



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 778 Newsy Stuff

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

November 23 2011



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USA, TX, JEFFERSON CO, NOVEMBER 15 2011. SANCTIONS HEARING AGAINST DEFENDANTS IN BENZENE CASE RESET

david yates



A hearing for sanctions against two benzene defendants slated to take place on Monday morning has been reset. As [previously reported](#), on Aug. 1 Judge Bob Wortham, 58th District Court, ordered Texaco and several other companies into mediation with plaintiff Mark Majors, who sued over benzene exposure. Mark Majors and his wife, Sylvia, filed their suit Oct. 13, 2010, in Jefferson County District Court, alleging Majors developed cancer because the defendants negligently exposed him to benzene. Court records show that the parties meet with a court appointed mediator on Oct. 20. However, defendants Sabine Towing & Transportation and Sequa Corp. attended only through their attorney, Bill Mahely of Houston. According to the plaintiffs' motion for sanctions filed Nov. 3, the two defendants "failed to have a person

in attendance with authority to enter into a final settlement agreement, causing the mediation to be a complete waste of time." The hearing was slated to be held on Monday morning but was reset for next week to allow the parties more time to settle the issue, a court official told the Southeast Texas Record.

Case Background

According to court documents, Majors worked at a Port Neches refinery in the 1970s. "During Mark Majors' employment at the Port Neches chemical plant he was occupationally exposed to ... benzene though the late 1970s," the suit states. "As a result of such exposure, Majors developed multiple myeloma, a deadly cancer." The plaintiffs are represented by Provost Umphrey attorney Darren Brown.

<http://www.setexasrecord.com/news/239670-sanctions-hearing-against-defendants-in-benzene-case-reset>

BRAZIL, RIO DE JANEIRO, NOVEMBER 15 2011. CHEVRON SUSPECTS DRILLING CAUSED BRAZIL OIL SPILL

sabrina lorenzi & guillermo parra-bernal

Chevron Corp. said on Monday an appraisal well drilled at the U.S. company's Frade field last week might be contributing to an oil spill, in line with early assessments by government officials. Earlier in the day, the head of the oil regulatory agency ANP said that drilling likely increased pressure on the area where the well is located, leading to the leak. The appraisal well was closed in at surface last week as a part of Chevron's precautionary suspension of drilling activities. "There has also been significant progress on investigations into the source and cause of the oil that had been detected coming from a small number of seep lines in the vicinity of a Frade development drilling operation," the statement said. Chevron, which previously had found no definitive evidence that the drilling could be a cause for the leak, is boosting efforts to close and abandon the appraisal well, the statement said. Oil seeps have created a "sheen" with a volume of 400 to 650 barrels of oil on the ocean in the area, which lies 370 kilometers (230 miles) northeast of Rio de Janeiro. President Dilma Rousseff on Friday urged a thorough investigation of the incident, which may increase scrutiny of safety in Brazil's offshore operations as it seeks to tap huge, newly found reserves and become a major oil exporter. "What was detected is that with the drilling, there was an increase in pressure and there was a crack in the rock which caused the oil to leak to the surface," ANP Director Floriano Carvalho told Reuters. Carvalho said the leak is continuing and that the ANP had authorized Chevron to cap the well. Chevron had previously said it suspended drilling the well, but that production was continuing. The company maintains that production activities are unrelated to the oil seeps. Chevron said it had up to eight vessels working at the "sheen," and "continues to engage resources from Chevron Corps global response team" to control the spill.

Impact Unclear

Adriano Pires, an analyst at the Brazilian Center for Infrastructure, said it is too early to know whether the spill will slow Brazil's plans to develop ultra-deepwater fields in the prolific region known as the subsalt, which is believed to hold more than 50 billion barrels of oil. The Frade field is located in the Campos Basin, which produces the vast majority of Brazil's oil, in water depths of 1,200 meters (3,800 feet). The company has said Frade is not part of the subsalt. "We have to hope that the currents don't wash the oil toward the shore, because then the issue will get politicized, we could hear people calling for future auctions to be postponed or canceled," Pires said. "It's a warning for the government to make sure it has regulatory agencies that can minimize this sort of incident." Last year's BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico spurred greater vigilance by regulatory authorities over Brazil's offshore operations, state oil company Petrobras has said. New investments in the subsalt are on hold due to a



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political dispute over how to distribute royalties among states. According to Chevron's website, it had drilled and completed eight development wells and four injection wells at Frade as of the end of 2010. Chevron holds stakes in the Papa-Terra and Maromba projects in the Campos Basin. In the neighboring Santos Basin, Chevron holds a 20 percent stake in Block BS-4. Petrobras expects output in Brazil to more than double to nearly 5 million barrels per day as it ramps up production from fields in the subsalt region.

<http://planetark.org/wen/63883>

USA, OH, FRANKLIN, NOVEMBER 15 2011. HAZMAT CREW CALLED FOR NITROGEN LEAK IN FRANKLIN

Cincinnati hazmat crews have been called to a business in Franklin after an apparent chemical gas leak.

Crews were called to Nation Coating Systems at 501 Shotwell Drive on reports of a leaking tank, according to police dispatchers. Officials said nitrogen from leaking from a tank at the facility. The company is "a supplier of thermal spray coating for industrial applications," according to the company's website.

<http://www.wlwt.com/r/29765429/detail.html>

USA, VT, ADDISON CO, MIDDLEBURY, NOVEMBER 15 2011. BEER TANK EXPLODES AT OTTER CREEK

andrea suozzo



A puddle of beer leaked out of Otter Creek Brewery following an explosion in one of the Middlebury facility's fermenting tanks Monday morning.

A beer tank at Otter Creek Brewing exploded around 10 a.m. on Monday, according to Middlebury fire chief Rick Cole. No one was hurt in the explosion of what Cole said was a large fermenting tank, but the incident brought emergency personnel rushing to the scene to ensure that the explosion of the pressurized tank did not cause further explosions. Otter Creek president Brian Walsh said around 11 a.m. that a team from the company was on its way to assess the incident, but that the building was secure. Cole said the explosion damaged piping and knocked over two or three other tanks, but that there was no fire and the beer that spilled was mostly contained within the building. The explosion also blew a wall panel off of the side of the building between

two outdoor tanks. Cole said his crew spent a little over an hour on the scene stabilizing tanks and making sure that the scene was safe, and that employees had already re-entered the building by the time he left. Walsh said he would have no further comment until after the team he was sending had assessed the situation. In a Facebook posting later Monday, however, the company stated that it would resume full operations later in the week, and that it does not anticipate any shortages in beer supply.

