



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 716 Newsy Stuff

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

June 2 30 2011



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AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, ULADULLA, MAY 26 2011. MAN CRITICALLY HURT IN OXY-WELDER BLAST

map: [Ulladulla 2539](#)

Police and WorkCover are trying to establish the cause of an explosion at Narrawallee, on the New South Wales south coast, which has left a 35-year-old man in a critical condition in a Sydney hospital. Police say the man was using his oxy-welder on a 44-gallon drum in a garage in Ross Street late yesterday morning when the explosion occurred. They say the man appears to have been struck by the lid of the drum as it exploded, the lid was found in the driveway of a house three doors down. The man was taken to Milton Hospital with a fractured skull, severe facial and head wounds and extreme blood loss. He was airlifted to Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital for specialist treatment last night.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/05/27/2910764.htm>

GHANA, ACCRA, MAY 26 2011. AOMC INITIATE WORKPLACE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The Association of Oil Marketing Companies of Ghana (AOMC) on Saturday initiated an industrial campaign to review the status of safety awareness on the management of petroleum products to avert accidents. Mr Kwaku Agyemang Duah, AOMC Industrial Co-ordinator told the Ghana News Agency that the campaign seeks to consolidate laws relating to safety in the transportation, storage and utilisation of petroleum products. He said the AOMC safety campaign was opening a new working relationship with regulatory authorities including Environmental Protection Agency to ensure compliance. Mr Agyemang Duah said: "Public education on petroleum product safety would be intensified and broaden while simple guideline leaflets would be circulated and planted at vantage point to instruct customers at filling stations." Speaking at a quarterly think-tank discussion on "Safety at the Workplace," Mr Richard Debrah, a Safety Practitioner exposed operators in the industry to safety guiding principles; requirements for an organised accident prevention process and accident prevention tools. Other issues discussed are risk analysis, safety training, planned safety observations, planned safety inspections, accident investigations, reporting and follow-up, evaluating safety performance, promoting behavioural safety, budgeting for safety and health. The AOMC think-tank forum is part of a systematic and deliberate quarterly development series for its members to update their technical business understanding of the industrial trend.

GNA

http://www.ghananewsagency.org/s_social/r_29084/social/aomc-initiate-workplace-safety-campaign

KENYA, NAIROBI, MAY 26 2011. TANKER OVERTURNS IN ATHI RIVER

oliver mwenda

A tanker ferrying fuel from Mombasa to Nairobi has overturned near the Kenya meat commission factory in Athi River. The driver of the tanker is reported to have lost control. No injuries have been reported. As has been with the norm, residents rushed to the area to collect the fuel despite the risk they expose themselves to. A couple of years ago, scores of people died at Sachang'wan after it exploded while they scooping spilt petrol from an overturned tanker.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201105250239.html>

CANADA, B.C, MALAHAT, MAY 26 201. MALAHAT SNAFU EXPENSIVE FOR FUEL COMPANY >> TENS OF THOUSANDS PAID OUT IN CLAIMS FILED OVER INCONVENIENCE TO TRAVELLERS

rob shaw

Columbia Fuels has spent tens of thousands of dollars on claims from motorists whose travel plans were disrupted when one of its tanker trucks crashed on the Malahat in April. The company would not provide an exact figure, but said it has approved the majority of more than 750 claims, with 13 per cent rejected and 26 per cent still under review. The claims deadline expired last week. Costs are "definitely in the tens of thousands," said marketing director Andrea Voysey. A Columbia Fuels tanker truck crashed and spilled thousands of litres of gasoline and diesel into Goldstream River on April 16. In addition to polluting the salmon-bearing stream, the crash resulted in hundreds of travellers spending hours trapped in gridlock after the highway was shut down for almost 24 hours to allow for the cleanup. Most of the reimbursements were for hotels and food, said Voysey. Fuel was among the claims not covered by the company. "The majority that were rejected were things that didn't have the proper receipts," she said. Columbia Fuels expects to have the remaining claims by travellers cleared by the end of June, she said. "The response has been really positive," Voysey said. "It was definitely worth it for us to do this, and we feel good we could do something at least to compensate them for their time and aggravation." Meanwhile, a long-term environmental remediation plan for the damaged river has been submitted to the Ministry of Environment for approval, Voysey said. Columbia Fuels is responsible for all costs, but the company would not disclose how much it expects to spend. The Environment Ministry said Tuesday that "discussions on environmental damage have begun" and that monitoring and cleanup at the site continues.

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Residents around the river can expect to receive a flyer in the mail discussing local water testing and other issues, Voysey said. But there's no indication any groundwater sources are contaminated, she added. Transportation Minister Blair Lekstrom said his ministry has finished a review into how travellers were informed of the highway closure amid complaints about a lack of accurate information on when the highway would reopen and what alternate routes were available. "I think it shows some things we can improve on, and it should be out very soon," said Lekstrom. The driver of the truck remains on leave from the company pending the conclusion of a police investigation, Voysey said. Although police arrested the 33-year-old driver for allegedly assaulting a police officer, Crown prosecutors have yet to formally approve those charges, said West Shore RCMP spokeswoman Const. Julie Chanin. The police investigation continues, she said.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Malahat+snafu+expensive+fuel+company/4836365/story.html>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, DALBY, MAY 26 2011. ARROW 'SHOWED CONTEMPT' OVER QLD GAS LEAK



Workers try to stem the leak of water and gas from a well near Dalby this morning. Arrow Energy showed contempt by not immediately reporting a gas leak at a Queensland well and could face a fine of up to \$50,000, the government says. It took Arrow two hours to alert authorities that gas and salt water were bursting from one of its coal seam gas (CSG) wells on a farm west of Dalby. The rupture happened on Sunday after workers uncapped the well to install a pump for gas production. It was capped on Monday. Mining Minister Stirling Hinchliffe has warned that Arrow or its contractors could face a hefty fine of up to \$50,000 if their responses were found to be lacking. "The tardiness in reporting this matter is unacceptable, and it shows contempt for the rules and no respect for the

landholder or regulating authorities," Mr Hinchliffe told parliament on Wednesday. He also said a contractor used only by Arrow was facing a statewide audit. Separately, a diesel spill at Arrow's Moranbah gas fields on Tuesday had been contained and contaminated soil would be removed, Mr Hinchliffe told parliament. Drew Hutton, president of the Lock the Gate Alliance aimed at keeping gas and coal companies off farmland, repeated his call for a moratorium on CSG projects. He said there had been no comprehensive study on the environmental and social impacts of the industry being rolled out in, and close to, residential areas across Queensland. "This infrastructure is being built within 100 metres of people's homes, on residential estates, on the outskirts of towns - not just wells, but pipelines and roads too," he told AAP. "There should be a moratorium until we can have a proper assessment of the human health and environmental impacts. It simply hasn't been done."

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/arrow-showed-contempt-over-qld-gas-leak-20110525-1f3f9.html>

USA, N.D, BISMARCK, MAY 26 201. ND OFFICIALS PLAN CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL DIESEL

dale wetzel

North Dakota's Tax Department plans a summer crackdown on illegal use of low-tax diesel fuel, which Tax Commissioner Cory Fong said may be depriving the state of \$3 million in road-repair money annually. State enforcement personnel will be undergoing training in Bismarck and Fargo this week for the program, Fong said. Highway Patrol Sgt. Brian Bonness said the department will be doing fuel checks at the patrol's inspection sites for commercial vehicles. North Dakota has a 23-cents-per-gallon tax on diesel fuel that goes into highway cars and trucks. Vehicles and machines used for farming, mining, industrial jobs and other off-road work use diesel fuel that's taxed at 4 cents a gallon. The lower-tax fuel is dyed red to distinguish it from road diesel, which is clear. Last year, North Dakota fuel dealers sold 321 million gallons of dyed fuel and 252 million gallons of clear diesel, according to state Tax Department statistics. Bonness said that with diesel prices topping \$4 a gallon, it is tempting to use cheaper, dyed fuel for regular road driving. "Every time that the price of diesel fuel increases, we notice that the calls and complaints on people burning dyed fuel in on-road vehicles does increase," Bonness said. Fong said if 5 percent of the dyed fuel sold last year was used illegally, the state would have lost just over \$3 million in fuel taxes. The revenue is split among the state and local governments to finance road construction and repairs. Dyed fuel is often dispensed from bulk tanks on farms, where it is used in tractors and other machinery. Vehicles and equipment used by western North Dakota's oil industry also are increasingly taking fuel from bulk tanks, Fong said. "We hear tips regularly about folks who are using dyed fuel for on-road purposes," Fong said. "We're getting more information from consumers out there who are concerned that perhaps others are not following the laws." Bonness said the Highway Patrol follows up on tips about vehicles' illegal use of low-tax diesel fuel, but Fong said there has been no regular inspection program comparable to what the Tax Department plans to undertake. North Dakota law provides a \$250 fine for the first violation of illegal use of dyed diesel fuel, and fines of up to \$5,000 for subsequent violations. Attempts to evade inspections carry a possible \$1,000 penalty. The Minnesota Department

