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Release 2011 – 753 Newsy Stuff

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USA, GA, ROXANA, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. BENZENE SUIT AGAINST SHELL, BP CLAIMS ROXANA EXPOSURE MAY CAUSE LEUKEMIA

kelly holleran

A woman claims she contracted a disease that could develop into leukemia after being exposed to benzene while growing up near a Shell Oil plant. Gail Elble filed a lawsuit Aug. 31 in Madison County Circuit Court against Shell Oil Company, BP Products North America, ConocoPhillips Company, WRB Refining and URS Corporation. In her complaint, Elble claims she grew up in a home at 301 Doerr in Roxana where she lived and "spent a considerable amount of time" from 1976 until 1990. She also attended school in the Roxana community, close to Wood River facilities owned by Shell and BP. At the facilities, Shell and BP processed and stored benzene, a highly toxic chemical classified as a human carcinogen, according to the complaint. The same benzene produced at the facilities discharged into the surrounding air and water, causing Elble to be exposed to the pollutant, the suit states. Because of her exposure, Elble developed myelodysplastic syndrome, a blood and bone marrow disease that sometimes develops into leukemia, the complaint says. Elble was diagnosed with the syndrome in November 2010, the suit states. Elble claims her disease has caused her to incur medical costs, to face a shortened life expectancy and to sustain mental anguish. She also has missed a substantial amount of work, causing her career to be severely damaged, according to the complaint. Elble alleges negligence against the defendants, saying they included benzene in their products even though it was a known carcinogen, failed to sufficiently test the effects of benzene on humans living in close proximity to plants and failed to alert her and other residents of air and water contamination. Elble also alleges willful and wanton conduct against the defendants, saying they released toxic chemicals into the air without attempting to clean them up, minimized and hid the dangers of benzene exposure despite their knowledge of the chemicals and committed numerous environmental violations. In her two-count suit, Elble seeks a judgment of more than \$100,000, plus costs and other relief the court deems just. Christopher W. Dysart of The Dysart Law Firm in Chesterfield and Kimberly M. Steuterman of Helfrey, Neiers and Jones in St. Louis will be representing her.

<http://www.madisonrecord.com/news/238140-benzene-suit-against-shell-bp-claims-roxana-exposure-may-cause-leukemia>

CHINA, SHANGHAI, JINSHAN DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. SHANGHAI SECCO SHUTS CRACKER, DOWNSTREAM PLANTS AFTER BLAST



China's Shanghai SECCO Petrochemical halted operations at its 1.2m tonne/year naphtha cracker and [several downstream plants](#) overnight following a blast at an olefins pipeline, sources close to the company said on Friday. The cracker is the single largest ethylene plant in China. The cause of the blast at the company's olefins pipeline in the petrochemical complex in Jinshan district of Shanghai is under investigation, with no definite restart dates set for the shut plants. "It is too early to say when the cracker will restart," said another source close to the company. The company does not need to import ethylene spot cargoes since some of the derivative units were also taken off line, he said. Ethylene daily spot prices were stable at \$1,100–1,130/tonne (€792–813/tonne) CFR (cost and freight) NE Asia on Friday, according to ICIS data. Shanghai SECCO's 300,000 tonne/year linear low density PE (LLDPE) plant, 300,000 tonne/year high density PE (HDPE) unit and a

250,000 tonne/year PP plant were taken off line as a precautionary measure, said one of the sources. Shanghai SECCO officials were not immediately available for comment. Production at the company's 260,000 tonne/year acrylonitrile (ACN) plant at the site was also stopped late on Thursday night, said another source. "SECCO's unexpected shutdown is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Chinese domestic ACN market, as inventories are ample and the players are preparing to go off for the mid-autumn day holiday from 10-12 September," said a trader. Chinese domestic ACN prices are holding steady at yuan (CNY) 16,000-16,200/tonne ex-tank. Shanghai SECCO also [shut its aromatics unit](#) at the petrochemical complex, said a third source close to the company. The aromatics unit can produce 230,000 tonnes/year of benzene, 145,000 tonnes/year of toluene and 100,000 tonnes/year of off-spec solvent grade xylene. Gaoqiao Petrochemical [also shut operations](#) at its phenol-acetone plant in Caojing, which is near the site of Shanghai SECCO Petrochemical, said a company source. The 200,000 tonne/year phenol-acetone plant relies on Shanghai SECCO's cracker for propylene feedstock.

<http://www.icis.com/Articles/2011/09/09/9491240/shanghai-secco-shuts-cracker-downstream-plants-after-blast.html>

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USA, GA, ROXANA, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. BENZENE CLEANUP CONTINUES



The cleanup of an underground plume of benzene in Roxana is continuing with work now centered on the property of the former Carroll Lumber adjacent to the Roxana Street Department and Waste Water Treatment Plant on Eighth Street in Roxana.

The cleanup of an underground plume of benzene in Roxana is continuing with work now centered on the property of the former Carroll Lumber adjacent to the Roxana Street Department and Waste Water Treatment Plant on Eighth Street in Roxana. Maps displayed at a meeting by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency earlier this year showed some of the heaviest contamination to be in that area. A vacuum truck was working on the property Thursday, and drilling was under way. Chaffer Avenue at East Fourth Street in Roxana, which had been closed for weeks as part of the cleanup, was reopened last week.

<http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/roxana-59074-cleanup-street.html>

USA, FLA, OAKLAND PARK, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. SUCKS FOR HIM: GAS THIEF CAUGHT IN SIPHONING ACT >> COPS: FLORIDA MAN USED RETROFITTED DODGE IN SCHEME

▶ **Watch the Video** <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/129406103.html>

▶ **Watch the Video** <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21005313287038/>



Driving a minivan outfitted with a generator-powered vacuum system, a Florida man yesterday surreptitiously siphoned 250 gallons of gasoline from a Citgo outlet before the station's owner became suspicious and called cops. When Broward County sheriff's deputies arrived at the Oakland Park gas station, they arrested Yoenis Cristo Banos, 28, on a felony grand theft charge. A search of Banos's Dodge Grand Caravan revealed that the vehicle's rear seats were removed and replaced with three huge plastic tanks and a generator used to power the illegal siphoning system. One of the plastic drums held 255 gallons of diesel fuel, valued at \$1019.75, [according to a sheriff's report](#). As seen above, one police evidence photo shows [two of the hidden tanks](#), while another image shows the [third tank at the rear](#) of the van. The entire van can be seen in [a third image](#). Banos, allegedly parked the van above a compartment leading to the underground vaults storing the Citgo station's fuel supplies. He then somehow dropped hoses into the reservoir and began sucking up the gasoline into the van's plastic tanks. When Broward County Sheriff's Office deputies discovered the large amount of gasoline inside the van, a hazardous materials team was called to the station to remove the diesel fuel. After being booked on the grand theft charge, Banos was freed from custody after posting \$1000 bond. It is unclear what the unemployed Hialeah resident planned to do with the stolen gas

<http://www.thesmokinggun.com/documents/minivan-gas-thief-caught-654321>

USA, MN, EDEN PRAIRIE, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. SUPERVALU TO SELL 107 GAS STATIONS, SHORE UP CASH

SUPERVALU
Grocery chain Supervalu Inc. said Wednesday it will sell most of its gas stations as a way to free up cash. Supervalu will sell 107 of its 134 fuel centers this fall. Pete Van Helden, executive vice president of retail operations, said in a statement that the company is "reviewing all areas of our business to identify opportunities to strengthen our market position, reduce costs or generate capital that can be reinvested into the business." Minnesota-based Supervalu, which operates grocery stores throughout the U.S., didn't say how much it would be paid for the fuel centers. Like its peers, the company is paying more for the food it sells and the fuel needed to transport it, but it is wrestling with how to pass along those cost increases to customers without driving them away. Supervalu has seen its year-over-year revenue decline in each of the past nine quarters. Supervalu said it will still be able to offer rewards to grocery customers at the fuel centers that are being sold. The sales of the fuel centers include:

- Petroleum refiner and marketer Tesoro Corp. will buy 51 Albertsons gas stations in California, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and Idaho.

