



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 728 Newsy Stuff

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

July 05 2011



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USA, CA, OAKLAND, JUNE 29 2011. RAIN WASHES DIESEL FUEL INTO LAKE MERRITT

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ktvu.com/news/28388570/detail.html>

 **Watch the Video** http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/east_bay&id=8220045

Tuesday's rain washed some diesel fuel into Oakland's Lake Merritt. Cleanup is underway on the northwest side of the lake, not far from Children's Fairyland. Crews say about 30-50 gallons of diesel spilled, covering 4-5 acres of Lake Merritt. And while fire hazmat crews confirm it is diesel, they still do not know how much spilled and the impact to the environment remains to be seen. The good news is the spill is mostly sheen and is quickly dissipating. Firefighters got the call Tuesday afternoon and arrived to find a very visible sheen and an extremely strong smell of diesel fuel. Crews say a storm drain flowing into the lake is the source of the spill, but where exactly the diesel came from to begin with is still unknown. Crews say it could have come from a leaking big rig or even a nearby business with a leaking generator. Crews began laying boom within an hour of receiving the calls to help absorb the diesel. Firefighters say it's not unusual to see a small amount of oil leak into the lake at the beginning of each rainy season, but this amount at this time of year is almost unheard of. "Our current efforts right now involve partnering with East Bay Regional Parks, we're deploying oil spill response equipment that we've received within that past couple of years for just this type of situation, we want to make sure we do what we can to protect the ecosystem and the wildlife here," Oakland Fire Department Battalion Chief Darin White said. Lake Merritt was the first wildlife refuge in North America. The area is home to a large population of Canada geese. Oakland's emergency response crews are working with outside agencies, like the Department of Fish and Game, to determine what the impacts of this spill are and how to begin cleanup. The Fish and Game response team includes an environmental scientist and an oil spill specialist

http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/east_bay&id=8220045

USA, CA, VENTURA CO, FILLMORE, JUNE 29 2011. COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED FOR PROPOSAL TO CLEAN UP FORMER TEXACO SITE NEAR FILLMORE

james zoltak

Those who want to comment on the cleanup of benzene, lead and other contaminants from groundwater and soil at the site of a long-gone Texaco Inc. refinery north of Highway 126 on the east side of Fillmore will have more time to make their thoughts known. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has extended the comment period on the cleanup proposal to July 15. Texaco, since 2002 a subsidiary of Chevron Corp., operated a refinery at the 56-acre site near Pole Creek from 1915 to 1950, producing gasoline, diesel fuel and fuel oil. Refinery waste was dumped into pits, some of them unlined, and the contaminants made their way into the soil and groundwater, according to the EPA's cleanup proposal. Texaco converted the so-called Pacific Coast Pipeline Superfund Site into a crude oil pumping station after the refinery was shuttered and dismantled. Pumping operations ceased in 2000. It was deemed a Super fund site in 1989. The site includes two plumes of groundwater contaminated primarily by benzene, a carcinogen, and areas of soil contaminated with lead, a known hazard to human health, and other substances. Earlier efforts by Texaco to clean up the site involved pumping the tainted groundwater, which flows 60 to 90 feet underground, to the surface and removing the contaminants. Texaco also removed contaminated soil vapor through ventilation, but both methods were halted in 2002 after being deemed no longer effective, according to the EPA. While the groundwater contamination exceeds California drinking water standards, it does not threaten drinking water sources, according to the EPA. The cleanup aims to render the site, zoned for agricultural and industrial use, safe for workers and recreational users, and to remove waste to plants and animals. About 27 Fillmore-area residents attended a public hearing at the Fillmore Senior Center earlier this month on the proposed remediation, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Alejandro Diaz said. Some had general questions, others voiced concerns about past exposure to contaminants and others expressed a desire that the local labor force be included in some of the cleanup work. Representatives of the EPA as well Chevron and its subcontractors were on hand for the hearing. "Concerns were expressed, but mostly there were a lot of clarifying questions," said Diaz, who added there would be no other public hearings on the matter. The proposed groundwater cleanup methods range from "monitored natural attenuation" (MNA) — simply allowing nature to take its course in a process that, by itself, could take 100 years, to more active remediation procedures that would cost more, but take less time to eliminate health hazards. All involve long-term monitoring. The more active methods include "air sparging," the injection of air into tainted groundwater, or "enhanced bioremediation," which involves pumping deeper groundwater that is rich in sulfur into more shallow, contaminated groundwater. Both methods hasten the breakdown of contaminants. For one of the site's two groundwater contamination plumes, the EPA prefers a combination of MNA, bioremediation and air sparging. The agency says that approach would cost \$6.44 million and take 25 years. For the other plume, the EPA prefers MNA alone for up to 50 years, at a cost of \$598,000. Out of a number of options for cleaning up the contaminated soil, the EPA prefers scraping up 20,000 tons of soil from the site

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and depositing into the site's primary refinery waste pit. The pit would then be capped with a synthetic material that would prevent precipitation from moving through the tainted dirt and into the groundwater. This method would take a little more than a year and cost \$1.59 million, according to the agency. Other alternatives for the soil include removing it for off-site disposal or mixing the contaminated dirt with concrete and putting it into the waste disposal pit. Off-site disposal would cost roughly \$3.37 million, the EPA estimates. EPA Project Manager Holly Hadlock said a final decision on the cleanup should be made by the end of September, with work, which must be completed in the dry season, likely to start in 2012. "We negotiate a consent decree, which gets lodged in court, so it can take a while," she said, adding the soil contamination would be dealt with first. After that will begin the installation of the ground water treatment system," said Hadlock. Residents who wish to submit comments to the EPA can do so by emailing Community Involvement Coordinator Alejandro Diaz at diaz.alejandro@epa.gov or calling him at 415-972-3242. Comments can also be emailed to EPA Project Manager Holly Hadlock at hadlock.holly@epa.gov. She can be reached by phone at 415-972-3181. Both Diaz and Hadlock also can be faxed at 415-947-3528 or contacted by mail at 75 Hawthorne St. (SFD 8-2); San Francisco, CA; 94105. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/region09/pacificcoastpipeline> for more information.

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2011/jun/28/comment-period-extended-for-proposal-to-clean-up/>

USA, TX, BROWNSVILLE, JUNE 29 2011. BROWNSVILLE FAMILY SPEAKS ABOUT BOY WHO DIED AFTER DRINKING GASOLINE


 **Watch the Video** <http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=634587>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=634798>

A Brownsville boy is dead after an incident where hereportedly drank gasoline. The incident happened on Coach Drive just outside Brownsville city limits around 10:30 a.m. Monday. Paramedics were called out to the home after 2-year-old identified by family members as Baby Leonardo Rafael Silva reportedly drank gasoline. Family members told Action 4 News that the mother was hanging clothes while the baby was playing. According to the boy's uncle, there was a lawnmower outside but everything was closed. The family told Action 4 News that Baby Leonardo somehow opened the tank, got a pipe and either drank or inhaled the gasoline. The boy went inside the house where an aunt noticed he was dizzy and gagging. Paramedics worked on Baby Leonardo but family members said he started coughing up blood at a local hospital. The boy was taken to the Edinburg Children's Hospital where he died around 7 p.m. Monday. The family said Baby Leonardo would have turned three years old in September. The Cameron County Sheriff's Department is holding a press conference at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday. Sheriff Omar Lucio said the family is not facing charges at this time while authorities are waiting on autopsy results to learn more about the boy's death. To help the family of Baby Leonardo with funeral expenses, donations can be made directly to Garza Memorial Funeral Home in Brownsville at 1025 East. Jackson Street.

