



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 771 Newsy Stuff

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

November 3 2011



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INDIA, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23 2011. GAS LEAK KILLS SEVEN IN CITY

At least seven persons, including four children, died in the city in two separate incidents of gas leak from cylinders in the past 24 hours. Cops said both the accidents were so severe that nobody could be saved. While the first incident took place at Rajasthan Udyog Nagar in Jahangirpuri in northwest Delhi around 8pm on Friday late evening, the second case was reported around 8.30am on Saturday from the Hauz Khasi area of north Delhi. According to fire brigade and police officials, the [Jahangirpuri leak](#) killed four. "One Guriya Devi (34) was cooking dinner at their one-room rented flat at Jahangirpuri. Her husband Sadanand, a utensil-seller, was not at home, but their three sons - Alok (7), Sandip (13) and Brajesh (15) - were with her when the gas cylinder suddenly burst, killing all of them. Five fire tenders brought the situation under control," said a senior police officer. The officer said the fire gutted the room completely but the cops are not sure whether there was any negligence on anybody's part. "We have registered a general case at the Mahendra Park police station," said Meenu Chaudhry, DCP (northwest). The second incident was reported from Katra of Hauz Khasi in the Lal Kuan area in north Delhi, killing three persons, including a child. A room caught fire because of gas leak and Shahbuddin (42), a furniture-maker, his daughter Missiba (6) and sister-in-law Meena (30) got killed, the police said. Nazreen, who was preparing food in an adjoining room, has survived. Originally from Bilaspur in Gautambudh Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, close to Greater Noida, they were residing in Old Delhi on rent for the past few months.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Gas-leak-kills-seven-in-city/articleshow/10458532.cms>

USA, MI, DETROIT, OCTOBER 24 2011. DETROIT TO ENFORCE GAS CONTAINER CURFEW ORDINANCE OVER HALLOWEEN

Police will enforce emergency city curfew and gas container ordinances over the Halloween weekend as part of Detroit's annual Angels' Night anti-arson campaign. The city says in a release that children younger than 18 should not be outside without adult supervision between 6 p.m. on Oct. 30 and 6 a.m. on Oct. 31. It's also against the law to pump gasoline into portable containers and to carry any flammable liquid beginning at midnight on Oct. 27 through 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 31. The ordinance does not apply in emergency situations for anyone over age 18 where the fuel is needed for a stalled vehicle, heating a home or for use in an emergency generator. The penalty is a fine up to \$500 and up to 90 days in jail.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20111023/NEWS01/111023006/Detroit-enforce-curfew-ordinance-over-Halloween>

USA, OH, AKRON, OCTOBER 24 2011. MILLIONS OF BARRELS OF DRILLING WASTES INJECTED BELOW AKRON-CANTON AREA

bob downing

Over the last four years, enough yellow-brown, salty liquid has been injected thousands of feet under Ohio's Portage County to fill railroad tank cars stretching for 63 miles. Injecting that waste underground made Portage County No. 2 in Ohio. From 2007 through 2010, Portage County injection wells handled nearly 4 million 42-gallon barrels of waste, according to records from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Mineral Resources Management. That's nearly 168 million gallons. As the drilling practice known as hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" grows in horizontal wells in shale deposits under Ohio to unlock oil and gas deposits valued at billions of dollars, so will the production of drilling fluids that must be re-deposited deep underground through Ohio's injection wells. Nearly 50 percent of the waste being injected in Ohio in 2011 is coming from Pennsylvania, where a drilling boom into the Marcellus shale is already under way. Pennsylvania last May banned shipments of drilling waste to its sewage treatment plants for discharge to local streams, and the state has only eight injection wells because of its underground geology. Ohio, on the other hand, has 181 wells. Ohio drillers are worried that the flood of Pennsylvania shipments will reduce available space for Ohio waste, as drilling into the potentially lucrative Marcellus and Utica shales spreads into Ohio, says Tom Stewart, executive director of the 1,500-member Ohio Oil & Gas Association. Ohio cannot ban such shipments from other states because they are protected under the [U.S. Constitution](#). The anticipated boom in Ohio shale drilling will increase opportunities for supporting businesses, such as the people who lease their land for injection wells and the companies that haul the briny wastes. Roger Root, who lives in Trumbull County's Newton Township, has three injection wells on his family's 168-acre farm, and they have not caused any problems, he said. "To be honest, you sort of forget that they are there," he said of the wells just east of the Portage-Trumbull county line. With the family's drinking-water wells, there have been "absolutely no problems at all with our water" from the salty-oily wastes because of the wells' steel-and-concrete barriers, he said. Some of the family's water wells are close to the injection wells that reach down more than 4,000 feet, the 58-year-old Root said. The wells were drilled in the 1980s to extract natural gas but were changed over to injection

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when it became clear that no gas was to be found in that underground formation. Root said he works with a reliable hauler, Ray Pander Trucking. The firm, based in Palmyra Township, handles drilling wastes from Ohio and Pennsylvania at its eight injections wells in Portage, Stark and Trumbull counties, said spokesman R.C. Pander, Ray's son. The company, with 30 employees and 22 trucks, hauls three commodities: fresh water for drilling, brine from wells that are operational and flowback water that comes from the drilling process. In 2010, the firm handled about 400,000 42-gallon barrels of drilling wastes from as far away as Williamsport, Pa., said R.C. Pander. The volume of wastes is up 74 percent from 2010 to 2011 and it's up about 20 percent from the first quarter of 2011 to the second quarter, he said. In the last quarter of 2010, the firm got about 5 percent of its drilling wastes from Pennsylvania. That grew to 23 percent from January through March and to 47 percent from April through June, he said. In Ohio, the volume of injections may increase nearly 50 percent from about 6 million to 7 million barrels prior to 2010 to more than 9 million this year. The state's 181 wells are in 36 counties. From 2007-2010, Ohio injected more than 28 million barrels or nearly 1.2 billion gallons. That would create a train that would stretch 450 miles from Akron to Richmond, Va. State records show that Ohio has injected nearly 162 million barrels of drilling wastes since 1978. That's more than 6.8 billion gallons. That's enough to create a train stretching 2,520 miles from Akron to Houston, [Texas](#), and back. The Akron-Canton area is playing a big role. Portage and Stark counties each have 16 wells - the most in the state. Although it has fewer wells, [Washington County](#) at Marietta injected 4.2 million barrels from 2007-2010, slightly more than Portage. Stark County ranks third for volume with nearly 2.6 million barrels in that time. Summit, Medina and Wayne counties together accounted for another 500,000 barrels during that period. Under state law that went into effect in 1985, all drilling waste liquids in Ohio must be injected underground through pressurized wells that extend into brine-bearing formations or depleted gas-oil formations. State officials say there is no evidence that the wells have created environmental problems, but critics remain skeptical, worried that [drinking water](#) is at risk. The wastes are high in total dissolved solids and contain [sodium chloride](#), calcium and magnesium, plus toxic chemicals from the drilling process and low levels of naturally occurring radioactive materials from the underground rock. Other trace elements commonly found in brine include barium, zinc, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, mercury and nickel. Experts note that [drinking water](#) is much closer to the surface, far away from the injection zones and separated from the rock formations that get the injected liquids. The injected liquids spread out within the confines of the rock layers, and that makes it impossible to predict how much remaining storage capacity Ohio might have underground. But it is likely extensive because of Ohio's geology and its extensive drilling history. The industry began using injection wells to dispose of brine in the 1930s. But injection wells are coming under new scrutiny in some places. Injection wells for drilling wastes have been banned from an earthquake-prone area of central Arkansas. The state of Arkansas said in July that the ban was needed because of the likelihood that the disposal of natural gas drilling fluids was contributing to the frequency of the small quakes. The ban covers about 1,150 square miles in two counties 45 miles north of Little Rock. The action by the state Oil and Gas Commission closed one injection well. Three other wells voluntarily shut down. More than a thousand small earthquakes have struck the area around the towns of Guy and Greenbrier over the last year. The biggest was a 4.7-magnitude quake on Feb. 27. Two other injection wells voluntarily shut down last March, while state officials investigated. The number of quakes declined after those wells ceased operations. Arkansas has about 500 injection wells. Geologists have long suspected that injecting liquids into underground rock formations can trigger earthquakes along existing fault lines. The liquids allow rocks to flow more easily past each other. But proving that injection wells have caused earthquakes is very difficult. Injection-well operators contend that a clear link is missing and argue that Arkansas had earthquakes prior to injecting liquid wastes. While Ohio officials say none of the operating injection wells have been linked to earthquakes, a now-closed well in Ashtabula County was. From 1986 to 1994, millions of gallons of [chemical wastes](#) were injected under pressure to a depth of about 5,800 feet outside Ashtabula by Resource Environmental Services Inc. That operation is linked to numerous small earthquakes than began in 1987 and continued to 2003, said Michael C. Hansen, state geologist and director of the Ohio Seismic Network. The biggest quake was a 4.5 in early 2001. Questions about earthquakes and injection wells have also been raised in [West Virginia](#), Colorado and [Texas](#). R.C. Pander said he has been able to raise prices because demand for his services is growing. A year ago, drillers paid \$1 per barrel for brine and \$2.25 a barrel for flowback water. The new rates are \$3.50 and \$4.75, respectively, he said. His firm is looking into adding new injection wells at a cost of about \$500,000 each. One of the Pander injection wells sits in a wooded grove off state Route 5 not far from Root's farm. That provides easy access to tanker trucks hauling Pennsylvania waste to Ohio and the site draws a steady flow of tanker traffic 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The brine goes first from trucks to a tank, then flows from tank to tank to be filtered before going to the injection well, which stands about six feet high. There are 11 tanks in all. The filtering is needed to keep mud in the brine from clogging the well, Pander said. Some injection wells can handle 30 barrels an hour; others can

