



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 707 Newsy Stuff

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**May 6 2011**



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### USA, HI, HONOLULU, APRIL 30 2011. U.S. ATTORNEY: HONOLULU MAN CHARGED WITH FIREWORKS SMUGGLING



Gifford Chang, 44, of Honolulu, was arrested today after being charged in a federal criminal complaint with smuggling goods into the United States; making false statements to illegally bring goods into the country; and importing explosive material without a license, all occurring in December 2009. The complaint was filed today. Florence T. Nakakuni, United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii, said that according to the affidavit filed with the complaint, Chang was the registered agent for Tiger Corporation, the listed importer of four groups of cartons in a shipping container which were determined to contain 1.3G type "commercial fireworks." Chang and Tiger Corporation were licensed to import "consumer grade" fireworks (1.4G type), but neither had the requisite license to import 1.3G type fireworks. The affidavit

further related that as part of the investigation HSI seized these fireworks, which were, except for some samples, destroyed in an explosion on April 8, 2011. The investigation was conducted by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (ICE HSI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) after officers with the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspected the shipping container in Honolulu on December 6, 2009, upon its arrival from Shanghai, China. "This month's deadly explosion was a tragic reminder about the profound dangers of illegally imported fireworks," said Wayne Wills, special agent in charge for ICE HSI in Honolulu. "Unfortunately, we're seeing a growing volume of illegal fireworks being smuggled into Hawaii. Given the public safety risks, targeting those involved in these activities is a top priority for HSI and its law enforcement partners." "ATF shares those sentiments. The public must remember, all fireworks contain explosive materials that pose a serious hazard when not properly handled," said Jordan Lowe, resident agent in charge of ATF's Honolulu field office. "The ATF will continue to aggressively enforce the nation's federal explosives laws." Chang is scheduled to make his initial appearance in federal court at 3:00 p.m. today (Friday). If indicted and convicted of the charges, he faces maximum penalties of 20 years in prison for smuggling, two years for making false statements, and ten years for importing explosives without a license. Charges in a complaint are merely accusations, and each defendant is presumed innocent unless and until indicted and proven guilty. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney William L. Shipley.

<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/u-s-attorney-honolulu-man-charged-with-fireworks-smuggling/123>

### USA, CO, BOULDER, APRIL 30 2011. DEFENDANT IN RACKETEERING SUIT WORKS AS U.S. CONSULTANT ON GULF SPILL

*lawrence hurley*

An environmental consulting firm named as a defendant in a racketeering suit filed by Chevron Corp. over a landmark pollution lawsuit in Ecuador is continuing to work on another blockbuster case: the Deepwater Horizon oil spill investigation. Boulder, Colo.-based Stratus Consulting, a long-term contractor with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other federal agencies, is gathering and analyzing data concerning the Gulf of Mexico spill. Stratus was named in February as a defendant in the federal racketeering suit filed by Chevron against Ecuadorean plaintiffs and their legal team who are seeking damages for environmental contamination relating to Texaco Petroleum Corp.'s operations there ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 2). Chevron acquired Texaco in 2001 and has been vigorously seeking to undermine the plaintiffs' case, both in Ecuador, where the case is being heard, and in U.S. courts, where the plaintiffs were expected to try to recover any damages awarded to them. Just days after Chevron filed its racketeering suit, claiming the entire case was an extortion attempt, an Ecuadorean judge ordered the oil company to pay \$8.6 billion, a sum that would be doubled if Chevron did not apologize and immediately pay up ([E&ENews PM](#), Feb. 14). The case is now on appeal in Ecuador. The filing of the racketeering suit raised eyebrows at NOAA, according to a government source familiar with the issue. The agency checked with the Justice Department to make sure it was OK to continue working with Stratus, the source added. A Justice Department spokesman declined to comment. It is not surprising that the government would want to take a closer look at the issue after the racketeering suit was filed, according to James Rubin, a former DOJ lawyer in the Environment and Natural Resources Division, now in private practice at SNR Denton. "As a litigator, I, too, would be concerned if the credibility of one of my experts were impugned, even if there were no basis for the claim," he said. "I would at least want to know more to decide how to respond." Chevron's allegations concerning Stratus' involvement in the conspiracy to extort the company center on the actions of an independent expert, Richard Cabrera, who was hired by the Ecuadorean court to conduct a study of the alleged environmental damage. Chevron claims that the plaintiffs had lobbied for Cabrera's appointment, but more serious for Stratus is the evidence that Cabrera based a lot of his conclusions on Stratus' findings. U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan of the Southern District of New York, who is presiding over the racketeering case, noted in one of his opinions not just that Cabrera's report was based on Stratus' work, but that Stratus

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later endorsed the Cabrera report in a press release issued by the plaintiffs. Emails obtained by Chevron "confirm that Stratus drafted substantial portions of the Cabrera report," Kaplan wrote. When Chevron lawyer Andrea Neuman of the Gibson Dunn & Crutcher firm deposed Stratus scientist Douglas Beltman, she warned him about the dangers of losing government contracts as a result of fraud. "Are you aware that involvement in a fraud can serve as grounds for both individuals and companies to be permanently debarred from government contracting?" the lawyer asked, according to court filings. The plaintiffs' lawyers objected at the time to Neuman's line of questioning. Stratus maintains it has done nothing wrong.

### **Allegations 'Demonstrably False' -- Stratus Attorney**

Asked why Stratus believes its contracts with the government should not be affected by the racketeering case, Joe Silver, an attorney who represents the firm, said it was because Chevron's allegations "are demonstrably false and its legal maneuverings are a transparent attempt to avoid its environmental responsibilities in Ecuador without, in the least, questioning the science." Stratus "never engaged in the misconduct alleged by Chevron, and Chevron knows as much," Silver added. The company does not dispute that it has worked with the plaintiffs. But Stratus says its role was limited to "technical analyses of oil field operations in Ecuador, the environmental contamination caused by those operations, and the resulting environmental impacts and damages," according to Silver's court filing responding to Chevron's allegations. Stratus personnel "relied on their clients" to direct their work, including how it was submitted, and had "no knowledge or involvement in any collusion or conspiracy," the court filing states. Regarding the Cabrera report, Silver wrote that Stratus "prepared materials and submitted them only to its clients." The company "had no control over what the expert did with any Stratus Consulting materials he received." Ben Sherman, a spokesman for NOAA, confirmed that Stratus is under contract as part of the agency's damage assessment, remediation and restoration program, which currently includes chronicling what happened in the Gulf of Mexico following the Deepwater Horizon incident. The spill response is "the focal point" of Stratus' work at present, he added. Experts say the information gathered as part of that process will be critical in any settlement negotiations with well operator BP PLC and the other responsible companies that take place down the road

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/04/28/28greenwire-defendant-in-racketeering-suit-works-as-us-con-83230.html>

### **GREECE, DROSIA, CHALKIDA, MAY 30 2011. 7-YEAR-OLD FIREWORKS VICTIM DIES OF INJURIES**



The 7-year-old that was hit in the face by a naval flare during the midnight mass on Easter Sunday has died of his injuries, doctors reported on Friday. The boy was admitted to Agia Sophia children's hospital in central Athens with severe head trauma and facial injuries after a flare fired by a 25-year-old celebrating the Resurrection landed in the courtyard of the Church, near the boy's face. The incident occurred in Drosia, Halkida where the young boy was attending church with his parents. The 25-year-old man was placed under arrest and taken before a public prosecutor, who charged him with causing serious bodily harm, causing explosions and breaking laws on the use of fireworks. setting off flares and fireworks that are very often home-made, even firing shots in the air, is a custom associated with the Easter resurrection mass throughout Greece and one that often results in serious injuries and sometimes deaths every year.