<http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=634798>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, JULY 1 2011. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT - DANGEROUS GOODS (EXPLOSIVES) REGULATIONS 2011

 **Document** [This information sheet explains the key changes to the Dangerous Goods \(Explosives\) Regulations.](#)

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<http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/wsinternet/worksafe/home/forms+and+publications/publications/more+information+about+-+dangerous+goods+explosives+regulations+2011>

INDIA, KANPUR, JUL 1 201. ADMIN TO FORM TEAM TO OVERSEE FIRE SAFETY AT PETROL PUMPS

The major fire that broke out at a tyre godown adjacent to a petrol pump near the Fazalganj crossing on Tuesday has raised a question mark over the violation of safety norms at fire-prone spots in the Industrial City. The fire at the godown of Lovely Tyres and Motors, situated near Shri Ram petrol pump, was brought under control in six hours. The fire had triggered panic in

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the area. A similar incident had occurred in the city earlier as well when a fire had broken out in a shopping mall opposite a petrol pump on the Mall Road. Alarmed over the increasing incidents of fire at and near mishap-prone spots, the district administration has decided to form a special team to put in place a proper fire safety mechanism at all petrol pumps. The team will include fire department officials, civil police, KDA, food and civil supply department officials, enforcement officials and representatives of oil companies. "They will conduct checks at petrol pumps and LPG godowns in the city and ensure that all safety measures are in place," said ADM (city) Shailendra Kumar Singh. The team will also study the causes behind the recent fire incidents in the Industrial City. The ADM (city) further said, "He, along with other senior officials, will soon organise a meeting to discuss the strategy of the team, its course of action. The team will also set a standard for safety measures that are to be implemented at all vulnerable spots." The fire department has also raised objections over the location of some petrol pumps and godowns. A senior fire department official, requesting anonymity, said: "Fire near a petrol pump can turn into a major mishap. In such a case, fire tenders and other accessories become meaningless. So instead of depending on fire department or class IV staff of petrol pumps to use sand and water, the workers at the fuel station should be trained to put in place a proper mechanism in case of an emergency."

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/Admin-to-form-team-to-oversee-fire-safety-at-petrol-pumps/articleshow/9041313.cms>

USA, WA, TACOMA, JUNE 30 2011. CORRODED TANKER CAUSES HAZMAT SITUATION AT FEDERAL WAY TRUCK SCALE



A corroded tanker truck potentially carrying liquid nitrogen caused officials to evacuate the I-5 Federal Way weigh station Wednesday afternoon. The truck pulled into the weigh station around noon and state patrol inspectors spotted corrosion on the exterior of the truck. They immediately ordered an evacuation of the immediate area and called in hazardous materials crews. Troopers said the plaque on the tanker denoted it was carrying liquid nitrogen, but they are still trying to determine how much, if any, of the substance is in the truck. No one has been hurt.

<http://federalway.komonews.com/news/911/corroded-tanker-causes-hazmat-situation-federal-way-truck-scale/650026>

PHILIPPINES, CEBU CITY, JUNE 30 2011. TANKER STOPPED FOR FAILING TO DECLARE 3,000 LITERS OF DIESEL

A vessel that is suspected of smuggling diesel fuel was seized by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) Wednesday, after its master failed to produce documents for the shipment. Port of Cebu District Collector Ronnie Silvestre issued the warrant of seizure and detention (WSD) against MTKR Petrolino-1 and its cargo of 3,005 liters of diesel. The vessel is docked at a wharf in Labogon, Mandaue City. Customs authorities estimated the 3,005 liters of diesel to be worth P2 million, based on prevailing prices. Silvestre issued the WSD upon the recommendation of lawyer Edward James Dy Buco, chief of the Port of Cebu's legal division, after establishing that the fuel cargo is undocumented. Customs officials responded to the call for help from the Coast Guard-Cebu under Capt. Rolando Punzalan, who received reports that Petrolino-1 was loading fuel from a tugboat, Buleleng. In his letter to Silvestre dated June 28 but received only Wednesday, Punzalan said they uncovered an alleged oil pilferage involving Petrolino-1 last June 27. It was the Coast Guard's Mandaue detachment that found out the vessel has an undocumented fuel cargo. Capt. Manolo Arawe, the vessel's masters, allegedly failed to present documents for the fuel. Silvestre ordered Dy Buco to investigate, in coordination with Capt. Isidro Estrera, district commander of the customs police, and lawyer Rico Rey Holganza, chief of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS). Petrolino-1 reportedly belongs to a marine services firm based in Manila, while tugboat Buleleng is registered in Jakarta, Indonesia. The vessel (MTKR Petrolino-1) and its cargo were seized for alleged violations of Section 2530 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, Silvestre said. Buleleng was not included in the WSD, because authorities have yet to prove that the fuel aboard Petrolino-1 came from the tugboat. Punzalan's command got diesel samples from both Petrolino-1 and Buleleng, for comparison by a fuel laboratory in Manila. If the samples match, Buleleng will be issued a separate WSD, Dy Buco said. The Coast Guard started the investigation after receiving reports that Buleleng transferred diesel to Petrolino-1. From Labogon

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where Petrolino-1 was docked, the Coast Guard went to Naga and found Buleleng at the wharf of a cement firm. Engineer Rey Maleza, chief of the Energy Industry Management Division of the Department of Energy, said that so far, he has not received any information about the alleged fuel smuggling.

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu/local-news/2011/06/30/tanker-stopped-failing-declare-3000-liters-diesel-164074>

USA, TX, HARRIS CO, JUNE 30 2011. BUSTED: HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY SEIZE 75+ CASES OF FIREWORKS BEING SOLD ONLINE

 **Watch the Video** [various agency Bomb Technicians set off fireworks contraband showing lethal effects of consumer explosives.](#)



Busted: Houston, Harris County seize 75+ cases of fireworks being sold online

The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office and Houston Fire Department teamed up to bust an Internet fireworks sales operation headquartered and seized more than 75 cases of fireworks in southwest Houston, they announced Wednesday. According to a release from the Houston Fire Department, a "concerned citizen" contacted the Fire Marshal's office to report the Internet site, and an investigator determined by phone that fireworks were being sold through the site in the city of Houston's jurisdiction. At that point, the Houston Fire Department joined in. The release picks up the story of what happened:

Nine members of the HFD Fire Marshal Office, including inspectors and investigators and several fire marshals from the HCFMO responded to the location in southwest Houston at a designated time and found in excess of 75 cases of consumer 1.4 fireworks available for sale. Fireworks were being stored within the city limits of Houston. The individual selling the fireworks has been identified and additional circumstances around the case are still

under investigation. It has been illegal to discharge of possess fireworks in the city of Houston for more than four decades. Fireworks fines within the city are set and assessed by Municipal Court and range for \$250 to \$2,500 for each violation. Harris County Judge Ed Emmett signed an order last Thursday declaring a drought disaster and banning the sale or use of any fireworks anywhere in unincorporated Harris County. The order remains in effect until rescinded by Emmett. Violators of the fireworks ban in Harris County face a \$1,000 fine or 180 days in jail. The only exception to the ban is for a public display "conducted by a person holding a valid pyrotechnic operator's license or a valid pyrotechnics special effects operator's license." Although there is a county-wide ban, the Houston Fire Department will have extra personnel throughout the city watching for violators.

Related Links

- [List of Fireworks bans by county](#)
- [List of July 4 firework cancellations](#)

http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/cypress/news/article_67117734-ee22-54a6-94d6-233bbb6c63f6.html

USA, WA, SEATTLE, JUNE 30 2011. BOEING FINED \$102,000 FOR DUWAMISH FUEL SPILL

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has fined The Boeing Company (Boeing) \$102,000 for spilling an estimated 300 gallons of jet fuel into the Duwamish Waterway in Seattle last year. The spill occurred May 28, 2010, at a Boeing fuel terminal in south Seattle near the waterway. A tank truck was delivering jet fuel to an aboveground storage tank at the Boeing terminal. A terminal operator heard and smelled leaking fuel and immediately stopped the delivery. At the time – the Friday evening of the 2010 Memorial Day weekend – Boeing staff believed a large stormwater vault had contained the spill on the company's property and the fuel had not entered the Duwamish. On Tuesday morning, however, the company realized fuel had reached the waterway, and reported the spill to Ecology and the U.S. Coast Guard. Washington law and the facility's water quality permit issued by Ecology require immediate reporting of oil spills – including spills to stormwater systems – to state and federal authorities. Meanwhile, on Saturday, May 29, 2010, Ecology and the Coast Guard received citizen reports of oil in the Duwamish. State and federal responders found oil in the mouth of Slip 4, a Duwamish inlet several dozen yards downstream from the Boeing facility. The Coast Guard hired a cleanup contractor, but the oil had spread out on the water into a coating too thin for cleanup. Ecology later matched oil samples from the river and from the Boeing facility to identify the Friday night incident as the source of the oil seen Saturday on the waterway. Besides the penalty, Ecology also billed Boeing \$5,500 to recover the state's costs for conducting the spill cleanup and investigation. "This incident highlights why spillers must immediately report all oil spills to state and federal authorities, even if a spill seems contained," said Dale Jensen, who