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- The Couche-Tard and Circle K gas stations will buy 27 Jewel-Osco stations, mostly in the Chicago area.
- Holiday Stationstores gas stations will buy 15 stations -- eight from Cub Foods in Minnesota, two from Hornbacher's in North Dakota and five from Albertsons in Montana.
- Stinker gas stations will buy 14 Albertsons stations in southern Idaho.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9PJVC7G0.htm>

USA, N.C, GREENSBORO, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. GASOLINE SPILL PROMPTS EVACUATION, CLOSES ROADS >> THOUSANDS OF GALLONS SPILLED, OFFICIALS SAY

Thousands of gallons of gasoline spilled Thursday morning as it was being pumped into a tank at the Motiva Oil Terminal located off Chimney Rock Road, Greensboro fire officials said. The spill prompted officials to close several roads in the area just after 7:20 a.m. Most of the roads were back open by 11:30 a.m. Fire officials said they used foam to help eliminate fumes from the spilled fuel. No injuries were reported. Workers at Motiva Oil evacuated, officials said.

<http://www.wxii12.com/r/29118512/detail.html>

USA, CA, SACRAMENTO, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. \$24.5-MILLION SETTLEMENT PROPOSED FOR CHEVRON



California Atty. Gen. Kamala Harris on Wednesday proposed a \$24.5-million settlement with Chevron U.S.A. Inc. and Chevron Stations Inc. to resolve allegations that the companies failed to properly inspect and maintain underground storage tanks at 650 gas stations statewide. The proposal comes in response to a complaint filed Friday alleging that Chevron since 1998 has violated anti-pollution laws by tampering with or disabling leak-detection devices and failing to test secondary containment systems and conduct monthly inspections. The companies also are accused of failing to train employees in proper protocols related to the tanks and of not maintaining operational alarm systems or evacuation plans. "There must be accountability and consequences when the environment is compromised and innocent people are potentially exposed to hazardous materials that could endanger their health," Harris said in a statement. "This settlement accomplishes both and will protect Californians by mandating a compliance program for Chevron's

underground storage tanks." Violations of hazardous-materials and hazardous-waste laws and regulations were found at gas stations in 32 counties across the state, Harris said. Chevron spokesman Sean Come said in a statement: "We have taken the appropriate actions to address the situations related to this issue and will work to avoid similar occurrences in the future. To fully understand the situation, it is important to note the majority of the incidents were technical violations, such as improper paperwork. None of the violations involved any risk to human health or the environment." State lawyers on Wednesday submitted a proposed final judgment in Alameda County Superior Court that would impose a permanent injunction on the defendants. A hearing on the matter is scheduled for Sept. 29. If approved, the settlement would require Chevron to maintain a statewide compliance program, which includes a training program for employees and a database to track how underground storage tanks are monitored.

Related Links

- [Chevron will pay \\$24 million in California gas tank settlement](#)
- [Chevron to pay \\$24.5 million for pollution violations](#)
- [Chevron, California settle on gas tank allegations](#)

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/09/25-million-settlement-proposed-for-chevron.html>

USA, LA, LAKE CHARLES, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. LOUISIANA REFINERY HIT WITH CRIMINAL CHARGES

alan sayre

A Texas company that owns a refinery in southwestern Louisiana was charged Wednesday with criminal violations of federal anti-pollution laws and obstructing justice. Prosecutors filed a three-count charge directly in court Wednesday against Houston-based Pelican Refining Co. LLC. The company is accused of operating the Pelican Refinery in Lake Charles without following requirements to prevent air pollution from escaping, including potentially deadly hydrogen sulfide, in violation of the federal Clean Air Act. The felony counts also accused the company of filing a false report with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Pelican Refining faces up to \$500,000 in fines for each count or up to twice the financial gain or loss to victims from the alleged violations. U.S. Attorney Stephanie Finley said federal authorities began an investigation after state

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inspectors in 2006 discovered illegal releases of hydrogen sulfide, improperly repaired pollution monitoring and control equipment, oil stored in unrepaired tanks and the use of children's plastic swimming pools to contain petroleum leaks. An investigation also determined that the flare used by the refinery to burn off emissions -- including hydrogen sulfide -- was not properly functioning, Finley said. A call to the company's spokeswoman for comment was not immediately returned. On July 6, Byron Hamilton, 55, who oversaw the refinery's operations from Houston as president and general manager, pleaded guilty in Lafayette federal court to two misdemeanor endangerment charges under the federal Clean Air Act. He faces up to one year in prison and a \$200,000 fine for each count. In a written summation of the case filed by prosecutors and Hamilton's lawyer, Hamilton acknowledged that the refinery had no company budget, no environmental department and no environmental manager. The summation said the pollution prevention equipment was not functioning, poorly maintained or improperly calibrated, causing pollutants to be released. The summation also said the refinery had been using a signal flare gun purchased at a discount store to relight the plant's flare and a scrubber designed to remove hydrogen sulfide from emissions had been bypassed.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9PJT3FG2.htm>

USA, OH, TRUMBULL CO, HUBBARD TWP, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. CRASH CLOSES I-80 FOR DAY

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.wkbn.com/content/news/local/story/I-80-Cleanup-Efforts-Continue-After-Crash/pEymFQ5UxEmdxDMdjiFD0A.csp>



Robert Weirick of Liberty escaped with only minor injuries after the tractor-trailer he was driving ran off an Interstate 80 bridge in Hubbard Township and exploded. Weirick was found lying on the road at the western edge of the bridge.

Robert E. Weirick of Academy Drive in Liberty Township was only about a mile from home when his semi pulling two trailers of freight smashed into a part of the Interstate 80 bridge over Mount Everett Road, producing a spectacular fire Wednesday morning. One of the trailers flipped over the bridge railing and landed in a fiery pile on the ground next to highway, by a set of railroad tracks and Mount Everett Road, Hubbard Township. The other trailer and the semi tractor remained part-way on the bridge, with part of the trailer hanging over the edge in another fire. Miraculously, Weirick escaped the semi tractor and was

found lying on the road at the western edge of the bridge, said John Clemente, chief of the Eagle Joint Fire District, which serves Hubbard and Hubbard Township. Firefighters from the Eagle Joint Fire District and half-dozen other departments put out the two fires after about 30 minutes, Clemente said. The Trumbull County 911 Center got the first call at 4:42 a.m. reporting a semi had hit a concrete barrier and exploded, and a second caller a minute later said the flames were visible from the Truck World Truck Stop at the U.S. Route 62 and state Route 7 interchange. Shortly thereafter, a witness reported seeing a man on fire running from the semi and rolling around on the ground to extinguish the flames. The accident closed the westbound lane of I-80 throughout the day, requiring traffic to be diverted. Justin Chesnick, spokesman for the Ohio Department of Transportation, said one lane of the westbound lane reopened Wednesday night. The second lane remained closed at press time. A guardrail just east of the bridge and railings on top of a side wall needed to be repaired or replaced before traffic could use the passing lane, Chesnick said. The bridge did not suffer any structural damage, he added. Trumbull County HazMat Chief Don Waldron said Weirick's trailers contained a hazardous chemical called ethanolamine, as well as containers of propane and petroleum oils and greases. The propane tanks were exploding as Clemente arrived on the scene, Clemente said. The Ohio State Highway Patrol said Weirick suffered minor injuries and was taken to St. Elizabeth Health Center for treatment. No other vehicles were involved in the crash, and no firefighters were injured, Clemente said. Meanwhile, the highway patrol is investigating a fatal single-car accident on U.S. Route 422 that occurred at 9:40 a.m. Wednesday just west of state Route 305 in Southington Township. The vehicle was eastbound and hit a tree on the right side of the road, the highway patrol said.