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of Revenue uses specially equipped trucks to do spot checks of diesel vehicles, and two inspectors, Jeremy Neeck and David Savard, were giving tips Wednesday to a group of North Dakota enforcement personnel in a Department of Transportation garage in Bismarck. Minnesota regulators normally establish an inspection site and then wave in diesel vehicles for checks, Savard said. They normally find one or two vehicles out of every 100 that are using dyed fuel illegally. Minnesota's fine is \$1,000 for a first violation, Savard said. "I don't want to go into the mentality of what the violator is thinking, but we do see an increase when the price (of diesel fuel) goes up," Savard said. Mike Rud, director of the North Dakota Petroleum Marketers Association, said fuel sellers support the stepped-up enforcement effort. "If we're going to continue ... to have road issues, then we need to have every penny (in repair money) available to us, and this is one way to do it," Rud said. "We can all work together, get the word out there, and scare people away from doing this."

http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/article_a4f7d548-8745-11e0-aa3c-001cc4c002e0.html

INDIA, GOA, PANAJI, MAY 26 2011. BEACHES HIT BY TAR BALLS, GOA TRACKING ROGUE VESSELS



With a fresh wave of tar balls hitting Benaulim beach, the authorities say they are inching closer to the rogue vessels which have been releasing spent oil off Goa, a top tourism official said Tuesday. Tourism Director Swapnil Naik said the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) had already given a list of names of ships operating along the state's coast and other details, which were passed on to Nagpur-based National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) for tallying with oil slick samples collected in April this year. "The last time there was an oil slick, we had contacted the ICG to give us a list of ships operating along the coast. The same was shared with NEERI along with samples of the tar balls to ascertain if they are from ships operating in the coastal waters," Naik told IANS. "NEERI is to submit the report

shortly. We are hoping that the report will be able to shed light on some of these issues," Naik said. According to marine scientists, the messy tar balls are generated after sea-going ships discharge burnt-oil into the sea off the coast, resulting in large quantities of semi-solid oil lumps, floating on to the state's beaches, which are Goa's biggest tourism draw. Naik said cleaning agencies and government agencies were working overtime to clear the Benaulim beach and adjoining areas of tar balls, which have been floating towards the shore for a couple of days now. Benaulim beach is 35 km from here. "Cleaning personnel and government agencies have started the clean up operation of tar balls which have appeared along the affected beaches. Most areas have been cleared. The beaches will be free of tar balls soon," Naik said. Naik, however, said he was unable to explain why the Benaulim beach and surrounding areas were witnessing a repeated onslaught of tar balls.

<http://www.thebusinessage.com/2011/05/24/beaches-hit-by-tar-balls-go-a-tracking-rogue-vessels/>

USA, N.J, BAYONNE, MAY 26 2011. FIRE REPORTED INSIDE BAYONNE CHEMICAL PROCESSING FACILITY

peggy mcglone & tomás dinges

 **Photo's** <http://www.myfoxny.com/dpp/news/fire-at-chemical-plant-in-bayonne-20110525-akd>

 **Photo's** http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2011/05/huge_fire_at_bayonne_cogenerat.html



Fire still smolders about an hour after an explosion rocked through the IMTT Cogeneration facility, a electric generating station in Bayonne.

A fire erupted tonight inside the International Matex Tank Terminal, a chemical processing facility in Bayonne, sending black smoke into the sky and forcing the brief closure of a nearby highway and bridge. The fire broke out shortly before 7:30 p.m. at the 520-acre facility near the Bayonne Bridge at a switching station. None of the facility's 620 tanks storing petroleum and specialty chemicals were involved in the blaze. Bayonne Public Safety Director Jason O'Donnell said there was no need for alarm and that no chemicals were released. The fire was electrical, no chemicals were involved at any time, he said. Eight employees were at the plant, but no injuries to them or police and fire responders were reported, he said. O'Donnell said the fire appeared to originate from a switching station where the

power from the plant transfers to lines where utility companies can access it, he said. "One of the systems failed, causing some kind of electrical overload," he said, adding the overload probably caused the minor explosion heard by nearby residents. "This is a regular fire, just on a bigger scale." Firefighters originally hesitated spraying the fire with water because

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they were unsure if it was an electrical fire, which is why residents reported seeing so much smoke, he said. Traffic was shut down for about a half-hour on Route 440 near the facility and New Jersey-bound traffic was halted on the Bayonne Bridge, which connects Staten Island and Bayonne. The bridge was reopened around 8:30 p.m., authorities said. Pedro Martinez, who lives across from the site, said he was in his kitchen when he heard what sounded like an explosion. "The black smoke was really wide. You couldn't see anything for a while until the wind started blowing," Martinez said. After the smoke dissipated, Martinez said, the flames were 25 feet high. Across Route 440, residents also said they heard what sounded like an explosion. One thought it was a tanker truck, another thought it was a car accident. "We were on the porch and it was just like ba-boom," said Jillian Pena, 18. "And then I heard like a rumble." Pena climbed the berm that borders Route 440 and saw thick black smoke filling the air. Police officers told them to go back into the house. A privately held company founded in 1939, IMTT owns and operates 12 bulk liquid storage facilities at 10 marine terminals in North America. Its total storage capacity is 42 million barrels. IMTT handles and stores petroleum products as well as vegetable and tropic oils, renewable fuels and chemicals, according to the company's website. It stores about one-third of all bulk liquid in New York Harbor, and about two-thirds of bulk liquid in the lower Mississippi River, another key U.S. port. An affiliate company, Oil Mop LLC, offers environmental services, including spill remediation and tank and pipeline cleaning. Headquartered in New Orleans, the company employs between 100 and 250 people. According to the company's website, the Bayonne facility is the second largest of its terminals, behind the 1,000-acre site in St. Rose, LA, just west of New Orleans. The Bayonne terminal stores refined petroleum products and specialty chemicals.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/05/fire_reported_at_bayonne_power.html

USA, TX, SAN ANTONIO, MAY 26 2011. MAN MIXED DEADLY CHEMICAL COMBO

guillermo x. garcia

Watch the Video:

<http://www.woai.com/news/local/story/Suicide-by-Chemicals-Man-uses-deadly-mixture-to/d6v4mf4SOqzDXGYiIY1A.csp>

<http://www.kens5.com/news/Apparent-suicide-prompts-hazmat-scare-for-northwest-side-neighbors-122581924.html>

A man mixed chemicals that produced a deadly gas that killed him Tuesday in what authorities are labeling a suicide.