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manages Ecology's spill prevention, preparedness and response program, "Since the spill wasn't reported to us quickly, we lost any opportunity to mount a rapid, aggressive and well-coordinated response to protect the environment." During the May 28 fuel delivery, company staff found an open three-quarter-inch maintenance valve that should have been closed. Some incoming jet fuel flowed through the open valve into a 19,000-gallon underground stormwater vault. The vault empties into an oil-water separator that discharges to the stormwater system. Besides the open valve, an automatic pump that empties the vault was left on – even though the company's oil spill prevention plan requires that power be off during fuel deliveries. Workers closed the valve and cut power to the pump. Boeing staff then checked for oil in catch basins along part of the storm line. Since they saw no signs of oil, they resumed the fuel delivery. However, staff on scene did not know that one catch basin contained a special filter that – unless removed – blocked a view of the water in the storm drain. On Tuesday morning, June 1, 2010, Boeing contacted Ecology and the Coast Guard to report finding oil at the riverbank around the storm drain outfall – three days after the spill occurred. Ecology's Jensen said, "Once they determined what happened, Boeing cooperated fully with our investigation. Unfortunately, there was negligence in failing to check the required settings before the fuel transfer, in the oversights during the first check of the storm drain line, and in not immediately reporting the spill. These factors significantly increased the penalty." On realizing the spill had reached the waterway, Boeing placed oil cleanup materials around the outfall. The company then conducted an independent cleanup around the outfall to remove waterway sediments contaminated by the spill and replace them with clean materials. Boeing estimated that it lost about 6,600 gallons of fuel through the open maintenance valve into the stormwater vault. Approximately 300 gallons discharged into the storm drain and into the Duwamish. Mary Armstrong, Boeing vice president of Environment, Health and Safety, said: "Once we discovered the spill, Boeing worked with the U.S. Coast Guard, EPA, Ecology and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to contain and clean up the fuel. We fully restored the shoreline by excavating the contaminated sediment and soil, and replaced it with clean sand. We removed more than 30 creosote-coated pilings and additional riprap, and created an intertidal habitat that looks like a natural shoreline. To ensure that this type of spill won't happen again, Boeing launched a special effort to strengthen reporting procedures and safeguards at all of our fuel tank locations throughout the company." The company has the right to appeal Ecology's penalty to the Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board within 30 days. Spill penalties fund environmental restoration projects in Washington. Prevention, preparedness, and response to fuel and other oil spills are parts of Ecology's commitment to protect against toxic threats to people and the environment and to meet the state's goal of protecting and restoring Puget Sound by 2020.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2011/180.html>

USA, PA, PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 30 2011L. SUNOCO LOGISTICS TO BUY EAGLE POINT TANK FARM AND EAST BOSTON TERMINAL



Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P. announced today that it has reached an agreement with Sunoco, Inc. to purchase the Eagle Point tank farm and related assets, located in Westville, N.J., for approximately \$100 million in deferred distribution units. Sunoco Logistics anticipates additional capital spending of approximately \$90 million to provide for operational flexibility and to meet regulatory requirements. In a separate transaction, Sunoco Logistics announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to purchase a refined products terminal located in East Boston, Massachusetts from ConocoPhillips for \$56 million plus the fair market value of inventory. This transaction is expected to be financed with borrowings under Sunoco Logistics' revolving credit facilities pending more permanent

financing. Both transactions are subject to customary closing conditions and are expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2011.

Eagle Point Tank Farm Purchase

"The sale of the Eagle Point storage assets to Sunoco Logistics unlocks value for Sunoco shareholders. At the same time, it demonstrates Sunoco's commitment as General Partner to supporting the growth of Sunoco Logistics," said Lynn L. Elsenhans, chairman and chief executive officer of Sunoco, Inc. and Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P. "As the market for transportation fuels continues to evolve, Sunoco Logistics' ability to aggregate various types of fuel components, provide advanced blending services at the terminal level, and get products to market becomes even more valuable." The Eagle Point tank farm consists of approximately five million barrels of active storage for clean products and dark oils, with the potential to expand storage capacity in the future. "Together with our existing pipeline connectivity, dock space, and refined products rack at Eagle Point, the tank farm establishes this location as a major terminal operation on the East Coast with import/export capabilities and room to grow," said Michael J. Hennigan, president and chief operating officer of Sunoco Logistics Partners

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L.P. The deferred distribution units used to finance this transaction represent a new class of units on which no distributions are paid. This new class of units converts to SXL common LP units on the one-year anniversary of their issuance. Financing the transaction with deferred distribution units makes the acquisition immediately accretive to SXL unit holders and provides additional balance sheet flexibility to Sunoco Logistics. The sale of the Eagle Point tank farm and related assets excludes the idled refinery processing units and still-operational 225 megawatt cogeneration facility. Sunoco, Inc. is pursuing the sale of both the processing units and co-generation facility.

East Boston Terminal Purchase

The East Boston terminal, with storage capacity of approximately 1.2 million barrels, is the sole service provider of Logan International Airport under a long-term contract. The terminal's truck rack services local markets. "This terminal acquisition enables us to expand our geographic and customer base as we enter the New England terminal market," said Elsenhans. "This acquisition will continue to grow our ratable cash flow."

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/sunoco-logistics-to-buy-eagle-point-tank-farm-and-east-boston-terminal-2011-06-29?reflink=MW_news_stmp

USA, CO, COLLBRAN, JUNE 30 2011. FLASH FIRE INJURES WORKERS NEAR COLLBRAN WATER TANK

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/124743384.html>

New details are emerging in the incident near Collbran that injured two men. Around 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, two of four Wolverine Enterprises contractors working for OXY USA Inc. were injured when a flash fire ignited. The men were cleaning out a waste water tank near Collbran. One man was flown to a Grand Junction hospital. The other victim was rushed via ambulance. However, OXY USA Inc., the oil and gas company that works the site, says they don't know the men's conditions. Knowles Trucking is the parent company for Wolverine Enterprises. 11 News has phoned Knowles requesting more information on who the men are and how they're doing. In a statement, Oxy Spokesman Eric Moses, writes: "Safety is Oxy's primary concern. We are committed to protecting the safety, security and health of our workers and neighboring communities and safeguarding the environment. We will conduct a thorough investigation to determine the cause of the incident and take appropriate measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. Oxy has notified the appropriate government authorities and we will continue to cooperate fully with them." The incident took place near ME Road outside Collbran near the YT Ranch. An 11 News viewer tells us they heard what sounded like an explosion a mile away from the site.

