



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 689 Newsy Stuff

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

February 27 2011



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USA, WASHINGTON D.C, FEBRUARY 21 2011. UST INSURANCE PROVIDERS LISTED

Owners and operators of USTs subject to federal and state environmental regulations are required to possess financial mechanisms to ensure that the cost of cleaning up leaks and compensating third parties can be covered. One financial mechanism is the use of insurance. EPA has now issued a booklet listing both insurance companies and agents and brokers who provide UST insurance. UST insurance coverage can be provided as a new policy or as an endorsement to an existing policy. A new policy must conform to certificate of insurance standards at 40 CFR 280.97. An endorsement must conform to EPA's endorsement criteria, also described at 40 CFR 280.97. EPA's booklet provides model language for both types of insurance documents. The Agency states that the lists were developed based on information provided by entities that are "willing to deal with UST insurance." The lists are not intended to be comprehensive because there are other companies, agents, and brokers that have not yet identified themselves to EPA. EPA also notes that the lists do not constitute endorsements by EPA of the products or services provided by the insurance entities. In addition, EPA emphasizes that UST coverage must meet both federal and state requirements. Owners and operators are urged to contact their state insurance regulatory agencies to be sure that any insurer, broker, or agent is authorized by the state to provide the type of insurance sought.

EPA's List of Known Insurance Providers for Underground Storage Tank Owners & Operators - This booklet provides UST owners and operators with a list of insurance providers who may be able to help UST owners and operators comply with financial responsibility requirements by providing a suitable insurance mechanism. Note: This list is current as of the date indicated, and this edition replaces all earlier editions bearing the same title. Information contained in the list may change without prior notice. If you are aware of any revisions or additions that should be made, please contact Karen Ellenberger at ellenberger.karen@epa.gov. EPA's booklet, List Of Known Insurance Providers for Underground Storage Tank Owners And Operators, is available [here](#) or Ctrl click this URL: [List Of Known Insurance Providers For Underground Storage Tank Owners And Operators \(PDF\)](http://enviro.blr.com/environmental-news/hazmat-and-chemicals/underground-storage-tanks-USTs/UST-Insurance-Providers-Listed/) 18 pp, 150K, EPA 510-B-11-001, January 2011.

<http://enviro.blr.com/environmental-news/hazmat-and-chemicals/underground-storage-tanks-USTs/UST-Insurance-Providers-Listed/>

SCOTLAND, FEBRUARY 21 2011. WELL'S DRY AS RIGGERS EVACUATED

kenny angove



Dozens of North Sea oil workers were evacuated from a rig - after they were left unable to shower due to a shortage of water. Around 65 of the 190 crew on the Exxon Mobil Beryl Alpha platform were airlifted to the mainland as supplies dwindled. Bosses on the rig, located 195 miles off the Scottish coast, have handed out bottles of drinking water but many staff have not washed for days. Last night an insider said: "The situation is dire. "Temperatures are starting to get short. "You've got guys who have been out working on the rigs with oil, mud and chemicals and are absolutely filthy. "The water supply is on it's last legs." The crisis began last Wednesday after supply vessels were hampered by bad weather. But Exxon bosses avoided disaster when one boat did make it through on Friday afternoon

with 300 tonnes of water. A spokesman for the oil giant confirmed 65 staff nearing the end of their two-week shift left early. He added: "We will continue to monitor fresh water supplies until the weather moderates."

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/scotsol/homepage/news/3424051/Wells-dry-as-riggers-evacuated.html>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, FEBRUARY 21 2011. KEROSENE EXPLOSION, NNPC, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PEOPLE Kerosene Explosion Again!.....

It is embarrassing that this is still happening to us in 2011. The history of Kerosene explosion is about four decades or more old in Nigeria without any meaningful designs to prevent or tackle future occurrence with victims usually left to bear the brunt of market failures they did not create. Each of kerosene accidents have always led to disabilities, loss of livelihood and deaths. Before the current report of kerosene explosion, other incidents in history include 1984 incidents in Lagos, 1998 in Oyo, Abuja, Kwara, Niger, Sokoto, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kogi and Delta States. Others include, fire outbreak as a result of adulterated kerosene in Lagos in 2001, Warri in 2007, and Abakaliki, in Ebonyi State in 2008 among others. It is very unfortunate that most of them passed as usual with victims left to bear the pains on their own. The only incident, of all, that attracted concrete government attention was the Lagos explosion of 2001, a situation in which the federal government set up an administrative panel on compensation to the victims. However, what is missing in the initiative is approval of the panel's reports approved by

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the federal executive council with no known or published policy and guidelines on how to address future emergency relating to domestic cooking oil in Nigeria. More disappointing is the usual denials by concerned agencies when unfortunate incidents occur in Nigeria. For instance, contrary to the "danger alerts" issued by the NNPC in its News and Updates to warn people in Delta and Edo States of adulterated kerosene in circulation, its sister company, the PPMC, denied existence of killer kerosene in circulation. The latter is a dangerous deception which may cause further harms to members of the public. It is obvious and undeniable fact that the market for domestic cooking oil, kerosene, has failed again in Nigeria. The news of explosions, fire outbreaks and deaths resulting from adulteration are just final outcomes of such failures. Although the market failure in respect of kerosene is primarily and usually failure of the responsible authority, NNPC, to administer the markets and make sure all players, formal and informal players obey the rules of engagement in the market. Other failures associated with this include failure of law enforcement, failure of standards and failure of people. In summary, it is failure of the Nigerian society. In specific, issue of standard and it's so called organization, SON, is shameful in Nigeria. Nigeria is a country where everything goes as long as the "right price" is paid. Failure of standards enforcement in Nigeria is recognised in many parts of the world. If you get to markets in China there are specialised "markets for products" meant for the Nigerian markets. This not to say that sub-standard products do not exist the world over, but in other part of the world markets for such products are compartmentalised and buyers are aware of the consequence of patronage of such markets. The failure of law enforcement is nothing but a reflection of failure of government in Nigeria. A government that cannot enforce principles, policies and rules that protect lives and properties of the governed does not have a business in governance. In the classical example of illicit brew locally called chang'aa in Kenya in 2010. Slum dwellers in Nairobi and other provinces of Kenya were notorious for patronising outlets for Chang'aa which caused many their sights, and left many dead yet demands and patronage kept increasing. The Kenyan government raised quick intervention teams comprising administrative police, Kenyan Bureau of Standards and relevant ministries to fish out and dealt with the source of such killer drink. As complicated as the Kenya's case is due to extreme danger associated with confronting slum dwellers in a city like Nairobi, resilience on the part of the intervention teams led to record success in the initiative. One commendable point in the Kenya experience is that they move beyond crackdown to begin to think of a framework in which the market is liberalized and producers will be train on how to refine and make the product safe for consumption. The same model of liberalization may not be applicable to kerosene issue in Nigeria but the spirit of moving beyond the unfortunates to protecting lives and livelihood is commendable. A vital point to note is that successes being recorded in tackling human motivated tragedies in many parts of the world are associated with culture of allowing the laws to run its full course. In Nigeria, every misfortune brings "bloody opportunities" to some especially people responsible for keeping and enforcing laws. Also, an average criminal, whether "innocent or hardened", believes some levels of influence, connections or cash will get one out of any trouble, no matter the scale. It is high time for our society and people to return from "self first" attitude to "life first". With this we will be able to value lives of others as much as ours. Also, NNPC and its sisters should be sincere tell Nigerians what has gone wrong again, and what's really and responsible for kerosene shortages and associated "corners-cutting" and the current disaster. On the news recently is a report that the NNPC has injected 50 million litres of the products into the market. The question is from where? And must we always be reactive to disasters rather than being proactive to prevent them. Also, the government seems unclear about the status of its own policy in respect of kerosene and fuel market in general. It should be noted that government intervention in kerosene market in Nigeria have almost always left the consumers worse off and put their lives in serious danger. It is obvious that consumers have been paying more than what the regular market price should be in a deregulated market. It may therefore be useful for government to hands off the market and only stand to regulate standards and excesses of market operators. This will go a long way to make the products available and accessible. It will also discourage adulteration as there will be no room for rent seeking. This will bring market prices down in the long run because of possibility of competition. Finally, the current explosion must be a turning point to ending such a grave consequence of systemic failure in Nigeria.

