



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2011 – 706 Newsy Stuff

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

May 3 2011



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#### USA, CA, MONTEBELLO, APRIL 27 2011. REMNANTS OF OIL SPILL LINGER IN MONTEBELLO TRIBUTARY

*louis sahaun*



*Michael W. Popoff holds a water sample at the spill site in a tributary of the Rio Hondo River, about 150 yards from San Gabriel Boulevard.*

Forty gallons of crude oil and 400 gallons of brine water leaked from a broken pipeline into the Rio Hondo River tributary. Authorities say the cleanup is complete, but signs of the spill are still present. The gooey remnants of an oil spill lurked Tuesday in a tributary of the Rio Hondo River in Montebello, near where 40 gallons of crude oil and 400 gallons of brine water had leaked from a broken pipeline into a storm drain. The leak from a nearby well site was reported April 19 to the California Emergency Management Agency, prompting a weeklong cleanup near the corner of San Gabriel Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue. Plains Exploration & Production, which operates an oil field in the Montebello Hills overlooking the site, was responsible for

the spill, according to the agency. Drinking water supplies were not affected, according to the agency's preliminary spill report. "Normal field operations have resumed, and no significant environmental damage resulted from the event due to PXP's immediate response efforts," said Plains Exploration & Production spokesman Scott Winters. The state Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the Los Angeles County Public Works Department and the Montebello Fire Department monitored the company's cleanup operation and signed off on it Monday. On Tuesday morning, however, small fish including perch could be seen flopping on their sides in a pond edged by a patch of oil and two absorbent booms. A variety of migrating songbirds flitted through the limbs of a cottonwood towering over the pond, which smelled like petroleum. The adjacent oil field and rugged highlands feature coastal sage and scrub habitat for the largest population of threatened California gnatcatchers in Los Angeles County. Montebello City Councilman Bill Molinari expressed concern about reports of lingering pollution. "We received a memo from the Montebello Fire Department stating that the area had been properly cleaned up," he said. "If it isn't, that's a major concern because the river contributes to a drinking water aquifer for the entire region."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0427-oil-spill-20110427,0,1726776.story>

#### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, AJMAN, APRIL 27 2011. TANKER OVERTURNS ON EMIRATES ROAD, KILLING TWO

*yasir kakande*



*Two people died and another two remain in hospital after a petrol tanker overturned on Emirates Road in Ajman, police say.*

Ajman Police received a call about the accident at around 1pm yesterday and police patrols and ambulances were immediately directed to the scene, according to Colonel Ali Saeed al Matrooshi, the director general of Traffic and Licensing Department at Ajman Police. "The accident occurred when the driver of a petrol tanker suddenly saw a car entering the road in front of his tanker," he said. "To avoid colliding with the car, the tanker driver veered to the left lane of the road, leading to a heavy collision of his tanker with a Toyota Corolla that was behind it in the left lane. A Hyundai car travelling behind also piled on." A male passenger in the Toyota Corolla died on the spot and his driver died a few minutes after reaching

Kuwait Hospital in Sharjah. Both of the deceased were Pakistanis. The driver of the petrol tanker and that of Hyundai were both injured and also rushed to Kuwait Hospital for treatment. Sources at the hospital said the men were both still in the emergency department by evening. Ajman Police, Ajman Civil Defence and Sharjah Police cordoned off Emirates Road for most of the afternoon to clean up the petrol spilt onto the road during the accident. Motorists were asked to use alternative roads like Sheikh Zayed Road and Al Khan Road in Sharjah. Col Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah al Nuaimi, the deputy director general of Ajman Police, said one of the causes of the accident was the saloon car's negligence in entering the tanker's lane before ensuring it was clear of traffic. "Another mistake was that the tanker driver was speeding in a way that made it hard for him to reduce his speed and avoid collision with the car entering the road," he said. "We urge motorists entering a main road to crosscheck the traffic before suddenly jumping to the road. Motorist should also not speed as speeding makes it hard to control the car." Despite the severity of the accident, traffic was not badly affected because the accident did not occur during rush hour. Salah Abdul Aziz, a motorists who was heading to Ajman from Sharjah at the time, said: "The police just advised us to use industrial area roads to Al Khan and then Al Arouba Street. All throughout the diversions, traffic was smooth." This is the second traffic accident involving a petrol tanker in three days. In a separate incident in Abu Dhabi on Saturday, a petrol tanker

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overturned on Al Khaleej al Arabi Road. The accident took place near Al Mushrif Adnoc station at around 11pm. Police were forced to close much of the road for a clean-up operation, and traffic was diverted through the inner roads of Al Mushrif. Motorists said the resulting traffic jam continued until 7am the following morning. Emirates Road is one of the busiest in the country, and the most dangerous. An average of 288,000 vehicles pass in one direction during rush hour and, according to Dubai Police statistics, at least 23 people died on the road in 2010. The Ministry of Public Works announced on Monday that it would be making several expansions to the road and upgrading several interchanges as part of a Dh1 billion project. "Expanding the road, coupled with increased driver discipline to observe all the traffic rules, would help reduce accidents there," said Col Ahmed bin Darwish, the director of Sharjah Police Patrol Unit.

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/uae-news/tanker-overturns-on-emirates-road-killing-two>

### AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, DARWIN, APRIL 28 2011. MONTARA OIL SPILL LEADS UNIVERSAL TO CLOSE

*larine statham*

One of the Northern Territory's leading engineering companies has gone into voluntary liquidation, in part because of the Montara oil spill. Universal Engineering managing director Steve Tiley on Thursday released a statement saying a series of soured deals and the recent economic downturn had placed the company in an irrecoverable position. Last year the award-winning company serving the mining and defence sectors was forced to sack 16 apprentices because of financial troubles. "I've tried everything possible to save the business and ensure our 20 remaining employees were retained on other projects while we tried to resolve our problems," Mr Tiley said. He'd been able to find work for most employees in other Darwin-based businesses. Mr Tiley said Universal Engineering had suffered financial losses as a result of a legal dispute over a major defence project, as well as Australia's worst-ever oil disaster. A wellhead at the Montara oilfield, operated by PTTEP Australasia, caught fire and leaked oil and gas condensate into the Timor Sea off Western Australia's northwest coast for 10 weeks in 2009. "Trying to carry all the debt from Montara and the defence project, and being unable to fund any further legal action against a national contractor, compounded by the fact we cannot see any substantial work in future months, I had no option but to close the doors," Mr Tiley said. "It's incredibly disappointing for me, as I've not only lost the business that I built from the ground up with a team of great employees, but I've lost everything. "My hope is now that someone with vision will recognise the value in the company, purchase its assets and rebuild the business." He said he had been able to minimise the impact on the majority of creditors. Universal Engineering is now in the hands of local liquidator, Stuart Reid of Meertens.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/montara-oil-spill-leads-universal-to-close-20110428-1dy4q.html>

### USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, APRIL 28 2011. WORST-CASE SCENARIO OIL WELL BLOWOUT COULD SPILL 200 MILLION LITRES IN ARCTIC, AGENCY SAYS

*dan joling*

The U.S. federal agency overseeing offshore drilling in Alaska says the worst-case scenario for a blowout in the Chukchi Sea lease could spill more than 200 million litres of oil into Arctic waters. That's a quarter of the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico but far more than Shell Oil the major leaseholder in the area says it could handle under its response plan. Shell has consistently said that the chance of a blowout in the relatively shallow waters off Alaska's northwest shore is minimal. According to the memo prepared by the Alaska office of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, a worst-case scenario blowout could initially discharge 61,000 barrels per day or about 2.6 million gallons (9.8 million litres). The discharge at the hypothetical well would decline rapidly as the oil reservoir depressurized and fall to about 790,000 gallons per day after a month, according to the report. But the cumulative discharge over the quickest period estimated for drilling a relief well — a span of 39 days would mean a discharge of 58.1 million gallons into environmentally sensitive Arctic waters. Shell Alaska spokesman Curtis Smith said Wednesday the company has not seen the agency's spill scenario. However, Smith said Shell would not encounter wells of that flow rate for many years into the project. "We do not currently have plans to drill into deep, high pressure reservoirs," he said. The company anticipates drilling in 120 to 150 feet of water (up to 46 metres) to depths of up to 10,000 feet (three kilometres). The Deepwater Horizon rig operated about a mile (1.6 kilometres or 1,600 metres) below the water surface and drilled nearly 3.5 miles below the ocean floor. The blowout over 85 days put 206 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. When applying for exploratory permits, Shell was required to prepare for a maximum spill of 231,000 gallons per day. The company says its fleet of on-site responders including boats, barges, skimmers, and a tanker that can hold 21 million gallons of recovered liquids can handle a spill of 504,000 gallons per day. Shell claims it can deploy a containment system within two weeks, including a cap for a subsea blowout and a containment dome. Company officials also have continuously maintained Shell would ramp up spill response capability as