Fire department hazardous materials teams were called to a Northwest Side home in the 4900 block of Port Kenton late Tuesday to investigate a call that dangerous chemicals had been found with a body in a garage. Investigators said the man's landlord called police around 9 p.m. when he discovered his tenant dead inside a car parked in the garage. Authorities said the man had been dead for several weeks and suspect he killed himself by mixing the chemicals to produce hydrogen sulfide gas, which is colorless, smells like rotten eggs and is very poisonous. Neighbors had complained earlier about a foul odor. Authorities have not identified the man pending notification of next of kin. Police said he left notes in the car and around the home but would not describe their contents.

http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/Man-mixed-deadly-chemical-combo-1395026.php

IRAN, TEHRAN, MAY 26 2011. GAS LEAK, NOT SABOTAGE, CAUSED BLAST AT IRAN OIL REFINERY, STATE MEDIA SAY

borzou daragahi

The blast at a new refinery unit killed up to four people and hurt up to 25. But it did not halt a speech by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who some suggested launched the facility too soon. A gas leak and not sabotage caused an explosion Tuesday at a newly inaugurated section of an oil refinery in Abadan just before President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, state media reported. But Ahmadinejad quickly drew criticism from a lawmaker and some staff members at the refinery who suggested that the facility in the southwestern city was launched too soon, a semiofficial news agency reported. The blast, which killed as many as four people and injured up to 25 more, did not halt Ahmadinejad's speech, which included fairly typical denunciations of U.S. relations with Middle East autocrats and the course of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, according to news agencies. He did not mention the explosion during his 20-minute speech. The gas leak that caused the explosion and subsequent fire also sickened some oil workers, Mehr News Agency reported. Iran's industrial sector has long been riddled with deadly accidents, from train and plane crashes to troubles at petrochemical facilities. The government also is seeking to put down an uprising in the southwest by the country's ethnic Arab minority, which was inspired by pro-democracy movements across the Middle East and brutally crushed by authorities, which led to initial concerns that the blast might have been an act of sabotage. In a sign of the harsh infighting that has come to

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characterize relations between Ahmadinejad and his rivals, officials all but accused Ahmadinejad, who had recently appointed himself caretaker oil minister amid howls of protest by his many political opponents, of rushing to open the plant too early in order to ingratiate himself with Iranians. According to the semiofficial Fars News Agency, "managers and staff of the refinery have said this incident was a natural occurrence because the refinery was not technically prepared for inauguration and its third phase was inaugurated hastily, after some unsuccessful attempts were made a night before the incident to adjust and prepare [the refinery] for inauguration." Hamid-Reza Katouzian, head of parliament's energy committee, also told Fars that experts had warned officials that the Abadan facility was not ready to launch. The addition to the refinery will eventually produce 1.5 million gallons of gasoline a day to help satiate Iran's energy-hungry consumers.

Related Links

[Graphic: Explosion in Abadan, Iran](#)

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iran-explosion-20110525.0,7172320.story>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, KURNELL, MAY 26 2011. CALTEX PIPELINE PLAN

marianna papadakis



Underwater works: Caltex plans to undertake upgrades to a pipeline to increase its fuel supply to Sydney Airport.

Kurnell residents are bracing for the impact of Caltex's plans to upgrade infrastructure and a pipeline which crosses Botany Bay, supplying more fuel to Sydney Airport's international terminal. Caltex's application to the state government will see about 1.5 kilometres of the existing pipeline between the refinery boundary and Caltex's wharf at Kurnell replaced, installation of new pumps at the refinery and new booster pumps, pipeline modifications and an electrical switch room at Caltex's Banksmeadow terminal. Kurnell residents can expect foul odours, dust, and noise and vibrations which exceed guidelines during a one-year construction period with works to be undertaken between 7am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday. Caltex said in its environment assessment report it had mitigation measures in place to avert any

risk of environmental damage because of the likelihood contaminated soils would be encountered during excavations, as well as the disturbance of acid sulphate soils. Caltex said in its report the \$24 million upgrades would reduce the risk of contamination and pollution because of aging infrastructure in the future. The corporation faces possible legal action after an oil slick on March 20, which it said was likely caused by a stormwater problem. The Kurnell refinery and Banksmeadow terminal are within five kilometres of the heritage-listed Towra Point Nature Reserve. Caltex said in its report the upgrades were in response to concerns about fuel rationing at Sydney Airport. A Sydney Airport spokesman said it was consulted by Caltex about the proposal, but did not say what expected increase in passenger and aircraft movements the upgrades could affect. A Qantas spokesman said the airline was supportive of the project, "particularly given the recent constraints on jet fuel supply experienced at Sydney Airport". Sutherland Shire Council general manager John Rayner said there were concerns about managing the impact of noise and vibration on residents for which Caltex had not provided enough detail. Sydney Airport Community Forum south Sydney spokesman Kevin Hill said Caltex had not consulted the community adequately. He said residents were awaiting the release of a federal-state taskforce report on possible locations of a second Sydney airport. "Increasing fuel is only a minor part of the capacity limits of the airport. It is more about the curfew and cap which are not negotiable," Mr Hill said. Sutherland Shire Council's draft flood plain management plan showed there was a flooding problem at the back of the refinery and there should be drainage installed where the pipeline was relayed. he said. Submissions on the application close on June 3.

<http://www.theleader.com.au/news/local/news/general/caltex-pipeline-plan/2175018.aspx?storypage=0>

GERMANY, BONN, MAY 27 2011. GERMAN REGULATOR WARNS PETROL STATION OLIGOPOLY >> GERMAN FEDERAL CARTEL OFFICE PROBES PETROL STATION MARKET

matthias inverardi

- Says BP, Exxon, ConocoPhillips, Shell, Total control market
- Will block further takeovers or impose conditions
- Says consumers can shop around for motor fuel

Germany's anti-trust regulator warned big oil companies over charging drivers too much for petrol and encouraged consumers to shop around for cheaper motor fuel. Five big companies -- BP's Aral, Exxon Mobil's Esso, ConocoPhillips', Jet, Royal Dutch

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Shell and Total control just over 65 percent of the German filling station market, the Federal Cartel Office said. It said an investigation found that the prices at most major petrol stations are higher than necessary and do not reflect competition in the industry. To limit the power of the big operators and protect smaller, independent petrol stations, the regulator said it will not allow them to buy more filling stations in Germany, or at least impose conditions on planned takeovers. The regulator said it wouldn't try to force the big companies to lower their prices, because that would only treat the symptom rather than the cause of the problem. It would also be hard to enforce and push smaller, independent petrol stations out of business, the regulator said. Instead, consumers could take their business to cheaper filling stations, it said, calling on the services sector to create media that can tell drivers how much petrol costs at which locations. The investigation found no evidence that the big companies were illegally colluding on setting prices, but rather that they had a good overview of their competitors' prices and could quickly react to any changes. German Transport Minister Peter Ramsauer has pushed for tougher anti-trust rules to "stop the excesses in pricing at the gas pump", but the Cartel Office said that was up to lawmakers rather than regulators.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/26/germany-gasstations-idUSLDE74P0L920110526>

USA, LA, JEFFERSON CO, MAY 27 2011. BENZENE EXPOSURE CLAIMED IN SUIT AGAINST CHEVRON, OTHERS

michelle keahey

A Jefferson Parish resident claims his years of exposure to benzene-containing products has resulted in his diagnosis of multiple myeloma and has filed suit against his previous employers and the companies who manufactured the benzene-containing products. William Singleton, individually and Nellie Mae Gabriel Singleton, individually, filed suit against Chevron USA Inc., Shell Oil Co., International Paint, The Valspar Corp., Radiator Specialty Co., United States Steel Corp., E. I. Du Pont De Nemours and Co. and ABC Insurance Co. on May 20 in federal court in New Orleans. William Singleton worked as a drum filler at Evans Cooperage in the late 1950s, filling drums with benzene, naphtha and liquid asphalt. He worked as a painter at the Avondale Shipyard from 1990 through 1997 as a painter and was allegedly exposed to benzene containing products such as paints, solvents, primers, thinners and other products. Singleton claims his exposure resulted in his being diagnosed with multiple myeloma in July 2009. The defendants are accused of negligence for selling benzene-containing products, failing to instruct or warn users and bystanders of the hazards associated with these products and for misrepresenting the safety and health risk of these products. The defendants are also accused of strict product liability and liability under the Louisiana Products Liability Act. Singleton is seeking damages for physical pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress, disfigurement, embarrassment, physical impairment, earnings, lost earning capacity, physical and mental disability, medical expenses, loss of enjoyment of life, fear of cancer, loss of society and consortium, wrongful death damages and survival damages. The plaintiffs are represented by L. Eric Williams of Williams Law Office in Metairie and Richard J. Fernandez and Amber E. Cisney of Richard J. Fernandez LLC in Metairie. A jury trial is requested. U.S. District Judge Carl J. Barbier is assigned to the case. Case No. 2:11-cv-01199