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2011/sep/08/crash-closes-i-80-for-day/>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. FUEL, PETCHEM MANUFACTURERS HAVE MADE MAJOR SECURITY UPGRADES SINCE 9/11

American fuel and petrochemical manufacturers have made major improvements in security to protect their facilities against possible terrorist attacks since Sept. 11, 2001, National Petrochemical & Refiners Association President Charles T. Drevna

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said Thursday. "Making our manufacturing facilities as secure and safe as possible is our top priority," Drevna said. "Refineries and petrochemical plants have spent billions of dollars to become better prepared for the possibility of terrorist attacks, with improved site security plans and intensive facility inspections." "The Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards have provided a sound, risk based, security program," Drevna said. "We support permanent authorization of the program and urge Congress to pass legislation extending it this year." Drevna said security improvements at refineries and petrochemical plants since 2001 include:

- Implementation of the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards.
- Implementation of the Maritime Transportation Security Act, which identifies security gaps to develop improved security plans that are vetted and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Participation in the Chemical and Oil and Natural Gas Coordinating Councils. This enables NPRA members to work closely with the Department of Homeland Security on such issues as tiering, site inspections, material modifications, alternative security plans, personnel surety and cybersecurity.
- Involvement in many local port security councils and regional and state security councils.
- Participation in voluntary programs, such as DHS workshops and educational site tours.

"We join all Americans in mourning the tragic loss of life on Sept. 11 ten years ago, and remain dedicated to helping protect our nation against future terrorist attacks that we hope will never come," Drevna said. "Security has greatly improved through voluntary actions and important federal measures such as the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards. We will remain vigilant and unrelenting in our efforts."

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=27822&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1

USA, TX, MONTGOMERY CO, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. HAZMAT CREWS SHUT DOWN HIGHWAY 105 TO REMOVE ACID CONTAINERS

john perera



Hazardous Acid Spill in Montgomery, Texas.

Hazardous material workers were forced to shut down Highway 105 to remove 200-gallon containers of acid, stuck between a truck and its trailer. The incident was reported around 10 a.m. Wednesday at Highway 105 and Walden Road, according to the Montgomery Independent School District. Hazmat crews evacuated the immediate area while they worked to clear away the 200 gallon containers.

Regarding the type of acid: Montgomery ISD officials called it **hydrochloric acid**, but company officials warned it was **hydrofluoric acid**. Regardless, both are particularly hazardous to skin and lungs. Montgomery County Sheriff's investigators say an 18-wheeler was carrying of acid when it lost its load around 10 a.m. Eleven

containers ripped through the truck's trailer and were wedged between the truck and trailer. None of the containers were ruptured, but hazmat crews took precautions to avoid any surprises.

<http://www.myfoxhouston.com/dpp/news/local/110907-acid-spill-shuts-down-highway-delays-montgomery-isd-buses>

BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, MT PLEASANT, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. THE £1.5M FUEL MIX-UP: RAF ADMITS FILLING ITS HELICOPTERS WITH ANTI-FREEZE

jack doyle



Petrol blunder: Two military supply helicopters have had full engine changes after the incident

As many a driver knows to their cost, putting the wrong thing in your petrol tank at the local garage is an embarrassing business. But when it's military aircraft you're dealing with instead of a Ford Focus - such a mistake can be very expensive indeed. That's what red-faced air chiefs have discovered after de-icer was wrongly added to £1.5million of aviation fuel – rendering it unusable. The contaminated fuel was stored in a giant tanker at the Mount Pleasant RAF base on the Falklands. Now a multi-million pound clear-up operation has been launched, as the military investigates how

the accident happened. Critics have said there was 'no excuse' for such a basic mistake - the latest in a string of expensive

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defence blunders. Last month it emerged the MoD paid £2.4million for rescue and repair after the nuclear submarine HMS Astute ran aground on a training exercise. Another £1.7million was paid out when a warhead crashed during testing in California. It paid £1.7million to a company in an out-of-court settlement after it cancelled a furniture contract, and it emerged the same amount was spent on helmets and body armour for Ugandan soldiers. It comes at a time when the department is having to slash its £34billion budget by 8 per cent, as an estimated 17,000 jobs are expected to go. Matthew Elliot chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance said: 'Taxpayers can't afford the cost of any wasted fuel let alone the millions that his MOD's blunder has wasted. 'There's already a huge black hole in the defence budget, it doesn't need basic, avoidable mistakes like this adding to it. 'There's no excuse for wasting such huge quantities of expensive aviation fuel, precautions should have been taken to ensure this could never of happened.' Following the mistake, understood to have taken place within the last few months, a number of aircraft have had to undergo expensive repairs. They include two military supply helicopters which have had full engine changes. Officials said this was a 'precautionary' measure and there was no danger of the aircraft failing mid-flight. They also insisted the Typhoon fighter aircraft, which are stationed on the island in case of an Argentine assault, were not affected. The fuel will not be thrown away, and will undergo an expensive cleaning process. An MOD spokesman said: 'We can confirm that part of the aviation fuel stock held on the Falkland Islands has been contaminated. 'Aircraft affected by the contaminated fuel have been identified and any necessary repairs have been undertaken. 'Falkland Islands air defence has been unaffected by this incident. An investigation into the cause of the contamination is underway and it would be inappropriate to comment further until this process has concluded.'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2034833/The-1-5m-fuel-mix-RAF-admits-filling-helicopters-ANTI-FREEZE.html>

USA, MO, LOUISIANA, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. HERCULES AGREES TO \$245K EPA FINE OVER CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS >> FORMALDEHYDE WAS VISIBLY LEAKING

sarah fenske



A chemical manufacturing plant in Louisiana, Missouri, just north of St. Louis, failed to properly monitor for leaks of hazardous air pollutants, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency charges -- leading to a \$245,521 fine. The settlement was filed in federal court this morning, four years after the EPA identified Kentucky-based Hercules' Clean Air Act violations during an inspection. The EPA's complaint, also filed this morning, alleges that its 2007 inspection revealed that Hercules failed to follow federal laws requiring leak detection systems -- even as it used such toxic substances as formaldehyde and methanol, which has been linked to cancer in humans. Hercules failed to cap at least three lines of the formaldehyde unit, as the law requires. Even worse, one of the lines was "visibly leaking." The EPA alleges that the company also failed to monitor for leaks in three key areas of the plant. The good news is that things are changing at the Louisiana plant. According to the

settlement filed in federal court today, Hercules has documented to the EPA that, as of March 2011, it "ceased operation of the formaldehyde process line" at the Louisiana plant -- and that "Hercules does not intend to operate the formaldehyde equipment in the future." Formaldehyde is a [known human carcinogen](#)-- it's been linked to both leukemia and nasopharyngeal cancer. According to the U.S. Department of Health, Several NCI surveys of professionals who are potentially exposed to formaldehyde in their work, such as anatomists and embalmers, have suggested that these individuals are at an increased risk of leukemia and brain cancer compared with the general population. However, specific work practices and exposures were not characterized in these studies. An NCI case-control study among funeral industry workers that characterized exposure to formaldehyde also found an association between increasing formaldehyde exposure and mortality from myeloid leukemia (4). For this study, carried out among funeral industry workers who had died between 1960 and 1986, researchers compared those who had died from hematopoietic and lymphatic cancers and brain tumors with those who died from other causes. (Hematopoietic or hematologic cancers such as leukemia develop in the blood or bone marrow. Lymphatic cancers develop in the tissues and organs that produce, store, and carry white blood cells that fight infections and other diseases.) This analysis showed that those who had performed the most embalming and those with the highest estimated formaldehyde exposure had the greatest risk of myeloid leukemia. The \$245,521 fine is due in 30 business days.

