



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 800 Newsy Stuff

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

January 18 2012



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USA, PA, GNADENHUTTEN, JANUARY 8 2012. CAUSE OF OIL-TANK EXPLOSION STILL UNKNOWN

lee Morrison

 **Photo Gallery** [Gnadenhutzen area oil tank fire](#)



Firefighters battle a fire after an oil-storage tank exploded off River Road near Gnadenhutzen on Friday morning.

Investigation into what caused an oil-well storage tank to explode Friday near Gnadenhutzen has been turned over to Ohio Department of Natural Resources staff and engineers with tank owner Artex Oil Co. of Marietta. Initial investigation by a state fire marshal listed the cause as undetermined and not believed to be of suspicious origin, according to Gnadenhutzen-Clay Township Firefighter Steve Wright. ODNR and the company now will try to find the answers, he added. The oil well storage tank exploded, causing an adjacent tank to catch fire. Smoke from the blaze could be seen about six miles away in Uhrichsville. Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Deputy Troy Beckley is asking that a man seen near the fire call him at 330-

339-2000. The man was seen by Artex employee John A. Stulls as he returned to the site. The man yelled to Stulls to see if he was okay. Stulls yelled back for the man to get away from the fire for safety sake. The man then drove away in a vehicle, described as a silver, 2000 Jeep Cherokee. Beckley is asking that man to call the sheriff's office to gather more information from him. Stulls' 2000 Ford F-150 pickup truck was destroyed by the fire, Beckley said. Stulls, 30, of 14289 River Road SW, Newcomerstown, used it as his work vehicle and parked near the tanks. He then used an ATV to go through the woods and to a hilltop about a mile away to check on a pump station for the storage tanks that burned, Beckley said. "He heard the explosion, but didn't know what happened until he was riding back and saw the flames," Beckley said. No damage estimates were available Saturday for the pickup. An estimate regarding the tanks is being compiled for the state fire marshal, Beckley added. Stulls called the Tuscarawas County 911 emergency dispatch center at 10:56 a.m. Friday. No one was injured and firefighters from five departments battled the blaze at the site about three miles southwest of Gnadenhutzen. The explosion sent the top of the tank flying about 100 yards before landing in an adjoining field near the intersection of River Road SW and Williams Road SW. The site is about halfway between Gnadenhutzen and Port Washington. Twenty-one firefighters used about 130 gallons of foam as flames soared at least 30 feet into the air. It took about an hour to extinguish the blaze. In addition to the oil in the two tanks, a containment pool with oil from the ruptured tank also burned, Wright said. Firefighters cleared the scene by 3 p.m.

<http://www.timesreporter.com/communities/x1085778046/Cause-of-oil-tank-explosion-still-unknown>

USA, PA, PITTSBURGH, JANUARY 8 2012. W. PA. INDUSTRIAL SITE LEAKING FOR DECADES

For 40 years a toxic waste dump has sat on the banks of the Allegheny River, slowly leaking a mix as potent as pure ammonia. Now, environmental groups are preparing to file a federal lawsuit to force a cleanup. In the early 1900s, the Pittsburgh Plate Glass factory at Ford City was the largest of its kind in the world, employing thousands of workers about 40 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. The output was so great that the plant built a pipeline under the river to transport wastes to a dump site a little downstream. After decades of declining production the plant closed for good in 1992, but the dump site remained. PennEnvironment and a local chapter of the Sierra Club say PPG was first ordered to clean up the waste in 1971, but has failed to do so. The PPG plant was in the heart of Ford City, but the surrounding area is rural. Now, a federal lawsuit against PPG is in the works. "The time for action to clean up this site is now," said Erika Staaf of PennEnvironment. "Our environmental laws are meaningless if polluters can violate them with impunity. When persistent violations are not addressed by the government, our federal environmental laws allow private citizens to enforce the law." "Sadly, given Pennsylvania's industrial heritage, there are many more cases likely out there, where there's ongoing pollution that needs to be addressed," Staaf added. PennEnvironment said in documents for the planned lawsuit that the waste lagoons cover almost 77 acres, and that they leak arsenic, chromium, lead, manganese, copper, zinc, mercury, and other toxic compounds into the river. The pH level of some of the leakage is as high as 12.69, the group said, about the same as bleach. Ammonia has a pH of about 11. PPG said in a statement Thursday that it believes the planned lawsuit is without merit, and that "statements made by representatives of PennEnvironment and the Sierra Club are false and misleading." In 2010, PPG installed an interim collection and treatment system that the state Department of Environmental Protection approved, PPG said. The company



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said that DEP approved PPG's treatment plan and schedule last November, in which they "committed to develop a final plan to address the infiltration and drainage." Amanda Witman, a DEP spokeswoman, confirmed PPG's comments. But after 40 years, an answer of "soon" just isn't enough, environmentalists said. Ned Mulchay, a local attorney and the former Waterkeeper for the Three Rivers environmental group, has viewed the waste site from the river. "It's not like the site is quarantined. It didn't look like what they had installed kept people away from all of the danger," Mulchay said. Mulchay said the leakage has such a high pH it could cause burns to the skin. On one trip to the site he saw a recent campfire that someone had made near a bleached area. "A pH of 12 is absurd in nature," Mulchay said. "PPG have known this is an issue since the 1970s. They've been fighting this with DEP longer than I've been alive." John Stolz, a microbiologist at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, said he also visited the site a few years ago and was alarmed by what he saw. "It was absolutely remarkable. The whole hillside was just barren," Stolz said. "Local folks were saying you couldn't do any fishing around there." Susan Boser, a water quality expert at the Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences, said it's hard to say what the danger is from the site without knowing more details about the volume of waste being leaked. She added that the river will eventually dilute the leakage down to more normal pH levels. "I couldn't say for sure how far from the site it would be safe," Boser said. Stolz said he's "really surprised" that the final cleanup plan for the site isn't finished.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245_162-57354426/w-pa-industrial-site-leaking-for-decades/

INDIA, JAIPUR, JANUARY 9 2012. THREE LABOURERS DIE AFTER INHALING POISONOUS GAS AT OIL PLANT

Three labourers died one by one after they climbed into an oil tank to clean it at an oil refinery plant in [Vishwakarma Industrial Area](#) on Sunday morning. The labourers were not wearing masks and had not put on any safety equipment leading to their death, most likely due to [poisonous gases](#) and [suffocation](#), said police officers. The two owners of the plant were arrested for criminal negligence. According to deputy commissioner of police (DCP), West, Sharad Kaviraj, the labourers, identified as Gopu Shah, Gopal Patel and Samraj alias Shyam Raj were working at Bharat Industrial Oil Corporation at Road No. 9 in Vishwakarma. While Gopi was from Motihari in Bihar, the other two belonged to Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh. All of them were about 23-years-old. The plant is run by one Pankaj Kumar Poddar and Deepak Kumar. The incident took place around 9.30 am. "There were a total of five labourers to clean the tank used in refining industrial and lubricant oil," said DCP Kaviraj. First, Gopu climbed into the 20-feet deep tank using staircases. "When he didn't come out for a long time, Samraj and Gopal also went inside one by one. All the three did not come out following which the police were informed," said the officer. Eyewitnesses told TOI Gopu had almost drowned in the tank's oil while the two got stuck in iron pipes there. "The tank which is used in refining the oil was closed for two days. It seems that it led to formation of poisonous gas," said another employee at the plant, Ramnarayan Kumar. Some factory officials then informed the police and with the help of people working in nearby offices, the three labourers were taken out. "They were rushed to SMS Hospital where they died while undergoing treatment," said addl DCP Yogesh Goyal, who arrived at the spot. The officer said as no safety procedures were being followed by the plant owners, an FIR was registered under Section 304 of IPC (culpable homicide not amounting to murder). "We have arrested Deepak and Pankaj for negligence," said the officer.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Three-labourers-die-after-inhaling-poisonous-gas-at-oil-plant/articleshow/11419617.cms>