<http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/editorial/17864-kerosene-explosion-nnpc-law-enforcement-and-people>

USA, PA, YORK, FEBRUARY 21 2011. FIRE SPREADS TO FIREWORKS STORED AT WARRINGTON TWP. CAMPGROUND.

christina kauffman

High winds Saturday were one challenge for firefighters battling a garage fire at a Warrington Township campground Saturday. Fireworks were another. Crews were called to Quaker Race Campground, 2295 Rosstown Road, about 9:20 a.m., Wellsville Fire Chief Larry Anderson said. An electrical problem caused a fire in a small pump house, and winds spread the fire to a 1,200-square-foot garage containing fireworks the private campground uses for summer displays, he said. The fireworks went

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off but were contained to the inside of the structure, Anderson said. "We could hear all kinds of popping and hissing," he said. The garage was a complete loss, and Anderson estimated the damage at \$200,000.

http://www.yorkdispatch.com/news/ci_17439726

USA, OH, CINCINNATI, FEBRUARY 21 2011. COAST GUARD INVESTIGATING ALCOHOL LEAK IN OHIO RIVER

The Coast Guard is responding to a report of an isopropyl alcohol leak into the Ohio River. Around 5:30am, the captain of the tug vessel Bridget Cauley notified the Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley that alcohol was leaking from the top portion of a barge that Cauley was pushing. An unknown amount spilled on to the deck of the barge while going into the river just five miles south of Cincinnati. A temporary patch has been placed over the hole securing the leak. The Bridget Cauley will remain under a Captain of the port order until final repairs are made. A pollution investigation team from the Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment in Cincinnati was sent to the scene. The incident is still under investigation.

<http://www.fox19.com/Global/story.asp?S=14072718>

BELGIUM, BRUSSELS, FEBRUARY 21 2011. EU COMMITS TO PHASE OUT 6 NEW CHEMICALS WITHIN 5 YEARS



European firms in the chemical and powder processing industry may soon have to apply for special permission to use six chemicals, which are being phased out by authorities. The European Commission has committed to ban the six substances within the next three to five years unless individual companies are granted permission for their use. 5-ter-butyl-2,4,6-trinitro-m-xylene (musk xylene), 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane (MDA), hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD), bis(2-ethylexyl) phthalate (DEHP), benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP) and dibutyl phthalate (DBP) have all been designated as either carcinogenic, toxic for reproduction, or persist and accumulate in the environment and living organisms. The aim is to phase out these substances over time and replace them with economically and technically viable alternatives. Commenting on the decision, European Commission vice president Antonio Tajani explained: "Today's decision is an example of the successful implementation of REACH and of how sustainability can be combined with competitiveness." "It will encourage industry to develop alternatives and foster innovation."

<http://www.guttridge.co.uk/news/2011/02/21/eu-commits-to-phase-out-6-new-chemicals-within-5-years/>

USA, S.C, HARDEEVILLE, FEBRUARY 21 2011. CHEMICAL SPILL CLOSES PART OF U.S. 278 IN HARDEEVILLE



Fire crews needed nearly three hours Monday to clean up a chemical spill that closed eastbound lanes U.S. 278 near the Tradition Hilton Head community, according to Hardeeville Fire Chief Dan Morgan. Morgan said 21, one-gallon bottles of muriatic acid likely fell from a passing vehicle onto the road at about 7:30 a.m. Several bottles broke open, releasing a white vapor. The vehicle did not stop, and fire crews were unable to identify it, he said. Muriatic acid is a solution of hydrogen chloride gas often used locally to balance pH in swimming pools and clean masonry work, Morgan said. The Bluffton/Hilton Head Hazardous Material Team cleared the road, while the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control responded to oversee the cleanup and disposal, he said. No injuries were reported, Morgan said. Contents of the bottles that did not break will be recycled, he said.

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2011/02/21/1556038/chemical-spill-closes-part-of.html>

CANADA, TORONTO, FEBRUARY 21 2011. WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE... BUT IS IT SAFE TO DRINK?

"Over the last couple of generations, there has been a huge amount of groundwater pollution worldwide, and this has had a negative impact on our drinking water supply," says Barbara Sherwood Lollar, Canada Research Chair in Isotope Geochemistry of the Earth and the Environment at the University of Toronto. Sherwood Lollar is taking part in the THINK CANADA Press Breakfast Sunday at AAAS. Her research examines society's efforts to reverse and stop groundwater pollution, and the effectiveness of bioremediation technologies—using microbes to clean up organic contaminants such as petroleum hydrocarbons (oil, gasoline or diesel) or chemicals used in the electronics or transportation industries. While the disposal of these organic contaminants tends to be well regulated today, this has not always been the case. Lax regulations and enforcement during the period immediately after the Second World War has left Europe and North America with a legacy of past contamination. "This contamination has had a pervasive impact on the environment," says Sherwood Lollar. "It is still

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out there, and it needs to be dealt with." Over the past decade, many techniques used to clean up groundwater contamination have harnessed the power of microbiology and the work of geochemists like Sherwood Lollar. "We are not genetically engineering microbes," she explains. "In many settings, naturally occurring microbes feed off the organic contaminants and, in the process, convert them to non-toxic end products." Until now, the real difficulty has been in proving that the process exists and that the microbes are actually cleaning up the contaminants. Sherwood Lollar has developed techniques that show where the clean-up is happening and, just as importantly, where it is not. "Elements like carbon have different stable isotopes: Carbon-12 and Carbon-13. One is slightly heavier than the other, and the microbes tend to feed mostly on the lighter one. When the microbes have been working for some time, the ratio of heavy-to-light carbon will change. It is this change—referred to as an isotopic signature—that lets us know the water is being cleaned up," says Sherwood Lollar. By cleaning up contaminated groundwater, it is possible to recuperate what would otherwise be a lost resource. The technique is starting to be used by regulators, and Sherwood Lollar is working with an international group of scientists to put together a guidance document for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This will provide a set of recommendations about use in the field for practitioners, which will be a first step towards mainstreaming the technique. "It's a common misconception that water—and especially our supply of groundwater—is a renewable resource," says Sherwood Lollar. "But it isn't. So, it is particularly important that we manage it well and that we do whatever we can to conserve, protect and remediate what we have." Sherwood Lollar will present her research and answer questions from the press, as part of the THINK CANADA Press Breakfast on the theme of water. The breakfast will be held in Room 202A of the Washington Convention Center at 8 a.m. on February 20, 2011 and will feature Canadian research experts across natural sciences and engineering, health, social sciences and humanities.

