



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 809 Newsy Stuff

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MALAYSIA, KUCHING, JANUARY 29 2012. OFF-DUTY COP RUN OVER BY FUEL TANKER TRUCK DIES ON THE SPOT

An off-duty policeman, Lance Corporal Syarbini Man, 34, was run over by a heavy vehicle at Kuching Samarahan Expressway and died on the spot. The gruesome accident caused a massive traffic congestion as curious motorists drove slowly past the scene to take a glimpse of the dead body on the roadside. Lance Corporal Syarbini Man, 34, worked at the communications department of Sabah State Police Headquarters. A fuel tanker crushed Syarbini's head and splattered his brain along the road. According to an eye-witness, Abang Jeffery Abang Busami, 40, from Batu Kitang, he was driving a lorry from Asajaya to deliver documents crucial to a friend's wedding. "I was close behind the petrol truck and I had a clear view of the front and beyond the truck. While travelling along Kuching Samarahan Expressway, I could see a policeman riding a motorcycle in front of the truck. When the truck got near to the motorcycle, the rider somehow lost balance and swerved to the roadside and fell," he said. The truck driver went through some evasive moves, but the distance was too short for him to avoid the man on the road. In the blink of an eye the truck's gigantic rear tyre ran over the motorcyclist's head. It took quite a distance for the big vehicle to come to a full stop. The truck driver, Andrew Kia Keladan, 39, from Petra Jaya, however, did not attend to the unfortunate policeman. Instead he went straight to Simpang Tiga Police Station to lodge a report. In his report, he claimed that he was heading for his post at Pending. Paramedics who were at the scene of the accident pronounced the motorcyclist dead on the spot. Shortly after that the deceased was transported in a police truck to Sarawak General Hospital mortuary for post mortem. Kuching police chief ACP Roslan Bek Ahmad said the police had received a report on the accident. To facilitate police investigation Andrew was detained for a day during which his statement was recorded and his urine tested. Both the motorcycle and petrol truck were also taken in to have chemistry reports done on them. The accident is investigated under section 41(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/1/28/sarawak/10554990&sec=sarawak>

USA, N.H, LACONIA, JANUARY 29 2012. STATE SUES MEREDITH AUTO DEALER OVER HANDLING OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

michael kitch

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) has taken Meredith Ford to court, charging that the firm failed to comply with regulations governing underground storage tanks on its property at 339 Daniel Webster Highway (Rte. 3) and seeking fines of up to \$10,000 for each day the company was in violation. A preliminary hearing on the petition is scheduled for March 22 in Belknap County Superior Court. The company has yet to respond to the suit. Meanwhile, the tanks, together with contaminated soil, have been removed from the property and an assessment of the site begun. In a petition filed earlier this month DES alleged that personnel from the agency discovered three tanks on property owned by Meredith Motor Company, Inc. on November 16, 2007. None of the tanks were registered with DES or permitted by the agency as prescribed by statute (RSA 146-C). One tank, with a capacity of 4,000 gallons was installed in 1980 and used to store No. 2 oil. The second, a 5,950 gallon tank, also used storing No. 2 oil, was installed in 1955 and the third, also a 5,950 gallon tank installed in 1955, was used for storing gasoline. The three tanks were located in the southwest quarter of the property near the highway. The two largest abutted the property line defining the adjacent lot that houses the Citgo gas station, not far from a drainage swale emptying into the Hawkins Brook wetland to the east. In 1988, DES adopted regulations requiring the closure and removal of all underground storage tanks lacking corrosion protection systems within 60 days of their registration. None of the three tanks were equipped with corrosion protection systems or spill containment, overfill protection or release detection devices as required. Although the tanks were registered in January 2008, they were neither closed or removed. DES officials reminded the firm of the requirement in 2008 and twice in 2010 before ordering their closure and removal within 30 days on July 18, 2011. Although Meredith Motor Company failed to comply within 30 days, it removed the three tanks in November and December, when a fourth tank, identical to the others with a capacity of 4,000 gallons, was found. This is not the first time Meredith Motor Company has been disciplined by DES. In October, 1989, the firm was cited for allegedly dumping oils, solvents and paints into the ground behind its building and ordered to oversee the collection and analysis of samples of soil and groundwater to determine the extent of the contamination. Documentation at DES indicates that the firm failed to comply and was reminded to do so in July, 1996. Last November a prospective purchaser inquired of DES about the regulatory issues bearing on the property. The town has assessed the 2.44-acre lot at \$889,400, valuing the buildings at \$638,700 and the land at \$250,700.

<http://www.laconiadailysun.com/node/127107/18661>



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USA, PA, BEAVER CO, ECONOMY, JANUARY 29 2012. OFFICIALS BELIEVE OLD OIL TANK IS SOURCE OF LEAK

jenny wagner

State and county officials believe an out-of-use underground storage tank is the source of a home heating oil leak last week in Economy. Beaver County Emergency Services Director Wes Hill said the state Department of Environmental Protection was able to secure emergency funding and hire a remediation company to clean up the oil, which is believed to have come from an old tank located underground at 505 Sproat Ave. Hill said investigators believe that the tank filled up with rainwater and that the resulting pressure caused the water and some residual fuel oil to be pushed out. "It makes a mess, but it's not uncommon to happen," he said. Economy firefighters last week battled rainy weather to stop the spread of the oil, but Weavertown Environmental Group, headquartered in Carnegie, arrived Friday evening and was close to having the area cleaned up, Hill said Saturday. There is no way to tell how much oil has leaked, and the DEP is still determining how much the cleanup effort will cost, Hill said. Economy police said Thursday that residents of the Sproat Avenue home reported an oil spill Tuesday in the area where a truck had made a home heating oil delivery, but Hill and officials for the company, Adams Petroleum Products Inc. of Ohio Township, said it was not responsible for the incident. "Adams had nothing to do with that material up there on the ground," Hill said. Mike Adams, vice president of Adams Petroleum, said that heating oil was delivered to the house on Monday afternoon and that there was no spill nor leaking oil at the time. Adams said the company, which specializes in liquid fuels and oils for homes and businesses, assisted emergency crews with the cleanup Tuesday by donating absorbent pads to soak up oil on the ground. Company President Amy Adams said that the underground oil tank was not in use, and Adams has never filled it. Beaver County property records show the Sproat Avenue home where the tank is located belongs to Carole Peters. Peters declined to comment when reached by phone Saturday. Some neighbors were advised to take water samples from their wells, but officials had no concerns for the safety of drinking water, Hill said.

http://www.timesonline.com/news/local_news/officials-believe-old-oil-tank-is-source-of-leak/article_de0e006d-f533-5a8f-8a94-78d1971cacd1.html

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, JANUARY 29 2012. N.Y. SCHOOL TO REVIEW ENVIRONMENTAL TESTS IN MEDICAL MYSTERY

phil gast

Story Highlights

- School will review environmental tests in the area
- Activist Erin Brockovich is looking into a 1970 train derailment
- "Conversion disorder" causes twitching, stuttering, verbal outbursts
- Mayo Clinic says young females are much more likely to get conversion disorder

 **Watch the Video** [Erin Brockovich Investigates Girls' Tics](#)



Environmental water specialist Robert Bowcock takes water samples Saturday to test for contaminants.