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handle up to 100 barrels an hour, he said. "We don't have any of those," he said with a laugh. In [Summit County](#), there is one operating injection well: at Keyser Park at West Bath and Northampton roads in Cuyahoga Falls. It is owned by Moore Well Services Inc. and has been use for nearly 30 years, said company owner Jeff Moore. The well that goes to about 7,185 feet pays royalties to the city of Cuyahoga Falls. About 90 percent of the briny wastes comes from wells in Summit County with the rest coming from surrounding counties, he said. Moore said his company, with offices in Hudson, handles virtually no flowback water and is not handling any drilling wastes from Pennsylvania. Most of the brine comes from the company's 200 wells, he said. The injection well typically gets four to five trucks per day - with each load being between 60 and 80 barrels or 2,520 to 3,360 gallons, he said. His company has three trucks and 14 employees. Root, with three injection wells on his farm, declined to say how much he gets paid by Ray Pander Trucking for having the wells on his property. "We're not millionaires and it's not enough to retire on," he said with a laugh. But the payments made a big difference to his family in the 1980s, he said. His stepfather, the late Robert Wolf, had lost his job and the injection-well payments kept the family afloat, Root said. "We didn't have Christmas for a couple of years, but the payments made sure that the taxes were paid and that we didn't lose the farm," he said. "It helped save our farm. It saved us."

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/10/23/4000763/millions-of-barrels-of-drilling.html>

SWEDEN, STOCKHOLM, OCTOBER 24 2011. OIL SPILL FIRE CLOSES NUCLEAR REACTOR IN SOUTHERN SWEDEN

A nuclear reactor in southern Sweden has been shut down after a fire at the plant. Plant operator OKG's spokesman Anders Ostberg says a fire started in a turbine hall of Reactor 2 around midnight Saturday but was quickly extinguished by local rescue workers. Ostberg said Sunday the blaze appears to have been caused by oil that leaked onto a hot surface. But he said further investigations are needed to determine what caused the oil leak and that it wasn't immediately clear when the nuclear plant would reopen. OKG operates 3 nuclear reactors in the town of Oskarshamn in southeast Sweden. The Nordic country gets nearly half of its electricity from 10 nuclear reactors, and abandoned plans to dismantle them by 2010.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/nuclear-reactor-in-southern-sweden-closed-after-oil-spill-fire/2011/10/23/gIQAfNj38L_story.html

USA, MD, BALTIMORE, OCTOBER 25 2011. FUEL TRUCK CRASHES INTO JET AT BWI >> OFFICIALS SAY NO INJURIES REPORTED

Watch the Video <http://www.wbaltv.com/r/29563952/detail.html>



A Southwest Airlines jet was involved in a runway collision with a fuel truck on Saturday night.

A traffic accident happened on the runway at BWI on Saturday night, between a plane and a truck loaded with fuel. Officials at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport say no one was injured when a Southwest Airlines jet and an airport fuel truck collided on the tarmac. An airport spokesman says the plane was struck by the truck after landing at BWI from Orlando Saturday night. The spokesman described the incident as "very rare" and says the plane was taken out of service while the crash is investigated.

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/132429843.html>

ISRAEL, JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 25 2011. HAIFA COURT IMPOSES HIGHEST EVER FINE FOR OIL SPILL

sharon udasinMediterranean Shipping Company is fined NIS 1m. after one of its ships spilled oil into the Port of Haifa; indictments are dropped. The Geneva-based Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) has received a fine of NIS 1.01 million – the largest fine ever charged to a ship on Israeli waters – after a detrimental oil spill hit the Haifa seaport area in December, the Environmental Protection Ministry told The Jerusalem Post on Sunday. Haifa Magistrate Court Justice Daniel Fish imposed the penalty on the company on October 10, convicting it of spilling oil into the sea and disturbing the public domain under severe circumstances, the ministry said in a Sunday statement. The ship, called MSC PERLE, was docked in the Haifa port making preparations to empty its ballast water (water in the hull that maintains ship stability) when tens of tons of heavy fuel oil spilled out into the sea, creating environmental and property damage still visible for weeks following the incident, according to the statement. Immediately after, the Environment Ministry filed an indictment against the company, as well as the ship captain and chief engineer. "To be precise, this is the highest fine that a ship ever received in Israeli waters. This is the biggest one,"

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Rani Amir, head of the ministry's marine and coastal division, told the Post of the December 19 incident. The closest fine to the NIS 1.01 million sum was NIS 650,00, which was charged to Florealis Shipping after a vessel spilled around 15 tons of oil in the Eilat bay in September 2000, according to Amir. While the exact amount of oil spilled this December is difficult to calculate, based on the mass balance left inside the ship, Amir said the ministry estimated that about 30-40 tons were lost this time. Such cases are very complicated to clean up and can often take many months or years to eliminate the polluting substance from the water, he added. "In this case, we are done," Amir said. Although the fine withstood in the judge's ruling, the indictments against the two specific individuals were dropped in a plea bargain, with the understanding that they will be required to answer for their conduct in the framework of internal company proceedings, according to the ministry. Amir said he expected that MSC would be fully cooperative with the ruling. A representative from the Haifa branch of MSC told the Post that his office could not comment on the issue, as the fine was levied against the international umbrella organization in Geneva. While the Post attempted to contact the appropriate source there, the Swiss headquarters were closed for business on Sunday.

<http://www.jpost.com/Sci-Tech/Article.aspx?id=242906>

CHINA, SHANDONG, YANTAI, OCTOBER 25 2011. COMPANY SAYS OIL LEAKS IN BOHAI BAY SEALED

zhou yan & wang qian



More than 5,500 square kilometers of water in the Bohai Sea has been polluted by oil spilled at the platform since June, causing the country's worst offshore maritime pollution.

China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC), majority owner of the leaking Penglai 19-3 oilfield, said on Monday that the oil leaks have been sealed by reservoir pressure reduction and a series of technological measures. "After adopting some effective measures, we believe that we have met the requirements set by the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) to thoroughly examine and block the oil sources and continue to clean up the oily mud," said Chen Bi, executive vice-president of CNOOC, the nation's biggest offshore oil producer. However, the information has yet to be confirmed by the national maritime authority. A report on the website of the

North China Sea Branch of the SOA showed that the daily oil leakage was about 1.67 liters from platform C on Oct 23. ConocoPhillips China, a subsidiary of the Houston-based energy company ConocoPhillips which has a 49 percent stake in the oilfield in Bohai Bay, said on Monday it is "taking additional measures to monitor the seafloor for activity of previously identified or possible additional seep sources". Both the SOA and ConocoPhillips could not be reached for immediate comment. The SOA in early September ordered ConocoPhillips China to halt all operations after the company failed to seal leaks by the Aug 31 deadline set by the maritime authority. The leaks, which were first observed in June, have spilled about 3,200 barrels of oil and oil-based drilling fluids and contaminated about 5,500 sq km of the bay's surface, official figures showed. The total seepage has tested below 2 liters daily since Oct 11, and has dropped day by day, Chen said. He added that there is no obvious oil belt seen around Platform C since Oct 9. Even if the oil leaks have been sealed, it is still difficult to tell whether more leaks will appear when the oilfield resumes operation, according to Ma Jun, director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs. "Further evaluations on the effectiveness of the sealing measures are required," he said. "It's a paradox for oil producers in China now," said Zhu Fang, vice-director of the information and marketing department at the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Federation. He said that China's surging demand for oil to support its economic expansion requires companies to accelerate their exploration, which will bring about the kind of environmental concerns that have attracted more attention by the public. "The conflicts will continue," he said.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-10/25/content_13966225.htm

