



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 813 Newsy Stuff

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

**February 21 2012**



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#### USA, WA, GOLDENDALE, FEBRUARY 12 2012 44-YEAR-OLD MAN KILLED IN FUEL TANKER CRASH ON STATE ROUTE 14 IN WASHINGTON

A 44-year-old man was killed Saturday morning after his tractor towing a fuel tanker struck debris on a Washington highway, rolled over and caught fire. The man, of The Dalles, was driving a Western Star tractor attached to a fuel tanker trailer, according to the [Washington State Patrol](#). Just before 3 a.m., as he was going west on State Route 14 near milepost 123, the tractor hit debris and went off the road to the south. The man's name was not released, pending notification of his next of kin. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

[http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2012/02/44-year-old\\_man\\_killed\\_in\\_fuel.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2012/02/44-year-old_man_killed_in_fuel.html)

#### USA, CT, MONROE, FEBRUARY 12 2012. STOLEN COPPER PIPING LEADS TO OIL LEAK ON BAGBURN HILL ROAD >> FIRE DEPARTMENT CREWS HAVE BEEN ON THE SCENE SINCE 3:30 P.M.

*bill bittar*

[Watch the Video Oil Leak on Bagburn Hill Road](#)

Fire Marshal Bill Davin said a man living at 317 Old Zoar Road had called firefighters at around 3:30 p.m. when he smelled oil. Firefighters determined that oil had seeped into a pond in the man's yard and were able to trace it back to a vacant house for sale at 90 Bagburn Hill Road. When someone stole copper pipes to the approximately 275 gallon oil tank, Davin said oil escaped through the basement's dirt floor, and got into a drain pipe and before being carried into a storm drain. "We still have not determined how much product had leaked," Davin said Thursday. A police officer directed traffic at about 5:30 p.m. as a State Department of Energy & Environmental Protection crew and a clean up company cleaned the pond and the basement floor. Monroe Fire Department Spokesman Kevin Catalano expected the DEEP to be on the scene into Friday morning. A Stevenson fire truck was parked on Bagburn Hill Road as firefighters, police officers and DEEP officials nearby assessed the extent of the oil leak.

<http://monroe.patch.com/articles/firefighters-respond-to-oil-leak-on-bagburn-hill-road>

#### USA, MS, JACKSON, FEBRUARY 12 2012. 3 ON YOUR SIDE INVESTIGATES: HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL TRANSPORTATION

*warren strain*

[Watch the Video Hazardous Chemical Transportation](#)

The amount of deadly chemicals moving through Mississippi on any given day is mind boggling. Thousands of big trucks and nearly every train carry some form of hazardous chemicals. Every day more than 800,000 trucks move hazardous materials across the nation and more than 80% of all trains carry dangerous substances. "There is a tremendous amount that goes through the state of Mississippi and Jackson, Mississippi everyday," said former Jackson/Hinds Emergency Operations Center Director Larry Fisher. There are about 1,000 different chemicals that are considered hazardous and can cause at least illness and at worst death. Last year in Mississippi more than 100 spills were reported to the U.S. Department of Transportation, an average of one about every third day. "Hazardous material is as simple as hair spray or perfume or fertilizer for farmers. That's hazardous material. It's gasoline or diesel that is transported up and down the highway everyday," Mississippi Department of Transportation Enforcement Director Wille Huff said. Fisher has responded to hundreds of chemical spills. "If one of those tank cars were to rupture, a five or six mile diameter around this area for immediate evacuation and of course, that immediate evacuation would still take some time," said Fisher. Placards are required on any shipment of hazardous items either by truck or rail. They make identifying the chemical on-board easier for emergency responders. Emergency responders carry a response guidebook that helps them to know how to deal with the material. Even if there is no spillage in a crash, often there is an issue off-loading the hazardous material. United States Environmental Services in Byram is one of a few companies in the country with the capability to transfer highly toxic chemicals. "It can really get bad when you have something that's a poison, a corrosive and flammable. There's products that have all three characteristics," said US Environmental Services COO George Malvaney. The use of hazardous materials to make everyday goods means the transportation of these dangerous chemicals through highly populated areas will not stop. However, increased regulations and safety precautions have greatly reduced the threat to public health and safety. Last year, there were nearly 15,000 hazardous spills in the United States with damages of more than \$110,000,000.

<http://www.wlbt.com/story/16903683/hazardous-chemical-transportation>



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#### **USA, ILL, PRINCETON, FEBRUARY 12 2012. TRAIN SCHEDULE >> NINE OF 26 OVERTURNED CARS CAUGHT FIRE, CONSUMING MUCH OF THE ETHANOL,**

