



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 691 Newsy Stuff

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

March 5 2011



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USA, DE. DELAWARE CITY, FEBRUARY 27 2011. DELAWARE DRINKING WATER AT RISK: POLLUTERS PAY FOR TESTING, LEAVING PUBLIC IN DARK >> IN FLAWED SYSTEM, 'THERE'S NOT MUCH ACCOUNTABILITY'

jeff montgomer



The abandoned Metachem plant is the most polluted site in the petrochemical complex near Delaware City. Based on government promises that poisoned soils and groundwater could be cleaned, taxpayers have already spent more than \$100 million at Metachem.

Since 1991, federal officials have ordered reviews for 35 different landfills, spill areas or other problem zones at the Delaware City Refinery, ranging from slow leak damage to plumes left over from catastrophic tank failures. All of that testing was performed by firms working for the refinery. To save money, government regulators typically allow polluters to hire contractors to perform environmental tests. Such arrangements often prolong studies and lead to more studies instead of solutions -- often with little public involvement, said Bill Wolfe, a former New

Jersey state environmental regulator. "Under these programs, the cleanup contractors are working for the polluter and there's not much accountability," Wolfe said. "Every once in a while, the state might ask what's going on and they'll get a progress report. The public is almost completely cut out of the loop. That's a fatal flaw." At the Delaware City Refinery, company-paid consultants have spent years reviewing and mapping plumes of contamination caused by leaky lagoons or accidental spills of oil, gasoline, sulfuric acid and a drain cleaner-like caustic used in the refining process. In 1995, Motiva Enterprises, which sold the refinery to Premcor in 2004, issued a "verification of release report" to federal regulators about a series of oil and gasoline spills. Consultant studies in 2005, 2007 and 2008, which were not released to the public at large, listed the carcinogens benzene and the banned gasoline additive methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) as "sitewide" groundwater contamination concerns. Bubbles of gasoline, oil, ethylbenzene, naptha and heavy metals pervade the underground landscape, according to documents obtained by The News Journal.

The Unknown

Eric Trinkle, a groundwater scientist with DNREC's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program, is trying to monitor the pollution. "We're not only evaluating the extent of the plume, we're trying to evaluate the direction of the plume" using the refinery's research, Trinkle said. "That's one thing that's not understood widely yet, the groundwater flow and direction." Valero bought the refinery in 2005 and sold it this year to PBF Energy Partners. Motiva, a partnership between Shell Oil and Saudi Arabia's national refining company, is responsible for most of the cleanup and groundwater monitoring because the most serious spills occurred during or before Motiva's six years of ownership. But previous owners, Tidewater Oil, Getty Oil, Texaco and Star Enterprise, had all reported spills over the years. Little information from Motiva's private monitoring of pollution is readily available for public inspection. As a result, many people give up trying to find out what's happening to the groundwater. Motiva's and DNREC's public silence about the dangers has persisted, but in a document obtained by The News Journal for this investigation, Motiva acknowledged to state regulators in 2008 that pollution was escaping into Dragon Run and tainting groundwater nearly 200 feet down and a mile from the main production area. The underground plume of chemicals has now reached the edge of the company's boundary line. Motiva's consultants in 2008 declared that chemicals leaking into Dragon Run are currently too low "to pose a threat to ecological resources," but warrant further study. Threats to the deeper Potomac Aquifer outside the refinery are "unknown." DNREC has not presented these findings to the public. "I've tried to follow it, but these investigations seem to take an awfully long time, and the company sets the pace," said Al Denio, a retired chemist and Newark resident who was a member of the refinery's Citizen Advisory Committee, a group formed by the company following outcries over spills and mishaps nearly a decade ago. Industries and regulators often turn to such panels to avoid wider and potentially more critical attention from the public, said Wolfe, who today directs New Jersey Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. "Citizen advisory committees are an informal process that the companies can manipulate. It becomes window dressing that lets them avoid having to deal with local officials or the larger public."

Up To the Job?

James Bryant, who has watched problems at the refinery unfold since taking a job at the nearby Standard Chlorine plant in the 1970s, questioned whether DNREC is up to supervising the refinery cleanup. DNREC began monitoring the job when the EPA pulled out in 2003. "They didn't get any more people to do the work when they took over for the EPA," Bryant said. "Their focus has always been on trying to give people a break, and letting them off without doing a cleanup." Although DNREC does have a full-time environmental engineer assigned to the refinery, the agency has eliminated four water quality and water resource jobs since it began supervising the cleanup. A better picture of the extent of the pollution should emerge in the

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coming months, DNREC officials said, as results are finalized from refinery- supervised tests during November in nearly 200 shallow and deep wells at the refinery.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100725/NEWS02/7250304/1003/RSS01/Polluters-pay-testing-leaving-public-dark?odyssey=nav|head>

MARIANA ISLANDS, GUAM, HAGÅTÑA, FEBRUARY 28 2011. CHLORINE DISCOVERED IN GAS TANK

sabrina salas matanane

Guam - Guam Waterworks Authority Contractors discovered chlorine inside one of the old gas tanks located at the Northern Wastewater Treatment Plant last night. According to GWA Spokesperson Heidi Ballendorf as a result the surrounding area is being evacuated today to facilitate its removal. Last month GWA's contractor, Veolia Water Guam, LLC began the removal of several chlorine gas tanks as part of an ongoing cleanup and maintenance project. Ballendorf says this is the seventh tank to be removed and so far the only one in which chlorine was detected inside. The Guam Fire Department is on scene monitoring the tank's removal.

<http://www.kuam.com/story/14151710/2011/02/27/chlorine-discovered-in-gas-tank>

USA, DE, DELAWARE CITY, , FEBRUARY 28 2011. DELAWARE DRINKING WATER AT RISK: POLLUTERS PAY FOR TESTING, LEAVING PUBLIC IN DARK >> IN FLAWED SYSTEM, 'THERE'S NOT MUCH ACCOUNTABILITY'

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environmental regulator. "Under these programs, the cleanup contractors are working for the polluter and there's not much accountability," Wolfe said. "Every once in a while, the state might ask what's going on and they'll get a progress report. The public is almost completely cut out of the loop. That's a fatal flaw." At the Delaware City Refinery, company-paid consultants have spent years reviewing and mapping plumes of contamination caused by leaky lagoons or accidental spills of oil, gasoline, sulfuric acid and a drain cleaner-like caustic used in the refining process. In 1995, Motiva Enterprises, which sold the refinery to Premcor in 2004, issued a "verification of release report" to federal regulators about a series of oil and gasoline spills. Consultant studies in 2005, 2007 and 2008, which were not released to the public at large, listed the carcinogens benzene and the banned gasoline additive methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) as "sitewide" groundwater contamination concerns. Bubbles of gasoline, oil, ethylbenzene, naptha and heavy metals pervade the underground landscape, according to documents obtained by The News Journal.

