



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 804 Newsy Stuff

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

January 28 2012



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USA, AK, KENAI, JANUARY 20 2012. FUELLING STATION IGNITES

molly dischner

 [Watch the Video Fueling Station Ignites](#)

A fueling station caught fire Sunday night after it was knocked over by a truck at the Short Stop gas station. A Ford F150 pickup turned into the gas station at the intersection of Poppy Lane and Kalifornsky Beach Road around 9:30 p.m. Instead of stopping just short of the fueling station, the truck slid into a support beam and then the fueling station, said Capt. Lesley Quelland, from Central Emergency Services. The pump was knocked over, and the base and surrounding area caught on fire, Quelland said. No one was injured, and employees were able to direct the vehicle away from the fire, shut the gas off and call 911. "The employees here just did a really good job," she said. Nick Van Bruggen was working the register at Short Stop when the collision, and resulting fire, happened. "I saw it go down," he said. He watched as the pickup "hit the ice wrong," and then hit the fueling station, he said. Then it caught on fire. "There was flame coming from the base of the pump area," Quelland said. Ron Walker, another employee, turned the gas off, Van Bruggen said. Quelland said Walker was also responsible for making sure the people in the vehicle were not injured, and directing the truck out of the fire area. "Accolades to Ron," Quelland said. Van Bruggen said the fire grew as it burned. He was worried it would spread. "It was on fire for a good seven to 10 minutes, until the fire department got here," Van Bruggen said. Once CES was on scene, the fire was out in two minutes, Quelland said. CES then spent another 10 minutes working at the scene. They also used a thermal imaging camera to make sure the fire was out and there weren't any other hot spots, she said. Owner Roseann Jackson said the Short Stop will be open for business as usual Monday morning. Gas sales will have to wait until everything is verified as safe to operate again, she said. Quelland said electrical and fuel to the downed pump have to be isolated before gas can be sold at the remaining pumps. "There's no damage to the other pumps," she said. The driver's name was not immediately available.

<http://peninsulaclarion.com/news/2012-01-16/fueling-station-ignites#.Txh-YaUzC8A>

USA, WASHINGTON, JANUARY 20 2012. MAINTAINING COMPLIANCE WITH FUEL TANK STANDARDS

howard riell



Out of sight, out of mind could land convenience store and gas station owners in serious trouble if they neglect their underground storage tanks (USTs) any longer.

With fines for leaks on the rise, regulations for tank compliance data retention getting longer and reporting frequencies increasing, the time has come for convenience store operators to pay more attention than ever before to their underground storage tanks (USTs). The latest is this: A new proposed rule put forth by EPA in late November is aimed at strengthening the 23-year-old UST technical, financial responsibility and state program approval regulations. The proposed changes include adding secondary containment requirements for new and replaced

tanks and piping; adding operator training requirements; adding periodic operation and maintenance requirements for UST systems; adding new release prevention and detection technologies; updating codes of practice; and updating state program approval requirements, the agency said. Operators who haven't seen changes yet, soon will, many predict, and should begin planning for it now, especially with the issues involved in offering E15.

No Change Yet

"In my world I haven't seen a change yet," said Ed Szalankiewicz, director of gasoline, environmental and maintenance for Handee Marts Inc., a 7-Eleven licensee in Gibsonia, Pa. "I have seen a small change in that I'm getting more correspondence requesting my reports from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Pennsylvania. I'm getting more calls asking for tank reports and other data. They are asking for a lot these days." Szalankiewicz, an industry veteran, knows exactly what that indicates. "What it usually means is that some higher-up in their department is saying to them, 'You need to increase your enforcement,' so they start asking for reports to show that they're doing their job. Thus far, everything that we've been asked for has been in compliance. I haven't seen any changes in the field yet, other than a higher level of requests." Only 39 of Handee Marts' 62 locations sell gasoline. Three of its eight stores in the Cleveland market dispense gasoline. There are, Szalankiewicz delineates, some differences in the way Ohio and Pennsylvania conduct inspections and enforce UST regulations. "In Ohio they do an annual inspection and it is more comprehensive than the Pennsylvania inspection. For example, Ohio requires that tank monitors be certified every year. "We don't require that in Pennsylvania yet," Szalankiewicz



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noted. Pennsylvania also allows fuel marketers to correct problems before inspectors begin handing out fines. "If you have a leak and you report it, there will not be a fine as long as you deal with it," Szalankiewicz said. "If it's not dealt with, then you have a problem." Handee Marts recently excavated one of its sites in order to install new dispensers. In the process, workmen found contamination under the islands. The contractor, who is a certified tank installer, immediately reported that fact to the Pennsylvania DEP. The chain immediately started a process of filing prodigious amounts of paperwork to verify what was happening. "Since we took those proactive steps, we were protected from fines," Szalankiewicz said. Handee Marts conducts monthly leak detections, even though the official inspection process in the state of Pennsylvania calls for one every three years unless there is a deficit. "If there is a deficit of any kind in the very extensive inspection process, the DEP will then order an inspection either annually or every two years," Szalankiewicz said. "They can change the frequency if they feel there is a weakness of some kind." Site inspections at Handee Marts locations are conducted by a certified tank installer or inspector. "They come out and look at the tank system completely. They'll open dispensers and look for leaks there, open sumps and verify that all sensors and tank monitors are functioning properly," Szalankiewicz said. "In short, they do a very thorough job of examining the composition of the equipment, which is absolutely vital for our industry. During these inspections you can quickly identify the snubbing up of the pipes in a sump pump or whether a pipe has been damaged." At the inspection's conclusion, the company is issued an eight-page document, which is sent to the DEP for review. If any deficits are found through the inspection process, DEP will send the fuel marketer an official notice of violation, which they will then have a limited amount of time to fix. Looking ahead, convenience store operators can expect more—and more stringent—regulations regarding USTs, a fact that surprises few, if any retailers. One change that is already well underway is the shift to double-walling every part of the gasoline system. "It's pretty standard in the industry already, but it is becoming mandatory in many markets," Szalankiewicz said.

Dealing with Renewables

Szalankiewicz's advice to colleagues could be understood as a warning. "I think the big thing you're going to have to deal with is that we're going to be moving to E15, and as we move to E15 nobody's equipment—tanks, dispensers, lines—is going to be certified for Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approval for E15. UL will approve everything up to E10, but when you go to E15 nothing is approved. Pay attention to the association bulletins about what's coming down the pike on this." In most of the tank indemnification funds or insurance programs one stipulation for an operator that has a leak is that the funds are there to help them conduct a clean up—provided their equipment is UL certified. "But as soon as we go to E15 nothing is UL certified, and there is a danger that the E15 will soften certain fiberglass tanks," Szalankiewicz said. "We don't know what it's going to do to resins either, so you're looking at a whole round of tank replacements as we move into the E15 world." The cost of such replacements could be staggering, especially in this economy, and would invariably lead operators to the same conclusion. "I'm personally going to avoid E15 like the plague," Szalankiewicz insisted. "If I am not forced to use it, I'm not going to use it. If market conditions demand that I do it because there is a five-cent difference—and the government will provide an incentive to make sure the product gets out there—then what I'm going to have to do is do a complete inventory of my systems and on a case-by-case basis start changing out my tanks." NACS together with SIGMA, which represents approximately 260 independent chain retailers and marketers of motor fuel, recently shared concerns over the marketing of E15 with government officials. In a joint statement, the groups noted that the Office of Underground Storage Tanks' (OUST's) could do more to help operators of underground tanks alleviate the various environmental, legal and practical impediments to the widespread storage of E15. "First and foremost, the agency must recognize that unlike E10, underground storage tank system owners are generally unaware if their equipment is compatible with E15," the groups said. "When combined with the fact that independent testing laboratories are unwilling to retroactively certify legacy equipment for E15 compliance, OUST's proposed methods for demonstrating compatibility are of limited significance. Further testing of UST owners' current equipment is necessary to overcome these obstacles, as it would provide them with compatibility information that is currently unavailable."