 **Translation To French.**

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-02/nsae-ww021911.php

USA, N.Y, QUEENS, FEBRUARY 21 2011. DANGER BELOW >> THOUSANDS OF MILES OF COMBUSTIBLE PIPES RUN UNDER QUEENS



A combustible warning alarms residents near a Sunnyside playground

A potential disaster flows under the streets of Queens, alarming some community members into action. Thousands of miles of combustible pipelines transporting oil, natural gas and hazardous liquids courses beneath the streets and homes of the city – leading to a call for legislation to tighten oversight and safety guidelines when construction requires digging and drilling. Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer joined local residents on February 15 to address concerns about pipeline safety and call for action against negligence that undermines the security of the entire city. Van Bramer sighted three national incidents concerning pipeline explosions in the past

month that proved tragic and deadly. Explosions in Philadelphia, Hanoverton and, most recently Allentown, PA raised the concerns of lawmakers. In light of these incidents, U.S. Senators Jay Rockefeller and Frank Lautenberg introduced federal legislation that would tighten pipeline safety requirements – but Van Bramer believes such legislation is sorely needed on a local level. In 2009, a construction project on Skillman Avenue in Sunnyside punctured the Buckeye Pipeline, causing over 500 gallons of jet fuel to spew onto streets. "The preventative and safety measures mandated by this proposed legislation and resolution will help protect our neighborhoods from catastrophe," said Van Bramer. "This is the time to step up and speak out before a disaster like Allentown happens in our city. We must take action to reduce the risk of tragedy now – rather than react to one after it is too late." The councilmember announced legislation requiring oversight and advance notice for any entity drilling near flammable materials in residential areas. In addition to oversight, Van Bramer is working with Assembly member Cathy Nolan on increasing fines for negligent companies that do not call 8-1-1 – the state's mandatory Dig Safely hotline. Van Bramer sighted numerous construction projects that will be coming through western Queens in the coming months – including a capital works projects adjacent to Lou Lodati Playground on Skillman Avenue in Sunnyside. According to the councilmember, any degree of neglect can prove deadly for Queens residents. Nolan said that they have met with the agencies that oversee the pipeline and plan to further review safety regulations of these agencies. "When we met with the agencies that oversee the pipeline, we were concerned about safety," she said. "With the pipeline running under most of our community in western Queens, it is important that there are ongoing reviews of the regulations to make sure that the residents are kept safe. I will also be introducing legislation at the state level, to ratify and enhance the proposal that Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer has introduced."

http://www.queenscourier.com/articles/2011/02/21/news/top_stories/doc4d6271545d334939026929.txt

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AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, GREAT KEPPEL ISLAND, FEBRUARY 21 2011. PROBE INTO DIESEL SPILL

nikita watts



Tom Sjolund found a diesel spill on Great Keppel Island and took a sample to the EPA to investigate what may have been the cause.

Authorities yesterday confirmed they had begun a compliance investigation into allegations of environmental damage on Great Keppel Island. The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) yesterday said officers would travel to the island to undertake a site inspection as part of its probe. Yeppoon resident Tom Sjolund yesterday said he found about 50 litres of diesel in bushland on the island near Leak Wetlands at the weekend. He said it looked as if it had leaked from a truck and was found on a man-made road that was pointed out by island residents as new and contained trees that had been cut down. Photographs taken by Tom of the diesel spill and also lopped trees and the road were yesterday

forwarded to DERM. The authority yesterday could not confirm if a permit had been obtained to cut down trees and create access roads on the island. Mr Sjolund said the diesel leak went for almost 20 metres in the very sensitive catchment area. "There wasn't any attempt to clean it up, it was just left there," he said. "My main concern is the wetlands. It's a very fragile ecosystem." Tower Holdings has engaged consultants to carry out the environmental, cultural and social impact studies which will decide the fate of its plans for a \$592 million revitalisation project. Capricorn Conservation Council coordinator Michael McCabe yesterday said he had heard concerning reports and was in contact with DERM to establish the facts and to see if any breaches had been committed. A spokeswoman for GKI Resort yesterday said any complaint made in relation to Great Keppel Island Environmental Impact Statement consultants was an allegation only. "Any necessary investigation will be undertaken to determine the validity of any allegation," she said.

<http://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/story/2011/02/22/probe-into-diesel-spill-great-keppel-island/>

USA, MS, HATTIESBURG, FEBRUARY 22 2011. CHEMICAL TANKER AFIRE>> NORTHBOUND I-59 CLOSED IN HATTIESBURG



Hattiesburg firefighters spray water on a tanker truck that caught fire in the north bound lanes of Interstate 59.

The northbound lanes of I-59 between U.S. 11 and Hardy Street are closed while emergency crews remove chemicals from a tanker truck that caught on fire late Monday. Southbound lanes remain open. Firefighters received the call about 10 p.m. Monday. The fire occurred between Veterans Boulevard and Hardy Street.

<http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/article/20110221/NEWS01/110221012/Northbound-I-59-closed-in-Hattiesburg?odyssey=tab|mostpopular|text|FRONTPAGE>

USA, S.C, AIKEN CO, BELVEDERE, FEBRUARY 22 2011. TANKER OVERTURNS, SPILLS FUEL

anna dolianitis

A fuel tanker overturned on Highway 25 in North Augusta just before 8 a.m., resulting in the majority of the fuel spilling into the roadway, and the closing of Highway 25 between Ascauga Lake Road and Edna Street through the morning, according to North Augusta Public Safety Lt. Tim Pearson. The tanker was headed southbound carrying 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel, according to Pearson, who said crews are currently working to clean up the spill, and he expects the road to re-open around noon. The vehicle, driven by Daniel Griffin, 51, of Lexington, took evasive action to avoid hitting a small white car that pulled into the roadway in front of the tanker as it was making a turn. As a result, the tanker flipped over onto its right side. Griffin was taken to Aiken Regional Medical Centers with non-life threatening injuries, according to Pearson. Pearson said the spill occurred near a building supply store, and authorities were able to use sand and plastic sheets from the store to contain the spill. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is on the scene, as is Aiken County EMA, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, Aiken County Sheriff's Office and the Belvedere Fire Department. "We had a lot of personnel with training who had been trained to handle this," said Pearson. "Everything went just about as fluid as you could

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ask for as far as containing the spill." The investigation into the white car that Griffin alleges pulled into the roadway and then left the scene is ongoing, Pearson said.

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/2011Local/022-tanker-web>

USA, S.C, LEXINGTON, FEBRUARY 22 2011. GASOLINE TANKER OVERTURNED: MAJOR LEXINGTON INTERSECTION WILL BE CLOSED MOST OF THE DAY

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14073990>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wltx.com/news/article/123926/2/Traffic-Still-Blocked-at-Gas-Spill-Site->

 **Photo's** <http://www.thestate.com/2011/02/22/1707114/major-lexington-crossing-blocked.html>



A major intersection in the town of Lexington will be closed until late afternoon because of a gasoline tanker that overturned and leaked hundreds of gallons fuel onto the roadway. Lt. Matt Davis says the intersection of Sunset Blvd. (Highway 378) and North Lake Drive (Highway 6) is blocked. Lexington police officers are directing traffic around the incident. Davis says a tractor trailer was driving northbound around 7:30 a.m. on North Lake Drive and was making a left turn onto Sunset Blvd. when it ended up on its right side. It is unclear what caused the truck to crash, but Davis said it is possible the load shifted and caused the truck to roll onto its side. Police say the truck, which was holding 8400 gallons of unleaded fuel, has leaked about 400

gallons. Estimates earlier in the day had fuel leakage totals in the thousands. A cleanup crew from Spartanburg was expected to arrive on scene around noon. They will drill a hole into the side of the truck and extract the remaining gasoline and move it into another truck before attempting to move the tanker. The spill is contained, but a crew from DHEC has been dispatched to the scene to make sure that the gasoline has not drained into any of the storm drains in the area. There are concerns that any spark could cause a massive fire because much of the fuel is still on the roadway. According to Lexington School District One, emergency officials say there is no danger to students or staff at any of the schools nearby. Because of those concerns, some businesses in the area have been evacuated. "I can tell you that we've had some evacuation done downwind," said Davis. "The Food Lion parking lot has been evacuated and the building itself from my understanding." Crews from Lexington County Fire Service, Highway Patrol, and SC Department of Transportation all responded to the accident. The driver of the truck is okay and no other vehicles were involved. Police hope to have the intersection opened back up by 5 or 6 p.m.