CANADA, ONT, LONDON, JANUARY 9 2012. SHELL CLEANS UP GAS LEAK ON NEXT-DOOR PROPERTIES >> THE COMPANY BOUGHT UP TWO PROPERTIES

norman de bono

A gasoline leak at a Shell station on Oxford St. has shuttered two properties and forced an extensive cleanup in the neighbourhood. But the good news is there isn't any risk to public health from the leak at the Shell station on Oxford St. at Waterloo St., said Jason Lehouillier, an environment officer at the Ministry of the Environment's office on Exeter Rd. "There was an investigation and wells were drilled on the properties and we found the leak migrated north," Lehouillier said. "There is no risk now from contamination." The most recent tests were done on the site last month and there aren't any "vapour intrusions" at the site or in the buildings as a result of the leak, Lehouillier said. The leak was discovered in July 2005 when the station was shut down for rebuilding and the tanks were replaced. The cleanup of the leak began soon after. Shell bought the two properties just north of the station at 775 and 777 Waterloo St. when it was determined the fuel had leaked into those properties. One of the properties is a stately historic yellow brick house, now vacant, and the other the offices for Murphy and Murphy Architects Inc. Shell dug wells on the property after the leak was discovered and contaminated water was pumped out



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to a purification system, located on site. The properties will be back on the market for sale by year's end, as the cleanup is nearly complete, said Jeff Gabert, a Shell Canada spokesperson in Calgary. "It's not unusual to see contamination, it's not unusual to see migration. We deal with this all the time," he said. "The flip side is we are good at dealing with this and will do what's best for that neighbourhood." Lehouillier said he has not had to issue a work order on the site because Shell has acted responsibly. "The good thing about this is from Day 1, they did what needed to be done. Shell was very responsible and it was all voluntary," he said. "It is well-managed by Shell."

<http://www.lfpress.com/news/london/2012/01/08/19216491.html>

AUSTRALIA, CHRISTMAS ISLAND, FLYING FISH COVE, JANUARY 9 2012. PHOSPHATE SHIP BROKEN IN HALF, FUEL SLICK AFTER PHOSPHATE SHIP CAPSIZES NEAR CHRISTMAS ISLAND

ashlee mullany

 **Watch the Video's:** [Phosphate ship breaks its moorings off Christmas Island](#)



A phosphate ship which broke its moorings off Christmas Island yesterday has broken in half and sunk, leaving a slick of fuel and phosphate... triggering fears of an environmental calamity.

A phosphate ship which broke its moorings off Christmas Island yesterday has broken in half and sunk, leaving a slick of fuel and phosphate across the reef. The Panamanian ship had been docked at the port and was loading phosphate for three days when it broke its moorings smashed against the island's cliff face on Saturday night. Strong swell caused significant damage to the side of the ship, before it split in half and sunk at about midday today. Island Administrator Brian Lacy said the boat's

hull was now on the bottom of the ocean and the boat was half submerged, spilling heavy fuel loads into the ocean. Environmental and casualty experts from the Maritime Safety Authority have arrived on the island to assess the damage caused to the marine environment and port. Mr Lacy said equipment was also being sent to the island to contain the fuel, which has now drifted to beaches around Flying Fish Cove. "We obviously have concerns about the damage it might cause to the ocean and land environment," Mr Lacy said. "We have concerns because there is this natural beauty about the island and maritime beauty which is a big attraction for divers. "But we're confident we can clean up the mess." Mr Lacy said he had received advice that the phosphate onboard the ship was unlikely to cause significant environmental damage, but that he was concerned about the "black film" that was now spreading across the reef. 15 crew members were forced to abandon the ship yesterday after rough swell began smashing it against the cliff face. They were rescued by the Australian Navy and taken to the island for health checks.

Related Links

- [Christmas Island container ship breaks in half](#)
- [Fuel slick after phosphate ship capsizes near Christmas Island](#)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/fuel-slick-after-phosphate-ship-capsizes-near-christmas-island/story-e6frf7jo-1226240158944>

AUSTRALIA, CHRISTMAS ISLAND, JANUARY 10 2012. LOCALS TO TACKLE CHRISTMAS ISLAND SHIPWRECK SPILL

 **Watch the Video** [Phosphate cargo ship breaks apart](#)

Map: [Christmas Island 6798](#)

A team of experts is on Christmas Island to coordinate the clean-up operation after a phosphate ship broke in two, spilling fuel into the sea. The Panamanian-registered MV Tycoon had been loading phosphate for three days before it broke from its moorings and began to break up in rough weather. Oil and fuel has spilled into the ocean and there are concerns about the environmental damage that could cause. It is hoped the clean up, with help from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, will begin today. The island's Volunteer Marine Rescue group's John Richardson says residents are ready to lend a hand to AMSA. "They are coordinating the clean up efforts," he said. "We've got a huge amount of volunteers who are ready to help out, we're registering these volunteers and making sure that during the clean up effort that they are safe." Mr Richardson says people are frustrated and concerned about how long the ship will founder at the port. "Certainly, there are concerns about how



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long the port will be out of operation," he said. "We've already turned one cargo ship from Perth away and how long it will in fact take to restore the port to a useable condition." AMSA's Mal Larsen says conditions are still too rough to get on board the ship. "The limitations of the weather make it difficult for the people there to engage directly with the ship and get on board and assess it," he said. "We also understand it's in a very bad condition, it's broken up significantly so it's quite unlikely that the ship itself will ever go to sea again."

Environmental Damage

Greens Senator Rachel Siewert is calling for an inquiry into why the ship was not moved away from the port when weather forecasts were so bad. "We believe there needs to be an inquiry into why the boat wasn't moved because there is obviously, with the amount of oil and phosphate that's now spilling into the environment, there is potential there for significant damage to what is a beautiful marine environment," she said. Senator Siewert says a program needs to be established to monitor any affected seabirds. "We need to also ensure that there's a long-term monitoring plan put in place and planning for that needs to start now, unlike what happened with the Montara incident where it wasn't put in place for a significant amount of time," she said.

Related Links

- [Phosphate ship breaks up at Christmas Island](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-01-10/clean-up-crews-to-tackle-christmas-island-shipwreck-mess/3764826?WT.mc_id=newsmail)

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-01-10/clean-up-crews-to-tackle-christmas-island-shipwreck-mess/3764826?WT.mc_id=newsmail

NEW ZEALAND, TAURANGA, JANUARY 10 2012. LARGE SHEEN NEARS CENTRAL HARBOUR

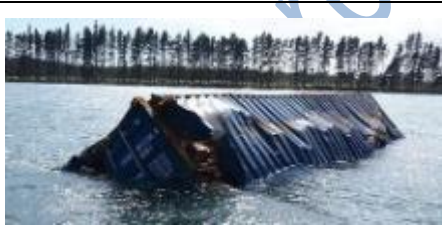


A considerable rainbow sheen of oil is rolling in to Tauranga Harbour on the back of an incoming tide and northerly winds. Speaking from the SunLive boat at Ongare Point, Sun Media director Brian Rogers says the sheen is large and rainbow coloured with thick, brown globules of oil littered through it.