A school system in upstate New York, where more than a dozen female high school students are suffering from uncontrolled verbal outbursts and twitching, said it has hired a company to review environmental testing within the school and community. The development comes as famed activist Erin Brockovich and other environmentalists are looking into whether a chemical that spilled in a 1970 train derailment about four miles from the school has anything to do with the girls' mysterious behavior. One of Brockovich's associates walked the grounds of Le Roy

Senior High School on Saturday and traveled to the derailment site. The Le Roy Central School District said it wanted "sound advice" from professionals on the situation, "void of self-interest." "Our community has suddenly found itself at the center of national attention due to the students who have been exhibiting neurological symptoms," Superintendent Kim M. Cox said in a statement released Friday. "This has led to much speculation, conjecture and misinformation in the national media and consequently within our community." Cox said the school district is working with local, state and federal health and environmental agencies. A statement posted earlier on the school's website said, in part, "The medical and environmental investigations have not uncovered any evidence that would link the neurological symptoms to anything in the environment or of an infectious nature." The school district posted air quality and mold reports on its website. "Water was also ruled out



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because the school is serviced by public water," it said. The mother of one affected girl said she doesn't think enough testing has been done. Health officials say the girls' symptoms are consistent with "conversion disorder." Brockovich told HLN's "Dr. Drew" on Friday night that she will try to corroborate a note she said one of the affected family members received about the derailment. "The contaminated rock, fill and soil was used to build the new school," Brockovich said of the note. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, one ton of cyanide crystals spilled onto the ground in the December 6, 1970, derailment. About 30,000 gallons of trichloroethene (TCE), a potentially harmful contaminant, also were released from two ruptured tank cars, the agency said. "I have read and been involved in cases that we have had that TCE can be associated with neurological disorders," Brockovich told HLN. The first significant cleanup and remediation did not start for 20 years, she said, adding she was worried about the chemical getting into bedrock and groundwater supplies. The TCE may have reached the school grounds, she said. The EPA's Superfund website provides a progress report of the cleanup done in the area over the past 20 years. "Drinking wells in the area were found to have TCE contamination," the EPA said. "Sampling of private wells between 1990 and 1994 detected TCE in approximately 50 wells located east or southeast of the site." The EPA installed water-treatment systems at 37 locations where TCE levels were high. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation used soil vapor extraction and bedrock vapor extraction to address the source of the contamination. "A water-line extension was selected to provide a safe, potable water supply to all affected residents and businesses," the EPA said. Robert Bowcock, an environmental water specialist associated with Brockovich, went to the derailment site Saturday and took water samples to test for contaminants. He also took water samples from wells at private residences. An HLN producer saw several dozen drums in a fenced-off area at the derailment site, but it was not clear what they may contain. One was rusted and had dirt-like material inside. Brockovich gained fame after the 2000 movie bearing her name and starring Julia Roberts in the title role. It told the story of how she, as a file clerk at a law firm, established that a toxic chemical from a compressor station leaked into the groundwater of a nearby California town, according to a biography posted on Brockovich's website. Medical experts, meanwhile, continue to investigate the girls' symptoms, which in some cases, include stuttering. Dr. Jennifer McVige, a pediatric neurologist at the DENT Neurologic Institute who is treating many of the students affected, said, "Conversion disorder is a physical manifestation of physiological symptoms where there is traditionally some kind of stress or multiple stressors that provoke a physical reaction within the body." McVige said the symptoms are real. "This is unconscious. It is not done purposefully." Thera Sanchez, a senior on the honor roll at the school, said she has been fighting this affliction since October. She said after waking up from a nap, "I got upset, I couldn't stop stuttering." During an interview with CNN's Jason Carroll, Thera's symptoms were apparent: She was twitching uncontrollably, flailing her left arm and jerking her head to one side. Thera said she also faints and has seizures. The seizures are a result of her pre-existing epilepsy disorder, which had been under control for years. "I don't think that all physical aspects of this have been exhausted; not enough testing has been done," Thera's mother, Melissa Phillips, said. She also disagreed with McVige's assertion that the girls are improving, saying, "Nothing is getting better, you know, the girls are still getting worse. They have good days and bad days." McVige is not sure why so many girls at the same school are suffering all at once. "I do know that traditionally when they've (doctors) looked back at different events that occurred in a similar nature, a majority of the time it is girls." According to the Mayo Clinic, females are much more likely to get conversion disorder and it is more common in adolescents or young adults. McVige said she used the "diagnosis of exclusion" to determine what happened to the girls, which means using the process of elimination. She ruled out a laundry list of factors to reach her diagnosis, including infections, drug use, food allergies and vaccine reactions, specifically Gardasil. The New York State Health Department agreed with McVige's diagnosis after speaking with several doctors who evaluated the students. "There are many causes of tic-like symptoms. Stress can often worsen them," said spokesman Jeffrey Hammond. "The doctors all agree that the symptoms these girls are experiencing are real."

<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/01/28/health/new-york-students-illness/index.html>

PHILIPPINES, TAGBILARAN CITY, JANUARY 29 2012. CAPITOL TO LOOK INTO "OIL SPILL" IN BIEN-UNIDO SEAS

Capitol officials have ordered the investigation into the reported oil spill allegedly perpetrated by a passing marine vessel apparently to prevent marine wildlife from being affected. Office of Gov. Edgar Chatto last week, through provincial administrator Alfonso Damalerio III, ordered the Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO) "to conduct an investigation and inquiry on the matter in coordination with concerned municipal officials." This was prompted following receipt of a letter from Mayor Nino Rey Boniel, who indorsed the police findings on the oil spill. Boniel in his letter address to Chatto said that his office has requested for "any appropriate assistance" on the reported oil discharge. BEMO through its head Leonilo Lafuente has also directed men to go to the scene of the oil spill, somewhere off Bilangbilangan Daku, an island-barangay of this town.



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In his report to the mayor, polic chief PCInp. Felicito Injog Garcia of this town said that the incident took place off the said island on January 6, 2012 at around 7 in the evening, "more or less on which create panic to the islanders thereat." Initial probe, police said, showed that M/V Elizabeth, with combined white, red and blue colors allegedly "did then and there deliberately dumped/splashes their waste used oil into the sea." "That when the oil spill was scattered on the sea water it is most probably that it was carried and swept away by the waves and current towards the northern part of the island of Bilangbilangan Dako of this municipality," Garcia said. When high tide, the spill reached the shoreline of the island. The spilled oil was "splashed and mixed with the waste garbage" when it was discharged by the said vessel. But Garcia said that he considered the incident "quite manageable" and the oil spill is no longer a threat to the marine life and the islanders. He stressed that there still a need to investigate further the incident and gather evidence to bring the responsible people to justice. <http://www.theboholstandard.com/psection.php?issue=247&s1=4230&s2=4233&s3=4238&s4=1252&s5=4232&s6=&s7=1253&s8=1251&s9=&s10=&s11=&s12=1254&s13=&s14=&s15=4247>

USA, W.VA, LENORE, JANUARY 29 2012. NATURAL GAS SPILLS INTO LAUREL LAKE

julia roberts goad



A tank filled with drip gas spilled a large number of materials, some of which flowed into Laurel Lake. A valve on a tank that holds 15 42-gallon barrels of drip gas, a liquid condensate, was opened. It is unknown how the valved was opened. The gas flowed out into a containment area, designed to capture gas in such an emergency. However, according to Cathy Cosco, spokesperson for West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, not all of the gas was contained and the overflow emptied into Paw Paw Branch Creek, Laurel Creek and eventually Laurel Lake. It has not been determined how much of the gas spilled into the creek and the lake. "We don't know of any fish killed," Cosco said. "But there is a strong diesel odor. We have notified the Health Department in case there are any public water intakes in the area." J.B. Heflin, General Manager of the Mingo County Public Service District,

said none of the district's will be affected by the spill. "Laurel Lake empties into Pigeon Creek," Heflin told the Daily News. "Our water intake is at Naugatuck, which is above Pigeon Creek, so anything in that creek wouldn't affect our customers." The DEP is working to put booms on the lake and the creek to absorb the gas. Cosco said she was unsure how long that clean-up process would take. Mark Vetri is the Environmental Health Manager for Petroleum Development Corporation, the company that owns the tank. The company said the spill should be cleaned up over the weekend. "The release has been contained," Vetri told the Daily News. "We are finalizing clean up. PDC remains committed to our commitment to environmental protection."

http://www.williamsondailynews.com/view/full_story/17320578/article-Natural-gas-spills-into-Laurel-Lake?instance=home_news_lead

RUSSIA, REPUBLIC OF KARELIA & MURMANSK OBLAST, BELOMORSKAYA, JANUARY 29 2012. EIGHT MONTHS AFTER DISASTROUS MAY SPILL, OIL POLLUTION STILL THREATENS WHITE SEA COAST IN RUSSIA'S NORTH

alexei pavlov translated by maria kaminskaya



An unscheduled inspection carried out late last year by the Russian federal environmental watchdog, Rosprirodnadzor, at the Belomorskaya oil bulk plant on the shore of the White Sea in Russia's north revealed the enterprise had still not removed the cause of the ecological disaster it had been responsible for last May – an oil spill that severely polluted over 600,000 square meters of the shoreline and basin of Kandalaksha Bay.