http://blogs.riverfronttimes.com/dailyrft/2011/09/hercules_epa_louisiana_formaldehyde.php

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VENEZUELA, FALCON STATE, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. 6 KILLED, 13 HURT IN FIREWORKS BLAST IN VENEZUELA

Venezuelan authorities say fireworks stored illegally in a home have exploded, killing six people and injuring 13. Local mayor Alcides Goitia in the northwestern state of Falcon says the victims include a 13-year-old boy. He tells the state-run Venezuelan News Agency that the blast destroyed three homes and damaged other houses. It is unclear what set off the explosion Thursday. Sales of fireworks are regulated in Venezuela, but some people sell them illegally from homes and stores.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/6-killed-13-hurt-in-fireworks-blast-in-venezuela-1.3156101>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. 3 INDIANS KILLED IN SHIP EXPLOSION OFF NIGERIA, 10 RESCUED

Three Indians were killed while 10 others were rescued when a Liberian-flagged ship with 15 sailors onboard exploded off Nigeria's territorial waters. The three were confirmed dead while two persons were reported missing after tragedy struck the ship, ITB Jacksonville, near Apapa port in Nigerian city of Lagos on Sunday. Ten persons, all of them Indians, were rescued after the incident and taken to a hospital for emergency medical attention. "All the rescued persons were Indians. They were taken to a search and rescue hospital in Apapa port in Lagos," a spokesperson for the [Nigerian Maritime Administration](#) (NIMASA), Lami Tumaka, said. Three bodies were later recovered but two are still missing. NIMASA is the body responsible for rescue operations on Nigeria's territorial waters. On the origin of the ship, Tumaka said the vessel was flying Liberian flag though the documents found on it said [Panama](#), which made the origin difficult to ascertain. Eyewitnesses said the ship's engine exploded and the vessel went ablaze as it approached Nigeria's commercial capital of Lagos. The fire spread very fast but a search and rescue operation succeeded in rescuing some people, an eyewitness said. The accident occurred barely a day after another incident on an oil ship threw three workers off board with one person still missing. French company, Total Oil Company, for which the ship was operating in its field off Nigeria's coast, said the accident was caused when a crane collapsed on the drilling ship.

Related Links

- [3 Indians killed in ship explosion off Nigeria, 10 rescued](#)
- [Ship Explosion|Nigerian Maritime Administration](#)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/3-Indians-killed-in-ship-explosion-off-Nigeria-10-rescued/articleshow/9914334.cms>

USA, GA, POOLER, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. TOXIC FUMES AT MCDONALD'S KILLS 1



McDonald's employees are escorted to the Savannah Fire Department Haz Mat trailer for a precautionary decontamination following an incident Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011 in Pooler, Ga. Ten people were taken to the hospital Wednesday after firefighters found two customers unconscious inside a bathroom and others struggling to breathe at a McDonald's restaurant, authorities said. At least 20 people, including three Pooler firefighters, were decontaminated by a hazardous materials team as a precaution, Simmons said. Authorities suspect cleaning chemicals in the restroom are to blame, but a specific cause had not been determined.

An 80-year-old Florida woman died early Thursday a day after being sickened by fumes at a McDonald's restaurant in south Georgia, police said. Anne Felton of Ponte Vedra, Fla., and her husband were customers at the restaurant in Pooler, near Savannah, Police Chief Mark Revenew said. An autopsy is being conducted to learn the cause of death. Felton was one of 10 people taken to the hospital Wednesday after firefighters found her and another customer, 56-year-old Carol Barry, unconscious in the bathroom and others struggling to breathe. Eight people were taken to a hospital where they were treated and released. Felton and Barry were admitted to the hospital in critical condition. Barry was listed in good condition Thursday, said Memorial University Medical Center spokesman Michael Notrica. Authorities initially suspected cleaning chemicals in the restroom were to blame, but Fire Chief Wade Simmons said Thursday that after the investigation was completed there was no evidence that was the case. "We were unable to find a definitive cause," he said. "We may not ever know." At least 20 people, including three firefighters, were decontaminated by a hazardous materials team as a precaution, Simmons said. The U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration on Thursday began an investigation of the incident, agency spokesman Mike Wald said. Wald said OSHA workers will seek interviews with people who might have been at the restaurant at the time. Its probe will focus on employee safety and health issues, and whether any of OSHA's standards were violated. A statement

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issued by McDonald's on behalf of franchisees John and Monique Palmaccio said that the restaurant reopened Wednesday after authorities deemed it safe. "As the owners of this restaurant, my wife and I are deeply saddened by this tragic incident," John Palmaccio said in the statement released Thursday. "The safety of our customers and employees has and will continue to be our number one concern. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families who have been impacted."
<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/state/woman-sickened-by-fumes-at-ga-mcdonalds-dies-1828514.html>

USA, WI, ADAMS CO SEPTEMBER 9 2011. WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIREWORKS SUPERVISOR FACES CHARGES

karen madden

The Adams County district attorney filed charges Wednesday against the Wisconsin Rapids man who supervised a fireworks show in the town of Rome that ended after an explosion injured 11 people. Michael H. Rose, 66, is charged with second-degree reckless injury, second-degree recklessly endangering safety and injury by negligent use of an explosive, according to online court records. His initial appearance in the Adams County case is scheduled for Sept. 19. Rose of Wisconsin Rapids-based Sight and Sound Fireworks was the lead display operator in charge of the July 16 show at Romano's Pizzeria, 108, Highway Z. Rome police officers investigating the incident think Rose, who had been trained in the setup and firing of exhibition fireworks for public displays, violated several National Fire Protection Association codes relating to spectator safety and display setup, according to a news release issued by Rome Police Chief Adam Grosz in August. Officers think those violations directly contributed to spectators being injured by flying debris, when a fireworks tube malfunctioned and exploded. Eleven people, including a firefighter and one of the fireworks professionals, were injured in the explosion. Derek Bodette, 28, of Wisconsin Rapids, a member of the Sight and Sound Fireworks crew, and Marlene Fuller, 71, of Janesville, were flown by helicopter to Theda Clark Medical Center in Neenah after the explosion. Bodette later was released. Fuller's family did not want information released on her condition. Ambulances took a Rome firefighter and two other people to Riverview Medical Center in Wisconsin Rapids, where they were treated and released. Six people were treated at the scene.

<http://centralwisconsinhub.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20110908/WDH0101/110908074/Wisconsin-Rapids-fireworks-supervisor-faces-charges?odyssey=tab|mostpopular|text|FRONTPAGE>

CANADA, HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 10 2011. MAN DIES AFTER CAR EXPLODES, HITS POLE IN HALIFAX

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/Canada/20110908/car-explodes-man-dies-halifax-110908/>



Investigators examine a vehicle after an explosion and fire near a gas station in Halifax on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011.

A man died Thursday after his car exploded, caught fire and crashed into a utility pole in Halifax. Police say their preliminary investigation suggests the man pulled into a service station around 9:30 a.m., filled a jerry can with gas and then put it in his vehicle. Witnesses reported seeing and hearing an explosion in the car as it was pulling out of the lot at Evergreen Place off Prospect Bay Road. Const. Brian Palmeter says the car, which was on fire, continued down the road for a couple of hundred metres before slamming into a power pole and shearing it off. Palmeter says

officers believe they know the identity of the victim, who was pronounced dead at the scene, but are still awaiting positive identification. The province's medical examiner's office has been called in to investigate.

