



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 729 Newsy Stuff

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

July 09 2011



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USA, AZ, PHOENIX, JULY 2 2011. TANKER WRECK, FUEL SPILL CLEARED; I-17 REOPENED

catherine holland

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.azfamily.com/traffic/Tanker-wreck-fuel-spill-closes-I-17-at-Dunlap-124849949.html>

 **Watch the Video & Photo Gallery**

http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_phoenix_metro/north_phoenix/dps%3A-fuel-tanker-rolls-over,-forces-closure-of-interstate-17-in-north-phoenix



A tanker carrying nearly 9,000 gallons of fuel rolled over early Friday morning, forcing the closure of Interstate 17 in both directions at Dunlap Avenue. Crews were able to finally open the northbound lanes at 8:45 a.m. The southbound lanes reopened at 10:30 a.m. The wreck happened at about 1:20 a.m. The driver was heading north when he lost control of the truck. The tanker rolled, flipping over the median wall and into the southbound lanes. Aerial video showed the cab of the truck hanging over the wall. The wreck created a potentially explosive situation. Some fuel leaked from the Circle K tanker, but not as much as originally thought. It was, however, on both sides of the median. Hazardous-materials crews were able to quickly get a handle on the situation.

Another tanker has been brought in and crews are transferring the fuel from the wrecked truck. The driver suffered only minor injuries and has already been discharged from the hospital. Several witnesses stopped to help him, including an off-duty EMT and a former EMT. They had to break a window to pull the driver out of the truck. "When we saw the fuel, that's when we really started cranking, trying to get this gentleman outside of that cab," said Lloyd Jaquez, one of the good Samaritans. "I got a little bit cut up, but as long as he's OK, that makes it all worth it." Emergency crews spent hours working to clear the scene. It's not a simple process. Some 8,800 gallons of fuel had to be offloaded to a second tanker. They were able to move all but about 500 gallons. The next step was to put dyking and other measures in place to contain that remaining fuel should it spill when heavy wrecker crews flips the crippled tanker back on to its wheels. That operation alone takes at least an hour and involved at least two specialized trucks. Once the tanker was uprighted, it was towed away. Crews then set about checking the median for safety and laying down an absorbent material to soak up the rest of the gasoline on the roadway. "It's been a long night, but the guys have done a great job," said Capt. Scott McDonald of the Phoenix Fire Department. "Really, this incident has gone well." This kind of wreck takes an extremely long time to clean up. When there's that much fuel involved, it's a process fraught with danger. "You have to control the runoff. You have to control vapors," McDonald explained. "There are so many things that come into play." I-17 was closed in both directions for more than seven hours. It has since reopened to traffic. While crews were able to reopen the northbound lanes at 8:45 a.m., it took longer to get the southbound lanes cleared. [3TV traffic reporter Gina Maravilla](#) said the freeway was completely open by 10:30 a.m. It's not clear what cause the tanker driver to lose control of his rig. The wreck is under investigation.

<http://www.azfamily.com/traffic/Tanker-wreck-fuel-spill-closes-I-17-at-Dunlap-124849949.html>

NIGERIA, YOLA, JULY 2 2011. FUEL-LADEN TANKER CRASHES, KILLS 15 IN ADAMAWA

ibrahim abdul'aziz

About 15 people were killed yesterday afternoon when a fuel-laden trailer crashed along Jabbi-Lamba -Mubi Road, near Girei town of Adamawa state. An eye witness who simply identified himself as Danladi Garba, told newsmen that one of the rear tyres of trailer burst while in motion and the driver lost control. He said in an attempt to control the vehicle, it somersaulted and burst into flames after hitting electric poles. He said the fuel-laden trailer filled with over 20 drums of petrol was heading to a border village of Jamtari, in Maiha local government area of the State. "One of the tyres of the trailer got burst and the driver lost control and it went up in flames. About 15 people were burnt beyond recognition. The corpses were later evacuated," Garba has said. However when contacted the State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. L.S Kinya, confirmed the fatal accident but said he was yet to get the exact figure. Kinya who noted that four survivors were taken to hospitals, however warned motorists and passengers not to indulge in any act that could cause their lives. By press time mass burial was being conducted for those who lost their lives in the accident.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201107010624.html>

USA, WASHINGTON, JULY 2 2011. US EPA TO CONTINUE MULLING THRESHOLD FOR BIODIESEL STORAGE RULE

nick juliano,

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The US Environmental Protection Agency is limiting its guidance on storing high-blend ethanol and biodiesel to a "small number" of underground storage tank owners, while continuing to evaluate whether to expand the number of tanks subject to stricter regulation in an ongoing rulemaking, new documents showed Friday. The agency also is defending its approach of allowing states to establish stricter UST rules, despite concerns expressed by some stakeholders about having to comply with a patchwork of regulations. EPA will publish in Tuesday's federal register final guidance for USTs storing gasoline blends containing more than 10% ethanol and diesel blends containing more than 20% biodiesel. The guidance was released earlier this week, along with EPA's new label to prevent misfueling at pumps distributing E15 gasoline. The Federal Register notice includes EPA's response to state and industry stakeholders, and some comments on draft guidance released last year. Some commenters suggested EPA apply the guidance to tanks storing biodiesel blends as low as 5%, but EPA said it was going with a 20% threshold because tanks storing blends below that level had shown little potential to leak. EPA said 5% blends are "indistinguishable from conventional diesel fuel." While the agency acknowledged that "this certainty does not exist" for blends between 5% and 20%, it said that uncertainty was not enough to establish a lower trigger at this point, but that it would continue to study the issue. "EPA is setting the threshold in today's final guidance at B20 because: the properties of B5 are so similar to petroleum diesel; field experience with B20 has been generally positive; little information exists on compatibility of UST equipment with biodiesel blends between 20-99 percent; and there are known compatibility issues with pure biodiesel," the agency said. "Because nearly all biodiesel blends used today are B20 or less, this guidance in effect applies to a small number of regulated USTs storing very high blends of biodiesel," EPA said. "EPA intends to investigate biodiesel compatibility further in our proposed UST regulation, which we expect to release for public comment in summer 2011." In November, EPA proposed a new rule for tanks storing blends above E10 and "yet to be determined" biodiesel blends. EPA in the guidance outlined three methods to certify compliance with its UST regulations, which require tanks to be compatible with the fuel they are storing. Tank owners can use components certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories; use manufacturer-approved components; or use another method determined by state agencies or EPA to "sufficiently protect human health and the environment." In comments submitted last year, some stakeholders objected to the flexibility to pursue other compliance options, fearing "a patchwork of compatibility standards," EPA noted in the federal register notice. But the agency defended the leeway it gave states, calling it "a hallmark of the UST program." Thirty-eight states have delegated authority to implement UST regulations, and EPA said those states were free to decide whether to follow its guidance. Dan Gilligan, president of the Petroleum Marketers Association of America, said in an interview earlier this week that the guidance would be helpful, but may not be enough to satisfy state officials. For example, he said Tennessee is requiring gas stations selling E15 to install double-walled tanks because of concern the higher blend could corrode tanks. In the final guidance, EPA also clarified previous guidance to declare that while manufacturers will be authorized to certify compatibility of UST systems with high-blend biofuels, those certifications will not apply if components of the system are replaced and replacement parts installed during regular maintenance of UST systems will have to be independently certified as compatible to store high-blend biofuels.