Before cleanup measures were deployed in Kandalaksha Bay in Russia's far northern Kola Peninsula, some 400,000 square meters of the coast and 200,000 square meters of the bay's basin area had been polluted with oil products as a result of the May 7, 2011 accident – including a range of islands that are part of a local nature reserve. The oil slick spreading from Belomorskaya (or White Sea) oil bulk plant, a coastal facility in the town of Kandalaksha in Murmansk Region, was



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threatening hundreds of protected wild species inhabiting the Kandalaksha National Park, only a kilometer and a half away. Speaking to Bellona shortly after the accident, Belomorskaya director Sergei Khmelyov said ground waters with decades-old oil products mixed in had come out onto the surface, elevated by a springtime flood that had inundated the area. He attributed the leak to a Soviet practice of allowing oil spills from loading racks to simply seep into the ground and get absorbed by the soil and ground waters. According to Khmelyov's statements last May, the loading racks at Belomorskaya had undergone complete renovation since 1995, and "no leaks [could] possibly happen [there] from the equipment or the pipelines." However, sources at the company told Bellona at the time that oil leaks happened regularly at the bulk plant – though they had never seen a spill as large as this most recent one – and oil pollution in the area adjacent to the storage depot was thought by Nina Lesikhina, an expert with Bellona-Murmansk, to be of a chronic nature, possibly "due to an inefficient effluent water purification system at the plant, leaky storage tanks, or the accumulation of oil products in the soil over the many years, which then start[ed] seeping out onto the surface, pushed by flood waters." The spill was being investigated by regional officials with the department for marine environmental safety supervision of Rosprirodnadzor, which is the Russian acronym for the Russian Federal Service for the Oversight of Natural Resources. After the initial cleanup operations were completed, the plant was instructed to implement a series of measures to remove the cause of the leak and make sure any possible spills were effectively prevented in the future. Belomorskaya, however, seems to defer fully eliminating the remaining risks until at least a few years ahead. Rosprirodnadzor's marine environmental safety officials paid a visit to Belomorskaya last November to take soil and water samples and check on the progress of spill prevention measures the bulk plant had been instructed to carry out. The samples were shipped off to a lab for analysis, and the results only became available after the new year. The inspection revealed that the cause of the oil spill last May had still not been fully eliminated. The heavy mix of subsoil water and oil spillage that had broken out into the sea with flood water last spring had been collecting underground throughout many years of operation of one of the loading racks that was not equipped with facilities protecting the soil underneath from leaking oil products. Furthermore, Belomorskaya has still not succeeded in localizing and containing the leakage precisely where it has collected – even though geologists' help has been enlisted to find the spot. A company called Eco Service was engaged in the cleanup efforts after the spill last May and continues to monitor the situation. Eco Service's head Alexander Glazov said Belomorskaya kept drilling wells throughout the year, but still has been unable to find the location of the leak – but, "God willing, one of the wells may finally produce a concrete result" and the main spot where oil products have collected will be found. "Then, one will be able to start pumping [oil] out at that spot – drill a well or dig a pit. I'd suggest a well, it's easier, plus the more we pump out, the less [oil] ends up in the water," Glazov said. "But anyway, this process must be kept under control, and come spring, we need to watch closely how the snow is melting there, if the oil products are being pushed from underground. In other words, monitoring, monitoring, and monitoring." With the precise location of the underground pool of collected spillage still unknown, the risk remains that the oil is still leaking out. After the accident last May, oil booms were installed to contain the spread of the leak, and special algae and bacteria capable of cleaning up the toxic pollutants found in oil products were planted in the area in August. These helped decontaminate the area until cold weather came and ice started forming on surfaces. The plantation was then removed before it was froze over. The oil booms were removed as well. Unless cold temperatures keep well into the spring, no barriers will be left in the area to prevent oil products leaking out again into sea. To use the algae technology to clean up the May spill – a method that has already demonstrated promising results – Belomorskaya went into contract with a company called Plantatsiya (Plantation), but it is yet to renew the contract to repeat the operation next spring. Plantatsiya is the only firm in Murmansk Region that can provide such a technology to help with the ecological remediation of areas affected by oil spills. "That the algae are effective can only be shown by the results of sample analysis. [That's] because the algae work with that invisible content of oil that is present in the water, or it absorbs the layer of the slick that rescue teams cannot pick up and remove using mechanical means," Plantatsiya's director Vladimir Bakharev told Bellona. Asked whether Plantatsiya will continue working with Belomorskaya, Bakharev said the firm had a preliminary agreement with the bulk plant to replant the area with algae next spring. "But it will all depend on their willingness and on the [availability of] financing. The principal thing is that we are raising the issue of protecting the Kandalaksha National Park. Because the island reserve of Olenii is just 1,500 meters off the leak spot, and the park's watershed is 700 meters away. Our task is to protect them." That oil pollution happens yearly in the area exactly during spring makes the task at hand all the more challenging: Springtime is the season when birds set up nests, and their populations become even more vulnerable to the toxic effects of an oil spill during this period. A repeat spill of the scope that happened last May could mean tragic consequences for the ecosystems of the White Sea. It would be wrong to claim that Belomorskaya has been sitting on its hands, allowing the ecological risks to fester until it is too late – the bulk plant spent over RUR 10 million (around \$325,000) on



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cleanup efforts. Eco Service's professionals were hired, special equipment rented, and chemicals bought for these purposes. Drilling specialists were also engaged to try and find the location of the leakage. Their services come at a cost, just like those rendered by Plantatsiya. However, the November inspection by environmental authorities showed Belomorskaya had failed to comply with two of the five on the list of instructions it had received from Rosprirodnadzor following last year's spill. It had also failed to carry out ecological remediation of the polluted soil. The bulk plant is not refusing to follow the orders, but it apparently does not expect to be fully compliant with Rosprirodnadzor's regulations within less than five years' time: This is exactly the time frame specified in the enterprise's own spill cleanup plan. Apart from the protracted implementation period, experts also believe the plan is quite costly. A magistrate court is currently deciding on the amount that Belomorskaya is to be fined for failing to carry out Rosprirodnadzor's instructions. But fines for violations of the environmental legislation are deplorably low in Russia, and hardly exceed just a few dozen thousand roubles. That is rarely more than chump change for an enterprise of Belomorskaya's size, which has already paid a fine of RUR 40,000. Last May, a number of ecological organizations in Murmansk Region signed an open letter urging Belomorskaya to be more open in its information policies. The statement also called on local parliamentaries to initiate adopting a federal law that would provide for more rigorous protection of Russia's seas from oil pollution. "We found out about the oil products leaking into the water of Kandalaksha Bay from local residents, while the company responsible for the leak was keeping silent," Bellona-Murmansk's Nina Lesikhina said. "We've contacted [Belomorskaya's director Khmelyov] suggesting a meeting to discuss the results of the oil spill cleanup measures and a visit to the place of the accident, but the company still keeps silent. Because the cause of the accident has still not been removed, it is likely to recur this spring, which means that again, red-listed species of marine birds will be under threat!" The risks of a repeat spill are compounded by the severe weather conditions prevalent in the far northern latitudes where the Kola Peninsula lies. This factor both contributes to the danger of oil spill accidents in general – such as during shipping – and hinders timely and efficient first-response measures if or when a spill has already occurred. Such operations are unlikely to ever become absolutely safe, and experts believe it to be imperative to arrange a reliable and well-organized system of oil spill prevention and cleanup measures so that these resources could, if necessary, be deployed efficiently and on time. Such a system must include satellite monitoring of polluted areas, a lab to carry out oil spill modeling, and an expansive network of specialized first-response services spread along the entire coastline of Kola Bay – services that would be supplied with all the necessary equipment and personnel. As experts point out, however, none of these will serve their purpose if the government's environmental policies and Russian legislation fail to effectively protect the country's water resources from oil pollution risks – a deficiency that is in urgent need of remedy. Until better safeguards are in place, experts and environmentalists say, the government would be best advised to introduce a moratorium on further oil and gas exploration in the Russian Arctic.