<http://www.addisonindependent.com/201111beer-tank-explodes-otter-creek>

USA, WA, TULALIP, NOVEMBER 15 2011. LARGE TANK OF POISONOUS GAS WASHES UP ON TULALIP BEACH

bill sheets



A mysterious ammonia tank found washed up on a Port Susan beach is not believed to pose a hazard to humans, but officials are keeping a close watch over it. Ammonia is a corrosive gas that's toxic if inhaled, according to the [state Department of Ecology](#). Authorities with several government agencies have closed the neighborhood to everyone except the people who live there. A nearby walking trail has been closed to the public until further notice. The tank was found Sunday afternoon about 100 yards down the beach from the southernmost home in the Tulare Beach community, in the northern part of the Tulalip Indian Reservation. Officials aren't sure how much ammonia is in the tank. Still, they're afraid that moving it would cause it to leak, said Dick Walker, a spill responder for the ecology department, who was at the scene on Monday. The plan is to leave it in place and allow ammonia fumes vent for two or three more days. The cylindrical tank is made

of steel, about 4 feet in diameter and 4 feet tall, officials said. Authorities estimate the tank could hold 470 gallons or 2,000 pounds. Air monitoring has shown that levels do not pose a hazard so far, officials said. The wind was blowing from the north



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on Monday, taking fumes south into Port Susan. If the wind shifts, residents will be advised to stay inside with their doors and windows shut, Walker said. A person walking on the beach found the tank about 2 p.m. Sunday, said Jacqui Schultz, another spill responder for the ecology department. Officials arrived by about 4:30 p.m. Also on the scene Monday were the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Coast Guard and the Tulalip Fire Department. Tulare Beach residents had seen the tank floating in the water for a couple of days before it turned up on the beach, Schultz said. There were no immediate, obvious clues about the object's origin. The best guess is that it was used to store ammonia for a refrigeration unit on a fishing boat, Walker said. It may be difficult to trace, though. "It's quite weathered," Schultz said. "It's been out there awhile." If an owner is found, he or she could be charged with illegal disposal of hazardous waste -- a criminal offense, Walker said. The tank has one other interesting feature, Walker said. "It's got bullet holes in it," he said. Walker it's hard to tell if the shots were fired into the tank before or after it went into the water.

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20111114/NEWS01/711149869>

USA, NEB, CASS CO, LOUISVILLE, NOVEMBER 15 2011. ANHYDROUS TANK ROLLS OVER CAUSING GAS LEAK

 **Watch the Video:**

[http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Anhydrous Tank Rolls Over Causing Gas Leak_133811378.html](http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Anhydrous_Tank_Rolls_Over_Causing_Gas_Leak_133811378.html)

An 800 gallon anhydrous tank pulled by a pickup rolled over causing gas to leak onto the road near Highway 50 and Waverly Road in Cass County. A pickup was pulling the anhydrous tank on a trailer. The trailer began whipping back and forth and then rolled over. The rollover caused a valve leak in the tank. Liquefied gas leaked onto the road. Weeping Water, and Manley Fire Departments responded to the scene wearing protective gear. The wind caused most of the gas to evaporate. It is unknown how much gas was spilled. The tank was turned right side up and pulled off to a field to transfer the remaining gas to another anhydrous tank. All residents in the area were not home. No injuries were reported.

[http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Anhydrous Tank Rolls Over Causing Gas Leak_133811378.html](http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Anhydrous_Tank_Rolls_Over_Causing_Gas_Leak_133811378.html)

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, NEWCASTLE, NOVEMBER 15 2011. CHROMIUM 'SPURTED OUT' OF ORICA STACK

MAP: [Stockton 2295](#)

MAP: [Kooragang 2304](#)



Orica staff tried to contain a chemical leak at a Newcastle plant by diverting the hexavalent chromium but it began "spurting out" of a temporary repair job on the side of another stack. Night shift supervisor Warren Ashbourne has told a NSW parliamentary inquiry the plant became overwhelmed by the build-up of condensation in a chemical stack on the night of August 8. In dramatic evidence to the select committee investigating the leak, Mr Ashbourne said he first became aware of the leak when a worker complained of yellow spots of chromium on his helmet. Mr Ashbourne said the leak, caused by the build-up of tainted condensation, sent "a misty sort of rain" percolating out of one of the plant's stacks. He said staff believed they had stopped the leak by diverting the condensation to a separate vent. But before long, it too became overwhelmed and the chemical

began "spurting out" of a temporary repair in the side of the stack. When staff realised the incident was getting out of control, the plant was shut down. Despite the dramatic series of events, Mr Ashbourne said he believed the leak had been contained on site because none of the vehicles in the staff car park were marked with telltale yellow droplets. "When we left that morning, myself and all the other guys who worked that night thought we'd done a good job, in trying to contain it to the site," Mr Ashbourne said. But when site manager Stuart Newman arrived at work at 7am the next day, the true extent of the leak became apparent. "It became evident to me immediately that the extent of the material on site was much greater than was reported during the evening," he told the inquiry. The Orica plant was shut down by the state's environmental regulator after a separate ammonia leak last Wednesday.

Related Links

- [No longer welcome in Newcastle, Orica told](#)
- [Orica didn't check if leak had spread](#)



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- [Orica revises down leak size](#)
- [Investors turn toxic on Orica](#)
- [Orica plant is a threat to safety](#)
- [Stockton residents angry with Orica](#)
- [Orica scrambles to meet demand after shutdown](#)

<http://www.news.com.au/breaking-news/chromium-spurred-out-of-origa-stack/story-e6frfku0-1226195535218>

NORTHERN IRELAND, CO LONDONDERRY, MAGHERA, NOVEMBER 15 2011. NOVEMBER 15 2011. SLURRY TANK WARNING AFTER MAN KILLED IN MAGHERA FARMING ACCIDENT



The Health and Safety Executive is investigating the death.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has warned people to take extra precautions with slurry tanks following the death of a farmer in County Londonderry. The agency is investigating the man's death on a farm in Maghera on Monday afternoon. Police have said his death is not being treated as suspicious. Ken Logan, from the HSE said all openings into slurry tanks should be properly guarded. "They should look to use safety slats when mixing in slurry tanks," he said. "I would also draw attention to the dangers of gasses associated with mixing of slurry in the tanks." Clark Black of the Ulster Farmers Union said it was another tragedy for the farming community. "Unfortunately for farming this particular year we've had more than our share of fatalities," he said. "I think it just does go to illustrate that farms can be very dangerous places."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-15729088>

USA, TX, PORT OF BROWNSVILLE, NOVEMBER 15 2011. WORKER INJURED AS PROPANE LEAK FORCES EVACUATIONS AT PORT OF BROWNSVILLE

madeline buckley

A gas leak at a Port of Brownsville business Monday injured one worker, caused the evacuation of seven companies in the area and released about 57,000 gallons of propane gas into the air, officials said. Emergency personnel — including Cameron County Emergency Management, a HazMat team and Brownsville firefighters and police — responded about 9 a.m. and worked to fix a valve leak in a propane storage tank at TransMontaigne, a company that transports and stores petroleum and chemical products. After nearly five hours of working on the valve throughout the blustery day, crews contained the leak, but the full tank of gas was released into the environment, Brownsville fire Chief Lenny Perez said. Officials closed Highway 48 from Farm-to-Market Road 511 to Highway 100 during the leak, and the highway remained closed for much of Monday. "We still have a danger zone," Perez said at an afternoon news conference, noting that the gas is highly flammable. He said the roads would open when authorities determined the area was safe, which he said could take several hours. The leak started in one propane tank, filled with 57,000 gallons, that connected with three others. The tanks hold about 90,000 gallons of gas each when full, he said. Workers eventually were able to shut off the valve that connected the four tanks, so that only the one tank leaked its contents. The injured worker was transported to the hospital after part of the valve struck him when it ruptured, Perez said. He said he did not have details on the man's condition, but he was coherent after the incident. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, or TCEQ, is investigating the incident, said Jaime Garza, section manager with the Harlingen branch of TCEQ. Garza said experts will examine the extent of the emissions and check that the facility had been operating in accordance with city codes and state law. He said information about the environment impact of the leak is pending a full investigation. "But at this point, there aren't any immediate threats to human health," he said. The strong winds throughout Monday helped dissipate the gas quickly, Garza said.