<http://www.ana-mpa.gr/anaweb/user/showplain?maindoc=9871016&maindocimg=9869594&service=142>

### **USA, PA, NOCKAMIXON TWP, APRIL 30 2011. TCE FOUND IN WELLS; TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS WORRY ABOUT SAFETY**

stephanie esposito

[Watch the Video http://www.wfmz.com/bucksnews/27712219/detail.html](http://www.wfmz.com/bucksnews/27712219/detail.html)

A township in Upper Bucks County says there's something in the water for some of its residents. Nockamixon Township is battling well contamination and the Department of Environmental Protection has stepped in. Well water in the area near the intersection of Routes 412 and 611 have been tested and shown to have high levels of the chemical TCE. Thursday the DEP met with neighbors to address their concerns. The PA department of environmental protection has been looking into elevated levels of trichloroethylene or TCE in Nockamixon well water. Nockamixon homes and businesses don't have a public water system, meaning they rely completely on well water. "Within the site area we've already been in touch," said the DEP's Linda Rebarchak. "If you're outside of the area we recommend you get your well tested every 3-5 years." The sites seem to be scattered around the area so the DEP plans to drill its own test wells to monitor in addition to the wells it's already tested in the

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area. Bottled water is one way to protect yourself from a contaminated well. The DEP says the other is a whole house carbon filtration system. "All your water whether it comes out of your shower your sink in the kitchen," said Rebarchak. "It'll all be treated and cleaned." Those systems can be expensive but the State will pick up the tab if your well water comes back with dangerously high TCE levels. In the meantime, they don't know the cause of the contamination.

<http://www.wfmz.com/bucksnews/27712219/detail.html>

### CANADA, ALTA, PEACE RIVER, APRIL 30 2011. 200,000 BPD RAINBOW LINE SHUT AFTER SPILL

scott haggett & jeffrey jones

- Regulator says leak was significant
- 2nd Alberta oil line to leak in past week

A 200,000 barrel per day oil pipeline belonging to a unit of Plains All American Pipeline LP ruptured on Friday, spilling hundreds of barrels of oil, regulators said. Plains' Rainbow pipeline, which runs from Zama in northwest Alberta 770 kilometers (480 miles) south to Edmonton, sprung a leak at 7:30 a.m. local time. "It's not a small leak," said Davis Sheremata, a spokesman for Alberta's Energy Resources Conservation Board, which regulates pipelines in the province. "It's a significant leak, in the hundreds of barrels." The leak occurred 100 kilometers northeast of Peace River, Alberta, the regulator said. The ERCB said the line was shut down and the company and authorities were working on cleanup efforts. The regulator said the spill was 300 meters (985 feet) from and flowing water and 7 kilometers from the nearest residence. It's the second leak from an Alberta pipeline in a week. Kinder Morgan Energy Partners's 300,000 bpd Trans Mountain oil pipeline was shut for five days beginning on April 22 after a small leak was spotted on the line's right-of-way 150 kilometers west of Edmonton. (Reporting by

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/04/29/alberta-pipeline-leak-idUSN2927497420110429>

### ECUADOR, LAGO AGRIO, APRIL 30 2011. CHEVRON'S ENVIRONMENTAL OIL CASE TURNS INTO DUEL IN THE AMAZON

jim wyss

Donald Moncayo walks to the edge of a flat grassy field that once held two large pits that brimmed with a stew of water and crude from an oil-drilling operation. He lifts a heavy auger above his head and prepares to plunge it into the ground. "They always show you the shirt, the coat and the tie," he said of the area, called Sacha 53, which is now pastureland and spindly trees. "They never show you the tumor underneath the shirt." For almost a decade, celebrities, journalists and shareholders have tromped through Ecuador's jungles on competing excursions that have become a routine part of what could be the world's most expensive environmental case. The "Toxic Tour" — led by Moncayo — is held on behalf of some 30,000 Ecuadorian villagers who claim [Chevron's](#) predecessor poisoned their environment with shoddy environmental practices that included pumping millions of gallons of oil-tainted wastewater into creeks and streams. The other tour is led by Chevron. The oil giant shows idyllic agrarian landscapes — like Sacha 53 — where Texpet, a subsidiary of Texaco, helped pump crude from the 1960s to 1992 when it was a minority partner of the state-run oil company. When Texaco left Ecuador, it spent \$40 million to clean up its share of the operations, and the government absolved it of any further legal responsibilities in 1998. But Ecuador's courts found that the government deal did not cover third-party claims. So when Chevron and Texaco merged in 2001, Chevron inherited the legal battle. The company contends it's the victim of a global shakedown engineered by greedy lawyers, environmental groups and unscrupulous government officials. The case — in one form or another — has dragged on for 18 years, generated more than 200,000 pages of evidence and chewed through six Ecuadorian judges. In February, the court awarded the plaintiffs \$9.5 billion — the largest environmental verdict in history — but far less than the \$27 billion they were seeking. The battle is far from over. The case is under appeal in Ecuador, Chevron has won temporary injunctions in The Hague and New York to keep the plaintiffs from recovering damages, and the company is pursuing a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act case against their accusers, saying they engaged in racketeering and extortion. The one thing both agree on is that Ecuador's landscape tells the story but what the land is saying is a matter of interpretation. The Sacha 53 oil field is a case in point. Pushing back brush and stepping over a barbed-wire fence, Moncayo leads the way to a lush clearing a few hundred yards from the wellhead. Completed in 1973, it was wells like Sacha 53 that helped jumpstart the nation's economy and earn it a place in OPEC. Texpet operated the well until 1989, when it handed it over to the government. During those years, Sacha 53 produced almost 3 million barrels of oil. In the process, Texpet dug two large pits to hold the drill-bit lubricant, or drilling mud, and to catch the initial spurts of crude that gurgled up during the extraction process. The pits were among the 162 that the company was required to clean up under the government agreement. Chevron said the site was typical of its remediation efforts. It vacuumed up the oil, dug out the tainted dirt, used chemical stabilizers, refilled the pit with

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clean soil and replanted the area. The company has photographs detailing the process, and the government's report approving the remediation. The surrounding pastureland seems to speak for the area's ecological health. But then Moncayo plunges his auger into the ground. Within a few inches the dirt gives off the pungent odor of petroleum. Within a few feet the dirt glistens with oil residue. When a few handfuls of the soil are dropped into a bucket of water, a thick oil-slick coats the surface. "This is their remediation effort," Moncayo says. "They're no better than animals." The plaintiffs say it's proof that Chevron lied about the cleanup and then got compliant government officials to sign-off on its shoddy work. Chevron spokesman and tour leader, James Craig, said it's not surprising to find degraded crude at the site. It might be naturally occurring, Moncayo might have dug outside the boundaries of the remediation area, or the plaintiffs might have spiked the ground with oil to discredit Chevron, he said. "Even if you do find hydrocarbons in the ground, it doesn't mean that they're a risk to people's health or the environment," Craig said. There's no evidence that residue from Sacha 53 — or any other Texpet operation — has polluted rivers or streams, and there's even less evidence that oil is making villagers sick, he said. "This is a smoke-and-mirror shell game," he said. In his 188-page ruling, Ecuadorean Judge Nicolas Zambrano said the contradictory evidence, conflicting claims by expert witnesses and mountains of data put an "unprecedented burden" on the court. But he said there was sufficient evidence to find Chevron liable. Zambrano would not talk about the case while it is under appeal. Over the years, the case has become only more contentious. Experts for both parties have been accused of lying, labs have been accused of evidence tampering, and both sides say the other's legal teams have used bribes and intimidation to make their case. Meanwhile, public relations firms have kept the issue in the news media. Chevron said it can no longer get a fair trial in Ecuador — where the nation's center-left President Rafael Correa has railed against oil companies and recently threw out the U.S. ambassador. When the case was first filed in New York in 1993, Chevron argued that it needed to be held in Ecuador. The plaintiffs resisted, saying Chevron's resources and influence in the small Andean nation would make it impossible to get a fair trial. Even so, the case — with some modifications — began in Ecuador in 2002. Now, Chevron says it's being railroaded. And it has effectively put the trial on trial. In 2009, Chevron secretly taped the presiding judge, Juan Nunez, seeming to suggest that he had made up his mind about the company's guilt and that the appeals process was a mere formality. Another tape showed an alleged political consultant of the ruling Alianza Pais party suggesting a \$3-million bribe paid to Nunez, the presidency and the plaintiffs would help guarantee cleanup contracts in the wake of the verdict. Nunez recused himself and is facing investigation. The plaintiffs said those tapes show no wrongdoing on their part and were edited to the point of meaninglessness. Last year, Chevron subpoenaed outtakes from "Crude," a 2009 [documentary](#) about the case. In that footage, the plaintiffs' New York-based lawyer, Steven Donziger, talks about putting political pressure on the judge. At one point, he's heard asking an environmental group for \$100,000 to raise "an army" that could be called on to swarm the courthouse on short notice. "This is Ecuador. You can say whatever you want, but at the end of the day, if there are a thousand people around the courthouse, you will get what you want," Donziger says in another clip. The excerpts also showed the plaintiffs meeting with the court-appointed expert, Richard Cabrera, and offering to help write his supposedly independent report. The plaintiff's lawyer said such meetings are legal under Ecuadorean law and that the video was taken out of context, but Zambrano tossed out Cabrera's report. Even so, Chevron says his verdict is peppered with Cabrera's language — including the damage calculations. Chevron said the videotapes are part of its effort to defend itself against a rigged judicial system. But the plaintiffs have accused the company of foot-dragging. When Chevron realized it was going to lose the case "they started to figure out a way that they could argue in front of other courts that the judgment was unenforceable," said Karen Hinton of Hinton Communications, the public relations firm that represents the plaintiffs. "You take a \$9.5-billion judgment and you compare that with millions spent in legal bills, and you are happy to keep it in litigation as long as you can. And they have unlimited resources to do that." Bouncing along a dirt road in a double-cabin pickup truck, the Toxic Tour also includes former Texpet operations that were not part of the government remediation program, but that the plaintiffs argue the company should be responsible for. There, large pools of thick black oil glisten in the sun. It's those dramatic fields that often make it into photo spreads about the case. Chevron said it was the government's responsibility to clean up those pits, and its failure to do so is being used as ammunition in the global public relations campaign. "If there are problems that continue to exist [in the Amazon], those problems are responsibilities of the state," Craig said. At the end of Chevron's tour — there's still no catchy name for it — Craig points to the small courthouse in Lago Agrio that has billions of dollars in play. It sits above a casino called Mirage. Craig said the excursion is a key part of the company's effort to strip away the David versus Goliath narrative that has driven coverage of the case. Now, as Craig points to African palm farms and pasture land that used to be Texaco production sites, he peppers his talk with the allegations of bribery, forgery and evidence tampering. "There is a reluctance to believe the 'good guys' were engaged in fraud, and it's hard to believe the multinational might be right," Craig said. "But we have another story now."