<http://www.louisianarecord.com/news/235724-benzene-exposure-claimed-in-suit-against-chevron-others>

CANADA, ONTARIO, MAY 27 2011. COLD WAR RELIC 'SITE 500' GETS COSTLY CLEANUP

steve ladurantaye

Six decades after the radar operators gave up their search for Russian bombers streaking across the Northern [Ontario](#) sky, a massive cleanup effort will finally begin to erase a ghost town that was very briefly one of Canada's most important military installations. The town doesn't even have a formal name – military documents simply refer to it as Site 500. It was the operations centre for the Ontario portion of the Mid Canada Line Radar installation, a network of 17 sites built as part of a national network in the 1950s to monitor the skies for foreign invaders. Site 500 is now at the centre of the largest environmental remediation project ever undertaken in Ontario. Its scale is dwarfed only by the national cleanup of the Distant Early Warning radar line – a more northern string of radar installations that the [federal government](#) has already spent half a billion dollars cleaning. The sites have leached contaminants into the ground over the years. PCBs, chemicals that were used in industrial products such as coolant and lubricants and have since been found to cause cancer at high levels, have been discovered in the soil, and asbestos is common in the buildings. Abandoned trucks litter the site; oil drums are scattered everywhere. The project has received little attention because the sites are inaccessible by road and hidden away in the wilds of Northern Ontario. If not for decades of effort by first nations groups who rely on the land for fishing and hunting, the sites may have been left to rot as the federal and provincial governments bickered over who was responsible for cleaning them up. The Department of Defence used the sites, but gave them back to the province after they were shut down. Under a recent agreement, the province will spend up to \$100-million to wipe out the remnants of the radar line by 2017, with a \$30-million contribution from the federal government. Tucked away on the southern shores of Hudson Bay within Polar Bear Provincial

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Park, the line was disabled in the 1960s after intercontinental ballistic missile technology rendered the entire project obsolete. When operational, a few dozen people called Site 500 home; now a handful of hunters use its buildings for shelter a few weeks each year. Site 500 is the largest of the cleanup destinations, where 20 buildings remain, including an aircraft hangar, control tower and gymnasium. Thirty thousand empty oil barrels are piled haphazardly at the site, which is difficult to reach by land. They will either have to be hauled away, or workers will need to build a proper landfill onsite. "This project poses significant logistical challenges," said Michael Cantan, who is overseeing the cleanup for Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources. "There are no roads, so workers need barges and helicopters. The scale of the work is pretty staggering." While the radar line stretched from coast to coast, Site 500 is the most remote site requiring remediation. Many sites across the rest of the country were reclaimed – in Manitoba, one remote outpost houses a school. In Stephenville, Nfld., upgraded radars scan the skies from a former installation. Unlike Site 500, most of the Ontario sites targeted for cleanup are small outposts. Site 415 – on the eastern shores of James Bay – is the exception. The military left behind four radar dishes that resemble large drive-in movie screens, which will need to be removed. The cleanup is seen as critical to the first nations who hunt and fish in the area – thousands of fuel barrels left behind have been seeping PCBs and hydrocarbons into the earth and contaminating local wildlife. Their efforts to have the sites cleaned intensified 10 years ago, when a study determined that rabbits near one of the sites had unusually high levels of PCBs and should not be eaten. "We've been working for 30 years to get the government to clean this land," said Stan Louttit, Grand Chief of the Mushkegowuk Council. "These are huge, environmentally sensitive areas. Sites were just left to rot, with heavy equipment and fuel containers left behind. But our people still use this land, so do migratory birds." With his behind-the-scenes work done, Mr. Louttit looks forward to helping clean the mess. Provincial guidelines will ensure that the company that ultimately wins the contract – the tender closed May 11 – will employ at least 50 first nations workers. The work itself will be painstaking and labour intensive. The government cleaned two southern sites in 2009 – one between Timmins and Kirkland Lake and the other between Cochrane and Moosonee – in a sort of test run. Although the sites were small in comparison and didn't have any buildings, the soil was heavily contaminated. The less-polluted soil was sent to a mine in Sudbury to be spread over a tailings pond; anything with dangerously high levels of PCBs was shipped to a processing facility in St. Ambrose, Que., where it was cooked in a special container to burn off the chemicals and render the soil inert. "Logistics will require the use of several modes of transportation, which include air, marine and land including winter cat train and rail," a ministry document warns would-be bidders on the project. "Mobilization/demobilization of main base camps and off-site removal of waste require a combination of deep sea marine shipping/shallow draft barges and air transportation for crew shift rotations. Mr. Cantan said when the work is done, the land should be restored to its original state. "To finish up the other sites, we brought in some clean soil. We planted some trees and spread some seeds," he said. "But it's far more complicated up north, right on the very edge of Ontario. These sites were not all created equal." Native leaders vow to continue monitoring the sites, many of which are used as hunting camps throughout the year. They know that while the work will be done in a few years, it could be several more decades before the land is returned to its natural state. "Nobody was willing to take up this fight," said Mr. Louttit. "Now that we've gotten this far, it isn't likely we are going to stop paying attention."

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ontario/cold-war-relic-site-500-gets-costly-cleanup/article2036880/>

USA, WYO, SHERIDAN, MAY 27 2011. FUEL TANK FLOATS INTO YARD

maryjo johnson



Sheridan Fire Marshall Brian Songer issued a media release indicating that Sheridan Fire-Rescue (SFR) responded with the Hazardous Material Response Vehicle, Haz-Mat 1, to the 2000 block of Dana Avenue Wednesday morning for mutual aid at the request of the Goose Valley Volunteer Fire Department. The flooding in Downer Addition on Tuesday brought a large gasoline storage tank from somewhere upstream into the yard of Jacob Dunham at 2046 Dana Avenue. Songer reports that Mr. Dunham had been evacuated the night before, and returned Wednesday morning to find the tank leaking fuel onto his property. Dunham was able to maneuver the tank to prevent further fuel loss, but the tank leaked an unknown amount of fuel near his home; some had already flooded his basement. SFR found the basement to have approximately eighteen inches of water. Air monitoring equipment showed there were gas fumes within the structure. As a precaution, Dunham had already shut down the water heater in the basement, and sump pumps were used to discharge the water from the area. Songer indicates that positive pressure ventilation was also used to clear fumes from the home, and an

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absorbent boom was placed at the sump pump discharge to recover any gasoline pumped from the structure. Goose Valley Volunteer Fire Department remained on scene until the home was safe to occupy. Songer says that the owner of the tank and its original location are not known at this time.

<http://www.sheridanmedia.com/news/fuel-tank-floats-yard17006>

RUSSIA, REPUBLIC OF BASHKORTOSTAN, URMANN, MAY 27 2011. DEPOTS BLASTS FORCE MASS EVACUATION

Watch the Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u439li_xfpU



The evacuation order covers 7,000 to 8,000 people in the area around the military depot.

A fire at a munitions depot in the Russian region of Bashkortostan has triggered explosions that hurled shrapnel into the air, forcing the evacuation of thousands of residents, officials say. A report says one person died during the evacuation. Defence officials say the fire began when a piece of ammunition went off during a regular loading operation. News reports say the silo stored some 100,000 tonnes of shells and other military equipment in all. "As a result of the fire, shells stored in a loading area began to detonate," the defence ministry said overnight. National television showed a plume of smoke billowing above the depot, located about 100km northeast of Ufa, capital of the central Russian region of Bashkortostan.