http://www.bellona.org/articles/articles_2012/white-sea-oilspill

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, FISKVILLE, JANUARY 30 2012. KEY MEN STILL NOT QUESTIONED OVER FISKVILLE CANCER CLAIMS



Recent CFA graduates in a training drill at Fiskville.

A CFA inquiry has not yet interviewed men at the centre of claims that dangerous chemicals caused cancer in workers based at its Fiskville training centre in the 1970s and '80s. Nearly two months after ailing former CFA chief Brian Potter made the shocking revelations, the investigation chairman has still not contacted him. Former Fiskville instructor Alan Bennett - who has the only copy of a report into the contents of drums at the centre - is also yet to be interviewed. Many of the potential victims of the scare who were contacted by the Herald Sun say they do not want to write submissions to the inquiry because they think it is a whitewash. "This inquiry is

due to report in March," said Mr Potter. "It has only just run newspaper ads for submissions from people who believe they may have been affected," he said. "I strongly urge everyone who has something to contribute to write to this inquiry and help shed light on the Fiskville situation." He said because written records for the period were not extensive, it was critical the investigation chairman, Robert Joy, talked to those who were there. Of 10 people the Herald Sun has contacted who are known to have information about the practices at the time, none have been approached. Mr Bennett said he phoned Mr Joy's office last week, mistakenly believing the inquiry had tried to contact him. He now has an appointment to meet Mr Joy next week. "It does surprise me the inquiry hasn't approached me," he said. Mr Joy said interviews with individuals would start within the next week and had been delayed because the inquiry was seeking legal advice to ensure interviewees' rights were



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upheld. He said the inquiry was operating independently of the CFA and would serve as a basis of facts if further investigation was needed.

Related Links [Smoke covers Fiskville's past](#)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/key-men-still-not-questioned/story-fn7x8me2-1226256633984>

AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, DARWIN, JANUARY 30 2012. MORE LEAKAGE FORCES CARGO SHIP BACK TO SEA >> 32 TONNES OF ETHYLENE MAY BE LEAKING

nigel adlam

Click-2-Listen [[Download this mp3 file](#)] [Gas Leak Ship Remains off Darwin](#)

MAP: [Darwin 0800](#)



Gas containers on the Eline damaged by heavy seas.

A ship carrying damaged inflammable gas containers has been ordered out of Darwin Harbour. Four of the 11 containers carrying eight tonnes of ethylene each are believed to have ruptured during a storm. One has emptied all its gas into the atmosphere and the other three are leaking. Ethylene is used to create LNG and the 100m-long Eline Enterprise was carrying the organic compound from Singapore to the ConocoPhillips gas plant at Wickham Point. The owners flew in specialists from Singapore over the weekend and they spent most of Sunday onboard assessing the damage. Another expert arrived yesterday.

Related Links

- [Gas-leak ship may be brought near shore](#)
- [Cargo ship leaks explosive gas off Darwin](#)
- [Leaking ship waiting for entry to harbour](#)
- [Gas leak safety fear for cargo ship near Darwin](#)
- [Gas leak ship ordered out of Darwin Harbour](#)

http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2012/01/30/286001_ntnews.html

USA, PA, CHARLESTOWN, JANUARY 30 2012. CHARLESTOWN WOOD STOVE FIRE CAUSED BY GASOLINE

Gasoline used to reignite a wood stove caused a flash fire that injured two and damaged a residence Saturday night. State police said firefighters from the East Whiteland Fire Department were called to a residence in the 1000 block of Yellow Springs Road at 9:45 p.m. on a fire report. The responders found the residence filled with smoke and a small smoldering fire in the first floor living room. Residents Ilene Shore, 57, and David Garr McCreight, 51, had extinguished most of the flames. Both suffered minor burns, but refused treatment, said state police. An investigation by state police and the Chester County Fire Marshal's Office ruled the cause accidental from vapors from the gasoline poured on glowing embers in the stove. Damage was estimated at \$ 1,000, said state police.

<http://dailylocal.com/articles/2012/01/29/news/doc4f256fc3f28a4329057009.txt>

ENGLAND, OXFORDSHIRE, CHIPPINGHURST, JANUARY 30 2012. CHIPPINGHURST CLOSED OFF AFTER CHEMICAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT

mark hughes and hannah furness

An exclusive hamlet, home to one of Britain's most high-profile bankers, was isolated behind a police cordon yesterday after a man tried to commit suicide by filling his house with noxious chemicals. The whole of Chippinghurst, a 400-acre hamlet in Oxfordshire whose residents include Sir Victor Blank, the former chairman of Lloyds TSB, was sealed off after a 23-year-old man attempted to kill himself with hydrogen sulphide. Families were warned not to leave their homes and all roads in and out of the hamlet were blocked. Police apparently feared that the chemicals could have made the entire area dangerous. It was understood that Sir Victor and his wife were away from their home, Chippinghurst Manor, when the incident happened shortly after 7am yesterday. The young man, who has not been named, is said to have inhaled the chemical and was understood to have been found by his father who called the police and paramedics. An ambulance hazardous area response team was also sent to the tiny Oxfordshire hamlet and the man was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. People living at properties



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in the hamlet, which is thought to have just half a dozen houses, last night refused to go into detail about what had happened. Residents at The Dower House and Chippinghurst Manor refused to comment on the "highly sensitive" incident adding only that it had been "very traumatic" having the police in the hamlet. A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said: "We were called to Chippinghurst, Oxfordshire, at 7.18am after reports that a man had tried to commit suicide using chemicals. "Officers along with the fire service are investigating and were present to protect life and property." It was understood that the 23 year-old, who lives with his father, had inhaled hydrogen sulphide, which is considered by scientists to be as toxic as hydrogen cyanide. It is believed to shut down the respiratory system and can lead to death. It has previously been used in suicides and was responsible for a string of deaths in Japan when hydrogen sulphide gas was made by mixing common detergent and bath salts.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/9048165/Chippinghurst-closed-off-after-chemical-suicide-attempt.html>

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, JANUARY 30 2012. BROWN ORDERED FIRING OF REGULATOR WHO TOOK HARD LINE ON OIL FIRMS

michael j. mishak



Oil company dollars are helping the signature-gathering campaign for Gov. Jerry Brown's ballot measure to raise taxes.