<http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/Canada/20110908/car-explodes-man-dies-halifax-110908/>

CANADA, OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 9 2011. CITY SHOULD SEEK COSTS FOR DIESEL SPILL ON CANADA DAY

neco cockburn

The city should recover \$57,000 from a diesel spill at a Canada Day event in 2009, while unauthorized helicopter rides were provided at the same event one year later, the city's auditor general says. Auditor general Alain Lalonde looked at Canada Day events during the past two years at Andrew Haydon Park, and found evidence of unauthorized helicopter rides, non-compliant electrical hookups, and a diesel spill in 2009 "with cleanup costs of \$57,000 that the city should recover," he said in a written statement. The diesel spill occurred by the ride operator's trailer, which was parked near a pond, the report says. Lalonde's office wrote that the city submitted a claim for \$57,000 in remediation costs to the insurer for the ride operator and not to the event organizer. As of Sept. 27, 2010, the amount had not been paid, the report says. "The rental contract for use of the park is with the event organizer and not the ride operator and covers the dates of the event which runs from June 26, 2009

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to July 1, 2009. The city should have considered actions against the event organizer," the report says. Lalonde's report also says that the event organizer allowed a helicopter company to offer rides at the 2010 event without the permission of the city and Transport Canada. "The event organizer never advised the city about the on-site helicopter, this resulted in a lack of confirmation of licenses and permits relating to the pilot, helicopter and helicopter company, a lack of a certificate of proof of liability insurance for this activity for the period of the event with the city as named insured, and a lack of confirmation of other government legislation," the report states. As of Nov. 16, Transport Canada had confirmed that "no permission was granted to either the helicopter company or the event organizer to have helicopter rides at Andrew Haydon Park nor did the helicopter company apply for an authority," the report states. Transport Canada has indicated as of November that it is conducting an investigation into the issue, according to the report. Lalonde said the city needs to better monitor compliance with the park rental contract, bylaws and enforcement of non-compliance. The auditor general says 10 recommendations in the report have been agreed to by management.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/City+should+seek+costs+diesel+spill+Canada/5370903/story.html>

MEXICO, TABASCO, SEPTEMBER 10 2011. WORKERS FROM U.S. ENERGY FIRMS MISSING IN MEXICAN WATERS.



Trinity Liftboat's Trinity II was under contract to Houston-based Geokinetics on Sept. 8, 2011 when the crew abandoned ship as Tropical Storm Nate approached in the Bay of Campeche, Mexico.

Mexico's state oil company is searching for 10 workers from several U.S. energy companies who evacuated a ship in the Gulf of Mexico [ahead of Tropical Storm Nate](#). Three workers from Houston-based Geokinetics, four from Trinity Liftboats of New Iberia, La. and three from another firm, were last seen abandoning a vessel called a liftboat and getting into a life raft at 12:25 p.m. on Thursday, according to Brenda Taquino, human resources director for Geokinetics. The liftboat crew had sent out a distress message saying the vessel was been disabled by the storm and they were abandoning ship. A ship near the lift boat at the time saw the crew

getting into the life raft but weather conditions have been too rough for a rescue. According to port officials, who are in charge of the rescue operations, the winds and sea conditions are calming as Nate moves north. Jose Perez, a port official, told the Chronicle's Dudley Althauson Friday afternoon there is still no sign of the life raft. The Geokinetics workers were not Americans, Taquino said, and none of the 10 workers were from Houston. [According to a Louisiana television station](#) the Trinity workers were from Louisiana. They include Jeremy Parfait of Houma, Craig Myers, Ted Derise Jr., and Nick Reed all of New Iberia. Reed's father, Randy Reed, is the president of Trinity. Pemex, the Mexican national oil company, has 2 vessels and a helicopter looking for the life raft. Two other ships are monitoring the liftboat, [the Trinity II](#), which is drifting but has not sunk, Taquino said. The Trinity II was under contract to Geokinetics for use as a platform for seismic work related to an ocean-bottom-cable project in the Bay of Campeche. The life raft has a roof, can be sealed from the weather and carries several days of food and water, Taquino said. "Our No. 1 priority is the safety and rescue of our employees and everyone on the life raft, and staying in contact to support the families of our employees," Taquino said. Geokinetics specializes in seismic studies for the oil and gas industry. Pemex told the Associated Press its ships couldn't reach the area about 8 miles off shore of the southeastern Mexican state of Tabasco because of high winds and waves. Tropical Storm Nate was drifting slowly northwestward over the southern Gulf Friday with maximum sustained winds of near 65 mph (100 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. It was centered about 140 miles (225 kilometers) west of Campeche. Forecasters said it was expected to become a hurricane later Friday or Saturday and hit Mexico's Gulf Coast Sunday or Monday. A hurricane watch was declared from Tampico to Veracruz. The U.S. Coast Guard is monitoring the situation and has been in contact with the Mexican Navy, but so far has not deployed any vessels or aircraft to assist with the search, said Petty Officer Stephen Lehman, a spokesman for U.S. Coast Guard District 8 in New Orleans. If any assets are dispatched to help, they would likely be sent from the Coast Guard's Houston office, he said. Petty Officer Richard Brahm, with the Coast Guard's Houston office, said the office was on standby and would participate in the search if needed. Geokinetics has two crews working in Mexico, according to an August 2011 presentation found on the company web site, one crew onshore and one in the Gulf of Campeche. [According to a video](#) the company posted in March Geokinetics' Mexican operations had gone 17,000,000 man hours without a lost-time accident.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/09/09/oil-workers-missing-off-stormy-mexico-coast/>

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AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, DANDENONG, SEPTEMBER 10 2011. FUEL FLASH-BACK BURNS MAN'S FACE, HANDS

nino bucci

A man suffered burns to his face and hands when he poured petrol on a fire in his Dandenong backyard today. Paramedics were called about 6am and arrived shortly afterwards to find the 36-year-old man in the shower trying to cool his burns. Intensive care paramedic Robbie Irving said the man was burnt when he poured petrol on to the blaze and the fire "flashed back". "Some of the burns were quite deep but the less severe burns he suffered are actually more painful as they involve the nerves," Mr Irving said. "The man stripped down and went into the shower to cool the burns but the water was a bit cold and it dropped his body temperature. "It's important to run cool water over burns injuries but avoid putting someone in the shower with cold water as they can develop hypothermia." Mr Irving said the man was taken to The Alfred hospital in a serious condition.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/fuel-flashback-burns-mans-face-hands-20110909-1k0jc.html>

USA, CA, SAN JOSE, SEPTEMBER 10 2011. CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OVERCHARGING FOR INSPECTIONS, GAS STATION OWNERS SAY

paul thissen

Contra Costa County is overcharging gas station owners for hazardous materials inspections, station owners say, and one owner has surveillance footage to help make his point. On Aug. 1, the county's inspector showed up at the Danville Valero station for its annual checkup. County records show it took four hours, but the station's surveillance camera shows the inspector was there for less than half that time. He arrived at 9:50 a.m. and left at 11:28 a.m., according to footage reviewed by the Times. Either way, the inspection was much shorter than the 14-hour estimate the county uses to calculate the gas station's annual hazmat inspection fees, which are more than double what nearby counties charge. Under California law, that 14-hour estimate is what gives the county the right to charge so much for inspections. Contra Costa County's fees for small businesses used to be lower, too, but a 2009 lawsuit settlement with the Chevron refinery in Richmond and USS-Posco steel mill in Pittsburg forced the county to slash big business fees, shifting higher rates to small businesses instead. The Danville Valero's owner, Shahnam Zomorodi, is furious. The county lies, he said; the inspection takes two hours at most, according to the contractor Zomorodi hires to open his tanks for the county inspector. So he should not be billed for a 14-hour inspection, he said. Other station owners are angry, too. "The bureaucrats are against the real business people," said Saeid Amiri, owner of the Valero on Central Avenue. The fees are strangling struggling small businesses, owners say. They have raised prices as much as they can, and are losing business to stations in neighboring counties. "We can't pass it along (to customers) any more. It's killing our business," said Ali Shahidi, owner of the Chevron on Buskirk Avenue in Pleasant Hill.