<http://www.csdecisions.com/2012/01/19/maintaining-compliance-with-fuel-tank-standards/>

USA, MI, LYON, JANUARY 20 2012. FUEL TANK EXPLOSION SENDS LOCAL MAN TO HOSPITAL

kurt kuban

A local man using an arc welder on an old fuel tank was sent to the hospital with severe burns after the tank he was working on exploded. According to police reports, the explosion occurred around noon on Saturday at a salvage yard on the 58300 block of Eleven Mile Road. Oakland County Sheriff's Office deputies from the Lyon Township substation and Lyon Township firefighters arrived on the scene after a neighbor called to report the explosion. Firefighters arrived and put out a small fire.



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According to Lyon Township Fire Chief Ron McClain, the business, which police said is the Watkins Salvage Yard, is located in a residential area. He said the victim, a 36-year-old Wolverine Lake man, was working by a pull barn on the site. The explosion caused some tires located next to the pull barn to catch fire, which released some dark, black smoke into the air that could be seen by passers by. McClain said there was no damage to the pull barn, and firefighters were able to put the fire out quickly. By the time firefighters arrived on the scene, however, family members had already taken the man to Providence Park Hospital in Novi. From there he was air lifted to Ann Arbor, to the University of Michigan Hospital Burn Center where he was listed in critical condition. According to police reports the man suffered third degree burns, which McClain said are the worst burns. McClain had no update on the man as of Tuesday. The fire chief said this should be a lesson for anyone who is thinking about using a welder on a fuel tank, which he said is very dangerous. "Even if the tank is empty, it could still contain fumes, which in fact are even more dangerous than liquid. Leave it to a professional," said McClain.

<http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20120119/NEWS19/201190381/Fuel-tank-explosion-sends-local-man-hospital?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

TURKEY, CEYHAN, JANUARY 20 2012. RUBIS COMPLETES THE ACQUISITION OF 50% OF DELTA PETROL OIL TERMINAL IN TURKEY

Rubis announces that it has completed the project announced last July to purchase 50% shareholding in Delta Petrol, now to be renamed "Delta Rubis", which owns and operates the largest independent oil terminal located in the Mediterranean and form a joint venture with the current shareholders. Located in the southern part of Turkey, on the Mediterranean shore, Ceyhan lies at the outlet of two pipelines: BTC bringing crude oil from the Caspian Sea and KC bringing crude from Kirkuk in Iraq. With its strategic location and maritime advantages, this area of the Eastern Mediterranean is destined to become the key logistical hub for the region's oil products, with inter-Mediterranean flows, exports to Africa and Asia, and proximity to the Suez Canal and the Black Sea. The storage terminal currently has a capacity of 650,000 cbm, contracted to a customer base of international oil operators. The plan for this partnership is to build a 2.4 km jetty and a tank farm which will expand Terminal's total capacity to 1 million cbm, giving it a key competitive advantage in capturing expanding logistical demand in the region and positioning the Terminal as one of the most active ones in the area, broadening its range of customers and products stored (crude oil and bunkering), and opening it up to the rapidly expanding import Turkish market. This transaction represents for Rubis an investment amounting to USD 160 million when completed. This investment should start to deliver its full return as soon as the expansion work is commissioned. The extension work is planned to start in the coming weeks for an expected completion during the first quarter of 2014. Rubis, with its strong and leading position in France and its network of coastal terminals as well as its more recent operations in Antwerp and Rotterdam, the Group is enlarging its international scope through this promising entry in the Mediterranean shore accumulating more than 3 million cbm of storage capacity in the near future.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/19/idUS176784+19-Jan-2012+HUG20120119>

USA, TX, LAREDO, JANUARY 20 2012. THEY ASK THE COMMUNITY TO REPORT CHEMICAL SPILLS

Fire officials launched a campaign to ask support from the community and expose companies that throw out chemicals circulating through the streets and highways of Texas. Steve Landin, fire chief, said it is troubling to have at least one hazardous chemical spill in a week, accidents involving trucks that bring waste from the oil and gas reservoir Eagle Ford Shale. He said companies that transport the waste violate a Texas law by carrying these substances uncovered and carelessly, causing spills on the streets and roads. One of the most common places where these incidents are recorded are at the end of Highway 35, arriving at about the Juarez- Lincoln Bridge, where firefighters continue to come and clean up. Most troubling, he said, is that you do not know the type of waste that these trucks carry and in many cases not even the drivers know. "We are asking people when they see a spill of this type to call the police immediately to the number 795-2800, for officers to give out violations to the driver and to clean up," he said. Financial penalties for these companies can reach \$ 2,000 but noted that the important thing here is not to make money but to make these companies comply with the law and not endanger the health of people and the environment. The prevention and warning campaign started a few days ago and will stay long enough so that the community has the information you need to make reports. The companies engaged in oil and gas exploitation in the Eagle Ford Shale are not required to declare and make known the types of chemicals used in this industry.

<http://www.laredosun.us/notas.asp?id=19813>



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AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, GEELONG, JANUARY 20 2012. FUEL SPILL AFTER TANKER AND CAR COLLIDE

cameron best

The threat of fiery disaster sparked a major operation in Belmont yesterday when a tanker truck spilled 100 litres of flammable fuel in suburban Belmont. The 70,000 litre B-double was carrying the petrol and diesel mix along Settlement Rd about 1.40am when a car collided with it at the High St intersection, rupturing the tanker's pump lines. With its valves severely damaged, the tanker spilled about 100 litres of fuel onto the road, but secondary safety valves within the tanker prevented the majority of the flammable load from escaping. Operations officer for CFA District 7 Mark Collins said crews were put on high alert as they worked quickly to put a blanket of foam over the spilled fuel. "The guys made some good decisions early in the piece and the safety features built into the tanker worked perfectly," he said. Officers decided against evacuating the neighbourhood as fire fighters with breathing apparatus were brought in to ensure the area was safe and police and CFA scientific officers worked out how to deal with the flammable liquid. "We had trucks plugged into hydrants and everything on standby, so if the situation was to deteriorate, we could do something about it really quickly," Mr Collins said. "Had the tanks ruptured, it would have been a different scenario." Once passed fit to move, the tanker was escorted by the police and CFA to Geelong's Shell Refinery to be decanted. An Ambulance Victoria spokesman said three people were taken to Geelong Hospital with minor injuries.

http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2012/01/20/302841_news.html

NIGERIA, LAGOS, JANUARY 20 2012. 'SPILL' CLAIM AT BURNING KS ENDEAVOR RIG

eoin o'cinneide



Pollution claim: Nigerian body says some communities reporting 'fresh crude' washing ashore.