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exploratory wells progress into production. Environmental groups opposed to drilling say the federal agency's hypothetical well blowout must be taken seriously. "It's not entirely hypothetical because it's in the lease area," said Lois Epstein of The Wilderness Society in Anchorage. "And we don't have information about where exactly Shell is planning to drill in the Chukchi, nor do we have their own modeling information, which needs to be verified." Shell has spent more than \$3.5 billion in Alaska outer continental shelf drilling, including \$2.1 billion for leases in the Chukchi Sea in a 2008 lease sale, but has little to show for it because of court challenges or failure to obtain permits. The company in February dropped plans for exploratory drilling in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska's north coast during the short open water season this year after an Environmental Protection Agency review board granted an appeal of Shell's air permit. More than air quality, however, is the fear of that a spill could damage marine waters and the people and animals that depend on them. Environmental groups have said federal agencies have routinely granted permits for seismic tests and other spinoffs of industrial activity that could be harmful to whales, polar bears, walrus and seals already stressed by climate warming and less sea ice. Critics also claim federal agencies routinely accepted oil company claims that the chance of a catastrophic spill in Arctic waters is minimal. The Minerals Management Service, already the target of lawsuits for its decisions in the Arctic, was reorganized and renamed after the Deepwater Horizon disaster. In one of those lawsuits, U.S. District Court Judge Ralph Beistline of Anchorage in July ruled that the federal government failed to follow environmental law before it sold leases in the Chukchi in 2008. Ocean Energy Management officials in March announced that as part of the court-ordered environmental review, they would study how a "very large oil spill" would affect the Chukchi. They also emphasized that calculation of a "very large oil spill" differs from "worst case discharge" at a specific well site picked by an oil company. The improbability of a discharge was not considered in the analysis. Epstein said the worst-case scenario information should make people realize a large spill could occur. "Even in shallow water conditions you can have a spill that is in the same volume range as the Deepwater Horizon range," she said. "Not exactly the same but very close initially, and overall, depending on how many days it goes on, it could be of the same scale." Smith said the company is confident it would not see high pressure and flow rates from initial exploratory wells because of the geologic data it collected during drilling in the Chukchi and Beaufort in the 1980s and 1990s. "Wells that would encounter that kind of discharge are much deeper and typically would come later in a production scenario," Smith said.

### Related Stories

- [Worst case Arctic spill could reach 58M gallons](#)
- [Blowout could spill 58 million gallons in Arctic](#)
- [Blowout could spill 58 million gallons in Arctic](#)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5jZnUAvi0B1QNAMBIQV01KLvhKA8Q?docId=6687024>

### USA, MS, MATTAPOISETT, APRIL 28 2011. JUDGE SIGNS OFF ON \$12.4M OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT

steve urbon

 Watch the Video <http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/settlement-reached-in-buzzards-bay-oil-spill-20110427>



*Francis Haggerty, a representative in a lawsuit against Bouchard Co., walks along Leisure Shores beach in Mattapoisett where a 2003 oil spill hit.*

In what could be an important precedent in state law, a Suffolk County Superior Court judge this week approved a \$12.4 million settlement agreement between Mattapoisett property owners and the Bouchard Transportation Co. for damage caused by a 2003 oil spill in Buzzards Bay. Judge Raymond J. Brassard signed off on the agreement, which was made in January but needed a thorough review by the court. It calls for a formula for determining the loss of "rental value" and will mean that property owners may be compensated up to \$30,000 for their loss of the

use of beaches. Attorney Martin Levin, who represented the plaintiffs, told The Standard-Times Tuesday that this is the first case of its kind to succeed in Massachusetts. "It's the first and still the only contested class action to achieve certification for an environmental tort case," he said. Some 1,100 property owners are qualified to receive a share. More than 800 property owners with an interest in the oiled beaches will receive from about \$5,000 to as much as \$30,000 for the loss of the use of the beaches in 2003 — and in the case of Leisure Shores, through 2007. The settlement employs a detailed formula for determining damages, depending on an owner's interest in the property and the severity of the contamination. "I'm hoping this will help courts turn a corner on these types of cases to give people greater latitude to get compensation," Levin said. Today is the eighth anniversary of the accident in which a Bouchard Co. barge carrying No. 6 fuel oil struck a rock outcropping and spilled up to 98,000 gallons of the oil into Buzzards Bay. The spill contaminated beaches mainly on the east shore of the bay,

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and Mattapoisett was particularly hard hit. This lawsuit was filed on Sept. 29, 2004, by class representatives Kim DeLeo, Francis Haggerty and Earl Cornish, all of Mattapoisett. Nine other towns along Buzzards Bay are part of a federal lawsuit that was settled for \$11.5 million last August in U.S. District Court. That one involved about 2,500 property owners, none from Mattapoisett. Levin said the jury in the Mattapoisett case looked at 13 properties owned by eight homeowners, and the settlement extrapolates those instances to the balance of the eligible property owners. The verdict last spring formed two classes of owners: those who actually own beach property and those who have beach rights. The former are eligible for considerably more in the settlement. The settlement also takes into account the severity of the contamination and the length of time people were deprived of their use of the beach. For all but Leisure Shore, that time period ended in the fall of 2003. The jury extended that to 2007 for Leisure Shores. Using 2004 assessors' evaluations, which Levin said were below market value at the time, property owners will calculate their share of the settlement by using multipliers. The exact method is available on the website set up for the case: [buzzardsbaysettlement.com](http://buzzardsbaysettlement.com). July 1 is the deadline to apply for settlement money, and more than 800 have already done so. Levin said he expects checks to start going out in mid-summer. One of the original plaintiffs, Kim DeLeo, said the fact that she and husband Joseph have two young daughters, Talia and Gianna, was a big motivating factor in keeping the heat on Bouchard. They live at Leisure Shores and it was only last summer that they were able to use the beach, she said. Oil continues to be exposed by tides as well as storms, and there have been repeated cleanups and replacement of sand and gravel since the spill, she said.