USA, AL, HUNTSVILLE, OCTOBER 25 2011. TOXIC LEAK LEADS TO DISCOVERY OF PRE-HISTORIC VILLAGE

tricia forbes

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.waff.com/story/15860632/toxic-leak-leads-to-discovery-of-pre-historic-village>

On the site of an old World War II era wastewater treatment plant, archaeologists are busy digging. Redstone Arsenal Cultural Resource Manager and Archaeologist Ben Hocksbergen has a team of nearly a dozen excavators working to collect artifacts from a village that once thrived at the site. Hocksbergen said approximately 100 natives lived there around 300 A.D. Toxic

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chemicals have seeped into the ground surrounding the old plant, and the soil needs to be removed and taken to a toxic waste facility. Prior to the start of the removal, Hocksbergen and his team did a survey of the site. "Lo and behold, we found a massive late-middle Woodland period village," he said. The village is believed to have existed about 1,700 years ago. The villagers stored and disposed of their belongings in pits in the ground. "All of those pits are chalk full of ancient garbage basically. Broken pots, spear points, stone tools," said Hocksbergen at the site. The team uses a homemade machine to sort the artifacts. A flow of water sorts the items through a network of various sized screens. It makes use of the wastewater treatment facilities to filter the water before releasing it back into Indian Creek. Hocksbergen said the nature of the soil makes this site particularly interesting. Items that would normally decompose have been naturally preserved. "The preservation here is immaculate. We've found bone needles that are perfectly carved and look like they were made yesterday," he said. The team will continue to excavate the site for a few more months. After they finish, the artifacts will be analyzed and preserved. "Some of the nicest items, we'll try to retain here and put on display for the public," he said. Hocksbergen said this is one of the largest sites of its kind at Redstone Arsenal. Right now, they have more than 960 archaeological sites on record.

<http://www.waff.com/story/15860632/toxic-leak-leads-to-discovery-of-pre-historic-village>

USA, TX, DALLAS, OCTOBER 25 2011. FREE ACCESS TO US COURT DOCUMENTS FILED AGAINST ROYAL DUTCH SHELL CLAIMING \$1B IN DAMAGES

john donovan

Due to the Defendants' oil exploration in the Plaintiffs land and failure by Shell and others to meet minimum Nigerian or own standards, the Plaintiffs community is now characterized by heavy contamination of land and underground water courses, sometimes more than 40 years after oil was spilled.

We have purchased from the United States District Court Eastern District of Michigan and now publish on the Internet, court documents issued in the court on 18 October 2011 against Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Shell Petroleum Development Company (NIG) Ltd. The case is as stated in the related Washington Post article: [Nigeria village cited by UN for chronic oil-spill damage sues Royal Dutch Shell for \\$1B in US](#)

Case No. 11-14572

HRH Emere Godwin Bebe Okpabi; Emere Fortune Olaka OBE; Emere Ake Oluka; Honourable Princewill Ake Igwe; Honourable Dandysen Ngawala; Chief Lawrence Osaro Oyor, for themselves and on behalf of the People of Ogale in Eleme Local Government, Rivers state,

Plaintiffs, v.

Royal Dutch Shell, Plc; Shell Petroleum Development Company (Nig) Ltd,

Defendants.

- [Summons Issued Against Royal Dutch Shell Plc](#)
- [Certificate Of Service](#)
- [Complaint And Jury Demand](#) – 32 Pages

Extract From Complaint and Jury Demand

- 20 *The Niger delta is one of the most polluted regions in the world, with more oil spilled across the region each year than the oil spilt in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. According to Nigerian government figures, there were more than 7,000 spills between 1970 and 2000, and there are 2,000 official major spillage sites, many going back decades, with thousands of smaller spills still waiting to be cleared up.*
- 24 *Due to the Defendants' oil exploration in the Plaintiffs land and failure by Shell and others to meet minimum Nigerian or own standards, the Plaintiffs community is now characterized by heavy contamination of land and underground water courses, sometimes more than 40 years after oil was spilled. With community drinking water at dangerous concentrations of benzene and other pollutants and soil contamination more than five metres deep in many areas with most of the spill sites, which the Defendants claimed to have cleaned, is still highly contaminated with dumping of contaminated soil in unlined pits and water coated with hydrocarbons more than 1,000 times the level allowed by Nigerian drinking water standards.*
- 29 *The UNEP Report further states that the people of Nsisioken Ogale Community have for several years being drinking water contaminated with benzene, a known carcinogen at levels over 900 times above the World Health Organization guideline.*

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- 62 A 2007 CDC review of benzene toxicity concluded that there is substantial human evidence that benzene causes leukemia. It also reports aplastic anemia (a precursor of leukemia), chromosomal abnormalities in lymphocytes and bone marrow cells, damage to the immune system and abnormal development of blood cells. When blood cells are deficient, this can cause other serious medical conditions, including infection due to a lack of leukocytes and increased cardiac stress due to a lack of erythrocytes. Long term low level oral and inhalation exposures have also caused peripheral nervous system abnormalities, distal neuropathy, difficulty sleeping and memory loss.
- 84 On many occasions, the defendants have spent decades fighting lengthy appeals that bled the victims dry in legal costs. The culture of impunity include but not limited to the following: refusal to comply with a 2006 Judgment in which the defendants were ordered to pay \$1.5bn in damages to the Ijaw communities of Bayelsa State. Since 2005, refusal to comply with another court order to end gas flaring in the Iwherekkan community. The Ejama Ebubu community has waited more than 40 years for Shell to clean an oil spill from 1970.
- 124 The acts described herein constitute *cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment* in violation of the Alien Tort Claims Act, customary international law, the common law of the United States, the statutes and common law of Michigan, the laws of Nigeria, and the international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions described herein.
- 129 Defendants engaged in conduct so *reckless, wilful, wanton and in such utter and flagrant disregard for the safety and health of the public and the environment* in their activities leading up to the Spill, as alleged herein, that an award of punitive damages against them at the highest possible level is warranted and necessary to impose effective and optimal punishment and deterrence. Plaintiffs, society and the environment cannot afford and should never be exposed to the risks of continuing spill that has not been abated and all of which were caused by the by Defendants' misconduct herein.
- 130 The Defendant's corporate culture caused and allowed it to disregard the lessons it should have learned and applied from previous incidents; instead, it continued to place others at risk in the interests of cost-cutting and financial gain.
- 133 Defendants' conduct, as described more fully hereinabove, is at the highest level of reprehensibility, warranting and necessitating the imposition of punitive damages at the highest level, because Defendants' conduct was motivated by financial gain; because it endangered human and environmental health and safety; because it caused devastating damage and loss to the livelihoods, businesses, and properties of Plaintiffs; because it is not isolated or accidental, but part of a culture and ongoing pattern of conduct that consistently and repeatedly ignored risks to others in favor of financial advantage to Defendants; and because it has accordingly caused societal harm, moral outrage and condemnation, and the need to punish Defendants and deter further repetition by Defendants or others.

<http://royaldutchshellplc.com/2011/10/24/free-access-to-us-court-documents-filed-against-royal-dutch-shell-claiming-1b-in-damages/>

**SOUTH AFRICA, CAPETOWN, OCTOBER 25 2011. KAROO GROUP GOES TO COURT OVER TEAM'S COMPOSITION
>> DA AND NGO SAY COURT ACTION IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET DETAILS ON THE TASK TEAM'S COMPOSITION
sue blaine**



Taking the Department of Mineral Resources to court over the task team it appointed to investigate the effect of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) on the Karoo was the only way to get details on the task team's composition — information which should have been public in the first place, the Democratic Alliance (DA) and a nongovernmental organisation said yesterday. The Treasure Karoo Action Group (TKAG) yesterday lodged papers in the North Gauteng High Court as it sought to use the Promotion of Access to Information Act to force the department to reveal who was on the task team. Department of Mineral Resources spokesman Bheki Khumalo said the department would comment only after receiving the papers, and legal advice on their content. TKAG chairman Jonathan Deal said this was the first time legal proceedings had been instituted in relation to applications to explore the

economic viability of the Karoo's shale gas resources. To do so requires fracking. The department had not answered TKAG's request for information, made in terms of the act, so the group lodged an internal appeal, he said. The act regarded the failure to provide an answer as a refusal to answer. Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabang has placed a moratorium on shale gas prospecting due to last to the end of February, in part to give the task team time to investigate fracking. Opposition to

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fracking has been fierce but SA needs to cut greenhouse gas emissions to meet a global commitment, and gas is generally accepted as a cleaner energy source than coal. Mr Deal said by repeatedly failing to furnish it with information on the task team, the department left it with no alternative but to bring an application to court. "The decision to allow or refuse fracking in this country will make international history. It is a complicated evaluation and the public of SA has an absolute right to be completely informed of the brief, activities and expertise of those who will be making decisions." Centre for Environmental Rights director Melissa Fourie said the centre had in the past year submitted 37 requests for information to the department. It had received three full answers, and two incomplete answers. Nineteen appeals had gone unanswered. The DA's water and environmental affairs spokesman, Gareth Morgan, said he had also unsuccessfully tried to get information on the task team. Ms Fourie said: "By simply failing to process requests the (department) has rendered the most basic information wholly inaccessible to the public as it is impossible for any requestor to proceed to court in respect of every request for information. In our experience the (department) is accepting a processing fee but in most cases is taking no steps to process requests or appeals, fundamentally undermining the provisions of (the act) and the constitutional right to information."