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-ecuador-chevron-20110425,0,3912795.full.story>

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#### USA, WA, OLYMPIA, MAY 1 2011. DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY HELPS TACKLE TRANSBOUNDARY OIL SPILL ISSUES

There are few environmental catastrophes that can blur interstate and international boundaries as quickly as a major oil spill to the marine waters of Washington, Alaska and British Columbia (B.C.). Regardless of where a large spill originates, the adverse environmental effects on our shorelines, fish and wildlife, and other environmental, economic and cultural resources can spread far and wide. Wherever oil reaches, the harm will be devastating and similar. Yet the laws and regulations guiding how government agencies and private response entities prepare for and respond to transboundary marine oil spills are far from uniform. To tackle the transboundary oil spill issue, 90 natural resource trustees and stakeholders who live and work in Washington, British Columbia and Alaska worked with the Pacific States-British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force to document the "who's who" and "what's what" when it comes to response planning and readiness for the U.S.-Canadian transboundary oil spill issues. In Washington, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) helped craft the joint report titled "[Review of Planning and Response Capabilities for a Marine Oil Spill on the U.S.-Canadian Transboundary Areas of the Pacific Coast](#)." The report was just released and copies are available online. The report examines existing U.S.-Canadian transboundary oil spill response plans and capabilities for the Washington-British Columbia and British Columbia-Alaska border areas. It makes 111 recommendations to federal, state, provincial, and local government agencies, response organizations, industry, American Indian tribes and Canada First Nations, and U.S. and Canadian coordinating groups. The topics cover response command, planning, operations, logistics, financial issues, and how to ensure that media and the public receive timely information about transboundary spills. "Oil spills are complex, resource-intensive incidents that are difficult enough to manage just within our state alone," said Ecology's David Byers who oversees statewide spill response activities in Washington. "Transboundary oil spills only magnify the challenges." Byers, who chaired the transboundary project workgroup, said members included representatives from various government agencies, tribal governments, non-governmental organizations and private industry in Washington, British Columbia and Alaska. "We worked for nearly three years to identify as many issues and potential solutions as we could," he said, "It is critical that we have these solutions in place before we have a transboundary spill." Ecology estimates a major spill would cost Washington's economy \$10.8 billion and adversely affect 165,000 jobs. A large spill could:

- Harm coastal and tribal communities.
- Disrupt international and interstate shipping and trade.
- Damage state and national parks and wildlife refuges, shellfish beds, fish, wildlife and related habitat, recreational boating and fishing, and tourism.

"Many recommendations highlight how critical it is that all these diverse interests are part of the broader U.S. and Canadian federal oil spill planning and preparedness effort," Byers said. "The catastrophic spill in the Gulf of Mexico happened while we were working on the report. It bolstered why the involvement of all our response partners is essential if we want to have a successful rapid, aggressive and well coordinated response to a major spill." The report includes specific recommendations for Ecology including:

- Evaluating whether Washington's current \$9 million dedicated emergency spill fund is adequate if a major transboundary spill were to occur.
- Coordinating operations and communication between two different command posts.
- Creating a transboundary workgroup to manage waste from an oil spill – including pinpointing waste-handling locations in Washington and British Columbia, sorting out legal issues, and how to avoid operational delays at security checkpoints.
- Identifying places of refuge in Washington and British Columbia where vessels in mechanical trouble could go for repairs and other assistance.
- Determining how Washington and British Columbia can work together to allow equipment and personnel to move to help a spill response outside the region while still retaining a core level of response readiness within the two jurisdictions.
- Sorting out financial liability issues during a response to a transboundary oil spill.
- Working with American Indian tribes and Canadian First Nations to find potential funding to ensure they can participate in ongoing transboundary oil spill planning and future spill readiness exercises.

Resolving cost-recovery issues to ensure that public agencies on both sides of the border are properly compensated for their response costs to a major spill. The transboundary workgroup was chartered by the Pacific States-British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force. The task force was created in 1989 in the wake of a 231,000-gallon oil spill in December 1988 off the Washington

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coast near Ocean Shores. The spill fouled beaches from northern Oregon to Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The task force is made up of senior executives from the environmental agencies with oil spill regulatory authority in Washington, British Columbia, Oregon, California, Alaska and Hawaii.

#### For More Information:

- Ecology [Spills Program http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/spills.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/spills.html)
- [Pacific States-British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/](http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/)
- [Transboundary oil spill report http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/docs/notes\\_reports/Final\\_US\\_Canada\\_Transboundary\\_Project\\_Report.pdf](http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/docs/notes_reports/Final_US_Canada_Transboundary_Project_Report.pdf)

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2011/121.html>

#### INDIA, GUJARA, AHMEDABAD, MAY 1 2011. NO MONITORING PANEL YET FOR MANHOLE WORKERS IN AHMEDABAD

*jitendra dave*

Close on the heels of the death of three manhole workers on Tuesday evening, the issue of formation of a monitoring committee for such workers has come up again. Although the state government had issued guidelines to form the committee four years back, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is yet to take any action on it. Meanwhile, the toll of manhole workers who have died in Ahmedabad since 2006 has risen to 13. Following a Gujarat high court order, the state government had told municipal corporations and municipalities in the state to form a committee for monitoring and organising training programmes for the safety of manhole workers in 2007. As per the urban development department's direction, the committee should be chaired by the municipal commissioner and will consist of deputy municipal commissioner, city engineer and a welfare officer of the concerned department. The committee is supposed to take action to avert any accident as well as conduct training programmes for manhole workers. IK Patel, deputy municipal commissioner of AMC's health and solid waste management department, said that the committee will be formed in the near future. However, he refused to set any deadline for it. The formation of the committee has been delayed as various employees' unions are demanding their representation in this committee, said an AMC official. However, the fact remains that the high court's historic verdict in February 2006 has not ameliorated the conditions of the manhole workers. As per information provided by Manhole Kamdar Union, 13 manhole workers have died in Ahmedabad in the last five years. Although the AMC has officially banned workers from climbing down manholes, contractors often force them to do so, resulting in deaths, said Shivkumar Adiwal, president of Manhole Kamdar Union.