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Related Links

- [DNREC](#)
- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [EPA's Drinking Water site](#)
- [Interactive graphics, video and complete coverage from The News Journal's full special report: Drinking Water at Risk.](#)

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100725/NEWS02/7250304/1003/RSS01/Polluters-pay-testing-leaving-public-dark?odyssey=nav|head>

RUSSIA, CHERNOBYL, FEBRUARY 28 2011. FEARS OVER NEW LEAK AT CHERNOBYL SPARK PLEA FOR RADIATION SHIELD

shaun walker



Workers at the Chernobyl site last week. The last reactor closed in 2000.

Fears that the destroyed nuclear reactor at Chernobyl could collapse and again leak deadly radiation have prompted European agencies to seek hundreds of millions of pounds to fund the construction of a vast steel building to encase the site. As the 25th anniversary of the worst nuclear accident in history approaches, there is a funding shortfall of €740m (£631m) for projects to build a "shelter" over the destroyed reactor and to safely store nuclear fuel from the other nuclear reactors at the site. The new shelter for the destroyed reactor is being funded by the European Union and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in co-operation with the Ukrainian government, but European officials say they urgently need countries to pledge money for the project, which is under way but underfunded. They hope that a conference in April, ahead of the anniversary of the disaster, will see governments donate the missing funds. Jean-Paul Joulia, the head of the EU's Nuclear Safety Unit, said during a visit to the site last week that the EU had contributed about €500m to various projects at Chernobyl, more than half of that for the new shelter. The alliance is now hoping that individual European governments, and Russia, will stump up more cash for the project. The explosion at Chernobyl's Reactor Number Four occurred on 26 April 1986. About 30 people were killed instantly, and it is estimated that another 4,000 died prematurely in the aftermath, while many more still suffer health effects from the radiation. In the months after the

accident, a "sarcophagus" of concrete was hastily erected over the destroyed shell of the reactor, with many of the workers involved being subjected to life-threatening doses of radiation to get the work done. In recent years, the structure has become

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extremely unstable, with experts warning that if it collapses, a catastrophic amount of radiation could be released into the atmosphere. Stopgap stabilising work on one of the walls of the sarcophagus has reduced the chances of collapse and extended its life by around 15 years, but this might not be enough to prevent a disaster. "Even after the stabilisation activity, there's still potential for the partial or complete collapse of the object shelter," said Laurin Dodd, the head of the Shelter Implementation Plan at Chernobyl. "It's only once we get the new structure in place that we can say it's safe." The new shelter will be the largest moveable structure ever built, and one of the world's biggest buildings, at over 108 metres high, 257 metres long and 164 metres wide. Work on the shelter has already begun in an area adjacent to the reactor; when it is finished, it will be slid into place, completely encasing the old reactor. Even today, there is a 20-mile "exclusion zone" around the Chernobyl power plant where inhabitation is prohibited. The other reactors at Chernobyl remained in use until 2000. Mr Dodd said that once the shelter was in place, work would begin using cranes and other automated technology to dismantle the old reactor inside. He said human intervention would be kept to a "strict minimum" but admitted that some people would nevertheless be subjected.

Related Stories

- 13 Dec 2010 [Chernobyl: now open to tourists](#)
- 26 Apr 2006 [20 years on, no end in sight to the suffering](#)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/fears-over-new-leak-at-chernobyl-spark-plea-for-radiation-shield-2227550.html>

USA, MA, NEW BEDFORD, FEBRUARY 28 2011. FISHING BOAT SPILLS FUEL INTO CITY'S HARBOR

curt brown

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wpri.com/dpp/news/massachusetts/crews-clean-up-new-bedford-oil-spill->

 **Watch the Video** <http://www2.turnto10.com/news/2011/feb/27/cleanup-efforts-underway-after-fuel-spill-ar-408031/>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/12003654497978/crews-clean-up-oil-spill-in-new-bedford-harbor/>



Crews are on scene of a fuel spill in New Bedford.

An undetermined amount of diesel fuel from the fishing vessel Destiny spilled into the harbor Sunday morning, according to Fire Department and Coast Guard officials. Coast Guard Petty Officer Zack Zubricki said Destiny, a 75-foot fishing vessel, left its generator running overnight Saturday, after filling its fuel tanks. He said there was "a malfunction" and a small amount of diesel fuel leaked from a fuel vent into the harbor and on the ship's deck. Zubricki said the Coast Guard is investigating the spill. Estimates about the size of the spill ranged from moderate to small, according to officials. District Fire Chief James Fortin said the vessel was at the end of Steamship Pier, south of state pier. Fortin said the Fire Department responded at 7:55 a.m. and turned the cleanup over to the Coast Guard about three hours later. "It was flowing pretty good upon arrival. The boat was listing to the (port) side," he said. He said

neither the captain nor the crew of the Destiny were onboard when the Fire Department responded, but they arrived shortly afterward. Fortin said safety booms and absorbent materials were placed in the water from an area north of Steamship Pier to an area south of Merrill's Wharf to contain the fuel. Frank Corp. Environmental Services of New Bedford was hired to clean up the spill and costs will be assumed by Philip Lourenco, the owner of the vessel, and its insurance company.

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110228/NEWS/102280317/-1/NEWSMAP>

USA, MI, LANSING, FEBRUARY 28 2011. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION: SPARK CAUSED AMERICHEM CHEMICAL PLANT BLAST >> COMPANY SET TO RESUME DELIVERIES MONDAY MORNING

susan vela

Static electricity caused a catalytic spark that caused an explosion and fire Friday at an Americhem Sales Corp. building, according to a preliminary investigation. "That's what we're saying right now," said Sgt. Robert Ott of the Ingham County Sheriff's Office and the county's Homeland Security and emergency management coordinator. "When those guys are loading and unloading those trailers, they're supposed to be grounded to prevent any type of static. The driver said he was grounded. (However), there's nothing else out there that would have caused the spark." Bruce Whetter, Americhem's president, maintains the tanker that entered the company's weighing facility around 3 p.m. Friday containing 500 gallons of mineral spirits

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most likely exploded, destroying the building. "It's not likely we had a spark because everything is grounded," he said. "We're thinking it had to be some kind of an explosion. We've been doing this here 13 years the same way. I've been thinking about this for two days now and I'm not sure what could have happened." Americhem's insurance company is scheduled to start its investigation Monday, when Whetter plans to continue doing business with customers. Whetter expects cleanup to continue for a few more days. Employees were evacuated from Americhem, 340 North St., when the fire happened. No one was seriously injured. Homeland Security is involved because of the chemicals stored at the site. Americhem is a Midwest chemical distributor and blender carrying a full line of industrial chemicals, solvents, oils and automotive fluids. While the agency is investigating the matter because of the chemicals stored on site, Whetter added: "We are not a high-risk chemical facility as determined by Homeland Security. "We do handle hazardous material, but not extremely hazardous material." Whetter said the amount of damage at the site will be assessed Monday. Cleanup crews were out until Saturday morning at the site of the explosion. He added deliveries are scheduled for Monday. "We wanted everything to get back to normal for the community as soon as possible," Whetter said. "This is my responsibility." No one was seriously injured, but employees were evacuated as Mason firefighters brought the blaze under control. Officials of the Ingham County Health Department, which monitored the blaze, determined there was no need to evacuate residents in the area. Neighbors reported hearing about three or four explosions. The blast could be heard more than a mile away at the Ingham County Fair. Americhem Sales Corp. is a Midwest chemical distributor and blender that carries a full line of industrial chemicals, solvents, oils and automotive fluids.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20100808/NEWS01/101200003/0/GW05/Preliminary-investigation-Spark-caused-Americhem-chemical-plant-blast?odyssey=nav/head>