<http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/124743384.html>

USA, N.C, CAMP LEJEUNE, JUNE 30 2011. TOXIC SECRECY: THE MARINE CORPS' COVER-UP OF WATER CONTAMINATION AT CAMP LEJEUNE

angela canterbury & abby evans

It's been called one of the worst toxic contaminations in the country. It's also possibly one of the U.S. military's most shameful acts of deception and betrayal. Between 1957 and 1987, as many as one million Marines and their family members at Camp Lejeune drank, bathed in, and cooked with water contaminated by various volatile organic compounds--some at levels as high as 280 times what is considered safe under law. For years, the Marine Corps kept this secret, blocking many attempts to uncover the truth--even after the first news of water contamination broke in 1987. Many Marines who ingested contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, the largest Marine base on the East Coast, have died or lost family members, especially children with extreme birth defects or leukemia--and many more still are sick and dying with rare cancers and other ailments believed to be linked to the water contamination. Civilian employees who worked on the base and people who live in the communities around the base near Jacksonville, NC, are also reporting a high incidence of cancers. And yet the plight of these victims and the lack of accountability by the Marine Corps are not well known. A new, powerful documentary seeks to change that, and bring some much-needed attention to the ongoing suffering and injustice. Rachel Libert and Tony Hardmon's [Semper Fi: Always Faithful](#) is a moving portrayal of Marine Corps Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger. Ensminger is a former drill sergeant of twenty-five years who searched for years after his tour at Camp Lejeune for answers: Why did his nine-year-old die of a rare type of leukemia? Why did so many other infants and children die at Camp Lejeune? Why do former residents of Camp Lejeune have the largest cluster of male breast cancer ever documented? After years of relentless researching, Jerry, along with Tom Townsend, Mike Partain and a handful of others [finally exposed the truth](#): The United States Marine Corps knowingly allowed marines and civilians to be exposed to a host of toxic chemicals, including known human carcinogens benzene and vinyl chloride. They gleaned the truth in part from information accidentally (and temporarily) posted on the internet by the Marine Corps, as many of their Freedom of Information Act requests were denied. Anyone interested in the military, the environment, health, freedom

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of information, or justice--basically everyone--should see this film. Though Jerry and the other truth-seekers were eventually victorious in proving exposure at Camp Lejeune to high levels of known carcinogens, the travesty is ongoing. The Marine Corps continues to betray its own by having done next to nothing to care for, treat, or compensate the Camp Lejeune victims. Legislation is now moving in Congress to at least provide health and nursing care for those exposed to toxins at Camp Lejeune. Today, the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs will vote on a [Caring for Camp Lejeune Veterans Act, S. 277](#), a bill introduced by Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and Kay Hagen (D-NC). A companion bill named for Jerry's daughter, the Janey Ensminger Act, [H.R. 1742](#), was introduced by Representative Brad Miller (D-NC) and has several bipartisan cosponsors. Though it is an outrage, it appears it will take an act of Congress to provide the care that is owed to the Marines and their families. Such a measure was passed for victims of Agent Orange, and it seems it is the very least that is owed to the Camp Lejeune victims. The House and Senate should make this legislation law this year. Unfortunately, the extent to which our troops and civilians working on and living near military facilities have been harmed by toxic chemicals is not known. There are at least [130 other bases across the U.S. that also on the EPA cleanup list](#)--and those are just the officially confirmed contaminations.

Secrecy by the Military Continues...

In fact, POGO has been [fighting a secrecy measure](#) recently included in the defense budget. As originally proposed by the Dept. of the Navy, the extremely broad exemption to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) under the guise of protecting "Critical Infrastructure Information" from terrorists would allow exactly the kind of information relating to the Camp Lejeune water contamination to be withheld from the public (along with all kinds of other information that is not in the public interest or in the interest of national security to withhold). This proposed FOIA exemption appears to be in direct response to this year's Supreme Court decision in *Milner v. Navy*, which [narrowed the use of Exemption 2](#). In fact, according to Mike Partain, who was an infant at Camp Lejeune and has male breast cancer, Exemption 2 was frequently used by the Marine Corps to withhold records about the water contamination. Having no other exemption to lawfully use to keep such information secret after *Milner* could be one motivation for the Department of Defense (DoD) in seeking the secrecy provision in the defense budget. Fortunately, last month, Rep. Maloney (D-NY) succeeded in offering an amendment to the House National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that POGO supported to help ensure that information in the public interest, particularly regarding health and safety, is not withheld under the exemption by claiming national security. The DoD has a responsibility to protect our national security interests, but that duty must be balanced with other public interests. Rep. Maloney's amendment narrows the DoD's ability to claim the exemption FOIA under the premise of protecting critical infrastructure and [strikes the right balance between security and other public interests such as health and safety](#). Now the Senate must likewise amend the FOIA exemption in the defense budget to make Camp Lejeune cover-ups more difficult. The Senate is expected to take up the NDAA after the August recess. We cannot allow for more military cover-ups and must hold DoD accountable for all health hazards caused by our military throughout the U.S. and the world. Congress can start by guaranteeing Camp Lejeune veterans and their families' health care, and by denying DoD the ability to keep their deadly mistakes secret.

<http://pogoblog.typepad.com/pogo/2011/06/toxic-secrecy-the-marine-corps-cover-up-of-water-contamination-at-camp-lejeune.html>

USA, MD, BALTIMORE, JUNE 30 2011. \$495 MILLION AWARD FROM EXXON IN BALTO. CO. GAS SPILL COULD GROW >> JURY RETURNED SEALED VERDICT ON DAMAGES TUESDAY, DISCUSSING PUNITIVE AWARD

Arthur Hirsch



A [Baltimore County](#) jury has ordered [Exxon Mobil Corp](#) to pay more than \$495 million to compensate a group of Jacksonville families and businesses for claims of lost property value, emotional distress and medical monitoring resulting from a 2006 underground gasoline leak — and damages could continue to grow. The Circuit Court jury was scheduled to continue working Thursday to decide an amount to award the 160 families and businesses in punitive damages, which could be several times higher. The six-member civil jury began deliberations Wednesday afternoon on a financial award to punish the company for what its verdict described as "fraud," including misleading state and county officials and Jacksonville community members about the equipment at the gas station, the reason why the station initially closed, and about efforts to clean up the spill. The plaintiffs' lawyer has accused the company of taking a "leak and lie" approach to the spill from a pressurized fuel line in early 2006 and to leaks at another Exxon station in Jacksonville in 1979 and 1980. The lawyer, Charles G. Bernstein of the [Peter G.](#)

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[Angelos](#) firm, urged jury members on Tuesday to return a verdict for "three to five times" the sum they had awarded in compensatory damages. According to a review of the complex verdict, delivered in six loose-leaf binders, the largest single award went to the family of Hans Wilhelmsen, which owns several properties along Jarrettsville Pike. With damages applied to each of the properties, the sum came to nearly \$14 million. Families with several children also received high awards, as expenses for medical monitoring were applied to each person — more for younger children who would theoretically need more years of attention. The family of Charles and Julia Riegger of Southside Avenue and their three children, for instance, received one of the higher individual awards: more than \$6.9 million. Some 400 people are involved in the suit, which has been argued before Judge Robert N. Dugan since January. This is the second lawsuit against ExxonMobil arising from the leak that unfolded over 37 days in January and February of 2006 at the Exxon station on Jarrettsville Pike, at the intersection of Paper Mill and Sweet Air roads. The leak spilled about 26,000 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline into the groundwater near the center of a community that has no public water or sewer service and depends on private wells for drinking water. In the first suit, involving fewer plaintiffs, the jury awarded \$150 million in compensatory damages, but not punitive damages. ExxonMobil is challenging that verdict before the [Maryland](#) Court of Special Appeals. No cases of physical illness from exposure to contaminated water have been reported in Jacksonville. ExxonMobil had hoped to avoid punitive damages, arguing from the start that it did not evade responsibility for the leak and worked with the Maryland Department of the Environment to clean it up. That cleanup continues to this day. ExxonMobil lawyer James F. Sanders told the jury Tuesday that the international corporation had already spent more than \$46 million on the cleanup and had been fined \$4 million by the state. The plaintiffs' lawyers argued that ExxonMobil was guilty of fraud in trying to conceal the scope of the damage, in reporting the results of the gasoline and gas vapor recovery operation, in misleading the public at first about why the gas station was closed and in information conveyed to county officials about the safety of the underground fuel system. The standard for punitive damages in Maryland is high, having been raised in the 1980s from negligence to willful misconduct and deception. Verdict forms on compensatory damages that were delivered to the judge on Tuesday and made public on Wednesday show that the jury agreed with the plaintiffs' arguments. The six women who made up the jury found that ExxonMobil "intentionally and knowingly misrepresented" information given to county officials about an underground gasoline containment vessel and removal of gas sensors from the fuel system. The jury also found that ExxonMobil intentionally gave misleading information to the Maryland Department of the Environment about the type of pipe used in the underground fuel system. ExxonMobil was found to have misled members of the community by posting a sign saying the station was "Closed for Upgrades," but not mentioning the leak. The sign was removed in a few days. On Tuesday, Bernstein showed the jury statements filed by ExxonMobil with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission reporting profits of \$10 billion in the first quarter of 2011, and a total company net worth of \$158 billion. He urged the jury to award punitive damages to "express the outrage of the community" and deter ExxonMobil from doing similar damage in the future. Sanders repeated his apology for the spill, reminded the jury of the work done to clean it up and argued that ExxonMobil's shareholders would ultimately pay the punitive damages. Lawyers for the plaintiffs and for ExxonMobil were not available to comment; Judge Dugan imposed a gag order on all parties to the case.