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110427/NEWS/104270327/-1/NEWSMAP>

### USA, OH, PITTSBURGH, APRIL 28 2011. HAZARDOUS MATERIAL BARGES BREAK LOOSE ON OHIO RIVER, TOWED TO SAFETY >> SOME STO-ROX SCHOOLS DISMISSED EARLY AS PRECAUTION

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wtae.com/allegheeny/27685727/detail.html>

 **Slideshow** <http://www.wtae.com/allegheeny/27685727/detail.html>



A barge breaks free and hits the Emsworth Lock and Dam on the Ohio River

The Army Corps of Engineers in Pittsburgh worked much of the day to safely retrieve a barge that was carrying hazardous material and was among four barges that broke free on the Ohio River. The barges broke loose and hit a train trestle on a railroad bridge near Neville Island on Wednesday morning. One barge -- which has been recovered -- was carrying coal tar light oil with benzene, which is flammable. Allegheny County emergency officials briefly worried that another one of the barges -- which was carrying slag rocks -- would reach Interstate 79 and force a partial road closure. But it turned sideways and eventually hit the [Emsworth Lock and Dam](#), stopping its progress. Crews tied four other barges together so they could reach the benzene barge. Then, with a tow boat stationed on the other side of the Fleming Park Bridge, they guided the benzene barge to safety. Officials said the barge stuck

at the lock and dam will also be moved. The barges that hit the bridge do not pose a threat and will be removed from the area within the next few weeks, Channel 4 Action News' Marcie Cipriani reported. County emergency management officials decided on an early dismissal at 11 a.m. for Sto-Rox elementary and middle school students as a precaution, in case there were any problems with the planned barge removal. Officials were concerned because if a spark should ignite the benzene on board the one barge, fumes could travel up to two miles and cause respiratory issues. Sto-Rox School District Superintendent Dr. Logue Belden said students were bussed to the high school and sent home later from there, if they were not picked up by parents first. Other than coal, U.S Coast Guard Cmdr. Richard Timme said hazardous material is the "bread and butter" of [Pittsburgh river commerce](#), with approximately 2 million tons moving through the city by water every year. Marathon Ashland owns the barge that was carrying the hazardous cargo. Other barge companies helped with their own equipment and people to move that barge. Coast Guard officials said the barges broke loose when a wire snapped as crews were trying to connect a barge with a towing vessel. Allegheny County Public Works said the Fleming Park Bridge that connects Neville Island to Stowe Township has reopened Wednesday night. It was closed during the daylong salvage operations. The bridge is used by a Neville Island business. Sky 4 flew over the bridge and showed video of barges pushed up against the pylons.

#### What Is Benzene?

Benzene vapor comes from gasoline, cigarette smoke, and products manufactured with benzene.

Benzene is one of the 20 most widely used chemicals in the United States. It is used to make other chemicals that are then used to make plastics, resins, nylon, and other synthetic fibers. Benzene is found in the air, water, and soil. You can be

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exposed to small amounts of benzene outdoors, where the air can contain low levels from tobacco smoke, automotive service stations, vehicle exhaust, and industrial emissions. You can be exposed to benzene indoors at home, where the air can contain higher levels of benzene than outdoor air, from products such as glue, paint, furniture wax, and detergent. Approximately half the national exposure to benzene comes from smoking cigarettes or being exposed to cigarette smoke, indoors or outdoors. You can be exposed to higher than normal levels of benzene at work if you work at a facility that makes or uses benzene, including petroleum refining sites, pharmaceutical plants, petrochemical manufacturing facilities, rubber tire manufacturing facilities, or gas stations. You may be exposed if you are a steel worker, printer, shoemaker, laboratory technician, or firefighter.

### **How can Benzene Affect my Health?**

Benzene is classified as a carcinogen by the National Toxicology Program because it has been known to cause cancer. Small amounts of benzene, which are not harmful, can be found in fruit, fish, vegetables, nuts, dairy products, beverages, and eggs. Short-term exposure to high levels of benzene by breathing or eating affects the central nervous system, and can cause paralysis, coma, convulsions, dizziness, sleepiness, rapid heart rate, tightness of the chest, tremors, and rapid breathing. Breathing very high levels of benzene, or eating or drinking foods contaminated with high levels of benzene, can cause death. Eating or drinking foods contaminated with high levels of benzene can also cause vomiting and stomach irritation.

<http://www.wtae.com/allegheny/27685727/detail.html>

### **USA, VA, ALEXANDRIA, APRIL 28 2011. ESTIMATED 1,300 GALLONS OF SULFURIC ACID LEAKS FROM TANK AT POWER PLANT IN ALEXANDRIA**




Authorities say a sulfuric acid leak has been reported at a power plant in Alexandria, Va., but it poses no threat to public safety. Alexandria Fire Department Chief Robert Rodriguez says officials were called to the leak about 1:50 a.m. Wednesday at the GenOn plant on North Royal Street. He says an estimated 1,300 gallons of sulfuric acid leaked from one tank into a secondary tank below. Rodriguez says no has been injured in the incident. He says officials are awaiting crews to clean up the leak. The cause of the leak is under investigation.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/6d67354589744c63aafd3b4266445540/DC--Sulfuric-Acid-Leak/>

### **USA, CA, SAN DIEGO, APRIL 28 2011. GASOLINE DUMPED IN COLLEGE AREA STORM DRAIN >> INCIDENT REPORTED IN 4800 BLOCK OF CAMPANILE WAY**

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.10news.com/news/27683101/detail.html>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.760kfm.com/story/14521160/hazmat-investigates-gasoline-dumped-in-storm-drain>

Crews are flushing the sewer system in the College Area after someone dumped gasoline into a storm drain on Tuesday. The incident was reported just before 9 p.m. in the 4800 block of Campanile Way near Baja Drive after several residents called 911 after smelling gas. A strong gas odor permeated through several blocks of the College Area, specifically between Montezuma Road and Campanile Way and 55th Street and College Avenue. Shelley Orr told 10News she just bought her home on Baja Way and made her very first mortgage payment Tuesday. She said she hopes it wasn't a mistake. "I am concerned that they're still here trying to figure out where the source of the problem is but I feel good that there are a lot of people here on this case so hopefully it will get solved soon," said Orr. Firefighters believe someone dumped gasoline into the sewer system but they don't know exactly where or how much. Portable hazardous material meters read high levels of gasoline in a few manholes but after airing them out for a few minutes, the levels dropped dramatically. The levels dropped off enough for firefighters to hold off evacuations. "No imminent danger to anyone at this point... just a matter of determining that the sewer is clear," said San Diego Fire-Rescue Battalion Chief Michael Finnerty. Wastewater crews will pump water into the sewer system to flush out whatever gasoline is left.

<http://www.10news.com/news/27683101/detail.html>

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#### USA, MI, WHITE OAKS TWP, APRIL 28 2011. MARATHON PIPE LINE APOLOGIZES FOR GASOLINE LEAK >> RESIDENTS WORRY ABOUT IMPACT ON PROPERTY VALUES

*louise knott ahern*

Frustrated residents packed a township meeting Tuesday night, seeking answers from Marathon Pipe Line LLC about how the [company's](#) 126,000-gallon gasoline spill here is going to impact their homes, water and families in the future. Ingham County health and emergency officials hosted the meeting with Marathon representatives to update residents who live near the site of the April 13 leak on the cleanup effort so far. Marathon representative Rob Roy kicked off the meeting with an apology. "I'm sorry for what we've created here," Roy said. "We're committed to making it right. ...We're not going away until we clean this up." The apology didn't sway residents, however, from peppering Roy and other officials with questions about how the spill might affect their property values in the future and whether they'll still have to worry about water contamination years from now. "I'm concerned about what's going to happen over the next few years," said Wendy Bemis, 30, who lives near the site. "I'm concerned about my drinking water and the soil. I don't know if I believe anything." The leak was reported April 13 by Marvin Speer, a local farmer who discovered gasoline trickling into a county drainage ditch on his property. Speer's 16-acre farm sits next to a [fuel](#) storage facility that holds tanks owned by Wolverine Pipe Line Company and Marathon Pipe Line LLC. An investigation of the leak traced it to a pipe owned by Marathon. Nearly 200 workers have been on site since then working on the cleanup. As of Tuesday afternoon, county emergency officials estimated more than 26,500 gallons of gasoline have been recovered from the soil. Officials reiterated Tuesday what they've been saying for several days - that they are confident the leak has been contained to the site of the fuel-storage facility and the Speer farm. But in response to many questions, officials could only urge residents to be patient as they continue investigating not only the spread of the leak but also its possible long-term impact. "We're still in the emergency phase," said Jeff Kimble of the Environmental Protection Agency, one of several local, state and federal agencies overseeing the cleanup. "Some of the data you're asking for ... doesn't exist yet. We've directed Marathon to get it." Marathon is offering free bottled water and well testing to any residents concerned about the safety of their water. The company is working on a long-term plan for cleaning up the site and continuing to monitor area water sources. The plan must be approved by the [Michigan](#) Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110427/NEWS01/104270332/Marathon-Pipe-Line-apologizes-gasoline-leak?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

#### USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 28 2011. CREWS STOP INSECTICIDE FROM REACHING STORM DRAIN

*randall jeppesen*

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=15314346>



Hazmat crews responded to a chemical spill on Yalecrest Avenue (1080 South) Wednesday morning. Around 8:30 a.m., neighbors noticed a chemical flowing down the gutter and called 911. Hazmat crews showed up and found it was an insecticide. A pesticide company was in the area spraying a yard to kill bugs, but a hose ruptured on the truck and about 40 to 50 gallons of chemicals spilled into the gutter and started heading down the street. "The crew quickly followed the leak down the gutter, found it, was able to stop it literally just a foot or two away from where it was going to get into a storm drain and get into the waterways up here, which have had plenty of problems with the oil leaks in the past," said Salt Lake City Fire Department spokesman Mark Bednarik. The chemical traveled about 300 yards down the street before it was stopped. It was diluted because it was about to be sprayed, which means it was less toxic. But the health department still has

concerns because it is a poison and it doesn't want pets or kids to get into it. "Well I just trust that if it was a danger to us as residents we would have been notified," Yalecrest resident Peggy Allen said. "I see there are efforts to clean it up, which I'm glad to see. Accidents happen. I wish it didn't, but hopefully they'll clean it up. An absorbent material was put down to soak up the chemical. The health department will decide if any fines come out of this spill. Residents are relieved the chemical did not make it into Red Butte Creek, because that creek has already been through a lot with recent oil spills. Last June a leak in a Chevron pipeline sent an estimated 33,000 gallons of oil [into Red Butte Creek](#). Much of the oil pooled into a pond at the city's Liberty Park, and regulators say oil traveled downstream into the Jordan River. A second but substantially smaller release of oil [happened in December](#), just 500 feet from the original spill site adjacent to Red Butte Gardens.

<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=15314346>

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### **USA, CA, SIMI VALLEY, APRIL 29 2011. JUDGE SIDES WITH BOEING IN ROCKET SITE CLEANUP**

A federal judge has ruled that a state law that laid out stringent cleanup standards at a contaminated rocket engine test site outside of Los Angeles was unconstitutional. The ruling this week was a victory for the site's current owner Boeing Co., which claimed that it was being unfairly singled out and that the cleanup rules were unreasonable. The state law, passed in 2007, required that the 2,850-acre Santa Susana Field Laboratory be cleaned up to standards above Superfund requirements. Santa Susana was the site of rocket engine tests for decades and housed up to 10 nuclear reactors, including one that had a partial meltdown in 1959. Contamination at the lab has been a source of long-running controversy as the metropolitan Los Angeles region expanded and pressed closer to the site. The state law treated Boeing and the Santa Susana site "far less favorably than it treats other contaminated sites and potentially responsible parties," U.S. District Judge John Walter wrote in a ruling released Tuesday. The state Environmental Protection Agency vowed to appeal. Environmental Protection Secretary Linda Adams said Wednesday the agency will work to "compel Boeing to clean up the site to the highest environmental standards for the benefit of the entire community." The Energy Department carried out nuclear research at the site 25 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles from the 1950s through 1998. In 1959, one reactor's coolant channels became blocked, causing fuel rods to overheat and partially melt. There was also an open-air pit where workers burned radioactive and chemical waste. In a statement, Boeing said it was pleased that the court agreed that "the cleanup of Santa Susana should not be treated differently from the cleanup of other sites in California." The aerospace company said it intends to follow cleanup standards for residential neighborhoods. The deadline for ridding the site of chemical and radioactive pollution is 2017.

#### **Related Link**

- [Santa Susana laboratory ruling favors Boeing](#)
- [Federal judge slaps down state Santa Susana Field Lab cleanup law](#)
- [Judge Sides With Boeing in Rocket Site Cleanup](#)

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jygFE7jIOxi5oqkt\\_f7XI9H3pDpA?docId=46d354d476354e87ba52eb740bdb45a1](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jygFE7jIOxi5oqkt_f7XI9H3pDpA?docId=46d354d476354e87ba52eb740bdb45a1)

### **USA, CA, SANTA ROSA, APRIL 29 2011. PHOSPHORUS GAS LIKELY CAUSED NORTH BAY EXPLOSION >> 3 INJURED, ONE CRITICALLY IN EXPLOSION AT TECH...**

**Watch the Video** <http://www.ktvu.com/news/27682846/detail.html>

Phosphorus gas was being blamed for an explosion Tuesday that forced the evacuation of a high-tech company in Sonoma County and critically injured one worker, according to Santa Rosa fire officials. The industrial accident happened at Agilent Technologies in Santa Rosa. Hazmat crews were at the site most of the afternoon. The chemical explosion set off fire alarms at about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday morning. Approximately 100 employees inside the building had to be cleared out. Many workers heard the blast. Agilent taped off building one where the explosion happened. Through the building's exterior windows, people's purses and lunches were visible right where they had to drop them when the building was evacuated. Workers told KTVU it was a frightening experience. "It was really loud. Like something really heavy fell down on the floor," said Agilent employee Mingwei Li. Agilent officials said the explosion happened while two maintenance workers were cleaning lab equipment, a process involving some eight chemicals. The equipment involved is used for production of integrated circuits, said Agilent spokesman Jeff Weber. And that equipment needs to be maintained and cleaned occasionally. "One worker -- a man identified as Patrick Colbus -- received severe burns on his face and torso. Fire crews had to rescue him because he couldn't make it out of the building on his own. The other worker had mild injuries. A Santa Rosa firefighter who was one of the first to respond to the incident was also injured and was taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, Fire Inspector Marita Petersen said. Those evacuated were taken to another part of the campus and checked for chemical contamination. "It's like taking a shower. You take your clothes off, and get a new set of clothes," Weber said. All of the employees who were evacuated were asked to stay at the facility for a period of time as a precautionary measure to determine if they had suffered any effects from the explosion, Weber said. Some workers said maintenance crews do clean machines that have dangerous materials. Fire officials believed a combination of red phosphorus, white phosphorus and heavy metals likely sparked the blast. "I'm kind of shocked that something happened really," said Agilent employee Kent McComber. "It's an MBE -- molecular beam epitaxy -- so they go in in oxygen suits and they try to be real careful." The worker with the burns was in critical condition at UC Davis Medical Center Tuesday night. Other employees were sent home. It was not clear whether the building would be cleared for staff to return on Wednesday.

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/27682846/detail.html>

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### CANADA, B.C, VICTORIA, APRIL 29 2011. CHANGES PROPOSED TO LATE NIGHT GAS STATION LAWS



*Grant De Patie was dragged to his death under a stolen car in 2005.*

The B.C. government is proposing changes to one of the regulations brought in to protect overnight staff working at gas stations and retail stores from thieves and violence, commonly known as Grant's Law. The proposed changes to the WorkSafeBC regulations would loosen regulations that now require late-night workers to either be physically separated from the public with a locked door or to work in pairs. Under the proposal, employers would have a third option — to put in place a violence prevention program involving time lock safes for cash, surveillance systems, personal emergency transmitters and regular security audits. Labour Minister Stephanie

Cadieux says WorkSafeBC will consult the public about the changes. "The employers and workers and the public have asked us to take another look at it," said Cadieux. But the B.C. Federation of Labour accuses the B.C. government of watering down protection for retail staff. President Jim Sinclair says the pressure is coming from a small lobby of retailers, particularly liquor store owners. "I think it's scandalous," said Sinclair. NDP labour critic Raj Chouhan said it's shameful this has come to light on the eve of the Day of Mourning for workers killed on the job.

#### Grant's Law Passed after Gas Station Death

The regulation was [part of a package of changes passed by the government](#) to protect overnight retail workers following the death of Grant De Patie, a young Maple Ridge gas station attendant who was killed trying to prevent a robbery in 2005. De Patie died after being dragged seven kilometres underneath a car after he was run over by a driver who stole \$12 worth of gas. After his son's death, Doug De Patie spent the next three years lobbying anyone who would listen for the new regulations, which were eventually passed into law and came into effect in 2008. A key part of that package known as Grant's Law required customers at gas stations to pay for their fuel before filling up their cars. Cadieux says the government has no plans to change that prepayment law.