"Crude oil" has reportedly washed ashore and been spotted around a partially submerged rig which suffered a gas explosion and continues to burn off Nigeria, a country official has claimed. Some community leaders in the state of Bayelsa have complained of pollution reaching the coast following a blowout on the Chevron-chartered jack-up KS Endeavor early on Monday morning, Peter Idabor, director general of Nigeria's National Oil Spill Detection & Response Agency (Nosdra) told Upstream. Idabor made the claim, which he stressed has yet to be confirmed, after receiving a report from a colleague who took part in a flyover of the burning rig on the Funiwa field in Block 86 which has [left two rig crew members missing and presumed dead](#). "A crude oil spill from the facility was spotted by the surveillance around the KS Endeavor and along the shoreline – that is the exact report," Idabor

said. Nosdra had sent its deputy director on the [helicopter flyover](#) on Wednesday, Idabor said, along with representatives from Nigeria's Directorate of Petroleum Resources, Chevron Nigeria Limited and a HSE community resource officer. "This is a very serious explosion. You have drilling fluids and oil seen around the rig itself." Idabor said his department has received complaints from government officials in some parts of Bayelsa state about pollution washing ashore. "There are several communities already impacted," he claimed. "The first one is Koloma towns 1 and 2, the second one is Fishtown and the third is Frupa." When it was put to him that the KS Endeavor was drilling a gas exploration well, Idabor replied: "Yes, it is, but maybe some oily substances are coming out. I think the fire is actually on the water too. That's why I was saying there must be some oily substance. They are also talking about drilling fluids. But no volume estimates have been completed at this time." Asked if the oil which has allegedly reached the shore may have come from other facilities in the area, Idabor responded: "If it was just from filling station activities, you would just see the sheen. But I think it is much more than that. But that is subject to confirmation. There is very little oil." Belema Osibodu, deputy director of public affairs at Nigeria's Department of Petroleum Resources was reluctant to comment on suggestions of any pollution, saying: "I can't confirm that but I know that investigations are underway right now. We are still investigating." On Tuesday Chevron had said that "a small sheen [was] visible in close proximity to the well" with the sheen estimated at 13 barrels. Nobody was immediately available at Chevron for comment on the allegation that crude oil may have been spotted at the drill site and onshore. Osibodu said the fire has not yet been extinguished but said "a team is coming from the US and they are working on it". Idabor said reports from Wednesday's flyover indicated the fire was "almost uncontrollable". It is not known if the KS Endeavor has become fully submerged after listing as a result of the fire following a blowout. Chevron said on Tuesday that it had partially collapsed. The US supermajor also revealed on Wednesday that the search for one French and one Indian national, missing since the blaze, has been called



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off. All the other 152 workers, including 27 on an adjacent liftboat, were rescued. The Hercules Offshore-owned liftboat Mako is understood to have been [destroyed by the fire](#). The KS Endeavor is owned 50/50 by Fode and KS Drilling Pte, a subsidiary of Singapore KS Energy which is a spin-off of Atlantic Oilfield Services. Chevron has the KS Endeavor on charter for a firm two-year period which started in January 2011. The US oil giant also holds a one-year option over the unit. Production from Chevron's North Apoi platform was shut in due to its proximity to the fire.

Related Links

- [Chevron calls off Nigeria search](#)
- [Chevron rig blaze flyover underway](#)
- [Chevron prepares to drill Nigeria relief well](#)
- [Hercules liftboat 'likely lost' in Nigeria fire](#)
- [Two still missing in Nigeria rig blaze](#)
- [Rig burns at Chevron field off Nigeria](#)

<http://www.upstreamonline.com/live/article298599.ece>

USA, MN, ST. PAUL, JANUARY 20 2012. MARATHON PETROLEUM FINED \$700,000 FOR ST. PAUL PARK BENZENE RELEASE

dennis lien



Marathon Petroleum Corp. has been slammed with a \$700,000 civil penalty for failing to treat hazardous wastes properly at a suburban St. Paul Park oil refinery it once owned. Marathon committed the violations at the plant over a four-month period in 2010 before selling it to St. Paul Park Refining Co., the current owner and operator, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Under an agreement with the MPCA, Findlay, Ohio-based Marathon paid the penalty to settle violations that led to the release of benzene, a potent carcinogen, into the environment. The agency said Marathon failed to manage the hazardous waste properly off and on for 65 days from June 15 to Oct. 16, 2010. During that period, the MPCA said, Marathon illegally disposed of 115 million gallons of benzene process wastewater in an unlined lagoon instead of treating it properly in its wastewater-treatment plant. Liquids in the unlined lagoon, situated near the Mississippi River, can filter into shallow groundwater connected to the river. The company outlined several reasons, including a refinery-wide power failure, according to Tanya Maurice, compliance

coordinator for MPCA's industrial division. But she said it always knew the wastewater-treatment plant was not removing the benzene and did not take corrective steps. "These are very egregious violations for a company as large as Marathon running a refinery with this much hazardous waste through it," Maurice said. A spokesman for Marathon said only 128 gallons of actual benzene were disposed of in the lagoon and none of it got beyond the plant boundaries. "There's no evidence of any sort of off-site impact," spokesman Robert Calmus said. Maurice said Marathon did not notify the agency of the benzene problems until that and other problems were brought up in a meeting with the agency. When the MPCA asked why it did not notify the state sooner, she said Marathon representatives said they did not understand the regulations. "But, in reality, these regulations have been in effect for decades," she said. Marathon paid the penalty under terms of a stipulation agreement, a tool often used by the MPCA to get compliance with environmental laws. When calculating penalties, the agency takes into account the severity of the violation, the impact or potential impact to the environment, whether it was a first-time or repeat violation, and the intent or carelessness of the violator. The MPCA also tries to recover the calculated economic benefit the operator gained by failing to comply with environmental laws. In this case, the MPCA charged that Marathon treated, stored and disposed of benzene process wastewater without obtaining the required permit. Marathon, it said, also evaded general requirements for a hazardous waste permit and financial assurance, and exceeded permit limits for other substances such as ammonia nitrogen and sulfides.

http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_19775952



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USA, ILL, WOOD RIVER, DECEMBER 20 2012. LEUKEMIA CLAIMED IN ANOTHER MADISON COUNTY BENZENE LAWSUIT

andrea dearden

A Wood River woman contends she developed leukemia because of exposure to pollutants allegedly released by the town's oil refinery. Janice K. Kalert filed a lawsuit Jan. 11 in Madison County Circuit Court against Shell Oil Company, BP Products North America Inc. and ConocoPhillips Company. Kalert says she lived on Walnut Street in Roxana from 1994 through 2003 and on Picket Avenue in Wood River from 2003 until now. Kalert claims both homes are near the defendants' oil refinery known as the Wood River Facility. Kalert alleges the refinery handled and processed the chemical benzene and benzene-containing products during the time she lived nearby. Kalert claims the oil companies allowed thousands of pounds of benzene and benzene-containing pollutants to be released into the air and ground water of the refinery's adjoining neighborhoods. According to studies cited in the complaint, benzene has been linked to certain blood cancers, like acute myelogenous leukemia. Kalert says she was diagnosed with the disease in March 2011. Kalert accuses the defendants of negligence, claiming the companies knowingly released a toxic chemical into the environment. She says Shell Oil and ConocoPhillips are liable for her cancer diagnosis. She seeks more than \$100,000 in damages for medical expenses and court fees. Kalert is represented by attorneys Thomas E. Schwartz and Justin D. Guerra of St. Louis. They ask for a jury trial. Madison County Circuit Court Case No. 12-L-45

<http://www.madisonrecord.com/news/241063-leukemia-claimed-in-another-madison-county-benzene-lawsuit>

USA, TX, PEARSALL, JANUARY 21 2012. EXPLOSION AND FIRE AT EAGLE FORD DISPOSAL WELL IN PEARSALL

terrence henry

 **Watch the Video's**

- [3 injured in oil well explosion](#)
- [Oil tanker explosion that hurt three 'probably won't be the last'](#)

 **Photo's**

- [6] [Slideshow: Oil well explosion near Pearsall](#)
- [4] [Gallery](#)



An explosion and fire rocked an oil fracking site in South Texas last night. Three were injured.