USA, ORE, LAKE OSWEGO, FEBRUARY 28 2011. GAS FUMES CAUSE MOTORCYCLE, GARAGE TO CATCH FIRE



Gas fumes from a leaking motorcycle fuel tank ignited a fire Sunday morning, catching a motorcycle on fire and almost catching a Lake Oswego garage on fire and causing an estimated \$40,000 worth of damage. Just after 11 a.m., Lake Oswego firefighters were called to a report of a motorcycle fire inside a garage at 15464 Brienne Court in Lake Oswego. When firefighters arrived, they found heavy smoke and a burning motorcycle in the garage. Crews quickly extinguished the fire and prevented the fire from spreading to neighboring units. The homeowner said he was working with a friend on taking the fuel tank of the motorcycle inside the garage. Gas had leaked some and the fumes ignited when they came in contact with the propane space heater. The two people quickly moved and attempted to extinguish the fire with a small extinguisher but were unsuccessful. They then tried

to move the motorcycle that was on a lift jack outside but were only able to get it to the edge of the garage door where it continued to burn. "These two men are very fortunate they did not get injured," said Lake Oswego Deputy Fire Marshal Gert Zoutendijk said. Fire officials said their first concern was that the propane heater inside an enclosed space could produce carbon monoxide -- an odorless, tasteless and invisible deadly gas. Secondly, when the fire erupted, the flames and smoke could have caused problems while the two were inside trying to extinguish the fire and moving the motor cycle. "We recommend that people evacuate the building on any type of fire and not stay or go back inside," Zoutendijk said. The fire caused an estimated \$40,000 damage to the building and contents including the motorcycle that is a total loss. No injuries were reported.

<http://lakeoswego.katu.com/news/home-garden/gas-fumes-cause-motorcycle-garage-catch-fire/438770>

INDIA, CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 28 2011. PETROL VAPOUR PUTS PUMP STAFF AT RISK

arun janardhana

Continuous exposure to petrol vapour can result in health problems ranging from asthma to menstrual irregularities, studies have found. Ironically, the less-polluting unleaded petrol has turned out to be harmful for people directly exposed to its vapour. Motorists halting for a few minutes at petrol filling stations for refuelling may not be at risk, but petrol pump workers definitely are. A study by a team headed by [Jayachandran Palsamy](#), former associate professor, department of environmental health engineering of [Sri Ramachandra Medical College](#) and Health Institute, have found respiratory and menstrual problems in petrol pump workers, changes in brain functions. Another study by a group attached to Thiruvananthapuram Medical College has found problems of memory, intellectual capacity, and psychomotor ability in petrol pump workers. "We studied people in the 20-35 age group working at petrol pumps. Several women exposed to exhaust fumes from vehicles and petrol fumes from pump were found to have problems with their menstrual cycle. Asthma and problems of the brain were found in both men and

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women," said Palsamy, who now works as an occupational health physician with Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation. Petrol pump workers should be monitored for long-term health effects, said joint chief environment engineer of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board Karthikeyan. "Unleaded gasoline now available in India has benzene as the antiknocking agent instead of lead. The casual relationship between benzene exposure and leukaemia is scientifically proved. Studies also show petrol pump workers are prone to lung diseases with cough, sputum production, breathlessness and chest pain," he said. "Studies have correlated benzene with cancer, but exposure to benzene in gasoline vapour is yet to be directly linked to the disease," says S Sankar, a senior faculty of the department of environmental health engineering at Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, India, compared to the Western countries, is at a greater risk because of a combination of factors. Benzene content in gasoline in India is 3%, which is double that in the US. Foreign countries have safe exhaust techniques in place to protect workers during the fuelling process. In India, no such precaution is taken. Moreover, vapourisation is high in unleaded gasoline which is in use in the country. This results in high vapourisation at traffic points too, where vehicle engines idle for several minutes. A recent study by the department of community medicine of Thiruvananthapuram Medical College had found respiratory problems in 21 out of 75 petrol pump workers studied. Problems were found in 20.69% of workers with five years experience and 22.73% of employees who had put in up to 10 years of work at petrol pumps. "We have to introduce safeguards to minimise exposure and discourage young girls from being employed at petrol pumps. Emission certificate by the pollution control board should be strictly implemented and old vehicles have to be phased out. Two-stroke engine two-wheelers should be replaced with four-stroke engines," says Palsamy.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Petrol-vapour-puts-pump-staff-at-risk/articleshow/7590534.cms>

UK, MANCHESTER, FEBRUARY 28 2011. GRIME NEVER PAYS: CROOKS BLOCK CITY CENTRE SEWER WITH DANGER CHEMICAL >> A SEWER IN MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE HAS BEEN CONTAMINATED BY A DANGEROUS CHEMICAL.

Xylene, which is highly flammable and toxic if it goes above a certain temperature, leaked into the sewer in the Strangeways area when thieves tried to steal the cab of a tanker. The gang opened a valve on the tanker and thousands of gallons of the chemical poured into the sewage system. The chemical has now solidified into a jelly-like substance which is clogging up the sewer. Now United Utilities, the Environment Agency, the fire service, and Manchester council are working together to deal with the pollution. They insist that there is no risk to public safety at the moment. The chemical – a clear liquid – is refined from crude oil. It is used as a solvent in printing, rubber, and leather industries. Prolonged exposure to it can cause headaches, dizziness, confusion, and lack of muscle co-ordination. Short periods of exposure can cause irritation of the skin, eyes, nose, and throat and breathing difficulties. Emergency services were called to Mary Street, off Bury New Road, and considered evacuating the area. A United Utilities spokesman said: "We are part of a multi-agency team that is working to recover the chemical Xylene from a short stretch of sewer near Strangeways in Manchester. "The chemical found its way into the sewer after a tanker containing xylene was stolen, and its contents partially drained. The chemical in the sewer is in solid form – which is when it is most inert. "All agencies, including Manchester council, United Utilities, the fire service, the Environment Agency and chemical manufacturers are working closely together to agree the safest and most efficient way to recover the chemical. "While the agencies involved are satisfied that there is no current public safety risk, all parties are obviously keen to see the chemical removed as soon as possible. The highly unusual nature of this incident means considerable joint planning is required before recovery can take place. "In the meantime, the length of sewer is being closely monitored to ensure there is no public health and safety risk."

http://menmedia.co.uk/manchestereveningnews/news/s/1409402_grime_never_pays_crooks_block_city_centre_sewer_with_danger_chemical

USA, MO, JACKSON, FEBRUARY 28 2011. JACKSON FIREFIGHTERS PUT OUT FIRE AT GAS STATION

Watch the Video <http://www.kfvs12.com/Global/story.asp?S=14149775>

A fire at a gas station in Jackson keeps firefighters busy early Saturday morning. According to Jackson firefighters, the crew had just returned from fighting a fire at a home across town when a call came in at 12:15 a.m. to respond to ZX Gas Station on east Jackson Street. Officials say the ZX had already closed for the night when an exhaust fan in one of the rest rooms shorted out and sparked a small fire. Not much was damaged by flames, but firefighters say the fire produced quite a bit of smoke damage that may take some time to clean up. Fire crews were on scene until about 1:45 a.m. No word on when the ZX Gas Station will re-open for business.