Related Links

- [Exxon Mobil loses leak case in Maryland](#)
- [Allison plaintiffs awarded \\$495M in Exxon leak case](#)

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/bs-md-co-exxon-spill-verdict-20110629,0,7400757.story>

ISRAEL, NEGEV, JUNE 30 2011. TRACTOR CAUSES 1.5-MILLION-LITER JET FUEL SPILL IN NEGEV

sharon udasin

Experts say cleanup of area could take weeks; Environmental Protection Ministry official: "This is one of largest soil contaminations in last year." A tractor struck a portion of the Eilat-Ashkelon Pipeline during pipe rehabilitation work on Wednesday morning, causing over 1.5 million liters of jet fuel oil to spill into Nahal Zin and the surrounding Negev nature reserve. Experts said the cleanup of the area could take weeks. "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, told The Jerusalem Post. "It's not just typical soil pollution – it's in a very sensitive area." Dozens of inspectors from the Nature and Parks Authority and the Environmental Protection Ministry were still assessing the extent of the damage caused at the end of the day. Amounts of spilled oil that the former deemed "severe pollution" will require a "Sisyphean" amount of work to fully extract, according to a statement. After the tractor hit the pipeline, an "outburst of jet fuel oil" flowed into the Nahal Zin and the mountainside, a leak that emergency crews only succeeded in plugging about four or five hours after the incident, the Nature and Parks Authority said. Other workers began the process of cleaning the pollution, and a tanker from the Eilat- Ashkelon Pipeline Company was shuttled in to pump the remaining puddles of fuel oil from the ground. "We see the event as extremely severe, particularly

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regarding the damage caused to natural treasures in the reserve," said Eli Amitai, director of Nature and Parks Authority, in a statement. "As soon as we heard news of the leak and its severity we summoned dozens of inspectors and officials into the area." These workers, he explained, rushed in to help close the area to hikers and then begin carrying out preliminary operations for cleaning up the mess. "We are preparing to treat the damage in an optimal way in order to reduce the damage in nature to a minimum, but according to preliminary estimates it will be difficult work, taking days, perhaps weeks," Amitai said. Raviv Shapira, director of the southern district of the Nature and Parks Authority, added: "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." The next step – beginning on Thursday – will be transferring large amounts of polluted soil from the area to a nearby treatment center, officials said. "Tomorrow they are supposed to take the first segment, and after we conduct the treatment, there will be another shipment," Samet told the Post, noting that the Environmental Protection Ministry did not yet know the exact amount of soil to be transported, as the workers are still taking measurements. "We're now starting to investigate everything that's happening there," he said. This oil slick follows two spills that hit the shores of Eilat just this past weekend, and environmental activists slammed the government for not taking measures necessary to prevent such crises. "This seems like a severe ecological disaster," said Hila Krupsky, Greenpeace spokeswoman, in a statement. "Greenpeace calls upon the Environmental Protection Ministry and all the authorities involved to minimize the damage and treat this immediately." Krupsky added that this incident is a "large, black flag that the State of Israel must address" and called for people to "wean" themselves off the "addiction to oil" and instead turn to renewable energy. "The oil accident today is an additional red light indicating the necessity of change in the approach to environmental protection in the oil field," said MK Dov Henin (Hadash), chairman of the Environment and Health Committee, in a statement. "The National Infrastructures minister, who is trying to thwart the modern Petroleum Law that I recommended, insists upon being the only blameworthy party in a future state inquiry commission. It is essential that the next oil catastrophe be prevented." Green Movement co-chairman Prof. Alon Tal of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev agreed, admonishing the Ministerial Committee for rejecting on June 19 amendments to the 1952 Petroleum Law, which would require updated environmental standards regarding oil and gas drilling in Israel. "This is a real lesson," he told the Post on Wednesday evening. "An oil spill in the Mediterranean could be disastrous," he continued, referring to the new drilling beginning in the Tamar and Leviathan natural gas basins. "At present, there are insufficient measures dedicated to averting a marine ecological disaster associated with a spill. We still have time to get our act together." Tal stressed that the government must learn from Wednesday's Nahal Zin crisis and enact new environmental regulations with respect to oil and gas drilling before such an event hits an even larger area. "Before we start our new venture in the Mediterranean, it would be well worth it to find the expertise needed and develop a protocol, so as not to find ourselves in a similar situation in the Mediterranean, where the damage could be disastrous," he said.

<http://www.jpost.com/Sci-Tech/Article.aspx?id=227219>

NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, JUNE 30 2011. SOLVENT FEARS BACKED

matthew haggart



Mosgiel man Ted Marsh says he believes the pain in his fingers and toes may have been caused by a long-time exposure to solvents - a claim backed by recent university research.

Mosgiel man Ted Marsh lives with a constant prickling in his fingers and toes - a legacy he believes is linked to a long-time exposure to solvents. Mr Marsh (75) says he spent about 19 years working at the Formica factory in Auckland, where he handled such commonly-used solvents as toluene and xylene on an almost daily basis. "We never ever put ... gloves on. It just wasn't done in our day ... Why, we even just used to wash our hands in industrial strength methylated spirits," he says. Mr Marsh said he believed he had developed blood-flow and circulation problems to his fingers and toes from using the solvents - a claim which appears to be backed by recent research. University of Otago researchers in Wellington released the findings of their study of 341 medical laboratory workers, which links the use of solvents toluene and

xylene to an increased likelihood of developing a circulatory condition known as Raynaud's phenomenon. The condition is usually triggered by cold or emotional stress and causes blood vessels to constrict, reducing blood flow to the fingers, toes, ears, and nose - in extreme cases it can progress to necrosis, or gangrene of the fingertips, a United Kingdom medical website says. The study, led by researcher Gordon Purdie, also found 75% of the medical laboratory workers were handling the two solvents without wearing gloves. The study had raised concerns about serious health complications which could be faced later

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in life by workers exposed to the solvents, Mr Purdie said. Mr Marsh moved to Mosgiel about 13 years ago to be with family, after he took early retirement from his factory job in Papakura when he sustained an injury to his knee. "Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed all my years working there," Mr Purdie says of the Formica factory, where thousands of New Zealanders worked during its 48-year history. The Papakura plant was shut down in 2007 by owner Fletcher Building, which moved production to Shanghai. Mr Marsh said his work involved daily cleaning of machinery and de-greasing printing plates for marking formica boards, using the solvents toluene and xylene. "I've always had pins and needles but never really thought anything of it. My toes are the worst of the lot," he said. He remembered one instance when a "bloke from a lab" happened upon him using toluene to de-grease a printing plate and questioned him about his lack of safety gear. "He wanted to know where my gloves and mask were. I told him we didn't use them and he took the spray bottle off me." An in-house inquiry after the incident led to a change in the use of safety equipment, but many workers "never bothered" - practices which have led Mr Marsh to speculate about some of his co-workers subsequent health issues. About 15 co-workers have died from cancer and eight have committed suicide, Mr Marsh said. He makes regular visits to his doctor for circulation checks and insists he is healthy but for the constant and tingling "pain" in his extremities.. Mr Marsh said he thinks the findings of Mr Purdie are "right on the button".

<http://www.odt.co.nz/your-town/mosgiel/167051/solvent-fears-backed>

USA, LA, JEFFERSON PARISH, BAYOU BARATARIA, JULY 1 2011. SPILLED BOAT FUEL SOILS BAYOU BARATARIA SHORE WEDNESDAY

allen powell ii



Crew from U.S. Recovery System out of Houma clean up a diesel fuel spill Wednesday that stretches about a mile from the Louisiana Highway 45 bridge to Lafitte.