<http://www.themonitor.com/news/brownsville-56580-port-leak.html>

USA, IN, LAPORTE CO, NOVEMBER 15 2011. LAPORTE COUNTY MAN, 87, DIES AFTER ACCIDENTALLY SETTING HIMSELF ABLAZE WITH GASOLINE WHILE BURNING LEAVES

stan maddux

An 87-year-old man has died after accidentally setting himself ablaze with gasoline while burning leaves Sunday at his Stillwell home. The Rev. Bob Raschka, pastor of Salem Church, was giving his sermon when a police officer came in and escorted the



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man's wife, Paula, away from the sanctuary with the tragic news. "It's something that we could never expect to happen," said Raschka, who informed his congregation after the service. "Of course, they were horrified," Raschka said. Russell Wing died at the Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., less than 12 hours after being burned severely over 90 percent of his body. According to LaPorte County police, Deputy Dallas Smythe was off-duty driving with his 14-year-old son about 9 a.m. when he noticed something on fire. As he got closer, Smythe realized it was a person engulfed in flames and tossed his cellphone to his son for him to call 911. Smythe removed his coveralls and used the clothing to smother the flames on the man, who was in his yard at 3882 E. Ind. 4. Police said Wing still was conscious and alert while telling them that he had a small coffee can of gasoline that he spilled on himself. When he went to light the leaves with a hand-held blowtorch, his clothing ignited from head to toe. Police said his clothing had burned off his body by the time Smythe extinguished the fire. Raschka said Wing had been burning leaves that way for years. Wing occasionally attended his church while his wife was very active with the congregation, Raschka said. "He was a very good guy. It was just a tragedy," Raschka said. LaPorte County Coroner John Sullivan said burns that severe are difficult to survive for a middle-aged person and even more difficult for an older adult. "The poor guy being 87 years old and having this happen -- it's just a catastrophe," Sullivan said.

http://www.nwtimes.com/news/local/laporte/city-of-laporte/laporte-county-man-dies-after-accidentally-setting-himself-ablaze-with/article_917df9e1-8c13-5a93-8c2d-e88a320de3e7.html

JAPAN, YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE, SHUNAN, NOVEMBER 15 2011. JAPAN'S TOSOH SHUTS ALL MONOMER PLANTS AFTER FIRE

osamu tsukimori



Flames and plumes billow from Tosoh Corp's chemical plant in Shunan, Yamaguchi Prefecture, on Nov. 13.

- Complex accounts for third of Japan's total capacity
- Tosoh spokesman says employee presumed killed in accident
- Idemitsu halts pipeline ethylene supply to Tosoh
- Tosoh says fire has been put out

Japanese intergraded chemicals maker Tosoh Corp said on Monday that it had shut its three vinyl chloride monomer plants in western Japan, after a fire that lasted for around a day after starting in one of the facilities on Sunday. A Tosoh spokesman said that a 52-year-old male employee was presumed to have been killed, with fire breaking out after an explosion at the firm's Nanyo complex in Yamaguchi prefecture. The fire was extinguished by 3:30 p.m. (0630 GMT) on Monday, according to a statement from the local city of Shunan. Tosoh's Nanyo complex, home to the three vinyl chloride monomer manufacturing plants, can produce an annual total of 1.2 million tonnes of the material used in making plastic. That accounts for a third of the nation's total capacity of 3.52 million tonnes per year. An official from oil refiner and ethylene producer Idemitsu Kosan Co said the firm had halted the pipeline supply of ethylene to Tosoh from its Tokuyama plant following the outbreak of the fire. Idemitsu has also curbed output at the 623,000 tonnes per year naphtha cracker at the Tokuyama plant, but it is unclear by how much production has been lowered.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL3E7ME1B520111114>

CANADA, NEW BRUNSWICK, NOVEMBER 15 2011. NEW BRUNSWICK UNVEILS NEW ONLINE MAP VIEWER FOR OIL, GAS EXPLORATIONS

New Brunswickers can now go online to see where oil and gas explorations are taking place in the province thanks to the New Brunswick (N.B.) government's Oil and Natural Gas (ONG) map viewer. The ONG map viewer, an extension of Service New Brunswick's GeoNB map viewer, enables users to access maps that identify areas under lease agreements or oil and natural gas licences. By using the tool, users can click on areas of interest and information such as company name and type of agreement. If a well site is selected, information such as well name, company name and total depth will be displayed. Users can also use the ONG search tool to search by company name or type of tenure agreement. The tool will be updated as new



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companies arrive to carry out explorations in the province. "The Oil and Natural Gas map viewer will be a useful tool for New Brunswickers," said N.B. Natural Resources Minister Bruce Northrup. "We have often been asked about the various areas where exploration is underway as well as where existing oil and gas operations are taking place. Now this information is available with the click of a mouse." The ONG map viewer is available at www.gnb.ca/naturalgas.

http://www.hazmatmag.com/news/new-brunswick-unveils-new-online-map-viewer-for-oil-gas-explorations/1000698236/?link_source=aypr_HM&AF=&utm_source=HM&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EN11152011&link_targ=DailyNews

BULGARIA, SEVLIEVO, NOVEMBER 15 2011. ROBOTS PROBE PERIMETER OF BULGARIA MILITARY STORAGE BLAST



According to Chief Secretary of the Interior, Kalin Georgiev, the military storage in central Bulgaria where explosions occurred Saturday has about 3 000 152-calliber shells.

A robot and auto-pilot aircraft are probing Sunday the munitions warehouses near Bulgaria's central town of Sevlievo where explosions occurred a day earlier. Measurements of air quality show that all indexes are within the norm and there is no threat of elevated levels of harmful substances. [On Saturday, around 9 am, explosions occurred at former military storage facilities between Sevlievo and the village of Lovnidol. The area was sealed and secured.](#) According to initial reports,

the six warehouses belong to a private, Sofia-based company. They were purchased in 2008 and later renovated. Only one contained munitions. The facilities are aligned with all norms for safe storage of explosives and munitions, police explain, pointing out there are no radioactive substances inside. The ban on any vehicle and people traffic in the 2-km area around the warehouses continues to be in effect Sunday. The explosions sent to Sevlievo Saturday Defense Minister, Anyu Angelov, the Chief Secretary of the Interior, Kalin Georgiev, and the Chief of Firefighter Services, Nikolay Nikolov. [Back in July 2008, a military storage facility at Chelopechene near Sofia exploded, shocking the Bulgarian capital but luckily claiming no lives.](#) http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=133889

CHINA, SHAANXI PROVINCE, XI'AN, NOVEMBER 15 2011. XI'AN RESTAURANT BLAST KILLS 9

ma lie

[Watch the Video http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-15715868](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-15715868)



The debris of the blast, which killed at least nine and injured 37 in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi province on Monday.