News reports said people near the depot could hear loud explosions. One defence official said the explosions could continue through the weekend. "The shrapnel from the exploding shells is not flying further than three km," a source in the emergencies ministry told the Interfax news agency. Russia's Transneft oil pipeline monopoly stopped pumping crude to a local refinery as a precaution because the fire was running close to one of the company's lines, a company spokesman told the RIA Novosti news agency. The defence ministry depot is located just 500 metres away from a village of 2650 residents, all of whom have been evacuated, along with the servicemen at the depot, a regional emergency ministry spokesman said. The fire was spreading to buildings in the village of Urman, but had not ignited a nearby forest, said the district spokesman Oleg Zugueyev. The emergency ministry said it had 44 firefighters at the scene and had sent a Be-200 water-bombing plane from Moscow. It also planned to use Ilyushin-76 jets and three robot firefighters to fight the blaze. Explosions at military weapons depots are relatively common in Russia and other former Soviet republics, and are often linked to ageing equipment and lax enforcement of safety rules. In 2009, about 3000 people were evacuated when a series of blasts ripped through a munitions depot outside the city of Ulyanovsk in central Russia in a fire sparked by planned disposal of ammunition, killing two firemen

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/depots-blasts-force-mass-evacuation/story-e6frf7jx-1226063817084>

RUSSIA, REPUBLIC OF BASHKORTOSTAN, URMANN, MAY 27 2011. SOLDIER CHARGED OVER RUSSIAN URALS ARMS DEPOT FIRE



Russian Urals arms depot fire.

A soldier is facing criminal charges over a fire at an ammunition depot at a military base in the Russian Urals, investigators said on Friday. The fire broke out on Thursday when 120-mm artillery shells exploded in the loading area of the depot some 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the republic of Bashkortostan's capital of Ufa. About 2,500 people were evacuated from the village of Urman over the threat posed by exploding shells that scattered around the area, injuring at least eight people and setting fire to houses and trees. More than 50 buildings, including 14 residential houses, were destroyed or damaged as a result. Private Sergei Denyayev has been

charged with "a violation of weapon handling rules," the Russian Investigative Committee said in a statement published on its website on Friday. Denyayev, together with other soldiers, was involved in repackaging shells at the depot, the statement said. "In violation of security rules, he threw a shell with a detonator in with other repackaged shells, which resulted in a detonation and the explosion of the shells," the statement reads. Local officials said on Friday the damaged caused by the fire may exceed 100,000 rubles (\$3.5 million). On Thursday, Rustem Khamitov, the head of Bashkortostan, ordered the construction of new houses for an estimated 116 people left homeless as a result of the fire.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20110527/164262160.html>

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USA, MI, WHITE OAK TWP, MAY 28 2011. GASOLINE LEAK'S EFFECT OVER LONG TERM WORRIES MANY >> NEIGHBORS SEEK ANSWERS FROM COMPANY

melissa domsic

Residents are curious just how Marathon Pipeline LLC could have gone from telling them that 126,000 gallons of gasoline leaked from a storage tank in April, to now estimating as many as 462,000 gallons escaped. Marathon knew the much larger leak estimate would draw questions from those who live nearby, so the company held its second public meeting on Thursday evening at the White Oak Township Hall. "How did we lose this many gallons? We're just as perplexed as you," Marathon representative Rob Roy told a crowd of about 60 residents. The plume spans about 300,000 square feet, the equivalent of more than five football fields. So far about 71,000 gallons have been recovered. Local farmer Marvin Speer reported the leak on April 13 after finding gasoline in a county drainage ditch on his property. The leak resulted from a faulty gasket on a pipe leading to Marathon's tank. Wolverine Pipe Line Co. owns three other tanks on the site. Officials from Marathon, Ingham County and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality tried to assure residents that the leak remains contained and they're doing what they can to ensure it won't happen again. Despite those attempts, neighbors expressed worries and frustrations. "Our basic concerns are still the same," said Kim Straub, who lives near the site. "They're the same as whether its 126,000 or 462,000 (gallons)." They have immediate concerns: Is the water, air, soil and plant life that surrounds their homes and farms safe?

No Problems Surface

So far, tests are showing no signs of contamination to local wells or to soil outside the immediate area of the plume. Air monitoring is ongoing and has not shown any problems, officials said. And there are more long-term issues. How will the spill impact their property values? How will Marathon, and Wolverine, for that matter, ensure nothing like this will ever happen again, and how will officials make certain the leak won't manifest years down the road? "I really worry about five years from now," home-owner Carol Stevenson said. "What's going to happen with my water and my house?" There weren't clear answers to those questions, and officials say they're still monitoring the issue and getting a grasp on its magnitude.

More Monitoring

As for making sure another leak won't occur and go unnoticed again, Roy said Marathon is going to remove underground tanks and expose them above ground and install more advanced monitoring devices. Wolverine's Jerry Johnson said his company is taking its tanks out of commission this summer and implementing new monitoring procedures. "We did get some questions answered tonight," resident John Koval said. "I'm still concerned, and I'm still going to monitor how this all progresses."

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110527/NEWS01/105270331/Gasoline-leak-s-effect-over-long-term-worries-many?odyssey=tab>

USA, TN, CHATTANOOGA, MAY 28 2011. WOMAN BURNED IN FIRE AT KANGAROO GAS STATION

Fire investigators are trying to determine what happened last night when a woman was severely burned in a fire at a gas station in Riverview. The incident occurred shortly after 10 p.m. at the Kangaroo gas station at 1005 Hixson Pike, while a woman and her boyfriend were putting gas in their Jeep Cherokee. A store cashier told firefighters that he saw fire break out at the pump next to the Jeep, so he hit the cut-off switch to the pump and called 911. The woman's clothes caught on fire, and she screamed for help. The clerk and another employee then grabbed a fire extinguisher and put the fire out. Captain Anthony Moore with the Fire Investigation Division Moore identified the woman as Samantha Lawrence, 20. When Chattanooga firefighters arrived on the scene moments later, they got Ms. Lawrence to sit down so they could apply dressings to her burns. Captain Moore said she was suffering from 2nd and 3rd degree burns to approximately 30% of her body. She was then handed over to paramedics with Hamilton County EMS and rushed to Erlanger Medical Center. Hours later, Captain Moore said Ms. Lawrence was airlifted to the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta, Georgia. Chattanooga police are assisting with the investigation. Samantha Lawrence is listed in critical but stable condition at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta, Georgia.

http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_202252.asp

SOUTH KOREA, SEOUL, MAY 28 2011. FINES ON REFINERS >> IT'S TIME TO PROMOTE FAIR COMPETITION

A decision by the nation's antitrust watchdog to slap fines on four local refiners is a bold step to put an end to their unfair business practices and protect consumer interests. On Thursday, the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) announced punitive action against the refiners, ordering them to pay a combined 434.8 billion won (\$398 million) in fines for colluding in their operation of gas stations. GS Caltex has to pay the largest penalty of 177.2 billion won, followed by SK Energy with 138 billion won,

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Hyundai Oilbank 74.4 billion won, and S-Oil 45.2 billion won. These firms immediately balked at the FTC measure, threatening to appeal against the decision. But, they should no longer try to justify their long-held anti-competition practice. The refiners had better admit to the FTC's conclusion that they have hampered competition by signing contracts with gas stations on exclusive fuel supply in a bid to keep prices high. They were found to have collaborated with each other to prevent gas stations from selling multiple brands of gasoline and diesel in order to maintain an exclusive supply system. As a result, 93.5 percent of SK-owned gas stations have been banned from selling other refiners' products. And 95.7 percent of GS Caltex-run gas stations and 31.9 percent of filling stations owned by S-Oil have also been subject to the exclusive system. Even, Hyundai has not allowed a single station to sell other brands. This practice is in violation of a 2001 government measure to allow any gas stations to deal with multiple brands of fuel. No doubt the refiners' act of restricting competition is not in line with the principle of a market economy. It has only made it possible for them to make easy money without fair and free competition. It has also enabled them to sell their products at higher prices than their proper market value. Inevitably consumers have become victims of the refiners' collusion. The four companies may say that the FTC's action lacks legal ground, claiming that they have not engaged in any unfair or illegal activities. But they will find it hard to deny that they have wielded undue power over gas stations to maximize their profits at the cost of consumers. That's why they have long been criticized for dictating excessive fuel charges on motorists. The imposition of fines is the second round of the fuel price row that erupted early this year. President Lee Myung-bak and his economic policymakers have gone all-out to cut down on what they described as excessively expensive petrol. Despite criticism for twisting the arms of refiners, the government managed to force them to cut prices by 100 won, or 5 percent, per liter last month. Now the authorities are trying to lower the fuel prices further by encouraging competition. The penalty is the first step for this. However, it remains to be seen whether the prices will go down further sooner or later. If policymakers really want to see cheaper fuel, they must consider cutting fuel taxes that account for more than 50 percent of fuel prices.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2011/05/137_87804.html