<http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14073990>

USA, N.C, GREENSBORO, FEBRUARY 22 2011. HIGHWAY 68 CLOSED, AREA EVACUATED FOLLOWING PROPANE TANKER WRECK

chelsi zash

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wxii12.com/news/26949932/detail.html>

 **Slideshow** http://www.digtriad.com/news/most_popular/article.aspx?storyid=162429&provider=top



All lanes of Highway 68 in Greensboro are closed Tuesday morning while emergency crews clear a wreck. The wreck happened around 6:15 a.m. near Pleasant Ridge Road. Greensboro Police said a 9,200 gallon propane tanker truck and one other vehicle were involved in the wreck. The wreck did cause the a leak in the tanker and Police also closed Edgefield Road between Highway 68 and Pleasant Ridge Road. Highway-68 was originally closed on the northbound side, but was later closed in both directions. Around 11 a.m., the Greensboro Fire Department also requested the area be evacuated due to safety concerns during the clean up. The area is mainly a business district, including a child care facility on Edgefield Road. Police originally said the area is expected to remain closed until noon. Fire crews said the area is closed until further notice. One person was injured

with non-life threatening injuries.

http://www.digtriad.com/news/most_popular/article.aspx?storyid=162429&provider=top

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NORWAY, OSLO, FEBRUARY 23 2011. UPDATED: OIL SLICK CLEANUP BRINGS CASUALTIES AND CHALLENGES



Oil from the grounded Icelandic containership "Godafoss" has been carried south by the tide and reached the coastline of Aust Agder. The Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) have placed emergency preparedness teams and firemen on higher alert. "We started preparing some of the reconnaissance crew, equipment, and boats to be used in case some of the oil hits land as soon as we were told yesterday," Hans Bakke, on duty chief fire officer in Øst Agder fire department tells NRK. The cleanup operation is smaller than first feared, but employees of the Norwegian Nature Inspectorate are having to shoot hundreds of oil-coated seabirds. "We've received many observations of soiled and dead seabirds along the coast of Larvik as far down as Jomfruland in Telemark. We saw approximately 250 oil-coated birds on Sunday of the coast of Tjøme in Vestfold County," official Egil Soglo said yesterday. Ministers of the Environment and Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, Erik

Solheim and Lisbeth Berg-Hansen, flew over the Vestfold archipelago to see the extent of the damage personally, praising everyone for their professionalism. Nevertheless, freezing temperatures are also posing a problem for crews, who have little experience at gathering slicks in freezing conditions. The oil that has leaked for "Godafoss" is also thick. "These are some of the challenges we will have to face when the oil eventually arrives," says Hans Bakke. It is still unclear as to how much oil has been discharged from the containership, according to NTB.

<http://theforeigner.no/pages/news/updated-oil-slick-cleanup-brings-casualties-and-challenges/>

USA, IL. MADISON CO, BETHALTO, FEBRUARY 23 2011. SHELL AND BP NAMED IN BENZENE SUIT

The family of a Bethalto woman who died of leukemia blames two Roxana oil refiners for allegedly causing the disease. Jeffrey Ochs, on behalf of his wife Debra Ochs, and the couple's daughter filed a lawsuit Jan. 20 in Madison County Circuit Court against Shell Oil Company and BP Products North America Inc. Ochs says Debra spent a lot of time in Roxana the last three decades, working as a teacher and principal at Central Elementary from 1994 through 2003. During that time, Shell and BP operated refineries in the area. Ochs alleges both companies processed and used benzene and benzene-containing pollutants, known to be highly toxic and cancer-causing. Ochs says Debra's exposure to the chemical caused her to be diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia in 2003. She died in January 2008. Ochs is suing Shell and BP for wrongful death and negligence, saying they knowingly released benzene into the air and ground water. He is asking for more than \$150,000 in damages to pay for medical expenses, lost income and court costs. They ask for a jury trial. Attorneys Thomas E. Schwartz and Justin D. Guerra of St. Louis Keith E. Patton of Houston and Allyson M. Romani of Glen Carbon are representing Ochs. Romani is the daughter of Madison County Circuit Judge Charles Romani.

<http://www.madisonrecord.com/news/233488-shell-and-bp-named-in-benzene-suit>

USA, TX, SAN LEON, FEBRUARY 23 2011. OILY SHEEN CLEANUP CONTINUES ALONG COASTLINE

chris paschenko



A viewer submitted these photos of the spill and clean up effort.

The U.S. Coast Guard could learn today the source of an oily sheen about a mile long that coated the rocky coastline of Galveston Bay near San Leon. The Coast Guard's first report of the incident came Feb. 16, a spokesman told The Daily News for a story published Friday. An environmental cleaning crew began working to remove the substance Thursday and placed booms in the water. The spill near Sixth Street left some residents feeling ill, the Coast Guard reported Thursday. As of Tuesday, the Coast Guard didn't know what the oily sheen was, whether it could be refined oil or fuel. The Coast Guard was working with the Texas General Land Office to determine a source of the spill, Petty Officer Prentice Danner said.

Danner toured the spill Tuesday and said no wildlife was reported to have been affected by the sheen. The thickness of the sheen was light, and the smell wasn't overpowering, he said. "There's light oiling on the rocks that separate the shore line from the water," Danner said. Danner didn't have an estimate of how long it would take the environmental crew to clean the spill. It's possible the Coast Guard could learn the chemical makeup of the sheen today, Danner said. "We'll see if it matches anything on file," Danner said.

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story/213274>

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USA, TX, ANDERSON CO, BRUSHY CREEK, FEBRUARY 23 2011.

No one was injured as a result of an oil truck explosion Tuesday morning near the northern Anderson County community of Brushy Creek. Anderson County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Troy Black said two employees of Kilgore-based C&S Lease Services were servicing a well in the 12000 block of FM 315, approximately 1 mile south of the intersection of FM 837 in Brushy Creek, around 8 a.m. Tuesday when the incident occurred. "They have a boiler that heats the oil on the truck and it caught fire which caught the truck on fire which caught the oil on fire," Black said Tuesday. "The two people that were at the site took off running into the woods to get away from it." The hot oil truck which contains costly equipment, in addition to a pickup truck, were destroyed as a result of the fire, according to the chief deputy. An Anderson County official estimated the total loss to be in the vicinity of \$200,000 to \$250,000. At one point, small propane tanks on one of the hot oil truck started exploding, according to the chief deputy, with those explosions reportedly heard as far away as three miles. The explosion occurred approximately 50 yards from oil holding tanks. There were, however, no injuries and "no damage to the well site," according to Black. Responding agencies included the Elmwood and Bradford volunteer fire departments and the Anderson County Sheriff's Office.

<http://palestineherald.com/local/x62853130/Explosion-destroys-oil-trucks-near-Brushy-Creek>

INDIA, JAJMAU, FEBRUARY 24 2011. GAS LEAK FROM ACID TANKER KILLS WOMAN

The gas emitted from a leakage in a tanker carrying sulphuric acid led to the death of a 22-year-old woman in Jajmau area on Tuesday evening. The woman, Shabina alias Shabbu, was found dead in the bathroom of her house, which was near the spot of the mishap. Three other residents — Ruksana, Salim and Gafoor — who fell unconscious were rushed to Nasir Hospital. They are reportedly stable now. To minimize the impact of the leakage, water was sprayed on the spillage and Kanpur Nagar Nigam teams sprinkled lime-salt in the area. Additional District Magistrate (City) Shailendra Kumar Singh, said: "After the tanker carrying sulphuric acid broke down near Siddhnath Ghat of Jajmau, a crane was called to shift it to one side of the road. However, a part of the tanker got damaged and the acid fell on the road and trickled into the nearby sewer line connecting several houses of the vicinity." Singh said the gas emitted by sulphuric acid suffocated Shabina and she died inside the bathroom. An ex-gratia would be given to the family members of Shabina, he said.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/gas-leak-from-acid-tanker-kills-woman/753704/>

USA, MI, DORR TWP, FEBRUARY 24 2011. . DORR FIREFIGHTER'S WIFE FEARED FIREWORKS EXPLODING INSIDE HOUSE MIGHT 'SHOOT OUT AND HIT ME'

nate reens

 **Watch the Video**

<http://www.wzzm13.com/news/article/154667/2/Allegan-house-explodes-homeowner-could-face-illegal-fireworks-charges>

 **Watch the Video** http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/02/dorr_firefighters_wife_feared.html

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wvmt.com/articles/county-1387731-home-allegan.html>



Fire fighters from Leighton, Salem Township, and Dorr Township work to put out flames after an explosion at 1743 143rd Avenue Wednesday morning in Dorr Township. Nobody was hurt by the explosion, although the owner did lose his Golden Retriever in the fire.