Nine people were killed and 37 others injured in a gas explosion on Monday morning in Xi'an, capital of Northwest China's Shaanxi province. The explosion occurred at 7:37 am in a snack restaurant on the first floor of a 22-floor building, Jiatian International Apartment, in the southern suburb of the city. Initial probe finds that the explosion was caused by a gas leak. Firefighters carried three 1.5-meter-tall liquefied petroleum gas cylinders out of the restaurant, according to Jiang Yongmu, the leader of the team that arrived on the spot at 7:45 am. The firefighter said that the explosion was very strong. The restaurant and a foot massage parlor on the second floor were completely ruined. The explosion also damaged at least 11 vehicles parked in front of the building and a bus stop shelter some 20 meters away from the restaurant. Several windows of the buildings across the street were shattered by the shock wave. According to a witness who was

waiting at the bus stop, a car got dragged some 10 meters away from where it was parked and many passers-by, including himself, were injured. The man rushed to the hospital without leaving his name. A few children, students at a school nearby, got killed and some were injured. Rescue work began soon after the incident and injured people were sent to two nearby hospitals for emergency treatment. Zheng Shicheng, a doctor heading the emergency department of Xi'an Gaoxin Hospital which received 23 injured patients, told China Daily that Wang Miao, an 8-year-old girl, was confirmed dead when she



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was reached to the hospital. A woman surnamed Yao told China Daily that her 13-year-old daughter was also seriously injured on her way to school and was receiving emergency treatment in the hospital. Xi'an blood center said it had enough blood in stock to deal with emergency treatment in case of an accident, but in this case the demands placed were not very high. Water, power and natural gas supplies for residents around the explosion site remained normal. The traffic situation returned to normal after five hours of blockade. The information office of the Xi'an government confirmed that nine people were killed and 37 injured in the explosion. At 2 pm, three people with minor injuries had left the hospital. Others were still under emergency treatment. Chen Baogen, mayor of the city, visited the spot and ordered firefighters, police officers and officials to make all efforts to rescue the injured, put the traffic back in order, run a check on damaged buildings and further investigate the cause of the accident.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2011-11/15/content_14094605.htm

USA, PA, WESTMORELAND CO, NOVEMBER 16 2011. TOXIC SPILLS MORE LIKELY ON ROADS THAN RAILS, STUDY FINDS

richard gazarik

A hazardous chemical accident in Westmoreland County is more likely to occur on a highway than on a rail line, according to a recent study of shipments on major highways. A study commissioned this summer by the county's Department of Public Safety found that none of the 88 railroad accidents in the county since 2001 involved hazardous materials. Trucks routinely transport extremely dangerous, corrosive or flammable materials along Interstate 70 and routes 22, 66, 119, 981 and 30 and other major roadways, the consultants found. In the past decade, 271 truck accidents involved hazardous materials, ranging from 35 in 2001 to 25 last year, the study showed. Pennsylvania highways carried more than 200 million tons of hazardous materials by truck and rail in 2007, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, which conducts a study every five years. More than half of the shipments, mostly flammable liquids and petroleum-based products, are made by truck. Though more materials are shipped by rail nationally, there are fewer accidents because train shipments are routed along the safest and most secure rail lines, according to the American Association of Railroads. Jeff Harvey, president of JH Consulting of Buckhannon, W.Va., said the Westmoreland study's intent was to identify the various hazardous materials so firefighters and other first responders can use the information as a "building block for training" in case of an accident. JH Consulting counted the number of trucks by stationing personnel along highways and intersections to list the types of placards identifying the class of materials being shipped. The most dangerous materials transported through Westmoreland are toluene, sulfuric acid, chlorine and anhydrous ammonia, the study found. Harvey recommended that the county increase its training for responding to incidents involving toluene and chloride. "That's because these materials are considered extremely hazardous substances by the EPA," he said. The county conducts its own survey every two or three years to keep track of how much hazardous material is moving through, said Dan Stevens, spokesman for the county Department of Public Safety. While some of the chemicals and gases transported in the county are classified as extremely hazardous by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, such shipments are routine, he said. "It's just day-to-day stuff," Stevens said. "Businesses need them (the chemicals)." The study logged no shipments of low-level radioactive waste or fracking fluids used in natural gas drilling in the Marcellus shale, which can contain benzene, toluene, xylene, fumaric acid, ethylene glycol, ammonia and chloride. "We get notified when radioactive wastes come through," Stevens said. "In the past six years, we've had two. It's almost non-existent." The survey also examined hazmat shipments by rail, although the consultants were able to obtain information only from the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway Co. Officials at CSX and Norfolk-Southern did not provide information. Trains carry mostly crude oil, liquefied petroleum gas, styrene, isobutane and propane, according to the study. Of 190 manufacturing plants in the county that use hazardous materials, only 39 -- about 20 percent -- responded to information requests from the consultants. Under federal guidelines, the companies are not required to participate. "We didn't expect to get responses from everybody," Stevens said. "Some don't need to report chemicals." Harvey said the low response is not a cause for concern since county officials already know what materials are stored. Those materials include diesel fuel, aluminum oxide, paints, chlorine gas, sulfuric and hydrochloric acid, caustic soda and ammonia. The team creates scenarios in which a hazardous chemical or gas is released by accident or because of equipment malfunction, he said. The team goes through the procedures it would use to shut off a leaking valve or stem the flow of chemicals, working hand-in-hand with company employees. "We've actually had people in the company suit up with us and show us how it's done," he said. Stevens said the team, which is certified by the state, held a training exercise at a food processing plant in Arnold on how to respond to an ammonia leak. During an incident at the plant in July, the drill enabled the team to stem the leak quickly, he said. Accidents involving hazardous materials in the



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county have been minor, according to statistics compiled by the National Response Center of the U.S. Coast Guard. Among them:

- In August, anhydrous ammonia leaked from the piping of the roof of U.S. Food Service in Greensburg.
- Diesel fuel leaked into Loyalhanna Creek in Latrobe in May after a fuel line broke on a tractor-trailer truck.
- State inspectors found hazardous waste and toxins on the grounds of the former Jeannette Glass factory in Jeannette in February.

Some Dangerous Chemicals *Source: National Institute of Health and the U.S. EPA.*

- Toluene 2-4 Diisocyanate -- Used in the manufacture of foams and coatings, the chemical is considered extremely hazardous. Vapors can cause death or permanent disability. Exposure can affect the central nervous, respiratory and gastrointestinal systems. It is a known carcinogen that can cause tumors of the pancreas and liver.
- Anhydrous ammonia -- The pungent, colorless gas is used in fertilizer and household cleaners. Exposure can cause serious lung damage, even death.
- Sulfuric acid -- It is found in fertilizers, oil refining and wastewater processing systems. Exposure can cause pulmonary edema, bronchitis, emphysema, skin burns, conjunctivitis and erosion of tooth enamel.
- Chlorine -- The chemical is used in making plastics, solvents for dry cleaning, textiles, pharmaceuticals, insecticides, dyes and household cleaning products. Prolonged exposure can cause chest pains, coughing, choking, pulmonary edema, burning of the eyes and mucous membranes; it can reduce the amount of oxygen in the blood.

National Hazmat Facts *Source: Commodity Flow Study*

- Rail accidents involving hazardous materials have declined by 90 percent since 2001 even though the volume of material shipped by rail has more than doubled since 1980.
- More than 2.2 billion tons of hazardous materials, mostly flammable liquids and petroleum-based products, are shipped nationally.
- About 1.7 million carloads of hazardous materials are shipped by train each year; 99.99 percent reach their destination without incident.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_767330.html

USA, N.Y, COLONIE, NOVEMBER 16 2011. PROPANE TRUCK FIRE SNARLED ROUTE 7 TRAFFIC >> PART OF BUSY ROAD CLOSED DURING MORNING RUSH HOUR DUE TO DANGER OF BLAST

bryan fitzgerald

 **Photo's** <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Propane-truck-fire-snarled-Route-7-traffic-2267959.php>



Firefighters watch for lingering fire in the burned-out tractor of a propane hauler after it was consumed by fire on Nov. 14, 2011, on Route 7 in Latham, N.Y., closing the road in both directions.