USA, AL, WARRIOR, MAY 18 2011. LIGHTNING RUPTURES GAS TANK IN WARRIOR

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.myfoxa.com/story/14736909/lightning-ruptures-gas-tank-in-warrior>



Warrior police have cordoned off a section of Cane Creek Road while emergency crews contain a gas leak. Thursday evening, police say a lightning bolt ruptured an underground gas storage tank at the Chevron gas station. Witnesses saw the strike and it seemed to do no harm until customers and employees experienced problems pumping gas. A technician was soon called to the store to investigate. That's when the leak was recognized. Officials say the gas is leaking into the Jefferson County sewer system. Police expect the road to be closed throughout the night while crews from Kimberly and Birmingham assist Warrior in containing the leak.

<http://www.myfoxa.com/story/14736909/lightning-ruptures-gas-tank-in-warrior>

USA, WYO, RAWLINS, MAY 28 2011. OIL SPILL CONTAMINATES EMIGRANT CREEK

jeremy fugeberg

Malfunctioning equipment at an oil well storage site dumped an undetermined amount of crude oil into Emigrant Creek south of Rawlins, the Bureau of Land Management announced Friday. Melting snow and ice revealed evidence of the spill, which probably took place four months ago, officials said. A piece of equipment that separates water from oil, known as a heater-treater, malfunctioned at a site near the stream, a BLM investigation showed. The spill probably took place within a 24-hour period, said BLM spokeswoman Serena Baker. Federal and county hazardous material teams have deployed containment booms, known as socks, at three spots in the stream to soak up the oil sheen from the site, located five miles upstream from Teton Reservoir near Bridger Pass Road. Nadel & Gussman Rockies LLC, which operates the oil well and its storage site, is also pitching in to clean up the pollution, Baker said. "The company has hired a service company and Thursday they had approximately 20 personnel along Emigrant Creek collecting that contamination," she said. "They have also hooked up a siphon to soak up as much oil as possible." The company is also deploying additional containment booms, said Mike Newberry, hazmat coordinator for the BLM's field office in Rawlins. Denver-based Nadel & Gussman voluntarily shut down the well. The company was cited for failing to report the spill and further action is pending, the BLM said. Calls and an email to the company weren't immediately returned. A "concerned citizen" reported to the spill on Sunday, the agency said. Baker said the

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information wasn't released until Friday because of consultations with state and federal agencies and the BLM's investigation of the spill. "I think BLM wanted to make sure they knew the scope before they put this out," she said of the spill announcement. The spill is located along State Road 71/Carbon County Road 401, approximately 15 miles south of Rawlins and upstream from the Teton Reservoir, which is a popular recreational spot. The BLM said specialists have walked the waterway above and below the reservoir and found the heaviest contamination on Emigrant Creek. The creek flows into Little Sage Creek, but the BLM found no evidence the contamination had traveled upstream into Little Sage Creek from where the two creeks meet. The BLM has collected water samples from Emigrant Creek and the Teton Reservoir, which are now being tested at a laboratory in Laramie, Baker said. Fishing is still permitted at the reservoir, the BLM said. "BLM is regularly monitoring the situation," the agency said in a media release.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_dc23e8d6-0c3b-5e9d-a71f-0fc6e6d3f833.html

TAIWAN, TAIPEI, MAY 28 2011. SEIZED SOUTH KOREAN SHIP TO BE AUCTIONED TO PAY POLLUTION FINES



A ship belonging to South Korea's Samho Shipping seized by Taiwanese authorities earlier this year will be auctioned on June 15 to pay fines incurred from a 2005 benzene leakage in Taiwanese waters by another carrier of the same company, the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) said on Friday. The Samho Onyx was detained by personnel of the EPA and the Ministry of Justice Feb. 25 when it entered Mailiao Harbor in southern Taiwan's Yunlin County. The money raised through the auction will be used to reimburse the over NT\$60 million (US\$2.1 million) in fines for water pollution levied on the company after its Samho Brother, carrying 3,100 tons of benzene, sank off northern Taiwan's Hsinchu County in October 2005. Shen Yi-fu, deputy director of the EPA's Department of Water Quality, said that although the South Korean company has paid fines of more than NT\$10 million, it still owes over NT\$60 million. The reserve price of the auction for the Samho Onyx has been set at

US\$7 million, which will be ample to cover the remaining fines, he added. According to Shen, 53 fines were issued to the company between 2005 and 2009, when Samho Shipping finished cleaning the waters in the

http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews_Detail.aspx?Type=aALL&ID=201105280005

NIGERIA, DELTA STATE, OKO OVWORE-AMUKPE OKPE, MAY 28 2011. UNTOLD STORY OF PIPELINE FIRE EXPLOSION THAT KILLED OVER 22 PERSONS

emma arubi



Scene of pipeline explosion.

Tuesday May 24, 2011 would forever remain indelible in the memory of the people of Oko Owore-Amukpe Okpe community in Delta State following an early morning NNPC pipeline fire explosion reminiscent of the Atigwo-Jesse explosion of October 17, 1998 incident that claimed thousands of lives and visited unimaginable suffering and hardship to many families till date. This time around, the pipeline fire explosion was not in Jesse community but at a close-by neighbouring community that resulted in the death of over 22 persons while many more are still unaccounted for because they have not been seen till date. But unlike the Jesse incident where the scene was easily accessible, the Oko-Owore case occurred deep inside the creek strewn with difficult-to-penetrate forest which according to a security source, "only a thief can

go in there because of his intention". Truly, accessing the site is still a daunting task with its attendant risk factors, but fishermen and farmers whose lives depend on the creek for their daily survival get into the area without much ado. According to an eye witness account, the fire started in a yet-to-be ascertained circumstances with a loud bang and heavy fog. There was also a heavy flame which killed farmers, fishermen, sand dredgers, sand divers and those scoping fuel from the burst pipes. It also burned the new bridge across the river Ethiope.

My People & Community Not Involved – Agoda

With the bitter lessons learnt from the 1998 Jesse explosion, Evangelist Flourish Agoda, the secretary General Idjerhe Development Union (ICDU) who spoke to journalists in Jesse over the unfortunate incident said that the fire was not from the Jesse Kingdom. "It is from the other side of River Ethiope opposite Atigwo village, the direct site of the Jesse October 17th 1998 pipeline inferno". He stressed that the people of Jesse saw the fire and discovered that it was not from their community.