He says it is "a really big oil slick," spread across a wide area, and owing to the sea conditions is heading into places previously untouched by oil spills from the Rena. "The oil is heading south to southeast out towards central Tauranga Harbour," says Brian. The oil is heading from Bowentown through to Tanners Point and further south.

Brian says there is also a considerable amount of debris

from containers, including timber and milk powder bags, floating in the water around the northern harbour entrance. Hundreds of bags of milk powder, some timber and 12 containers washed ashore north of the central Tauranga Harbour on Monday. The worst affected place was Waihi Beach and it appears more pollution is washing ashore there today. An early morning caller to the 0800 SUNLIVE news tip hotline reported he had seen seaweed mixed with heavy black oil wash ashore at Waihi Beach.



A 40 foot container floats near Bowentown.



Container salvors inspect a floating container off the Bowentown entrance.



Damage to the floating containers is severe.

<http://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/20589-large-sheen-nears-central-harbour.html>



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USA, VA, FAIRFAX, JANUARY 10 2012. FAIRFAX CREWS PLUG GAS LEAK AT TANK FARM >> THE LEAK RELEASED LESS THAN 500 GALLONS OF GASOLINE.

whitney rhodes

Gasoline leaked from a pipe at the tank farm on Pickett Road Sunday evening. The leak was not substantial enough to put neighboring homes in harm's way. Fairfax City and Fairfax County firefighters responded to the Pickett Road Terminal Complex after an employee discovered the leak during a routine inspection. Crews closed off both ends of the damaged pipe and removed the remaining gasoline with a vacuum truck, according to Fairfax City Fire Marshal Andrew Wilson. The leak was stopped by about 11:30 p.m. All of the gasoline remained within the diked portion of the tank farm terminal. "Work is now underway to isolate and remove the damaged section of pipe," Wilson said. "Contaminated gravel and soil will be removed from the dike area and will be disposed of in an approved manner." Motiva cancelled a gasoline delivery scheduled for 3 a.m. Monday as a precaution. This incident was minor, as far as Fairfax City's history with the tank farm is concerned. The leak came from a 20-inch diameter pipe that feeds a gasoline storage tank. It left the pipe at about five gallons per minute, amounting to less than 500 gallons of spilled gasoline. The tank farm has had only one major spill since 1980 but has experienced minor problems over the past four years. Late last January, one of four companies that use the tank farm discovered a diesel fuel leak on the property. It was contained within the complex. Last August, a fuel tanker flipped over at Pickett and Main Street while leaving the farm. The incident caused heavy traffic delays. City police, rescue and cleanup crews stopped the mild fuel spill and removed debris from the intersection. In 1990, an underground leak caused about 250,000 gallons of diesel oil, gasoline and other chemicals to contaminate the surrounding neighborhoods, according to news reports. The cleanup cost hundreds of millions of dollars and troubled Mantua residents for years.

<http://fairfaxcity.patch.com/articles/fairfax-crews-plug-gas-leak-at-tank-farm>

USA, CO, PUEBLO, JANUARY 10 2012. CREWS WORK TO CONTAIN DIESEL SPILL >> INCIDENT BEGAN WITH OVERFLOWING TANKS AT DOWNTOWN SERVICE STATION.

jeff tucker

 **Watch the Video**

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYx6dTRei4k>
- [Crews Work to Contain Diesel Spill](#)



Pueblo firefighter Joey Gutierrez stands in the water of the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk to clean up gasoline that from a spill Monday that closed Runyon Lake.

A spill of about 100 gallons of diesel fuel forced the closure of Runyon Lake on Monday and sent fire crews to the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo to help clean up the mess. By 3 p.m. firefighters were called off of the job as a private contractor committed more resources to the project. The spill was called in about 1:30 a.m. after a delivery company filling the underground tanks at 1st Stop, 623 N. Grand Ave., overfilled the tanks spilling fuel into the city's stormwater system. Assistant Fire Chief Bill Nemick said the fire department tried to soak up as much of the fuel as possible, but wasn't able to keep it all from spilling into the storm system. From that spot, the storm sewer runs toward Runyon Lake and the Arkansas River. It wasn't long after the spill that people started reporting the smell of gasoline near the Professional Bull Riders Head- quarters. "We didn't think it would run that far that quickly," Nemick said. The storm sewer runs parallel to the Riverwalk until it reached the natural area of the park near Santa Fe Avenue. The sewer dumps into the Riverwalk there, which then runs under Santa Fe toward Runyon Lake. He said crews constructed five floating booms from the natural area of the Riverwalk stretching to Runyon Lake. Crews are taking absorptive pads and placing them in the water to soak up the fuel. Fire Inspector Woody Percival said firefighters were called off the work at about 3 p.m. after the private contractor got more people to Pueblo. The contractor also set up pumpers at storm grates near the spill site to pump stormwater

out of the sewer. He said he was told the work could last through today. The local and state health departments and the city



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stormwater department also are involved with the process as is the Division of Wildlife. Nemick couldn't comment on the potential impact to wildlife along the river. There was one dead fish spotted in the natural area of the Riverwalk, but no others and Nemick said there's no way to be certain if that fish was related to the fuel spill.

http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/local-firefighters-respond-to-fuel-spill/article_c18615e2-3afc-11e1-81ba-001871e3ce6c.html

AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, DARWIN, JUNE 10 2012. SAFETY TRAINING COMPANY FINED \$140,000 FOR GAS EXPLOSION INJURIES

laurene hull

Red Alert Australia, the second safety and emergency training company involved in the 2009 gas explosion at a Berrimah training centre was fined \$140,000 for breaching the Workplace Health and Safety Act this morning in the Darwin Magistrates Court. The explosion resulted in injuries to five trainee firefighters. The NT WorkSafe investigation into the gas explosion found Red Alert Australia failed their general statutory duty of care to the five injured trainee firefighters, charges which were contested by the training company. Magistrate Hugh Bradley found Red Alert Australia guilty of breaching Section 55 of the Workplace Health and Safety Act in relation to the gas explosion on Thursday 15 December 2011 but delayed his sentencing until today. Red Alert Australia was also ordered to pay \$10,000 in court costs and a \$200 victim levy. WA-based Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention (IFAP), the other safety and emergency training company, pleaded guilty in the Darwin Magistrates Court on 26 August 2011, for their part in the gas explosion. IFAP was fined \$121,000 by Magistrate Tania Fong-Lim for breaching Section 55 of the Workplace Health and Safety Act and Regulation 38(1) of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations.

http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/NewsRoom/SiteAssets/Lists/Posts/NewPost/Media%20Release%203%20Jan%2012_1.pdf

USA, KS, HERINGTON, JANUARY 10 2012. SULFURIC ACID SPILL >> 11,000 GALLONS OF SULPHURIC ACID LEAKS

tim unruh

 [Watch the Video Sulfuric Acid Spills Into Kansas Creek](#)