<http://www.businessday.co.za/Articles/Content.aspx?id=156921>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, CLONCURRY, OCTOBER 25 2011. ACID TRAIN DERAILS

cole latimer



Emergency services are in the fourth day of clean up following the derailment of a train carrying acid near Cloncurry.

The QR National train, which had more than 1.5 megalitres of sulphuric acid on board, jumped the tracks at the Cloncurry railway station late Friday afternoon, the [North West Star reports](#). The train's 52 carriages were each holding around 32 000 litres of acid. According to Queensland Fire and Rescue Service inspector Ross Mutzelburg no acid was actually spilled in the incident. "Thirteen of them are derailed but they're still upright," he told the North West Star. Around a dozen firefighters were at the accident site on Sunday to oversee the recovery. Mutzelburg said it was a dangerous job as the train's carriages were linked to one another by a network of hoses through which the acid flowed. "We've got experts here undoing the hoses and pumping the acid out. They're wearing acid protection suits which get very hot so there's always a bit of risk to them "It takes about two hours to disconnect each hose." He went on to say that every time a hose is disconnected there is a chance the acid may spill. However "there's only been about a cup spilled, which isn't bad out of more than a million litres". There is no danger to the public, as the train derailed away from the town. Track repairs will be needed, but disruption to services is expected to be minimal as the incident occurred in the rail yard, and not the line itself. According to the CourierMail, the train came from the Phosphate Hill mine.

Related Links

- [Watch the Video Train 9T90 \(Sulphuric Acid\) going over Cloncurry River bridge, enroute to Phosphate Hill mine.](#)
- [Watch the Video Townsville to Phosphate Hill unit sulphuric acid train 9T90 climbs Mundic bank](#)

<http://www.miningaustralia.com.au/news/acid-train-derails>

USA, OK, CUSHING, OCTOBER 25 2011. CUSHING NEIGHBORS RELIEVED BY HUDSON REFINERY CLEAN UP

[Watch the Video http://www.newson6.com/story/15863513/cushing-neighbors-relieved-by-hudson-refinery-clean-up](http://www.newson6.com/story/15863513/cushing-neighbors-relieved-by-hudson-refinery-clean-up)



Crews are prepping the site of the old Hudson Oil Refinery for cleanup.

Crews are back at an Oklahoma Superfund site. They're getting ready for another round of cleanup this week at the old Hudson Refinery in Cushing. "Whole lot better than it was when we moved out of here 17 years ago," said Cushing resident Shirley Mullins. Mullins has a front row seat. Her home of nearly two decades is right across the street, and she's watched workers come and go over the years. "They never have completely quit coming out and checking this and the one on the north side of the highway," she said. The EPA and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality have been keeping a close eye on the property since it

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became a Superfund site in 1999. Hudson Refinery produced gasoline, propane, and oil here for six decades. This is the second time crews have been out to clean up contaminants. Cleanup of wastewater ponds and contaminated soil began in May of 2010, and it finished about a year ago. It was all paid for by Land O' Lakes, the company that has since acquired Hudson Refining, at a cost of about \$9 million. This time they're working on a small area just south of Highway 33 where tar waste and asbestos was recently found. The big issue - right now - for neighbors are some abandoned buildings. "I wish they'd either clean it up or get rid of them," said Sandy Frye, a Cushing resident. Frye says the buildings are home to feral cats and make for an unpleasant view. "Just seems like to me it's a very sad eyesore," she said. The EPA says the buildings are not part of the Superfund cleanup, and it's the owners responsibility to have them removed. Removal of the contaminants will begin later this week. The waste will be taken to a commercial landfill that has been approved by the EPA. Neighbors are just glad it's being taken care of and wonder what's next for the property. "I don't know about anything what'll be done with it," said Shirley Mullins of Cushing. "Just as far as I'm concerned, they can leave it just like it is." The EPA says after the cleanup is done here they'll continue to monitor the groundwater and soil to look for any more contaminants as well as work to cover the area with permanent vegetation.

<http://www.newson6.com/story/15863513/cushing-neighbors-relieved-by-hudson-refinery-clean-up>

AUSTRALIA, N.S.W, SYDNEY, OCTOBER 25 2011. WAREHOUSE OPERATORS IGNORANT OF SAFETY REGS

anna game-lopata

A significant number of warehouse operators are unaware of the hazards and safety obligations associated with the storage of dangerous substances a safety seminar will hear tomorrow. Part of an Australian Warehousing Association series at this year's Safety Show in Sydney, the seminar will relate the dire consequences of mishandling dangerous goods and remind operators of existing regulations and codes of practice. With experience in the chemical industry and over 11 years as a consultant, Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants Vice President and Seminar Presenter Peter Hunt is called on for advice about building warehouses for dangerous goods and as an expert witness when things go wrong. He says sadly, many industry operators still fail to ask themselves what regulations cover their activities in relation to the storage and handling of dangerous goods. "The problem is if people set out to build a warehouse and it is designed to store these sorts of dangerous goods they'll be fine," he says. "But there are plenty of businesses that just buy or lease an empty warehouse because it is big enough for what they want. "They don't realise it's entirely unsuitable; it has inadequate containment and fire fighting facilities, its not structured properly, it has inadequate separation of office and amenities from the actual storage area and so on," he says. In a recent incident, overseas operators set up business in Australia, completely unaware of the regulations. "They rented a placed and stashed it full of flammable liquids, which could have caused a serious fire," Hunt says. Hunt points out that fire brigades in at least two states have deliberately expressed concern to the government about the prevalence of buildings being used for the storage and handling of dangrous substances when they don't comply with the relevant regulations. "Compliance with general building regulations does not mean a building is suitable for dangerous goods," he says. Hunt says Wednesday's seminar will also tackle the difference between regulations for the transport of dangerous goods and those for storing them. "There's a difference between what's a dangerous for transport and what's dangerous for storage and handling," he explains. "Many warehousing and distribution businesses don't realise they need to consider both sets of regulations. "Flammable liquids are labelled as such both for transport and storage handling, but certain combustible liquids are not considered dangerous goods for transport so are not labelled. "For example, diesel is combustible but not considered dangerous for transport. If you've got 20 tonnes on the back of a truck it's unlikely to get ignited. "However if you have a significant amount of diesel in a warehouse that gets ignited, you'll have a ripper of a fire." Hunt says there are still too many organisations unaware of the dangers associated with the products they store. "Even large quantities of pharmaceutical skin care products can be a significant fire risk if not handled properly," he says. "It's all about the nature and quantity of the materials however they're stored." Like all regulations associated with transport and logistics, dangerous goods regulations are currently state based and administered. "There are eight different sets of state or territory regulations and codes of practice relating to dangerous goods," Hunt says. "In Queensland it's the Dangerous Goods and Safety Management Act, while in NSW the storage of dangerous goods comes under the Occupational Health and Safety Act." "Different Acts apply to the transport of dangerous goods whether by road or rail." In addition, if you bring goods in from another state, regulations state operators must comply with safety regulations associated with 'manufacturers' including the obligation to provide material safety data sheets. Part of the 2011 Safety Show at The Sydney Showgrounds, Peter Hunt's Dangerous Goods Seminar will

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be held tomorrow, Wednesday 26 October at 1.00pm. "Awareness is the first step," Hunt says. "We'll talk about the regulatory environment—and I plan to give examples of incidents where combustible liquids were involved in spectacular fires."