#### Related Link

- [Proposed amendments to the health and safety regulation \(PDF\)](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2011/04/27/bc-grants-law-changes.html>

### LIBYA, TRIPOLI, APRIL 29 2011. TRIPOLI WITNESS: RIOTING, FIGHTING AND DYING FOR FUEL



There are shortages in other Libyan cities too

Tales of tension and gang-fights are common in Tripoli's long queues for fuel. One resident in the Libyan capital - who does not want his name to be used for security reasons - explains. It has been an explosive week in Tripoli, both literally and figuratively. Nato air strikes intensified after a quiet period. Meanwhile, the fuel shortage, that state television channels deny exists, has hit an all-time high in the past eight days. The shortage has not only lasted longer than people expected, but it has also sparked everything from mini-riots to gang fights and, incredibly, shootings as well. State television announced that as of today - Thursday - we may only have fuel for the amount of 5 dinars (\$4), no more, no less. It has instructed

stations to stamp car registration papers with the date of purchase because we can now only refuel every three days or more. The only official explanation for the shortage has been that, while there is a surplus of petrol, some people are panic buying and others want everyone else to think there is a fuel shortage and are creating long queues to trigger chaos. I have seen the longest queues at petrol stations that residents here have arguably ever witnessed. Some will stretch and wind through several streets in residential areas, others are up to 2km long - at least the ones I have seen. Friends will swear passionately that they have seen others that are much longer. It is by all measures a sad and miserable sight. The experience of acquiring fuel is not only dismal, however - it can also be frightening, hazardous and lethal. There are those whom we can call the coalition of the unwilling - a minority group in Tripoli that would rather not queue for days and nights for petrol. They are patiently waiting for the fuel crisis to be somehow resolved. Others it would appear, have invested in bicycles. But for the majority of the capital's population it is a different story.

#### Deadly Encounters

My friend successfully re-fuelled his car on Tuesday after three long days and nights in a queue at the petrol station in his area. Resilience and planning are key. He and his brother queued in shifts - they would alternate every three hours during the day and every five hours at night. He, like many others in the queue, was desperate. His wife is pregnant and due any day

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now. "I can't afford to be short on fuel in my situation," he explains. At that petrol station and many others across the capital this week, fights have been breaking out sporadically between people. This is the account according to one witness: "One night a massive fight broke out. People took out knives and others phoned their relatives telling them to come help with the fight. It quickly spiralled out of control. At least three people were stabbed and we heard that one of them later died from his wounds. There have been similar incidents at many other stations." Meanwhile, my friend who queued for three nights witnessed other incidents. "On one day some cars tried to create a second queue. The brigade forces threatened them, shot into the air and shouted. Some left and others stayed. "Twenty minutes later several cars arrived filled with civilians resembling criminals. They had chains and metal bars and immediately attacked the cars that had refused to leave. "They smashed the windshields, mirrors and hoods and then got into their cars and disappeared as quickly as they appeared. The security forces just watched." On Tuesday morning at a petrol station in Abu Nawas on Gergaresh road, "there was a drive-by shooting targeting the queue. Two people were killed. The cars were white Chevrolets", another friend tells me. He did not see it happen but his friend witnessed it. Yet another friend tells me, at the petrol station along Ghorji Road this week, "a riot broke out and security forces moved in immediately and tear-gassed the crowd". "I was caught in traffic there because of the chaos and almost choked on the tear-gas," my friend said.

### Dangerous Dialling

The security crackdown in this city remains a vital tool for the regime in almost every aspect of daily life. It is an ever-present reminder of the conflict that has so far been staved off in the capital. A chaotic scene and a mobile phone is probably one of the most hazardous combinations these days. On Saturday night a friend witnessed a shooting on Sidi Masri road. "A fuel tanker, parked on the side of the road, was illegally filling a few cars with petrol. There were a few brigade men securing the perimeter as this took place. "A car carrying two men pulled over close by, on the opposite side. One man got out, crossed over and started video-recording with his phone. The security forces saw him and called out: "You! What are you doing?" "He started running away and they shot him. We saw him fall. Immediately the car he came in drove off. There was a taxi near them - the driver was probably working for internal security because they told him to follow the car and he sped off in pursuit. The man who was shot was picked up and thrown into the brigade force truck. They drove off with him." It is not surprising to hear of the dangers of being caught with a mobile phone in your hand that appears to be filming. Another friend also witnessed a similar incident at a petrol station queue in broad daylight. "A teenager standing in the queue at the station held up his mobile phone and appeared to be filming the chaos. I had a feeling it would not end well. I looked over to where security forces were standing and saw one of them watching him from a distance. "The young man put his phone back in his pocket and turned away. As he did, the military man sprinted, slid over one car and grabbed him from the back and put a knife to his throat. "He shouted at him 'Give me your phone! Where are you going?' Then he spoke into his hand-held radio and a civilian car pulled over. They threw him in and drove away." In Tripoli these days, petrol is arguably not only a fuel for cars but also a fuel that is igniting the much repressed anger and, some would argue - confrontation - between residents of this sprawling city.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13222425>

### USA, ILL, CHICAGO, APRIL 29 2011. FUEL TRUCK CLIPS UNITED PLANE'S WING, CAUSING MINOR DAMAGE AND DELAYING THE FLIGHT



*The bent wing of a United aircraft that was clipped by a fuel truck.*

A United flight was delayed out of O'Hare Airport Thursday morning after a fuel truck clipped the plane's wing. United Express Flight 6188 was [apparently waiting for passengers to board](#) around 7:40 a.m. when the truck hit the wing. No injuries were reported and passengers were moved to a different plane. The collision caused minor damage. It's the latest incident in a string of airport mishaps, from a commercial passenger jet clipping another plane at New York City's John F. Kennedy Airport this month to a [Southwest plane sliding off the runway](#) at Chicago's Midway Airport into a patch of mud just this past week. Earlier this month, about 40 Southwest flights in and out of Midway were delayed after a Boeing 737-300 plane from Phoenix to Sacramento lost a six-foot chunk of its fuselage while airborne. All this is aside from passenger-related incidents rooted in [faintings](#), [unruly passengers](#), ["strange" men](#) and [nakedness](#). Airport concerns are up across the board after air traffic controllers have been found asleep on the job. In March, [federal investigators arrived at O'Hare](#) to investigate the increased number of air traffic control errors in the past year. A report from the Federal Aviation Administration showed the number of errors rose because new air traffic controllers directing planes had failed to keep the proper distance between aircrafts. There are 52

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veterans training 15 controllers with some experience. More training was being done to field added flights and plan for the retirement of veteran controllers. On Thursday morning, passengers on United Express Flight 6188 were scheduled to take off at 8:10 a.m. and ended up departing a couple hours later with no problems. Later in the morning, a Continental Airlines flight made an emergency return to San Antonio's airport because of an unexplained chemical smell.

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Clipped-Plane-at-OHare-Latest-in-Airport-Mishaps-120876494.html>

#### USA, WASHINGTON D.C, APRIL 29 2011. CELLPHONE RESTRICTION ADVANCING FOR HAZMAT HAULERS

Commercial drivers are already operating under a federal ban on texting while driving, and the truck and bus industries are paying close attention to additional proposals targeting driver distraction. One of those proposals, which targets hand-held use of cellphones for intrastate drivers hauling hazmat, is advancing. The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has jurisdiction over intrastate hazmat haulers and intends to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register on Friday, April 29, relating to hand-held use of cellphones while driving. The proposal takes into account the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's final rule on texting while driving, and also the FMCSA's proposed rule to restrict the use of hand-held phones while engaged in interstate commerce. Since 2009, federal regulators have targeted five regulatory actions involving driver distraction. The actions are based on the U.S. Department of Transportation's aggressive efforts to curb driver distraction in the commercial sector where the agency has jurisdiction. Thirty-one states have banned texting while driving for all motorists. So far at least, the federal regulatory actions for commercial drivers do not target CB use or hands-free use of communication devices, although one of the proposed rulemakings by the FMCSA poses "what if" questions on the possibility of regulating all cellphone use, including hands-free. OOIDA supports a ban on texting while driving any vehicle, and says that commercial drivers are the safest drivers per capita on the road per vehicle miles traveled. Many truckers use communication devices, including phone applications for GPS, to do their jobs. "OOIDA supports government efforts to prohibit motorists from sending text or email messages while operating a moving vehicle," Association leadership stated in its official [position](#). OOIDA also calls upon government entities to aggressively pursue opportunities to educate the motoring public on safe driving practices and encourages law enforcement agencies to fully enforce existing laws pertaining to inattentive or negligent driving."