<http://www.kfvs12.com/Global/story.asp?S=14149775>

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<http://www.fpaa.com.au/events/?events=hazmat>

AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, GOVE, MARCH 1 2011. POOR INSPECTION REGIME PUTS ENVIRONMENT AT RISK >> OVER-RELIANCE ON SELF-REGULATION ALLOWED 75,000 LITRES OF PETROL TO SPILL FROM A TANK

kristy o'brien

map: [Darwin 0800](#)



About 75,000 litres of petrol leaked from a tank at the alumina refinery in Gove last year. (7pm TV News NT)

The Environment Protection Authority's investigation into a spill at Rio Tinto Alcan's refinery has found the Northern Territory is exposed to risks of environmental damage because of inadequate site inspections. The EPA has found the Department of Resources' over-reliance on self-regulation allowed 75,000 litres of petrol to spill from a tank at the alumina refinery in Gove last year. The EPA's Andrew Tupper says the department did not inspect infrastructure at the site or ensure the company followed the Mining Management Plan. "The bottom line is that a tank construction in 1968 hasn't been subject to rigorous monitoring and assessment and that's the fundamental cause of what happened," he said.

Following the spill, the EPA has recommended a number of changes to environmental compliance at Territory mining and processing operations, including greater transparency and harsher penalties for environmental breaches. "We absolutely think that if you do regular inspections, you make the process public, you resource things properly and you make expectations on the operator clear, you will get better outcomes. "So at the moment, it's very hit and miss." Opposition environment spokesman Peter Chandler says the Government is not doing enough to protect land

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around mines. "We need people with the correct skills backed up by a Government that gives the department adequate resources. "\$160 million a year comes from the resources sector [but] how much is going back through this department to ensure that our environment is being protected?" The Northern Territory Environment Centre's Stuart Blanch says mining companies could benefit from increased regulation. "Regulatory certainty leads to business certainty," he said. "If they know what's coming and what's expected of them it will mean that they know what their obligations are and reduce the risk of litigation by the courts, by government or by community groups."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/01/3151619.htm>

USA, PA, COVINGTON, MARCH 1 2011. GAS TANK EXPLOSION CAUSES SALVAGE GARAGE FIRE

nick natario

Watch the Video:

http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Gas-Tank-Explosion-Causes-Salvage-Garage-Fire/OBG82L7qBE6bHI0Wk_6I4g.csp

An auto salvage shop in the Northern Tier went up in flames Monday. Firefighters say employees were removing a gas tank from a car when it exploded. The fire broke out Monday morning in the garage of the Auwarter Auto Salvage shop in Covington Township. Around ten Monday morning, some neighbors living on North Williamson Road were surprised to hear a loud bang come from the Auwarter salvage yard. Jeff Patterson was one of those neighbors. He says when he looked out his window he couldn't believe what he saw. "An explosion then flames going through the roof. And it just went so quick there was nothing anybody could do," said Patterson. Patterson snapped these photos with his cell phone. "And then it sounded like multiple explosions, a settling tank, or something going off. But it was just fast, way too fast," said Patterson. "They were working on a car inside the structure, apparently they were working on the gas tank and somehow the tank exploded and set the building off, fully involved," said Blossburg Fire Chief Shawn Carey. It took firefighters about an hour to get the fire under control. They say it was difficult because of the materials inside the building. Only one of the employees suffered minor injuries. "There was an employee with a burn to his face. He was treated by our ambulance and refused to go to the hospital," said Carey. Chief Carey says the fire caused about \$200,000 dollars in damages. He says the owner does have insurance.

http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Gas-Tank-Explosion-Causes-Salvage-Garage-Fire/OBG82L7qBE6bHI0Wk_6I4g.csp

USA, WASHINGTON, MARCH 1 2011. TEXTING PROHIBITED FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS

[Federal Register: February 28, 2011 (Volume 76, Number 39)] [Rules and Regulations] [Page 10771-10778] From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov] [DOCID:fr28fe11-5]. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration/ 49 CFR Part 177 [Docket No. PHMSA-2010-0221 (HM-256)] RIN 2137-AE63 Hazardous Materials: Limiting the Use of Electronic Devices by Highway

Agency: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

Action: Final rule.

Summary: The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is prohibiting texting on electronic devices by drivers during the operation of a motor vehicle containing a quantity of hazardous materials requiring placarding or any quantity of a select agent or toxin listed in the Department of Health and Human Services "Select Agents and Toxins" regulations. Additionally, in accordance with requirements adopted on September 27, 2010 by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), motor carriers are prohibited from requiring or allowing drivers of covered motor vehicles to engage in texting while driving. This rulemaking improves the health and safety on the Nation's highways by reducing the prevalence of distracted

driving-related crashes, fatalities, and injuries involving drivers of commercial motor vehicles.

Dates: This final rule is effective March 30, 2011.

Addresses: For access to the docket to read background documents, including those referenced in this document, or to read comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time and insert PHMSA-2010-0221 in the "Keyword" box, and then click "Search." You may also view the docket online by visiting the Docket Management Facility in Room W12-140, DOT Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. For Further Information Contact: Ben Supko, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards, (202) 366-8553, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

<http://cryptome.org/0003/phmsa022811.htm>

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USA, WA, LAKEWOOD, MARCH 1 2011. FUEL TANKS EXPLODE

stacia glenn



An explosion at a Pierce Transit facility on Monday in Lakewood prompted a second-alarm response from surrounding agencies. Firefighters from Lakewood, University Place and Central Pierce Fire and Rescue doused the flames, which were reported just after 5 p.m. at 96th and South Tacoma Way.