[http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report\\_no-monitoring-panel-yet-for-manhole-workers-in-ahmedabad\\_1537036](http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_no-monitoring-panel-yet-for-manhole-workers-in-ahmedabad_1537036)

#### USA, CT, NEWINGTON MAY 1 2011. FUEL SPILL AT NEWINGTON MARINA DRAWS HAZ MAT TEAM RESPONSE

*kyle stucker*



*A hazardous materials team prepares a boat to work on an oil spill at a marina in Newington Friday night.*

Haz-mat crews were working late Friday night to clean a fuel spill at Great Bay Marina, although officials expect the effects of the spill to be minimal. Shelley Tamis, the service center manager at TMC Services, a hazardous materials remediation firm in Portsmouth, said, a "fueling dock release" of some kind occurred around 6 p.m. sending an unknown amount of diesel fuel into the water. Tamis said the spill is likely "less than 100 gallons" but officials weren't sure of the true amount or the actual cause of the incident Friday night. It took crews about two hours to contain the spill using specialized booms and Tamis said, "It was really windy when it happened," which helped blow the spill toward shore, limiting the spread of the fuel. In addition to

TMC Services the Coast Guard also responded to the spill after marina staff contacted authorities, according to Tamis. "They did the right thing," said Tamis of the marina staff. "They called us as soon as it happened." Crews were still working at 11:45 p.m. Friday to bag contaminated debris inside the containment area. Tamis said workers would finish their initial cleaning at some point in the early morning hours and would check the site at low tide today. She said there will be "periodic containment checks through the next couple of tide cycles" to ensure the spill has been contained. Closure of the site, according to Tamis, will be under the direction of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services. DES officials weren't present at the scene Friday. Although the cause was undetermined Friday night Tamis said she didn't suspect foul play was involved.

[http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110430/GJNEWS\\_01/704309923](http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110430/GJNEWS_01/704309923)

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### **USA, OH, AUSTINTOWN, MAY 1 2011. OHIO EPA ORDERS AUSTINTOWN OIL-SPILL CLEANUP**

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has ordered an oil- recycling company to clean up about 200 gallons of oil that leaked into local streams and sewers. Austintown Fire Chief Andy Frost Jr. said that about 8 p.m. Thursday, fire crews were called to the corner of North Four Mile Run Road and Oakwood Avenue after members of the Youngstown Fire Department said they'd found an unidentified substance leaking from the ground in the city. Frost said the substance, which turned out to be a type of lubricating oil, was traced to Everclear of Ohio, 3700 Oakwood Ave. in Austintown. "There was a substance in Bears Den Creek that went down into the Lily Pond area of Mill Creek Park," he said. "The EPA was called in and found a discharge coming from a sewer line at Everclear." Frost said 200 to 300 gallons of oil had spilled inside the facility the previous day, though fire crews were told by Everclear representatives that the spill was cleaned.

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2011/apr/30/austintown-ohio-epa-orders-oil-spill-cle/>

### **USA, N.C, CHARLESTON, MAY 1 2011. BOAT OWNERS FIND ETHANOL-GASOLINE FUEL MIX CAN BE COSTLY COCKTAIL**



*Mike Murphy with Hanckel Marine works on an outboard boat motor. Below, ethanol-free gasoline tends to cost 30 to 40 cents more per gallon.*

Rusty Stuart had no qualms about heading out in his 32-foot boat for a day of offshore fishing. The ocean was beautiful, and the fishing 30 miles out was good. But his mood began to waver when both outboard engines began sputtering. "I almost didn't get back in," Stuart said. "I took the boat to the shop and it cost me \$800 to get it fixed. It was because of ethanol." Most gas stations today carry a blend of gasoline and 10 percent ethanol (E10), an additive used to increase octane and decrease emissions into the atmosphere. But gasoline blended with ethanol can cause problems for boat owners. As the owner of Russell's Exxon station in West Ashley, Stuart was in a position to do something that would benefit him as

well as other boat owners. "I thought my motors were messing up. It wasn't bad fuel. It was ethanol," he said. He began looking around for a fuel supplier that carried ethanol-free gasoline. Today, Stuart is one of a handful of dealers in the area, including most marinas, that sell ethanol-free gasoline.

#### **Marine Issues**

Ethanol isn't a problem for automobiles because they are used almost daily. It's an entirely different matter for boats, which often sit unused for months at a time and have vented fuel systems that allow moisture to enter the tanks. Mike Murphy, a service technician at Hanckel Marine, has been working on outboards for more than 30 years. He said problems began to surface almost immediately after gasoline manufacturers began using ethanol. Working on outboard boats with ethanol problems is an almost daily occurrence for him. "The biggest problem is ethanol is alcohol-based and alcohol absorbs moisture from the atmosphere," Murphy explained. "Over a period of months, it can add up to a half-gallon, maybe as much as a gallon of water." That water separates from the gas and sinks to the bottom of the fuel tank. When a boat takes off, the bow rises and the fuel rushes to the lowest spot in the tank, which is where the pickup tube is located. Water is sucked into the engine, causing it to misfire. On his workbench, Murphy has a small glass container of ethanol gasoline that has been taken from a vapor separator tank on an outboard engine. "You can see the line of water here," he said, pointing to the distinct separation. "The top (clear) is gasoline and the bottom (a milky brown substance) is water and ethanol mixed. It has gone into phase separation. You can shake it up and let it sit for a few minutes and it will go right back. It's like vinegar and oil salad dressing, but I don't think I'd put it on my salad." When fuel goes bad, it has to be pumped out and the dealer has to dispose of the bad fuel. The disposal fee runs \$6.50 per gallon and many modern boats hold 30 gallons or more.

#### **Ethanol is a Solvent**

In addition to absorbing water, ethanol also is a solvent. It can soften the interior of rubber hoses, and pieces come loose. Pickup tubes in the fuel tank can become brittle and either break off or flake, again sending along particles that can clog the fuel system. Some boats have fiberglass fuel tanks and the ethanol can dissolve the fiberglass resin that holds the material together. "After a period of time the resins will be dissolved and sucked through the fuel system, leaving nothing but the fiberglass cloth in the fuel tank," Murphy said. He discovered an extreme example in one customer's boat, reaching inside the tank and removing enough fiberglass material to fill four small bags. "And that wasn't all of it," Murphy said. "That boat had to go back to the manufacturer for a new fuel tank."

#### **A Dirty Word**

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Capt. John Irwin of FlyRight Charters fishes about 250 days a year and experienced one minor problem with ethanol fuel several years ago. After shutting off his engine to fish, his outboard became difficult to start. A mechanic suggested ethanol might be the issue. He switched to ethanol-free gasoline and said he hasn't had any more issues. "It costs me more, maybe \$300 a month, but it's worth it," Irwin aid. "All you hear down in Florida is E10. It's a dirty word, a plague. Those guys hate it." Capt. Chris Chavis of Fin Stalker Charters fishes both inshore and offshore, the latter in a twin-engine 26-foot center console boat. Now, he burns only ethanol-free gasoline. It costs more, but he said it's well worth it. Not long after purchasing his boat, Chavis was returning from an offshore trip when the engines began to perform poorly. Instead of cruising at 4,200 RPM, he was only able to reach 2,400 RPM, enough to get him home. But there obviously was a problem. He took the boat in for service and was told the ethanol was causing deterioration inside the fuel lines, which in turned gummed up the fuel system. "Luckily, it was under warranty," Chavis said. "I saw the bill, and for each one of those motors it was \$1,400."

#### Stay Ahead of the Game

Although modern outboards are designed to run on E10 gasoline, manufacturers suggest using non-ethanol gasoline if it is available. Most marinas now carry ethanol-free gasoline and a handful of regular gas stations also stock a supply. Stuart said he has boaters from Mount Pleasant, James Island and North Charleston who will make the extra effort to trailer their boats to his West Ashley business to buy ethanol-free gas. "They'll call and ask how much we have," he said. "They don't want to haul a boat over here to buy 150 gallons of gas and not have it," he said. Murphy said the service end of the boating industry has been kept busy because of ethanol-related repairs. "The down side is that we have customers that aren't happy," he said. "They are paying a lot of money and sometimes it's happening repeatedly."

#### What is Ethanol?

Ethanol is a type of alcohol that is used as an additive in gasoline. It helps increase octane and helps fuel to burn more efficiently, therefore releasing less unspent gasoline into the atmosphere. Most U.S. gasoline now contains a blend of up to 10 percent ethanol, but newer automobiles are being advertised as capable of using up to 15 percent ethanol. In Brazil, the legal blend of ethanol is 25 percent. Ethanol can be manufactured from a number of crops. The ethanol used in the U.S. gasoline industry comes primarily from corn, while in Brazil ethanol is manufactured using sugar cane.