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Oil/6243452>

USA, ILL, ROXANA, JULY 2 2011. ACUTE MYELOGENOUS LEUKEMIA LAWSUIT FILED OVER BENZENE POLLUTION

As a result of spills that contaminated groundwater in Roxana, Illinois, Shell Oil Company and BP (formerly British Petroleum) face a [toxic tort lawsuit](#) filed by a man who alleges that exposure to benzene caused him to develop acute myelogenous leukemia. The [benzene lawsuit](#) was filed by Scott Monroe on June 16, in Madison County Circuit Court. According to the complaint, Monroe developed acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) as the result of benzene exposure caused by several spills from facilities surrounding the small community of Roxana. In addition to lifelong health problems, Monroe, 20, allegedly lost a U.S. Navy nuclear engineering scholarship to the University of Michigan worth \$180,000 as a result of his condition. The lawsuit comes as a number of residents of the community pursue a [groundwater contamination class action lawsuit](#) against Shell, BP and other unidentified companies over the same spills, most of which have been linked to Shell's Wood River Refinery. Plaintiffs allege that a spill at the facility caused a plume under the village of about 1,500 people, which contaminated groundwater supplies. Monroe's lawsuit accuses Shell of hiding and minimizing the dangers associated with benzene exposure and claims that Monroe will suffer a shortened life expectancy, physical and mental anguish, and has incurred and will incur medical expenses and have to undergo lifelong treatment as a result of the oil companies' actions. The facilities around Roxana have been cited a number of times by the EPA for violating environmental protection laws. In May 2008, Shell was cited for excessive releases of benzene and other chemicals into Roxana's groundwater. Last month, during a heat wave that hit the Midwest and East Coast, Illinois environmental officials sent a letter urging Roxana residents not to sleep in their basements due to the risk of benzene exposure after testing indicated there could be a danger to residents' health. Illinois

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environmental officials have come down hard on Shell in the past because it has attempted to downplay the health effects of its chemical spills in communications to its employees and local residents on a number of occasions, the lawsuit claims. Shell posted a report on its Roxana Investigation Website that told residents there was no risk from soil vapors containing benzene and other chemicals. Benzene is a known carcinogen which is used as an industrial solvent and during the production of drugs, plastics, synthetic rubber and dyes. It has also been widely used as an additive in gasoline, though in recent years limits have been placed on the benzene content in gasoline due to the negative health effects it can cause. Exposure to benzene has been associated with the development of several fatal forms of cancer, leukemia and other conditions, such as Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML), Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML), Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL), Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), Hairy Cell Leukemia (HCL), Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Multiple Myeloma, Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDL), Myelofibrosis and Myeloid Metaplasia, Aplastic Anemia and Thrombocytopenic Purpura.

<http://www.aboutlawsuits.com/acute-myelogenous-leukemia-lawsuit-benzene-roxana-19235/>

USA, MO, KANSAS CITY, JULY 2 2011. EXPLOSION VICTIMS, AUTHORITIES WARN OTHERS NOT TO TAMPER WITH FIREWORKS

brian burnes



Kirstie Perry has endured many skin grafts in the past year after she and Colby Johnson were injured by a fireworks explosion.

Colby Johnson did his best to put Kirstie Perry out. Embers still glowed on what remained of her shirt. An elastic waistband still hung from her hips, but little else of her sweatpants survived the explosion in the Raytown bedroom. "I put my hands to my face, and I could feel that my hair was matted, and I could feel the skin peeling off my lips," Perry said this week, remembering the trauma of a year ago. "I asked Colby, 'Am I still pretty?'" "And then I just started crying." A year ago this week, friends Perry, Johnson and Eric McLaughlin found themselves on the unlucky end of Independence Day. They were among seven Kansas City area individuals who, within one week, suffered injuries when they either accidentally mishandled or intentionally tried to alter or rearrange consumer grade fireworks. An 11-year-old Platte City girl suffered significant injuries when a number of Black Eyed Peas, or pellet-style fireworks, exploded, apparently ignited by static electricity after she removed them from their packaging and put them in a bowl. Two days after the Raytown explosion, three people were injured in Blue Springs as two men wrapped multiple groups of sparklers together with electrical tape. Randy Cole, Missouri state fire marshal, said his office has noted an apparent spike of incidents

involving sparklers, which burn at 1,800 degrees, taped together to make "sparkler bombs." Among some users, altering or reassembling seems to be an idea that is increasingly going viral. "I know it doesn't help us when individuals do these things, then videotape them and post them on YouTube," Cole said. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported three fireworks-related deaths nationwide during last year's Independence Day holiday. One explosion killed a 49-year-old man making illegal fireworks in his garage. That sounds similar to a June 13 incident in Independence, where a detached structure behind a Blue Ridge Boulevard home exploded, killing a man. Police and federal agents continue to investigate the cause. Fireworks materials were on the scene, but investigators also found a variety of other materials, said Tom Gentry, Independence police spokesman. Fireworks industry veterans, meanwhile, maintain consumer grade fireworks have never been safer — at least, if they are used as directed. That's something that Perry and Johnson concede they didn't do. Perry and Johnson were visiting McLaughlin at his uncle's Raytown home. As they recall it, they were watching a video and filling a plastic energy drink bottle with powder from consumer grade mortars bought from a Belton fireworks stand that same day.

Why?

They were searching for a bigger bang. "I had done it the previous year," said Johnson, 21, who knew Perry and McLaughlin from their years at Belton High School. "Everyone always thinks it's cool if you have bigger fireworks. It was something you don't really think about. You think, 'This will be fun to do,' and you just go with it." As Perry and Johnson remember it, they had placed some of the altered fireworks out on a wooden trunk or chest and were using a rolled up piece of paper to pour the powder into the plastic bottle. "But we had gotten kind of bored with it," Johnson said. So they also were watching a video. Johnson said he put the bottle on the floor between his legs and sat back on the bed. "There was powder all over the place," he said. Perry was sitting on the floor next to the television. "I was about a foot away from that chest," she said. McLaughlin, they remembered, was sitting on the floor, next to a recliner. "Then there was an orange flash," Perry said. "Then a green flash. The whole room filled up with smoke. The next thing I knew I was scrambling on the bed with my face in my hands. Then

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I fell off the bed into a closet. "That's when the bottle went off." Both Perry and Johnson remember a series of explosions occurring perhaps over the course of a minute or more. Johnson believes the fireworks on the wooden trunk went up first, followed by a box of shells they had not gotten to yet, and finally the energy drink bottle. For Johnson — who quickly fled the bedroom — the explosions left a burn on his right upper arm, near his shoulder. Today it is a small, almost unnoticeable scar. For Perry — who couldn't escape the bedroom — it was the beginning of about 25 days spent in hospitals, the bulk of them at the burn unit at the University of Kansas Hospital, eight of them in an induced coma. Doctors performed two skin graft surgeries while she was in the coma, and one more several days before she was discharged, Perry said. A fourth procedure, performed just Wednesday, was done to repair an exposed nerve ending in her hand. For McLaughlin, it was the start of a legal ordeal that continued last month when he pleaded not guilty to a second-degree assault charge in Jackson County Circuit Court. According to court documents, Johnson and Perry told investigators that McLaughlin either lit a cigarette or lit some smaller firework pellets on fire in an ashtray, which resulted in sparks shooting throughout the bedroom. McLaughlin suffered second-degree burns. He did not respond to an invitation to discuss the incident with The Star. "I feel sorry for all of them," said Mike Hanna, a lawyer representing McLaughlin. "They are all kids. We've all been kids before." Fireworks caused an estimated 8,600 injuries that were treated in U.S. emergency rooms during 2010, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, down from 8,800 injuries in 2009. "Parental guidance is a concern," said Cole, the Missouri fire marshal. "I think much of it also has to do with the improper use of the commercial product, not following the directions or guidelines." Seconding that motion is Nancy Blogin, president of the National Council on Fireworks Safety, a Washington nonprofit group. "Consumer fireworks have never been better or safer than they are now," said Blogin, whose husband, John, has operated Honest John's, a seasonal fireworks business, for many years in Riverside. "But anytime they alter a product from the way it was originally intended to be used, or bought products from somebody who is not a reputable dealer, they are opening themselves up to serious injuries." This Independence Day will be different for Johnson, Perry and McLaughlin. McLaughlin has a pre-trial conference set for July 14. Perry estimates her medical expenses at about \$600,000. She had no medical insurance, she said. A Belton bank maintained a fund to help pay for her treatment. Both she and Johnson emphasize that trying to alter fireworks is a bad idea. "It was probably the worst idea we ever had," she said. "It's a terrible idea," Johnson added. "I had to see one of my really good friends half-cooked, and it is not something that you can forget very easily. "Everybody always thinks it will never happen to them. But I don't ever want to do that again, after having to pat down one of my friends while she was on fire and then having to see the repercussions after you mess up." Perry, meanwhile, still believes she is pretty — on her good days. "There are some days I feel like that, and some days I don't even know who I am," she said. "You get used to looking at the way you are for 19 years, and then it just changes forever. "Some days I look at my hands, and they are not the hands of a 20-year-old."