Natural gas fueling tanks at a Pierce Transit facility in Lakewood exploded Monday afternoon, sending a large fireball into the sky but causing no injuries. The 5 p.m. explosion at 96th Street and South Tacoma Way demanded a second alarm fire response, prompted an evacuation and temporarily shut down streets. "Upon

arrival, firefighters saw lots of fire (and) had to get back at least 300 feet," said West Pierce Fire & Rescue spokeswoman Hallie McCurdy. "It was incredibly hot, and they could tell the fire was under a lot of pressure." Tanks used to compress natural gas to power the buses exploded inside a 15-by-25-foot metal shed and caught fire, which spread to some nearby mobile storage units. Officials weren't sure Monday how much damage was caused. Pierce Transit spokesman Lind Simonsen said no workers or vehicles were nearby and that no one was injured during the incident. He said the metal building where the compressors are held is some distance from the transit administration building. While 40 firefighters from Lakewood, University Place and Central Pierce Fire & Rescue doused flames, police closed off surrounding streets, and a Puget Sound Energy supervisor turned off the gas to the facility. Firefighters suggested that people who live within a quarter-mile radius evacuate, but it's unclear how many left. It took roughly an hour for firefighters to control the blaze. An exact cause of the fire had not been determined Monday. Simonsen said the transit agency has contingency plans for fueling buses and maintenance folks are hard at work. He suggested that bus riders check the Pierce Transit website this morning for any service disruptions.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/03/01/1564551/fuel-tanks-explode.html>

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, PORT PIRIE, MARCH 1 2011. TESTS CHECK CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION AT PT PIRIE

Map: Port Pirie 5540



EPA workers have been advising Solomontown residents of the latest testing.

Air testing will be done at about 100 properties at Port Pirie to check for a possible contamination spread. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has worries contaminated groundwater from an old Origin Energy gasworks site could vaporise and pose a danger to health. Groundwater tests already have been done in the Solomontown area of Port Pirie. The EPA said traces of chemicals commonly found in petrol and solvents, including benzene and ammonia, are of concern. Official Peter Dolan said people would only be at risk from long exposure. "Benzene, for instance, which is in petrol and in the groundwater here has shown in certain concentrations to be a human carcinogen, that is it might cause cancer, but I've got to say we are talking about a long-term exposure," he said. "You'd need to be exposed to this for 10 to 20 years." EPA workers have been knocking on doors today at Solomontown to advise residents of the latest testing. SA Environment Minister Paul Caica said he was told last December by the EPA of the concern about vapour spread.



Click-2-Listen

[Environment Minister Paul Caica said he was told of the EPA concerns about vapour late last year](#)

Related Stories

- [Council knew of ground water worries in 2008](#)
- [Groundwater research site for Adelaide](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/01/3151570.htm>

USA, N.C, KANNAPOLIS, MARCH 1 2011. WOMAN BURNED BY GASOLINE FIRE IN KANNAPOLIS

Two people were severely injured in a chemical explosion and fire in Kannapolis around 7 p.m. today. A 40-year-old female has been airlifted to Baptist Hospital with burns over 36 percent of her upper body, authorities said. The explosion occurred at 1935 Angela Lane, according to the Kannapolis Police Department. The department did not have the woman's name and

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Kannapolis firefighters were not available by phone. A second victim, the woman's nephew, was taken to Carolinas Medical Center-NorthEast in Concord. The patient's condition was not available. The woman threw what she thought was diesel fuel on a bonfire, according to her brother, who spoke to a Post photographer. The chemical turned out to be gasoline, he said. The female victim caught fire, and her nephew attempted to put out the flames when he was injured.

<http://www.salisburypost.com/News/022711-WEB-Kannapolis-woman-burned-and-airlifted-qcd>

NEW ZEALAND, TAURANGA, MARCH 1 2011. PETROL TANKER ROLLS: KATIKATI CUT OFF

 [Watch the Video http://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/11537-katikati-highway-closure-extended.html](http://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/11537-katikati-highway-closure-extended.html)



The tanker rolled at about 6am near the intersection of Lund Road and State Highway 2, south of Katikati.

Katikati is cut off from Tauranga along State Highway 2 after a petrol tanker rolled there early this morning, blocking traffic, and leaking its contents across the road. The Gull tanker rolled at about 6am near the intersection of Lund Road and State Highway 2, south of Katikati. The rolled tanker leaks petrol across the road. An early picture taken by cellphone of the crash scene by SunLive photographer Tracy Hardy. No traffic is able to pass north or south along State Highway 2 near the Lund Road intersection. To drive to Katikati, Waihi or the Coromandel from Tauranga will require a trip over the Kaimais on State Highway 29. Similarly, commuters from

Katikati will have to drive through the Karangahake Gorge and down the Te Aroha West Road to Te Poi. "The road will be closed until further notice," says Western Bay of Plenty Traffic Senior Sergeant Ian Campion. "They are going to empty the tanker before they attempt to remove it, and that will depend on what equipment they can get to the scene." He believes it will be several hours before the road is reopened. The wife of a motorcyclist who was commuting to work called the 0800 Sunlive news hotline to report her husband had turned around and come home after he inhaled petrol fumes near the crash. Another caller to 0800 Sunlive has reported she is trapped at home with police advising her she cannot access the road from her property at this time. They have advised her she will not be able to leave her home until about lunch time. Tauranga fire fighter Rob Scott says the tanker was carrying about 30,000 litres of fuel. Gull staff are travelling to the scene from Tauranga to assist in clearing the mess. Rob says emergency services have pumps working to empty the tanker of fuel. Police are being sent to the northern side of the cordon to explain the situation to queuing motorists. The scene cannot be cleared until the tanker is emptied of its fuel.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/4716069/Petrol-tanker-rolls-near-Tauranga>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MACKAY, MARCH 1 2011. FUEL STORAGE TANK BUCKLES

Mackay police and fire crews were at the Mackay Harbour this morning after the roof of a fuel storage tank partially collapsed. Crews received the call about 7.44am when it appeared that the roof of the diesel fuel tank had buckled in. A police spokesman said the Caltex terminal was expected to bring in engineers to determine why the damage occurred over the next few days. Fire and police crews were on stand-by to ensure there was no fuel leakages.

<http://www.dailymercury.com.au/story/2011/03/01/fuel-storage-tank-buckles/>

USA, WASHINGTON, MARCH 2 2011. TRANSOCEAN MAY RECOVER DEEPWATER HORIZON RIG FROM SEA FLOOR

joe carroll

[Transocean Ltd.](http://www.transocean.com), the world's largest offshore oil driller, may attempt to recover some or all of the Deepwater Horizon rig that exploded and sank during last year's Macondo well disaster. The wreckage, about a mile beneath the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, was surveyed in response to a Dec. 6 request from the U.S. Coast Guard to remove diesel fuel that remains trapped in tanks aboard the rig, Transocean said today in a public filing. The company is reviewing the results of the survey and has a \$140 million wreck-removal insurance policy to cover the costs, according to the filing. BP Plc's Macondo well erupted in April, killing 11 rig workers, injuring 17 and triggering the most-extensive offshore crude spill in U.S. history. BP was leasing the vessel from Vernier, Switzerland-based Transocean for about \$500,000 a day at the time of the catastrophe. Transocean rose \$1.83, or 2.21 percent, to \$84.63 at 4:00 p.m. in New York Stock Exchange composite trading. The shares lost 10 percent of their value since the April 20 incident. Last week, Transocean posted its biggest quarterly loss in eight years after a surfeit of rigs used to drill for natural gas in coastal waters reduced rental rates.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-28/transocean-may-recover-sunken-deepwater-horizon-from-sea-floor.html>

