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. THP also said that power lines in the area were down due to the wreck and that local power crews would respond to fix the lines.

<http://www.newschannel5.com/story/16175797/one-person-injured-when-tanker-truck-overturnd>

USA, CT, FAIRFIELD, DECEMBER 5 2011. UNDERGROUND GAS LEAK IN FAIRFIELD

Deep Hazmat responded to an underground gasoline leak at a service station in Fairfield on Sunday. The leak detection system alarmed on Saturday and was shut down. The Mobil/Alliance Energy station contacted their consultant, who notified the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on Sunday. True Blue Enviro was hired to recover product overnight. DEEP said no offsite impact has been found.

http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/fairfield_ct/underground-gas-leak-in-fairfield

SCOTLAND, DALGETY BAY, DECEMBER 5 2011. MOD UNDER FIRE OVER 'ATOMIC BEACH'

rob edwards

The Ministry of Defence is facing a barrage of ferocious criticism, accusing it of botching its monitoring of the so-called atomic beach at Dalgety Bay. The MoD has been accused of handling the situation so badly that it missed more than 400 radioactive



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hotspots, including some of the most lethal ever found on public beaches. Former Government experts, current advisers and senior politicians have condemned the MoD's monitoring of the Fife site as inadequate, ineffectual and incompetent. According to one of the MoD's own former radiation scientists, the ministry can no longer be trusted to do the job – though it must pay for it. "Because of the MoD's failure to properly assess the extent and risks from the contamination, any further surveys or assessments should not be carried out by the MoD, or MoD contractors," said Fred Dawson, who worked for the MoD for 31 years before he left as head of the radiation protection policy team in 2009. "Nor should the MoD, or MoD contractors, be allowed to participate or undertake remediation work. The MoD's role should be limited to providing the necessary finance to remediate the beach." The MoD, he said, "has consistently done all it can to avoid admitting liability for the contamination, which in all probability it caused". Dalgety Bay is an up-market town on the Firth of Forth, known for its popular sailing club. But in the last few weeks it has become notorious as the home to some of the most dangerous and most disputed radioactive contamination in Britain. During the second world war, it hosted the Donibristle airfield and repair yard, which handled over 7000 planes. After the war, however, the radium used to coat aircraft dials so they could be seen in the dark was burnt and dumped in the area. Radium can be a killer. It killed the Nobel prize-winner who discovered it, Marie Curie, in 1898, and it killed the women workers in the US who licked the brushes they used to paint the dials early last century. At Dalgety Bay, it lay forgotten until it was accidentally discovered by a team from the nearby Rosyth naval dockyard in 1990. Since then, monitoring by various agencies has found and removed over 1600 radioactively contaminated items from the foreshore, from tiny particles to pieces the size of half-bricks. Two months ago, however, things got more serious. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) announced it had found a lump of debris that was more than 10 times more radioactive than anything previously found in the area. Since then, Sepa scientists have found three more highly radioactive fragments, including one 76 times more radioactive than earlier finds. Families were told to leave the beach while it was extracted and removed to a four-inch thick lead box, which still emits radiation 20 times higher than normal background levels. Since September 12, Sepa has found 442 contaminated items, far more than in any previous year. However, MoD monitoring of the same area in September only detected 33 radioactive particles. In other words, the MoD missed the vast majority of the pollution. "We have doubts about the MoD's survey," said the Sepa radiation specialist leading the Dalgety Bay investigation, Dr Paul Dale. "We've raised our concerns with the MoD and they say it was done competently but because of what we've found we've no grounds to believe them. We don't believe that the MoD's survey was effective." Sepa's loss of confidence in the MoD is betrayed by the minutes of a meeting in Edinburgh between the agencies on October 24, released under freedom of information law. It was dominated by tetchy interchanges between officials. Dale argued that it was "clearly unacceptable" for the MoD to overlook 90% of the pollution. The MoD eventually accepted it had missed some highly radioactive contamination, and promised to examine "discrepancies in monitoring data". Dale also said it would be "difficult to tell the public that monitoring has stopped." In response, Iain Robertson, of the MoD's Defence Infrastructure Organisation, "stated that Sepa do not need to tell the press". Radiation expert Dr Ian Fairlie, a former senior civil servant at the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs in London, thought the MoD's "indifference" to the risks at Dalgety Bay was characteristic. He compared it with the MoD's "heartless denial" of cancers suffered by nuclear test veterans, its refusal to recognise the hazards of depleted uranium weapons and its poor radiation safety in nuclear submarines and at MoD sites. "The common factor is that defence ministers have received ill-informed advice about the real risks of radiation," said Fairlie. "In my view, senior MoD officials responsible for giving this consistent misinformation to ministers should be reprimanded." To assess the danger at Dalgety Bay, Sepa last week appointed a panel of independent experts. One of them is Dr Andrew Tyler, the head of biological and environmental sciences at Stirling University. "It is clear that Sepa's monitoring has been far more effective than that undertaken by the MoD," he said. "The fact that such high activity particles have been missed indicates that the MoD's monitoring may well have been inadequate and must be reviewed as a matter of priority." He said particles found at Dalgety Bay were similar to those found on the foreshore at Dounreay, which is closed to the public. "The big question is how many other particles like these remain in the environment." Annabelle Ewing, the SNP MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife, said: "It looks as if the MoD simply didn't look properly because it didn't want to find anything." According to the former prime minister and Labour MP for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath, Gordon Brown, the MoD's monitoring "may have been inadequate". He used a Commons debate last week to pressure the MoD to pay for a clean-up. This weekend, he called for the MoD to be represented "at a senior level" at a public meeting on the contamination on December 16. Sepa has given the MoD until the end of February to come up with a clean-up plan – or Sepa will use its legal powers to designate Dalgety Bay as the UK's first radioactively contaminated land. So far, the MoD has refused to budge – and has notably declined to defend its monitoring. "The MoD fully appreciates the concerns of residents and has demonstrated a serious commitment to assisting Sepa," insisted a spokeswoman, who said the MoD would