Fireworks Safety

- Always read, understand and follow fireworks directions and warning labels.
- Only light one firework at a time.
- Never point or throw fireworks.
- Light fireworks outdoors only.
- Wear tight-fitting clothing while lighting fireworks.
- Wear closed-toe shoes while lighting sparklers and allow used sparklers to cool.
- Place malfunctioning fireworks directly in a bucket of water. Do not attempt to reignite them.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2011/07/01/2989046/explosion-victims-authorities.html>

CHINA, BEIJING, JULY 2 2011. CHINA'S LARGEST OFFSHORE OILFIELD LEAKING



Oil leaking in China's largest offshore field reported. Chinese authorities finally confirmed that oil is gushing out of the Penglai 19-3 oilfield in the Bohai Sea. The oil leak was first detected in mid June according to Economy & Nation Weekly, but the news was kept from the public. The troubled oilfield is China's largest offshore site and jointly developed by China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and ConocoPhillips China, Inc. (COPC). China's State Oceanic Administration is now looking into it. According to Economy & Nation Weekly, the oil leak was

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first detected in mid June, but no announcement was made by CNOOC Ltd. and COPC. On June 21 a blogger's postings that reported the oil leak were deleted. Due to the media blackout it has been impossible to determine the severity of the leak or measured damage done to nearby surroundings. According to an anonymous source inside CNOOC Ltd, the incident is not very serious, since "basically the oil leak has been cleaned up," reported Economy & Nation Weekly.

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/china/chinas-largest-offshore-oilfield-leaking-58561.html>

USA, VT, MONTPELIER, JULY 2 2011. OWNER OF SUNKEN NY-VT LAKE TUG TO SEEK POLLUTANTS

The company that owns a tugboat that sank in Lake Champlain almost 50 years ago plans to hire a contractor to see if any fuel remaining in the boat's tanks could pollute the lake between upstate New York and Vermont, an official with the Environmental Protection Agency said Friday. McAllister Towing and Transportation Co., of New York, is negotiating with a Buffalo company to send a diver to the tug William McAllister to see if its tanks contain fuel and, if needed, pump the fuel to the surface, said the EPA's Paul Kahn, who is overseeing the project to ensure the tug doesn't pose an environmental threat to the lake. "They've been very cooperative," Kahn said of McAllister. "They've been verbally cooperative, now they've publicly committed to doing this." Kahn said he planned to call a meeting with company officials within the next few weeks to set a date for the expedition to the McAllister, which sank in November 1963 after hitting a reef about five miles south of Port Kent, N.Y., and about eight miles west of Burlington, Vt. McAllister officials did not respond Friday to an email request for comment. Last summer, Kahn oversaw an expedition that sent a remotely operated dive vehicle to the wreck, which sits in about 160-feet of water. No one knows for sure how much diesel fuel was in the tug's fuel tanks when it sank while sailing south after delivering a barge of aviation fuel to the now-closed Plattsburgh Air Force Base. The tug's crew climbed onto the barge as it sank and no one was injured. The EPA is concerned the fuel tanks could rupture or a private diver could accidentally release thousands of gallons of fuel into the lake, creating an environmental disaster. The EPA had been planning to mount the expedition to the tug. It had been scheduled for late May, but it had to be delayed because of high water on the lake. In an email message to Kahn, which Kahn posted on the Internet Friday, McAllister Vice President Steve Kress said his company was in an "expedited process of contract negotiations" with a contractor to carry out the dive. "Once the contract is in place (the contractor) is looking to commence the project in the next few weeks and we are very confident that they will do so to everyone's satisfaction," said Kress's message.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/AP9a7ae8da4de547eba33b6c5ce116a209.html>

USA, MI, WASTENAW CO NORTHFIELD TWP, JULY 2 2011. HAZMAT SITUATION CLEAR AFTER LEAKING TANKER NEAR US-23

 **Watch the Video**

http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/region/washtenaw_county/leaking-tanker-on-us-23-causing-hazmat-situation

A Hazmat situation is all clear after a tanker leak in Northfield Township. Michigan State Police evacuated a rest area due to the leaking tanker. Northfield Township Fire and Ann Arbor Police Departments were called out to the scene. The Northfield Church Rest Area off of southbound US-23 is just north of Ann Arbor. It is not yet clear what the tanker was leaking.

http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/region/washtenaw_county/leaking-tanker-on-us-23-causing-hazmat-situation

USA, HI, HONOLULU, JULY 2 2011. CAUSE OF FATAL FIREWORKS BLAST IS 'UNDETERMINED'

Investigators are not able to determine what caused the April 8 blast in a Waialeale storage tunnel that had been storing illegal aerial fireworks, a Honolulu Fire Department spokesman said. The blast killed five men and injured a sixth. The department and federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives concluded it's two-month long investigation, said Honolulu fire Capt. Terry Seelig. "The event appears to have originated inside the front area of the bunker; however, a specific point of origin could not be identified from the fire and blast patterns," Seelig said. The five men killed were employees of Donaldson Enterprises Inc., which was contracted to dispose of aerial fireworks that had been confiscated in December 2009. A federal investigator said the men were in the tunnel preparing the fireworks for demolition at another site when the explosion occurred. Investigators examined fire and explosion patterns, inspected debris and materials, interviewed witnesses and conducted research related to the incident. Several possible causes were evaluated including weather-related activity, electro-static buildup, sparking, cell phone use, smoking, improper fireworks handling and other operational or accidental actions of the workers in the bunker, Seelig said. Also looked at was an incendiary event although investigators "feel that the explosion was unlikely malicious in nature." Killed in the blast were Bryan "Keola" Cabalce, 25, of Wahiawa; Robert "Kevin" Freeman, 24, of Aiea; Justin Kelii, 29, of Kaneohe; Robert Leahey, 50, of Waianae; and Neil Sprinkle, 24, of Aiea. The aerial fireworks had

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been confiscated by federal agents from a shipping container that arrived from Shanghai on Dec. 6, 2009, and were being held as evidence. Gifford Chang, president of Tiger Corp., has been charged in federal court of smuggling the commercial grade aerial fireworks because he did not have the proper permits to import them. Chang is free on \$100,000 bail pending trial. The undetermined classification means that although investigators analyzed all possible fire causes, there was insufficient information to identify a specific cause or substantially eliminate possible causes. It also means that the investigation is closed but can be reopened if new information about the fire is introduced or discovered.