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USA, OH, CANTON, MARCH 2 2011. EQUIPMENT FAILURE AT REFINERY LEADS TO TOXIC HF RELEASE

jim morris & chris hamb

A hydrofluoric acid leak from an oil refinery in Ohio last week sent a worker to the hospital and required the use of a "water cannon" to disperse the poisonous gas, underscoring the potentially perilous nature of a chemical used at [50 refineries](#) across the country. The Marathon Oil Corp. [refinery](#) in Canton, Ohio, has estimated in a [report](#) to the U.S. Coast Guard's National Response Center that 145 pounds of the acid, known as HF, escaped during the Feb. 23 incident. The company blamed equipment failure. Workers were evacuated. Remedial steps included "flooding the area with water," according to the company's report to the response center. The refining industry is experiencing a [rash of fires, explosions and mechanical breakdowns](#), putting workers at risk. Such incidents may signify weaknesses that could lead to a calamity. Over the last five years, the Ohio refinery has been cited more often than all but three other refineries using HF for failing to manage hazardous processes. HF is used as a catalyst to make high-octane gasoline, despite the existence of a safer alternative and warnings about the chemical's extreme toxicity and its ability to travel long distances in a cloud. The Center for Public Integrity and ABC News [reported](#) last week that at least 16 million Americans live in the potential path of an HF release. Marathon spokesman Shane Pochard said Monday that the leak in Canton occurred as the refinery was shutting down its HF unit for planned maintenance. "One employee was transported to the hospital as a precautionary measure," Pochard said, adding that the company was still trying to determine whether any HF got into the surrounding community. "All of our [HF] mitigation systems worked as required," he said. According to a report filed by Marathon with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, up to 238,000 pounds of HF could be released from the Canton refinery in a [worst-case scenario](#), affecting as many as 940,000 people. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration data show that the Canton refinery paid a \$321,500 fine for 45 violations uncovered by OSHA during a [2007 inspection](#). Thirty-one of the 45 were violations of OSHA's process safety management rule, which requires companies that manufacture or use hazardous chemicals to take steps to prevent fires, explosions and chemical releases. Of the 50 refineries that use HF, only three — the BP refinery in Texas City, Texas, the Sunoco refinery in Philadelphia and the Wynnewood Refining Co.'s refinery in Wynnewood, Okla. — have had more process safety infractions than Marathon-Canton in the past five years. Pochard said Marathon "responded to [the 2007] inspection appropriately." Asked if the company is considering switching from HF to a safer catalyst, as environmentalists and union leaders have advocated, Pochard said, "It's something we have to evaluate internally. We are always looking at safer alternatives in all aspects of our business."

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/blog/entry/2950/>

USA, W.VA, HUNTINGTON, MARCH 2 2011. UPDATE: WORKER HURT IN FLASH FIRE AT CITY OF HUNTINGTON GARAGE >> USING BLOW TORCH TO CUT INTO A 55-GALLON STEEL DRUM

📺 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/BREAKING NEWS Fire Reported at City of Huntington Garage 117072963.html?ref=963>

George Willoughby, the city worker injured in an explosion Monday afternoon, is expected to be flown to a burn unit in Cincinnati or Pittsburgh. The explosion happened just before noon at the garage along 2nd Avenue. Willoughby's co-workers say he was using a blow torch to cut into a 55-gallon steel drum when they heard an explosion and saw Willoughby literally on fire. They quickly put out the flames with extinguishers. Investigators are still trying to figure out what caused the explosion and fire. The garage will reopen Tuesday morning.

<http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/BREAKING NEWS Fire Reported at City of Huntington Garage 117072963.html?ref=963>

ARGENTINA, BUENOS AIRES, MARCH 2 2011. PAN AMERICAN TO BUY EXXON ASSETS IN SOUTH AMERICA >> EXXON SELLS ASSETS IN THREE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Pan American Energy has agreed to buy an oil refinery and more than 700 service stations in three South American countries from Exxon Mobil Corp, the oil giant's Argentine unit said on Tuesday. Pan American, which is owned by Bridas Corp -- itself co-owned by China's CNOOC and Argentina's Bulgheroni family -- will be buying 500 service stations in Argentina and another 220 in Uruguay and Paraguay. It will also acquire a refinery in the town of Campana, north of Buenos Aires, that has the capacity to process about 90,000 barrels per day of crude oil. Exxon Mobil expects to complete the sale in the second half of this year following regulatory approval, the statement said, without putting a value on the deal. Local press estimated the value of the Argentine portion of the deal at \$650 million to \$700 million. "The move will make Pan American an integrated

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company," said Jorge Lapena, a former energy secretary, meaning it will both produce and refine oil in the Argentine market. Pan American is the second-largest Argentine supplier of crude but does not yet own refining facilities. The Exxon unit is Esso Petrolera Argentina. Exxon Mobil will retain control of its upstream operations in the region, the statement said, referring to energy exploration and production. The deal does not change the Argentine energy market's outlook for the moment, Lapena said, adding that rising fuel consumption has not been matched by an increase in output. "There's a deficit in refining capacity and this deal doesn't address that issue," he said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/01/argentina-exxon-panamerican-idUSN0113834820110301>

SINGAPORE, MARCH 2 2011. 300 TONNES OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID LEAKED IN SINGAPORE

 **Photo Gallery**

<http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Singapore/Story/A1Story20110213-263329.html>



The leak was confined to the bund walls enclosing the plant.

300 metric tonnes of hydrochloric acid leaked from a chemical processing plant in Jalan Samulun - West of Singapore - yesterday morning. Acid leaked from a damaged tank owned by Chemical Industry Far East Limited. However, the leakage was confined to the bund walls enclosing the plant. When contacted, the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) told AsiaOne that no one was injured in the incident. The SCDF set up ground monitors and used water to neutralise the vapour and dilute the leakage. The remnants of the leakage has since been pumped into an empty storage tank. Three fire engines, two fire bikes and five support appliances, including a

Hazardous Material (HazMat) team, were deployed to handle the situation. Further investigation by the NEA revealed that there was no hydrochloric acid fumes detected beyond the company premises during the incident. In an email to citizen journalism website STOMP, a witness, 'Jim', said he saw what looked like an explosion happen at the scene. "There was an explosion and fire incident occurred at the West side of Singapore at a chemical processing plants in the morning yesterday (Feb 12)." He also said that "Some chemical leaked into drain as well." However, the SCDF spokesperson was unable to confirm whether an explosion had occurred or whether it was an explosion that caused the leakage. When contacted, the National Environment Agency acknowledged the incident and said that further details will be released pending the completion of investigations. The agency also said that there was no leakage of chemicals into the watercourses around the factory.