Outside Michael Winger's house, Theresa Berkenpas ducked for cover in her car as explosions from fireworks rattled an Allegan County neighborhood Wednesday. Authorities now are investigating how and where Winger obtained the devices, which were strong enough to blast wooden siding from the house and send it flying nearly 100 feet and onto 143rd Avenue. Investigators from the state police and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms responded to Winger's home after [firefighters](#)

[extinguished the 9:20 a.m. blaze](#) at 1743 143rd Ave. It was initially believed that Winger had a license to deal fireworks, but that is now in question, according to Harold Schumaker, the Dorr Township fire chief. Schumaker did not know what type of fireworks Winger apparently had inside the residence, leaving that part of the probe to police. Neither the ATF nor state police would comment on the matter Wednesday. Winger, who declined to comment when reached on his cell phone, told authorities he and his son had been using a blow torch to try to thaw frozen pipes in his basement, Schumaker said. No one was home at the time of the fire. It appears that heating source ignited insulation, which later burned and caused one large detonation and multiple subsequent explosions. This initially prevented firefighters from attacking the blaze. Berkenpas, whose husband, Dan

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Berkenpas, is a Dorr fire lieutenant, was backing out of her child's babysitter's house across from Winger's when the fire started. She was on her cell phone with her husband and told him about the flames. "It was kind of crazy ... fireworks started shooting out of the house," she said. "I didn't even know what to do. My car shook. I got down. I wasn't sure if there was something that was going to shoot out and hit me. "I was screaming on the phone it was so intense. You could actually feel (the explosions.)" Neighbors said flames quickly engulfed one corner of the home at the corner of Alpine Drive. Dennis Anglemyer was inside his nearby house and said the noise from the initial blast sounded like a bomb going off. He rushed to a window, looked out to see the house across the street ablaze. "It was no joke. It was not good," Anglemyer said. "It shook the house and it rattled my windows. By the time I get to the window, there's flames shooting out everywhere." Anglemyer said Winger is known for fireworks displays in the summer. He described Winger as a nice guy. "I'm glad he's OK," the neighbor said. Fire crews from three departments shuttled water in tankers for more than a mile to douse the house. They did not immediately start efforts to extinguish the blaze because of the threat from the continuing explosions. They knew no one was inside, Schumaker said. Authorities will work to confirm the cause of the fire, but all indications are that the natural gas line, which was on the side of the house that blew, was not compromised before the fire, the chief said. No person was hurt, but Winger's golden retriever died in the fire. "It would have been a lot different (outcome) if anyone had been inside," Schumaker said.

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/02/dorr_firefighters_wife_feared.html

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, SOUTH PLYMPTON, FEBRUARY 24 2011. THE TOXIC SECRET THAT THREATENS THOUSANDS

daniel wills & clare peddie



The map shows the affected area.

Officials waited 18 months before announcing fears of groundwater contamination beneath up to 2000 homes. The Environment Protection Authority yesterday revealed industrial activity at the former Hills Industries site in Edwardstown, south of Adelaide, caused dangerous materials - including a chemical known to cause cancer - to seep into the groundwater. Residues of fuels and industrial solvents, including the known carcinogen vinyl chloride and suspected carcinogens, had been detected in groundwater at levels above Australian drinking-water guidelines. Just minutes before the official announcement, South Australian Environment and

Conservation Minister Paul Caica told the State Parliament the EPA was first alerted to the potential contamination in August, 2009. The EPA chose yesterday, day two of the earthquake disaster in Christchurch, to announce the problem. Groundwater investigation wells drilled to track the contaminant plumes progressively identified further off-site groundwater contamination, he said. A further update, handed to the EPA on February 14, warned that domestic bores were likely to have been affected and recommended assessment of indoor air quality to check if the pollutants had spread from the groundwater to the air. This week, the EPA began writing to more than 2200 residents of South Plympton and Edwardstown, advising them to stop using bore water for any purpose until further notice. The area of concern is bound by Marion Rd, Oval Tce, Nelson St, Railway Tce, Maxwell Ave and Melville St and includes about 30 registered bores. There may be many unregistered bores. Letters were also sent to Marion Council and the Forbes Primary School, which is in the affected zone. The school principal sent a letter home to parents advising that the bore water would be tested, even though it was from a deeper aquifer and therefore unlikely to be contaminated. Bore water will not be used at the school until it is given the all-clear. EPA site contamination manager Greg Hill said correct procedures had been followed in releasing the information to the public. He said the known contamination zone was restricted to the former Hills Industries site until recently and it would have been unreasonable to issue a public awareness notice earlier than yesterday. "We had no knowledge of impact on domestic users and domestic bores at that stage," Mr Hill said. "You have no idea of the area to notify of the impact, you have no idea that there's even off-site concerns at that point." He said the EPA sought to strike a delicate balance between informing the public and sparking undue panic. In the days since February 14, Mr Hill said the EPA had "worked very hard" to prepare an action plan. Any suggestion the EPA had intentionally released the information on a day when the public was preoccupied with the NZ earthquake was "outrageous", he said. People's Environment Protection Alliance spokesman Gary Goland told The Advertiser yesterday that residents had a right to be angry about being kept in the dark. "It's negligent, it's putting the public in danger," he said. Yesterday, many Edwardstown residents were still unaware of the contamination. Stella, 36, whose parents grow vegetables in their backyard, said she was concerned for her family's health. "If it's contaminated, I would have liked to have been told about it - my kids eat these tomatoes and cucumbers," she said. The latest criticism of the EPA follows

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complaints it failed to tell Port Adelaide residents about the extent of pollution created by industries including Adelaide Brighton Cement, Birkenhead fuel plant and Incitec Pivot fertiliser storage facilities. It has also been criticised for failing to alert Seacliff and Highbury residents about explosive methane gas levels from former dump sites. Mr Goland said the EPA needed increased government oversight and a cultural shift towards greater disclosure. "The process is dysfunctional," he said. Opposition water spokesman Mitch Williams said the delay may have put residents in danger and called on Mr Caica to take responsibility. Mr Caica said legislative changes made in July 2009 making it mandatory to report "harm to groundwater" had increased public awareness and improved response to pollution incidents.

Related Stories

- [Residents' contamination concerns](#)
- [Poisoned water fuels mum's fears](#)
- [Toxic threat forces review](#)
- [Editorial: Share the mining boom](#)
- [Toxic chemicals found in SA bore water](#)

<http://www.news.com.au/national/water-warning-delay-risks-public-safety/story-e6frfkvr-1226011109028>

USA, IL, CASEYVILLE, FEBRUARY 24 2011. IEPA WILL INVESTIGATE CHEMICAL REACTION AT CASEYVILLE COMPANY

kevin bersett

 **Photo's** <http://www.bnd.com/2011/02/23/1603995/caseyville-evacuates-neighbors.html>



Firefighters and a hazardous material team was called to the Illini Environmental, 8895 California Drive in Caseyville.