Three people have been injured after an explosion and fire at a disposal well in Pearsall, Texas Thursday night. The site is used for disposal of fracking fluids from the [Eagle Ford Shale](#) in South Texas, about 50 miles from San Antonio.* The fire burned for several hours and was put out by 9 p.m. last night. It isn't clear yet what caused the explosion. (The Railroad Commission of Texas, which oversees drilling in the state, later released a statement explaining the explosion. You can read it below.) Update: StateImpact Texas spoke with Pearsall Volunteer Fire Department Chief Placido Aguilar today about the fire. He said that at about 5:30 p.m. Thursday an oil tank exploded and caught fire. It took about an hour and a half to

get under control once firefighters arrived. "There were four departments from around here, twelve trucks, and 33 guys that helped with the fire," he told StateImpact Texas. He said that the fire department had to cool down three tanks holding oil so they wouldn't reignite. Aguilar says the site uses [hydraulic fracturing](#) to drill for oil.* "There was a well running when we got there that had to be shut down," Aguilar said. "I know it's producing, [because] they had three tanks full of oil. That one that exploded lost its top and was on fire." (Update: These earlier reports appear to be wrong. The site is used for disposal of wastewater from fracking and drilling, according to the Railroad Commission of Texas. [Read the statement from the Railroad Commission of Texas on the explosion here.](#)) With drilling taking off in the Eagle Ford Shale, is Aguilar concerned that his all-volunteer department will have to respond to more fires like these? "Yes, probably in the last six months we've had two other incidents. And they [drillers] say they're gonna be here for a while." Aguilar, who works as a delivery man at Parsons furniture, said that his department hasn't received any additional funding or personnel during the fracking boom in South Texas and isn't expecting any, either. In fact, he said that Thursday's fire was actually fortunate timing for the volunteer department. "Everybody was getting out of work around the time it happened, so we had plenty of help," he said. "If it had happened during



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the day, I don't know what would've happened. I don't know if we would've been able to put it out." Chief Aguilar doesn't know who owns the well. "I haven't been able to get that information yet," he said. His department won't be doing any further investigation unless the company's insurance agents become involved. He said that from here it is up to the [Railroad Commission of Texas](#) to investigate. (Update: StateImpact Texas has contacted the Railroad Commission and they [released this statement](#). The well is operated by [High Roller Wells](#).)

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2012/01/20/explosion-and-fire-at-south-texas-fracking-site/>

MEXICO, BAY OF CAMPECHE, JANUARY 21 2012. PEMEX RESCUED 213 WORKERS FROM BURNING PLATFORM



Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) evacuated 213 workers from the KU-S platform in the [Ku Maloob Zaap field](#) Monday after a turbocharger explosion caused a fire, El Universal reported Wednesday. No injuries have been reported among the workers. Pemex has shut in production from the platform. The Ku Maloob Zaap field is located 65 miles (104.61 kilometers) northwest of Ciudad del Carmen in the Bay of Campeche. Water depth at the field is estimated at 330 feet (100.58 meters). Ku-Maloob-Zaap is Mexico's largest oil producing field, and has been the largest source of new production growth in the past few years. Located adjacent to the [Cantarell oil field](#), Ku-Maloob-Zaap produced 839,200 bopd in 2010, up from

808,000 bopd in 2009. In recent years, Ku-Maloob-Zaap has surpassed the Cantarell oil field, once one of the largest oil fields in the world, in terms of production. Cantarell production has declined dramatically in the past several years, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Last year, Cantarell produced 558,000 b/d, down 19 percent from 2009 and 74 percent from peak production of 2.14 million barrels in 2004.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=114381

ENGLAND, DORSET, JANUARY 21 2012. TANKER DRIVER ARRESTED AFTER DORSET BUNGALOW CRASH

 **Watch the Video**

- [Tanker driver arrested](#)
- [Fuel tanker crashes into bungalow](#)



A 51-year-old man from Yeovil has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. The driver of a fuel tanker which crashed into a bungalow in Dorset, setting it on fire, has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. Police said the 51-year-old man from Yeovil was believed to be known to the occupant of the property. The woman is said to be safe and well but her home suffered significant damage. The tanker ploughed into the property in Folly Lane, Wool, just after 08:40 GMT, causing a fire to start. About 30 firefighters attended the blaze, which was brought under control in about an hour. Pictures released by the fire service show the Watson Fuels tanker crashed into the front of the bungalow, smashing through the front wall

and a set of windows. A fire ripped through the house out towards the back garden. A spokesman for the tanker company, based in Brinkworth, Wiltshire, said: "We are aware of an incident involving an employee and a company vehicle. "We are in contact with the police and have offered any assistance we can."

 **Related Links**

- [Fuel tanker crashes into bungalow](#)
- [Fuel tanker crashes into bungalow](#)
- [Man held over bungalow tanker blaze](#) 4 hrs ago
- [UK & World News: Man held over bungalow tanker blaze](#)
- [World & UK News: Man held over bungalow tanker blaze](#)
- [Page with video: Bungalow Tanker Smash 'Was Murder Attempt'](#)
- [Bungalow Tanker Smash 'Was Murder Attempt'](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-16650234>



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INDONESIA, JAKARTA, JANUARY 21 2012. PERTAMINA TO BUY 15 TANKERS VALUED AT \$370M

ririn radiawati kusuma

State oil and gas company Pertamina plans to buy 15 tanker ships in the next two years to help it distribute refined fuel and liquefied natural gas across Indonesia's more than 17,000 islands, a company official said on Friday. Mochamad Harun, a spokesman for Pertamina, said that the company would buy the tankers at a total estimated price of \$370 million between now and 2014. Part of Pertamina's responsibilities is distributing fuel and gas in the country. Harun said that 12 tankers are expected to be delivered to the company this year, two in 2013 and one in 2014. All of these purchases are part of a plan to buy 26 tankers through 2015. "This is part of company's long-term investment plan to add to our fleet," Harun said, without disclosing where the company would buy the tankers. He said that the company was still discussing details of the other 11 tankers that are supposed to be delivered by 2015. With so many islands spread across thousands of kilometers — from Sumatra in the west to Papua in the east and Sulawesi in the north — the bulk of distribution in Indonesia takes place over sea. Pertamina said that 82 percent of fuel and gas is distributed that way. Pertamina currently uses 173 ships to distribute fuel across the nation. The state company owns 51 ships and leases the remainder from leasing companies. Of the 173 vessels, 153 are used to ferry refined fuel and 20 to ship liquefied natural gas. Separately, Pertamina said that it was optimistic that its net income would reach Rp 21 trillion (\$2.4 billion) for 2011, which would be considerably higher than the company's original target of Rp 17.7 trillion. The Jakarta-based company posted a net income of Rp 19.45 trillion in the January-September period last year. Even though it isn't a publicly traded company, it is scheduled to report its full-year financial statement by the end of February. Pertamina said last year that it expected to spend up to Rp 408.6 trillion from 2011 to 2014 to boost its business, in part to contribute to the country's target of producing 1 million barrels of oil per day .