<http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2011/07/01/5612509.htm>

USA, CO, DENVER, JULY 2 2011. AGING ACID FOUND IN MEMORABILIA COULD EXPLODE IF MOVED

 **Watch the Video**

<http://www.9news.com/dontmiss/205964/630/Aging-acid-found-in-memorabilia-could-explode-if-moved->

Bomb squads along the Front Range have been visiting some unlikely places: museums and the homes of collectors. The same volatile chemical keeps turning up. Carol and Ernie Altvater of Denver did not expect they would find it in their basement among their Girl Scout memorabilia. The Altvaters have been collecting the memorabilia for 20 years. They did not know that a piece of their collection could cause an explosion: a first aid kit with gauze pads soaked in picric acid. "When you hear words like picric acid it's similar to when you hear structure fire or child choking. Your adrenaline goes a little higher," Capt. CJ Haberkorn with the Denver Fire HazMat team said. Picric acid once was used as an antiseptic and anesthetic. When picric acid ages and crystallizes, it turns into a compound that can explode. Haberkorn says his HazMat team trains for encounters with it. "What's the biggest problem with picric acid if it's crystallized?" Haberkorn asked a class of Denver firefighters on Tuesday. "Explosion," Haberkorn answered, picking up a cup to demonstrate. "Shock sensitive. If this is picric acid and it's crystallized and we go up and grab it we could actually blow it right there." Denver firefighters see six to 12 picric acid calls a year. Elisa Phelps, the collections director at History Colorado says during an inventory in May, an employee found an explosive bit of memorabilia: picric acid in an old doctor's bag. Phelps says museum workers know to be on guard for suspect items and substances, whether in medical or military memorabilia. "It's something that museums that have history collections have to deal with," Phelps said. The picric acid was also found in a 1930s era Boy Scout first aid kit at the Pioneer Museum in Colorado Springs during the first week of June. A remote controlled robot was sent into the museum to get the contaminated first aid kit. Much like its original usage as a burn ointment, when picric acid is safely disposed of by professionals, it can create a sensation of relief. The Altvaters certainly think so. "I am so relieved that we found out about it and now it's gone," Carol Altvater said. HazMat crews worry that many people who don't know what it is will just toss the chemical into the trash. That sudden movement could cause it to go off. "I would rather take the time for us to dispose of it than have to read about a funeral because someone else was trying to take care of it themselves," Haberkorn said. Picric acid can be in vials, or in old first aid kits - soaked into gauze or as antiseptic or anesthetic ointments. It could be dangerous if it's begun to form yellow crystals. If you find some, try not to move it, call 911 and let the professionals handle it.

<http://www.9news.com/dontmiss/205964/630/Aging-acid-found-in-memorabilia-could-explode-if-moved->

USA, CA, SAN DIEGO, JULY 3 2011. SAN DIEGO GAS STATION WORKER ACTS LIKE HE'S SEEN A GHOST

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.760kmb.com/story/15016018/san-diego-gas-station-worker-acts-like-hes-seen-a-ghost>



A local gas station worker turned white as a ghost after he says he saw something that looked like a ghost. A surveillance camera captured a black cloud hovering over a gas pump, which later moved to the front door of the gas station. Last Wednesday, Chevron clerk Andy Fortunato was working the graveyard shift when he noticed the surveillance camera picking up something mysterious. "First I noticed a small spot," he said. The 64-year-old has worked at the gas station for three years without incident, but says this strange black cloud made the hair on the back of his neck stand up, and he has no idea what it was. "I don't really know, first time I saw that thing in my whole life," he said. For

nearly three hours, Andy watched what appeared to be some sort of ghost change shapes and engulf the gas pumps. "What I've seen, it started at the top of the pump, worked its way down very slowly for about two and a half hours," Andy said. When store manager Nando Garcia arrived at work at 4:45 in the morning, the vision was gone, so he rolled back the surveillance tape. "It was just going diagonal, sideways and everything. It was just plain out weird and I was looking inside the store and [Andy] said it was coming toward the door," Nando said. Nando says he checked the camera and it wasn't smudged, so we ran a theory by Andy: maybe it was a bug? Andy says the camera is just 12 feet off the ground, and if it had a bug on the lens

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he would have seen it. So what do the customers think? "Creepy, very creepy. I don't know if I'll be coming back here at night," customer Jessica Brandon said. When we interviewed customer Cindy Yuhasz at the same pump the vision attacked, something weird happened. "The gas pump just stopped working... there's no reason for it not to work, which is weird," she said. Cindy eventually got her gas. If that wasn't a bug on the lens, our guess is condensation had something to do with it.

<http://www.760kfm.com/story/15016018/san-diego-gas-station-worker-acts-like-hes-seen-a-ghost>

ZIMBABWE, HARARE, JULY 3 2011. DISASTER MANAGEMENT FAILURES IN TANKER EXPLOSION

michael chipato



Disaster ... Fire fighters battle fuel tanker blaze

The recent [fuel tanker accident, spillage and explosion](#) in Harare presents a gargantuan challenge on the country's chemical incident management systems at a time when risk and safety management are compromised by economic and developmental hurdles. With the death toll of 11 people in this one tragedy, there are lessons that must be learnt by the government, disaster management stakeholders and members of the public. After a similar Kenyan blast and explosion incident, transferable lessons remain valid within national, continental and global contexts. Similar blasts are not a rarity in Nigeria, where people tap gas pipelines to pilfer fuel for cooking or for resale on the booming black market. In another tragic accident in 2006, a gasoline blast killed 200 people in Nigeria. In all these cases, poor government regulation, inadequate licensing and inspection enforcement and control of hazardous materials were to blame. The fire and rescue service, police, hospitals and other incident management responders have a collective responsibility to protect the public in situations like these. The effective support from these stakeholders calls for candid public participation, cooperation, commitment and engagement. Each one of these

stakeholders must execute their roles in a well-coordinated, efficient and effective manner. Efficiency can technically be achieved through application of systematic guidelines and operational parameters, by which actions should follow for an intended safety outcome. Existing guidelines available to government departments must be followed through and through in incident management situations, if effectiveness and efficiency are to be attainable. What guidelines were available for the driver of the fuel tanker to follow at the time of the accident? Did the driver follow them? Did the public respond accordingly to the directives made by emergency personnel? Similar to the Kenyan scenario, scores of residents rushed to the tanker with containers to collect the fuel. Risk perception, hazard awareness and safety consciousness totally lacked and the consequences were tragic, 11 lives lost and many injuries. The response times to incidences must be rigidly set within timelines. Arriving at a petrol fuel tanker accident scene after forty or so minutes raises response time concerns. The Fire and Rescue Service's response times are important in disaster management and the City of Harare's Fire Brigade arrived at the scene within an hour of the explosion, and still struggled to put off the fire. Chemical incident management involves more of seclusion of the public from the area of exposure to the hazard. The incident area police cordon is an imperative. Incident scene management is central and the presence of professional personnel to manage the incident is crucial. Incidences must be ranked hierarchically in order to necessitate a response action that meets the situational needs. There must be command structures set up to variably deal with different types of incidences, Zimbabwe needs these to be clearly in place in order to have appropriate intervention systems. Some countries like the UK have Bronze, Silver, Gold command structures set to respond in different disaster magnitudes and incident category. For terrorism related incidences, the state takes charge. From the media accounts on the tanker explosion, it's not clear if there was an incident commander to coordinate the emergency services. The taxpayer's entitlement to safe environments and protection must be guaranteed by the police service and this needs to be reflected in the strategic monitoring of hazardous materials transportation. The presence of legislation in the form of the Environmental Management Act Chapter 20:7 breathes life to hopeless situations as it ensures regulation and monitoring of the discharge or emission of any pollutant or hazardous substance into the environment. The public relations manager of the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Steady Kangata's reaffirmation that his organisation would intensify educational awareness on environmental issues and dangerous substances must transcend the rhetoric. The broad knowledge base development for communities and workers in industries needs to be intensified. Hazardous material spillage containment, clean-ups and on-site mediation require proper planning and training for emergency responders. Public hazard perception coupled with safety management systems for such disasters must be synchronised well and coordinated within a