A chemical reaction that emitted a cloud of smoke at Illini Environmental, 8895 California Drive in Caseyville, was under control Wednesday night, according to St. Clair County Emergency Management Agency Director Randy Lay. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency planned to bring in an investigator Thursday to determine what exactly caused the reaction, Agency spokeswoman Patti Thompson said. The reaction occurred inside a 15-yard container within the facility, according to St. Clair Emergency Services Deputy Chief Brian Donley and company president and co-owner Mark Flood. It was the Environmental Protection Agency's understanding that the reaction involved soybean-based toner ink, kitty litter with anti-freeze

absorbed in it, chlorine tablets and latex paint, all mixed with scraps of diapers, Thompson said. The materials had been solidified in order to be properly disposed of at the Milam Landfill in Fairmont City, according to Flood. The materials involved were not hazardous, Flood said. No one was injured, according to him and authorities. "We're going to check the materials in the container and see what caused the reaction," Flood said. The company is near the intersection of Illinois 157 and St. Clair Avenue. The company handles industrial by-products for recycling, waste management and transportation, according to its website. Authorities were blocking any nonlocal traffic from entering California Drive between Illinois 157 and 79th Street. The company evacuated its employees after the incident occurred at about 4:30 p.m. and notified authorities about the incident, Flood said. French Village firefighters were already on their way after being notified of smoke in the area, Fairview Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Green said. Residents near the location were advised to stay inside and to tell authorities if they began to feel ill, Green said. No chemicals were detected when authorities tested the air near the facility, Donley said. Although authorities said the situation was under control, several firefighters, emergency personnel, county and state officials and police officers remained at the scene Wednesday night. "Better to be safe than sorry," Green said.

<http://www.bnd.com/2011/02/23/1603995/caseyville-evacuates-neighbors.html>

USA, N.J, NEWARK, FEBRUARY 24 2011. OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SEEKS DISMISSAL OF CHEMICAL TANK INJUNCTION

Township trustees in Medina County overstepped their bounds by asking a Licking County judge for an injunction to stop use of a chemical storage tank, according to an Ohio Department of Agriculture attorney. Sharon Township trustees filed a lawsuit Jan. 13 against Ohio Department of Agriculture Director James Zehringer in Licking County Common Pleas Court. The complaint, filed by three Medina County assistant prosecutors, asked for an injunction to prohibit the state department from approving use of a 12,000-gallon anhydrous ammonia tank in the township until regulations are established to protect

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residents from the release of the deadly chemical. Anhydrous ammonia, used as an agricultural fertilizer, is toxic to humans and animals. Inhaling the chemical results in lung injuries and might cause death, according to the complaint. It also is a chemical used in methamphetamine production. The Ohio Department of Agriculture asked that the case be dismissed. The department contends Ohio law gives it the option to determine the storage and handling of fertilizers, but it is not required to. ODA cannot fail to perform a duty if no duty exists, Ohio Assistant Attorney General James Patterson wrote in a Feb. 8 filing. "The injunctive relief sought by (the township) in this case -- an order restraining ODA from allowing the continued use of anhydrous ammonia storage tanks on any farms in Ohio -- vastly exceeds any possible connection with Sharon Township or its residents," Patterson wrote. Attorneys for the trustees opposed the dismissal of the case in a Tuesday filing.

<http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20110223/NEWS01/110223010>

USA, S.C, NORTH AUGUSTA, FEBRUARY 24 2011. FUEL TANKER SPILL UNDERSCORES TRUCK ROLLOVER DANGERS

trishna begam

 **Watch the Video!**

http://www.wrdw.com/onyourside/headlines/Driver_express_concern_about_truck_rollovers_on_major_highways_116738159.html

Some drivers are expressing their concern about big trucks on the roadways after a tanker truck spilled thousands of gallons of diesel onto Highway 25 Tuesday morning. Drivers had to find a different way to work on Tuesday as crews cleaned up a mess left behind by a tanker truck that spilled 7500 gallons of diesel fuel on Highway 25 near the I-520 connector. Lt. Tim Pearson with North Augusta Public Safety said, "Just coincidentally we were teaching a hazard material class, so we were able to tap into that resource (to clean up the spill)." A similar incident left drivers in Lexington, S.C. stranded as crews worked to clean up a spill caused by another truck that left a thousand gallons of gasoline on one of their highways. Both trucks were trying to make left turns when they rolled over. Some drivers on the road think truckers need to slow down. "Oh yeah, it's dangerous, people speeding on this road. You do the best you can," said Al DeLaughter, who saw the North Augusta accident take place. North Augusta Public Safety officers are looking into whether another car blindsided the truck driver involved in Tuesday morning's accident, which he claims caused him to tip over. Carlos Valero, who also saw the accident, added, "18 wheeler drivers should be more cautious. How they drive and when they take those turns." Officers say your best bet is to slow down, be on guard, and practice defensive driving each time you take to the roads. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control says in the past five years, Aiken County has seen 132 oil spills. 34 of those were transportation-related, meaning they could have been from cars, trucks, and even planes. North Augusta Public Safety says since that connector road opened to I- 520, they haven't seen an increase in traffic collisions. Commercial vehicle traffic has gone down near the downtown portion of U.S. 25, because most of those trucks are trying to get onto 520.

http://www.wrdw.com/onyourside/headlines/Driver_express_concern_about_truck_rollovers_on_major_highways_116738159.html

USA, IL, EAST PEORIA, FEBRUARY 24 2011. DIESEL FUEL LEAKING AT CATERPILLAR >> SIZE OF SPILL UNKNOWN, BUT IT HAS REACHED CREEK

steve tarter

 **Photo's** <http://www.pjstar.com/photos/x1705410680/Diesel-fuel-spill-at-Caterpillar-Inc-East-Peoria-proving-grounds>

 **Photo's** <http://www.pjstar.com/news/x1705410666/Cleanup-continues-at-site-of-last-weeks-diesel-fuel-spill-in-EP>



Absorbent booms lay Thursday at the end of a watercourse leading from Caterpillar, Inc.'s East Peoria proving facility at its intersection with Ten Mile Creek. A diesel fuel leak discovered February 18 has leaked an undetermined amount of the fuel into the creek.

A diesel fuel leak from a tank at Caterpillar Inc.'s proving grounds in East Peoria is being contained, the company said Wednesday. Pipelines in the area have been shut off as repair work is conducted, said spokeswoman Kate Kenny. Dennis McMurray, a spokesman for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, said the diesel fuel leak, which occurred in an underground pipe between a fuel tank and a fuel island at Caterpillar's facility, was first noticed Friday. McMurray said diesel fuel reached nearby Ten Mile Creek. "No volume has been determined," McMurray said

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of the spill, noting that three environmental firms - Decatur-based Bodine Environmental Services, Trans Environmental Services of Lawrence, Mass., and Milwaukee-based Veolia Environmental Services - are working on the clean-up. McMurray said crews are removing above-ground pumps to help determine the cause of the spill, believed to have occurred at an elbow in an underground pipe. Caterpillar has made "significant efforts" to collect the fuel and prevent further exposure to the area, Kenny said. "Caterpillar representatives have contacted and met with the neighboring residents who are potentially affected by the leak. The company has pledged its ongoing support and open communication with the residents as we continue with the clean-up efforts," she said. "Caterpillar has no reason to believe the diesel fuel is in the groundwater, but as a precautionary measure the company is working with an outside agency to conduct well water samples on those residences in the affected area," said Kenny. Sara Sparkman, community relations manager for the Tazewell County Health Department, said her agency is working in a liaison role with Caterpillar, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois EPA regarding the leak. "We're making sure that area residents with wells in the area know what's going on," said Sparkman. No boil order has been issued because boiling would not fully purify water tainted by fuel, she said. Sparkman wasn't able to identify how many homes were potentially affected by the spill but called it "a small number."