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/business/pertamina-to-buy-15-tankers-valued-at-370m/492699>

USA, WI, SHEBOYGAN CO, PLYMOUTH, JANUARY 21 2012. COLLISION WITH TANKER TRUCK LEAVES TWO DEAD IN PLYMOUTH

eric litke

 **Photo's [16]** [Authorities ID women killed in tanker crash](#)



Two people were killed Thursday afternoon after the small car they were traveling in collided with a tanker truck at state Highway 57 and Kiley Way in the Town of Plymouth, the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department said. According to a press release issued by Sgt. Jason Liermann: At about 2:30 p.m., the truck was southbound on Highway 57 and approaching the intersection of Kiley Way while the passenger car was northbound on Highway 57 and signaling to make a left turn. The passenger car failed to yield the right of way and turned in front of the tanker truck, which had a green light, resulting in the collision. The driver and a passenger were pronounced dead at the scene. The truck driver was not injured. The names of the crash victims are expected to be released today. The crash is still under investigation by the Sheriff's Department, with the assistance of a Wisconsin State Patrol inspector. One of the first emergency responders on the scene said on the

radio that the occupants were trapped in the vehicle and seriously injured, summoning a Jaws of Life Unit and alerting Flight For Life to be on standby. The emergency responder described one of the victims as an elderly woman who was unresponsive. A Flight For Life helicopter was dispatched to the scene, but was called off prior to its arrival, Liermann said. A Sheboygan Press photographer at the scene said a Ford Focus was struck broadside by a septic tank trunk, crushing the car to barely half its original width. The car came to rest in the southbound lane, while the truck wound up in the west ditch. Southbound lanes of Highway 57 were shut down as officials handled the crash, and were reopened just before 5 p.m. Responding agencies included Plymouth Police Department, Plymouth Ambulance and Plymouth Fire Department. The deaths are the first this year on Sheboygan County roadways, though Stacey Braatz, 34, of Sheboygan, died Tuesday in a crash in Manitowoc County, just north of the Sheboygan County line. It is the first double fatal crash in Sheboygan County since April 2010, when a mother and her young son died when the car they were riding in blew a tire on Interstate 43.

<http://www.sheboyganpress.com/article/20120120/SHE0101/201200461/Collision-tanker-truck-leaves-two-dead-Plymouth?odyssey=mod%7Cdefcon%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>



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USA, MT, BILLINGS, JANUARY 21 2012. EXXON REACHES \$1.6M SPILL SETTLEMENT

matthew brown

Exxon Mobil agreed Thursday to pay \$1.6 million in penalties to the state of Montana over water pollution caused by a pipeline break last summer that fouled dozens of miles of shoreline along the scenic Yellowstone River. Montana Department of Environmental Quality director Richard Opper said the penalties in the case mark the largest in the agency's history. The Texas oil company will pay \$300,000 in cash and spend \$1.3 million on future environmental projects, according to a copy of the document obtained by The Associated Press. Also Thursday, Exxon increased its estimate of how much crude spilled into the river during the July 1 accident near Laurel to 1,509 barrels, or more than 63,000 gallons. That's up from earlier estimates of 1,000 barrels spilled — a number that Gov. Brian Schweitzer had disputed as too low. Schweitzer said Thursday that the settlement and revised spill estimate came only after the state pressured Exxon to be more accountable in the aftermath of the spill. "They're not prepared to give you any accurate information if you don't hold their feet to the fire," the Democratic governor said. In an emailed statement, Exxon spokesman Alan Jeffers reiterated that the company "takes full responsibility" for the accident. "We are pleased to be able to resolve this environmental compliance issue with the State of Montana," Jeffers wrote of the settlement. Only about 10 barrels of crude were recovered by cleanup crews, federal officials have said. That's less than 1 percent of the total spilled. The cause of the spill remains under investigation. The 12-inch Silvertip pipeline was buried just a few feet beneath the riverbed when it was installed 20 years ago. High water last spring and summer eroded that cover, which officials have speculated could have exposed the line to damaging debris. Thursday's settlement came after more than three months of negotiations between attorneys for Exxon and the state. The agreement contains provisions to shield the company against any future lawsuits from state agencies, although it will not become final until after a 30-day comment period. "It was a significant violation. There were hundreds and hundreds of acres of land affected and it was a major oil spill," Opper said. He added the penalties likely would have been "a lot higher" if Exxon had not cooperated on the cleanup. "They were responsible, but they really were committed to undoing the damage that was caused," he said. The settlement requires continued monitoring of environmental damage by Exxon and for the company to clean up any more oil that is discovered. That includes any crude that might be stirred up when the Yellowstone rises again in the spring as mountain snow begins to melt. Testing of river sediments near public water supply intakes also will be required. As part of the settlement, Exxon will reimburse more than \$760,000 in emergency response costs racked up by state agencies. Regarding the change in how much crude spilled, Jeffers said the company recalculated the volume after discovering the pipeline had been completely severed during the July 1 accident near Laurel. Jeffers says pipeline breaches typically involve a crack or fissure. That was the assumption used to craft the initial estimate. Jeffers added that the higher estimate would not have changed the response to the spill, which at its peak involved more than 1,000 Exxon Mobil contractors working to clean up oil-soaked sandbars, log jams and vegetation. "None of this would have made any difference," he said. Still pending against the company is a lawsuit from a group of riverfront property owners who are seeking tens of millions of dollars in damages over allegations that the company failed to properly clean up after the spill. Plaintiffs' attorney Cliff Edwards said the company's revised spill estimate was suspect and that he had "no faith in that number." Edwards added that the settlement with the state did not alter the fact that the company failed to protect the line as the Yellowstone was flooding in the weeks leading up to the spill. "They just continued to run crude," he said. Attorneys for Exxon have asked U.S. District Judge Richard Cebull in Billings to dismiss the lawsuit. A decision is pending. Since the spill, Exxon has since installed a new section of the pipeline buried several dozen feet beneath the riverbed.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2012/01/19/national/a130831S51.DTL>

FRANCE, PARIS, JANUARY 21 2012. PETROPLUS PUTS 3 IDLED REFINERIES UP FOR SALE

inti landauro

- Petroplus seeks to sell French refinery
- Petroplus evaluates alternatives for refineries in Belgium and Switzerland
- Inconclusive meeting between French government and Petroplus CEO
- Total says not interested in any Petroplus refineries

Troubled Swiss-based refiner Petroplus Holdings AG (PPHN.EB) has started looking for a buyer for its refinery in the northern French town of Petit-Couronne as it struggles to convince banks to unblock credit lines that would keep the company afloat. A temporary deal with the banks is due to expire later Friday. Petroplus's Chief Executive Jean-Paul Vettier has previously said that without an extension of credit lines the company will have to file for bankruptcy. A meeting between Vettier and French



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Industry Minister Eric Besson late Friday proved inconclusive. "They discussed different possible scenarios in order to maintain the activity at the refinery and keep jobs at the site," the Industry Ministry said in a statement. Petroplus said earlier it is also "evaluating strategic alternatives" for two refineries it owns in Antwerp, Belgium, and in Cressier, Switzerland. Petroplus shuttered all three earlier this month when it ran out of cash preventing it from buying crude to supply them. Petroplus, struggling with low margins and low demand for its products as a result of a general overcapacity and a slowing economy in Europe, has been battling for survival since banks froze credit lines in late December and early January. The company has been negotiating with its banks--which include Societe Generale, ING Groep, BNP Paribas, Rabobank and Natixis-- but its attempts at a refinancing have so far come to little. Petroplus operates two other refineries, one in Germany and one in the U.K., which are operating at minimum levels. French oil major Total SA (TOT) Friday said it isn't interested in buying any of the Petroplus refineries because of its "already large exposure to the refining sector in Europe." Total tried to sell its refinery in Lindsey, U.K., but gave up after not finding suitable buyers. The government is following the situation at Petit-Couronne very closely, with Besson due to meet staff there next week. President Nicolas Sarkozy can ill-afford the closure of a plant that employs 550 people just three months ahead of the presidential election's first round, after pledging this week to focus on quelling an unemployment rate that stands at a near 12-year high. On top of that, the Petit-Couronne is the fourth refinery idled in France since 2009. "Our priority is to maintain the industrial activity in Petit-Couronne, you know a refinery cannot be halted for too long so our goal is to resume activity as soon as possible," Besson said on French radio earlier Friday. Petroplus said it safely shut its Cressier refinery, although workers at Petit-Couronne and Antwerp are blocking refined products from leaving. Yvon Scornet, a leader of the CGT labor union at Petit-Couronne, said the workers currently hold EUR200 million worth of refined products at the refinery. Scornet also said that the union is participating in the search for a buyer, and said the workers want any potential buyer to commit new investments to make the refinery competitive. He declined to specify which companies were approached. If the sale process fails, the dismantling of the refinery would lead to heavy "depollution" costs, Scornet said. The previous owner of the Petit-Couronne, Royal Dutch Shell PLC (RDSA), which sold the refinery to Petroplus in 2008 might have to pay for part of the cleaning, Scornet said. Shell officials decline to comment.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20120120-709862.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, JANUARY 21 2012. CHEMICAL SPILL SENDS SIX TO HOSPITAL