<http://www.supplychainreview.com.au/news/articleid/76626.aspx>

LYBIA, SIRTE, OCTOBER 25 2011. FUEL DEPOT BLAST IN SIRTE KILLS 100

A fuel tank exploded in Muammar Gaddafi's hometown Sirte killing more than 100 people less than a week after the deposed despot was captured and killed there, a military commander said on Tuesday. "There was an enormous explosion and a huge fire. More than 100 people were killed and 50 others wounded" in Monday night's blast, National Transitional Council commander Leith Mohammed told AFP. He said the scene was "a heart wrenching spectacle with dozens of charred bodies". The explosion happened as a crowd of people waited near the fuel tank to fill up their cars. "We are still unable to put out the fire," Mohammed said. Some of the victims had returned to the town, the last bastion of resistance by Gaddafi loyalists, which fell on Thursday, to inspect the damage to their properties, the NTC commander added.

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Libya-Fuel-depot-blast-in-Sirte-kills-100-20111025>

USA, CA, HINKLEY, OCTOBER 26 2011. PG&E APPEALS WATER BOARD ORDER FOR HINKLEY



Pacifi Pacific Gas & Electric, PG&E's Hinkley Compressor Station where the toxic plume of Hexavalent Chromium or Chromium 6 contaminated the groundwater from evaporation ponds in the Mojave Desert town of Hinkley.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has filed an appeal with the state's Water Resources Control Board to stop an order that it provide permanent replacement water to Hinkley residents affected by a toxic groundwater plume. The utility's action Tuesday afternoon comes two weeks after the Lahontan Water Board ordered PG&E to provide a new replacement water system to Hinkley water users. PG&E has been providing bottled water at more than 80 locations in Hinkley, including homes and the town's only school and senior center. "We remain committed to continuing to work cooperatively with the

water board, interested agencies and the Hinkley community to address environmental impacts and community concerns stemming from our past operations..." PG&E spokesman Jeff Smith said. Those operations have for decades forced PG&E to grapple with the High Desert town's groundwater contamination problem. In the 1950s and 1960s, the utility used the cancer-causing chemical hexavalent chromium, or chromium 6, to prevent rust and algae buildup in its cooling towers, long before the harmful side effects of the chemical were known. The chemical leaked into unlined ponds and contaminated Hinkley's groundwater. The plight of Hinkley's residents, who claimed the contaminated groundwater was the cause of myriad health ailments, and their landmark lawsuit against PG&E was the subject of the 2000 film "Erin Brockovich." Last year, the state Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, learned the contaminated plume had expanded to roughly 2<MD+,%30,%55,%70>1/<MD-,%0,%55,%70>2 miles in length and about a mile in width. It ramped up its orders to PG&E to expedite the cleanup process. A series of community meetings were launched, and Erin Brockovich was again summoned to the town to gather with residents and discuss their concerns. Talk of another lawsuit swirled through the community. Smith said on Tuesday that PG&E is concerned about the "wide-ranging and statewide policy implications of certain provisions" with Lahontan's Oct. 11 abatement order. For example, Lahontan's latest order sets a new standard for chromium 6 levels that are more than 100 times lower than the naturally occurring background level in Hinkley and lower than naturally occurring background levels experienced in other communities across the state, Smith said. "We are concerned that the order requiring replacement water for wells containing concentrations well below natural background levels is not consistent with California state law and may not be possible to achieve," Smith said. Longtime Hinkley resident and activist Roberta Walker said a replacement water system comes down to five choices for PG&E - including shipping water in from out of town and even building a pipeline into town. She's not thrilled with any of them, she said, citing a lack of trust in PG&E and the water the company would provide to users. Lahontan's latest demands partly contributed to PG&E filing a report with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Oct. 18, informing the federal agency that the projected cleanup cost in Hinkley now exceeds \$54 million, the amount PG&E set aside in June for its groundwater cleanup efforts in Hinkley. Lauri Kemper, assistant executive officer for Lahontan, could not be reached for comment Tuesday. But Walker was skeptical of PG&E's latest action. "I'm not surprised," said Walker, a 35-year resident of the town. "It's just another stall tactic for PG&E."

http://www.contracostimes.com/california/ci_19190719?nclick_check=1

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USA, CO, GATEWAY, OCTOBER 26 2011. TRUCK CRASH SPILLS THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF OIL >> CREWS REOPEN HWY 141 AFTER CLEARING SCENE

don coleman

 **Watch the Video:**

http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/BREAKING_NEWS_Semi_Truck_Rolls_near_Gateway_132476873.html

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kjct8.com/news/29574575/detail.html>

Hazmat and clean-up crews are racing against Mother Nature in an effort to contain a large oil spill off of Highway 141 near Gateway. It happened just after 11:00 am Monday when a tanker truck carrying 10,000 gallons of crude oil crashed just north of the small town. Colorado State Patrol says the driver of the Basin Western owned truck was going too fast around a corner and lost control. The driver was taken to Saint Mary's Hospital with minor injuries. Quickly, crews turned their attention to the environment. Early estimates suggested 7,500 gallons, or 75%, of the oil being transported have leaked out of the tanker. Crews were seen using foam and booms in an effort to contain the spill. "We sent two crews up, hazmat crews, which is a full hazmat assignment," Mike Page with the Grand Junction Fire Department said. "Three-fifths of our workforce is going to be on duty up here." GJFD's hazmat team doubles as Mesa County's hazmat agency. At risk is a nearby creek. As oil continued to seep out of the tanker, it was getting ever-closer to the stream less than 100 yards away. "We're working on containing the material to this area by putting some blockage in the stream, downstream," Page said. The creek passes through a series of beaver dams before it connects with the Dolores River on its way to the Colorado. "None of the oil has hit the beaver dams yet," Page said. "Or, if it has, it's done very minor damage and should be cleaned up quickly. Around 6:00 pm, crews said they were closing Highway 141 for an hour to pull out the tanker truck from the crash site. One of the tow trucks that responded, however, blew a hydraulic line, delaying the recovery. Just before 9:30 pm - more than 10 hours after the accident happened - crews were finally able to recover the truck and re-open Highway 141. But, now those clean-up efforts begin. "It could be as long as two or three weeks, depending on what's going on," Page explained. "Now it's a matter of keeping the damage to a minimum." Making these clean-up efforts that much more crucial is our impending forecast. A storm set to move through the area is threatening rain which could move the oil towards the water that much faster. The truck company is on the hook for the clean-up. They will have to hire a company responsible for that area in addition to reimbursing the cost to Mesa County's hazmat team.

<http://www.kjct8.com/news/29574575/detail.html>

NETHERLANDS, ROTTERDAM, OCTOBER 26 2011. OIL SPILLS: DUTCH PARLIAMENT MOVES AGAINST OIL COMPANIES

chika amanze-nwachuku



Oil spill.

Dutch Socialist Party said it would press for environmental and human right laws that would compel Dutch multinational companies to adhere to strict international standard in their areas of operation. A Dutch parliamentarian, Sharon Gesthuizen, who spoke at a conference organised by the Niger Delta Campaign (NDC) with a theme: "Success and challenges of the Nigerian Government Amnesty Programme: The Role of International Community", which held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands noted that the Netherlands government, over the years had not paid adequate attention to the situation in Niger Delta region. Gesthuizen, who led a Dutch parliamentarian delegation to Nigeria in February this year, tasked oil giant Shell, a

Dutch company to clean up the environment, pointing out that oil majors and Nigerian government officials were culpable in the crisis in the region. Last week's decision of a United States Supreme Court to hear an appeal accusing Royal Dutch Shell of human rights abuses in Nigeria may have opened the floodgates to other litigations against the oil giant. The Ogale village in Eleme local government area of Rivers State on Tuesday dragged Shell before a U.S Federal Court seeking \$1 billion as compensation for environmental pollution. The action filed by plaintiffs' lawyers in Detroit cited a recent United Nations report over widespread pollution in Ogoniland for much of its evidence. The Ogale village had been mention in a recent UN report as the area where observers found a drinking-water well polluted with benzene 900 times the international limit, the Associated Press had reported. In the latest suit, the plaintiffs alleged that Shell acted wilfully negligent in pursuing profits over protecting the Niger Delta. "It is not isolated or accidental, but part of a culture and ongoing pattern of conduct that consistently and

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repeatedly ignored risks to others in favor of financial advantage," the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Michigan read. Ogale was one of the first operational oil fields discovered in Nigeria, where the nation's first shipment of 22,000 barrels of crude oil exported to Europe came from, the lawsuit said. In the time since, the village suffered from the pollution of oil exploration, putting villagers at risk, the suit added. A UN report released in August highlighted the plight of the village, describing how investigators found about 3 inches (8 centimeters) of refined oil floating on the surface of groundwater that serves the community's wells. It also described finding high levels of benzene, a known carcinogen, in the water. Lawyers filed the US lawsuit on behalf of the Nigerian villagers using the 222-year-old Alien Tort Statute, a law increasingly used in recent years to sue corporations for alleged abuses abroad. On Monday, the US Supreme Court said it would use a separate lawsuit between Nigerian villagers and Shell to decide whether corporations might be held liable in US courts for alleged human rights abuses overseas under the law. The Alien Tort Statute, also called the Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA) is a section of the United States Code that reads: "The district courts shall have original jurisdiction of any civil action by an alien for a tort only, committed in violation of the law of nations or a treaty of the United States." This statute is notable for allowing United States courts to hear human rights cases brought by foreign citizens for conduct committed outside the United States.