A diesel spill near a Jean Lafitte playground Wednesday affected nearly a mile of shoreline on Bayou Barataria, and authorities spent hours trying remove the fuel from rocks and dirt. The spill was reported shortly before 10 a.m. at a marina across the street from Rosethorne Playground in the 800 block of Jean Lafitte Boulevard, according to Jefferson Parish fire officials. No injuries were reported. Jean Lafitte Fire Chief Linton Duet said firefighters responding to the marina found "red-dye diesel fuel" floating on the water and washing ashore. He

said the fuel disrupted roughly a half mile to a mile of shoreline and the spill was substantial. "Oh this is big. It's going to be a mess. They are going to have a mess trying to clean this up," Duet said. The Jefferson Parish Hazard Materials Department and the Coast Guard were called to handle the cleanup. State Police also were called, Duet said. Coast Guard officials conducted an inspection of the spill and determined that due to its small size, they would not handle it. The popular marina is near several industrial businesses. Bayou Barataria also handles various types of marine traffic. Initially, officials did not know how the fuel had been released, but Jean Lafitte Mayor Tim Kerner said late Wednesday that the owner of a boat where the spill originated had contacted the city. The boat owner said that he will handle the cleanup, Kerner said. By 5:30 p.m., most of the oil had been removed from the water and shore using a cleaning solution, with boom pads isolating the area, Duet said. The fire chief said Coast Guard officials told him that roughly 75 to 200 gallons of fuel spilled into the bayou. He said he wasn't aware of any citations being issued.

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/06/spilled boat fuel soils bayou.html](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/06/spilled%20boat%20fuel%20soils%20bayou.html)

SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG, JULY 1 2011. FILLING UP FAST

stafford thomas

Today the game is forming partnerships with big names in food retailing, to make the filling station an attractive 24/7 shopping destination -Peter Noke.

Fill up your car's tank and while you are about it grab a burger and coffee in the filling station's store or even do your grocery shopping. For rushed consumers it spells convenience. For oil companies it's a differentiator and money-spinner in a crowded service station market. The service station store has evolved enormously from its simple beginning in 1993 when Shell opened its first Shell Select store, says SA Petroleum Retailers Association national director Peter Noke. Today, he says, the name of the game is forming partnerships with big names in food retailing, in its various forms, to make the filling station an attractive 24/7 shopping destination for consumers. Caltex realised this three years ago. "Our stores were not performing," says the oil company's products GM, Teresa Booth-Oliveira. "We needed a solution and we needed it fast." She says that with input from Chevron, Caltex's US parent, a team undertook a detailed study that included an assessment of global best practice and a

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close look at a number of SA supermarket groups as potential partners. The team found what it believed to be the ideal partner in Fruit & Veg City, which in 2007 had been the target of a takeover bid by Pick n Pay. The bid was shot down by the competition commission, which viewed Fruit & Veg as developing into a major competitor in the food retail sector. "Fruit & Veg offered what we were seeking," says Booth-Oliveira. "That's the ability to deliver and support convenience stores offering fresh produce, meat, fish, a delicatessen and even up-market meals." Under the Fresh Stop brand, 50 stores have been launched since February 2009. Results show why Pick n Pay was eager to buy Fruit & Veg. Booth-Oliveira says converted stores recorded a 12% footfall increase and a 40% sales increase in 2010 against the background of a convenience store sector where sales fell 6%. She adds that fuel sales at Fresh Stop service stations rose 8% in a market in which petrol sales were up 1%. Another 50 Fresh Stop stores are being opened and the goal is to have them in 500 of Caltex's 860 service stations, says Booth-Oliveira. Underpinning this rapid development is Fruit & Veg's ability to convert a store in only two weeks, she says. "I see this is as a significant competitive advantage for us. It's vital for an oil company to limit disruption of customer traffic." To an extent Caltex is playing catch-up with many of its competitors, three of which have close alliances with SA's largest fast food group, Famous Brands. "Engen, Shell and Total are our primary strategic partners," says Famous Brands CEO Kevin Hedderwick. Engen's large 1-Stop facilities on major routes have Wimpy restaurants while Shell's equivalent Ultra Cities offer Steers diners. Hedderwick says many Shell and Total service station stores incorporate Steers takeaways as a "store in a store", a concept that has the big advantage of requiring no major construction. The latest store-in-a-store innovation is a small version of Famous Brands' Mugg & Bean coffee bars, branded Mugg & Bean On The Move. Hedderwick says they were launched in 2010 with Engen to cater for the growing "grab and go" coffee segment. Engen also took the lead in 2004 when it became the first oil company to partner a major food retailer, Woolworths. So far 49 Engen stores have been converted to Woolworths mini food stores, a modest number over seven years compared to the pace of Caltex's Fresh Stop expansion. Also getting off the ground is an alliance between Pick n Pay and BP under the Pick n Pay Express brand. The first pilot store was opened in late 2008 and there are now about 10, says BP marketing communications manager Glenda Zvenyika. Negotiations aimed at expansion are under way. The advent of big-name retailers in the service station market highlights the enormous change that has taken place, emphasises Noke. "Less than 20 years ago the average filling station was a mom-and-pop-style business with a workshop attached," he says. "Today you need a highly skilled, entrepreneurial professional to manage a large filling station. Take an Engen 1-Stop. It can have a Woolworths, Wimpy, Quick Shop and a bakery, all making big turnovers, and a forecourt pumping huge amounts of fuel." The role filling station stores can play in the retail market is reflected in data from a US filling station industry body, the National Association of Convenience Stores. It says filling station store sales of US\$190bn in 2010 represented a third of total filling station sales. If SA's filling station store market could achieve a similar ratio, it indicates total potential sales of R35bn/year based on petrol sales of about R113bn/year. According to research firm Euromonitor International, SA's total convenience store sector recorded sales of about R11,5bn in 2009. Little wonder it's a market Chevron takes seriously.

<http://www.fm.co.za/Article.aspx?id=147256>

USA, WI, LAFAYETTE, JULY 1 2011. WISCONSIN WORKER DIES WHEN CAR FALLS OFF HOIST AT SERVICE STATION IN LAFAYETTE

A 28-year-old Elkhorn man is dead after a car fell off a hoist at a service station in Lafayette. The Walworth County Sheriff's Office says they received a call Wednesday morning that a worker at Lockhart's Service Station had been injured when the car fell off the hoist in the garage. Officials say Nicholas Van Dyke was eventually freed by sheriff's deputies and co-workers, but he later died at Lakeland Medical.

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/8f644d811850461bafc422ff6e7628f7/WI--Worker-Dies-Wisconsin/>

INDIA, PUNE, JULY 1 2011. 10 TANKERS SEIZED

The Chakan police on late Tuesday night seized 10 tankers under the suspicion of adulteration at Kharabwadi in Chakan MIDC around 40 km from Pune. According to the Chakan police, five out of 10 tankers contained oil, which was allegedly being used for adulteration. Two tankers were filled with water and the remaining three were empty. The action was taken after the superintendent of police (Pune rural) Sandip Karnik received information that an adulteration racket was running at night in Chakan. The police team led by sub-divisional police officer (Khed division) B R Patil conducted raids at Kharabwadi and seized the tankers. However, the drivers managed to flee. Inspector Sushil Kadam of the Chakan police station said that five out of 10 tankers were from Mumbai and the rest were from Pimpri Chinchwad. "We have taken the samples of the oil and will send it for chemical analysis," Kadam said, adding, "We will take action against the tanker owners."