[http://www.landlinemag.com/todays\\_news/Daily/2011/Apr11/042511/042811-03.shtml](http://www.landlinemag.com/todays_news/Daily/2011/Apr11/042511/042811-03.shtml)

#### USA, ORE, PORTLAND, APRIL 29 2011. INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE 2011

Monday May 23 – Thursday May 26 2011.



#### Guest Speakers

**OPENING PLENARY SESSION:**  
**Michael Specter**

Michael Specter has been a staff writer at The New Yorker since 1998. His most recent book, "Denialism: How Irrational Thinking Hinders Scientific Progress, Harms the Planet, and Threatens Our Lives," was published on October 29, 2009. Specter writes often about science, technology, and public health. Since joining the magazine, he has written several articles about the world's diminishing freshwater resources, synthetic biology and the debate over the meaning of our carbon footprint.

<http://www.michaelspecter.com/>

#### CLOSING CEREMONY: Admiral Thad Allen

Thad William Allen is a retired United States Coast Guard admiral who served as the 23rd Commandant of the Coast Guard. Allen is best known for his widely-praised performance directing the federal response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast region from September 2005 to January 2006. On April 30, 2010

Detailed Program Info Available on IOSC's Website [www.iosc.org](http://www.iosc.org)

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### INDIA, MADURAI, APRIL 29 2011. THREE KILLED IN EXPLOSION IN FIREWORKS UNIT

Three persons were killed in an explosion in a fireworks unit near Sathankulam in Tuticorin district on Thursday. This is the second explosion in a fireworks unit in the last three days. Two workers were killed and four seriously injured in an accident near Sivakasi on April 26. On Thursday, the death toll rose to four, with two more injured persons dying in the hospital. On Thursday evening, three workers and the owner of a small licensed fireworks unit N Ravi (45) were working with chemicals filling it into cases to make fireworks when there was a loud explosion. The room was completely gutted, trapping all four men under debris. The three workers, P Murugan (42) of Vijayaramapuram, G Ebanezer (34) of Achankulam and T Joseph (37) of Elayirampennai were charred to death and Ravi was rushed to a private hospital in Nagercoil where his condition was stated to be serious. Tiruchendur RDO K Porkodi visited the spot along with other revenue officials and Sathankulam DSP Stanely. There were no other workers as the small licensed fireworks unit had just two rooms a store room and a manufacturing room located in Vijayaramapuram village in Sathankulam taluk. The small unit manufactured fireworks in small quantities to supply during local temple festivals. RDO Porkodi told TOI that mishandling of the chemicals was found to be the reason for the explosion. The chemicals may have been filled in haste leading to friction and causing the explosion. Sathankulam police have registered a case. This is the second accident in a fireworks unit this week. On Tuesday, two workers were killed on the spot in a fireworks unit near Sivakasi while two other workers, Siva (28) of Sivanandhipatti near Sivakasi and Vijayakumar (27) of Krishnapuram died in a private hospital in Madurai due to serious injuries. The death toll in fireworks units in Virudhunagar and Tuticorin districts alone this year has gone up to 20, with eight persons being killed in an accident in Virudhunagar on January 22, six in Tuticorin on March 29, four in Tuesday's accident in Virudhunagar and three in Thursday's accident in Tuticorin.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Three-killed-in-explosion-in-fireworks-unit/articleshow/8112108.cms>

### USA, FLA, ESCAMBIA CO, APRIL 29 2011. FIRE, EXPLOSIONS DESTROY SHOP AND THREE VEHICLES



*Fire and several explosions destroyed a shop and three vehicles Thursday morning in Cantonment.*

Several explosions and a fire destroyed a shop and three vehicles Thursday morning in Cantonment. Authorities believe that several explosions were caused by nitrous oxide tanks inside a shop behind a residence on Archer Road. The fire destroyed the shop, two older vehicles inside the shop and a van. The exact cause of the fire is under investigation. The Cantonment, Beulah, Molino, Ensley and Ferry Pass stations of Escambia Fire Rescue, Escambia County EMS and the Escambia County Sheriff's Office responded to the blaze.

<http://www.northescambia.com/?p=52832>

### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, OWNSVILLE, APRIL 29 2011. MEN CAUGHT AFTER FLEEING NORTH QUEENSLAND CRASH >> TRUCK CARRYING FLAMMABLE GOODS

2 men who fled after a car they were travelling in collided with a truck carrying flammable goods have been caught by police in north Queensland. The men were passengers in a sedan that crossed to the wrong side of the Bruce Highway at Rollingstone and crashed into a northbound truck carrying liquefied petroleum gas about 12.45am (AEST) today. Police said the third man in the car, the driver, was taken to the Townsville Base Hospital with serious injuries. The two passengers fled the scene but were later caught by police and were being questioned. Police said the truck was carrying dangerous goods including LPG, which were declared safe before the truck was turned upright and removed from the scene. The crash shut the highway at the Lorna Creek Bridge for several hours before reopening about 7.30am (AEST) after the truck was declared safe enough to be moved.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/men-caught-after-fleeing-north-queensland-crash/story-e6frf7jx-1226046729538>

### TRINADAD & TOBAGO, APRIL 29 2011. OIL SLICK IN MORUGA

*laurel v williams*

Just a month after oil contaminated approximately ten miles of the La Ruffin River and the Moruga sea, the same problem reoccurred last week and angry fishermen are demanding that the company responsible for the spill rectify the situation immediately. In addition, fishermen are also demanding compensation for damage to fishing equipment and loss of earnings caused by the oil slick. At about midday yesterday fishermen gathered at a house at the La Rufin River, located not-too-far from the Spring Bridge, to voice concerns over the issue. Boat owner and fisherman Leon Joseph of Warwell Road, Tableland

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said since Holy Thursday a large oil slick was seen coating the top and sides of the river and the corpse of fishes have also been seen floating in the water. Firmly believing that the oily water may have already spread to other areas like the nearby Gran Chemin beach, Joseph added that the fishing industry in the predominantly fishing community is at stake. "We normally use sardine as bait to catch larger fishes but when we pulled in our nets we got only dead sardines covered in oil. This river normally teems with fish but since the oil slick...nothing," Joseph said. The oil leak is believed to have originated in Edward Trace, Basse Terre Village, Moruga, from a pipeline belonging to state-owned Petrotrin called the Trinity fields. Joseph said when the oil slick was first noticed last month, some fishermen got compensation to the tune of between \$200 and \$400. "That sum is just insulting," he said, adding that it costs in the thousands of dollars to clean oil-soaked fishing nets and boats. In addition, fishermen have also lost earnings through reduced catches. Another fisherman Dave Green of Basse Terre Village, Moruga admitted that while he too incurred losses following the previous oil spill, is yet to be compensated. Councillor for the area Phillip Gonzales yesterday said he was aware of the problem and had contacted Petrotrin for a team to visit and rectify the problem. He further said that the Princes Town Regional Corporation is not equipped to deal with the oil spill. Member of Parliament for the area Clifton De Coteau said he too was aware of the situation and would be paying a visit to the affected area soon. He expressed concern for the well being of the fishermen saying their livelihood is being affected. Petrotrin's Corporate Communications Officer George Commissiong was said to be in a meeting when calls were made to his office for a comment.