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/oil-spills-dutch-parliament-moves-against-oil-companies/101290/>

USA, W.VA, MORGANTOWN, OCTOBER 26 2011. UNION SAYS MASSEY'S ACTIONS AMOUNTED TO HOMICIDE

America's largest mine workers union accused Massey Energy Co. and its managers on Tuesday of "industrial homicide" for creating the conditions behind the April 2010 explosion that killed 29 men at a southern West Virginia coal mine. In a scathing 90-page report on its own investigation into the Upper Big Branch disaster, the United Mine Workers of America called the company "a rogue corporation" that put profits first and safety last, and labeled the Montcoal mine "a bomb waiting to go off." Massey is now owned by Virginia-based Alpha Natural Resources. The union demanded criminal prosecution of at least 18 Massey managers, including former Chief Executive Don Blankenship, who retired last December and has since vanished from public view. It also recommends more than a dozen changes in state and federal laws and regulations to crack down on bad operators, from tougher penalties for illegal ventilation plan changes to stronger protections for whistleblowers reporting safety problems. The UMW also rebuked federal regulators with the Mine Safety and Health Administration — and, to a lesser extent, their state counterparts — for what it called an "unconscionable" failure to use all the tools they had to shut down the long-troubled mine and prevent the nation's deadliest coal mine explosion in four decades. Rather, the union charges, regional managers discouraged field inspectors who tried to strenuously enforce the law — one reason it also recommends Congress mandate independent investigations when mining accidents cause multiple deaths. MSHA, which has yet to publish its final report, said it's reviewing the union report and will consider its recommendations. Director Joe Main said MSHA agrees that Massey maintained a culture that valued profits over lives. "These findings underline the fact that MSHA can't be in every mine every shift, and that some mine operators take advantage of that," he said, adding that he has asked Congress for more tools to protect miners. Alpha said it has yet to reach its own conclusions about what happened at Upper Big Branch but noted that since it took over Massey operations in June, it has launched a "Running Right" safety program and trained more than 7,500 people. The union contends MSHA had plenty of opportunity to intervene: From Jan. 1, 2009, until the explosion on April 5, 2010, it cited Upper Big Branch for 645 violations and imposed penalties of more than \$1.2 million. But those citations "were having no tangible impact," it says. Violations that are contested can't be used to increase enforcement efforts, and Massey contested 229 of its citations. At the same time, the union says, MSHA attorneys were routinely settling cases with lower fines. MSHA could have conducted inspection blitzes, cited the company for flagrant violations and closed the mine, the union said. Massey regularly treated MSHA's rules and inspectors with disdain, the union said, so the agency "should have realized it had to be even more protective of the miners." Although Upper Big Branch was a nonunion mine, the UMW was designated a legal miners' representative after the blast and participated in much of the investigation. An industrial homicide charge doesn't exist in either West Virginia, where the mine was located, or Virginia, where its owners are headquartered. Still, the UMW believes the government could prosecute Massey under other laws. The accident is the target of continuing criminal investigations, but so far, only one Massey official has been indicted. Former security chief Hughie Elbert Stover went on trial in U.S. District Court in Beckley this week, charged with ordering a subordinate to destroy thousands of documents. The union's theory of what caused the blast mirrors the conclusions of both an independent panel appointed by former Gov. Joe Manchin and MSHA, which has given several public briefings on its work. All three investigations concluded that poorly maintained machines cutting into sandstone created a spark that ignited both a small amount of naturally occurring methane gas and a massive accumulation of explosive coal dust. Malfunctioning water sprayers allowed what could have been a small flare-up to

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become an epic blast that traveled seven 7 miles (11 kilometers) of underground corridors, doubling back on itself and killing men instantly. The union also reiterated MSHA's position that the explosion could have been prevented or contained. Had the mine been sufficiently dusted with pulverized limestone to render the coal dust inert, the report says, the spark wouldn't have had the fuel needed to propagate. In the year before the Upper Big Branch blast, the union noted, 70 ignitions occurred at U.S. coal mines, and none resulted in fatalities.

<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/article/53237--union-says-massey-s-actions-amounted-to-homicide>

USA, KS, TOPEKA, OCTOBER 26 2011. FATAL CRASH, CHEMICAL SPILL SHUT DOWN I-70 NEAR TOPEKA

deann smith

 **Photo's** <http://www.kctv5.com/story/15867909/crash-chemical-spill-shuts-down-i-70-near-topeka>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kctv5.com/story/15867909/crash-chemical-spill-shuts-down-i-70-near-topeka>

One person is dead following a crash on Interstate 70 near Topeka that shut down the highway for hours. A tractor-trailer rig crashed near the Adams Street exit, killing the driver, according to the Kansas Department of Transportation. The rig was hauling asphalt oil, which is considered a hazardous material. Some asphalt oil spilled, but the spill has been contained. All eastbound and westbound lanes were closed from Fourth Street to California Avenue Interchange in east Topeka. The westbound lanes reopened about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday while the eastbound lanes weren't slated to reopen until later Tuesday. Paul D. Cardwell, 57, of Abilene, Kan., was killed in the crash. Investigators still don't know why he lost control. A crane arrived on the scene about noon to remove a demolished highway sign. The cleanup took hours. The crash also closed west I-70 ramps from California Avenue and Adams Interchange and east ramps from 4th, 8th and 10th streets. Drivers were urged to avoid the area and use alternate routes. Oversized semi loads had to use the I-470 loop to access I-70/Kansas Turnpike. The crash happened about 5 a.m. Tuesday.

<http://www.kctv5.com/story/15867909/crash-chemical-spill-shuts-down-i-70-near-topeka>

UNITED ARABS EMIRATE, UMM AL QAIWAIN, OCTOBER 26 2011. CARGO SHIP CREW ARRESTED AFTER VESSEL SINKS WITH 450 TONNES OF DIESEL

yasin kakande & vesela todorova

Nine crew of a ship that sank 16 kilometres off the coast on Saturday have been arrested and referred to prosecutors on charges of overloading the vessel. The White Whale, which is lying on its starboard side under about 30 metres of water, was carrying about 450 tonnes of diesel. It is not known if the diesel was cargo or fuel. A police official said the amount of fuel on board the 43-metre supply vessel, which carries materials to other ships and oil rigs, appeared to be greater than the crew had declared. The vessel sank because it was overloaded, said Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla, the director of UAQ police. It is believed to have been reported for this offence on a previous occasion. The incident began on Saturday when a fisherman from Ras Al Khaimah saw the ship beginning to sink, and RAK police notified their colleagues in Umm Al Qaiwain. "Immediately the police rescue department, together with the coast guard rescuers, moved to the scene and rescued the nine crew members from different nationalities. They also arrested them immediately," said Sheikh Rashid. A team of divers sent down to locate the vessel found it at about 2pm on Tuesday. They observed "minor leakage from the engine room", said Adeel Alam, owner of the salvage company, Al Khaleej Al Arabi Marine Diving Services. Mr Alam warned that the depth at which the ship lay put it under "huge pressure", and there was a risk of greater damage. "We do not know what will happen in the next moment," he said. UAQ police confirmed that some diesel had leaked from the ship, but said it did not pose any environmental hazards. Sheikh Rashid said the Minister of Environment was personally directing the cleanup operation, and several other government departments, including UAQ Municipality, had sent staff to help. "We have sent a team of our experts to work closely with the Ministry of Environment to prevent the leakage," said Dr Rashid Al Misbah, director general of UAQ Municipality. "Most of the work is being co-ordinated by the Ministry of Environment, and we are just co-operating here and there, whenever they need our help." Any oil leakage would be significantly smaller than the UAE's largest, in 1994, when an estimated 16,000 metric tonnes of light crude oil were spilled. Nevertheless, the incident could cause significant damage, said Jacqueline Savitz, senior campaign director from the US-based environmental organisation Oceana. "Diesel oil is very toxic to marine life. It can affect a variety of animals," she said. A spill could also harm fisheries, said Ms Savitz. "Oil can be toxic to fish. If they are exposed to it, it can affect their ability to reproduce if adults, or, if young, it can affect their ability to mature." "It depends on your perspective. If you are a fish, it does not take much to cause a problem. You don't want to leave oil tanks just sitting there on the bottom of the ocean." Mr Al Misbah said the municipality would increase inspections of fish at the market in

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coming days. Hussein Al Hajri, director of the UAQ Fishermen Association, said his organisation was in continuous contact with Ministry of Environment experts about any possible dangers. "At present, there have not been any leaks in areas where we do fishing, and fishermen are continuing with their work normally," he said. "As soon as we are informed of any leakages in any area, we shall ask fishermen to avoid those places." One resident, Ahmed Al Khaja, said he had smelled diesel on Monday morning and could not work out where it was coming from. "We need a lot of assurance that the water we use and the fish in the market is all safe," he said.