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He warned emphatically that no one should link them with the ugly incident as it is purely the affairs of their neighbouring Owore community. According to him, "considering the magnitude of the incidence, there could be casualties that I could not ascertain because the fire is still raging and the river prevents the people of Jesse from visiting the site to establish the degree of loss of properties and human beings." He revealed that "our youths have since learnt their lessons since the fire incidence of 1998. The community has put in place effective mechanism to checkmate the excesses of youths in the area and bar them from visiting pipelines and other anti-social vices. The youths of Jesse no longer visit the pipeline area for years now". But considering the financial gains and social influence that goes with material wealth illegally acquired, how long would the youths be able to sustain their poverty level given the fact that they do not truly have any visible means of livelihood? An indigene of Owore- Amukpe community who simply identified himself as Mr Sunny said the staff of NNPC are already at the site of the fire battling to put it off and effect immediate repairs to the broken pipeline which caused the spillage that resulted to the fire outbreak. He appealed to the government at all levels to immediately expedite action by sending relief materials to its Owore Community because they no longer have drinking water as their farm lands have been devastated by spilled oil and refined fuel. Properties worth millions of naira were destroyed by the pipeline explosion. Evangelist Flourish Agoda who is also the Secretary-General of Idjerhe Community Development Union admonished people to look for genuine means of livelihood blaming the get-rich-quick syndrome afflicting the youths for the dubious and criminal activities that usually take their lives at the end of the day. Meanwhile, divers and family members of persons that lost their lives to the explosions along the Ethiopia river were seen combing and ransacking every where along the river bank in search of missing people. Those believed to have died are yet to float out from the bowels of the waters, while NNPC Officials from Benin were seen making frantic efforts to put off the fire to enable them effect immediate repairs to the burst pipeline and prevent them from further spilling refined fuel into the river Ethiopia which is the only source of drinking water in the community. Efforts to get comments on the development from NNPC officials proved abortive as they referred journalists to their corporate headquarters.

Life Continues

Even in the face of this suffering and hardship, some persons were also seen at the river bank at Amukpe killing fish, snakes and other dead aquatic animals they gathered from the polluted river Ethiopia which engulfed almost 4 kilometers length of the river terminating at the Gamon Bridge Okirigwe, through Jesse. The high tension cables carrying current from Ughelli Power Station to Benin via Oshogbo were not also spared by the fire explosion. The divisional Police Officer in charge of Sapele Police Station C.S.P Emmanuel O. Igwodala who was at the site of the explosion declined comments but the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Mr Charles Muka, confirmed confirmed the incident to Saturday Vanguard without giving details.

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/05/untold-story-of-pipeline-fire-explosion-that-killed-over-22-persons/>

CANADA, OTTAWA, MAY 28 2011. 3 ROYAL CANADIAN MINT WORKERS REPORTED OK AFTER BREATHING CHEMICAL FUMES

The Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa says three workers are OK after inhaling some chemical fumes at the facility this morning. The mint says it appears chemical vapours were released from the waste water treatment system at the refinery. Spokesman Alex Reeves says the three workers who were exposed to the fumes were taken to hospital to be checked out. He says all three men have since been released and the cause of the incident is under investigation. Meanwhile, normal production is continuing at the mint in all non-affected areas, including public tours. The workers — aged 51, 58 and 35 — were not identified. But Reeves confirmed reports that two of the men rescued their co-worker by pulling him away from the fumes. Along with producing Canada's coins, the mint also produces and markets bullion and related refinery products. Marc Messier of the Ottawa fire department said **earlier** there was no danger to the public because the fumes were contained. A hazardous materials team determined there was no need to evacuate the building, and the area where the fumes were released was isolated and ventilated. Note to readers: This is a corrected story. A previous version incorrectly reported the incident as a chemical spill.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5hGgxoZZA6y0ATh6lceORPHUd3VZg?docId=6977939>

INDIA, PUNE, MAY 28 2011. 2 GET CUSTODY FOR KEROSENE BLACK MARKETING IN PUNE

The court of judicial magistrate (first class) PP Bharsakade-Wagh awarded police custody to two suspects in connection with black marketing of kerosene that was supposed to be distributed through public distribution system (PDS). Vithal Niwriti Gaikwad (55) of Dhankavdi and Ram Sanjivan Somnath Bind of Uttar Pradesh but presently staying in Thane were arrested by the Lonikand police under Essential Commodities Act 1955 and the Maharashtra Kerosene Dealers Licensing Order 1996 on Thursday. According to the prosecution, proprietor of M/s Jayesh Agency after filling the tankers from the depot of Indian Oil Corporation Limited in Lonikalbhor, instead of distributing it to the PDS outlets, used to take it for black marketing by filling the

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fuel in another tanker. The police also booked the agency's proprietor, owner of tanker number MH/12.CH/9555, Ganesh Rajendra Yadav of Mangalwar Peth, owner of tanker number MH/05.K9356, two cleaners of the two tankers. All the five suspects are at large. Arguing for seven days police custody, assistant public prosecutor Kiran Bendbhar told the court that the arrested suspects are not cooperating in the interrogation. The police need to probe the matter thoroughly as there is a possibility of the involvement of a big racket.

http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report_2-get-custody-for-kerosene-black-marketing-in-pune_1548131

USA, OH, PREBLE CO, MAY 28 2011. EMA CALLED TO TANKER SPILL IN PREBLE CO

Authorities in Preble County said the driver of a semi tanker ruptured his fuel tank, leaking approximately 875 gallons of diesel fuel. The accident happened in the parking lot of the Pilot Travel Center on Route 127 at Interstate 70, just north of Eaton. According to the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the semi driver collided with another vehicle in the parking lot, tearing a hole in the fuel tank. A commercial clean-up crew is headed to the scene to dig up contaminated soil.

<http://www.whiotv.com/news/28052772/detail.html>

CANADA, SASKATCHEWAN, SASKATOON, MAY 29 2011. SASK. ROLLOVER KILLS 1, FORCES EVACUATION



A 59-year-old man from Cut Knife, Sask., is dead after his tanker truck rolled and began leaking anhydrous ammonia, a dangerous chemical. The accident happened Saturday morning on Highway 675 a few kilometres southeast of Neilburg, RCMP said. The man was thrown from the truck as it rolled into the ditch and sprang a leak. The man, who was found 1.5 metres from the vehicle, lying amid anhydrous ammonia fumes, was pronounced dead at the scene. Police don't yet know whether the fumes contributed to his death, or exactly how much of the chemical leaked. It's believed the man wasn't wearing a seatbelt. Anhydrous ammonia is pure ammonia gas compressed into liquid form under high pressure. It's a commonly used nitrogen fertilizer that dissolves in soil, but it is very dangerous if not handled correctly. The Saskatchewan government warns that exposure to high concentrations of the gas can cause severe burns in a very short time, especially to the eyes, or can lead to suffocation.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/story/2011/05/28/saskatchewan-cutknife-accident-ammonia-leak.html>

USA, ME, WARREN, MAY 29 2011. FUEL TRUCK DRIVER COMMENDED FOR BRAVERY AFTER NEAR COLLISION ON ROUTE 1

abigail curtis

 **Photo's** <http://knox.villagesoup.com/news/story/route-1-closed-as-fuel-truck-tips-into-a-field/403352>



The driver of a loaded fuel truck made a brave decision Friday evening when he opted to veer off Route 1 in order to avoid colliding with traffic, according to police. Maine State Police Trooper Jeremy Wesbrock said Saturday that driver Scott Brewer, 49, of Nobleboro had been heading north on the coastal thoroughfare at 5:40 p.m. when he went around a curve and saw a line of stopped traffic that had quickly backed up at the intersection with Old Settlers Road. Brewer drove off the road and onto a field to avoid the stopped vehicles, and although his truck eventually overturned, the decision likely averted injuries, according to the trooper. "I commended him," Wesbrock said. "Not only as a driver, but as a person. To risk your own life to save others — the easier route to take would have been to plow into other people." The 2011 Maritime Energy tanker, which was carrying 9,000 gallons of No. 2 heating oil, turned over on the soft ground of the field. "A minimum amount" of oil was spilled, Wesbrock said. No one was injured in the crash. The accident caused Route 1 to be closed for six hours while authorities worked to clear the fuel and remove the truck. "It took quite a bit of time to offload all that fuel," Wesbrock said. Two tow trucks, two more oil tanker trucks and "a lot of

"pulling" were involved in efforts to clear the road. The trooper said the tanker truck was not drivable after the crash but he was not sure how much damage it sustained. Crews from the Knox County Sheriff's Office, Thomaston Police Department, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Auto Master Towing from South Thomaston assisted at the scene.

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Wesbrock said DEP officials returned to the scene of the crash Saturday to make a more detailed analysis of the area where the fuel leaked.