<http://www.newsday.co.tt/news/0,139713.html>

### **USA, ILL, CHICAGO, APRIL 29 2011. MADIGAN FILES OIL SPILL SUIT**

*bryan cohen*

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced on Thursday that she has filed a lawsuit against an independent oil producer over an oil spill in Jasper County earlier this month. The suit alleges that Capco Offshore of Texas Inc., allowed thousands of gallons of oil, saltwater and other oilfield waste to overflow into farmland and ditches at its Willow Hill unit on April 5. "Oil production in Illinois creates jobs and supports our local economy while helping to lessen our dependence on foreign energy sources, but exploration and production must be done in a way that does not endanger the environment," Madigan said. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Office of Mines and Minerals and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency have estimated that at least 1,000 barrels, or 42,000 gallons, overflowed at the site located near the Embarras River. Representatives from the two agencies have worked with personnel from Capco in an effort to recover the spilled crude and other materials and to remove impounded wastes from a storage building to prevent further releases. The spill occurred after a concrete storage pit just south of Willow Hill overflowed. Madigan has asked the court to order Capco to refrain from further violations of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, to find Capco liable for damages and removal costs, to impose the statutory maximum civil penalty and to reimburse the IEPA and IDNR/OMM for costs associated with the cleanup of the overflow.

<http://www.legalnewsline.com/news/232503-madigan-files-oil-spill-suit>

### **NEW ZEALAND, BAY OF ISLANDS, APRIL 29 2011. HARURU FALLS OIL SPILL INVESTIGATED**

A Bay of Island business has been ordered to clean up tonnes of oil-contaminated soil by authorities investigating a spill which polluted a stream that feeds into the river supplying Paihia's drinking water. Tony Phipps, the Northland Regional Council's Operations Director, says members of the public had first reported seeing traces of oil in the unnamed tributary of the Waiarua River near the Haruru Falls industrial estate early this year. Council staff had investigated – including inspecting all the properties in the area – but had not been able to track the source of the oil. There had been intermittent reports of more traces of oil in the stream in both January and February but again, a source could not be located. However, in the week leading up to Easter, a much larger spill of approximately 100 to 200 litres had been detected along a roughly 50-metre stretch of the tributary. Opuia-based regional council staff had responded and had boomed off the area to contain the spill. The Far North District Council had also been alerted as the tributary feeds into the Waiarua River, which in turn feeds in to the Waitangi River, near where the district council draws water for Paihia's town supply. Mr Phipps says the district council was able to take appropriate action to ensure those supplies were not affected and the regional council had arranged for the oil to be removed with special sucker trucks and diggers. This time, the scale of the spill meant oil could still be seen discharging from a stormwater pipe in the area and a remote camera fed up the pipe had showed where the oil was allegedly entering it from a business in the industrial estate. Subsequent inquiries revealed oil appeared to have been discharging for some time from a waste oil storage area at the business. Mr Phipps says several abatement notices have already been issued to the business owner requiring them to stop the alleged discharge and undertake urgent clean up work. "It appears a large amount

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of soil on the property is contaminated with waste oil and will also need to be removed." He says the Regional Council is now considering further enforcement action over the incident, which will likely include an attempt to recover the approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 it had already spent investigating and cleaning up the spill. Mr Phipps says the regional council is in regular contact with the district council to make sure it is kept informed of any developments and can take whatever action necessary to ensure its water supplies are not compromised. "Fortunately, at this stage it appears any environmental damage to the tributary will be short-term. The situation with the business owner's property is less clear at this stage and it's likely they will need to remove quite a few tonnes of oil-contaminated soil." Mr Phipps says the incident serves as a warning to businesses dealing with waste oil to ensure that oil is properly contained and disposed of.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK1104/S00711/haruru-falls-oil-spill-investigated.htm>

### **CANADA, EDMONTON, APRIL 29 2011. IMPERIAL OIL WELL SPILLS AT BOURQUE LAKE SITE >> CREWS CLEAN UP AFTER CRUDE BITUMEN EMULSION LEAK**

*hanneke brooymans*

A leak from an Imperial Oil well spilled 2,500 barrels of crude bitumen emulsion this week at a site near Bourque Lake, 35 kilometres northwest of Cold Lake, the Energy Resources Conservation Board says. Most of the emulsion, a mix of oil and water, remained on the lease site, board spokesman Bob Curran said. However, some of the emulsion from the crude bitumen well sprayed off the lease area. Some of it landed on ice covering most of the nearby lake. A flyover Thursday morning showed a light sheen on the ice of the lake going out a few metres, Alberta Environment spokeswoman Cara Tobin said. The ministry sent staff to the site to ensure appropriate steps were taken to reduce the impact of the spill and clean it up. Company employees are walking the shoreline, placing absorbent booms where there is a sheen, she said. A few feet along the water's edge has melted. "But the ice is pretty dangerous right now so they can't go out very far. They're looking at acquiring some airboats. But even that, they don't know if that will be safe either," she said. The company is mapping the area that needs to be cleaned and developing a cleanup plan. Tobin said she did not know how long the cleanup would take. Imperial Oil spokesman Pius Rolheiser said the company discovered the leak Wednesday morning. "We immediately isolated the pad and made efforts to contain the oil on the pad site, which have largely been successful with the exception of some emulsified bitumen, like a mist, that made its way off-site." Rolheiser said they immediately set up noise cannons to keep wildlife away from the area. The well pad was built and the wells drilled in 2006. It's not yet known what caused the leak. The ERCB said there are no residents in the area and no one was injured in the incident. All appropriate authorities were notified. It appears the leak began Tuesday evening and ended Wednesday morning.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/Imperial+well+spills+Bourque+Lake+site/4694124/story.html>

### **USA, PA, BRADFORD CO, LEROY TWP, APRIL 30 2011. STATE PONDERES PENALTIES OVER DRILLING SITE MISHAP**

*laura olson*

As workers on a Bradford County drilling site continued to prepare the now-stable well for a final protective seal, state environmental officials took a step toward assessing penalties for the accident. Well-control specialists spent most of the day relieving pressure within the Chesapeake Energy well, a procedure that both company and Department of Environmental Protection officials said was not unusual. Those efforts were suspended late Friday afternoon, as rain began to fall, according to Chesapeake. Company spokesman Rory Sweeney said they made "slow progress" toward completely plugging the well Friday, noting that no additional wastewater or gas had escaped since those leaks were stemmed Thursday evening. Procedures to relieve well pressure are "something that is expected at this stage in the process" and raised no immediate concerns, DEP spokesman Dan Spadoni said. Once the final seal is in place, Chesapeake can begin an investigation of why the well blew out during hydraulic fracturing late Tuesday night. That wellhead malfunction resulted in thousands of gallons of fracking wastewater spewing back to the surface, with some trickling into a tributary to Towanda Creek. The well was continuing to leak wastewater Wednesday afternoon, when workers were able to put the briny fracking fluid in containers on the well pad. Neither the DEP nor company officials have estimated how much wastewater entered the tributary, though initial Chesapeake testing showed "minimal, if any" impacts on the waterway. Incident reports posted on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's website stated that "approximately 30,000 gallons of fresh water leaked out of a gas well and into a secondary containment area in Leroy Township." A report issued Thursday also states that there are "no life safety or environmental concerns" from the accident. A PEMA spokesman did not return a request Friday for additional information. Chesapeake said it would account for the spilled wastewater as the investigation gets under way. "We're not done here when the well is finally sealed," Mr. Sweeney said. For DEP officials, who have been involved in the accident response, the next

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investigatory steps are under way. The agency issued a notice of violation to Chesapeake on Friday, Mr. Spadoni said. In the notice, the DEP asked the company to submit an analysis of what caused the equipment failure. The notice also stated that Chesapeake was expected to "be in a stand-down mode on hydraulic fracturing" as officials review what happened. The company said it halted all post-drilling activities, which include hydraulic fracturing, "in order to conduct thorough inspections of wellheads used in completion operations throughout the Marcellus Shale." But environmental advocates from PennFuture called on DEP Acting Secretary Michael Krancer to shut down all Chesapeake sites until the agency conducts its review. Two Bradford County lawyers representing local residents who say they have contamination-related ailments made a similar plea Friday. Mr. Spadoni said the DEP would "evaluate the information that is provided to us by Chesapeake" and decide what additional steps may be necessary.