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keep working with Sepa and would join the expert panel. "New radioactive sources have been found at Dalgety Bay and we take this very seriously. However, it is not yet clear what the level of risk is."

Related Links

- [Time for MoD to come clean on radiation clear-up](#)
- [Brown accused MoD over radiation on beach](#)
- [It's time for a science lesson](#)
- [MoD given deadline to clear radioactive beach](#)

<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/environment/mod-under-fire-over-atomic-beach.16042704>

CANADA, SK, SASKATOON, DECEMBER 5 2011. HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL RESTRICTS SASKATOON TRAFFIC

thomas piller

Saskatoon motorists were restricted Sunday morning after a police convoy escorted a trailer carrying hazardous waste through the city. The hazardous materials left a business located in the 3200- block of Millar Avenue at approximately 10:45 a.m. Emergency vehicles assisted in the safe transport to a disposal site located in the northeast end of Saskatoon. Saskatoon police said patrol units were restricting traffic at various intersections to protect the public from an unanticipated detonation. Members of the Saskatoon Police Service Explosive Disposal Unit were in attendance. The nature of the hazardous waste was not disclosed.

<http://www.globalsaskatoon.com/hazardous+waste+disposal+restricts+saskatoon+traffic/6442534866/story.html>

USA, ME, BETHEL, DECEMBER 5 2011. DEP PROJECT REPLACES OIL TANKS AT RISK OF FAILURE

tony reaves



Fuel from an old oil tank, right, is pumped into a newly-installed, double-walled fiberglass tank at a home on North Road in Bethel in Friday. L.M. Longley & Son of Norway installed the tank and several others as part of a state Department of Environmental Protection project to protect the Androscoggin River watershed from contamination.

Nine old heating oil tanks are being replaced in well-head protection zones to protect the water as part of a Maine Department of Environmental Protection project. The work on North Road and side roads in the area is being completed by L.M. Longley & Son of Norway at no cost to homeowners. DEP spokeswoman Samantha Depoy-Warren said funding is coming from the state's Ground Water Oil Clean-up Fund. She said the program saves people's wells and can save a lot of