A tanker truck shuttling more than 13,000 gallons of propane from Selkirk to Glens Falls caught fire Monday morning on Route 7, forcing the portion of the busy road between the Northway and Interstate 787 to close during rush hour. Francis Moon was driving west on Route 7 when he heard a loud popping noise coming from the engine, [State Police](#) said. The truck lost power and Moon pulled over to the shoulder of the road. He climbed out of the truck's cab as flames started jutting out from beneath the front of the vehicle, police said. Moon, 56, of Red Hook tried to put out the blaze with a small fire extinguisher after he called 911 at 6:49 a.m., said [Joe Bisognano](#), a fire inspector for the Town of Colonie. "(Moon) got out as

soon as he could safely and tried to do what he could," Bisognano said. Police closed Route 7 in both directions between Latham and Troy while six fire engines from volunteer fire departments in Colonie worked to extinguish the blaze. Bisognano said the fire was contained in 15 to 20 minutes. Police said they considered evacuating nearby homes, but decided it was not necessary when the blaze was quelled quickly. No one was injured in the fire and the 3-mile stretch of Route 7 was reopened by 8:30 a.m. The road closure brought traffic going west out of Troy to a standstill for more than an hour. Cars were bumper to bumper up Hoosick Street for more than a mile. "(The fire) happened at the worst possible time of day," Bisognano said. Moon's tanker was filled with 13,198 gallons of liquid propane. Bisognano said the tankers have safety devices, such as



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pressure release valves, but the fire could have heated the tanker's exterior and caused the liquid propane to boil. "There was a potential for some serious problems if the fire spread to the back of the tank," he said. Fire crews used fire suppression foam and each truck sprayed over 500 gallons of water on the blazing tanker. Piles of foam were spread along the side of Route 7 when the road reopened. The cab of Moon's truck was charred and gutted. Bisognano said crews are trained to deal with the potentially volatile prospect of the propane boiling, which would have caused a bigger fire or explosion. No propane leaked and the tanker was not damaged, police said. As of Monday afternoon, Bisognano said the cause of the fire was still undetermined, but was believed to have started with a mechanical problem in the engine. Neither Moon nor representatives of [LP Transportation Inc. of Chester](http://www.lptransportation.com), Orange County, the company for which he was transporting the liquid propane, could be reached for comment. Liquid propane is a highly-flammable mixture of hydrocarbon gases commonly used to heat vehicles and appliances. In March, hundreds of residents were evacuated from homes and businesses in Rensselaer County after a tanker carrying 9,500 gallons of the liquid propane overturned on Route 22 in Hoosick. The combustible fuel was safely burned off after the tanker leaked.

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Propane-truck-fire-snarled-Route-7-traffic-2267959.php>

USA, KY, BOYLE CO, NOVEMBER 16 2011. TANKER OVERTURNS ON BOYLE COUNTY ROAD

A tanker truck driver was taken to the hospital with what were described as minor injuries after he overturned the tanker on a Boyle County road Tuesday morning. The accident happened at about 10 a.m. on Lebanon Road. Officials say the driver, whose name has not yet been released, somehow lost control and turned over the tanker in the yard of a home located on the road. Officials say the tanker was carrying gasoline, and that the gas is contained. However, they say the road will be closed for a while until crews are able to offload the gasoline from the tanker.

<http://www.lex18.com/news/tanker-overturms-on-boyle-county-road>

USA, TX, TEXAS CITY, NOVEMBER 16 2011. BP HAD SULFUR DIOXIDE LEAK AT TEXAS CITY REFINERY



BP Plc has halted a sulfur dioxide leak at its Texas City refinery in Texas, according to a city official. There is an ongoing leak of mercaptans at the refinery, Bruce Clawson, the local emergency management coordinator, said in a telephone interview today. Mercaptans are an odor added to natural gas. Sulfur dioxide leaked from a unit inside the refinery yesterday, according to a filing with the National Response Center. U.S. companies must notify the response center if they release hazardous substances in excess of reportable quantities according to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, commonly known as Superfund. Bloomberg News couldn't immediately verify that the information in the NRC filing was accurate. The refinery has a capacity of 475,000 barrels a day, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/11/15/bp-had-sulfur-dioxide-leak-at-texas-city-refinery/>

USA, FLA, MEDLEY, NOVEMBER 16 2011. MEDLEY GAS-TANK EXPLOSION LEAVES FOUR WORKERS WITH BURNS



One of four burn victims is airlifted by Miami-Dade Fire Rescue after an explosion at a metal shop in the 9500 block of NW 106th street in Medley. Three of the trauma alerts were transported by helicopter and the fourth was transported by ground to Ryder Burn Center.

Four men were seriously burned in a gasoline-tank explosion in Medley, Miami-Dade Fire rescue said Tuesday afternoon. The explosion occurred at 9452 NW 109th St. at the Medley Machine Shop, fire officials said. The explosion did not cause a fire. According to Miami-Dade fire rescue spokesman Lt. Arnold Piedrahita, workers were cutting into an empty fuel tank. "Apparently it wasn't cleaned properly on the inside," Piedrahita said. "There were fumes built up." Once the sparks hit the inside of the tank, it exploded. Three employees were seriously burned; a fourth

suffered minor injuries. "The explosion was pretty violent," he said. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue received the call at 12:37 p.m.,



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and three victims were airlifted from a nearby soccer field to the burn center at Ryder Trauma Center. The fourth victim was taken by ground. "An empty can of gasoline is more dangerous than a full one." Piedrahita said, "It's the fumes that are dangerous."

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/11/15/2503387/explosion-in-medley-injures-up.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, BATEMANS BAY, NOVEMBER 16 2011. SPEED WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A FUEL TANKER CRASH IN BATEMANS BAY

katherine danks



Wreckage from the petrol tanker which exploded and toppled over an embankment, sending a thick plume of smoke into the air.

Excessive speed has been blamed for a horror crash involving a fuel tanker which killed four people near Batemans Bay. Deputy State Coroner Carmel Forbes today began hearing evidence at a four-day inquest into the circumstances surrounding the multi-vehicle crash on the Princes Highway on December 28, 2009. David Bridge, 47, and his daughters Makeely, 11, and Jordan, 13, died when the fuel tanker collided with their Subaru and exploded. The 36-year-old driver of the tanker, David Carolan, also died in the crash. The inquest was told the police investigation found

"excessive speed" caused the petrol tanker to rollover. Giving evidence to the inquest, witness Gavin Patterson said he said the tanker's passenger wheels lift off the ground on a sweeping bend. "The wheels came off the road and seemed to float, it looked like it could have come back to the ground but continued to roll over," Mr Patterson said. The tanker hit one car, with the fuel-portion sliding and the prime mover upright, and then struck a second car, which rolled on its roof. The prime mover was pulled on to the drivers side as the tanker continued to slide and hit a third vehicle, driven by Mr Bridge, his wife Deborah and their two daughters. The inquest at [Batemans Bay](#) Local Court continues.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/speed-was-responsible-for-a-fuel-tanker-crash-in-batemans-bay/story-e6freuy9-1226195685196>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, NOVEMBER 16 2011. TANKER FUEL SPILL SHUTS DOWN I-10 EASTBOUND AT PEDERSON RD