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systematic approach which in this case was clearly absent during the blast. Health and safety enforcement is a core element in chemical incident auditing and management. Transporters of hazardous materials must have trained drivers and vehicle safety specifications must be complied with. Public awareness through media campaigns is another imperative and collective responsible conscientisation must be perceived as a national responsibility necessary for public safety. Media houses and media stakeholders must maintain the appropriate levels of sensitivity and portray disasters with professional sensitivity and responsibility. Takura Zhangazha, the executive director of the Voluntary Media Council of Zimbabwe issued a statement to express concern regarding some of the images that were published by various newspapers, who appeared to give little regard to the bereaved families. Again, responsibility at all levels must be evident as steered by Section 14 of the VMCZ Media Code of Conduct (MCC). Some members of the public undoubtedly played responsible roles to save life, yet some acted in ways that are of concern by putting themselves in the line of danger. Perhaps the crudest lesson learnt is that it is never safe to loot goods from a chemical incident scene. It's an important question: would there have been so many deaths if the fuel siphoning rush had not happened? The incident must awaken the government to engage in community awareness campaigns against the culture of looting at scenes of accidents through intense outreach enforcement initiatives against non-compliance. Lack of public commitment to safety and precautionary attitudes need to be reinforced by legal enforcement procedures which legislators have a responsibility to shape more rigorously. The control of substances hazardous to health must be integrated into the curriculum in a stance to ensure an educated society. Occupational Health, Safety and Environment professionals are needed to complement the existing Environmental personnel. In a reactive response, EMA launched a blitz against haulage truck drivers who carry dangerous substances without permits; this is a good start which must not end if human life is to be protected. EMA fines transporters of hazardous and toxic substances like petrol, diesel and acids at least US\$2,000. The challenge is 'enforcement'. Firemen's basic agent for fire extinguishing is water, but it is not the best method all the time. Sadly, the Harare Fire Brigade did not carry the basic fire extinguishing water and discovered that the fire hydrants near the scene of the accident were vandalised. The fire service should have Material Data Sheets (MDS) with all the relevant data about appropriate extinguishing methods like carbon dioxide, dry powder or foam. Emergency preparedness and routine fire fighting drills should pick up and deal with such logistical flaws. This is unacceptable, period! The fire and rescue services fleet of vehicles were last upgraded in 1991 and that technological gap must be addressed through lobbying for government's budgetary commitment in risk and safety management requirements. Local authorities must continuously train firemen and the police force must always be prepared for emergencies. It is shocking for such safety agencies to openly express lack of preparedness for petrol tanker explosions. The lessons to be learnt by stakeholders, especially in the handling of hazardous substances, is that the country must steer the risk and safety management strategies that collectively engage members of the public. As the lessons sink deeper into the Zimbabwean citizenry, sincere condolences to all who lost their loved ones!

Related Stories

- [Three killed in fuel tank explosion](http://www.newzimbabwe.com/opinion-5484-Tanker+explosions+the+lessons/opinion.aspx)

<http://www.newzimbabwe.com/opinion-5484-Tanker+explosions+the+lessons/opinion.aspx>

USA, N.C, HILLSBOROUGH, JULY 3 2011. DRIVER KILLED IN FIERY I-85 CRASH IDENTIFIED

 **Watch the Video** <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/local&id=8225911>

 **Watch the Video** [85 accident right after it happened](http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/local&id=8225911)

 **Photo Gallery [43]** <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/local&id=8225911>

 **Click-2-Listen** [Click here to listen to the calls](#)



The North Carolina Highway Patrol has identified the truck driver killed in a fiery chain reaction crash on Interstate 85 in Orange County Thursday. It all began when a semi-truck hauling cement mixer parts overturned just north of the I-40/I-85 split - close to the N.C. 86 exit - in Hillsborough around 10 a.m. In 911 calls released Friday, a woman said she was in front of the truck when it happened. "I looked in my rearview mirror, and saw it flying down the road sideways," said the caller. Another caller said the driver was hurt. "He's scratched up pretty good," said the man. NCHP Sergeant Jorge Brewer said truck driver Steven Craig Thompson, 42, of Garner, was speeding when he lost control and overturned. He was charged with exceeding the posted speed limit. As traffic slowed to avoid the crash, 911 callers reported a second accident. "You got a second accident where people were trying to

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stop for the first accident," a man reported. "There's a lot of fire. I'm not sure if it's a tanker or not, but it's nasty." In the second crash, Trooper Brewer said the driver of a big rig failed to stop in time and plowed into a tanker truck. The gas tanks on the first truck erupted in flames, killing the driver, who was identified Friday as 44-year-old Billy Dean Brady Jr. of Kings Mountain, NC. He worked for Truck Service Inc. based in Forest City, NC. Smaller vehicles were also involved in the collision. A total of six people hurt in the two accidents were taken to area hospitals. The crashes tied up traffic on the interstate in both directions for hours. The last blocked lane finally reopened about 8:30 p.m.

Related Stories

- [One person killed, fiery crashes shut down I-85](http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/local&id=8225911)

<http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/local&id=8225911>

USA, ORE, PORTLAND, JULY 3 2011. FIREWORKS: BEAUTIFUL, THRILLING ... TOXIC? >> SEVERAL RECENT STUDIES LINK FIREWORKS TO POTENTIAL HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY'RE USED IN SPORTS ARENAS OR OVER BODIES OF WATER.

tom jacobson



Fireworks burst in air over Portland, Ore. Several studies have linked pyrotechnic displays to potential health or environmental problems, particularly when exploded over water.

As you gaze into the night sky this holiday weekend and marvel at the colorful fireworks display exploding before your eyes, give thanks that the founding fathers didn't sign the Declaration of Independence on February 4, 1776. Fireworks and snowfall, it seems, are a problematic combination. That's the conclusion of [a 2008 study](#), one of several published in recent years that suggest these awe-inspiring fireworks displays may have unforeseen health and environmental consequences. This very old technology, which has been traced back to China's Song Dynasty (960-1280 A.D.), has been delighting spectators for a millennium or more, but it may not be as benign as we tend to assume. As

Katharina Breiteneker of the International Atomic Energy Agency [noted in 2009](#), the basic component of fireworks is black powder — a mix of 75 percent potassium nitrate, 15 percent charcoal and 10 percent sulfur. "Without the addition of a coloring agent, the fuel would provide an almost white light," she wrote in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*. "Therefore, several metal salts can be added to cause colorful luminescence upon combustion. In general, barium is used to obtain a green colored flame, strontium for red, copper for blue and sodium for yellow." If you're wondering why someone from the IAEA was writing about fireworks, the answer is ... the one you feared. She was introducing an article by [Georg Steinhauser](#) and Andreas Musilek of the Vienna University of Technology, which asked "Do pyrotechnics contain radium?" Their answer: [Yes, albeit at low levels](#). In Breiteneker's words, fireworks "contain a certain amount of radioactive material." "Due to their chemical similarities to radium, barium and strontium ores can accumulate [radium](#), causing a remarkable activity in these minerals," Steinhauser and Musilek explained. Especially when they are used indoors — say, in a large sports arena — "the health aspects of pyrotechnic devices should be taken seriously with respect to air pollution by toxic and radioactive substances," the researchers added. Radiation fears aside, barium can pose significant health hazards, according to Steinhauser. He was also the lead author of the aforementioned 2008 paper, which analyzed fallen snow before and after a New Year's fireworks display in the Austrian town of Saalbach. His team found that in some locations, on the day after the display, concentrations of barium were 500 times higher than they were the day before. That's troublesome, since barium poisoning has been found to constrict airways, thereby aggravating asthma symptoms. OK — can't they just shoot off the fireworks over a body of water? Sadly, it appears that, too, [could be problematic](#). "Perchlorate salts of potassium and ammonium are the primary oxidants in pyrotechnic mixtures," a research team led by Richard Wilkin of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wrote in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology* in 2007. They noted that these salts "are highly soluble in water," which is a potential problem since "perchlorate ingestion may pose an adverse health risk." "Perchlorate interferes with the production of thyroid hormones required for normal metabolism and the development of mental functions," they wrote. Human health concerns aside, "Elevated perchlorate concentrations may also pose a risk to aquatic ecosystems," they added. The researchers collected surface water samples along the shoreline of a small lake in Ada, Okla., following Fourth of July fireworks displays in 2004, 2005 and 2006, as well as a late-fall fireworks fiesta in 2005. After each display, they found "spikes in perchlorate concentrations significantly above background levels." In one case, the concentration exceeded the allowable level in drinking water in several states. Fortunately, they found that in the Oklahoma lake, the perchlorate