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/uae-news/cargo-ship-crew-arrested-after-vessel-sinks-with-450-tonnes-of-diesel>

USA, CO, GATEWAY, OCTOBER 26 2011. OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP COULD REACH \$300K >> CLEAN-UP CREWS VACUUM OIL FROM WATER, REMOVE DIRT

don coleman

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kjct8.com/news/29587233/detail.html>

The sound of West Creek's rushing water is being replaced by machinery as crews work hard to get rid of thousands of gallons of spilled crude oil. The spill is a result of a Basin Western tanker that crashed Monday on Highway 141 just north of Gateway. "It's kind of a crude oil that just sort of floats on the surface and just piles up on surface in areas where it's low current," Ray Muldrew with LMH Environmental explained. Muldrew's California-based consulting company was hired to oversee clean-up efforts. Muldrew then turned around and hired Grand Junction-based Storage Tank Technology Inc (STTI) to execute the plan. "Yesterday, the guys got it boomed up and contained," Muldrew said. "That enables us to capture it and then we can vacuum it up." All of this coordination comes after Randy Curtis, 26, barreled the tanker through a guard rail and down an embankment Monday. Originally, first responding crews estimated 7,500 gallons of oil had leaked as a result, heading straight for a nearby creek. [Truck Crash Spills Thousands Of Gallons Of Oil](http://www.kjct8.com/news/29587233/detail.html) Now, clean-up crews believe that they have a better handle on a more accurate count of 3,500 leaked gallons. These crews tell us that this spill is not the largest that they have ever seen, but that it will still probably cost at least \$300,000 to clean up. Had the oil not gotten into the creek, they say it probably would have been closer to a \$50,000 cost. "The bulk of it is going to be cleaned up in the next two or three days, but we'll be out here for a couple of weeks just doing details," Muldrew said of the job ahead. He says that the oil made it about 1,000 feet downstream - nowhere near their main concern of the Delores River that is about five miles away. Muldrew does say, however, that some oil has hit a few beaver dams in the creek. But, he thinks that the dams may actually be helping with clean-up. "[The dams] create a lot of very slow moving, almost stagnant, water," he said. "If it wasn't for the beaver dams, [the oil] would be rushing a little bit more swift and further on downstream." Before these crews are able to leave the area for good, they must meet all state and federal standards. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been keeping a very close eye on this clean-up. The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has also been monitoring the spill, but we are told that no animals have been harmed. When spills like this happen, the trucking company is responsible for paying for the clean-up efforts. They are also on the hook for the emergency hazmat response costs.

<http://www.kjct8.com/news/29587233/detail.html>

USA, ORE, UMATILLA, OCTOBER 27 2011. CHEMICAL WEAPON STOCKPILE DESTROYED AT OREGON'S UMATILLA SITE

kim murphy



A chemical operations crew from the Umatilla Chemical Depot separates a rocket motor and the warhead section on one of nine M55 rockets sent to an Army lab in New Jersey for analysis.

The last of the chemical weapons stockpile at the U.S. Army's Umatilla Chemical Depot has been successfully incinerated. For nearly 50 years, it was the deathtrap next door: 3,717 tons of nerve gas and blister agent, a big part of America's chemical weapons arsenal, stored at a depot near the little town of Hermiston, Ore. On the last Tuesday of every month, 76 large sirens mounted on 50-foot poles across three counties would emit a blast of sweet-sounding Westminster chimes, followed by a reassurance that this was only a drill -- if not, a loud blare would have sounded instead and residents would have known that a plume of some of the

deadliest poison on Earth was headed their way. On Tuesday, the sirens sounded for the last time -- only hours after the final

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chemical agents there were destroyed. The end of the three-year disposal effort marked one of the closing chapters for the United States' once-massive buildup of weapons of mass destruction. The last ton of mustard agent at Umatilla was successfully torched at 9:17 a.m., leaving the U.S. with just three of nine original chemical weapons storage sites, the last of which is scheduled for full disposal by 2023. Even deadlier caches of VX and sarin nerve agent were destroyed earlier at the northern Oregon facility. "It's a great thing for a community to have that hazard gone, and we can have one less thing to worry about," Jodi Florence of the Umatilla County Emergency Management Agency, part of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness program, said in an interview. "Today, the employees of the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility made their mark on history by completing agent destruction operations," Gary Anderson, site project manager, said in a statement. "More than 1,000 dedicated Army and contractor employees have made Oregon safer for its citizens." Umatilla had sheltered 12% of the nation's original chemical arsenal since 1962. But with the end of the Cold War and a 1993 international convention outlawing the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, work to destroy the deadly agents began in 2004.

An inherently Difficult Job

It was a formidable task. With liquid poisons loaded into rockets, bombs, warheads, artillery shells and mines, designed to vaporize when exploded, engineers had to design an incineration facility that wouldn't be as dangerous as the weapons themselves. Even a drop or two of some deadly nerve agents on the skin can produce a quick, miserable death. Disaster scenarios suggested that a major earthquake at the facility, followed by fire, could send a plume of poisonous residue as far as Portland, Seattle or Spokane. Most of the deaths in any accident, though, were forecast to occur in the small towns of northern Oregon and southern Washington that surround the facility and have depended on it for about 1,300 well-paying jobs. The deadline under the international convention for destroying stockpiles is 2012, but the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks propelled the Army into a different kind of urgency, with the storage depots around the country potentially inviting targets for attack or plunder. Various technologies were studied, with the Army settling on a controversial process of incineration in furnaces capable of reaching 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit, enough to rapidly destroy the poisons, with slightly less intense furnaces to melt their metal containers with little danger of release. A number of organizations, including the Sierra Club and the Chemical Weapons Working Group, tried mightily through the courts to halt the incineration program, conducted at sites in Alabama, Arkansas, Utah and Oregon (some other depots used a less controversial water-neutralization disposal method).

Efforts to Halt Destruction

They argued that tiny amounts of hazardous dioxin, furan, mercury and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons could be released through the smokestacks during incineration, leading possibly to low-level exposures hazardous to those nearby who ate from their gardens or fed children with breast milk. Bob Palzer, chemical weapons coordinator for the Sierra Club in Oregon, said very little monitoring for emissions other than chemical agents was conducted. "The kinds of monitoring they did at the site wouldn't detect releases [of other materials] in a timely manner. They were looking specifically for agent, but in fact there would be other compounds that were virtually as hazardous, and there was not monitoring done for that," Palzer said in an interview. Army officials countered that extensive studies had shown the operations would pose "no significant human health impacts." The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in its own risk assessment pointed out that the likelihood of cancer-causing exposures would be limited to an area immediately next to the incinerator site, where no one lived. Outside the depot fence, "there should not be any adverse health effects," the assessment concluded. A federal judge in 2009 concurred. The project did have problems as it unfolded. A worker was exposed to a small amount of mustard blister agent in 2010 and developed a blister on his hip, even though he was wearing protective rubber gear. That incident prompted retraining of workers at the facility. In September 1999, about 30 construction workers building the incineration plant were overcome by apparent exposure to an unknown substance. They argued unsuccessfully in a subsequent lawsuit that the substance was one of the chemical weapons agents. Mostly, though, people lived with the ever-present, though very unlikely, possibility of a doomsday scenario -- a plume of nerve gas wafting toward town.