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/x345548099/EP-diesel-leak-contained-effects-not-yet-known>

USA, CA, WILLITS, FEBRUARY 24 2011. CORPORATION YARD WASTE OIL TANK CLEANUP: A TIMELINE

linda williams

The City of Willits removed the leaky 500-gallon underground waste oil storage tank from the Corporation Yard behind the Willits library and adjacent to Broaddus Creek in 1999. Tests from the hole indicated the presence of contaminants typically found in gasoline and diesel, such as benzene, toluene, ethers such as MTBE, and xylene and other volatile organic hydrocarbons. The city bored 10 monitoring wells between 2000 and 2007 at the request of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and sampled them quarterly, sending the water board the results showing the extent of the contamination. The city also sampled nearby Broaddus Creek in June 2003, but could detect no contaminants there. The city proposed a treatment timeline to the state in 2005 for a vacuum-based water and vapor phase extraction to clean up the site over a period of two years at an estimated cost of about \$351,000. Rather than remediate in full, the city proposed and the state RWQCB agreed to a pilot test. In December 2006, a test extraction well removed about 60 pounds of hydrocarbons in the vapor phase and two pounds in the liquid phase. In 2007, the city proposed conducting another pilot extraction test with ozone sparging added. Although a timeline was submitted by the city and approved by the water board, nothing more was done until after River Watch filed a notice of violation on June 28, 2010. On September 1, 2010, a city consultant met with the water board and proposed to restart the cleanup efforts with the installation of three new pilot wells, one for extraction, one for monitoring, and one for ozone injection. The RWQCB requested the city provide a new schedule by the end of November. Cleanup costs for the site have been reimbursed by the state through the Barry Keene Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund Act of 1989. The state has already paid \$242,104 for the work to date. In 2008, the state set aside a \$1.3 million commitment for the rest of the cleanup in fiscal year 2009.

http://www.willitsnews.com/ci_17462322

USA, TX, CORPUS CHRISTI, FEBRUARY 24 2011. CITGO FINED \$303,000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS FROM JULY 2009 FIRE >>> THE INCIDENT CAUSED INJURIES TO MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF EMPLOYEE GABRIEL ALVARADO'S BODY AND IS BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD

fanny s. chirinos

Citgo Refining and Chemicals Co., which operates two refineries in Corpus Christi, received a \$303,294 fine from TCEQ for water and air violations from a 2009 fire. The incident caused injuries to more than 60 percent of employee Gabriel Alvarado's body and also is being investigated by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board. Alvarado, then 34, was working near the alkylation unit on July 19, 2009, when the fire ignited. Alkylation is a key aspect of refining petroleum, and Citgo uses hydrogen fluoride, a strong irritant, in that process. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality found four water violations and two air violations during an investigation conducted July 19 through Aug. 11, 2009, and July 19 through Dec. 18, 2009. It found Citgo failed to:

- meet the permitted effluent limit for fluoride
- prevent the unauthorized discharge of wastewater
- obtain authorization from the commission before beginning an activity that resulted in noncompliance with a permit condition

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- prevent the unauthorized discharge of process wastewater into or adjacent to water
- prevent unauthorized emissions during the incident
- submit an administratively complete final report for the incident.

Citgo officials could not be reached for comment Wednesday. The refiner agreed to paid a fine of \$151,647 and the same amount will go toward an environmental project, the Abandoned Tire Cleanups Program. The program is administered by the Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas Inc. The company made several changes to its processes to adhere to TCEQ standards by October 2010. In December 2009, the Chemical Safety Board released what it called urgent safety recommendations, which are released before final investigations in cases where the board believes safety hazards could exist. The board said multiple failures occurred in the refinery's system to control the fire with water. The board has not released its final investigation into the fire. Alvarado, who spent about six months in a San Antonio hospital following the fire, returned to his home in Corpus Christi in late December 2009, said family member Piedad Ymbert. He still makes trips to San Antonio and Houston to undergo surgeries that help his mobility, she said. "He is improving and it's been a miracle," Ymbert said. "You never see him down. He is working on an invention to improve his prosthetic arm. He has shown a lot of courage and has been an inspiration to the entire family."

<http://www.caller.com/news/2011/feb/23/citgo-fined-303000-for-environmental-violations/>

USA, WA, FORKS, FEBRUARY 24 2011. FUEL TRUCK OVERTURNS SOUTH OF FORKS



The truck's rear tank overturned, spilling 3,500 gallons of fuel inside Olympic National Park.

Spill responders have stopped fuel from leaking from an overturned fuel truck on U.S. Highway 101 about 25 miles south of Forks. The state Department of Ecology said earlier in a news release that the wreck "caused an unknown amount of fuel to get into a seasonal tributary" of Fletcher Creek. Whether fuel has reached the tributary has not been determined, clarified Ecology spokeswoman Kim Schmanke later. As much as 3,500 gallons of fuel leaked from the truck, Schmanke said. The vehicle was carrying about 10,000 gallons, said State Patrol spokeswoman Trooper Krista Hedstrom this morning. Fletcher Creek flows into the Hoh River. The truck overturned at about 9:45 a.m. The cause is unknown, the State Patrol said today. The driver wasn't injured. One-way, alternating traffic is making it through the area

using the southbound lane. Ecology, State Patrol, Hoh and Quileute tribes and Cowlitz Clean Sweep have responded to the scene.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20110223/NEWS/110229989/fuel-truck-overtorns-south-of-forks-fuel-leaks-into-creek>

USA, MT, HELENA, STATE SUES BP, OTHERS FOR FRAUD

eve byron

Montana officials are suing BP and its subsidiaries, alleging the companies received millions of dollars from insurance companies to clean up petroleum-contaminated soils and groundwater, but hid that money so the state picked up the remediation costs. In addition, the Montana Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board claims that BP started selling off its petroleum storage tank facilities in the 1980s to avoid costly cleanup expenditures while hiding the severity of the environmental contamination from the purchasers. The state alleges BP, through its own lending subsidiaries, arranged for financing for gas station managers so environmental site assessments wouldn't take place. "Over the course of a number of years, (the) defendants engaged in a number of carefully contrived, deceptive and fraudulent schemes to obtain recovery of funds and avoid responsibility for clean-up and remediation of the environmental pollution caused by their leaking PSTS (petroleum storage tank systems) at their formerly and current owned, operated, leased and supplied facilities," the state alleges in a lawsuit filed Tuesday in Lewis and Clark District Court. "... Defendants omitted, concealed, obstructed, misrepresented and failed to disclose any information regarding facility leak histories from their PSTS and misled their purchasers ... by representing that the facility had no past history of leaks and/or releases from the facilities." Along with BP — in the news most recently for its Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico — other named defendants include Standard Oil, Amoco and Atlantic Richfield. Terry Wadsworth, executive director of the state petroleum compensation board, said they've been investigating the case for a few years. "The lawsuit has to do with the fact that we think there's been some

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double dipping by some large oil companies, and BP happens to be one of them,” Wadsworth said on Wednesday. “When environmental laws went through, those large oil companies recognized they had problems with contamination and realized those facilities were liabilities ... so they went to the managers of the fueling stations in Montana and sold those properties to them, who retained the ability to operate them under the same brand name. “But to sell them, they had to establish their own loaning and insuring mechanisms because otherwise the banks wouldn’t finance the sale because of the suspected contamination.” The managers eventually applied to the compensation board to clean up the contamination, which is done by the state Department of Environmental Quality. But unbeknownst to the compensation board, BP and its subsidiaries allegedly had settled contamination cases, globally and nationally, with their insurance providers, including for sites in Montana. Wadsworth said he’s not sure of the amount of compensation BP received for the Montana sites, and he’s not sure how much alleged “double dipping” was involved since some of the claims by the new owners may be legitimate. Still, he believes millions of dollars are involved. “When you come to the petro fund, we ask if somebody else is responsible and they said nobody else is so the petro fund does the cleanup as required by law. Then we found, lo and behold, that somebody was responsible for it and they settled with the insurance company,” Wadsworth said. “Therein lies the problem. How do you get there? The only way is by lying on the state application fee.” The petroleum tank compensation fund was created in 1989 to address the cleanup of releases from leaking fuel tanks at service stations, convenience stores and other petroleum storage facilities. It receives the majority of its revenues from a 75-cent fee per gallon of gasoline, heating oil and other fuels. Since its inception, \$77.5 million has been paid out for eligible releases. The state filed nine claims for relief against BP, including unjust enrichment, fraud and deceit. Along with compensation for the actual amount spent on the cleanup efforts, the state is seeking punitive and exemplary damages. “Defendants ... knew they were improperly obtaining funds from the Montana PTRCF, obtaining a double recovery, causing other parties to improperly obtain funds from the Montana PTRCF and intentionally creating a high probability of injury to the resources of the state ...” the board alleges in the lawsuit, adding that they want an example to be made of the defendants to “promote truth and honesty.” Wadsworth said they also are looking into additional corporations who might have taken similar actions. He added that they didn’t want to sue BP, but that the company “didn’t appear amenable to discussions.” BP officials did not immediately return a call for comment late Wednesday afternoon.