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degraded rapidly, thanks to "the availability of organic carbon to provide energy for perchlorate-reducing bacteria." But they added that this welcome process occurs "in the absence of nitrate." While [nitrate](#) occurs naturally in some groundwater, concern has been raised in recent years about increased concentrations, due to runoff contaminated with (among other things) fertilizers. This study suggests yet another reason this trend could be worrisome. No one is arguing that the risk of fireworks is so great they should be banned. But together, these studies suggest the importance of ongoing research to create more [environmentally friendly pyrotechnics](#), based on nitrogen-rich compounds that are free of heavy metals and perchlorates. Fireworks can produce a rainbow of colors, but there are very good reasons to try to make them greener.

<http://www.miller-mccune.com/environment/fireworks-beautiful-thrilling-toxic-33104/>

USA, IN, EVANSVILLE, JULY 3 2011. EXPLOSION VICTIM WARNS OF FIREWORKS DANGER

rick iorio

 **Photo Gallery** http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/jul/01/no-headline---ev_fireworks/



Kimberly Crecelius helps her boyfriend, Chris Schraner, put his arm wrap back on after Schraner did the dishes with his daughter on Thursday morning. Schraner is able to do most routine tasks after months of therapy, but without a right hand, he cannot pull up or zip the elastic material that covers his burned left arm.

The only thing Chris Schraner remembers about the Nov. 19 explosion is a white flash followed by a moment of pain as he regained consciousness lying on the cement floor of his new job. Instantly, the temperature of the air around him rose above 3000 degrees Fahrenheit, burning 25 percent of his body. The foundation of the building shifted. Schraner isn't sure why the 100 grams of flash powder ignited as he was pouring it into a storage container, though a static charge could be to blame. Within minutes, he was on his way to [Deaconess Hospital](#) in Downtown Evansville. From there, he was flown to Indianapolis. Over the next

40 hours, surgeons did everything they could to reassemble the pieces of Schraner left hand and torso. The blast had fractured nearly every bone in Schraner's face, blinding his left eye and burning his teeth. His right hand was gone, parts of it blown into his chest cavity. Most of his abdominal muscles were destroyed, too, which forced surgeons to leave his intestines protected by only a thin layer of skin, grafted from his thighs. When Schraner regained consciousness a month later, his two-year-old daughter, Peyton Crecelius, no longer recognized him. Schraner still isn't supposed to lift more than 15 pounds. Peyton weighs 23 pounds. "I'm not supposed to pick her up, but I can't help it," Schraner said as he lifted Peyton during an occupational therapy session. "I can't stop being a dad." These days, Peyton relishes opportunities to 'help daddy with his boobies.' Each morning she helps him apply pressure wraps over his burn-scarred arms. In the evening, she helps takes them off. She also likes to help with the dishes. When the accident happened, Schraner had just gotten a job spraying polyurethane house insulation. But his family was still having trouble making ends meet, so he agreed to help his boss make firework casings for one of his other Princeton, Ind., businesses — Sgt. Peppers fireworks. Schraner spent the evening drilling holes in cardboard tubes. He didn't want to handle the powder, as his boss was pouring it using a metal spoon, but he agreed to help clean up when they were done. "At the time, I had no idea how dangerous the powder was," Schraner said. "You can have fun playing with fireworks, but I want people to know that they can hurt themselves and this kind of accident can happen to them." Twice a week now, Schraner visits St. Mary's Occupational Medicine Clinic for therapy. He has been working to rebuild muscle mass and increase the strength in his reconstructed left hand, but the process is slow. Tasks as simple as turning a key are excruciatingly painful. "They tell you it's gonna hurt before you ever come in, but you need to figure that out for yourself," Schraner said. "A lot of everyday things aren't as easy as they used to be. It's painful, but I've got to get through it or else nothing's gonna get better." Schraner's medical bills recently capped \$2.5 million and he expects another million to be added to the bottom line by the time he's finished with surgeries and any additional physical therapy. "No one's paying the bills right now," he said. "How can we?" Medicaid has refused to cover his growing expenses. Workers' Compensation is refusing to assist, too, claiming that he wasn't hired to make fireworks and is therefore, not covered under their policies. With lawsuits pending, medical bills climbing and his fiancée, Kimberly Crecelius, expecting their second daughter any day, Schraner says he might have to declare medical bankruptcy. It's a fact that is pushing their wedding date further and further into the future. Schraner is eligible to draw disability checks the remainder of his life, but has no plans to do so. But until he can find work, disability is his family's only source of income, aside from gifts and donations. With manual labor no longer being an option,

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Schraner and Crecelius have discussed his pursuing a career in inspirational speaking, though they are not sure where to start. "You may look a little different when you've been through something I have, but other than that, you're the same person you were before," Schraner said. "I can barely lift a gallon of milk and that might upset some people, but I need to get through this to show my daughters that they can handle anything life throws at them."

http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/jul/01/no-headline---ev_fireworks/

USA, MT, LAUREL, JULY 3 2011. EXXON OIL SPILL IN MONT. RIVER PROMPTS EVACUATIONS

 **Photo's** http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article_6a8f2313-4279-542c-95c7-92f04639003f.html?mode=image



Oil collects on driftwood in a flooded eddy along the Yellowstone River where it runs past Thiel Road near Laurel on Saturday.

An ExxonMobil pipeline that runs under the Yellowstone River near Billings in south-central Montana ruptured and dumped an unknown amount of oil into the waterway, prompting temporary evacuations along the river Saturday morning. Company spokeswoman Pam Malek, who was at the scene, said the pipe leaked for about a half-hour, though it's not clear how much oil leaked. The cause of the rupture wasn't known. Brent Peters, the fire chief for the city of Laurel about 12 miles east of Billings, said the break in the 12-inch diameter pipe occurred late Friday about a mile south of Laurel. He said about 140 people were evacuated starting about 12:15 a.m. Saturday due to concerns

about possible explosions, and the overpowering fumes. He said they were allowed to return at about 4 a.m. after instruments showed fumes had decreased. He said more evacuations occurred farther downstream outside his district but those numbers weren't immediately clear. ExxonMobil was sending a response team to the area and cleanup work had begun with crews deploying booms and absorbent towels about a mile east of Laurel along the bank of the river, where a thick band of oil could be seen coating vegetation. There appeared to be no attempts at capturing oil farther out in the river, and Peters said there is likely more oil washed up downstream. "Nobody's been able to lay their eyes on the pipe," Peters said. "Right now the Yellowstone River is at flood stage. The bank isn't stable enough for anybody to get close." The cause of the break is not known, but Peters and Malek said speculation involves high water flowing through the river that might have gouged out the river bed and exposed the pipe, which was possibly hit by debris. "I haven't seen it this high for at least 15 years," Peters said. The state has received record rainfall in the last month and also has a huge snowpack in the mountains that is melting, which has resulted in widespread flooding in recent weeks. Three oil refineries are in the Billings area, and Peters said he asked all three to turn off the flow of oil in their pipelines under the river once the leak was reported. He said ExxonMobil and Cenex Harvest Refinery did so, and that Conoco Phillips said its pipe was already shutdown. He said the river where the leak occurred is about 250 yards wide, and that early Saturday morning an oil slick appeared to be about 20 feet wide. "That was the farthest my flashlight would reach," he said. Laurel, which has a population of about 6,500, is known for a huge Fourth of July fireworks display put on by the fire department, which has its own pyrotechnics crew. Peters said the town can swell to as many as 50,000 people for the event. He said the fire department plans to hold the event on Monday.