Facing the Risk

The warning sirens were designed for that possibility. Nearby residents were also equipped with tone-alert radios to provide warning and updates in the event of a release. Many homes had large plastic sheets and duct tape to seal their homes if the day came. "Sheltering in place simply means going into your home, shutting doors and windows, shutting off fans and any kind of air system that would bring outside air into your home, and just staying put until the emergency has passed," Florence said. Nobody ever needed them. In the end, the warning sirens never got beyond the soothing Big Ben test chimes and the subsequent reassurance. "Chemical weapons have been safely and successfully stored here for right at 49 years. It's been a long history, and for a number of the folks in the community, several generations of their families have been employed here at

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the depot," Michael Fletcher, spokesman for Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, said in an interview. "So we're talking about satisfaction at a job well done, and they're realizing that in making the nation safer, they've worked themselves out of a job."

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/nationnow/2011/10/umatilla-chemical-weapons-depot-oregon.html>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, OCTOBER 27 2011. TOXIC LEAK ON CARGO SHIP AT PORT OF BRISBANE CONTAINED

A chemical leak aboard a ship docked at the Port of Brisbane has been contained, and none of the dangerous chemical entered the water. The leaking container of zinc dithiophosphate has been removed from the ship and is safely contained, the Department of Community Safety says. Ship workers were evacuated this morning after the spill was detected. "No chemicals were leaked into surrounding waterways. The leak is now contained at the source and no injuries have been reported," the department said. Fire crews remain on scene conducting atmospheric testing and working to make the scene safe.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/chemical-leak-on-ship-contained/story-e6frf7jx-1226178116956>

AFGHANISTAN, PARWAN PROVINCE, DASHT-E-RABAT, OCTOBER 27 2011. BOMB LEADS TO FATAL FIRE ON TANKER NEAR KABUL >> DOZENS HAD GATHERED AROUND THE FUEL TRUCK TO COLLECT FUEL THAT WAS LEAKING.

sangar rahimi & ray rivera



The fuel tanker, which exploded in Parwan Province, Afghanistan, was carrying several tons of fuel bound for NATO forces at Bagram, the coalition's main airbase.

A fuel tanker with a bomb hidden on board exploded Tuesday night on the road to [Bagram](#) Air Base, setting off an inferno that killed at least 10 people and left dozens more badly burned, many critically, local officials and witnesses said. The explosion happened in Parwan Province, about 35 miles north of the capital, Kabul, just one day before Afghan officials were to list the province as one of 17 areas under consideration for the second stage of security transition from NATO to Afghan control. It was the latest in a series of insurgent attacks in recent months in what had been the quiet provinces surrounding the capital. The tanker was

carrying several tons of fuel bound for NATO forces at Bagram, the coalition's main air base and the logistical hub for military operations throughout Afghanistan. Local officials said they believed that the base, about 10 miles from this village, was the intended target and that the bomb detonated prematurely. The blast rattled homes just as villagers here were sitting down for dinner, around 7:30 p.m., and punched a hole through the back of the truck's storage tank. Instead of igniting, however, the fuel gushed out into a dry water channel on the side of the road. As villagers raced to the scene, many with buckets to collect fuel, the gasoline exploded into a fireball four stories high, enveloping dozens of men, women and children. Abdul Hay, a 25-year-old farmer, had just filled up two buckets with gas and run them to his home nearby when he heard the second explosion. "I heard a big boom, and the area became like daylight," he said. "When I got back to the area, I saw tens of our villagers with burning clothes running from the area and shouting for help and water." Dr. Ghulam Sakhi Kargar, a spokesman for the Afghan Public Health Ministry, said that in addition to the dead, at least 45 people were wounded in the blast, more than half with burns over 70 to 80 percent of their bodies. Several villagers said the second explosion happened when the truck driver, either on orders from the police or of his own accord, tried to start the vehicle after the initial blast, sending a spark through the exhaust that ignited the fuel. The truck driver fled the area, witnesses and officials said. In his hospital bed in Kabul, where bandages covered all but his eyes and mouth, Mohammad Shah, 24, said he and his brother were filling buckets with fuel from the back of the truck when it ignited. "My clothes were soaked with fuel and caught fire," he said. "I ran as much as I could and took off all my clothes and then fell unconscious. When I opened my eyes, I was here in the hospital." His brother was in the bed beside him, still unconscious and in critical condition. The explosion was at least the second major episode in the province since August, when suicide bombers attacked the provincial governor's compound, setting off a three-hour gun battle that left 22 people dead. Before that attack, the province had been among the more peaceful in the country and a prime candidate for transition. It was not immediately clear if this latest explosion would have any bearing on President Hamid Karzai's and NATO's final decision. Two senior NATO officials said the second transition stage would put Afghan forces in the

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lead for maintaining security for nearly half the country's population, though coalition troops would continue to play a major role in many of the areas. Afghan security forces assumed the lead for seven areas, including the capital, in July in the first phase of what is expected to be five transition phases before American forces pull out the majority of their combat troops at the end of 2014.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/27/world/asia/bomb-explodes-on-fuel-tanker-in-afghanistan.html>

AUSTRALIA, N.S.W, OCTOBER 27 2011. CALTEX TO REDUCE OPERATIONS AT SYDNEY REFINERY

Caltex Australia Ltd. (CTX.AU) said Thursday that it will close one of two gasoline refining systems at its Kurnell facility in Sydney, as Australian refiners continue to rationalize their business in the face of mounting competition from large, low-cost Asian rivals. Caltex, which is half owned by [Chevron](#) Corp, said it will cease to operate a catalytic cracking unit at Kurnell by February 2013. It will also close a bitumen manufacturing unit. The second cracker will remain operational and Caltex said by increasing its utilization, overall production levels will not be materially affected. Caltex's decision comes after Royal Dutch Shell PLC this year converted its Clyde refinery in Sydney into a fuel import terminal. Caltex also owns the Lytton refinery in Brisbane. It said it will take a A\$77.7 million impairment charge related to the rationalization at Kurnell.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2011/10/26/caltex-to-reduce-operations-at-sydney-refinery/>

USA, IN, MISHAWAKA, OCTOBER 27 2011. POLICE SAY MISHAWAKA MAN KILLED HIMSELF WITH EXPLOSIVES >> HAZ-MAT, BOMB SQUAD AT HOME ON CURRANT

 [Watch the Video](#)

<http://www.fox28.com/story/15882544/stretch-of-currant-rd-in-mishawaka-evacuated-after-police-find-explosives>

 [Watch the Video](#)

<http://www.wsbt.com/news/wsbt-police-large-amount-of-explosives-found-in-mishawaka-home-20111026.0.6025313.story>



Police found several explosives on the property of a Mishawaka area man who is believed to have committed suicide with his own explosives. The body of 65-year-old Stanley Warren was found in the backyard of his residence on Currant Road, just north of Mishawaka, this afternoon, police said. During the investigation, explosives found in the home prompted a bomb squad and Haz-Mat team to be called to the scene to search for more, and led police to evacuate neighboring homes. Blank said Warren used some sort of pyrotechnics to kill himself. The death is being treated as a suicide and there is no indication of foul play, Blank said. "Mr. Warren's brother told officers that his brother was a pyrotechnician who constructed fireworks and put on fireworks displays," police said in a news release issued Wednesday night. During the search, 3,000 pounds of "explosives and

volatile material" were found, Sgt. Matt Blank, of the St. Joseph County Police Department, said. "He was into fireworks," Blank said. "He used explosives a lot on his property to blow up tree stumps. He's always let his neighbors know when he was doing it. By all accounts he was a good guy." Blank said Warren lived on a large property. It is unclear how many days had passed before he was discovered. Friends and a brother of Warren had not heard from the victim in several days, which prompted a welfare check by police, who made the discovery. Currant Road between Willow Creek Drive and Early Road was closed for several hours. "At [6:30 p.m.] the Bomb Squad determined that the scene was stable enough for most residents to return home," according to a news release from police Wednesday night. "Due to the lack of daylight, the decision was made to wait until Thursday morning to remove and destroy the materials. The bomb technicians cited the need for more light in order to safely handle the materials and so that they can properly dispose of them. The St. Joseph County Police Department will secure the scene until morning and we are asking residents that live in the affected area to evacuate their homes again by [8 a.m.] Technicians expect the disposal process to take most of the day and the roadway will remain closed until that process is complete."

Related Links

- [Explosives buff reportedly commits suicide with fireworks](#)
- [Police say Mishawaka man killed himself with explosives](#)
- [Man kills self with explosives, neighborhood evacuated](#)

<http://www.wsbt.com/news/wsbt-police-large-amount-of-explosives-found-in-mishawaka-home-20111026.0.6025313.story>

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