A dead fish lies on the bank of Lime Creek in Herrington after spill of sulfuric acid.
Dead fish littered areas of Lime Creek on Monday, likely killed by thousands of gallons of sulfuric acid that spilled Sunday from a railroad tanker car. Cleanup from the spill will take a couple of days, said Mark Davis, spokesman for the Union Pacific Railroad, which owns the rail yard in northwest Herington where the tanker spilled. Water in Lime Creek will be filtered and monitored for several days and the soil will be treated with lime to neutralize the acidity, said Scott Lang, of Salina, a geologist with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. A "rough coupling" of tankers that were spotted on a set of side rails is believed to have caused the tank to leak at about 4 p.m. Sunday, Davis said, sending acid down a drainage ditch and into the creek. The cars were coupled, or attached, at a speed greater than 4 mph, he said. "They would have coupled up with too much force and speed and caused the tank to leak," Davis said. There were no details on what specifically leaked. "The speculation is that it was probably hit by another car hard enough that it damaged the tank and it leaked out of the bottom," Lang said. "There's a metal I-beam under the tank that looks like it was pushed up." The KDHE initially estimated that almost 11,000 gallons of the acid leaked from the tank. After looking at the tanker in the daylight, Lang amended the guess. "I think there must be about 2,000 gallons in (the tanker)," he said. The tanker's capacity is 11,000 gallons. Some of the liquid that spilled was pumped from the ground into other tanks, Lang said, leaving up to 3,000 gallons of 93-percent sulfuric acid that entered Lime Creek. Herington Fire Chief Kenny Staatz said a dam was placed across the ditch, preventing some of the acid from getting into the creek. Word of the leak prompted KDHE to issue a warning that people avoid an area on Lime



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Creek from U.S. Highway 56 north to Avenue 1000 on the northwest edge of Herington. The acid dropped the pH level to 1 where it entered the creek, Lang said. A neutral pH level is 7, he said. The KDHE installed a limestone aggregate filter dam. As the stream ran through the filter Monday, the pH was raised to 4, he said. The acid is 1.5 times heavier than water, causing it to sink. "It's going to the bottom and reacting with the limestone," Lang said. "You can see it bubbling up." The pH was normal at the Kansas Highway 4 bridge just more than a mile to the north, he said. KDHE is testing creek water as far downstream as Woodbine, seven miles away. Some soil along the ditch where the acid flowed on the railroad right of way is being removed, said Chancy Smith, director of Dickinson County Emergency Management. There were no reports of injury to livestock or humans, Smith said. About 20 residents and landowners in the immediate area were notified of the leak Sunday night, he said. Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism officials were in Herington on Monday assessing the fish loss, but Smith said he was not told how many fish died. KDHE's Lang said the acid was made and shipped by NorFalco, which is headquartered in Seven Hills, Ohio. Sulfuric acid is the most commonly used chemical in North America, he said, including in fertilizers, textiles and car batteries. The railroad will pay for all cleanup costs, UP's Davis said, but there was no speculation on how much the cleanup will cost. "We have to make sure everything is picked up and properly disposed of," Davis said. "Our main focus is to make sure it's cleaned up and returned to the way it was prior to the spill."

<http://www.sajournal.com/news/story/acid-flow-kills-fish-1912>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, KOORAGANG ISLAND, JANUARY 10 2012. LIGHTNING IGNITES EXPLOSIVE PLANT GAS DISCHARGE

cole latimer

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/weather/lightning-sparks-fire-at-orica-plant-20120109-1pr0p.html>



A heavy storm in Newcastle has seen lightning strikes ignite gas discharges above the Kooragang Island chemical plant.

The hydrogen gas discharges, which were part of the normal start up procedures at Orica's Kooragang plant, were struck at around 10pm last night, causing 20 metre high flames to shoot into the sky, [the Newcastle Herald reports](#). Despite resident concerns at the time, Orica stated that it was not an unheard of event during start up procedures. "It can tend to happen when a plant is discharging hydrogen gas, which it wouldn't normally be doing when it is up and running," the spokesperson said. "It's not common but it's also not uncommon." It came soon after Orica announced it would restart its explosives manufacturing plant. While the plant was slated to begin operations before Christmas, Orica chose to [halt the process after false starts last](#)

[month](#). A spokesperson explained that Orica is focused on a safe reopening of the plant, and are reassuring the local community that if Orica "weren't happy then they were not going to proceed." "When we did the pre-start checking there was one bit of the plant that we felt required further work before we recommenced the start," she said. "We have therefore put it on hold until we are certain that this has been addressed." "As we have stated, our priority is to restart the plant safely and this action is part of that commitment." Sean Winstone, the site's manager, stated "we need to get this right." "There is no requirement for the plant to be up and running tonight or tomorrow. "The only requirement is for the plant to be run safely" he told the Herald. According to [the ABC](#), the plant carried out pre-start testing earlier this month and was now ready to resume production. "We've been through a process before Christmas where we have repaired the things that we needed to repair to make ourselves completely satisfied and we are satisfied that tomorrow we can restart the ammonia plant," Winstone said. The latest incident has not halted the continuing start up process.

<http://www.miningaustralia.com.au/news/lightning-ignites-explosive-plant-gas-discharge>

USA, OH, HIGHLANDTOWN, JANUARY 10 2012. OHIO EPA RESPONDS TO OIL SPILL

jo ann bobby-gilbert

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) was on the scene of an oil spill of unknown origin late Sunday night on Fife Coal Road, discovered when residents of the area noticed a petroleum odor in the air. Highlandtown Fire Chief Tim Roush said residents contacted Ergon and Marathon oil companies after noticing the odor because both companies have pipelines in the area. The companies sent representatives to the scene, and they discovered a reddish oil sheen in the creek flowing under



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Fife Coal Road, but an investigation proved it was not coming from their pipelines, according to Roush. The oil appeared to be diesel fuel or heating oil, he said. Although the source of the oil was not known last night, Roush said there had been two heating oil tanks sitting near a burned-out house on state Route 39 which intersects with Fife Coal Road earlier on Sunday but said, "They're not there now." His department received the call about the spill about 8:30 or 9 p.m. and firefighters from Wellsville also assisted at the scene, investigating to determine how far the oil had moved downstream. Firefighters placed oil-absorbing booms across the creek in two spots near the bridge on Fife Coal Road, and Roush said there was no evidence that the oil had made it further downstream, admitting, however, that the water is flowing so swiftly, it may have diluted the oil by the time it reached that far. Roush notified the OEPA and the county LEPC and Emergency Management Agency, with OEPA representatives actually coming to the scene to assess the situation. He explained that a spill constituting 25 gallons or more is a reportable amount and he estimated more than that had been spilled into the creek. Roush said the OEPA will determine whether any remediation is needed, including excavation of contaminated soil, which he said would present problems itself due to the existence of oil pipelines and water lines in that area. Another concern is that the creek flows into the former Wellsville reservoir, and although no longer used as a drinking water source, once past there, the water would enter the Ohio River, Roush said. If oil was accidentally or deliberately dumped into the creek, the OEPA will be responsible for enforcing any cleanup requirements or penalties, according to Roush. In addition to the fire departments, the Lisbon post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol was on the scene, assisting with traffic control.

<http://www.reviewonline.com/page/content.detail/id/551071/Ohio-EPA-responds--to-oil-spill.html?nav=5008>

USA, MD, HARWOOD, JANUARY 10 2012. TANKER TRUCK CRASH CLOSED ROUTE 2 IN BOTH DIRECTIONS >> ROAD CLOSURE IN HARWOOD LASTED MOST OF MONDAY MORNING.