#### Avoiding Ethanol-Related Problems

If at all possible, burn ethanol-free gasoline. An Internet search for "ethanol-free gasoline Charleston" directs you to numerous establishments. Gasoline can go bad in as little as 30 days. Using an outboard motor flusher, run the engine on a regular basis. Use a fuel stabilizer such as Star Tron or StaBil, which breaks down fuel sludge so it can be trapped in a fuel filter. Yamaha recommends using a 10-micron water separating fuel filter to catch contaminants before they reach the engine. Mercury recommends not using additional filters beyond the factory-installed filters. Be diligent in checking and replacing them. If your boat is not going to be used for an extended period, keep the gas tank full or close to full with treated gas. This helps cut down on condensation. Outboard engine manufacturers recommend buying gasoline from the same dealer. They also recommend using newer gas stations that should have cleaner storage tanks.

#### Related Stories

- [Ethanol in lawn equipment](#)

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/may/01/ethanol-and-boats/>

#### USA, OH, AUSTINTOWN, MAY 1 2011. AUSTINTOWN COMPANY CITED BY EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency has cited an Austintown company for an oil spill. Investigators say about 200 gallons of lubricating oil leaked from the Everclear plant on Oakwood Avenue into Bears Den Creek Thursday night. The fire department blocked the leak from spreading any further. The EPA says there doesn't appear to be any ill effects on surrounding wildlife.

<http://www.wfmj.com/story/14546719/austintown-company-cites-by>

#### NEPAL, POKHARA, MAY 2 2011. TANKER RUNS OVER SEVEN-YEAR-OLD IN POKHARA

A child was struck to death by a fuel-loaded tanker en route to Pokhara from Narayangadh, at Bijayapur Sangam Nagar of Lekhnath, Kaski at around 10:40 am on Sunday. The deceased is seven-year-old Deepak Ranabhat, a local resident of Sanne of Thumakodanda VDC, Kaski, according to the Hansapur Area Police Office. Ranabhat, a first-grader at the local Silinge Primary School, was hit by the tanker while he was crossing the road. He was on his way to the marriage ceremony of one of his relatives. Following the incident, his relatives and locals obstructed the Prithvi Highway for an hour demanding action against the culprit and due competition to the victim's family. Police have impounded the tanker and detained the driver, Bir Bahadur Gole.

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Tanker+runs+over+seven-year-old+in+Pokhara&NewsID=286218>

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### USA, MASS, SWAMPSCOTT, MAY 1 2011. SUIT FILED OVER FIREWORKS SALE TO BOY, 13

*julie manganis*

The father of a Swampscott teen who lost part of two fingers when a homemade bomb exploded inside their home three years ago is suing the store that sold the caps the boy used, as well as a New York distributor. Joel Surette was 13 when he began making repeated purchases over the course of several months of a product called "Mighty Poppers," a type of explosive cap that makes a cracking sound when thrown on the ground, from Dee's Corner Convenience Store in Lynn. The lawsuit, filed yesterday in Salem Superior Court by Bernard Surette and his attorney, says store employees told the boy that the caps contained three times the amount of explosive material of other types of caps, "making the sale of these items attractive" to the teen. The suit names the owner of the store, Dee's Corner LLC, and Panaria International, a New York importer and distributor of novelty items, including, at the time, Mighty Poppers. The suit contends that the product should have been labeled to indicate that it was illegal in Massachusetts. Surette had also been purchasing other types of class C fireworks at the store, where the items were openly displayed on a counter, the suit says. One of the clerks "even pointed out to (Surette) that such items were illegal in Massachusetts," the suit alleges. A woman named Thi Nguyen was subsequently charged with the illegal sale of fireworks. Her case was continued without a finding by a Lynn District Court judge for 10 months in 2009, said Jennifer Mieth, a spokeswoman for the state fire marshal's office. Nguyen is not named in the lawsuit. Surette was also charged, but the charges were later dismissed, according to the lawsuit. Mieth said investigators learned that Surette had made and detonated prior "improvised explosive devices," including one a few days before the explosion that took part of his fingers. On April 26, 2008, officials were called to investigate an explosion that shook Surette's neighborhood, Mieth said. A few days after that, on May 1, police were called for another explosion in the kitchen of Bernard Surette's home. An older son called 911 after his brother set off a device — made from about 100 of the caps, some cardboard and duct tape — and accidentally blew off the tips of his ring and middle fingers on his right hand, he told a Salem News reporter in 2008. It seeks \$75,000 in damages for medical expenses, plus additional damages for pain and suffering to be determined by a jury. George Dee Sr., the president of the company that owned the store, did not return a call yesterday afternoon seeking comment. John Suh, the manager at Panaria International in New York City, said Mighty Poppers have been discontinued but were legal for sale in New York and other states. "We certainly would not sell anything illegal," said Suh. Mieth said all fireworks and explosives are illegal in Massachusetts — from caps and sparklers to larger devices — except in the hands of a licensed professional with a permit. "People think they can use them safely," said Mieth, "but when things go wrong, things go wrong really fast."

<http://www.eagletribune.com/local/x928072392/Suit-filed-over-fireworks-sale-to-boy-13>

### USA, TX, BRIDGEPORT, MAY 2 2011. LIGHTNING STRIKES GAS TANKS

*greg janda*

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/121058129.html>



*Aerial video from Chopper 5 of two gas tanks believed to be struck by lightning.*

Lightning strikes from this morning's storms may have caused two different gas tank fires on Sunday. One tank went up in flames at Bridgeport Tank Truck on the north side of Bridgeport. The owner of the business says one worker was there at the time and saw lightning hit the tank. No one was hurt in that fire, but damages are estimated at nearly \$200,000. The Krum fire department helped contain another fire also thought to be caused by a lightning strike.

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/121058129.html>

### ROMANIA, BAKU, MAY 2 2011. AZERI STATE OIL GROUP PLANS PETROL STATION BLITZ BY 2014

Azerbaijan's state oil company Socar is planning to open 300 petrol stations in Romania, according to Socar president Rovnag Abdullayev, as quoted by Azerbaijan Business Centre online (abc.az). The company president stated that the company, which has extended to Ukraine and Georgia, is targeting the development of 300 Socar units in the next three years in Romania. Last month President Traian Basescu travelled to Baku to increase investment ties between the two countries, who have been strengthening their alliance for the past five years. "The fact that a company the size of Socar has started becoming a fuel distributor in Romania, with hopes of expanding the networks to the people, is very important because it helps build strong competition in prices both for people and the industry," Basescu stated. The President also welcomed Socar to invest in

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Romania's sell-offs in the state energy sector later this year and in 2012, which include minority stakes in the gas producer Romgaz and oil and gas group OMV Petrom.

<http://www.thediplomat.ro/articol.php?id=1952>

#### **NIGERIA, LAGOS, MAY 2 2011. RISING ILLEGAL BUNKERING AS NEW CHALLENGE IN NIGER DELTA**

ben eguzozie



*After recently sailing through some of the Niger Delta waterways and creeks, BEN EGUZOZIE writes that amnesty programme may have reduced attacks on oil installations, but it has thrown up a buoying bunkering business in the region.*