The dispute centered on a risky method of extraction. California's governor has sued oil companies throughout his career, but he now talks of tossing cumbersome regulations to revive the economy. Late last year, Gov. [Jerry Brown](#) pushed for a top state regulator to ease key requirements for companies seeking to tap California's oil. The official balked. Relaxing rules on underground injection, a risky method of oil extraction common in the state, would violate environmental laws, wrote Derek Chernow, then head of the Department of Conservation, in a memo obtained by The Times. The process, in which a rush of steam, water and chemicals flushes oil from old wells, had been linked to spills, eruptions and a Kern County worker's death. The federal government had asked the state to tighten its regulations, but the oil industry complained that the stringent rules were killing jobs. A week after Chernow

wrote his memo, Brown had him fired, along with a deputy, Elena Miller. The governor appointed replacements who agreed to stop subjecting every injection project to a top-to-bottom review before issuing a permit. Brown's decision to side with energy interests over his regulators reflects the economic and political pressures on the governor during his return engagement in Sacramento. The economy is still sluggish in the wake of a deep recession, and unemployment remains high. Although Brown has fought offshore drilling and sued oil companies throughout his career, making him a favorite of environmentalists, he now talks of tossing cumbersome regulations to revive the economy. The oil industry, in particular, employs tens of thousands of Californians, many of them in Kern County, where the jobless rate is 14.5%. The governor is also seeking support from corporate interests, which complain that California is over-regulated, for his proposed ballot initiative to raise taxes. This month, [Occidental Petroleum Corp.](#), the largest onshore crude producer in the continental U.S., gave \$250,000 to the signature-gathering effort. Administration officials said the eased permit rules were part of Brown's larger effort to streamline regulations and spur job creation. The ousted regulators, they said, had taken a "one-size-fits-all" approach to permitting in a state with vast geological differences, sitting on applications for months and being unresponsive to industry. "We have to balance good environmental protection and economic growth," said John Laird, Brown's secretary of natural resources. "The law allows discretion on how you best protect the environment and move the applications along.... Our goal is to make things run more efficiently." Chernow and Miller declined to comment. Underground injection is used to coax oil from depleted wells. Because California's oil fields have been heavily worked for decades, the method is responsible for most of the state's onshore production. But the procedure came under the scrutiny of Chernow and Miller, who were brought aboard under former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in the wake of a scandal in the oil and gas agency. Officials there had been trading in stocks of the oil companies they regulated, among other violations. Armed with an internal review that found lax monitoring of injection projects, Chernow and Miller in 2010 stripped field offices of their power to approve permits and strengthened oversight in Sacramento. Catherine Reheis-Boyd, president of the Western States Petroleum Assn., a lobbying group, said regulators began requesting so much information about every project — "an infinite do-loop" — that they effectively halted production for some operators. The fight intensified last June, when a [Chevron](#) worker died after being swallowed feet-first into a sinkhole of



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boiling fluids. Investigators for the oil and gas agency blamed the accident on steam injection. Miller issued emergency orders ceasing operations near the damaged well. In July, the federal [EPA](#) added its voice to concerns about underground injection in California. In an audit, it found that regulators were not adequately protecting potential drinking water and urged them to tighten extraction standards. Oil companies, which wanted to expand work in California after unrest in the Middle East and North Africa had hurt output, were furious over the tighter permit requirements. "We've been in business since the turn of the century, and then all of a sudden everything we do out there is not right," said Les Clark, executive vice president of the Independent Oil Producers Agency, a trade group. "It starts snowballing, and before too long you're not going to be in business because the regulations are too costly and too complicated to deal with." A handful of state and federal lawmakers from oil-rich Kern County agreed, lobbying Brown and administration officials to intervene. State Sen. Michael Rubio, a Democrat from East Bakersfield, said in an interview that the permitting process was "broken" and that regulators were taking a "one-sided" approach to underground injection. "In government, we have an obligation to have an open-door policy and have input from all sides," he said. Oil contractors began a letter-writing campaign, flooding the administration with complaints that the longer permit process was threatening their livelihoods. By October, Brown had asked that officials develop a permitting shortcut. According to Chernow's memo, the administration proposed allowing oil companies to begin drilling and injecting wells after submitting basic documents; they would be required to complete a full engineering review later and correct any problems after the fact. Chernow argued that the proposal violated state and federal rules requiring a complete review before injection can begin and warned that it could open the state up to lawsuits. Environmentalists, he said, "will argue, correctly, that the laws ... are intended to prevent damage before it occurs," he wrote. Administration officials said they ultimately abandoned that proposal but agreed to the industry's request that some projects be green-lighted without a full review. The officials have returned much of the permitting power to district offices, saying Miller's headquarters mandate caused a backlog and created an unnecessary burden for the agency. They said at least 77 well permits that were on hold as of Nov. 15 have since been approved. Reheis-Boyd of the Western States Petroleum Assn. praised the agency's new direction, saying it now has a "clear pathway for people to get permits and proceed with drilling in this state." "The communications lines are very open," she said. Brown boasted recently about the expedited permits. At a solar energy farm in a Sacramento suburb Jan. 13, he reaffirmed his commitment to all forms of energy development. "It's not easy," Brown said. "There are going to be screw-ups. There are going to be bankruptcies. There will be indictments and there will be deaths. But we're going to keep going."

<http://www.latimes.com/la-me-oil-20120129,0,2709193.story>

AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND, MT MORGAN, JANUARY 30 2012. HOMES EVACUATED AFTER TRUCK ROLLOVER >> SPILLS CARGO OF ACETYLENE GAS

Three houses and the Golden Nugget Hotel were evacuated at 9.55pm yesterday when a truck carrying gas cylinders overturned on Central St, Mt Morgan. Queensland Fire and Rescue Service spokeswoman said two gas cylinders from a Mining Equipment Maintenance truck came off the vehicle and rolled onto the road when it overturned about 9.40pm. LPG gas was also on board the truck, but no cylinders rolled onto the road, the spokeswoman said. QFRS set up an exclusion zone and remained at the scene until 1.49am today. The spokeswoman said she believed no injuries were sustained.

<http://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/story/2012/01/30/homes-evacuated-after-truck-rollover/>

USA, TN, CLEVELAND, JANUARY 30 2012. CHEMICAL FIRE REPORTED AT MUELLER

greg kaylor



Hazmat firefighters from Cleveland Fire Department battled a chemical fire at Mueller Co. Saturday.

Cleveland Fire Department rushed to the scene of a reported chemical fire at Mueller Co. Saturday afternoon. According to 911 dispatchers, the call came in at 2:38 p.m. Mueller is located just off Industrial Drive in southwest Cleveland. Dispatchers were notified the chemical involved was Toluene. Firefighters were able to vent the plant after opening a roof panel. Thick smoke covered the area after the fire was vented. Off-duty firefighters were paged to man CFD's Main Station while ladders and pumpers remained on the scene several hours Saturday. Dispatchers noted the fire was contained within approximately two hours. A decontamination site for the firefighters was set up at the incident scene. Toluene is



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a solvent and highly flammable. It is typically a colorless liquid, according to the CDC. Mueller is a fluid and water control valve manufacturer. Bradley County Emergency Medical Service paramedics were also dispatched to the scene to monitor firefighters' conditions. The chemical can be an irritant to the upper respiratory tract and eyes. Employees at the plant were evacuated while firefighters worked to contain the reported fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

http://www.clevelandbanner.com/view/full_story/17327803/article-Chemical-fire-reported-at-Mueller-?instance=latest_articles

USA, PA, SMTHFIELD, JANUARY 30 2012. JANUARY 30 2012. CAR HITS CHEMICAL STORAGE TANK IN SMITHFIELD



Marshalls Creek firefighters extinguish a car fire that erupted after a car was driven off of Route 209 South at the Route 447 intersection near East Stroudsburg on Saturday. The car struck a standing chemical tank filled with Bioxide, a chemical used to treat wastewater. The car fire eventually breached the tank spilling the chemical. The chemical is a mild skin, eye and lung irritant.