[Watch the Video http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=resources/traffic&id=8432954](http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=resources/traffic&id=8432954)

Authorities have shut down the eastbound lanes of the Katy Freeway at the Pederson Road exit after a tanker carrying fuel spilled its load. Katy police say an 18 wheeler traveling eastbound crashed and ended up on the guardrail. The driver's diesel fuel tank ruptured, so crews have shut down the eastbound lanes of the freeway between Pederson and Pin Oak Rd. to clean up the spill. No reports of injuries were immediately made, but the Texas Department of Public Safety say it cleanup and repairs are expected to last past rush hour so expect delays. Eastbound traffic is diverted to the frontage road. Both sides of the freeway had been closed, but crews reopened the westbound lanes at Pederson at around 5:45pm.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=resources/traffic&id=8432954>

CANADA, B.C, WORKSAFE, NOVEMBER 16 2011. REVISED PUBLICATION - BREATHE SAFER



How to Use Respirators Safely and Start a Respirator Program

This manual is for employers, supervisors, and workers who need information on respirators and breathing hazards. (PDF 3.4 mb)

http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/by_topic/assets/pdf/breathe_safer.pdf

USA, N.C, WILMINGTON, NOVEMBER 16 2011. GLOBAL NUCLEAR FUEL WON'T CONTEST NRC FINE

Federal regulators wants to fine a Wilmington-based Global Nuclear Fuel. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a \$17,500 civil penalty against Global Nuclear Fuel-Americas LLC for violations of NRC requirements related to a March incident at the fuel manufacturing facility. "GNF has worked with the NRC to analyze the situation and has implemented short-term corrective actions," GNF spokesman Michael Tetuan said in a statement. "GNF presented its progress of its corrective actions to the NRC at a public meeting at the end of September and has cooperated fully with the agency. GNF will not contest



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the civil penalty. A news release from the NRC says the violations involved a failure of Global Nuclear Fuel's staff to maintain mass control of uranium oxide in particulate air filters in one area of the facility. On March 2, Global Nuclear Fuel advised the NRC that its staff had identified that an excessive amount of uranium oxide powder has been present in the filter housing. There was no actual criticality, the release says, though the quantity of material could have posed a criticality threat if other safety features had not been in place. GNF says as soon as the problem was discovered, the equipment was shut down and the issue reported to the NRC. A criticality can occur when nuclear materials come together in sufficient quantity or in a container of correct shape to initiate a chain reaction resulting in either a "burst" or a sustained release of radiation. A small criticality event would not be expected to affect people or the environment outside the facility, but could be serious for workers in the immediate area. "At no time did this issue impact the health or safety of our employees, customers, the environment or the public," Tetuan said. "GNF will continue to implement long-term corrective actions to prevent a recurrence of this problem." A NRC Special Inspection Team identified the violations associated with the failure to maintain mass control. At a Sept. 29 predecisional enforcement conference, Global Nuclear Fuel officials acknowledged the violations and presented details of corrective actions to prevent a recurrence of the event. The NRC proposed a \$17,500 civil penalty for the violations partly because the company has been the subject of escalated enforcement within the past two years. The company has 30 days to either pay the civil penalty or protest its imposition.

<http://www.wwaytv3.com/2011/11/15/global-nuclear-fuel-wont-contest-nrc-fine>

BRAZIL, RIO DE JANEIRO, NOVEMBER 16 2011. CHEVRON SPILL IN BRAZIL MAY BE 10 TIMES LARGER THAN ESTIMATED

tim tracy

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.fnno.com/video/news/331-chevron-spill-brazil-may-be-10-times-larger-estimated-business>

The oil spill off Brazil in the Frade field operated by Chevron could be 10 times larger than Chevron's estimate of 330 barrels per day, Business Insider reports. A rig operated by a rig transported by Transocean was drilling Chevron's well.

<http://www.fnno.com/video/news/331-chevron-spill-brazil-may-be-10-times-larger-estimated-business>

BRAZIL, RIO DE JANEIRO, NOVEMBER 16 2011. CHEVRON SAYS BRAZIL OFFSHORE WELL SEALED

angel gonzalez



[Chevron](#) Corp. said Tuesday that it successfully contained the flow from a deep-water appraisal well offshore Brazil suspected to be at the root of an underwater oil leak. Chevron "can currently advise that well control operations have been successful and that any fluid flow from the well appears to have ceased," the company said in a statement. The appraisal well was drilled at the Frade field, in Brazil's offshore Campos Basin, at a depth of 1,184 meters. The field is located some 230 miles northeast of Rio de Janeiro. The company also said that it has seen a "significant decrease" in the amount of oil seeping from the sea floor around the well. The company will continue to closely watch the area until it

permanently shuts down the well with cement "in the coming days." The company proceeded with its emergency plan to contain the well after getting approval from Brazilian regulators late Sunday. Brazil's National Petroleum Agency said Monday that the well was leaking at a rate of between 200 and 330 barrels per day, and between 521 and 882 barrels had reached the surface so far. The leak, first discovered Nov. 8, has produced a stain on the water stretching across an area of 163 square kilometers, the agency said. The company has dispatched eight ships to the area to help with cleanup, and another 10 ships have been sent from other companies, including [Petroleo Brasileiro SA](#), [Statoil ASA](#), [BP PLC](#), [Repsol YPF](#) and [Royal Dutch Shell](#). Though reportedly a small leak, the faulty well has raised concerns in Brazil about a repeat of an incident at BP's Deepwater Horizon well in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 that caused a public-relations disaster and heavy financial losses. Chevron started production at the Frade field in 2009. Chevron is lead operator of Frade, which holds estimated recoverable reserves of between 200 million and 300 million barrels of oil equivalent, with a 51.7% stake. Petrobras holds 30%, while the Frade Japao Petroleo Ltda. consortium has the remaining 18.3% share. In September, the Frade field produced 80,425 barrels of oil equivalent per day.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204190504577040883607807206.html>



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NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, NOVEMBER 16 2011. DRILLING THROUGH THE LIES