The 2009 amnesty offer by the Federal Government to militants has produced some positive results, to the effect that, attacks to oil installations in the Niger Delta region have almost stopped completely in the last 18 months. But, other dimensions to the militancy have rather been upbeat. These are crude oil stealing – otherwise called illegal bunkering and illegal refining. The joint military task force, Operation Restore Hope, which was deployed to the Niger Delta following increased militants' attacks and destruction of oil facilities from 2004, said, it now grapples with increasing illegal bunkering and illegal refineries. Since January this year, the JTF said it has impounded more barges, wooden boats, drums of oil, and other container vessels – all laden with stolen crude oil. Added to this act is erecting of illegal refineries – which is using drums to carry out rough heating up of the stolen crude oil to produce less-finished premium motor spirit (PMS) commonly called fuel, or poor quality automotive gas oil (AGO) known as diesel. These activities, said the JTF, are not localized to one

state – they are massive –happening in most of the oil producing states of the region. But states like Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta top the log; while others are seeing minimal activities. A sampler: a barge seized recently at Customs Channel with large contents of crude oil (Rivers State); several large wooden boats, called Cotonou Boats seized; over 500 illegal refineries spread over an area the size of eight football pitches along Mbiama River destroyed by the JTF. The poorly refined products was worth about N15 million. But the latest crude cache was the March 01 confiscation of a massive barge, named Monica. Timothy Antigha, an Army Lt-Col and the JTF media coordinator disclosed that, the barge was impounded by the joint patrol team led by Greg Omorogbe (Lt-Col), commander of the 82 Battalion, Bonny, at Ajegunle Ojorokoto in Andoni area along the Opobo – Bonny Waterways. The barge measures 50 metres long, 12 metres wide and has a depth of three metres. The depth of crude oil inside it is 2.65 metres. "Invariably, the barge is almost filled (to the brim) with crude oil," said Antigha. Preliminary investigations indicate that the crude oil content in the barge can readily fill-up more than 36 giant size oil trucks. Also, it is estimated that the barge was being prepared for voyage outside Nigeria, ostensibly to supply an ocean tanker offshore, or provide feedstock for a standard oil refinery. When refined, the estimated value of the products would run into hundreds of million naira. In Delta State, a massive petroleum products depot in Warri South was seized. Furthermore, about 800 drums of illegally refined petroleum products were confiscated, with their vendors apprehended. Antigha said they would soon appear in court to face charges of economic crime. For Bayelsa State, the story is not different. During the same period (January to March, 2011), a vessel named MT Varik with 15 crew members, carrying 240,000 litres of stolen crude oil along Sangana River, was impounded. In all this, JTF has arrested more than 52 people related with the oil stealing, illegal refineries and illegal depots business. So far, the JTF spokesman, Antigha said the force would not yet disclose the identities of those arrested in connection with the owners of the barges, or those funding them. He informed that disclosure of their identities at this stage would jeopardize series of ongoing investigations; and thereby stall further information that could be extracted regarding the burgeoning crude oil bunkering business in the Niger Delta. What reasons have been advanced by mostly the young people who engage in the crude theft? Those arrested said they were pushed by widespread poverty in their communities, which caused them to go into the massive illegal oil trade? Although Antigha, accepted the poverty claim, he however adduced the trend to greed and quest for instant wealth. He also conceded that eradicating the bunkering business in Nigeria's oil sector was a tall order. He further said: "The JTF is seriously committed to the fight to eradicate illegal oil bunkering and crude theft in the Niger Delta. Those who hope to make a living from (these) economic crimes in the region should have a rethink, as nemesis will soon catch up with them." The burgeoning crude oil bunkering and siphoning into barges, wooden boats, or erecting illegal depots and illegal refining outlets have been going on with attendant spills on the waterways and the shorelines. At the Bodo and Bomu areas of Gokana (Ogoni land), it was discovered that whole mangrove regions have been eaten up by oil spills with attendant fires. A visit to Bodo last week aboard a JTF gunboat revealed

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frightening scenes. Majority of the shorelines have lost their entire vegetation; while spilled crude oil continually spread on the water surfaces. The air smells perpetually of crude oil. It is common to see leaking pipelines, from the activities of thieves. Omorogbe, the 82 Battalion commander, said Bodo and Bomu have posed the greatest nightmares to the JTF men. On a daily basis, young people burst crude pipelines to siphon the products. Narrated Omorogbe: "Imagine that when we patrol in the morning hours, we see them; on sighting our gunboats they run away. We would seize their implements, which usually include a speedboat, large valves, welding machine, hacksaw, long hose, drums, coveralls, generating set, etc. But on returning few hours later, we would see another set or the earlier team, even more people with more equipment. It beats my imagination why they are so desperate here, more than any other area in the oil region. We have decided to set up a Houseboat base nearby, from where we undertake constant patrolling of the Bodo and Bomu areas by our forces." By far, oil spill has remained a big issue both to the oil communities and the oil companies. Shell, Agip, Chevron, Mobil, have created or suffered spills in varying degrees. In 2009, Shell said it suffered 132 spills in 95 incidents, which led to 103,000 barrels wasted, from mainly sabotage. The Anglo Dutch oil giant said last year that, deductions from its pipeline engineers show there occurs one spill every four days, due to the activities of illegal refinery operators. Last year saw over 3000 spills. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) team which finished up an assessment of spill impacts in Ogoni land due to Shell's activities came out with a verdict that much of the spills were by sabotage rather than operational failure. This generated much furore from the Ogonis. But the oil company spilled 2,300 barrels from 37 incidents which came from "operational failures such as corroded pipelines, equipment failure and human error." For the community people things are worse. Their means of livelihood – fishing and farming – are usually eroded. For Emago-Kugbo community in Rivers State, spills have gravely impacted them – since May 1960 – till January this year. There appears no end to this. Adienbo Nwadihi Macstephen, the Kulo XV of Emago-Kugbo Kingdom told BusinessDay last week that they have suffered terrible effects of oil spillage. The Kugbo Loading Bay, which was used by Shell D'Arcy to transport its first commercial crude oil from the Oloibiri Oilfield in 1958, has remained like that since then. The only access to the community, a 14.5km road was only sand-filled by Shell in 1958, and has remained so since then. By 1973, the largely fishing and farming community suffered its second spill. Other spills were in November 2008, December 2010 and only January this year. This year's was caused by a leakage from Agip's trunk line serving the Brass Trunk line. Sadly, Agip only came recently and clamped the defective pipeline valve; without doing anything about soil remediation. The economic effect of the ongoing oil bunkering business cannot be quantified. Antigha, JTF media coordinator says it is an economic crime that does not affect government alone, but every member of the society.

<http://www.businessdayonline.com/NG/index.php/analysis/features/20736-rising-illegal-bunkering-as-new-challenge-in-niger-delta>

#### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, MORUGA, MAY 2 2011. PETROTRIN CLEANS UP LA RUFFIN RIVER

State owned oil company Petrotrin has deployed two boats along the La Ruffin river, Moruga to determine both the source of the oil slick and whether the spill was emanating from one of its oil installations. This was confirmed by Petrotrin corporate communications officer David Coker, who added that the company would also be assisting in the clean-up operations along the river. According to Moruga residents, the oil leak, which was observed last week, is believed to have originated in Edward Trace, Basse Terre Village, Moruga, from a pipeline in the Trinity oil fields. However, Coker said the company had dispatched two vessels to investigate the source of the slick and take samples of the oil, which would then be sent to the lab for testing. "Whether the oil is Petrotrin's or not, we will participate in the clean-up operations at the river," he said. He pointed out that oil, like fingerprints, varied from location to location and possessed its own specific chemical composition and would be identifiable from the lab tests. Coker also pointed out that there were certain parts of the country where there was a natural seepage of oil and abandoned oil wells throughout the country.

<http://www.newsday.co.tt/news/0.139863.html>

#### USA, TX, DENTON CO, KRUM, MAY 2 2011. LIGHTNING CAUSES FIRE NEAR KRUM

*rachel mehlhaff*

Lightning struck a tank battery northwest of Krum on Sunday morning and caused a fire that took firefighters more than six hours to extinguish. The fire broke out at about 10:30 a.m. in a field on FM455 just east of FM1173, said Roland Asebedo, assistant fire marshal for Denton County. The tank battery was decommissioned about three months ago but there was residual petroleum product in the tanks, Asebedo said. Firefighters planned to let the fire burn out based on the amount of liquid they thought to be present, but it turned out to be more than expected, Asebedo said. The Krum, Sanger, Ponder, Denton and Decatur fire departments responded. "There was more fuel in the tank than anyone was aware of," Asebedo said. "Whenever it boiled over they didn't want any of it running off." The fire was contained to the tanks' spill containment area, he

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said, adding that no structures in the area were endangered. The petroleum product puts out heavy smoke, he said. "Residents were advised to stay out of the smoke," Asebedo said. The fire was put out at about 5 p.m. All damage was confined to the tank battery, he said. At about 5:30 p.m., a crew was being sent out to begin the cleanup process.