A car slammed into a roadside chemical storage tank Saturday afternoon in Smithfield Township. The crash, which occurred on Seven Bridges Road near the corner of Route 447 around 2 p.m., triggered a big response from emergency service personnel because the chemical in the storage tank, bioxide, is explosive and highly flammable. However, the chemical is only dangerous in powder form. It was in liquid form in the roadside storage tank, according to Joe Quaresimo, chief of Marshalls Creek Fire Company. The driver of the car, a woman, was taken to Pocono Medical Center with moderate injuries. The entire front end of the woman's car, a maroon Honda Crosstour, was scorched because the impact of the crash set it on fire. Guy Miller, director of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management, said the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection was being called to the scene of the accident and will lead the cleanup of the spilled chemical solution. Miller said that the DEP would probably pour neutralizer on the chemicals. Bioxide, an irritant, is used to reduce the smell of wastewater. The Smithfield Township Sewage Authority usually uses the chemicals at its treatment facility, according to a sewage official at the scene. The storage tank is located on a plot of land near the southbound lane of Seven Bridges Road, not far from the on-ramp to Interstate 80 West.

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120129/NEWS/201290328/-1/NEWS01>

CHINA, GUANGXI, LIUZHOU, JANUARY 30 2012. RIVER POLLUTION LEVEL SAFE BUT RISING

wang Qian & Huang Feifei

 **Watch the Video**

- [Dangerous Chemical Pollutes Drinking Water In China](#)
- [Emergency workers in southern China pouring sacks of neutralising powder into drains](#)



Officers with the Liuzhou brigade of the Armed Police Force in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region on Sunday pour poly aluminium chloride into pools before using it to dilute the cadmium in Longjiang River.

Cadmium pollution in the upper Longjiang River has entered the water conservation area in Liuzhou River, pushing the cadmium level close to the highest permitted level. It is not known when contamination levels will peak, but the water supply in Liuzhou will be safer for the next four days, Gan Jinglin, director of the Liuzhou environmental protection bureau, told Xinhua News Agency on Sunday. Gan said the local water supplier was able to purify water with a cadmium level of 0.01 milligram per liter, about twice the national safety standard. If the level increases, Liuzhou would have to use 35,000 tons of underground water reserves. Cadmium is

a highly toxic heavy metal used in batteries, electroplating and industrial paints. Exposure can lead to liver and kidney damage that can be fatal. As of Saturday, no cases of cadmium poisoning had been reported in Liuzhou. On Jan 15, alerted by the discovery of hundreds of dead fish in upper Longjiang River, Hechi environmental protection bureau tested the water and discovered cadmium levels higher than the permitted safety level. Hechi government immediately suspended all the seven factories in the area that use the heavy metal and on Jan 25 investigators targeted Guangxi Jinhe Mining Co as the primary suspect for illegally discharging cadmium. More than 60 percent of the cadmium content in Longjiang River in Hechi,



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previously reported as five times higher than the restricted level, has been diluted and absorbed, according to a statement released by the Hechi government. About 500 million cubic meters of water at the Honghua Hydropower Station on the Liujiang River is expected to substantially dilute the pollutants to within the restricted level downstream of the station. On Jan 18, Hechi government had reported the cadmium level at Luodong Hydropower Station on the river's lower reaches was 0.0247 milligrams per liter, three times higher than the maximum safety limit. The pollution was reported on the front page of the Liuzhou Daily on Jan 22, triggering public panic over water storage. But on Saturday Liuzhou government calmed most residents declaring the tap water safe and stating that 24 hours' notice would be given before water supply controls were introduced. Authorities warned local residents not to drink the water from the contaminated river and ordered dams to increase their water discharge to dilute the cadmium. They also dosed the river with thousands of tons of dissolved aluminum chloride and lime in an attempt to neutralize the contamination, while wells are being dug to provide alternative water sources. These measures seem to have calmed public fears. "I went to the supermarket this afternoon (Sunday) and it is full of bottled water. People are not so worried now," said Ken Fletcher, a 57-year-old British man who has lived in Liuzhou for 13 years. He is updating people in Liuzhou on developments through his blog. He claimed on the blog that the public was only informed about the pollution two weeks after it was first detected. Since Liujiang River flows into the Pearl River, people in Hong Kong and Macao are also worried about the safety of their water supply. Xu Zhencheng, deputy director of the South China Environmental Science Institute under the Ministry of Environmental Protection, told Xinhua that no contamination had been spotted in the downstream Qianjiang, Xunjiang and Xijiang rivers, a trunk of the Pearl River and the major water source for Guangdong province, Hong Kong and Macao. Ma Jun, director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, told China Daily the pollution was a warning for Hechi, one of the country's most important mineral producers, to strengthen supervision of the industry. "Lack of proper monitoring in developing mines will pose threats to local people's health and damage the environment," Ma said.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-01/30/content_14502146.htm

USA, OK, KINGFISHER CO, JANUARY 30 2012. OIL STORAGE TANK IN KINGFISHER EXPLODES AFTER BEING STRUCK BY BULLET

tiffany gibson



Firefighters extinguish a fire at an oil well site Sunday. Officials say someone intentionally shot at an oil holding tank in rural Kingfisher County, causing pressure to build up and the tank to explode.

Fire officials say someone intentionally shot at an oil well tank in rural [Kingfisher County](#) Sunday morning, causing it to explode and start a fire. Lonnie McDade, a dispatcher with the Kingfisher County sheriff's office, said firefighters from three departments responded about 10 a.m. to the fire, which was reported five miles west and two miles south of Kingfisher. An exact location has not been given. Kingfisher Fire Chief Randy Poindexter said someone used a rifle to shoot at a holding tank at the site. He said the bullet struck the tank and caused enough pressure for the top to explode. About 12 firefighters responded to the scene and were able to extinguish the fire with oil well foam before the blaze reached nearby

wheat crops. The fire damaged two of the three [Continental Operating Company](#) oil tanks at the site, causing \$20,000 in damage, Poindexter said. He said company officials worked with firefighters to help shut the well down so the fire could be put out. No evacuations were made and no injuries were reported. The Kingfisher County sheriff's office has opened an investigation into the incident since Poindexter said the fire does not appear to be accidental. No arrests have been made at this time.

<http://newsok.com/oil-storage-tank-in-kingfisher-explodes-after-being-struck-by-bullet/article/3644563>

USA, N.J, WEST MILFORD, JANUARY 30 2012. WEST MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD RENEWS REMEDIATION EFFORT

david m. zimmer

The local school board authorized the installation of three groundwater monitoring wells as well as subsequent sampling and follow-up reporting last week as part of an ongoing effort to remove toxic soils from the vicinity of its transportation depot. In 2002, soil sampling at the [West Milford](#) school district's bus depot confirmed the predicted presence on site of elevated levels



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of methyl tert-butyl ether, a volatile gasoline additive; benzene, a highly flammable carcinogen; and xylene, a colorless and toxic component of crude oil. According to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), these contaminants can infiltrate and essentially ruin groundwater supplies if allowed to migrate from contamination zones. As a result, the DEP has required the district to undergo a substantial remediation program, involving soil demarcation and removal. Skyline Environmental Group Excavating, which was contracted to install the monitoring wells and perform the associated studies at a cost of \$10,656, has been involved with the project for years. Its most significant participation came in 2007, when the company was tasked with removing 334 tons of contaminated soil as per an approximately \$25,000 contract. Still, with an estimated 2,000 more tons of contaminated soil in need of transportation to a state-certified contaminated soil receiving facility and the DEP monitoring the situation, district officials were well aware that more needed to be done when the funding became available, despite the lack of contamination – barring some plumbing-associated, elevated lead readings – present in well tests in other parts of the school district's main campus. Some of that funding became available in late 2011, when the board authorized Skyline to continue soil delineation efforts on site as part of the now 10-year remediation effort at a maximum cost of \$20,416.

http://www.northjersey.com/news/138306759_BOE_renews_its_remediation_efforts.html

USA, CA, SONOMA CO, JANUARY 30 2012. USE OF GASOLINE IN FIREPLACE SPARKS RURAL COTATI HOUSE FIRE

randi rossmann

Drivers near Cotati Sunday morning spotted flames coming from the chimney of a Highway 116 home and dialed 911, bringing multiple agencies to the residence. Rancho Adobe and Gold Ridge firefighters found smoke throughout the home and a chimney fire, said Rancho Adobe fire Battalion Chief Herb Wandel. Because of the cold temperatures, people living in the home had started a fire in the fireplace, which hadn't been used in a long time. "They wanted to get some heat. They used improper materials and gasoline to start the fire," said Wandel. They'd used pieces of garbage, including plastic, and then gasoline to help ignite the fire. The result was heavy smoke and flames shooting out the chimney, which was quite visible as the home stands on the corner of Highway 116 and Stony Point Road.