<http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Singapore/Story/A1Story20110213-263329.html>

PAKISTAN, PUNJAB, SHEIKHUPURA, MARCH 2 2011. 7 KILLED, 16 INJURED IN TANKER COLLISION



The wounded were shifted to a hospital in Lahore.

At least nine people were killed, including two school children, and 29 injured in two accidents in Mandi Bahauddin and Sheikhupura on Monday morning. Seven people were killed and 16 injured in a collision between a passenger van heading towards Farooqabad and an oil tanker on Lahore-Sargodha Road near Jhamke in Sheikhupura. The deceased included four police constables. They were identified as Waqas, Mansoor, Sohail and Asad. The injured were taken to Mayo Hospital. Police took both vehicles in custody but the oil tanker fled the scene. In the other incident,

two students were killed and 13 injured in a collision between two school buses in Manochak, Mandi Bahauddin. The injured were moved to the Phalia tehsil headquarters (THQ) hospital. Wires

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/125061/sheikhupura-accident-leaves-7-dead/>

NEW ZEALAND, BAY OF PLENTY, MARCH 2 2011. TANKER CRASH DISRUPTS HUNDREDS



The road was closed for 12 hours while the tanker was removed.

It took about 12 hours to remove the petrol tanker after it went over onto its side at 5.30am near the Lund Rd intersection. Thousands of litres of fuel leaked. Katikati volunteer fire brigade deputy fire chief Peter Carney said firefighters drilled holes in the top side of the fallen tanker and hoses were lowered in to siphon off the fuel to another tanker. Two tow trucks were placed either side of the tanker and rolled the vehicle back onto its wheels. The cab was then separated from the tanker and both

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parts of the vehicle were towed away to Rotorua. The road was re-opened to one lane about 5pm and both lanes by 5.30pm. Bay of Plenty Regional Council pollution prevention manager Bruce Gardner said an excavation area had been dug out to drain the leaking fuel into a dam-type area. Mr Gardner said it had been important to isolate the fuel and prevent it from reaching any water. "Petrol can be quite nasty when it comes to water and affect any living aquatic life. "There are a lot of toxins in petrol, and any petroleum based product."

<http://www.bayofplentytimes.co.nz/local/news/tanker-crash-disrupts-hundreds/3942683/>

INDIA, KARNATAKA, PUTTUR, MARCH 2 2011. FUEL TANKER ROLLS OVER, TRAFFIC TO OTHER DISTRICTS GOES HAYWIRE

A LPG-laden bullet tanker skidded and rolled over on the national highway 48 at Bedrody near Uppinangady early Tuesday morning. The vehicle was carrying gas from Mangalore to Bangalore. As there were signs of leakage of gas, residents were alerted and strictly instructed not to light any fire until further instructions. Electric supply to the whole area was shut as a precautionary measure. The traffic was prohibited by the police and vehicles going to different destinations were diverted through suitable alternative routes. A team of technicians and experts from MRPL and HPCL rushed to the spot and began siphoning the gas to another tanker. The operation was expected to last until late in the evening on Tuesday. Once the gas is evacuated, the tanker is to be moved with the help of a mechanical crane. The driver of the tanker, one Bhaskar from Salem in Tamil Nadu, is said to have been severely injured and admitted to a hospital in Puttur. The Bedrody curve has a history of road mishaps. It takes a steep left turn besides having a gradient. The driver appears to have lost control over the vehicle, which met with the mishap around 3-30 am. Puttur traffic SI Nagesh Kumar and Uppinangady DI G T Dasari and their team did a commendable job in blocking the traffic and diverting them to other routes. Fire-tenders from Mangalore and Puttur are camping at the spot to meet with any emergency situation.

<http://mangalorean.com/news.php?newstype=local&newsid=225258>

USA, CT, ANSONIA, MARCH 2 2011. HAZMAT SITUATION REPORTED IN ANSONIA >> NO WORD ON INJURIES



A hazmat situation was reported in Ansonia on Tuesday afternoon. The incident was reported before 5 p.m. at Auto Repairs Unlimited on Main Street. Employees there called authorities after the business filled with a mist after an employee opened a gas tank on a vehicle. Employees said they believe someone poured acid into the gas tank as an act of vandalism. When an employee opened the tank, a mist sprayed out and burned him in the face. Officials from the Department of Environmental Protection said a car was towed to the shop from Derby. The owner was complaining the car wasn't running correctly. When mechanic began working on the car, he suffered chemical burns. He refused treatment. The man who suffered burns to his face was treated and was expected to fully recover. No other information was available.

<http://www.wfsb.com/news/27043091/detail.html>

USA, WASHINGTON, MARCH 2 2011. FINAL RULE TARGETS TEXTING FOR INTRASTATE HAZMAT HAULERS

A ban on texting while driving a commercial vehicle has been in effect since September 2010. A new final rule issued this week by federal regulators casts the net wider to include hazmat haulers that do not cross state lines. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued a final rule on Monday, Feb. 28, to prohibit texting while driving a commercial vehicle hauling hazardous materials. The rule takes effect March 30, according to the Federal Register announcement. The PHMSA rule expands on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's final rule for interstate commercial drivers. The agencies cite the same studies, one by Virginia Tech in particular, to justify the regulatory actions. The PHMSA final rule does not specifically mention fines for violations. As previously reported, the FMCSA's ban on texting includes fines of up to \$2,750 for drivers and \$11,000 for carriers. Although OOIDA supports a ban on texting while driving for all vehicle operators, the Association wants the rules to be fair and helped shape the FMCSA final rule last year. The Association recently submitted comments in opposition to a spin-off rule aimed at restricting hand-held use of phones while driving. That proposed rule also asked for comments regarding a possible restriction of hands-free use of a phone while driving.

http://www.landlinemag.com/todays_news/Daily/2011/Mar11/030411/030111-02.shtml

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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

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GHANA, TEMA, MARCH 2 2011. PORTS AND HARBOURS HOLDS WORKSHOP ON DANGEROUS CARGOES

Mr Nestor Galley, the Director General of the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA), has appealed to stevedoring and shipping companies to be abreast with the provisions of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code. This, he said, would ensure the speedy discharge and handling of dangerous cargoes. Mr Galley, who was opening of a Workshop on the Handling of Dangerous Cargoes on Monday, said the revision of the Code by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) enjoined them to re-train their staff to enable them to comply with the revised provisions of the Code. The five-day Workshop is jointly organised by GPHA and IMO to build the capacity of participants to understand the issues involved and their roles in the carriage and handling of dangerous and solid bulk. It will also equip them with knowledge, skills and attitudes required for the speedy discharge and handling of cargoes, which will translate into high performance and quick turn around of vessels. Mr Galley said it was GPHA's responsibility as an Authority to ensure the safety of life and property at the Ports. Mr Irfan Rahim, Head of the Cargoes Section of the Maritime Safety Division of IMO at the United Nations, said it was gratifying that the growth in international trade had seen a remarkable increase over the years. He said what it meant was that trade in dangerous goods and solid bulk cargoes had also gone up, coupled with new developments in science and technology, and the identification and development of new chemicals and substances. For these reasons, Mr Rahim said, it was imperative to amend existing provisions governing the handling of such cargoes to keep abreast with those new developments.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=204108>

ECUADOR, ORELLANA PROVINCE, SAN CARLOS, MARCH 2 2011. ECUADOR AMAZON OIL: LEGAL BATTLE FAR FROM OVER

irene caselli



Servio Curipoma is one of thousands of Ecuadorians who sued for damages.