simon boxer

Brazil's first taste of a deepwater oil drilling blowout this week has demonstrated one thing above all else – just like you can't trust the nuclear industry neither can you trust the word of big oil. Petrobras, the Brazilian oil company intending to drill for oil in up to 3100 metres of water off New Zealand's East Cape, is the part-owner of the affected oil field northeast of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where the oil blowout has occurred. On the 8th November a deepwater drilling rig (SEDCO 706) being operated by US oil giant Chevron was drilling an appraisal oil well in 1,150 metres water depth. It appears that the drilling operation over pressurised the well and fractured the surrounding rock which opened up cracks in the sea floor that oil started to flow through into the Atlantic ocean. But the oil industry did not announce to the public that they had caused a blowout – they kept silent. It wasn't until the non-governmental organisation, SkyTruth revealed on the 10th November that they could see a 35 mile oil slick on the ocean surface, that the story started to come out. But rather than own up to their actions, Chevron, [initially claimed](#) that the spill was a natural event! It took a strong statement by the Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff to pressure the industry to come clean. Chevron stuck to their 'it's a natural seep' line until November 14th until the evidence was overwhelming that this was a misleading claim. Now Chevron is under pressure to come clean about the real quantity of oil being released by the blowout. The oil company has been saying that the amount of oil leaking is between 27 – 45 tonnes of oil each day – but SkyTruth [has calculated](#) that it is in fact 10 times higher at around 512 tonnes each day based on the size of the surface oil slick. That's potentially over 2,000 tonnes of oil leaked since the 8th November – and we know what only [350 tonnes of oil looks like](#) thanks to the Rena disaster here. It's devastating and, once the oil is in the water, the damage is done. [Recent estimates](#) reveal up to 20,000 seabirds may have been killed by the toxic Rena oil spill in the Bay of Plenty. Like BP did with the [Deepwater Horizon spill](#) in the Gulf of Mexico (also in deep water at about 1500m), Chevron is now trying to fill the well with cement - but so far the oil continues to leak from the cracks in the ocean floor. This is the reality that New Zealand is facing thanks to the National Government's obsession with opening up deepwater oil drilling no matter what the risks. In fact even as oil was washing up on the Bay of Plenty coast from the Rena, a new deepwater seismic survey ship [arrived in Taranaki](#) to survey a huge area off the Raglan coast with water depths up to 1,800 metres. The company that is planning to drill in this area is Texan oil giant Anadarko – a part owner of the Deepwater Horizon, the rig which exploded and sank in the Gulf of Mexico last year, spilling 660,000 tonnes of oil. Anadarko have stated that they expect to start deepwater drilling off Raglan and Canterbury this time next year. Unless public pressure brings the Government's deepwater oil drilling plans to a halt then this could very well be the last summer New Zealanders can enjoy their pristine beaches and marine environment before big oil leaves its disastrous calling card in our backyard.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL1111/S00146/drilling-through-the-lies.htm>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, INGLEWOOD, NOVEMBER 16 2011. EPA FINES INGLEWOOD PETROL STATION FOR BURN

MAP: [Inglewood 3517](#)

AN Inglewood petrol station has been slapped with a \$6000 fine for burning industrial waste that sent a plume of black smoke into the air. The Environmental Protection Authority was called to the Inglewood Fuel Stop after black smoke was seen coming from the premises. The offenders were found to be burning old computers, rubber matting, carpet, paint tins and an LPG fuel tank. EPA north-west regional manager Tim Eaton said a potential disaster was avoided. "If the pressurised gas cylinder had contained residual gas and exploded, we might have been talking about far greater consequences," he said. Petrol station owner Szabo Nominees declined a formal interview with the EPA to explain the burn and was given 28 days to pay the fine, or go through other avenues including an internal review or having the matter dealt with in court.

<http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/news/local/news/crime-and-law/epa-fines-inglewood-petrol-station-for-burn/2359077.aspx>

USA, AZ, LUPTON, NOVEMBER 16 2011. FORMER LUPTON, ARIZ. TRUCK STOP OWNERS TO PAY \$80,000 PENALTY FOR VIOLATING HAZARDOUS WASTE LAWS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fined the former owners and operators of Speedy's Truck Stop \$80,000 for violating federal hazardous waste and community right-to-know laws. The violations at the Lupton, Ariz. facility were found following a series of inspections by Navajo Nation EPA, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. EPA in 2004. Inspectors uncovered violations of federal standards governing the handling and storage of hazardous waste. Among the violations were mislabeled, unlabeled hazardous waste, including benzene-contaminated wastewater, inadequate record



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keeping of a hazardous waste storage facility, failure to obtain a permit, mismanagement of used oil, failure to properly train employees and failure to comply with community right-to-know laws. The defendants in the complaint were Mark Nicholson, Brian Nicholson, the Dale A. Nicholson Trust, the Nicholson Children Trust, Speedy's Convenience Inc., and Native American Energy LLC. In 2004, EPA emergency responders were on site to oversee the removal of approximately 1,900 cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soil along with the removal of approximately 23,000 gallons of benzene-contaminated wastewater. Under the U.S. EPA's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program, hazardous substances must be stored, handled and disposed of using measures that safeguard public health and the environment.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/cd3cd4e3663f325085257949006c243b?OpenDocument>

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, NOVEMBER 16 2011. TIMELINE: BP'S HISTORY OF PROBLEMS IN ALASKA



Photograph from the March 3, 2006 GC-2 Oil Transit Line Spill response.

Since 2000, BP has been fined and criticized for cutting corners and not properly maintaining Prudhoe Bay. BP operates the Alaska oil field on behalf of itself, ConocoPhillips, Exxon Mobil Corp. and other companies. Here's a timeline of BP's issues at Prudhoe Bay:

2000: BP is placed on five years federal probation, stemming from an incident in which a contractor dumped thousands of gallons of toxic material underground at a BP oil field in Alaska during the 1990s. BP pleads guilty to a single felony in connection to the incident, admitting that it took too long to notify federal regulators about the dumping. It pays a \$6.5 million fine and agrees to set up a nationwide

environmental management program, which ultimately cost about \$40 million.

2001: A work crew injects oil and fluids underground to dispose of them after a small spill. BP pays \$675,000 in fines for not consulting with state environmental regulators before dumping the material.

Spring 2001: Alaska regulators discover that safety valves atop of some Prudhoe oil wells, which shut down production if pressure drops because of a leak, have high failure rates, prompting regulators to step up inspections and call on BP to do a better job of inspecting wellheads.

Fall 2001: Responding to whistleblower complaints, BP conducts an internal audit and releases the results, which find some employees are concerned about Prudhoe staff cuts, maintenance backlogs and other problems that could threaten operation of the field. Workers believe "management's top priority is controlling costs and achieving short-term budget targets," not safety and regulatory compliance, according to BP's audit.

January 2002: BP replaces a faulty valve used to isolate oil and gas leaks at Prudhoe Bay, a move that comes nearly four years after its workers first asked the company to fix the problem following a 1,200-gallon oil spill. Workers took it upon themselves to test the valve to convince BP managers that it leaked dangerously.

June 2002: Alaska regulators fine BP up to \$300,000 for taking too long to install a sensitive system to detect leaks from Prudhoe Bay's huge oil trunk lines. BP was supposed to comply with the law by 1997, yet was still behind schedule in mid-2002.

August 2002: An explosion at a Prudhoe Bay oil well house seriously injures a worker. Regulators say BP allowed excessive pressure to build up in the well. The company pays more than \$1.2 million in fines.

December 2002: Responding to worker accusations that BP broke its federal probation, a federal judge orders the company to allow BP's probation officer unrestricted access to its oil facilities and records to verify it is in compliance with environmental and safety laws.

2004: The head of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation tells the EPA that BP hasn't complied with its federal agreement stemming from its probation.

2005: BP announces it will spend more than \$140 million to refurbish 70 oil wells at Prudhoe Bay, part of a company effort to update equipment at the aging oil field.

March 2, 2006: A worker at Prudhoe Bay spots the frozen tundra drenched with some 200,000 gallons of oil. Unbeknownst to BP, one of the company's transit pipelines had become corroded and was leaking for days, resulting in the biggest spill ever recorded in an Alaska oil field. A pipeline detection system failed to catch the leak.

Aug. 6, 2006: BP temporarily shuts down half of Prudhoe Bay after discovering another corroding, leaking pipeline. The company admits it has not used an electronic "pig" — a device that cleans and monitors the inside of pipelines — on the trunk



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line in years, even though some workers suspected sludge buildup and corrosion. In the aftermath, BP announces it will replace 16 miles of worn pipeline at an estimated cost of \$170 million. In the following months, federal and state regulators launch investigations and congressional hearings are held.