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20120129/ARTICLES/120129437/1036/business?Title=Use-of-gasoline-in-fireplace-sparks-rural-Cotati-house-fire>

USA, MA, NEW BEDFORD, JANUARY 30 2012. CITY HARBOR LED NATION IN NOVEMBER OIL SPILLS

steve urbon



Oil leaked from an open valve on the F/V Ilha do Corvo into the waters off of Leonards Wharf where the boat is tied up. Frank Corp. Environmental Services was in charge of the containment and clean up of the spill.

November 2011 was not a good month for oil spills in New Bedford Harbor: Of the seven untraceable spills that month nationwide, five were here, said marine safety technician 1st class Nathan Pierce. Pierce is in charge of a small Coast Guard marine safety detachment housed at Fort Rodman and deals not only with safety issues but with tracking down spills in the congested and quirky harbor. The number of spills has spiked in the past two years, and his office is making a special appeal to commercial and recreational boat operators to pick up the phone and call a national hotline immediately once they have realized that there's a problem. The layout of the

harbor and the great number of boats — 400 or better — make it a very likely place to have accidents, and a very difficult place to clean up after them. "It's not so much how much is spilled," said Pierce. "It's where that matters." Spills find their way around boats, around pilings, and quickly migrate to the Fairhaven side in clockwise direction. Worse, State Pier is a concrete slab on pilings and spills get beneath it, sloshing around beyond the reach of any method of cleaning, Pierce said. It is true that there are penalties involved in causing an oil spill, and fines might serve as a deterrent to reporting them, although "90 percent of the spills are under 50 gallons," said Pierce, meaning a relatively small fine for first offenders. Fines for a non-commercial spill source can rise to \$2,000 for a very large spill and a third offense. Commercial operators are looking at a \$250 fine for a small first offense up to \$10,000 for a large spill on the third offense. The full range of penalties are set out in Coast Guard regulations and are available online. For those who want to take the chance and evade responsibility for a spill,



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there is something to consider: Even though the number of spills has been increasing year-over-year, the Coast Guard has become a lot better at tracking spills than just a few years ago. In 2004, for example, 15 spills were reported in the harbor. All 15 went unsolved. They were "mystery" spills. But in 2010, there were 24 in total, and only nine were left as mysteries. The rest were either claimed by the party that spilled the oil, or traced by Pierce's crew using collection devices to sample the most likely sources of a spill. That is frequently a fishing boat, and owners of multiple boats naturally will have a higher risk of an accident. Having the Coast Guard conduct an investigation is referred to as "federalizing" the spill, and Pierce said that is expensive. "It takes a considerable amount of money from taxpayers to respond to these," he said. It is much preferred that a spill be reported immediately to make cleanup easier, and owned up to by the party that created the spill. "If they agree with us we just write them a ticket, they pay it and that's the end of it," said Pierce. If there is a dispute of the Coast Guard's conclusions, it goes to a magistrate's hearing, he said. Pierce implored boat operators to help with the problem by calling the Coast Guard's National Response Center at 800-424-8802.

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120130/NEWS/201300307/-1/NEWSMAP>

USA, TX, JEFFERSON CO, JANUARY 30 2012. BENZENE SUIT NAMES DUPONT, EIGHT OTHER COMPANIES AS DEFENDANTS

A Texas resident has filed suit against DuPont De Nemours and nine other companies, alleging the companies caused him to develop leukemia by exposing him to benzene. Norvel Dorsey claims he was exposed to benzene throughout his career as a pipefitter for Dupont from 1960 until 1965; at B.F. Shaw from 1960, 1966 until 1975, 1977, 1982 and 1985 until 1986; and at Foster Wheeler during 1958, 1968, 1976 and 1984. Because of this exposure, Dorsey developed chronic lymphocytic leukemia, according to the complaint filed Jan. 18 in Jefferson County District Court. In the complaint, the plaintiff names Chevron U.S.A., E.I. DuPont De Nemours and Co., Exxon Mobil Corp., ExxonMobil Oil Corp., Exxonmobil Texas, Foster Wheeler Energy Corp., Gulf Oil Corp., Texaco, U.S. Steel Corp. and 4520 Corp. as defendants. The plaintiff blames the defendants for causing his deteriorating health condition, alleging the premises companies negligently allowed him to work in what they knew to be an unsafe workplace. The employer defendants negligently enabled Dorsey to work around products containing benzene that they knew to be hazardous to his health while the product liability defendants utilized benzene in their products, the suit states. The original complaint states that because of his exposure to the products, Dorsey experienced great physical pain, suffering and mental anguish and incurred medical costs. In addition, he suffered physical impairments, was prevented in participating in his normal activities, sustained a permanent disability, will require medical monitoring to aid in the early detection of any other cancers and experienced a damage to his blood-forming organs. Dorsey is seeking compensatory damages, plus costs, interest at the legal rate and other relief the court deems just. He will be represented by Herschel L. Hobson and Tina H. Bradley of Hobson and Bradley in Beaumont. The case has been assigned to Judge Gary Sanderson, 60th District Court.

<http://www.setexasrecord.com/news/241331-benzene-suit-names-dupont-eight-other-companies-as-defendants>

USA, N.Y, OWEGO, JANUARY 30 2012. GASOLINE SPILL CAUSED BY FAILURE TO FOLLOW SAFETY MEASURES

Failure to follow safety measures led to a gasoline spill in the village Saturday night. The operator of Owego Easy Mart was attempting to change the filter on a gas pump when he failed to engage a safety valve, causing gasoline to spew onto the pavement, said Jeff Piazza, vice president of Francis Smith & Sons, a petroleum equipment distributor and service provider in Chinchilla, Pa. "It's not a difficult task, as long as you know what you're doing," Piazza said of changing a filter. The name of the Owego Easy Mart operator was not released. Several emergency services teams responded to the spill, including the Tioga county Hazardous Materials Response team, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Spill Response, Owego Police, Tioga County Sheriff's Office, State Police and the Owego Fire Department. Initial reports on Saturday said up to 700 gallons might have been released. The fuel spill was confined to two blocks, covering some ground and entering the storm sewer system. Quick action by the Owego Fire Department confined the spill to approximately two block of storm sewer along West Main Street, said John V. Scott, Tioga County fire coordinator. The DEC estimated that 50 to 100 gallons of gasoline reached the storm sewer system and a utility vault under the road, Scott said. "There was no indication Sunday morning that any of the spill reached the Susquehanna River," he said. About 20 homes in the area were evacuated following the 6:22 p.m. fuel spill. Residents were allowed to return to their properties a few hours later, Scott said. DEC Spill Response and Op-Tec Environmental Services will continue to work at the scene until the cleanup is complete, he said. An



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employee of Francis Smith & Sons was on the scene Sunday to check the valves on the fuel pumps at Owego Easy Mart, prior to the business reopening, Piazza said.