What's in an Inspection?

The 14-hour average is accurate for a gas station like the Danville Valero with four underground tanks (for three grades of gasoline and diesel), said Randy Sawyer, director of the Contra Costa County's hazardous materials program. He said paperwork or follow-up is sometimes required. But a county staff report lists a separate one-hour estimate for paperwork on top of the 3.5 hour-per-tank inspection. Sawyer said he did not know why there was a discrepancy with the Danville Valero inspection times. County Supervisor Karen Mitchoff of Pleasant Hill doesn't think county inspectors are padding the books, but said the county should be clearer about how its workers spend their time. "It does raise a question on transparency," Mitchoff said in August. In June, she defended the fees in a letter to the Danville Valero's owner. The county should consider cutting fees for additional underground tanks after the first one, Mitchoff said last week. State Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, D-Concord, said he has heard several complaints about fees. "It seemed like it was a real issue there so we're following up on it," he said. Other counties' gas station inspection fees are lower. Contra Costa County's annual hazardous materials fees for the Danville Valero totaled \$5,475, according to a May invoice. Alameda's fees for an identical gas station would have been \$2,475. Fees in Solano and Santa Clara counties would have been \$1,545 and \$2,324, respectively, according to officials in those counties.

Lawsuit, Fee Changes

In 2008, Contra Costa's fees were similar to other counties. Then, the Danville Valero paid \$2,682 in county fees. That was before the county settled the Chevron and USS-Posco lawsuit that challenged the way their fees were calculated. As a result, between 2008 and 2009 the Chevron refinery's annual fees fell from \$613,273 to \$388,319. USS-Posco, the steel mill, saw its fees fall from \$168,868 to \$82,410. At the same time, fees for gas stations nearly doubled. In 2009, Sawyer said fees on small businesses had to rise, because the county was required to keep doing inspections and creating disaster plans. Higher fees on small businesses were the only option, he said. California law requires that fees be directly related to the cost of the

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services they pay for. So the county's legal justification for its fees is the 14-hour inspection estimate for a station with four tanks. But that time estimate is vastly inflated, station owners say. County inspectors -- privately hired monitoring contractors who gas stations must hire -- show up each year at the same time at each station. The contractor shuts down the station and opens the equipment to be checked, Sawyer said. "That takes three to four hours (per tank) to do the certification ... and we're there the full time," Sawyer said. But Zomorodi's certification contractor said the test takes two hours at most -- for an entire gas station with three or four tanks, according to an e-mail the contractor wrote to Zomorodi. And in 2010 the county inspector didn't even show up, Zomorodi said -- an assertion his contractor backed up. Other gas station owners echo Zomorodi's criticisms, and his experience with the inspectors. Mehrzad Hamzeh, owner of the Texx Oil station on Newell Avenue in Walnut Creek, said inspectors were at his station for an hour or an hour and a half. Station owners have other gripes about the hazardous materials fees, like being charged more than \$1,000 per year for a "Hazardous Materials Business Plan" -- a standardized form, one page per tank plus a cover page or two -- that doesn't change year to year. And they gripe about an incident response team that spends more time in training and meetings than responding to incidents, according to a county staff report. "We've got to stand up against these guys," said Shahidi, owner of the Pleasant Hill Chevron. "This is getting ridiculous."

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_18861853

USA, VA, ROANOKE, SEPTEMBER 10 2011. HAZMAT GAS STATION HAS HAD DEQ COMPLIANCE ISSUES SINCE 2009 >> HAZMAT GAS STATION HAS HAD DEQ COMPLIANCE ISSUES SINCE 2009

scott leamon

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www2.wsls.com/news/2011/sep/09/hazmat-gas-station-has-had-deq-compliance-issues-2-ar-1297868/>

While [a contractor](#) dug up what investigators said was polluted soil, I started digging into the past of [underground gas tanks](#) at D&G Mart. I found out the tanks have had compliance issues with DEQ for much of the past two years, including a DEQ "letter of deficiency," dated September 5th, 2009. [A DEQ investigator](#) on scene today said that inspection found record keeping problems in [corrosion protection](#) and leak detection. Investigators said, for reasons they haven't put together yet, the current leak detection system didn't work. The [Roanoke Fire-EMS Department](#) had to rope off the area around the convenience store's underground tanks on Thursday after fears the leaking fuel could spark a fire. Records show DEQ even had a site visit here in August. The [steel tanks](#) sit about a dozen feet underground in a pit filled with gravel. Investigators say they've seen leaks like this in the past after big rain events like we had earlier this week. "It's like a bath tub effect. You've got the native soil around the tank pit and then the water infiltrates that pit and it fills up like a bath tub," [Jeff Hurst, DEQ investigator](#) said. Investigators say this is far from the [only gas station](#) where they've had problems like this after big rain events in the past. They also said that the owners of the [gas station](#) are fully cooperating. On a scale of 1 to 10 as far as compliance, one [on-site inspector](#) gave them a five. Inspectors said they had no record of any fines or penalties against D&G Mart. No one picked up my calls at a number listed for the D & G Mart.

<http://www2.wsls.com/news/2011/sep/09/hazmat-gas-station-has-had-deq-compliance-issues-2-ar-1297868/>

NIGERIA, NIGER DELTA, Ogoniland, SEPTEMBER 10 2011. DIRE POLLUTION IN OGONILAND BUT LITTLE ACTION SO FAR



An oil spill in Bodo is blamed for poor health in the community.

An August 2011 UN Environment Programme (UNEP) [study](#) has found hazardous levels of pollution in Ogoniland in southern Nigeria's Niger Delta, lending credence to claims by locals of environmental damage, health problems and lost livelihoods as a result of 50 years of oil operations in the area. The UNEP report found oil spills occur with "alarming regularity" and residents had been exposed to petroleum hydrocarbons in air, water and soil. Some 28 wells across 10 communities were found to be contaminated, and in one community, Nisisioken Ogale, water was being drunk from wells containing 900 times the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended level of benzene, a carcinogen. Other findings include destruction of fish habitats - including mangroves - and soil contamination found at depths of up to five metres. It is estimated a clean-up operation will take up to 30 years to return

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contaminated drinking water, land, creeks and ecosystems back to full health. A history of oil spills and pollution has created tensions in the [region](#). Citizens have also complained that they have not benefited from the oil wealth in the area. Though oil has not been produced in Ogoniland since 1993, infrastructure remains, including active oil pipelines that cross the area. Sabotage and bunkering has added to spills in the [Niger Delta](#). The UNEP report, carried out at the request of the government, said health symptoms were not recorded in sufficient detail to be conclusively attributed to pollution, but for locals in Bodo the connection is clear: The community suffered two major [oil spills](#) in 2008 from pipes operated by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), which is a joint venture with the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, Shell International, Elf and Agip.