[http://www.dentonrc.com/sharedcontent/dws/drc/localnews/stories/DRC\\_Weather-Lightning\\_0502.2de926cff.html](http://www.dentonrc.com/sharedcontent/dws/drc/localnews/stories/DRC_Weather-Lightning_0502.2de926cff.html)

### **USA, MA, SHREWSBURY, MAY 3 2011. CLEANUP BEGINS AT SHREWSBURY OIL SPILL SITE...**

*lindsay corcoran*



Within 48 hours of it's discovery, by astute Shrewsbury PD officer Chad Chysna, the cleanup has already begun. As you may recall, the Shrewsbury Lantern broke this important story on Saturday night, with news of the discovery of a potentially illegally dumped 1000+ gallon oil tank at the site of the former Shrewsbury wastewater treatment facility next to Ward Hill. Today our town officials having, worked all weekend on pulling their teams together from around the state, sprung into action today with representatives from DEP and our local teams getting an excavator machine all the way down and around this precarious embankment to begin the process of cleaning up the site, while behind the scenes the investigation continues into how this tank got there in the first place. Step one is to get all of the material

drained out of the tank itself to prevent any further incursion into the watershed area. Next will likely be to haul the tank itself out of the hole – not an easy task – and prepare it for proper and legal disposal. Preliminary reports are that it is an older style tank and no serial number or other id has yet been found. It's possible that there may be some markings on the bottom that have not been visualized yet, and once it's out of the hole and on a truck, I'm sure the great folks at Shrewsbury Fire and Shrewsbury Police will go over it with a fine tooth comb to see if the tank can be traced back to it's source of origin. Once the tank is out, the DEP will likely do a thorough soil sampling all around the site to see how much of an area, if any, has been contaminated, and then the contracting teams will proceed to dig out and remove all contaminated soil and return the site back to it's natural state. The town is trying to leverage as much of it's local workforce as possible to keep the costs down, and the swift action by Shrewsbury Police and Fire have already saved the community quite a bit, with their preliminary response to the situation on Saturday. Great work guys!

<http://shrewsbury.net/?p=11071>

### **USA, CA, REDWOOD, MAY 3 2011. OIL TANK AT REDWOOD CITY ASPHALT PLANT EXPLODES, IGNITES TWO-ALARM FIRE**

*bonnie eslinger*

 **Watch the Video** <http://redwoodcity.patch.com/articles/breaking-seaport-blvd-fire-shuts-down-neighboring-streets>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Huge-Plume-of-Smoke-Along-Peninsula-121119169.html>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ktvu.com/news/27750797/detail.html>



*Smoke from a two-alarm blaze at Graniterock Peninsula Road...*

A 43-ton tank filled with hot oil used to make asphalt exploded into flames Monday at a road materials company in an industrial area of Redwood City, spewing billows of dark smoke into the sky. The two-alarm fire at Graniterock, 365 Blomquist near Seaport Boulevard, was first reported at 2:22 p.m. Firefighters from Redwood City, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and other agencies extinguished the blaze about an hour later, Redwood City Fire Chief Jim Skinner said. A worker near the tank suffered a "slight injury" but did not need to be taken to a hospital, Skinner added. He said the cause of the explosion is still being investigated. Ruben Rodriguez, who had driven a construction company truck to Graniterock to pick up some asphalt, said he was near the tank when it exploded and sped away as soon as he saw the flames. "I'm a lucky

guy," he said. "Good thing I had my windows rolled up ... the flames would have come inside the cab." Graniterock president Bruce Woolpert said he doesn't yet know exactly what happened when the oil ignited. "Why the material in the tank caught fire, that's a big question," he said. "I don't know that." Bryan Wylie, who works about half a mile away at a medical device company on Galveston Drive, said he and his co-workers felt an earthquake-like jolt and heard a sound like an "explosion." When he looked out the window he saw smoke rising from the Graniterock plant. "The building shook a tiny bit. A co-worker

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asked, 'Is that an earthquake?' he said. "I looked out the window and saw a black smoke cloud." Air quality inspectors conducted tests Monday, Skinner said. "Any smoke has some toxicity, and there was a lot of black smoke." Redwood City sent out an emergency call through its automated phone system during the incident to tell people in the immediate area to remain indoors, said city spokesman Malcolm Smith. Investigators from the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or Cal-OSHA, are expected to check out the site today, Smith said. Graniterock, which is headquartered in Watsonville, sells concrete, asphalt and other building materials to the construction industry. It has 16 locations from Oakland to Monterey, according to its website. OSHA databases show that the company has had three accidents in the last five years. In 2006, an employee was crushed and killed by a construction vehicle at one of its San Jose locations. Another employee lost a thumb in a truck accident at the same location the following year. Last year, a worker at the Redwood City plant on Blomquist tripped over a ladder and fractured his wrist.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci\\_17977034?source=rss](http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_17977034?source=rss)

#### USA, CA, TORRANCE, MAY 3 2011. EXXONMOBIL TORRANCE REFINERY TO TEST COMMUNITY WARNING SIRENS

The ExxonMobil Torrance Refinery will conduct its monthly test of its community warning sirens Wednesday.

A one-minute "chime" will precede a two-minute testing "wail" at 11:30 a.m. The test is conducted on the first Wednesday of the month. The "wail" tone carries a greater distance and may be heard in areas beyond the reach of the "chime." The warning is designed to alert the surrounding community to problems at the refinery. If the warning sounds during a real emergency, nearby residents are advised to "shelter in place."

[http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci\\_17976241](http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_17976241)

#### CANDA, ALTA, EDMONTON, MAY 3 2011. CHEMICAL SPILL IN SOUTHEAST EDMONTON



Fire crews and Hazardous Material crews work the scene of a peroxide based chemical leak near 56 Avenue and 36 Street in Edmonton, AB on May 2.

2011Edmonton Fire Rescue spent most of Monday afternoon neutralizing an explosive chemical that was spilt in southeast Edmonton. Crews were called around 1:10pm at BP Automation at 36 Street and 56 Avenue. Edmonton Fire Rescue spokesperson Tim Wilson says the building, and nearby buildings were evacuated and there are no reported injuries at this time. "There were around 32 firefighters on scene, this includes our HAZMAT crew, hazardous materials crew," explains Wilson. He says the crews were working to neutralize the chemical, Perkadox 16, a peroxide-based dry powder, which can ignite at temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius. Prior to the spill, it was being stored in a refrigeration unit. The police blocked off the entire commercial area while crews worked to get the spill under

control. "Our main priority during this event was firefighter and public safety," said Terry Bucharski, District Chief, in a release. "As a precaution, we evacuated a number of businesses and blocked off about four square blocks from traffic. We want to thank all the businesses and public in the area for cooperating with us. This allowed fire crews to focus on mitigating this emergency." Fire Rescue was cleared out before 5:00pm. Now, a private company will clean the spill. This will take time, and the sand used to dilute the Perkadox 16 will be removed and then incinerated. The cause of the chemical release has yet to be released.

<http://www.inews880.com/Channels/Reg/LocalNews/story.aspx?ID=1411284>

#### CANADA, ALTA, FOX CREEK, MAY 3 2011. ALBERTA WORKER DIES AFTER HYDROGEN SULPHIDE LEAK

andrea sands

Another worker and an RCMP officer sent to hospital after steaming truck releases H<sub>2</sub>S near Fox Creek. One man is dead and two people, including an RCMP officer, are in hospital after poisonous hydrogen sulphide leaked Saturday night from a gas production line at a northern Alberta job site, authorities say. Fox Creek RCMP and firefighters were called around 8:40 p.m. Saturday to help two oilfield workers in distress near Fox Creek, a community located 260 kilometres northwest of Edmonton, RCMP said in a news release. Three workers were doing maintenance on a gas line when the hydrogen sulphide, or H<sub>2</sub>S, leaked and two of the men were exposed to the highly toxic chemical. The third worker was a safe distance away and helped his colleagues, RCMP said. The gas also affected a Fox Creek RCMP officer conducting a road block nearby, police said. Paramedics arrived immediately to treat the officer and he remained in Fox Creek hospital Sunday. Fox Creek firefighters used breathing packs as they helped the injured workers. However, one of the workers died at the scene. The other man was taken