Related Links

- [DES: Nothing to fear over oil spill near Laurel](#)
- [Exxon oil spill in Mont. river prompts evacuations](#)
- [Exxon Oil Spill In Mont. River Prompts Evacuations](#)
- [Special section: Yellowstone River oil spill](#)

<http://www.longislandpress.com/2011/07/02/exxon-oil-spill-in-mont-river-prompts-evacuations/>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JULY 3 2011. RULING RESTORES SMOG FINES ON REFINERS >> COURT SAYS EPA CAN'T IGNORE VIOLATIONS

matthew tresaugue

A federal appeals court has overturned an EPA rule that spared Houston refiners and chemical makers millions of dollars in penalties for the region's failure to meet 1970s limits on smog-producing pollution. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled Friday that the Environmental Protection Agency's decision to reverse course and allow violations of the smog limits by Houston and seven other regions of the country is in conflict with the federal Clean Air Act. The EPA had decided last year not to impose fines if an area meets a newer, more stringent standard for ozone, the main ingredient in

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smog. Houston's largest polluters, for instance, faced as much as \$125 million a year in penalties for air quality violations before the agency's shift. But the Natural Resources Defense Council challenged the agency's position, arguing that the lack of penalties weakens the Clean Air Act. The federal law prohibits an area from falling out of compliance with air quality standards. Even if the EPA issues more stringent rules, as it has with ozone, the agency still must enforce the older ones, the court found. The panel also ruled that the EPA must ask Congress to change the Clean Air Act if the agency wants to completely abandon older standards. The decision "ensures that the nation's most polluted regions truly address dirty air sources," Adrian Martinez, an attorney for the NRDC, said in a statement. At issue is a nationwide smog limit set in 1979 that Houston still has not met. Other areas still in violation of the decades-old rule are Baltimore, Baton Rouge, La., Los Angeles, New York City, Sacramento, Calif., and California's San Joaquin Valley and southeast deserts. The EPA tightened the standard in 1997 by changing the way ozone is measured — from marking the peak level reached in any one hour to an average over eight hours. The change reflected research showing that long-term exposure to low smog levels is a greater threat than brief exposure to high amounts. Smog is created when sunlight cooks a mixture of chemicals emitted mostly by tailpipes and smokestacks. Chronic exposure to ozone can cause asthma attacks, chest pain and premature death. Houston satisfied the 1997 level by a narrow margin in 2009 for the first time because of cleanup efforts, favorable weather conditions and a slumping economy that reduced manufacturing and transportation activity. Industry groups have said it would be unfair to penalize sources of smog pollution in areas that have complied with the eight-hour limit. But the eight-county Houston region already has exceeded the limit this year. Matthew Kuryla, a Baker Botts attorney who represents industry, said the ruling appears to leave room for the EPA and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to develop alternatives to fines that take in account Houston's recent gains in air quality. The TCEQ was about to finalize procedures for fining as many as 300 of Houston's largest polluters before the EPA advised the agency to shelve the plans. A TCEQ spokesman said it would be premature for the agency to comment on the ruling because the EPA may appeal.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/chronicle/7636596.html>

USA, WASHINGTON, JULY 3 2011. DOT OFFERING TRAINING SEMINARS FOR HAZMAT WORKERS

The free training seminars provide an opportunity to educate hazmat employers and employees on DOT Hazardous Materials Regulations. The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) announced the schedule for its comprehensive two-day training seminars for hazmat employers and employees. These free training seminars provide an opportunity to educate hazmat employers and employees on DOT Hazardous Materials Regulations. Attendees can also discuss the latest developments and issues regarding hazardous materials transportation with representatives from PHMSA, FAA, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration, and State Hazmat Enforcement. Each seminar begins with a general session that provides an overview of DOT's Hazardous Materials Program. The remainder of the seminar consists of sessions based on participants' level of experience and includes hazmat basics, as well as additional safety and compliance guides for more experienced hazmat workers. Each session is offered twice to help maximize the experience. The seminars will be offered:

- July 12-13, 2011, in Los Angeles
- August 9-10, 2011, in Dallas

It is anticipated that more than 400 shippers, carriers, enforcement personnel, and other individuals involved with the transportation of hazardous materials will attend. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their 49 CFR and hazmat experiences to each of the discussions. For more information, please see the [flyer](#) posted online. To sign up for a seminar, go to PHMSA's [website](#).

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2011/07/02/dot-offering-training-seminars-for-hazmat-workers.aspx?admgarea=news>

USA, OK, TULSA, JULY 3 2011. TRAIN CARS DERAIL IN TULSA; NO INJURIES REPORTED >> ANHYDROUS AMMONIA CARS APPEARTO BE EMPTY.

jerry wofford

derailed in west Tulsa on Saturday, but no leak was apparent and no injuries reported. Crews with the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad were working to clear the tracks near Southwest Boulevard and 17th Street and lift overturned cars. Nine cars were affected by the derailment and seven were off the tracks. Seventeenth Street was blocked as crews worked on the tracks. The cars were marked for anhydrous ammonia - a component in agricultural fertilizer that can be toxic - but they appeared to be empty. Kelli Bruer, director of public relations for EMSA, said no patients were transported from the area Saturday afternoon.

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

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http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20110703_11_A5_Severa42680

ISRAEL, JULY 3 2011. 1.5 MILLION LITERS OF JET FUEL SPILLS INTO ISRAELI DESERT

karin kloosterman



Jet fuel spurts into pristine nature zone in Israel. Who will pay for this unthinkable mistake?

A month ago, Israeli airlines suffered from a jet fuel contamination, grounding flights, and causing chaos as officials tried to figure out if planes loaded with the contaminated fuel would be damaged. This past Wednesday, there is another chapter in the country's jet fuel saga. Some 1.5 million liters of jet fuel (about 400,000 gallons) spilled out into the desert, as a tractor ran over and damaged the Eilat-Ashkelon Pipeline. The jet fuel spilled out into a nature reserve, calling

into question the legitimacy of running pipelines through protected areas. If the jet fuel seeps into the groundwater it can be especially damaging, and exposure to it can be linked to cancers, such as Hodgkin's Disease. [Boeing was fined more than \\$100,000 last year](#) when it failed to report a jet fuel spill in a timely manner in the United States. About 300 gallons were spilled in the Seattle areas, equal to about 1,100 liters of fuel. And in Israel where the spill was larger by two orders of magnitude, one would expect the fines to be in the millions. The experts say the spill could take weeks to clean, according to the Jerusalem Post, but there was no mention of fines or accountability for the mistake. It's particularly serious as the jet fuel poured into a pristine nature area called Nahal Zin. "This is one of the largest soil contaminations to occur in the last year in Israel," Guy Samet, manager of the Environmental Protection Ministry's southern district said: "It's not just typical soil pollution – it's in a very sensitive area." "We see the event as extremely severe, particularly regarding the damage caused to natural treasures in the reserve," said Eli Amitai, director of Nature and Parks Authority. "As soon as we heard news of the leak and its severity we summoned dozens of inspectors and officials into the area." Raviv Shapira, director of the southern district of the Nature and Parks Authority said: "The damage is tremendous – beyond the contamination on the surface and in the burrows of wildlife in the area, a big part of the fuel seeped into the ravine, and the Environmental Protection Ministry has already begun to assess the damage and the extent of rehabilitation necessary. It is also investigating the circumstances of this grave event." Last weekend, there were [two oil spills to hit the shores of Israel's southernmost city of Eilat on the Red Sea](#). Greenpeace in Israel called the events a catastrophe. And other local activists are calling for laws and reform before drilling for natural gas resumes off the Mediterranean Coast. My question is who is going to pay for this mistake? Environmental laws in Israel mean polluters get fined, but collecting those fines are a different story.