Six Melbourne dock workers have been treated at hospital after a corrosive chemical spill. The workers had been unloading a cargo ship last night in the city's industrial ports when a release valve on a giant cylinder was damaged, a fire department spokesman says. About 200 litres of isopropylamine then pooled onto the ground, forcing the crew to flee to a safe distance. The liquid, which is extremely flammable and causes severe burns and blindness, was cleaned up in about an hour. Six workers who were experiencing chest pains and breathing problems were taken to hospital. A crane and nearly two dozen firefighters were part of the effort to fix the cylinder and clean up the hazardous spill.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/chemical-spill-sends-six-to-hospital/story-e6frf7ix-1226249942314>

ECUADOR, QUITO, JANUARY 21 2012. CHEVRON FILES APPEAL WITH ECUADOR NATIONAL COURT



[Chevron](#) officials announced Friday they filed an appeal with Ecuador's National Court of Justice to review and repeal what [Chevron](#) calls an illegal ruling made against the company earlier this year. Earlier this month, three judges in the Provincial Court of Justice of Sucumbrios in Lago Agrio in Ecuador upheld a lawsuit which Chevron appealed, ordering the company to [pay \\$18 billion for damages](#). Chevron maintains it has not committed. The original ruling came in February of 2011. In the same month, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague issued an injunction following Chevron's appeal, ordering Ecuadorean officials not to collect on the \$18 billion its courts ruled in favor of until it makes its own pronouncement. In September 2011, a U.S. appeals court ruled the country is allowed to collect on the ruling, and on Thursday, the U.S. Court of Appeals in the

Second Circuit denied Chevron's attempt to impose a worldwide injunction. Despite The Hague's pronouncement, which is based on the U.S.-Ecuador Bilateral [Investment Treaty](#), Chevron claims the litigants are moving to collect. "The plaintiffs have indicated that they will seek to have Ecuador defy the [Bilateral [Investment Treaty](#)] Tribunals order by pursuing enforcement of the corrupt judgment outside of Ecuador before the BIT Tribunal has an opportunity to review the merits of the case," read



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Chevron. "In the event the plaintiffs carry through on their threats to file enforcement actions against Chevron affiliates in other countries, Chevron will take appropriate steps to defend against this fraud." Chevron spokesman Justin Higgs said the company does not know when The Hague will come with its final judgement. South American officials are trying to hold Texaco accountable for [alleged toxic pits Texaco failed to clean up](#) after it operated in the country from the 1960s to 1992. Texaco was bought by Chevron in 2001. Chevron disputes the legitimacy of the Ecuadorean proceedings, claiming that Ecuador is racketeering the company. The case has been going back and forth for the greater part of a decade. The appeal, read Chevron's announcement, "establishes that the lower courts violated the Ecuadorian constitution by refusing to take any corrective action in response to the extensive fraud and corruption committed by plaintiffs lawyers and their representatives." Fadel Gheit, an analyst with Oppenheimer who follows the company, agrees. "If I was ruling Chevron, I would fight until the very last minute of my job, and make sure the next guy behind me will not pay them anything," Gheit said. "They are a bunch of scam artists." Gheit said Chevron has no choice but to fight the lawsuit to the end, because paying would set a precedent that other people across the globe could try exploiting. He added the judgement the Ecuadorean plaintiffs are seeking is way out of line. When Union Carbide in 1984 leaked toxic gas into the air in [India](#), killing 15,000, it was and still it regarded as the worst industrial accident. At the time the company settled with the [Indian](#) Government for \$470 million. The seven found guilty, in 2010, faced two years in prison and paid \$2,175 a piece. The company also paid an additional \$10,800 fine. Chevron maintains Texaco cleaned the tracts of land it was responsible for.

Related Links

- [Chevron Loses Appeal, Must Pay \\$18 Billion for Amazon Pollution](#)
- [Petroecuador to Spend \\$70 Million on Amazon Cleanup; Chevron Welcomes Move](#)

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/285343/20120120/chevron-files-appeal-ecuador-national-court.htm>

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, JANUARY 21 2012. RUSSIAN TANKER COMPLETES FUEL TRANSFER TO ICED-IN ALASKA CITY

Watch the Video

[Fuel from a Russian tanker has been successfully offloaded in Nome and now in storage tanks onshore in the Alaska community that faced a shortage. Officials say the tanker delivered an estimated 1.3 million gallons of fuel to the iced-in city. \(Jan. 20\)](#)



Jan. 14, 2012: This image provided by the U.S. Coast Guard shows the Coast Guard Ice Breaker Healy breaking ice near the city of Nome Alaska.

A massive effort to pump fuel from a Russian tanker to the iced-in Alaska city of Nome is complete, moving an estimated 1.3 million gallons into the city that faced a shortage after missing its last delivery. Stacey Smith, manager of Vitus Marine LLC — the company that arranged for the tanker to deliver gas and diesel to the city — said the operation finished up Thursday morning. Smith said the pumping operation finished up with temperatures finally reaching above zero in Nome, which for weeks has been experiencing record cold temperatures, dipping to more than 30 below zero. The two lines that pumped both gasoline and [diesel fuel](#) from the ship will

have to be cleared of any residual fuel, which could mean up to 7,000 more gallons of fuel. The city of 3,500 didn't get its last pre-winter barge fuel delivery because of a massive November storm. Without the Russian tanker's delivery, Nome would run out of fuel by March or April, long before the next barge delivery is possible. Alaska has had one of the most severe winters in decades. Snow has piled up 10 feet or higher against the wood-sided buildings in Nome, a former [gold rush town](#) that is the final stop on the 1,150-mile [Iditarod](#) Trail Sled Dog Race. This is the first time petroleum products have been delivered to a western Alaska community by sea in winter. The Russian tanker Renda began its journey from [Russia](#) in mid-December, picking up diesel fuel in [South Korea](#) before heading to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, where it took on unleaded gasoline. It arrived last week off Nome on Alaska's west coast, more than 500 miles from Anchorage. A Coast Guard icebreaker cleared a path for the 370-foot tanker through hundreds of miles of a slow journey stalled by thick ice and strong ocean currents. In total, the tanker traveled an estimated 5,000 miles. Two parallel hoses, 700 yards long each, stretched between the Renda and a pipeline that delivered the estimated 1.3 million gallons of fuel to storage tanks near the harbor of the iced-in city.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/01/19/russian-tanker-completes-fuel-transfer-to-iced-in-alaska-city/>



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USA, KS, BUTLER CO, ANDOVER, JANUARY 21 2012. ANDOVER RESIDENTS WAITING FOR WORD ABOUT WELL WATER CONTAMINATION

It began with complaints about water that smelled like paint thinner and gasoline. Now, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is taking steps to correct a well water contamination problem in Andover. The affected area is the Easter Addition, near E. 21st Street and N. Prairie Creek Rd. Six homes in that neighborhood have been found to be contaminated by benzene or other petroleum related chemicals, state health officials said. A total of 31 homes have been tested since the initial complaint January 5th. There are still a handful left to test and some test results that are still pending, an official said. "They found out that we have high levels, way high levels of benzene and toluene and methyl ethyl ketone," said resident Eric Hauck. Hauck said his well water had the highest concentrations of the dangerous chemicals, some of which have been linked to birth defects and other health problems. The source of the contamination is still under investigation. NuStar Energy runs a petroleum pipeline through the neighborhood. A spokesperson sent Eyewitness News the following statement:

"It's important to note that we do not believe our pipeline is the source of the problem. We just ran the most advanced scientific test available on the samples that we took from residents' wells, and this test, which identifies the "fingerprint" of a compound, showed that it did not come from our pipeline. We just received these test results today, so we are still evaluating them so that we can better identify what the compound is and where it could have come from."