 **Photo's** <http://edgewater.patch.com/articles/tanker-truck-crash-closes-route-2-in-both-directions>



Route 2 between Mill Swamp Road and Harwood Road was closed in both directions after a tanker truck and a small commercial vehicle collided this morning, according to battalion chief Steve Thompson, spokesman for the Anne Arundel County Fire department. The accident happened before 10 a.m. The delay was caused because the collision required the tanker truck's fuel contents to be offloaded to another tanker truck. Thompson said the truck was carrying about 8,600 gallons of fuel. Police were on the scene to block traffic. The driver of the smaller truck was transported to Anne Arundel Medical Center with knee pain, but there were no other injuries, Thompson said. Officials from the Maryland Department of the Environment were on the scene to assist in the cleanup.

<http://edgewater.patch.com/articles/tanker-truck-crash-closes-route-2-in-both-directions>

USA, MA, WESTWOOD, JANUARY 10 2012. FUEL SPILL AT MOBIL STATION PROMPTS DEP INVOLVEMENT >> OFFICIALS ARE INVESTIGATING A FUEL SPILL AT THE WESTWOOD MOBIL STATION THAT TOOK PLACE ON DEC. 30.



Residents in Westwood and elsewhere may have been excited to ring in 2012 the night before New Year's Eve, but that night also marked the beginning of a Hazmat situation on High Street. While filling up the fuel pumps at [Westwood Mobil](#), a significant quantity of gas was spilled during the operation on Dec. 30, Westwood Fire Chief William Scoble said Monday. But it was days later, on Monday, Jan. 2, when Westwood safety officials responded to the area. The response time was not due to a delay on the part of public safety, but rather because nothing suspicious had been reported until that following Monday. It was around 4 p.m. that day when tenants at the [Coldwell Banker](#) building, which lies adjacent to Westwood Mobil, reported an odor of gas in the building. The [Westwood Fire Department](#) responded to the area and found that gas odors were beyond a normal and safe level inside,



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and as such evacuated the the employees and tenants of the building. Upon further investigation, the fumes had been the result of the spilled fuel, which had, by then, seeped into the soil in and around the property near the two buildings, as well as an adjacent residence on Gay Street. "Upon questioning, the company admitted to a small spill," Scoble said. But the company, he added, reported a spill of less than 10 gallons. After investigating further, officials discovered more than 10 gallons had been spilled. Due to the quantity of fuel spilled and the incident involving the soil removal, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has now become involved, said Scoble, who, as of Monday, had not yet received the official report number from the DEP on the incident. Gas odor levels at the Coldwell Banker building, meanwhile, were quickly returned to normal and the tenants of the building have been able to return safely. "They were evacuated for a while," Scoble said. "They are now back in. The levels are way below the threshold (of dangerous). It is being monitored constantly." The matter continues to be investigated and a contractor has been hired to remove the contaminated soil using a recovery well; the soil, which is to be classified as Hazmat material, will then be properly disposed of. "They're removing as much as they can," Scoble said.

<http://westwood.patch.com/articles/fuel-spill-at-mobil-station-prompts-dep-involvement>

USA, KS, FORT LEAVENWORTH, JANUARY 10 2012. CHEMICAL SPILL CAUSES STINKY MORNING ACROSS NORTHLAND

jason m. vaughn

A chemical spill involving the substance which gives natural gas its distinctive smell caused quite a stink over parts of the Northland on Monday morning. According to Missouri Gas Energy, a natural gas odorizer spill in Leavenworth County caused a foul odor to spread downwind across the Missouri River and into parts of the Northland. The chemical – which gives the odorless natural gas a pungent, "skunky" smell – is not hazardous, and there is no danger to the public. According to the Leavenworth County Sheriff, the leak came from Fort Leavenworth, and was reportedly cleaned-up on Sunday evening.

<http://fox4kc.com/2012/01/09/chemical-spill-causes-stinky-morning-across-northland/>

VIETNAM, HANOI, JANUARY 11 2012. PETROL ADULTERATION SCAM REVEALED >> THE POOR QUALITY OF BASIC PETROL BASED PRODUCTS AVAILABLE AT UNOFFICIAL STREET STALLS AND MAJOR PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED PETROL STATIONS HAS BEEN REVEALED.



Pumping liquid into the tanker.

A recent under-cover journalist investigation into the secret world of adulterated petrol production in Ho Chi Minh City coincided with rising public concerns over the quality of fuel following a spate of unexplained vehicle fire incidents nationwide. According to regulations, 16,000 litre capacity oil tankers are only authorised to transport petroleum directly to petrol stations for sale to consumers. However, in Ho Chi Minh City, after collecting petroleum from PV Oil Nha Be, trucks stopped to have their fuel adulterated with other substances. The 'mysterious stations' are located in thinly-populated residential areas in streets such as Hoang Quoc Viet, Dao Tri and Huynh Tan Phat in District 7. All of these stop-off points carry no forms of identification or signage. At 8 am every day tankers rush into the illegal points and carry out their operations over less than half an hour. As soon as the trucks leave, a group of people carrying empty

plastic cans and buckets collect the deposited fuel and leave with full buckets of petroleum for selling. During the two-week inspection, the reporters detected that the trucks stopping at these points included tankers from major petroleum companies such as Vietnam National Petroleum Corporation (Petrolimex) Petrolimex and those hired by petrol stations.

Mystery Stations

Reporters managed to access one of these stations and discovered hundreds of square metres filled with oil drums, tubs, plastic cans and water pumps. After a Petrolimex truck with the number plate 57K-8275 entered the station, men discharged the fuel from the tanker into the plastic cans. The decanted tanker was then topped up with an unidentified transparent liquid to make up for the siphoned fuel stolen at the stop-off point. The stolen fuel was then illegally sold on to those buying directly from the stop-off point. Trinh Ngoc Giao, General Director of the Vietnam Register, said cities and provinces nationwide had recorded a total of 89 vehicle fires in 2011, leaving two dead and two others injured. Hanoi has seen at least 42 vehicle fires



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since December, 2010 through to mid-December of 2011, Giao noted. Although the reasons for the spate in vehicle fires had been ascertained, it is speculated that substandard fuel may have been a contributory factor. Dr. Dao Quoc Tuy, Head of the Hanoi University of Technology's Department of Organic Synthesis and Petrochemical Technology told DTiNews that, "If petrol is improperly blended with additives such as acetone or methanol, it can cause damage to engines and maybe even start fires." The Prime Minister has ordered the Ministry of Science and Technology to deliver their results on the inspection of petrol quality, following recent vehicle fires.

<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/en/society/17524/petrol-adulteration-scam-revealed.html>

ENGLAND, CROOK OF DEVON, JANUARY 11 2012. TANKER DRIVER DIES AFTER VAN CRASH

 **Watch the Video** <http://news.stv.tv/scotland/tayside/293023-tanker-driver-dies-following-collision-that-led-to-evacuation/>



Carnage ... crash scene

An oil tanker driver has died after a collision with a van caused his cab to break free and land in a field. The crash happened on the A977 near Crook of Devon, in Perth and Kinross. A number of residents were evacuated from the area after the oil tanker's trailer ended up on its side, resulting in a large fuel spill. Tayside Fire and Rescue Service said the driver of the tanker was trapped in the cab and he was being treated by paramedics while firefighters worked to free him. However, he was pronounced dead at the scene a short time later. The driver of the Mercedes Sprinter van was taken by ambulance to Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline with a

suspected neck injury which is not believed to be serious. Tayside Police said a 200-metre exclusion zone was in place due to a large spillage of fuel from the oil tanker. The force said local residents were evacuated to Loch Leven Community Centre, but could not say how many people were affected. Perth and Kinross Council are making alternative arrangements for residents who are unable to get back into their homes. Police crash investigators were in attendance with representatives from SEPA (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency) and VOSA (Vehicle and Operator Services Agency). The road has been closed in both directions and it is understood that both the road closure and exclusion zone will remain in place until Tuesday. Diversions are in place.