money over time. "The DEP receives nearly 3,000 spill calls per year, with more than one a day coming from a residential home heating oil tank," Depoy-Warren said. Cleanup of leaking oil tanks costs Maine taxpayers around \$2 million per year. "In addition to a costly clean-up and fuel replacement, releases from home heating oil tanks can contaminate drinking water, degrade air quality, lead to lower property values and harm the environment," Depoy-Warren said. Joe Newbert, head technician at L.M. Longley & Son, said he estimates replacing the nine tanks will cost about \$40,000, including labor. Some tanks require more work than others; many require pouring concrete slabs and at a Gibson Road home Newbert recently needed a carpenter to cut out part of a wood floor. The tanks are being replaced with double-walled tanks. Exterior tanks are replaced with fiberglass tanks, and indoor tanks are replaced with high-tech Roth tanks, a double-walled tank with an indicator that shows if the inner tank is leaking. Newbert said L.M. Longley & Son beat Brooks Bros. of Bethel in the bidding process. According to Depoy-Warren, Lucian Roberge of the Bethel Water District initially contacted the DEP, leading to Bethel being chosen for the project. Tanks in Scarborough are also being replaced. Depoy-Warren recommended homeowners have their oil company test their tank's thickness annually. She said they corrode over time, but because they corrode from the inside out homeowners often aren't aware until a catastrophic failure occurs and their basements or yards are flooded with heating oil. "For so many of us, the only time we give our oil tanks any real thought is when we're paying to fill them," Depoy-Warren said. "The DEP wants to bring people's awareness to their tanks and what may be happening inside of them before it's too late."

<http://www.sunjournal.com/news/oxford-hills/2011/12/05/dep-project-replaces-oil-tanks-risk-failure/1123584>



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USA, AK, CANTWELL, DECEMBER 5 2011. CANTWELL FIRE INJURES FIVE, GALE ANDERSON SENT TO HARBORVIEW, SEATTLE FOR BURNS

Click-2-Listen [Cantwell Fire Injures Five](#)



Gale Andersen, 61, of Cantwell, has now been flown to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle after she received significant burns in the explosion and fire at the Cantwell Chevron Station on the George C. Parks Highway at Cantwell, Alaska. Alaska State Troopers Fairbanks dispatch got the report of an explosion inside the station at about 6 o'clock p.m. on Sunday, December 4, 2011. Another employee, Samuel Allan, 26, of Cantwell, was transported to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital (FMH) via Nenana Fire/EMS Volunteer Department the night of the fire. Samuel returned to the interior of the station, making sure that all were out of the building. Also injured at the site of the explosion and fire were Allen Glore, 58, of Cantwell, Mathew Atkinson, 43, of Fairbanks; and Judith Riley, 70 of North Pole. Allen Glore was transported to FMH but then on to Providence Hospital in Anchorage, Alaska,

Mathew Atkinson was treated on the scene, and Judith Riley was transported to FMH. The explosion blew out windows and blew debris out into the parking lot, and other large items like garbage cans were blown out past the gas station island which extends out a considerable distance away from the store. Fortunately, the gas pumps did not ignite in the searing blaze that followed the explosion. Troopers arrived to find the store ablaze already. "Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Cantwell Volunteer Fire Department, Denali National Park Service EMS, McKinley Village Fire Station, Nenana EMS and Talkeetna EMS responded to help fight the fire and transport patients," says Beth Ipsen, Information Officer for Alaska State Troopers. "The volunteer fire departments in Anderson and Nenana were put on standby to cover other emergency calls along the Parks Highway. Workers from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities responded to help troopers with crowd control, directing traffic and clearing vehicles from the parking lot. Three Alaska State Troopers and an Alaska Wildlife Trooper from the posts along the Parks Highway responded to help coordinate efforts to get the injured to medical facilities and to contain the fire to the convenience store as much as possible. A diesel tank that provides heat to the building also burned in the fire. The store continued burning throughout the night and was extinguished this morning."

<http://thealaskanews.com/cantwell-fire-injures-five-gale-anderson-sent-to-harborview-seattle-for-burns/11068>

USA, KY, BARDSTOWN, DECEMBER 5 2011. ALCOHOL SPILLS INTO LAKE AT HEAVEN HILL DISTILLERY

Watch the Video:

http://www.wbko.com/news/headlines/Thousands_of_Gallons_of_Alcohol_Spill_135007658.html?ref=658

Nearly 6,400 gallons of ethyl alcohol spilled from the back of a Heaven Hill distillery building Saturday afternoon, triggering a hazardous-materials response from the Bardstown Fire Department and state and federal environmental regulators. A temporary dike helped capture some of the 180-proof alcohol, but a large amount spilled down a creek and into a lake at the rear of the building, Bardstown Fire Chief Anthony Mattingly said. The spill occurred after a tanker delivered the alcohol to the distillery in Nelson County. A shutoff valve between a large tank and a smaller tank was left open, allowing the liquid to flow into the smaller tank, which then overflowed into a containment area. But a separate valve — opened recently to release excess rainwater — had also been left open. That allowed the alcohol to flow across a gravel parking lot and into the creek and lake, Mattingly said. An environmental contractor helped mitigate the spill, the chief said.