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-06-30/pune/29720838_1_tanker-owners-adulteration-racket-chakan-midc

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USA, MD, JACKSONVILLE, JULY 1 2011. EXXON HIT WITH \$1B MORE IN DAMAGES

danny jacobs

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.wbaltv.com/news/28411219/detail.html>

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http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/baltimore_county/judgement-day-for-exxon-on-neighborhood-fuel-spill



H. Russell Smouse, Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos.

Exxon Mobil Corp. has been hit with \$1 billion in punitive damages for a 2006 gasoline leak in rural Baltimore County, sources close to the litigation said. That's in addition to about \$495 million in compensatory damage awards that were made public Wednesday. All told, compensatory and punitive damages come to \$1.542 billion, said the sources, who requested anonymity because the figure has not yet been released by Baltimore County Circuit Court. The jury of six women deliberated for two days on the amount of punitive damages in the suit by 160 households and businesses in the area. The amounts were entered on verdict sheets, but not read aloud in court, about 5:15 Thursday. Clerk of the Court Julie L. Ensor gave reporters copies of the first 36 punitive damage verdict sheets Thursday night but said the entire binder would not be available for viewing until Friday. Those 36 awards amounted to more than \$320 million. The amounts varied from more than \$38 million for one plaintiff with multiple properties to \$50,000. Jurors have been hearing the case since January. Judge Robert N. Dugan choked up as he thanked them for their service before dismissing them, concluding the six-month trial that stemmed from a 25,000-gallon-plus gasoline leak that went undetected for more than five weeks. The jurors declined to speak to reporters as they left the courthouse. Many Jacksonville residents applauded the jurors as they left the courtroom and then exchanged hugs with one another and their lawyers from The Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos PC in Baltimore. "This is the way the system should work," said a relieved-looking Theodore M. Flerlage Jr., the plaintiffs' lead lawyer, outside the courthouse. "We had a powerful case for punitive damages," added H. Russell Smouse, Flerlage's colleague. An Exxon spokeswoman said in an emailed statement that the company had "no choice but to appeal." "Exxon Mobil did not engage in fraud or deliberate misconduct," Rachel L. Moore wrote. "This was an accident, as the jury found in the 2009 Alban case." Moore was referring to the first mass-action lawsuit concerning the spill, in which the lead lawyers were Stephen L. Snyder and Robert J. Weltchek. A jury in 2009 awarded the 88 households in the Alban group \$150 million in compensatory damages but no punitive damages. "They obviously did a tremendous job," Snyder said late Thursday, adding that he wishes them the best on the appeal. The Alban verdicts also are on appeal. The 160 households and businesses in the second lawsuit, represented by the Angelos firm, are known collectively as the Allison group. The two groups do not overlap. Thursday's punitive awards cover intentional misconduct by Exxon, including misrepresentations in information it gave county officials and the Maryland Department of the Environment. Jurors also faulted the company for not mentioning the leak on a sign that was posted for a few days on the site, which said the station was "Closed for Upgrades." The jurors awarded compensatory damages for diminution of property value, past loss of use and enjoyment, fear of cancer, fear of loss of property value and medical monitoring, although not all plaintiffs sought damages in every category. The awards for individual plaintiffs appeared to follow a rough template. Plaintiffs received a portion of the assessed value of their homes prior to the leak and, on average, \$750,000 for fear of cancer, \$250,000 for fear of property value loss and \$500,000 for past loss of use and enjoyment. Medical monitoring awards ranged from less than \$10,000 to more than \$1 million.

• **Related Links**

- [Jury Makes Decision On Exxon Punitive Damages >> Lawsuit Centers Around 2006 Gasoline Leak](#)
- [Damages in Balto. Co. Exxon leak suit could reach \\$1.5 billion >> Jury levies compensation, punitive damages for Jacksonville residents](#)

<http://thedailyrecord.com/2011/06/30/exxon-hit-with-1b-more-in-damages/>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, JULY 1 2011. COUGAR ENERGY CHARGED OVER GAS WELL RUPTURE >> BENZENE & TOLUENE LEAKED

petrina berry

The Queensland government has laid charges against a mining company for allegedly contaminating groundwater with cancer-causing chemicals. The state's Department of Environment and Resource Management has laid charges against

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Cougar Energy after a gas well ruptured at a site south of Kingaroy where the company was trialing underground coal gasification. DERM's acting director-general Terry Wall said in a statement Cougar Energy has been charged with three counts of breaching conditions of its environmental authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. It is alleged Cougar failed to properly install the gas extraction well leading to contaminants being leaked into groundwater in March last year. It's also alleged the company failed to notify DERM of the contamination as soon as reasonably possible. Mr Wall said the cancer-causing chemical benzene and toxic chemical toluene were detected in monitoring bores on the site in May last year. "Cougar received confirmation of these sample results on 7 June 2010 but failed to notify the department until June 30 2010. "We take the protection of our environment and our communities very seriously and any company that wants to do business in Queensland must meet strict environmental obligations." If proven guilty, the company could face a maximum penalty of more than \$830,000 for breaching any environmental condition. Mr Wall said Cougar constructed a gas production well in October 2009. A blockage and rupture of the well occurred shortly after Cougar began operating in March last year, he said. UCG involves drilling a well into a coal seam burning the coal and extracting the product gas. The government has only permitted three trial UCG projects and has appointed an expert scientific panel to assess whether there should be any further UCG projects.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/mining-company-charged-over-gas-well-rupture-20110701-1guxb.html>

CHINA, BEIJING, JULY 1 2011. REPORTS: CHINA INVESTIGATING OFFSHORE OIL SPILLS



Clear skies: The leak from the Bohai Sea oilfield would incur only a few days of delay in crude loadings.

Recent spills in China's largest offshore oil field are being investigated, reports say. The spills were in the Bohai Penglai 19-3 oil field in Bohai Bay off the northeast coast, said reports in the Southern Weekend and other newspapers. The field is a joint venture between China National Offshore Oil Corp. and ConocoPhillips China. The State Oceanic Administration is investigating the spills and will announce results later this month, the reports said. Calls to CNOOC, ConocoPhillips China and to the State Oceanic Administration rang unanswered on Friday. Inquiries to the Shandong Provincial Oceanic and Fishery Information Network likewise were not answered. The first spill occurred around June 10 about 38 kilometers (25 miles) off the coast of Shandong

province and was cleaned up in a few days. Another spill earlier this week and was likewise contained relatively quickly, the reports said. It was unclear what caused the spills, how many had occurred or if they were continuing. China's worst reported oil spill occurred nearly a year ago, when a pipeline at Dalian, a busy northeastern port, exploded and oil poured into the sea, spreading over at least 165 square miles (430 square kilometers).

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ir4VmKJdioxilDAYfmBQPX5gnrG_w?docId=bb525097eb4542b392f7f5c636f3c707

USA, TX, VICTORIA, JULY 1 2011. VICTORIAN CLAIMS HUSBAND DIED AFTER BEING EXPOSED TO BENZENE ON THE JOB, SUES FORMER EMPLOYER AMONG OTHERS >> SUIT CLAIMS COMPANIES SHOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF CHEMICAL'S TOXICITY

A Victoria woman who lost her husband to cancer has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against his former employer. Diana Rubio, wife of Edward Rubio, filed the lawsuit in the Victoria County District Court at the end of May against Safety Railway Service, Edward Rubio's former employer, as well as against product manufacturers Celanese Corporation; Celanese Ltd; Celanese Americas Corporation; Celanese Chemical Inc, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company; ExxonMobil Corporation; ExxonMobil Oil Corporation; ExxonMobil Texas; GATX; and Union Carbide Corporation. The plaintiff alleges her husband developed myelodysplastic syndrome, otherwise known as preleukemia, and acute myelogenous leukemia, which he later died of, after being exposed to carcinogenic chemicals while on the job. Jim Miori, plant manager for Safety Railway Service, Aaron H. Woods, and spokesman for DuPont Operations, and David Eglinton, spokesman for ExxonMobil Corporation, all declined to comment on the case. Rubio worked as a welder at Victoria's Safety Railway Service, 403 Warehouse Road, from 1994 to 2009, during which time he worked with benzene and products containing benzene. Rubio died July 15, 2009, according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit contends the defendants, who designed, manufactured, sold and distributed the benzene and benzene containing products, knew or should have known these toxic chemicals had the potential for causing cancer and other chronic diseases that could result in death or serious bodily disease. His wife alleged the defendants were negligent because they