A KDHE spokesman said NuStar's pipeline did have a leak in the 1990s. Officials have installed carbon filters in Hauck's home and eight others to keep the tap water clean. The majority of homes tested showed no contamination "at concentrations above drinking water standards." A community meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at the Andover Public Library.

http://www.kansascw.com/kscw/news/kwch-bh-news-andover-residents-waiting-for-word-about-water-contamination-20120120_0_5063395.story

USA, CO, DENVER, JANUARY 21 2012. SOURCE OF SAND CREEK OIL LEAK IDENTIFIED

 **Watch the Video** [Source of Oil Leak Identified](#)

Six weeks after an oil slick appeared on the surface of Sand Creek, the Colorado Department of Health says it believes it has identified the source of the oil seep. Scientists with the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division of the Colorado Department of Health say a substance in a leaky underground pipe on the Suncor oil refinery property matched the chemical makeup of the petroleum-like substance found floating in Sand Creek. Suncor reported the leaky pipe in April of last year but health officials say there was no reason to believe it was spreading to the creek until a fisherman discovered the oil sheen floating on the water in the area in November. The leak has since been isolated and the majority of the oil in the water and on the banks has been cleaned up, however department of health officials say the contamination of hydrocarbons in the water, including cancer-causing benzene, remains hundreds of times higher than the drinking water standard. Sand Creek flows into the South Platte River which is used for agricultural purposes and acts as a feed source for some water utilities. Health officials say there is no danger to the public and they are updating the utilities every week on the contamination in the water. Health officials with the hazardous waste department say although the visible oil has been removed, hydrocarbons that contaminated the groundwater and soil beneath the creek bed are still dissolving into the water. The department of health has issued several orders to Suncor requiring it to test the site everyday and put in place mitigation efforts including booms and an aeration system designed to help speed up the evaporation of the chemicals but scientists say it could be years before the water returns to normal. In a response to a letter from Senator Bennett's office, the Environmental Protection says Suncor is paying for the clean-up efforts. The department of health says it has not yet filed any disciplinary action against Suncor while it focuses on the clean-up efforts but the department has up to two years to do so.

Related Links

- [Suncor refinery employees tested for benzene contamination](#)
- [Protesters want refinery to take action after spill](#)
- [EPA says efforts to block toxic spill working](#)
- [EPA: Benzene levels in creek 400 times that of standards](#)
- [Underground pipe eyed after Suncor contains oil seep](#)
- [Part of plant near oil seep was closed last week](#)

<http://www.9news.com/news/article/243803/222/Source-of-Sand-Creek-oil-leak-identified->



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AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, JANUARY 21 2012. HALF OF BRISBANE'S BUS FLEET TAKEN OFF THE ROAD AFTER GAS EXPLOSION AT DEPOT

suellen hinde



Buses at the Brisbane City Council Virginia Bus Depot.

Half the Brisbane Transport bus fleet will not be in service today after a gas explosion at Virginia bus depot in the early hours of the morning. A Brisbane City Council spokeswoman said all buses that run on gas would not be operating today because of the incident. Workers at the bus depot were refilling the gas cylinders on a bus at 1.17am when the gas pod exploded, a department of Community Services spokeswoman said. "No one was injured and while fire crews attended to contain the gas there was no fire," she said. Two buses sustained damage in the explosion. "As a precaution following the incident, no gas powered buses will operate today while investigations are undertaken resulting in approximately half of council's bus fleet being non operational today," the council spokeswoman said. "Commuters can

expect significant disruptions to bus services throughout the weekend and are advised to leave plenty of time ahead of their journey to account for delays or make alternative transport arrangements such as trains." For more information visit the [TransLink website](http://www.translink.com.au) or phone 13 12 30. Public transport lobby group Rail Back on Track said the sidelining of half the bus fleet was disruptive but necessary. However spokesman Robert Dow said: "Queensland Rail should also plan for some additional rail services on all lines if the gas buses are not returned to service on Monday."

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/half-of-brisbanes-bus-fleet-taken-off-the-road-after-gas-explosion-at-depot/story-e6freoof-122625000273>

USA, NE, NEMAHA, JANUARY 21 2012. DEQ: NEMAHA COUNTY FUEL SPILL COULD TAKE TWO YEARS TO CLEAN UP AND MONITOR



Containment booms are used to clean a stream south of a fuel pipeline spill near Nemaha on Monday, Dec. 12, 2011.

The cleanup and monitoring of a massive December fuel spill from two ruptured pipelines in Nemaha County will last at least two years, a state official said Thursday. It will take about a year to clean up petroleum products at the site, which then will be monitored for a year, said Jim Bunstock, a spokesman for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. The state agency has overseen cleanup efforts since a farmer -- operating a bulldozer to clear brush roots from a hedgerow -- hit the 8- and 12-inch pipelines buried in a farm field about two and a half miles south of Nemaha on Dec. 10. An official with the Nebraska One-Call Center said the center got no call before the digging. Anyone who digs near buried pipeline, cable,

etc., should call the center at 811 before excavating. DEQ estimates that 2,834 barrels of gasoline, diesel fuel and jet fuel spilled from the pipelines and contaminated soil and water in a nearby unnamed creek. Magellan Midstream Partners, the owner of the pipelines, and its contractors have been recovering the spilled fuel using small dams, trenches, absorbent materials, sump pumps and a vacuum truck. Bruce Heine, a spokesman for Magellan, headquartered in Tulsa, Okla., agreed the cleanup will take at least two years. Heine said the company had no new information on the cost of the cleanup or potential litigation. As of Jan. 11, workers had recovered 137 barrels of fuel, Bunstock said. "They have quite a ways to go." Workers won't recover the entire amount because of evaporation and oxidation, Bunstock said. Samples analyzed so far show no contamination in Jarvis Creek or the Nemaha River, Bunstock said. The unnamed creek flows into Jarvis Creek. "It's not in the groundwater," Bunstock said. "It's in the soil." Magellan employees and contractors are monitoring and "intercepting" pollution at this time, he said, and will decide later if soil needs to be hauled away. DEQ also is monitoring the water wells of two homes about a mile away, and no pollution has been detected, he said. Whether the state agency will require permanent monitoring wells to be installed on the site has yet to be determined, Bunstock said. DEQ did not have any figures on what cleanup has cost the agency so far, but it is tracking expenses, he said. A department inspector visits the site weekly.

http://journalstar.com/news/local/deq-nemaha-county-fuel-spill-could-take-two-years-to/article_cc1e2f88-0cdf-5d7b-b78d-f1f1a4647f8d.html



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USA, OH, HIGHLANDTOWN, JANUARY 21 2012. EPA SEARCHES FOR CAUSE OF OIL SPILL

nancy tullis

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) continues to investigate an oil spill discovered Jan. 8. Mike Settles, OEPA spokesman, said although the investigation continues, the clean up phase is complete. Area residents reported a petroleum odor in the air in the area of Fife Coal Road. Highlandtown fire Chief Tim Roush said residents contacted Ergon and Marathon oil companies 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 Fife Coal Road, but an investigation proved it was not coming from their pipelines. Settles said OEPA investigators responded that evening. He said the source of the oil was from heating oil tanks that had been in the basement of a burned out home. During demolition of the burned structure, the two 275-gallon tanks were removed, but some residual fuel flowed down the drain in the floor and through some plastic pipe and into the soil, Settles said. Eight tons of contaminated soil were removed, he said. Other than one bluegill in the creek that appeared to be struggling, there was no evidence of harm to wildlife from the spill, he said. Settles said the site of the burned-out home is 41738 state Route 39. The homeowner next door, Shane Wellington, has been cooperative with investigating officials, Settles said. Firefighters responding Jan. 8 placed oil-absorbing booms across the creek in two spots near the bridge on Fife Coal Road.