<http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20120129/NEWS01/201290349/Gasoline-spill-caused-by-failure-follow-safety-measures?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>

CHINA, FUJIAN PROVINCE, JANUARY 30 2012. 3 WORKERS DIE FROM GAS POISONING IN A CLOGGED TANK

Three workers were killed by poisonous gas as they were repairing a clogged chemical tank in a copper smelting plant in the coastal Fujian Province, Beijing Times reported today. The three victims were employees of the Zijin Copper Corporation, a subsidiary of the publicly listed Zijin Mining Group Co. Zijin said the accident occurred on Thursday afternoon when a chemical tank in the plant became clogged. One worker entered the tank to remove the blockage but suddenly passed out. His three co-workers tried to rescue him but also lost consciousness. The four were rushed to a hospital immediately but three of them were pronounced dead. One was out of danger after emergency treatment, the report said. Zijin Copper Corporation has suspended production in the plant while an investigation is under way, the company said.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/?id=493227&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=DTN+China%3A

MEXICO, MEXICO CITY, JANUARY 31 2012. MEXICO FINDS NEW DISTRIBUTION POINT FOR FUEL STOLEN FROM PIPELINES: GAS STATIONS

Mexican officials said Monday they have found a new distribution point for thousands of gallons of gasoline stolen from state-owned pipelines: a seemingly normal gas station with official logos. Thieves in Mexico had long been thought to unload stolen oil products on shadowy black markets. But it now appears the thefts have taken on a new sophistication, using a gas station that until 2010 had a concession from the state-owned Petroleos Mexicanos company, known as Pemex, to legally sell gas. A Pemex official who was not authorized to be quoted by name said Monday that it was the first time that stolen fuel has been detected being sold through a gas station. In the past, primitive illicit fueling stations with improvised tanks had been discovered in fields, vacant lots and industrial buildings, presumably to supply fuel to private fleets. But in a raid over the weekend in the northern city of Monterrey, the federal Attorney General's Office said it found about 12,690 gallons (48,000 liters) of stolen gasoline at the station, worth about \$77,000. The station came under suspicion because it had not had a legitimate delivery of gas in some time. Photos of the station showed that it had the normal green, red and white signs borne by all Pemex gas stations throughout Mexico. Pemex licenses the stations to be run by private concessionaires, who must buy fuel from the company. The Attorney General's Office said the Monterrey station's concession had been canceled in 2010. The company is taking the threat seriously enough that it is starting a nationwide, random audit of stations throughout the country, in part because the volume of oil products being stolen appears to be too large to move through primitive, improvised outlets. The company says it lost about 2.99 million barrels, or about 125 million gallons, of oil products in the first 11 months of 2011, the latest figures available. That represented about a full day's worth of total production for the company, and marked a 52-percent increase over the 1.96 million barrels stolen in the same period of 2010. According to a U.S. court case, Mexican gangs trafficked some stolen crude over the border to U.S. refineries, and in June 2011, Pemex filed a lawsuit against nine U.S. companies and two individuals for alleged involvement in buying or processing Mexican oil products stolen by gangs. Thieves have also sold unrefined fuels to bulk users such as brick kilns and factories, but the amount of gasoline being stolen would be inappropriate for such uses, or even private truck fleets. Pemex said the task force will use mobile labs to test stations' gasoline to detect whether it was illicitly mixed or transported. It will also review tax and commercial records to detect whether any station is selling more gas than it has ordered. But the 1,324 illegal taps and break-ins at Pemex pipelines discovered in 2011 are only part of the complex series of attacks on the company. A Mexican legislator said Monday that an oil spill in early January in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz was intentionally caused to create a pollution emergency, in order to generate income and contracts for clean-up work. Federal Congressman Antonio Benitez Lucho toured the Pemex plant where the spill originated and said a primitive cut had been made in a valve head, a hole knocked in a containment wall and a thick hose laid to the edge of the Coatzacoalcos river, which empties into the Gulf of Mexico. In early January, about 63,400 gallons (240,000 liters) of crude spilled from the valve plant, blackening the river's shores and threatening wildlife. "There was no doubt that it was deliberate," Benitez Lucho said. "I think they spilled the crude so that the companies that do clean-up and remediation work ... could get quick, fast-track contracts," he said. "They are million-dollar companies that charge huge



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amounts for clean-up and remediation, and I think that is the motive." The office of the Federal Attorney General for Environmental Protection said the case was still under investigation.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/americas/mexico-finds-new-distribution-point-for-fuel-stolen-from-pipelines-gas-stations/2012/01/30/gIQAysKncQ_story.html

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JANUARY 31 2012. NSW GOVERNMENT BACKFLIPS ON REGULAR UNLEADED BAN

 **Watch the Video's**

- [Petrol Ban Dumped](#)

The New South Wales government has backflipped on its decision to ban standard unleaded petrol following criticism that it would increase motorists' fuel bills. NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell last night confirmed the controversial plan – which was to be introduced from July 1, 2012 – would be axed. O'Farrell said he did not want to unnecessarily force up the price of petrol for motorists who were already struggling with cost-of-living pressures. Without standard unleaded (91RON), motorists would have been forced to choose between E10 (a petrol blend containing 10 per cent ethanol) and premium unleaded (95RON). There were concerns that more than 800,000 cars and motorcycles currently on the road would not be compatible with E10, forcing those drivers to spend between 10 and 15 cents per litre extra on the more expensive premium fuel. Last week it was revealed the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission wrote to the NSW government in 2011 warning the shift to E10 would force up petrol prices for motorists. The former Labor government approved the unleaded ban in 2009 in an attempt to ensure that at least six per cent of all fuel sold in the state contained ethanol. The enforcement date was delayed from July 2011 to 2012 because of last year's state election. Despite the backflip on the ban, O'Farrell says his government remains committed to meeting the six per cent mandate from July 2012.

<http://www.caradvice.com.au/156915/nsw-government-backflips-on-regular-unleaded-ban/>

USA, CO, DENVER, JANUARY 31 2012. COLORADO SUES BIG OIL CO

Colorado accused ConocoPhillips of profiting from its pollution of the state's oil and water while the taxpayers had to pay for the cleanup. "In other words, defendants profited from polluting Colorado soil and water, while the state paid \$70,662,558.87 to clean up defendant's contaminated sites," the state says bluntly in its complaint. Colorado claims ConocoPhillips, the nation's third-largest energy company, "agreed to immediately pay to the state any monies it received from third parties for the same costs paid by the state, 'including insurance proceeds,'" then lied about getting insurance money. Colorado created its Petroleum Storage Tank Fund in 1989 to cover cleanup costs and "protect the public health, safety, and welfare and to minimize environmental damage," from leaks from underground storage tanks, according to the complaint. Conoco Phillips received \$21.7 million in "direct reimbursement" from the fund to clean up 113 of its service stations, and another \$48.9 million in "subsequent-owner reimbursement" for "corrective action costs" at 241 more stations, the state says. The complaint states: "ConocoPhillips repeatedly represented to the state that it had not received and did not expect to receive compensation for the corrective action of UST contamination from any source, including 'lawsuits, settlement, [and] insurance.' "In its contracts with the state, ConocoPhillips agreed to immediately pay to the state any monies it received from third parties for the same costs paid by the state, 'including insurance proceeds.' "ConocoPhillips sued its insurers for the corrective action of environmental contamination, including corrective action of its UST leaks, and settled with its insurers for approximately \$286 million. "In violation of ConocoPhillips' contractual obligations to the State, ConocoPhillips never disclosed the terms of its insurance policies, never told the State that it had sued its insurers, never told the State it had settled with its insurers, and never repaid the State for the funds it was awarded by the Fund. ... "In other words, defendants profited from polluting Colorado soil and water, while the state paid \$70,662,558.87 to clean up defendant's contaminated sites." ConocoPhillips began leasing or selling many of its Colorado service stations in the 1980s to duck millions of dollars in upgrade and replacement costs, and avoid long-term liability for its underground tanks, the state says. In total, ConocoPhillips "made insurance claims for environmental liabilities totaling approximately \$2.4 billion," the state says, some of it for underground storage tanks, and "settled with its insurers for approximately \$286 million." Colorado wants its \$70.6 million back, plus costs and damages for breach of contract, nondisclosure and concealment, and unjust enrichment. It is represented by Michael Plachy with Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons.

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2012/01/30/43446.htm>



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