Contaminated wells

A man who lives close to the spill, who only gave his name as Nebachi, told IRIN his whole family was sick. "Our source of drinking water is the well. By the time we fetch water from the well, we see oil on it and that is what we drink," he said. "We breathe the polluted air. In fact as I am talking with you now, I have chest pain... Everybody in my house is sick." Other residents told IRIN they now suffered burning sensations in their eyes at night, respiratory problems, frequent rashes and bloody stools. Comfort Amadi, the chief nursing officer at Bodo General Hospital, told IRIN common problems believed to be caused by pollution were diarrhoea and respiratory infections. She added: "We often have cases of pregnant women having miscarriages. Due to the oil spillage, people also suffer from malaria as a result of the stagnant water around." Babiana Uporo, a nursing officer at the hospital, agreed diarrhoea and respiratory infections were common. "The whole place is polluted and filled with smoke [from gas flares]." Aster van Kregten, a researcher on Nigeria with Amnesty International, said in interviews with Bodo residents, people told her "they have problems [such as] rashes, headaches and breathing problems." Joanna Tempowski, a WHO scientist, said all these symptoms, aside from miscarriages, "are consistent with exposure to hydrocarbons and their combustion products". She said further investigation would be necessary to determine if the reported miscarriages could be attributed to pollution.

Insufficient Response?

Though both Shell and the Nigerian government have accepted the recommendations of the report - including establishing a US\$1 billion fund for the clean-up and addressing issues caused by the pollution - very little is clear about what specific action will be taken, or when. The report contained emergency recommendations around warning people about contamination, supplying drinking water to families with only access to contaminated sources, and monitoring the health of people in Nisiosiken Ogale. Some progress has been made here: Residents have been warned about contaminated water sources and emergency drinking water has been trucked in to some of the most deeply affected communities by the state government. But Chris Newsom from the Port Harcourt office of NGO Stakeholder Democracy Network said the response is only part of what is needed for such a dire situation. "If those levels of pollution were found in the US, Congressmen would be having hysterics and demanding a comprehensive set of immediate responses," he said. Newsom pointed out that UNEP had informed the Nigerian government in December 2010 of the dangerously high levels of contamination in drinking water in Nisiosiken Ogale, but that no action was taken until the report was released. Amnesty International's van Kregten said: "You would expect authorities to do more in terms of emergency measures." Both Van Kregten and Jeremiah Leela, a senior health worker in Bodo, told IRIN they would like to see the authorities investigate health impacts more widely.

Committee

The Nigerian government has formed a committee to look at the recommendations. However, despite pressure from Ogoni elders in early September, the committee is still considering its response and no decisions have been [announced](#). A spokesperson for Shell said: "SPDC will support the [Nigerian] government to implement emergency measures as soon as possible," but was also unable to give any details of action. "This report should be used to put pressure on the government and oil companies to clean up and compensate people harmed by these spills," said Eric Gutschuss, a researcher on Nigeria with Human Rights Watch. Implementing the recommendations of the report and cleaning up the spills will, however, only assist Ogoniland - a small part of the oil-rich Niger Delta - while it is suspected pollution extends much further. "The Ogoni oil spills are only the tip of the iceberg; there have been serious spills across the Niger Delta for decades," Newsom said. Ogoniland covers just 1,000 of the Niger Delta's 70,000 sqkm. "Since the terrain, operator and regulators are similar in other parts of the Niger Delta, it is a reasonable assumption to make that there are similar issues in other parts of the Niger Delta," said a UNEP spokesperson.

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Weak Regulatory Environment

Poor industry practice and the weak regulatory environment are part of the problem. While a spokesperson for Shell said "SPDC has always cleaned up spills from its facilities no matter what the cause," the UNEP report found 10 of the 15 sites investigated which Shell claimed were remediated were found to contain pollution exceeding SPDC and government standards. "SPDC's own procedures have not been applied, creating public safety issues," the report said. In response, Shell's spokesperson would only say they were "looking very closely at the report". The government largely relies on the word of oil companies, which say they clean up spills, but it is apparent from the report that this does not always happen. Gutschuss said, pointing out that the Nigerian government is a majority partner in joint ventures with many of these oil companies, including Shell, and the regulatory environment is very weak. According to Van Kregten, while oil companies frequently blame oil spills on deliberate sabotage, it is impossible to verify this.

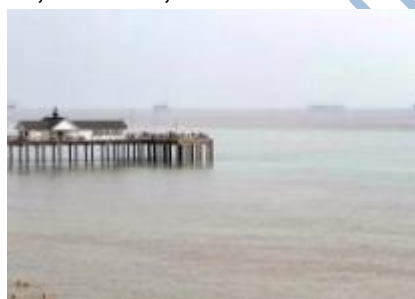
<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93685>

USA, PA, NORRISTOWN, SEPTEMBER 10 2011. DEP FINES FIRST STUDENT INC. \$121,520 FOR BUCKS COUNTY FUEL SPILL

The Department of Environmental Protection has assessed First Student Inc. and its parent company, FirstGroup America Inc., a \$121,520 penalty to resolve violations associated with a November 2010 release of diesel fuel from its school bus terminal in Newtown, Bucks County. "This incident at First Student required the emergency response of five government agencies and disrupted a water utility's operations for six days," Southeast Regional Director Joseph A. Feola said. "With proper operation and maintenance of its above-ground storage tank, the company could have prevented this incident." On Nov. 8, 2010, a First Student employee opened a valve to drain rainwater from a containment tank that housed a 10,000-gallon leaking fuel tank. The valve remained open overnight and allowed a mixture of water and diesel fuel to run from the terminal into Newtown Creek and, eventually, into Neshaminy Creek, upstream from a public water system operated by Aqua Pennsylvania Inc. In spite of corrective actions made by First Student, including the use of absorbent booms, vacuuming and the excavation of contaminated soil and gravel, it became necessary on Nov. 9 for Aqua PA to shut down its Neshaminy water treatment plant intake. This required the utility to maintain a drinking water supply for more than 100,000 people through interconnection, increased production and the purchase of additional water. The incident resulted in violations of Pennsylvania's Storage Tank Act, Clean Streams Law, Safe Drinking Water Act and Fish and Boat Code. Inspections of the facility after the Nov. 8 release revealed an ongoing lack of required tank maintenance and leak detection equipment that allowed for pollution. First Student has paid civil penalties of \$41,550 to the state's Storage Tank Fund, \$13,619 to the Clean Water Fund and \$56,250 to the Safe Drinking Water Account. The company has also reimbursed DEP for \$7,600 of expenses incurred in response to the release and paid \$2,500 in civil damages to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. For more information, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us

http://www.northcentralpa.com/news/2011-09-09_dep-fines-first-student-inc-121520-bucks-county-fuel-spill

UK, SUFFOLK, SEPTEMBER 11 2011. SOUTHWOLD: MYSTERY AS OIL TANKERS 'DISAPPEAR'



Oil tankers pictured off the coast of Southwold in 2009.

The long-running saga over oil tankers mooring off the Suffolk coast has taken a new twist – the giant vessels seem to have disappeared. The sight of tankers moored off Sole Bay had become a common one along the coastline, sparking fears that a spillage could lead to a pollution incident that would threaten the district's seaside tourism industry. But as Sole Bay prepares to become the only place in British territorial waters where tanker transfers can officially take place, the tankers appear to have weighed anchor and vanished. John Perkins, secretary of the Southwold and Reydon Society, which has fought to ban the transfers, said that earlier in the week not one tanker was moored off Southwold and they had "virtually disappeared from the area". He said there were two possible reasons for them disappearing – they

might have moored over the horizon after receiving informal advice from the Department for Transport to avoid further controversy, or the economic downturn had led to a fall in demand for oil. But if the government had asked the tankers to drop anchor further away from the coast, Mr Perkins said it was a "partial victory" for the anti-tanker campaign. The decision in June to allow Sole Bay transfers from October 1 follows a long running zone saga in which the practice in British waters was due to

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

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be banned by the previous Labour government. But the national ban was stopped by the new coalition government following an Early Day Motion signed by Suffolk Coastal MP Therese Coffey and Waveney MP Peter Aldous. A public consultation saw more than 150 written objections made.

http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/southwold_mystery_as_oil_tankers_disappear_1_1018451

UK, WALES, RHONDDA, TREHERBERT, SEPTEMBER 11 2011. INVENTOR LAWRENCE TOMS IN RHONDDA 'VODKA' EXPLOSION

 [Watch the Video Lawrence Tom's Real Cool Futures Sheep Poo project](#)



Toms Blew the Windows & Roof off his House when his Home-Made Vodka Kit Exploded.