Related Links

- [Driver dies in oil tanker collision at Crook of Devon](#)
- [Evacuation after Tanker Crash](#)
- [Oil tanker driver trapped in wreckage after collision with Asda lorry](#)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5h93Cb5IS6NpZZ1qDSjaJtQQFp2Qw?docId=N0886061326145694199A>

USA, OH, CARROLL CO, CARROLLTON, JANUARY 11 2012. DOUBLE-SUICIDE IN CARROLL WORRIES OFFICIALS

nancy schaar

A double-suicide in Carroll County on Dec. 8 has been confirmed as the first double-suicide by this method in the nation, according to county Sheriff Dale Williams, who has released additional information about what was learned during the investigation. Lauren M. Gill, 23, of 49th St. NW, Canton, and Jamie J. Chianese, 31, of Winsted, Conn., were discovered dead on the morning of Dec. 8 in a vehicle on an oil well access road off Bluebird Road in the northwest section of Carroll County. A coroner's ruling states that each death was a suicide, caused by toxic chemical gasses. The investigation also found details underscoring how the pair took precautions that nobody else would be hurt by the gases. Williams said several state and national law enforcement and health agencies have issued warnings that this method of suicide may become a trend. He said Carroll County sheriff's deputies and other emergency response personnel will be instructed about what to watch for and the methods of caution to be used to protect responders and medical personnel. The sheriff said investigation determined that the two met through an online connection. Gill had posted on the Internet she was seeking a partner to commit suicide with her. From there, Gill and Chianese exchanged many emails about the matter, according to Williams. The original plan was for the pair to meet in a cemetery in Columbiana County near Salem. However, the ground there was too soft after recent rains and they were concerned that their vehicle might become stuck and someone might approach it before their plan was carried out, Williams said. That prompted the pair to select another location. Gill had been in the Bluebird Road area



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of Carroll County in the past, so she arranged that would be where to go with Chianese to take their lives together. The pair mixed chemicals in the back seat of the 2001 Honda Civic, with the combination creating a toxic gas that claimed their lives. Research found that the first known suicide of this method in the United States involved a 23-year-old man in California in 2008, while the method originated in Japan a year earlier that claimed the life of a 14-year-old girl. The pair had posted signs on all windows of the car warning people to stay away and not open the car. The signs said to call police, do not open the doors, and to call a hazardous materials unit. Williams said that the combination of chemicals produces noxious fumes with what is described as a sulfur odor. He said that odor was very noticeable at the site.

Related Links [Carroll authorities investigating apparent double suicide](http://www.cantonrep.com/news/x915103759/Double-suicide-in-Carroll-worries-officials)

<http://www.cantonrep.com/news/x915103759/Double-suicide-in-Carroll-worries-officials>

USA, TX, COCKRELL HILL, JANUARY 11 2012. CREWS WORK TO CLEAN LARGE FUEL SPILL IN SOUTHWEST DALLAS COUNTY



Crews in Cockrell Hill worked to clean a fuel spill Tuesday morning. The city's fire department and Dallas Fire-Rescue's HazMat Response Team responded to the Texaco gas station in the 4200 block of W. Jefferson Boulevard just before 3 a.m., and found gas running down the street. It's believed one of the underground tanks overflowed. Crews were able to shut the pumps off, but a large amount of fuel had already spilled. W. Jefferson Boulevard was closed for a short while the fuel was cleared from the street and surrounding parking lots. The cause of the incident is still under investigation.

<http://www.the33tv.com/news/kdaf-crews-work-to-clean-large-fuel-spill-in-southwest-dallas-county-20120110.0.5941300.story>

USA, TX, DEER PARK, JANUARY 11 2012. SHELL REPORTS PIPING LEAK AT DEER PARK, TEXAS, REFINERY

Royal Dutch Shell PLC Tuesday reported an emissions event caused by a leak in overhead piping at the company's joint-venture refinery in Deer Park, Texas. In a filing to Texas state environmental regulators, the company said the emissions were routed to the appropriate safety flare system and that refinery personnel depressured and isolated the leak from the Debenzenizer 1 column in just over 10 minutes. The Debenzenizer and Hydrotreater 2 were listed as sources of the emissions. It is not clear whether the event had an impact on production at the 327,000-barrels-a-day refinery that Shell Oil, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell PLC, operates in partnership with PMI Norteamerica S.A. de C.V., a subsidiary of Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20120110-714422.html>

LATVIA, DAUGAVPILS NOVADS, JANUARY 11 2012. FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE OF IGNORANCE - WHAT CHEMICALS GET INTO THE AIR NAUJENE



Official and accurate information about what it is about a chemical, which has come into the environment and the air, we do not confirm the independent Health Inspectorate (VI) of the Environmental Health Division Solvita Muceniece. Call for people not to use well water inspection distributed immediately after the read media information. Was found in the Independent, the competent national authorities, or of distress rail tank leakage are dangerous environmental health of the population, have found the documents on the cargo tank marked as failed to meet international standards and has not been understood. Documents found by the public services have transferred the Latvian Railways (LDZ), stated that one of the substances carried in tanks, trains, R1 is the solvent, which is toxic and dangerous substance. Another Monday at noon VI had not received such

information and could not assess the risk to human health, while the State Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), as well as the State Environmental Service, examining the substance safety data, concluded: people do not worry. Daugavpils region Naujene Rail Link Want-Daugavpils Kraujas one kilometer from the railway station, the train accident occurred as a result of



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leaking into the environment around 150 tonnes of hazardous substances and damaged about 250 meters of track. Sunday evening from the track freight train ran 17 tanks. However, on Tuesday morning in Daugavpils District Municipality provided the information that leaked from the damaged tank unexplained technical composition of the solvent, as well as mineral oil lubricant.

Learn from the Media

Monday VI, has released a statement calling for an emergency to the elimination of consequences, and evidence of drinking water safety Naujene allotment of rural co-operative builder and neighborhood residents to refrain from concrete ring wells and spice use of water for human consumption. Similarly, an inspection is not recommended for people to stay near the location where it is felt in the chemical pollution intensive smell. Independent of the question, relied on by the VI, the dissemination of this call, and whether there are further known which substances are leaking, and how they can be dangerous to health, VI Specialist S. Muceniece acknowledged that there has been no official information. "We, on the basis of media information, as a precautionary alert. We know only that the train led a variety of chemicals and one of them was a technical solvent. Most likely, it is a volatile substance that evaporates quickly, and if a favorable wind direction (away from populated areas), the risks should arise. "Specialist, explains that the main role of the SFRS in charge of civil defense - a body algorithms what to do if the substance is known, and as if it is not known what it is about substance. She points out that SFRS should have indicators by which to determine the air pollution. "Most likely, if the Department did not agree to the evacuation of the population, the situation is not dangerous," concludes S. Muceniece.

Speed Dials, not Related

The same is also confirmed by the Emergency Medical Service. "From the information we receive from the rescuers, there is no reason to think that the situation is threatening the people," says Ilze NMPD specialist buck. Following the Independent's information, some 700 meters from the location of employees working in the service station has become bad, because the emergency area felt a strong smell, which on Tuesday intensified. I Bukša confirm that the man arrived at the hospital, but neapstiprinoties suspected that he suffered a breakdown due. Of ill-feeling - respiratory problems, eye irritation - also complained about other people. "The massive report we do not," says I. Buck.