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to the Fox Creek hospital where he was still being treated Sunday. Occupational Health and Safety investigators were at the work site south of Fox Creek on Sunday, said spokeswoman Tracey Kipta. "OH&S has shut down the site, they've secured it and they're completing their investigation right now," she said Sunday. It appears three workers were using a wand steamer on the gas production line to rid the line of "ice fog" — essentially a chunk of ice — when the hydrogen sulphide was released, said Kipta. "They have a big truck, a steaming truck, and they use a big wand ... and apply it to the outside of the line. Shortly after, it released H2S gas," Kipta said. The man who died at the scene worked for Celtic Exploration Ltd., a Calgary-based oil and gas exploration company, Kipta said. The Energy Resources Conservation Board has also been notified about the incident, RCMP said.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/Alberta+worker+dies+after+hydrogen+sulphide+leak/4706342/story.html>

### USA, WASHINGTON D.C, MAY 3 2011. HAND-HELD PHONE BAN PROPOSED FOR HAZMAT DRIVERS

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, part of DOT, issued the NPRM April 29 to expand on prohibitions already proposed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Federal limits continue to expand on commercial drivers' texting or calling while they drive. The latest [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) was published April 29 by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, part of DOT, and would bar drivers moving a quantity of hazardous materials that must be placarded under 49 CFR Part 172 or any quantity of a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR Part 73 in intrastate commerce from using a hand-held mobile phone. This would expand on prohibitions already proposed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (also part of DOT). "The safety benefits associated with limiting the distractions caused by electronic devices, including cell phones, are equally applicable to drivers transporting covered hazardous materials via intrastate as they are to interstate commerce," PHMSA's proposed rule states. "The use of a hand-held mobile telephone while driving constitutes a safety risk to the motor vehicle driver, other motorists, and bystanders. As proposed in the FMCSA NPRM, the consequences of using hand-held mobile telephones while driving can include state and local sanctions, fines, and possible revocation of commercial driver's licenses. "PHMSA has determined that the use of hand-held mobile phones presents a hazard equally, whether the motor carrier is involved in interstate or intrastate commerce. PHMSA estimates that there are approximately 1,490 intrastate motor carriers that could be affected by this rulemaking. Studies performed on behalf FMCSA have estimated that the cost of a property damage only crash is \$17,000. Crashes involving a fatality are estimated to be approximately \$6 million." PHMSA concluded the cell phone ban would have to prevent just two property-damage-only crashes annually for its benefits to exceed its costs. The agency's economic evaluation considered these potential costs:

- Loss in carrier productivity due to time spent while parking or pulling over to the side of the roadway to make cell phone calls
- Increased fuel usage due to idling as well as exiting and entering the travel lanes of the roadway
- Increased crash risk due to covered CMVs that are parked on the side of the roadway and exiting and entering the travel lanes of the roadway

PHMSA asked for comments by June 28; submit them by searching for docket number PHMSA-2010-0227 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) FMCSA barred texting by commercial motor vehicle drivers in a September 2010 final rule. It proposed to restrict the use of hand-held mobile phones in a Dec. 21, 2010, NPRM (Docket FMCSA-2010-0096).

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2011/05/02/hand-held-phone-ban-proposed-for-hazmat-drivers.aspx?admgarea=news>

### NIGERIA, LAGOS, MAY 3 2011. SHELL SUED OVER OIL SPILL IN NIGER DELTA

rowena mason



*The new lawsuit against Shell has been sparked by a leak allegedly coming from the Trans-Niger pipeline, which the community says started flowing into the Bodo creek in August 2008.*

Royal Dutch Shell has been hit with a class-action lawsuit in London by the Bodo community of Nigeria, which suffered a "devastating" oil spill when a key pipeline burst in the summer of 2008. The community filed a lawsuit last month at the High Court against both Royal Dutch Shell and Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, raising the possibility of a drawn-out legal battle for compensation. More than 69,000 people live in Bodo in the Niger Delta, which has seen 9m to 13m barrels of oil spilt from the pipelines of various companies over the years – more

than double the volume of BP's Gulf of Mexico leak. UN figures show more than 6,800 spills between 1976 and 2001. Much of those spills has not been cleared up because oil companies face regular attacks on their staff and pipelines by militants who

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have targeted the industry since 2006. The militants claim Nigerian people do not see enough profit from their natural resources. The new lawsuit against Shell has been sparked by a leak allegedly coming from the Trans-Niger pipeline, which the community says started flowing into the Bodo creek in August 2008 and continued for four months. Shell claimed it was only made aware of the problem on October 5 that year but the pipeline was not fixed until a month later. There were later reports of a second leak on the pipeline in February 2009. More than two years later, the Bodo people are still claiming that the livelihoods of fishermen and farmers have been destroyed by the spill. A report by Amnesty International calls the oil leak "devastating" and says that Shell came to assess the site in spring 2009, when oil was still affecting the land. "As of May 2009, the site of the spill had still not been cleaned up and there was controversy over the clean-up contract," the Amnesty report said. "On 2 May 2009, eight months after the spill, Shell staff reportedly brought food relief to the community, which they rejected as inadequate." According to Nenibarini Zabbey of the Center for Environment, Human Rights and Development: "Shell Petroleum Development Company officials arrived at the palace of the paramount ruler of Bodo on Saturday 2 May, 2009, and presented as relief materials 50 bags of rice, 50 bags of beans, 50 bags of garri, 50 cartons of sugar, 50 cartons of dry peak milk, 50 cartons of milo tea, 50 cartons of tomatoes and 50 tins of groundnut oil. Given the population, the Bodo people consider the offer by Shell as insulting, provocative and beggarly." It is understood Shell has received letters of claim relating to the two alleged oil spills but has not yet been formally served with a writ. Shell declined to comment on the lawsuit or the Bodo spill but a spokesman said that, in general, "the great majority of spills in the Niger Delta are the result of third party interference, mainly sabotage, theft of equipment or leaks caused by thieves drilling into pipelines or opening up wellheads to steal oil. On average, such third party interference has accounted for more than 75pc of all oil spill incidents and more than 70pc of all oil spilled from Shell facilities in the Delta over the last five years." Last year, Shell says it spilt approximately 3,500 tonnes of oil into the Niger Delta. This was down significantly from the 14,000 tonnes of oil spilt in 2009, when military violence in the region was at a peak.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/8486732/Shell-sued-over-oil-spill-in-Niger-Delta.html>

### USA, WASHINGTON D.C, MAY 3 2011. PHMSA RELEASES 2011 REPORT ON HAZMAT INCIDENTS

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has released an online report ranking both the top hazardous materials and transportation processes that were related to serious incidents and fatalities from 2005 to 2009. The Top Consequence Hazardous Materials Commodities Report is part of a series of steps that will help PHMSA identify areas of concern, target risks for particular types of hazardous materials, and plan how to mitigate future incidents. The report's data also will help educate enforcement authorities, inspectors and first responders on trends in the transport of hazmat, which will help them set priorities to better deal with the materials and modes of transportation that could have the most damaging effects. The report can be accessed at [www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/library/data-stats/incidents](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/library/data-stats/incidents).

<http://www.ccjdigital.com/phmsa-releases-2011-report-on-hazmat-incidents/>

### USA, WASHINGTON D.C, MAY 4 2011. FAIRFAX CITY TANK FARM TO FACE MODERN-DAY REGULATION

*tom jackman*

Gov. Bob McDonnell on Tuesday reversed field and signed legislation that will require modern storage and safety standards for the oil and gas tank farm on Pickett Road in Fairfax City. A bill to impose the standards on the TransMontaigne tank farm, the site of [numerous spills and leaks](#) over the years, was approved unanimously by the General Assembly. It would have required TransMontaigne to be compliant by 2021 — and [McDonnell attempted to delete that language](#) in a governor's amendment last month. The legislature shot that down and sent it back to the governor for a signature or veto. On Tuesday, according to The Post's Rosalind S. Helderman [McDonnell approved the bill](#). McDonnell spokesman Jeff Caldwell said the governor chose to sign the measure after consulting with lawmakers and deciding that it was "the best opportunity to address the issues facing this community." Fairfax officials immediately rejoiced. State Sen. Chap Petersen, Del. David Bulova and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, all of whom live near the tank farm, all issued statements filled with joy. You can [read them here](#).

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-state-of-nova/post/fairfax-city-tank-farm-to-face-modern-day-regulation/2011/05/03/AFKUcJiF\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-state-of-nova/post/fairfax-city-tank-farm-to-face-modern-day-regulation/2011/05/03/AFKUcJiF_blog.html)

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