Nov. 29, 2007: BP is put on three years' criminal probation in connection with the 2006 oil spills. The probation settles a misdemeanor charge brought under the Clean Water Act.

March 2009: Both the state and federal governments file civil lawsuits against BP over the 2006 spills. The state case, which is still pending, aims to collect back taxes and fines as a result of revenue that was lost when the trans-Alaska pipeline was shutdown while the leaking lines were repaired. The federal case seeks penalties for violations of the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and failure to comply with corrective action orders from the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Nov. 9, 2009: An 18-inch flow line ruptures at BP's Lisburne field, spilling nearly 50,000 gallons of an oil and water mix onto the tundra about half a mile from Prudhoe Bay. Warnings, including sensors that showed drops in temperature and even alarms, began going off but BP operators failed to investigate or troubleshoot the cause of the alarms for months.

November 2010: The federal probation officer supervising the criminal case stemming from the 2006 spills asks that BP's probation be revoked based on the company's behavior in the 2009 Lisburne pipeline rupture. A hearing is set for Sept. 6, 2011 in that case.

May 3, 2011: The federal government and BP announce a settlement in the federal civil case relating to the 2006 Prudhoe Bay spills. If approved by the court after a 30-day public comment period, BP will pay a \$25 million fine and comply with detailed pipeline monitoring and safety requirements. Federal officials say it is the largest per-barrel fine ever levied in a U.S. oil spill.

Nov. 29, 2011: Federal prosecutors will ask a judge to place [BP on probation again](#), this time in connection to the Nov. 9, 2009, oil spill.

Related Links

[BP Alaska facing federal probation again, this time over 2009 oil spill](#)

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/timeline-bps-history-problems-alaska>

USA, MI, MARSHALL, NOVEMBER 16 2011. SUBMERGED-OIL CLEANUP IN RIVER SUSPENDED FOR WINTER

 **Watch the Video** [The oil spill from above](#)



Aerial view of two excavators digging into Morrow Lake for submerged oil as a boat with an absorbent boom follows to collect the oil Friday, August 26.

Work to remove submerged oil from the Kalamazoo River has stopped for the winter, said Jason Manshum, senior adviser in community relations for Enbridge Inc. "We have suspended it for the year," Manshum said. "Now we're starting to make plans for what we're going to do in the upcoming months." Manshum said the company that spilled a reported 843,000 gallons of crude oil is waiting for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to comment on its 2012 work plan before it begins winter work. Officials from the EPA could not be reached for comment Tuesday. Enbridge may spend the winter seeking passive recovery locations where oil would naturally collect and could be removed with less harm to the

environment, according to a work plan submitted to the EPA. Sediment traps could be installed during the winter months and oil could be regularly collected from them. The company also may complete site monitoring -- checking containment sites for oil sheen, ice buildup and containment integrity, according to the plan. Meanwhile, workers have been pulling boats out of the water and decontaminating them for the past week, Manshum said. Officials are expecting to conduct another assessment of the remaining oil in the spring, Manshum said. The spring 2012 assessment would examine the deposit pattern of the sunken oil and compare it with the deposition that occurred in 2010 and 2011. The assessment also would involve poling, or physically stirring the river's bottom in search of more submerged oil. The poling would be concentrated in areas mostly likely to have submerged oil deposited, according to the work plan. Enbridge's tentative work plan does not deal with remediation efforts on Talmadge Creek, the Kalamazoo River tributary that was contaminated before the river last July. The creek's cleanup is under the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's supervision, said Mike Alexander, MDEQ senior aquatic biologist. The



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plan for creek cleanup involves the excavation and removal of approximately 11,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil in the first half mile alone, Alexander said. A couple hundred yards upstream from the excavations, workers are restoring the creek with fresh soil, Alexander said. "All this is based on a remedial investigation that started several months ago and was just completed the beginning to middle of this month," Alexander said. "They collected over 2,000 cores to evaluate the extent of the contamination of what was left out here." Currently, there are about 90 contractors working for Enbridge on the creek. Passive recovery work on the creek will continue through the winter and is expected to be completed by the end of March, Alexander said.

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20111116/OILSPILL/111160306>

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, NOVEMBER 17 2011. RESEDA MAN GETS 5 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON, \$800,000 CLEANUP BILL FOR STORING EXPLOSIVE, HAZARDOUS WASTE IN BACKYARD



Large amounts of aging ammunition are among the hazardous, explosive waste found in Edward Wyman's Reseda backyard.

A Reseda man has been ordered to spend five years behind bars -- the longest prison term ever handed down by a California federal judge in a hazardous waste case -- for illegally storing toxic and explosive hazardous waste in his backyard, posing a threat to neighbors. Edward Wyman, 64, was also ordered to pay \$800,000 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for costs associated with the 47-day clean-up response. Wyman was convicted in April of violating the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, along with a special finding that his conduct knowingly placed another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury. In handing down the sentence on Monday, U.S. District Judge

George H. King said Wyman's crimes were "not victimless or hyper-technical offenses," but rather constituted "a real and present danger" to the defendant's family and neighbors. During the clean-up, EPA contractors were forced to call out the Los Angeles Police Department's bomb and arson squad seven separate times to deal with possible explosives mixed into the burned debris, prosecutors said. Wyman was charged in June 2009, soon after firefighters responded to a report of a fire and explosions at his home. Investigators discovered a large cache of toxic materials, such as thousands of rounds of corroded ammunition, lead-contaminated waste from shooting ranges, hundreds of pounds of decades-old gunpowder and military M6 cannon powder, and industrial solvents that contained 1,1,1-trichloroethane and tetrachloroethylene, which are potent chemicals listed as hazardous substances under federal law, prosecutors said. Wyman did not have a permit to store any of the materials, authorities said. Because ammunition was exploding in the fire, firefighters had to wear bulletproof vests. The sentence "demonstrates the serious nature of federal environmental crimes," U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte Jr. said. "Federal environmental regulations exist to protect both public safety and the environment," he said. "The Department of Justice is committed to protecting the environment and to prosecuting persons who threaten the community through their illegal actions."

Related Links

- [California Man Sentenced to Five Years in Prison for Illegally Storing Toxic and Explosive Hazardous Waste in His Backyard](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_19340984)

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_19340984

IRELAND, CO KILDARE, MAGANEY, NOVEMBER 17 2011. CUSTOMS SWOOP ON SERVICE STATION

Customs Officers swooped on the Three Counties Service Station at Maganey, outside Athy, on Monday morning last, seizing a large quantity of fuel in a planned operation. The customs anti-smuggling team seized 8,000 litres of fuel during the raid. The seizure, which was undertaken by Revenue's Customs and Excise team from the Kildare District on Monday morning and afternoon. It is alleged that the filling station does not have a current licence to sell fuel. A customs spokesperson told the Kildare Nationalist that the fuel was removed from the premises and it is expected that a prosecution will be brought against the Three Counties Service Station following yesterday's seizure. She added that the business would be allowed to continue trading as a shop but she warned that any fuel sold in the future, without the relevant licence being in place, would be seized.

<http://www.kildare-nationalist.ie/tabId/201/itemId/12631/Customs-swoop-on-service-station.aspx>



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