Tank Marking Esoteric

SFRS information about the spill received from the Railway, assessed the hazards and the distance from the location to the nearest home, the independent certifying SFRS Inga veterinary specialist. It is known that trains existing tanks must be labeled, after which instantly can tell us about hazards. I Veterinary indicates that the tank label did not meet international standards, or it was controversial. "And as the SFRS does not have the equipment, allowing the identification of chemical substances, the elimination of the emergency works, the service was guided by the information received from the Railway. Following the information provided, 16 were oil tankers minerālmērvielas and one - the technical solvent R1. Two substances leaked into the environment, but the quantities are specified, "explains a specialist. In this situation, the service never had to implement a plan that is intended, if the leakage is not known, says SFRS, they were "identified at the start of the event." If it is leaking an unknown chemical, SFRS acting in supportive-established procedures, such as the enclosed area to protect from unauthorized persons. "Finding the physico-chemical properties of substances, found that they just do not endanger the health of the population outside the spill area, thus the company was informed about the event, but it was not necessary to implement the measures people posting," says I. Veterai. Nearby houses in the population there is no direct threat, but the potential impact on drinking water controlled by the State Environmental Service and VI. Daugavpils fire of possession of a gas analyzer, which provides oxygen in the air, but this event did not require its use. Lack of funding the service does not have equipment for chemical identification. Another interesting fact. Latvian Radio on Tuesday heard the information that the rescuers working at the scene, splits shoes. SFRS Independent say about it: this fact is possible because not all shoes have soles made from oil resistant rubber. Specifically SFRS employees special fire boots are made from oil resistant rubber. "Our service shoe damage have been reported," say I. Veterai.

Analysis

If you can trust the documents accompanying the cargo, and there really is a solvent R1 (used for cleaning of various objects), then, perhaps, the departments have taken the right decisions. Tanks were also other hazardous substances designated, for example, and 3082nd The State Environmental Service (SES), which has not yet been carried out tests to verify that a substance is the "solvent", based on information received from the Railway. "We've received so-called safety data sheets, it is a solvent R1, produced in the oil-based, highly flammable, insoluble in water - on the one hand, it is good because if you get on the water, it is easy to spot and collect, but the negative aspect - it quickly evaporates and creates a significant air pollution,



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and slow to decompose, "interview with the Independent says the SES Director General, Vilis Avotins. This substance is also toxic. He points out that a competent opinion as to whether this substance and how a situation is dangerous citizens, can only VI. "Today, I live here all day [Tuesday - aut.], And the smell is, but it does not exceed the odor, which is a port of transshipment cargo," a range of V Fontanelle. "Yes, people came from near the ground and told me that feels this air pollution, but we have no reason to believe that it would be hazardous to health." The court, rescuers and it would be advisable to work in special costumes and masks. Greater environmental hazards expert sees the fact that this substance could end up in groundwater. Water from wells already have been sampled, but they meet the standards, possibly, contamination has not yet reached the groundwater. "We hope to reach, well, that is a clayey soil," says the expert. However, only on Wednesday to go Naujene laboratory, which will take samples of hazardous substances and take air measurements. "They are doing the citizens' complaints, because as yet, given that we know that the substance should not be a concern. Real danger is really to those who work at the scene," says V. Fontanelle.

Related Links

- ["Latvian Railway" emergency relief would cost approximately one million lats](#)
- [Railway accident in Daugavpils and spilled about 25 tons of lubricants](#)
- [Restored trains crashed in Daugavpils District](#)
- [The movement of trains following the accident at the Daugavpils region can be restored the next few hours](#)
- [Health Inspectorate calls Naujene people not to take water from wells](#)

<http://zinas.nra.lv/latvija/63692-iedzivotajus-mac-nezina-kadas-kimiskas-vielas-naujene-nonakusas-gaisa.htm>

NEW ZEALAND, TAURANGA, JUNE 12 2012. SMELTER OWNER TO REVIEW WAY IT SHIPS GOODS

scot mackay

New Zealand Aluminium Smelters is reassessing the way it ships dangerous goods after 21 of its containers are believed to have sunk with the container ship Rena. Pacific Aluminium spokesman Anthony Havers yesterday said the company was reviewing its shipping processes following the Rena grounding and breaking up off the coast of Tauranga. Pacific Aluminium owns the Tiwai Point smelter. Twenty-one containers from the smelter containing cryolite, a product used in the smelting process, are believed to be on the sea floor after Rena's stern sank yesterday. However, the smelter had received expert advice the material in the containers had low potential for environmental harm to the marine environment, Mr Havers said. He was unsure how long it would take to reassess the processes. Grant Dyson, spokesman for container recovery company Braemar Howells, said no-one knew exactly what happened to the containers from the smelter, but none containing dangerous goods had yet washed ashore, so he believed they had sunk. The containers of cryolite were heavy and would be neutralised by the sea water, Mr Dyson said. It is expected Rena's stern, which held an estimated 400 containers, will have to be cut up on the sea floor. It has been grounded for more than three months. Reports have suggested Rena may be left to become a dive wreck, but Transport Minister Gerry Brownlee would say only that the Government's position was the "wreck was to be removed". Svitser salvage master Paul Van't Hof said any efforts to remove the wreck could be made only once the weather cleared. He said using explosives to knock off part of the Astrolabe Reef to free the bow section was another option. Fairfax understands the front is effectively "cemented" to the reef. A source said the use of explosives was a possibility during the initial weeks after the grounding but was now unlikely. "We have not felt a significant movement of the bow," Mr Van't Hof said. "But the safety of our divers is the most important thing and right now it is too unsafe for anyone to work there." Because the weather was so unpredictable at present, it was also near-impossible to predict where further debris would wash up, he said. Volunteer crews scrambled yesterday to clean up debris that washed ashore at Waihi Beach and Mt Maunganui. Large piles of broken bits of wood dotted the main beach at the foot of the Mount before being loaded into trucks by cleaning crews. Oil that leaked from Rena yesterday is expected to hit Matakana Island and Matata later today. Svitser has now scrambled to do what it can to contain the oil and prevent any further leaks. Maritime New Zealand national on-scene commander Alex Van Wijngaarden said booming operations and cleanup volunteers had been reactivated. The Adopt A Beach programme had also been put back in place, he said. Meanwhile, Environment Southland communications coordinator Michele Poole is again working with the media team as part of the Rena response in Tauranga. Ms Poole is the only Environment Southland staff member working there at this stage.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/business/6241952/Smelter-owner-to-review-way-it-ships-goods>



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USA, WA, PORT TOWNSEND, JANUARY 12 2012. LEAKING ACETYLENE TANK PROBABLE CAUSE OF EXPLOSION ON BOAT

charlie berrant



Jason Hammer inspects the wreckage inside the Silver Lady on Tuesday while waiting for insurance company adjusters to arrive.