<http://www.reviewonline.com/page/content.detail/id/551439/EPA-searches-for-cause-of-oil-spill.html?nav=5008>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, DENMAN, JANUARY 21 2012. EXPLOSIVE TRUCKS POSE REAL CONCERN FOR CITY

Maitland needs to keep close watch of a proposal by troubled company Orica to truck more of the explosive chemical ammonium nitrate from Kooragang Island to a storage facility at the former Rosemount vineyard at Denman and then to mine sites further up the valley. The proposed route outlined in Orica's plan before Muswellbrook Shire Council takes it along the already congested New England Highway through the heart of Maitland. Trucks carrying the explosive chemicals will pass by the front doors of houses, schools and shopping centres. It is well known that dozens of trucks, including ones hauling chemicals, already traverse the highway everyday. So there is one school of thought that says Orica's proposal is of little consequence. On the other hand, Orica's track record of late, which includes incidents at Kooragang and Port Botany, hardly inspires confidence. Whether people like it or not – and the green lobby certainly doesn't – the Hunter Valley's economy is to a large extent tied to the mining industry; and, in turn, the mining industry needs explosives to operate. The question is, however, whether or not the highway can take any more heavy traffic, especially trucks carrying explosive material. As the mayor of Maitland, Cr Peter Blackmore, quite rightly points out: "We, the general public, have absolutely no idea what is coming through our city." And that is, or should be, a major concern for all residents.

Related Links

- [Orica's road to Denman](#)
- [Troubled Orica headed this way](#)

<http://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/news/local/news/opinion/trucks-pose-real-concern-for-city/2426414.aspx>

CANADA, AB, CALGARY, JANUARY 21 2012. MAYOR SEES BETTER WAY TO CLEAN GAS SPILL

jeremy nolais



Thousands of litres leaked from this Gas Plus station on Bowness Road N.W. in April 2010.

Restricting city crews from helping clean out thousands of litres of gasoline lying in the soil beneath a northwest Calgary street is "ridiculous" and one reason why many families have not been able to return home, says the mayor. In April 2010, approximately 9,000 litres of gasoline leaked from a Gas Plus station along Bowness Road, impacting a nearby residential street. Roughly one year ago, provincial officials announced three homes along Bow Crescent N.W. had been condemned due to high levels of hazardous chemicals caused by the leak. Clean up efforts to date have been unsuccessful. During his state of the city address

earlier this week, Mayor Naheed Nenshi offered the incident as one example of the need to improve municipal governance



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abilities. "We need to fix it," he said. "The City of Calgary fully understands what needs to be done and we have the expertise to be able to do it, and we're not allowed to." Instead, responsibility for monitoring the situation falls on Alberta Environment, which ordered Gas Plus to begin remedial actions no later than last month. Company owner Sal Handel ultimately appealed that direction and now arguments from both sides are before Environment and Water Minister Diana McQueen. "We are expecting a decision in the near future," said Alberta Environment spokesperson Carrie Sancier. "Alberta Environment has made an effort to ensure the site is properly cleaned up." Meanwhile, those affected continue to wait anxiously for a resolution. Andy Ross purchased a \$750,000 lot in the affected area a year and a half ago. He is not able to obtain a development permit until the spill has been addressed. But, despite his frustration, Ross took issue with Nenshi's claim, noting the city could have taken swift action against Gas Plus. "The City of Calgary grants business licenses to these guys and they didn't stop working until November — a year and half after the spill," he said.

Health Concerns

have and continue to be a concern for residents living on Bow Crescent N.W. The most predominant chemical found during air testing in area homes was hydrocarbon benzene, which can lead to serious health complications if an individual is subjected to long-term exposure.

Gas Plus owner Sal Handel could not be reached for comment despite multiple attempts made over two days.

<http://www.metronews.ca/calgary/local/article/1076087--mayor-sees-better-way-to-clean-gas-spill>

USA, OH, SALEM, JANUARY 21 2012. SALEM FIREFIGHTERS, OHIO EPA SEARCH FOR SOURCE OF OILY SPILL

mary ann greier

The city fire department and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency are investigating the spill of an unidentified substance into the city storm sewer which made its way into the Buttermilk Run creek along Pennsylvania Avenue Thursday morning. "To the best of our knowledge, we have it contained to the city," Capt. Shawn Mesler of the city fire department said. The fire department was notified of a possible problem at 10:05 a.m. by Lt. Don Beeson of the city police department, who received a report from someone walking along the road who apparently noticed the sheen on the water. Beeson checked it out himself and called firefighters. "We know that it's starting at the area of Pershing Street and the railroad tracks," Fire Chief Jeff Hughes said. "The area was checked back to American Standard and everything's clean back to there." Officials talked to one business in that area on Pershing Street and they reported no problem with any type of spill. OEPA emergency response personnel were scheduled to return this morning to place a camera inside the storm sewer to see if they can locate the source of the spill. "Once we locate the source, hopefully we can mitigate the problem," Hughes said. A boom, described as a big, absorbent cylindrical band, was placed inside the storm sewer at Pershing Street near the railroad tracks to try to stop the flow of the substance. Hughes said the heaviest flow appeared to be coming from the storm sewer pipe that empties into Buttermilk Run on Pennsylvania Avenue. Off-duty firefighters were called in, with Perry Township and Damascus fire departments also called to the scene to assist and check the creek in their jurisdictions. Columbiana County Emergency Management Agency Director Darren Dodson and Local Emergency Planning Committee director Willie Brantingham were notified and offered assistance, along with East Palestine Fire Chief Brett Todd, who provided more booms. Hughes said street department foreman Jim Phillis proved to be a valuable tool due to his knowledge of the storm sewer system. The police department also helped do some checking around the area. Mesler said they built two different dams out of wood to slow down the water flow in Buttermilk Run, with one placed in the water across from the Salem schools bus garage on Pennsylvania Avenue and the other one placed in the water between the George Wallace Parkway off of Pennsylvania Avenue and the city sewer treatment plant. There were four different places where Haz Mat booms were placed to absorb the substance, with the last one placed close to Allen Road, where there was no measurable spill beyond that point, he said. Mesler described the substance as a petroleum product. Hughes said it was likely oil, although they didn't know for sure yet. He said it did not appear to be diesel fuel because there was no smell to it. OEPA spokesman Mike Settles confirmed that Dodson notified the OEPA at 12:01 p.m. about the spill and requested assistance. Settles said the agency is normally called out whenever a local department requests assistance or the quantity of the substance is more than 25 gallons. In this case, firefighters could not estimate the amount of substance, but said it appeared to be a large amount. The agency will also help coordinate the cleanup effort. Settles said the whole idea is "to contain what has already spilled and track down the source of the spill." The OEPA has a 24-hour emergency spill hotline for departments to call.

<http://www.salemnews.net/page/content.detail/id/550015/Salem-firefighters--Ohio-EPA-search-for-source-of-oily-spill.html?nav=5007>



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