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=106468](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=106468)

#### **BULGARIA, SMOLYAN, APRIL 30 2011. OIL SPILL DISCOVERED IN BULGARIAN DOSPAT DAM**



*The picturesque Dospat Dam in the Bulgarian Rhodope Mountains.*

An oil spill of about 60 meters has been located in the waters of the Dospat Dam in the Rhodope Mountains. Experts from the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Waters from the city of Smolyan, along with the Dospat municipality and teams of firefighters and police have done a check after receiving a phone call from a citizen around 4 pm Thursday. The spill is in the northeastern end of the dam, near the shore. Testing of water samples has been conducted way into the night in order to locate the source of the pollution. The authorities assure they have taken all necessary measures to prevent further oil leaks and expansion of the spill. The efforts to locate the source continue Friday with experts from the city of Blagoevgrad joining their Smolyan colleagues.

[http://www.novinite.com/view\\_news.php?id=127756](http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=127756)

#### **CHINA, SICHUAN PROVINCE, APRIL 30 2011. SEVEN KILLED AS FUEL TANK CATCHES FIRE IN CHINA**

A fuel tanker burst into flames after hitting four cars in southwest China Friday, killing seven people dead and injuring four, officials said. The accident took place at 3.55 p.m. when the tanker, loaded with industrial chemicals, crashed into four cars. Three of the vehicles caught fire after the crash, Xinhua reported citing the Safety Supervision Bureau of Sichuan province. Firefighters rushed to the scene shortly after the accident, and managed to douse the fire and clear the site.

<http://www.inewsone.com/2011/04/29/seven-killed-as-fuel-tank-catches-fire-in-china/47044>

#### **USA, AKA, WHITTIER, APRIL 30 2011. WHITTIER HARBOR EXPANSION DREDGES UP OLD OIL SPILL**

steve heimel



**Click-2-Listen** <http://aprn.org/2011/04/28/whittier-harbor-expansion-dredges-up-old-oil-spill/>



*Following the Alaska Earthquake 3/28/64". Dark smoke rises from oil storage tanks at the water's edge.*

Efforts to expand the harbor in Whittier have run up against an old oil spill. Last month, Harris Sand and Gravel dredges began pulling up gravel that was oily. That's Gary Folley manager of the state Department of Environmental Conservation's Prevention and Emergency Response Program. Dredging work had to be halted until regulators from DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers decided how the contaminated gravel would be dealt with. They ended up piling it up on Alaska Railroad property near the end of the Anton Anderson Tunnel that connects Whittier with the Seward Highway. There is not much mystery about where the oil came from. The tank farm dates even farther back to when Whittier was a military port during the Second World War. During the earthquake the tank farm was hit by several tidal waves, one more than 100 feet high. Millions of gallons of fuel were released. "A lot of it burned. But evidently some sank." Folley says the contaminated rock and gravel is really piling up.

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That's about 1,000 dump truck loads. Folley says the gravel is being drained before being added to the pile, and work has resumed with more precautions to protect the waters at the dredge site. Folley says the extra work will add substantially to the cost of the \$4 million Whittier project.

<http://aprn.org/2011/04/28/whittier-harbor-expansion-dredges-up-old-oil-spill/>

#### USA, PA, LANCASTER, APRIL 30 2011. HAZMAT TEAM, FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO FUEL SPILL IN CITY

Firefighters and a hazardous materials team worked to try to contain fuel spill in the city this morning. An underground fuel tank was reported to be leaking fuel at about 8:30 a.m. near the Carpet & Tile Mart and Sherwin-Williams stores in the 1200 block of Manheim Pike, said city fire Captain Ken Barton. Grass was dead in the area and an unknown amount of fuel had gotten in a small stream of water, he said. Absorbent material was put at the stream to try to capture some of the fuel.

<http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/382835>

#### USA, WASHINGTON D.C., APRIL 30 2011. GREENPEACE LAWSUIT ACCUSES CHEMICAL COMPANIES OF SPYING ON IT

A federal judge will decide whether to allow a lawsuit to move forward alleging two major chemical companies, Dow and Sasol North America, used a private security firm to spy on environmental groups in Louisiana and Washington, D.C. The suit, filed by [Greenpeace](#), alleges that the two chemical companies, along with PR firms Dezenhall Resources and Ketchum, worked with a now defunct security firm consisting of former Secret Service agents to collect material about the environmental group, including digging up documents from garbage and recycling bins and planting a volunteer in Greenpeace's Washington, D.C., office. The lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages, alleges that the companies were involved in racketeering to discourage or disrupt the environmental group's work. Most of the activity occurred between 1998 and 2000, but wasn't discovered until [a 2008 article](#) by the magazine Mother Jones, according to the suit. The defendants in the lawsuit, filed in November, have asked U.S. District Court Judge Rosemary Collyer to either throw out the suit or issue a summary judgment in favor of the companies. The Washington, D.C., federal judge has not said when she'll rule on the motions. The defendants argue that the charges are either untrue or exaggerated, and that some of the alleged conduct, such as taking materials from garbage and recycling bins, can't be used to support the group's claims of racketeering. In one case, the Greenpeace suit contends, an individual working for the former security firm BBI arranged for an unnamed former Louisiana schoolteacher to get a position with the Calcasieu League for Environmental Action. The so-called "mole," who eventually gained appointment to the organization's board, reported on the group's environmental activities and strategies to BBI, which in turn reported to CONDEA Vista, now known as Sasol, and Dezenhall, according to the lawsuit. The Calcasieu League was working with Greenpeace to limit the chemical company's production and sale of plastics containing polymer polyvinyl chloride. During this period, the lawsuit alleges, the Louisiana law offices of Cox, Cox & Filo were burglarized and records, including client files, were taken. The firm represented workers exposed to ethylene dichloride. In summing up their case, Greenpeace lawyers say the defendants -- the two chemical and two PR firms, along with officials who worked for the BBI security firm -- engaged "in a pattern and practice of clandestine and unlawful activities that included misappropriation and theft of confidential information and trade secrets, unlawful breaking and entering into Greenpeace offices and other locations." "This unlawful scheme was an effort to secure confidential information about, and potentially disrupt, the efforts of Greenpeace and other non-profit organizations and individuals to expose and inform the public and regulators about the chemical companies' activities that were damaging the environment," according to the Greenpeace lawsuit. In their motions for dismissal of the case, attorneys for Dow, Sasol North America, Ketchum, and Dezenhall argue that there is no proof their clients did anything wrong or that Greenpeace or any other group was harmed. Sasol said Greenpeace didn't have a right to expect that materials thrown into trash cans or recycling bins constituted protected private property, even if a key was required to access the fenced area where the trash was dumped. Jackie Burton, a Ketchum spokeswoman, said: "We have no reason to believe Ketchum was involved in the alleged indiscretions. As a company that views integrity as fundamental to our values, we take these allegations very seriously." Dow said in its legal brief that the lawsuit offers no specific allegation that Greenpeace's environmental campaigns against Dow's proposed use of genetically altered food were harmed by the company's work with Ketchum and BBI. "Undeterred by the absence of any actual damages, Greenpeace claims it still should be permitted to continue with the lawsuit due to some bizarre deterrent effect that allegedly allowed Dow to not waste resources by knowing what Greenpeace was not planning," BP said in a brief filed with the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. Greenpeace lawyers say allegations in the lawsuit "do not describe normal and legitimate business activities, nor do they reflect community standards governing privacy, property rights and straightforward dealings."

[http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2011/04/greenpeace\\_lawsuit\\_accuses\\_che.html](http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2011/04/greenpeace_lawsuit_accuses_che.html)

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