<http://new.bangordailynews.com/2011/05/28/news/fuel-truck-driver-commended-for-bravery-after-near-collision-on-route-1/?ref=latest>

NIGERIA, IBADAN, MAY 29 2011. 26 PEOPLE, INCLUDING NURSING MOTHER FEARED DEAD IN FIRE INCIDENT

adebayo waheed, joseph ajayi & lawrence aimaku



Scene of the fire accident.

Twenty-six people, including a nursing mother were, on Friday, burnt to death in a fire incident resulting from a fatal motor accident at Aduloju community along Iwo-Ojoo Road, Ibadan, Oyo State. Also, no fewer than 26 vehicles and equipment worth several millions of naira were burnt beyond recognition during the incident, which was described as the worst in recent time in the state. The incident, which occurred around 10:30 a.m, started when a tanker loaded with petroleum product, in an attempt to avoid a collision with an 18-seater bus, ran into a pole beside the road, leading to an eruption of great inferno following spillage of the volatile content. It was gathered that the 18 passengers in the bus were burnt beyond recognition, while about eight people, who were road-side mechanics, were also burnt to death. Also, a nursing mother selling engine oil beside the road was killed in the inferno while trying to save her baby who was already trapped in the fire. An eyewitness said several people, many of whom were mechanics along the road, were seriously injured and are receiving treatment in various hospitals in the state. The incident, which occurred in front of Yaoland Filling Station, attracted a crowd from various

parts of the city, who watched helplessly as the people were being burnt to death including 26 vehicles in the mechanic village along the road and a stationed lorry. The fire, which spread up to about 100 metres, also affected about eight buildings, including a church around the vicinity. Stream of sympathisers, who thronged the venue of the incident, could not hide their feelings as they bitterly blamed the incident on the high number of petroleum trucks plying the road. They urged the government to bail the citizens out of the danger posed by the haulage trucks on the road. However, the inferno had done the damage before the officials of Oyo State Fire Service could reach the venue of the incident. They, however, swung into action to put out the fire which was already causing great panic among the residents of the area who thought the fire would spread beyond limit. As the traffic was disrupted for hours as a result of the incident, officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission and men of the Nigerian Police were, however, on ground to control the situation. When contacted, Oyo State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, Mr Godwin Ogagaoghene confirmed the incident and said his men were already in control, adding that seven people died in the accident.

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/sat/index.php/news/4252-26-people-including-nursing-mother-feared-dead-in-fire-incident.html>

VIETNAM, GIA LAI, MAY 29 2011. PETROL STATIONS PUNISHED FOR CHEATING CUSTOMERS

Over 40 per cent of inspected petrol and oil trading companies in the Central Highlands province of Gia Lai were found to be involved in illegal activities. Inspections were carried out at 29 local petrol firms by the provincial Market Watch Department from April 5 to May 20. Some firms were found to have used an array of methods to defraud their customers including altering the technical standards of petrol measuring devices, using out-of-date measuring devices and not listing petrol prices as regulated, according to the head of the department, Nguyen Van Tan. "Inspections at a petrol station in Hung Phu, Krong Pa District, found that the firm has been using software to alter the display of fuel quantities, enabling it to sell lesser quantities of gas than that displayed on pump screens while pocketing around 5.5 per cent of the amount of gas sold to customers," he said. The provincial People's Committee decided to fine the business VND38 million (US\$1,900) and confiscated its two altered petrol pumps. Under current regulations, petrol and oil firms in violation of the law will be fined between VND10-40 million (\$500-2,000). Apart from fines, firms would have their pumps confiscated or required to cease operating dependent on the level of infringement, Tan said, adding that the department planned to continue its inspections during coming months. Despite regular inspections, violations were still common. Tan said that stricter punishments were needed in order to warn firms off violating the law.

<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/Economy/211760/Petrol-stations-punished-for-cheating-customers-.html>

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USA, N.C, CALDWELL COUNTY, HUDSON, MAY 29 2011. HUDSON PLANT SMOLDERS AS INVESTIGATORS LOOK FOR CAUSE OF MASSIVE FIRE

diana rugg

 **Watch the Video**

<http://www.digtriad.com/news/article/177217/1/Chemical-Plant-Fire-Forces-Evacuations>

 **Raw**

[Clemical Plant Fire](#)

 **Raw**

[Crews Respond To Chemical Plant Fire](#)

 **Chopper**

[Chemical Explosion And Fire Trigger 2-Mile Evacuation Around Plant](#)

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[Above The Rec Center Stagin Area For Residents](#)

 **Chopper**

[Fly Over Of Chemical Plant Fire](#)

 **Slideshow**

[Chemical Fire Closes Hwy. 321, 2 Mile Area Evacuated](#)

 **Slideshow**

<http://www.wsocvtv.com/slideshow/news/28060228/detail.html>



A chemical plant exploded into a fireball Saturday afternoon, closing down a major highway and forcing evacuations of nearly 750 people from their Caldwell County homes. A storage area at RPM Wood Finishes Group off U.S. 321 in Hudson caught fire just before 3 p.m., according to witnesses. The plant, home to three companies -- including Chemical Coatings Inc., Mohawk Finishing products, and Guardian Protector products -- makes products like spray paints and furniture coatings. It houses several highly toxic chemicals used to make its products. Hudson firefighters got the call about the fire at 3:07 p.m., and were on the scene in six minutes, according to Hudson Fire Chief Tommy Courtner. They were eventually joined by at

least 14 other agencies, from as far away as Wilkes and Mecklenburg counties. The chemical were their main concern. "Our biggest threat was the nitrocellulose, which is very volatile," said Courtner. "It's kind of like gunpowder." Nitrocellulose is also sometimes called flash paper. Courtner said the chemical, when burned, can cause explosions and release toxins in the air. Those toxins can make eyes burn and make it difficult to breathe. Firefighters and HazMat crews worried the fire, which started in the storage area on the back of the property, could spread to other parts of the complex containing more potentially explosive chemicals. They closely monitored weather reports to see where winds were carrying the flames and the thick black plume of smoke rising from the property. "When we saw the wind was shifting, we were afraid we were going to get into the main RPM (offices)," said Courtner. "And if that would have happened and we would have gotten into the tank farm right here behind you, they would have had major problems and that would have escalated into a bigger picture for us." The plant also contained xylene and acetone, but Courtner said those chemicals were not as big of a concern. Firefighters said they got the fire under control at 6:01 p.m. The fire destroyed the storage area, but left the rest of the plant untouched. Caldwell County Sheriff's spokesman B.J. Fore said 300-350 people work at the plant, and their jobs will not likely be impacted by the fire. Two nearby furniture upholstery plants, however, were destroyed. Chief Courtner said barrels sent airborne by the explosions landed on the upholstery plants and set them on fire. The names of the two plants were not immediately available Saturday night. Melissa Steelmon witnessed saw the barrels flying into the air as she passed by. "We couldn't believe it .. just couldn't believe it happened," said Steelmon. "We just hoped nobody got hurt." U.S. 321 was closed between Granite Falls and Lenoir for more than six hours while emergency crews fought the fire. Law enforcement officers went door-to-door for a mile in every direction around the plant, evacuating homes. They also evacuated more homes up to two miles downwind of the plant because of concerns about chemicals in the air. The Red Cross set up two shelters at Granite Falls Recreation Center in Granite Falls, and Mulberry Recreation Center in Lenoir. About 20 people stopped in at the Mulberry shelter, including Amanda Haas and her family. "Sure enough we got there just as some of the fire trucks were pulling in and you could see the flames coming out of the black smoke," said Haas. "It was huge -- like an inferno." Haas's mother knew it was the chemical plant, and the family decided to leave. She, her husband, her mother, two daughters, and a cousin waited at the shelter until the evacuation order was lifted around 8:45 p.m. Investigators are working to find the cause of the fire. They're grateful the plant was closed Saturday, so there were no serious injuries. Two firefighters had to be treated for the heat, but they are okay.

<http://www.wcnc.com/news/Chemical-plant-fire-forces-evacuations-in-Caldwell-County-122778109.html>

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