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20111204/NEWS01/312040053/Alcohol-spills-into-lake-at-Heaven-Hill-distillery?odyssey=tab%7Cmostpopular%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>

SOUTH AFRICA, KWAZULU-NATAL, DECEMBER 5 2011. OIL SPILL: 'NO HARM' TO MARINE LIFE

noma bolani

Environmental affairs officials in KwaZulu-Natal say they are not aware of any harm to marine life following the recent oil-spill off the province's north coast. A ship that had apparently been sailing between Durban and Richards Bay last weekend, is thought to be responsible for the leak near the Salt Rock Beach area. SA Marine Authority officials have since managed to clean up most of the oil spill in the water. A holidaymaker though has told Newswatch she was shocked to find a number of dead crabs covered in oil on La Mercy beach on Saturday afternoon. She also says she hasn't seen a clean up crew in the



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area. Zolile Ngayi, who is with the Environmental Affairs Department, says they are still busy working on clearing oil from the beaches. "We ask that locals don't go into the area until it's cleaned up. We're keeping the area out of bounds until it's completely clean - it's been done for the safety of the locals," he said. Meanwhile the KwaDukuza Municipality is set to release a report on how much damage the oil leakage has caused to the environment.

<http://www.ecr.co.za/kagiso/content/en/east-coast-radio/east-coast-radio-news?oid=1478415&sn=Detail&pid=490476&Oil-spill---no-harm--to-marine-life>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, DECEMBER 8 2011. CONTAMINATED SITES MISMANAGED VICTORIAN AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT FINDS

Document [Read the full Auditor-General's report into contaminated sites](#)

The health of Victorians may be compromised because contaminated sites are not being managed effectively, the auditor-general has found. Auditor-General Des Pearson says regulations to deal with contaminated sites and those believed to be contaminated are complex and unclear, with significant gaps. In many cases, this has led to a lack of accountability, responsibility and inaction by the entities responsible for dealing with contamination, [his report tabled in parliament](#) found. Mr Pearson said this inaction was partly driven by a desire to avoid legal and financial liability rather than protecting people's health and the environment. He said the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD), the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and councils were not managing contaminated sites effectively, and could not show they were reducing potentially significant risks to people's health and the environment. The report found councils had failed to rigorously manage risks associated with such sites. And no single entity had accepted responsibility for managing them. For sites where the responsible person cannot be identified or insolvency prevents clean-up, contamination would remain unmanaged unless the state stepped in, Mr Pearson said. There was also no agency responsible for overseeing sites where the risks to human health and the environment might be long term. There are an estimated 10,000 contaminated sites in Victoria. But the ability to assess and alleviate health and environmental risks associated with contamination is hampered by a lack of reliable information about the number of contaminated sites, their location and the extent of contamination. Mr Pearson said the responsible entities had not been proactive in obtaining this information, but until it was known, they could not plan and prioritise any action. While weakness in the regulations have been known for at least a decade, action to address them began only this year. But so far these reviews have been ad hoc and co-ordination was needed. Mr Pearson recommended the DPCD, aided by the EPA and in consultation with councils, should review regulations for managing contaminated and potentially contaminated sites. He said the DPCD should oversee the framework and the EPA should prioritise high-risk sites and actions to manage them. Councils also needed to develop better monitoring and enforcement of these sites. Planning Minister Matthew Guy said the government established an advisory committee in March to address the ad hoc management of these sites and it would report to him early next year. "We acknowledge that the structures need to be reformed around contaminated land, around the reporting mechanisms and indeed the notification," he said.

Related Links

- [Children's health at risk from soil at Leigh Street, Footscray](#)
- [Baillieu to call inquiry](#)
- [House purchase cover-up denied](#)
- [Family homes built at toxic tip](#)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/contaminated-sites-mismanaged-victorian-auditor-generals-report-finds/story-e6frf7jo-1226216391616>



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