"I looked out the window and saw giant jets of flame shooting out of the roof of Mr Tom's house. I've never seen anything like it"... Hannah Knowles, neighbor
Police said Lawrence Toms had not done anything illegal.

An inventor has been injured in an explosion, after apparently producing vodka in a house in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Lawrence Toms, 44, from Tynewydd, near Treherbert, was taken to hospital with burns to his hands and face. Ten terrace houses were evacuated as a precaution as the fire spread through three roof spaces. Police said Mr Toms had not done anything illegal because it is not a criminal offence to produce alcohol for private use. Four fire engines and a water bowser were called to the scene after the explosion at 23:34 BST on Tuesday. A spokeswoman for South Wales Fire and Rescue Service said it took three hours to bring the fire under control.

Massive Explosion

Neighbours described hearing a huge blast. One, Gavin Rees, 28, said he then looked out of the window and saw Mr Toms in his underwear with serious burns to his arms. "I took him in and ran his burns under the tap until the paramedics took him away." Hannah Knowles, 63, who lives opposite, said: "I looked out the window and saw giant jets of flame shooting out of the roof of Mr Tom's house. I've never seen anything like it." His windows were blown out but luckily for me his camper van

was parked outside and that shielded me from the blast."

Entrepreneurship

Graduate Mr Toms runs his own small company which makes, among other things, gift paper and stationery from sheep droppings. In 2006 he won a £20,000 Millennium Award for "social entrepreneurship". He is being treated at Morriston Hospital in Swansea where he was described as "stable". South Wales Police said they believe the explosion was caused by home-made alcohol. "The windows were blown out of the property and it was lucky no one in the street was injured," said a spokesman. "We believe the explosion was triggered by a home-brewing kit. But officers are satisfied he was making it for his own consumption and this was not a commercial operation." Officers took the apparatus away for examination.

Related Links

- [Man hurt in 'brewing' explosion](#) 08 September 2011, South East Wales

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-14841777>

USA, WYO, CASPER, SEPTEMBER 11 2011. PROPANE TANKER ROLLS, DRIVER OK

A driver for Sinclair may be lucky to be alive after he rolled his propane-filled semi on Highway 220 Friday morning. Wyoming Highway Patrol Trooper, Adam Bruning, says the double-tanker crash happened shortly after 5am about 10 miles east of Independence Rock. "The driver fell asleep and rolled his truck. County Fire got there and extricated him. He was life flighted to Casper. He was responsive on scene. Marks where the truck left the pavement went for 252 feet." 66-yr-old, Darrell Wilhelm, was heading west when the incident happened. Bruning says the tanker was 80 percent full of propane and the pup trailer behind 60 percent full. Fortunately, he says, there was no spill or fire. "Thankfully the tanks did not breach so there was no real fire or hazmat spill anywhere."

<http://k2radio.com/propane-tanker-rolls-driver-ok/>

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GUYANA, GEORGETOWN, SEPTEMBER 11 2011. THIS FUEL TANKER WAS RUN OFF THE FRIENDSHIP



This fuel tanker was run off the Friendship, East Bank Demerara Public Road yesterday. The driver of the tanker and a sand truck both lost control of their vehicles when the unidentified driver of a grey Rav 4 overtook one of them just before diverting. Nezamodeen Nazir, driver of sand truck, explained that he was heading to the city when the fuel tanker was forced partially in his lane by driver of the Rav 4. "The Rav 4 overtake him and turn into the street right in front him and like he mash brakes to avoid hitting him but ain't got no kind of brakes and so his truck end up crossway coming to me," Nazir explained. The man said he barely managed to pull to safety in the corner of the opposite side of the road while the tanker plunged head-on into the trench. "He barely bruise me one side," Nazir said. Nazir added that the police took statements but did not attempt to find the Rav 4 which turned into a cross street.

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2011/media/photos/09/10/this-fuel-tanker-was-run-off-the-friendship/>

USA, N.Y, NIAGRA, SEPTEMBER 11 2011. 1 WORKER INJURED IN WESTERN NY WAREHOUSE EXPLOSION

Authorities say a plant worker was injured when thousands of pounds of aluminum powder exploded in a warehouse in western New York, sparking a fire that caused minor damage to the building. Niagara County Sheriff's officials said the Stollberg, Inc. worker was treated at Mt. St. Mary's Hospital and released. Authorities say about 4,500 pounds of aluminum powder exploded in a railroad car about 9:30 p.m. Friday. Residents within a half-mile of the plant in Niagara were asked to stay in their homes and keep windows and doors shut until morning. The explosion is under investigation.

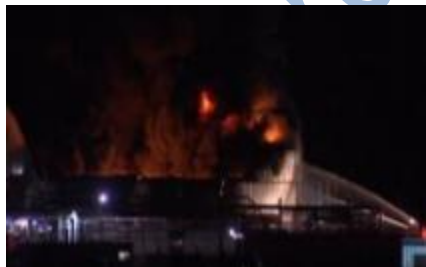
<http://online.wsj.com/article/APb4470910856f46c8bede47551f14bf07.html>

USA, OH, VALLEY VIEW, SEPTEMBER 11 2011. DIESEL FUEL SPILLS INTO CUYAHOGA RIVER IN VALLEY VIEW ON FRIDAY

A small fuel spill at the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's Valley View maintenance yard was contained after about 200 gallons of diesel fuel overflowed early Friday morning. Nearly half of it got into the Cuyahoga River. Mary Pat Doorley, a spokeswoman for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, said the National Park Service is leading an investigation into the spill. Mike Settles, spokesman for the Ohio EPA, said the leak occurred when a 500-gallon diesel storage tank was being moved on a forklift and tipped over. Half the fuel spilled onto an asphalt parking lot. The rest flowed down a storm sewer and into the river. Booms contained the fuel in the river, so it could be vacuumed up. Settles said the small amount that remained on the water should evaporate. The EPA found that there was no significant environmental impact. The spill forced cancellation of a press event to announce that a Berkshire 2-8-4 steam engine will be working scenic railroad's rails throughout September. The engine, originally operated by the Nickel Plate Road, was built in Lima in 1944. It was restored by the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society in Indiana, which owns and operates it.

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/09/diesel_fuel_spills_into_cuyaho.html

USA, TX, BEAUMONT, SEPTEMBER 11 2011. LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS ASSIST IN BEAUMONT TANKER FIRE



On Saturday, September 10, 2011, at approximately 8:02 PM, Beaumont Fire Rescue units responded to a reported fire at the Martin Terminal on Sulphur Plant Rd. When units arrived at the plant they found one tank fully involved in fire. The tank had a #6 heavy oil product with a depth of approximately 3 feet in the tank. Firefighters quickly set up a water curtain to protect the other tanks in the plant. No plant personnel were injured and Jefferson County Sheriff Deputies have the road to the plant closed. There is no information as to the cause of the fire at this time. Firefighters with Port Arthur, Groves and Port Neches are assisting Beaumont.

<http://www.kfdm.com/articles/fire-44694-plant-tank.html>

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