Servio Curipoma moved to Ecuador's Amazon rainforest in 1981, when he was only 10 years old. His parents, originally from southern Ecuador, decided to move to the Orellana region in the north-east of the country to seek their fortune. It was the era of Ecuador's oil boom, and US company Texaco was a pioneer in oil extraction in the region. But things didn't go as planned. The Curipoma family settled by an oil well that was then being operated by Texaco - something common at the time, as the only existing roads were built by the oil companies to reach their fields. "We didn't know what consequences it would have on our health," says Mr Curipoma, 40. Eight years ago, Mr Curipoma discovered that his land actually sat on crude oil when he started building the foundations for a new home. It wasn't a happy discovery. Mr Curipoma blames Texaco for polluting the whole region. He says contaminated water poisoned his cocoa plants. And he is sure the water caused the cancer that killed both his parents. Mr Curipoma joined another 30,000 local residents, including five different Amazonian tribes, in a lawsuit against Texaco that was first filed in 1993. The plaintiffs say that the oil company knowingly dumped 18bn

gallons (68bn litres) of toxic waste water and spilled 17 million gallons of crude oil into the rainforest during its operations in north-east Ecuador, from 1964 to 1990. The plaintiffs say the affected area covers 4,400 sq km (1,700 sq miles) on the border with Colombia. The pollution has led to health problems such as cancer and birth defects, they say.

'Illegitimate Ruling'

US oil giant Chevron, which bought Texaco in 2001, denies these allegations. When on 14 February, a court in Ecuador issued a fine amounting to more than \$9bn (£5.5bn) fine, the company said the ruling was "illegitimate and unenforceable," and launched an appeal. "If there are any environmental damages that currently exist in the region where Texaco used to operate, those problems are entirely the responsibility of the Ecuadorian state and of Petroecuador, the state oil company," said James Craig, Chevron's spokesperson, in an interview in Ecuador's capital, Quito. Petroecuador, in a consortium with Texaco until the US company left in 1990, took over operations, keeping the same structures and methods of oil extraction. Chevron says Texaco spent \$40m (£24.5m) in clean-up work requested by the Ecuadorian government in the 1990s. They say that once the environmental remediation was completed, officials signed a document releasing Texaco from any further responsibility. The company also says the high rates of cancer in the region are the result of the lack of water treatment and sanitation systems, and that there is no real science behind the plaintiffs' claims. A report by a court-appointed expert, which Chevron considers fraudulent, found that cancer rates in the San Carlos village, where Mr Curipoma lives, are 130% higher than in the rest of the country. Two years ago, Mr Curipoma was re-located by the government a few kilometres down the road, because of the health risks posed by the oil. But, he says, he is not fighting against Chevron for the money. "I want people to come here and see the damage," he says. "My parents died in my arms. I have fought together with others so that

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they don't cause harm to other families, so that other families don't suffer like we have." However, the plaintiffs are demanding more money, arguing that the 14 February fine is not enough to clean up the affected areas. Donald Moncayo, a member of the Amazon Defense Coalition, which represents the 30,000 local residents, regularly shows journalists and other visitors around the area. He says at least 1,000 waste pits were opened up by Texaco around their wells, but since they were not made impermeable, toxic waste gradually seeped into the soil. Mr Moncayo also argues that the pits have not been cleaned up properly, pointing to one that looks like a pond of black sludge. Walking on it is like trying to walk through quicksand. Petroecuador is currently cleaning one of the pits, at a cost so far of \$500,000 (£307,000). "If you add up, you realise that we are not asking for an exaggerated amount," says Mr Moncayo, adding that a court-appointed expert set damages at \$27bn (£16.5bn). The plaintiffs also say that Texaco would regularly dump toxic water (a by-product of oil extraction) into waterways used for drinking, bathing and fishing. People in the region have stories of their favourite techniques to bathe when the river had black oil floating on top. Mr Moncayo says he would rub his hands with lots of soap and use the soap to break the oil from the surface to create a small clear space in the water. It is clear that much damage has been caused in this region, but this ruling is unlikely to bring the case closer to resolution - despite a wait of 17 years. Chevron spokesman James Craig says the company has no assets in Ecuador and they will not give in to what they think are attempts to extort money from them. "The plaintiffs have made no secret of their intention to go to places where we do have assets as part as their extortionate scheme to force the company to pay money," he says. "We're going to resist enforcement anywhere in the world, we're going to do anything possible to bring the perpetrators of this fraud to justice." Regardless of the final outcome, it is a landmark ruling. It is the largest environmental award in history - far exceeding the initial \$5bn award against ExxonMobil for the 1989 Alaska oil spill - and it could well set a precedent. But it might take months, if not years, until the appeal courts revise the case.

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- [Ecuador country profile](#) 06 October 2010, Country Profiles
- [Chevron damages 'not enough'](#)
- [Chevron hits back in Amazon row](#)
- [Amazon pollution: Chevron fined](#)

Breakdown of Damages

- Soil restoration \$5.4bn
- Public health \$2.2bn
- Decontamination of underground water sources \$600m
- Other expenditure on wildlife restoration and community-building
- Plus further 10% of compensatory damages to Amazon Defense Coalition, formed to represent the plaintiffs

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-12521702>

USA, MO, INDEPENDENCE, MARCH 3 2011. 6 INJURED IN ACCIDENT AT LAKE CITY ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT

 **Watch the Video** http://www.fox4kc.com/news/wdaf-person-injured-in-incident-at-ammo-plant-20110301_0,7413600.story

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kmbc.com/news/27043069/detail.html>

Six people were injured this afternoon in an accident at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Independence. One individual was flown to a hospital by helicopter, said Amanda Covington of Alliant Techsystems of Minneapolis, which operates the facility. She could not comment on the extent of the injuries. The incident occurred in a construction area, said Covington, who added that the cause of the incident was being investigated by representatives of the U.S. Army, ATK safety teams and local authorities. The Independence Fire Department dispatched a fire investigator to the scene at about 3:30 p.m. after receiving a request from plant authorities, said John Greene, Independence deputy fire chief. This investigator remained on the scene late this afternoon. The plant's security officers worked the incident, and no Independence police officers were asked to assist, said Tom Gentry, Independence police spokesman. The plant, which is the largest employer in Independence, supplies small-caliber ammunition to the U.S. armed forces. ATK has operated the facility since 2000 in the complex of red brick buildings on an approximately 4,000-acre site near the intersection of Missouri 7 and Missouri 78 in eastern Independence.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2011/03/01/2691324/five-injured-in-accident-at-lake.html>

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