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failed to warn her husband of any known or reasonable foreseeable dangers of contracting cancer from using their products; instruct him on the proper handling of their products; test their benzene containing products for any adverse health effects upon the human body; recommend the use of adequate personal protective equipment when working with their products, according to the lawsuit. Additionally, the defendants not only failed to recall or cease using their carcinogenic products, but they also failed to place a safer product into the stream of commerce, which would have prevented Rubio's disease, according to the lawsuit. "It's our belief that Mr. Rubio's leukemia was related to his exposure to chemicals that were a part of his job. These defendants knew of the dangers and failed to take action to prevent exposure," said Jim Cole, one of the attorneys for the plaintiff. The plaintiff is seeking damages for the loss of care, maintenance, financial support, services, advice, counsel and contributions she and her children would have received from Edward Rubio had he lived. She also is seeking damages for loss of companionship, mental anguish, physical pain and mental anguish suffered by Edward Rubio, reasonable medical expenses incurred in Rubio's treatment prior to his death, as well as funeral and burial expenses. "The thing the family wants most is something to be done to protect other welders from chemicals like this, especially benzene, which for decades has been known to contain carcinogens and be extremely dangerous to people. We have many welders in this area along the Gulf Coast," said Cole. "Leukemia is a tragic disease. The family is seeking compensation for their loss. Hopefully, this lawsuit can result in the protection of other families from having to go through this."


http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/jun/30/gp_cancerlawsuit_060611_142081/?business&local-business

USA, S.C, ANDERSON, JULY 1 2011. LARGE AMOUNT OF CHEMICALS FOUND ON MAN'S PROPERTY

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2011/jun/30/epa-cleanup-anderson-site-will-top-1-million/>

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2011/jun/29/large-amount-chemicals-found-mans-property/>

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2011/jun/29/cleanup-starts-two-superfund-sites-found-anderson/>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/15001811/epa-dhec-cleaning-up-chemicals-in-anderson>

Watch the Video <http://www.wyff4.com/news/28394878/detail.html>



Workers make their way past barrels of chemicals while working on the cleanup of an industrial site on Frontage Road in Anderson Wednesday.

Investigators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency say it could take months to identify and remove hundreds of chemicals discovered at a makeshift laboratory in Anderson where a man told authorities he was trying to make biodiesel fuel. The chemicals, including potassium cyanide, hydrobromic acid and arsenic, were being kept in assorted containers, from large barrels to paint buckets to Mason jars. They smoked and bubbled inside three warehouses on kudzu-choked land near Interstate 85 and just feet away from Hartwell Lake. Authorities believe it has taken years to build the stockpile of chemicals that they found on the four-acre site at Frontage Road. Many of the chemicals still have not been identified, but what is clear is that some were spilled, seeping, and gushing into their surroundings, including the soil and a creek that feeds into Hartwell Lake. Investigators said Wednesday that they have

no reason to believe, nor evidence to indicate, that the chemicals were being stored to be used for terroristic activities. Federal officials from the Environmental Protection Agency say their efforts to clean up the four-acre parcel that abuts Hartwell Lake amounts to a major, emergency response will take at least two to four months to finish. The EPA's office in Atlanta fields between 3,000 and 4,000 calls annually to check out sites that might have contaminants on them. By comparison, officials said, only 40 or 50 of those calls yield the emergency-level response that the agency is undertaking in Anderson. Jeff Crowley, an on-scene coordinator for the EPA, confirmed that toxins have soaked into the soil, possibly poisoning groundwater. "Right now we are trying to stabilize the soil," Crowley said. "Every time we go into the building we are finding new containers." What they have found is hundreds — and maybe as many as 1,000 — containers of chemicals, including some kept in 175 large drums. While officials did not say that the public's health is at risk because of the site, Crowley said that "it was before we got there." Inside the warehouses, investigative crews for the EPA have found vats of smoking and bubbling chemicals, including a large tank with a gash on its side that was gushing some kind of chemical. Crews have found chemicals that react in the presence of water, and others so volatile that investigators said they will step away and let them burn themselves out should they ignite. Investigators say that the property owner is cooperating with them. They say the man has told them that he was storing some of the chemicals for friends while also trying to make biodiesel fuel on his own. No criminal or civil charges had been filed as of late Wednesday. A search warrant and a report outlining investigators' initial findings may not be made public until the end of the week. "They are really the lead on this, and we are all cooperating any way we can," said Sheriff John

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Skipper. "Should charges become an issue, we may step in, in a different way, at that time." Anderson County tax records list the owner of the property at 2060 Frontage Road as George Smolen Jr. He is also the registered agent of Flex-A-Form, a business that operated at the site for more than two decades. The business phone number has been disconnected, and Smolen has not returned calls seeking comment. One of the buildings on the property has a poster, with a phone number, listing it for rent. A man who answered the phone said he didn't know what was going on at the site. "I have no comment," he said, and hung up. One of the vats of chemicals that investigators were examining Wednesday had a label reading "hydrobromic acid, 48 percent." "One of the things that does take so long is figuring out what's in these barrels," said Thom Berry, spokesman for the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. "Some are labeled, some are not." Crowley said there is an indication that some of the chemicals have seeped into a creek that is uphill from the Frontage Road property, though it is too early to tell what might have gotten into the water or how much of it is there. The back of the property is about 400 feet from Lake Hartwell. A private well near the site is being tested for contaminants, but officials said collecting other water samples is more difficult and could take more time. Officials from the EPA, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the Anderson County Sheriff's Office held a press conference Wednesday to detail some of the activities at the Frontage Road property. Air quality tests at the property have turned up no problems, they said. Crowley discovered the problems on Frontage Road while he was supervising the cleanup of the former American Screw and Rivet Corporation plant, which is less than a mile away from the Frontage Road site on Manse Jolly Road. Authorities said the two properties appear to have no connection other than their proximity to each other. Crowley said that while he was driving back and forth on Interstate 85 to get to the former rivet company site, he kept noticing about a dozen large blue drums on the Frontage Road property, which is near Exit 21. When Crowley saw that two new containers were added to the site one day, he decided to stop and ask some questions. Crowley said the owner of the property told him that he was not operating a business, but was attempting to make homemade fuel. "I saw chemicals I knew were not involved in biodiesel production," Crowley said. "I inquired about those, and he said there were being stored for friends." The Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program handles cleanup at the nation's worst hazardous waste dump sites, and emergency response is one area the program pays for. "We have had many sites like this that may have been around for years," Berry said. "This isn't just happening in Anderson. It could happen anywhere." The largest Superfund site in the area is the old Sangamo-Weston factory in Pickens, where tons of PCBs dumped onto the grounds seeped into a tributary of Hartwell Lake. That site has been listed on the EPA's national priority list since the 1980s and has cost current owner, Houston-based Schlumberger, tens of millions of dollars to clean up.

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2011/jun/29/large-amount-chemicals-found-mans-property/>

CANADA, ALTA. BLACKFALDS, JULY 2 2011. EXPLOSIVE INDUSTRIAL FIRE IN BLACKFALDS

emily cochrane

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.edmontonjournal.com/Trucking+depot+burns+near+Blackfalds/5038001/story.html>



A fire broke out at about 5:45 p.m. Friday, at Formula Powell, an oilfield transportation company, causing multiple explosions in Blackfalds.

A large industrial fire broke out in Blackfalds at about 5:45 p.m. July 1, soon turning into a blazing inferno. According to peace officer Croken of Gull Lake, who was directing traffic away from the area, the building on fire was Formula Powell, located at 4300 South Street, across from All-Star Park. Police evacuated participants in a so-pitch tournament being held for Canada Day at the park. Sandy Walsh was at All-Star Park watching the Canada Day slo-pitch tournament when she and others there noticed the smoke starting to rise. Several people called 9-11, she said. "All of a sudden it just increased and the explosions started," said Walsh. Bystanders said police told them the flames were noxious

and explosive. By 7:30 p.m., the flames were still going strong, but the smoke had abated somewhat. Formula Powell is an oilfield trucking company. According to Croken, different chemicals would have been on site, explaining the explosions.

<http://www.lacombeglobe.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3196343>

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