A leaking acetylene tank has been identified as the probable source of the flammable gas that ignited and caused Monday's onboard explosion felt all over town. "We had people who were on Castle Hill when it exploded come tell us they could feel it from there," said Jason Hammer, son of boat owner Bill Hammer, on Tuesday. Bill Hammer was on his boat, the Silver Lady, in Port Townsend's Boat Haven when the explosion occurred at 8:16 a.m. He was not hurt. U.S. Coast Guard personnel decided after investigating the blast that a leaking acetylene tank probably provided flammable gas that ignited when the boat owner switched on an electrical inverter, according to East Jefferson Fire-Rescue spokesman Bill

Beezley. The Silver Lady, a 56-foot commercial fishing vessel, was docked when Bill Hammer started the generator. At first, Hammer was concerned for the safety of his son, who was not on the boat. He then grabbed a fire extinguisher but saw no flames, so he exited the boat. Coast Guard personnel in the office next to the pier had already called 9-1-1. The vessel was docked approximately 45 feet from the 87-foot Coast Guard cutter Osprey, with an open slip between the two vessels. The explosion caused no damage to the Osprey nor any other neighboring vessel. The damage estimate to the Silver Lady was not available Tuesday. Jason Hammer said the explosion damaged the lower deck and blew out all three of the hatches where fish and bait are stored. Several items such as a table were bolted to the floor but were dislodged by the explosion, he said. He said a shipwright would be needed to remove and replace the deck but that the rest of the work could be done by the crew. Emergency personnel from the Fire Department and the Port Townsend Police Department arrived within minutes of the explosion. Once the smoke cleared, a Coast Guard team arrived from Seattle but waited to board the vessel until Fire Department personnel returned to disconnect the battery. The four-member Coast Guard investigative team was only onboard for a short time once it had been cleared to come aboard, Jason Hammer said. It was most concerned with the integrity of the hull and possible fuel leakages, he added. The boat is not due for another voyage for three months, and all the repairs can be completed in that time, Hammer said. "I'm just glad this happened now and not when we were out to sea," he said.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20120111/news/301119987/leaking-tank-probable-cause-of-explosion-on-boat>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, JANUARY 11 2012. MEDIA THROWS BLANKET ON SHELL OIL ATROCITIES IN NIGERIA

blake deppe



Last month, oil magnate Royal Dutch Shell had an industrial accident, which [sent one to two million gallons of oil straight into the ocean](#) off the coast of Nigeria. It was the worst spill in Nigeria in 13 years and [the world media took no notice](#). Shell's says it has cleaned up its mess. People of villages along the coastline would disagree - they insist oil is still washing up there, in excessive amounts. The major media seems generally disinterested, and has not visibly bothered to check the facts either way. In fact, except for a few environmental groups, outrage against Shell is seemingly nonexistent. The truth is, Shell and other oil companies in this part of the world are rarely scrutinized, and many of the people in these areas lack the political

and media power to do anything about the problem. The extent of the damage done should not be underestimated. Sensitive coastal wetlands have been poisoned, and fishing areas have become wastelands. One could easily look to [BP's Deepwater Horizon oil spill](#) for comparison; the damage done to the bayou's delicate ecosystem is on par with what has been done here. Throughout coastline villages, Shell and other oil giants have left their mark on the people. Disease, birth defects, and chronic illnesses are just some of the side effects of a life in the midst of one toxic disaster after another. [A recent report by the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization](#) exposed Shell's tainted legacy when it outlined a 14-month study conducted by a team from the United Nations environmental program. The study found that it would take a minimum of 30 years to clean up the Niger Delta and repair the environmental damage, with a price tag starting at over \$1 billion. These types of disasters are not unusual for Nigeria; the oil and gas industry has plagued the area for over 50 years. And Shell in particular has done



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more than pollute the water - [it has left its blackened stains upon the native Ogoni people](#), as well. In 1995, Shell was connected with the government-sanctioned death of Nigerian journalist and environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, who led one of the first and most powerful campaigns against Shell and its inexcusable behavior. Saro-Wiwa also exposed the oil giant's [corrupt practices with the local government](#). Shell is also considered responsible for acts of violence against the area's Ogoni people, including the torture, illegal detention, forced exile, and shootings of Ogoni protesters throughout the 90s. In 1990, Saro-Wiwa helped found the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, bringing its case against Shell's acts of ecoterror to an international audience. As a result, Saro-Wiwa and his fellow activists - together called the Ogoni Nine - were arrested on trumped-up charges and badly beaten. They were subsequently put on trial before a tribunal without legal representation and promptly sentenced to death. Another aspect of Shell's current oil spill that ought to be put into the spotlight is the technology the company has at its disposal, according to [a report by Wired Science](#). "The significance here is the technology they're using," agreed John Amos of the environmental watchdog group Skytruth. "It's a whole new source of potentially major oil spills." The oil is collected via a method called floating production storage and offloading (FPSO), said the report, which involves crude oil being piped to floating mobile tanks instead of fixed platforms. Shuttle tankers then collect the oil from the FPSO. FPSOs are now a hallmark of the oil industry, and were recently customized for deepwater operations. A good example of an FPSO is a vessel "that can hold 600,000 barrels of oil," said Amos. "When it's full, it will be holding 25 million gallons. If there's any serious problem that occurs 160 miles offshore - if you get damage from a major storm because you didn't get out of the way in time, if there's a terrorist attack, if there's an explosion, then you've potentially got a near-instantaneous release of tens of millions of gallons of oil." What it all comes down to, Amos believes, is that the technology is primitive for such a process, and plays a huge role in the likelihood of disasters very much like that which occurred in Nigeria. In the case of this spill, the incident happened during an attempted oil transfer between two ships. When problems like this occur, the number of FPSOs would multiply the risk. "We're ushering in an entirely new kind of technology with what appears to be very little public scrutiny," Amos concluded. "We need to do a better job of understanding the risks." But up until now, rather than from technology, the greatest risk has come from [Shell's corruption and continuous pursuit of oil](#) in and around the sensitive Niger Delta. Though insult was added to injury after Shell's false claim that the oil is now cleaned up, people in Nigeria look for hope in final statement Saro-Wiwa made at his trial: "Shell's day will surely come," he said. "The crime of the company's dirty wars against the Ogoni people will be punished."

<http://peoplesworld.org/media-throws-blanket-on-shell-oil-atrocities-in-nigeria/>

USA, TN, ERWIN, JANUARY 12 2012. ACID LEAK SPURS 'SAFE SHUTDOWN' AT NFS

After a leak of nitric acid at Nuclear Fuel Services around noon on Monday, NFS spokesperson Lauri Turpin said the plant has taken all the appropriate precautionary measures and plans to resume normal operations soon. "We're currently transferring the acid out of the containment area into recovery vessels," Turpin said Monday afternoon. "We'll continue to do that until it's complete and then we'll look at going back to normal operations." Turpin said no one was injured in the leak, which occurred within an outdoor bulk chemical storage area, a statement from the company said. The acid that leaked, which could have produced hazardous fumes if combined with water, was contained by a dike designed specifically for containing the material, the company said in a press release three hours after the incident. According to the company, local, state and federal authorities were notified of the incident and unconfirmed reports indicated that Tennessee Department of Transportation officials were prepared to close state roadways, including Interstate 26, if necessary. "Facility operations are in safe shutdown," the release said. "As a precautionary measure, employees working in nearby areas were redirected to another NFS facility." The company said "two employees were seen by NFS medical staff and released" and that "no injuries have been reported." Neither the company nor Turpin disclosed the circumstances that led to the acid leak, but Turpin assured that all protocols were followed and safe plant operations would resume swiftly. Unicoi County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Ronnie Adkins indicated on Monday that the plant had informed law enforcement officers in the county about the incident, but dispatchers confirmed that no officers had to be sent to the facility.

<http://www.erwinrecord.net/Detail.php?Cat=HOMEPAGE&ID=60130>



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