http://helenair.com/news/article_7c21748a-3fe2-11e0-a37a-001cc4c002e0.html

USA, TX, JEFFERSON CO, FEBRUARY 24 2011. BENZENE SUIT ALLEGES 9 COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MAN'S MULTIPLE MYELOMA

Port Arthur resident Wallace Moore has filed suit against Chevron USA and eight other companies, alleging the defendants negligently exposed him to cancerous benzene. Moore, along with his wife Lois, filed the suit Feb. 17 in Jefferson County District Court. The other defendants named in the suit include, ExxonMobil, Gulf Oil, Jones-Blair Co., Radiator Specialty, Shell Chemical, Shell Oil, Texaco and U.S. Steel Supply. Court records show that from 1966 to 1986 Moore worked as a general laborer and truck driver out at U.S. Steel's Port Arthur plant. The suit alleges that during his employment, Moore was exposed to benzene containing products that were manufactured and supplied by the defendants. "This exposure resulted in Wallace Moore developing the disease multiple myeloma," the suit states, adding that the defendants were negligent for placing benzene products into the stream of commerce without warning workers of the hazard. Moore is suing for punitive damages, plus his alleged past and future medical expenses, mental anguish, pain, impairment, disfigurement and lost wages. His wife is seeking loss of consortium damages. They are represented by Beaumont attorney Tina Bradley. Judge Donald Floyd, 172nd District Court, has been assigned to the case.

<http://www.setexasrecord.com/news/233543-benzene-suit-alleges-9-companies-responsible-for-mans-multiple-myeloma>

USA, VA, WAYNESBORO, FEBRUARY 24 2011. EPA INVESTIGATING INVISTA SPILL MONTHS LATER >> WAYNESBORO TEXTILE PLANT MAY HAVE LEAKED OIL INTO RIVER

Months after the initial incident, the Environmental Protection Agency is investigating whether a spill at the Invista textile plant in Waynesboro leaked oil into the South River. On Oct. 19, Invista reported to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality that a fire water main break allowed dirt and silt to spill into the river through a storm drain for about 15 minutes before the problem was corrected, said DEQ Water Compliance Manager Gary Flory. He said Invista floated booms to contain the spill and followed up with an official report to DEQ five days later. In late January, DEQ and EPA received a tip — Flory said he thinks it was from a former Invista employee, but did not name him or her — that Invista had allegedly discharged petroleum into the South River as a result of the Oct. 19 spill, and that an oil sheen and smell remained on the river after the incident. DEQ conducted an investigation, questioning witnesses and company employees, and determined to take no further action. "We can't do any sort of physical investigation because this was a situation that lasted 15 minutes and (happened)

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back in October," Flory said. On Feb. 8, EPA sent a letter to Invista inquiring about the alleged petroleum discharge. The agency is requiring the company to answer 33 questions about the incident, requesting descriptions of the source and content of the discharge, where the spill was reported, speed of the flow and possible damage to animals or vegetation. Invista was given 45 days to respond. "Invista observed and assessed the flow into the river and determined at that time that there was no sheen and no oil discharge to the river," company spokeswoman Erica Taylor wrote in an e-mail. "We are confident that any additional assessment will reaffirm that there was no oil discharge into the South River last October."

<http://www.newsleader.com/article/20110224/NEWS01/102240326>

USA, AKA, AFOGNAK ISLAND, FEBRUARY 24 2011. FISHING VESSEL LOST OVER 4,000 GALLONS OF FUEL

The 86-foot fishing vessel Midnight Sun spilled an estimated 4,670 gallons of diesel fuel and oils after grounding on Afognak Island just after midnight Feb. 11, the state Department of Environmental Conservation said. Most of the spill -- 4,000 to 4,500 gallons -- involved diesel, the DEC said. The vessel also was carrying about 200 gallons of lube and hydraulic oil, of which 30 gallons have been recovered, the agency said. The Coast Guard is investigating why the boat ran aground. After the petroleum salvage work was done, the DEC concluded last weekend that no more petroleum could be recovered from the boat.

<http://www.adn.com/2011/02/23/1719350/grounded-fishing-vessel-lost-over.html>

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, ROAD TOWN, FEBRUARY 24 2011. PATCHES OF OIL SPILLED IN ROAD HARBOUR

A team of government officials spent much of Tuesday cleaning up a sizable spill of oil and diesel fuel in the waters near the Cruise Ship Pier. @font-face { font-family: "Times"; }@font-face { font-family: "Cambria"; }p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal { margin: 0in 0in 10pt; font-size: 12pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }div.Section1 { page: Section1; }The spill consisted of three main patches near the pier several yards away from the cruise ship Caribbean Princess. But Zebalon McLean, the deputy director of the Department of Disaster Management, said Tuesday that the cause of the spill is under investigation. "At this point we've not ascertained the origin of the oil," he said. "We're going to have some testing done." The mixture will be chemically analysed in an attempt to determine the origin, but at this point the spill seems to be the result of carelessness or negligence, the deputy director said. Agencies are still assessing the environmental damage, but Mr. McLean said that small animals and other organisms along the shoreline will probably be impacted. "Every time there is a spill there is environmental damage, unfortunately," he said. He was unable to give an estimate of the size of the oil spill yesterday but said that cleanup costs likely would cost at least \$25,000. That figure includes the materials used and the cost of hazard pay for responders.

http://bvibeacon.com/main/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3049&Itemid=26

SPAIN, HOYO DE MANZANARES, FEBRUARY 25 2011. 5 SOLDIERS DEAD, 3 INJURED IN SPANISH BLAST



The cause of the explosion is still unclear.

An accidental explosion on Thursday killed five soldiers and injured three more in a military academy near Madrid, Spain's Defense Ministry informed. The blast occurred at about 10:30 a.m. local time at the Engineer's military academy "Hoyo de Manzanares." The accident took place during a training exercise as a device exploded before the soldiers where at a safe distance. The five fatal victims were part of a unit which was training to join a United Nations mission in Lebanon. Three of the deceased soldiers were from the Spanish infantry while the other two were form the Navy. Two soldiers were severely injured and flown by helicopter to a Madrid hospital. The other was treated at a nearby hospital as he suffered slight wounds. The three men are Navy service members. The morning exercise was

aimed at detonating explosive devices at a safe distance. The service members were equipped with helmets and vests. Defense Minister Carme Chacon said the event was a tragic accident. Chacon arrived to the academy to assess the situation along other high-ranking officials. An investigation was launched to determine the causes of the explosion and rule out any foul play. The "Hoyo de Manzanares" military academy is located in the M-618 highway that connects Colmenar Viejo with Madrid. The academy has a shooting range, a training center for handling improvised explosive devices and another for mines.

<http://wireupdate.com/wires/15399/5-soldiers-dead-3-injured-in-accidental-blast-in-spain/>

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