<http://www.greenprophet.com/2011/07/1-5-million-liters-of-jet-fuel-spills-into-israeli-desert/>

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AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, JULY 5 2011. NOT THE EPA'S JOB TO WARN FAMILY OF CONTAMINATION

bryan littlely



Nicko Harpas used to take an occasional gulp of bore water as he watered his veggie garden but he's given that away now. He says it has become too salty.

The EPA says The Advertiser should tell a family their water is contaminated, because it discovered it. Despite notifying the EPA that water testing commissioned by The Advertiser in the Edwardstown and South Plympton area in March had detected contaminants at concerning levels, the EPA did not forward the advice to those affected. The authority says the Edwardstown unregistered residential bore, used to water a vegetable garden, is contaminated with TCE (chlorinated hydrocarbon) - having initially said, based on The Advertiser tests, that it was safe. "The EPA advised The Advertiser it was our

expectation that as they commissioned the testing of the Harpases' bore water, it was incumbent on them to inform the Harpases of the results," EPA chief executive Helen Fulcher said. The Advertiser did advise the Harpas family, of Woodlands Tce, Edwardstown, of the results when they were made available to the newspaper on April 4, and relayed advice from the EPA's Greg Hill - who has since left the authority - that there was nothing of concern in their bore water. Test results for the residential bore were also supplied to the family. Full test results for the four test sites examined by CRC CARE for The Advertiser were supplied to the EPA, in compliance with the Act. They included test results for a bore at Morphetville Racecourse, where it is understood the EPA now has some concerns related to the concentration of nitrate and nitrite in this water. The EPA revealed last week that the Woodlands Tce property fell in a current groundwater exclusion zone that has been in place since 2007. The zoning relates to earlier site contamination issues that were identified at Bridgestone, which has since undertaken extensive site remediation and is continuing to carry out groundwater monitoring. The EPA has been unable to confirm whether or not the Harpas family was advised by Bridgestone of the exclusion zone.

Related Links

- [Veggie patch tainted by industrial waste](#)
- [Cancer-causing chemical in SA homes](#)
- [Bore water warning despite low risk](#)
- [Firm cleared of cyanide dumping](#)
- [EPA to reveal toxic groundwater sites](#)

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/not-the-epas-job-to-warn-family-of-contamination/story-e6frea6u-1226087442440>

CAMEROON, YAOUNDE, JULY 5 2011. CAMEROON FUEL TRUCK EXPLOSION KILLS 15

Fifteen people were killed when a vehicle carrying smuggled fuel from Nigeria into Cameroon exploded at a border village, state radio reported on Monday. All the dead were Cameroonian apart from one Nigerian. The report did not say what caused the blast in the Benue division of Cameroon's North region, but local government sources told Reuters a passenger on the

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vehicle had lit a cigarette. Authorities say such incidents are common in Cameroon's three northern regions of Adamawa, North and Far North, because Nigeria's cheap, subsidised fuel known locally as "zoua-zoua" or "funge" can fetch three times the price in Cameroon than it is sold for in its West African neighbour. Security forces succeeded in eliminating the illicit trade in petrol between Cameroon and Nigeria in English-speaking South-West and North-West regions in the mid-1990s, but failed in the northern part of the country because of porous borders. At least 230 people were killed when a fuel tanker overturned and

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE76305620110704>

GEORGIA, TBILISI, JULY 5 2011. FREIGHT TRAIN CARRYING GASOLINE DERAILED IN GEORGIA

n.kirtzkhalia

The Marelis area traffic stopped completely along the Georgian railway last night. The Georgian railway reported that a train loaded with gasoline coming from Azerbaijan derailed and caught on fire. The Emergency Situations Department's employees were forced to evacuate residents with homes near the Merelisi station, as the station also caught on fire. The fire brigade was able to extinguish the fire by morning and traffic was restored. Traffic along the Zestafoni-Kharagauli site has been fully restored. The cause of the incident is under investigation, and the total damage still calculated.

<http://en.trend.az/news/politics/1900131.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, TWEED HEADS, JULY 5 2011. CHEMICAL SPILL CHAOS

A chemical spill on the Pacific Highway caused traffic chaos across the southern Gold Coast earlier today. The crossosive-liquid spill cut the southbound lanes of the highway near the Gold Coast Airport overpass for about 10 hours earlier. Traffic was diverted through to the Gold Coast Highway and down to Kennedy Drive. The NSW's Road & Transport Authority said there was heavy congestion on the roads around the spill site, but there were no reports of road rage incidences or traffic infrinfements in the area. The Pacific Highway was closed from 5.45am to around 3.30pm after a truck carrying corrosive acid swerved to miss a traffic accident and displaced it's load. NSW Fire & Rescue duty commander Inspector Chris Bishop said two protective cages had ruptured and spilled in the trailer. "This was not a difficult task but it is painstaking," Mr Bishop said. "This spill was contained on the back of the trailer which made it easier. "But the whole day of a clean up involves taking one step at a time and then evaluating the situation before taking another step. "For example, initially we thought we were dealing with the one spill, but then we realised that two containers had ruptured." The two 1000-litre contains that ruptured were holding nitric acid and sodium hydroxide. Insp Bishop said there were many things to consider in this situation and re-opening the road was one of them. "Obviously opening the road to traffic is on our mind, but the priority is to ensure it's safe," he said. "We don't want it to start fuming again with traffic about. "You just don't know how long its going to take to clean up. "We have containers coming down from Brisbane to help with the transfer of the remaining liquid.

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/story/2011/07/05/chemical-spill-causes-delays/>

USA, OH, COLUMBUS, JULY 5 2011. CREWS MONITORING DIESEL THAT SPILLED INTO SCIOTO RIVER

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.10tv.com/live/content/local/stories/2011/07/05/story-columbus-train-fuel-spill-scioto-river.html?sid=102>



The spill was reported at about 3 p.m. Monday.

Fire crews and officials from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency continued to clean up thousands of gallons of fuel that spilled on Monday from a CSX train passing through the city. According to fire officials, the train that was passing through Columbus on its way to Cincinnati from Cleveland had a leak in a fuel line that resulted in the loss of about 1,700 gallons of fuel. There were two small fuel spills into the Scioto River at railroad crossings in downtown Columbus and at a crossing on Town Street, fire officials said. Hazardous materials crews were working to absorb the spill and contained the estimated 30 gallons that leaked into the river, 10TV's Tino Ramos reported. The spill was being absorbed by bags of oil absorbent. No injuries were reported. There was no immediate word about how long it would take for the spill to get cleaned up, Ramos reported.

<http://www.10tv.com/live/content/local/stories/2011/07/05/story-columbus-train-fuel-spill-scioto-river.html?sid=102>

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