*donna barker*

The aftermath of the Oct. 7, 2011, Tiskilwa train derailment continues with court hearings and site monitoring. On Friday, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency spokesperson Maggie Carson confirmed the IEPA's investigation into the Tiskilwa derailment continues to be an ongoing process. The Iowa Interstate Railroad is working under an interim consent order and continues to submit technical reports to the IEPA, which are being reviewed, Carson said. Bureau County State's Attorney Patrick Herrmann and a representative of Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office appeared in Bureau County Court last week for a status hearing on the lawsuit filed in November by Herrmann and Madigan, after the train derailment matter was referred to Madigan's office by the IEPA. Last week's status hearing before Circuit Judge Marc Bernabei was continued until 11 a.m. May 4 in Bureau County Court. The Oct. 7, 2011, train derailment happened at about 2:19 a.m. just east of Tiskilwa along the Bottom Road. The potential dangers from the derailment resulted in a recommended evacuation of the eastern portion of Tiskilwa, with an advisory evacuation of the remainder of the town. Numerous emergency personnel, including an estimated 50 fire departments and multiple ambulance units, responded to the scene. As reported earlier, the Iowa Interstate Railroad train consisted of 131 rail cars pulled by two locomotives. According to the November lawsuit, approximately 10 of the 26 derailed tank cars each contained 30,000 gallons of denatured ethanol. Nine of the overturned cars caught fire, which consumed much of the ethanol, but authorities believed an unknown quantity of ethanol seeped into the porous soil. When announcing the lawsuit, Madigan and Herrmann stated the lawsuit sought to protect the area and nearby residents from the damage caused by the fire and the release of thousands of gallons of ethanol. The complaint asked the court to require a complete cleanup and also asked the court to order Iowa Interstate Railroad to pay all costs associated with the cleanup.

<http://www.bcrnews.com/2012/02/10/train-schedule/a5azwha/>

#### **FRANCE, PARIS, FEBRUARY 12 2012. 3 FIRMS INTERESTED IN PETROPLUS FRANCE -UNION**

*marc parrad & karolin schaps*

Three companies have shown interest in buying the French Petit-Couronne refinery owned by troubled Swiss oil refiner Petroplus, including investor groups Gary Klesch and Goldsmith, a senior union representative told Reuters on Friday. A deadline to express interest in the refinery, put under judicial protection last month, is closing on Friday, and offers have to be submitted by March 15, he added. One unidentified company is also in talks to sign a "processing contract" by the end of next week to allow the refinery to process crude on the firm's behalf, the representative said. "Forty million euros (\$53.2 million) need to be found by the end of next week to pay the costs, the salaries and the work to restart the refinery," he said. It would take two to two and a half months before the refinery could be restarted, he added. Buyers have this week also shown an interest in snapping up Petroplus refineries in Germany and the UK. (\$1 = 0.7517 euros) (

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL5E8DA97C20120210>

#### **USA, MT, BILLINGS, FEBRUARY 12 2012. EPA MOVES TO PREVENT FUEL SPILLS ON FARMS**

*tom lutey*

At Nedens farms, the price of fuel is no small matter. The family business north of Hardin burns through more than 60,000 gallons of diesel a year. So, when the opportunity arises to save a few pennies a gallon, the Nedens pounce, usually by buying an entire fuel truck's worth of diesel at a time. "Obviously, if you buy a whole tanker load of fuel, it's going to be substantially lower," Brett Nedens said of the price. "I think I can save about 20 cents a gallon. Obviously if you can load it at the refinery, it costs a lot less." The savings add up for Nedens and other farmers, who save about \$20,000 a year buying bulk. But now they'll have to weigh that savings against the costs of complying with federal regulations. The Environmental Protection Agency is requiring farmers with 10,000 gallons of fuel storage or more to come up with engineer-certified fuel spill containment facilities. Smaller farms with storage below the 10,000 mark but more than 1,320 gallons have to complete a self-designed plan for containing fuel spills. Farm fuel spills have been only softly regulated by the EPA, but the agency is bringing more focus on spills out of concern for water quality and levying fines of more than a thousand dollars for major noncompliance. Agriculture groups are urging members to take compliance seriously, partly because many farms and ranchers were caught off guard last November when a compliance deadline arrived. The groups lobbied Congress and managed to get the deadline pushed back to May for EPA's Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures program. Another reset isn't likely. "Farmers and ranchers need to be diligent in ensuring they have properly developed a spill plan that complies



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with the regulations specified into law," said John Youngberg of Montana Farm Bureau Federation. Last fall farmers were scrambling to find engineers capable of designing farm-scale spill containment areas and weren't having much luck. Since then, the state's larger cooperatives that also deliver bulk fuel have been presenting classes on spill containment and bringing in from other states engineers who specialize in farm fuel spill control. The Natural Resources and Conservation Service also has begun offering Montana farmers help both with the costs of designing the plan and also construction costs, said Tim Ouellette of NRCS in Bozeman. NRCS is getting involved because it would like plans that not only address risks to rivers and streams, but also groundwater. The agency will post a list of program certified engineers on its website: [www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov). The application deadline for NRCS support is March 16. Ouellette said there's been some confusion about the SPCC compliance deadline. The deadline was only for farmers who got into the business after 2002. Everyone else should already be in compliance. Also, the rules apply to storage capacity, meaning a farmer with 10,000 or more gallons of storage for petroleum products has to comply regardless of how many gallons of fuel are actually stored. Though Montana producers seem to be just getting going on spill containment, their Dakota neighbors have been dealing with spill rules for awhile. The states were part of a pilot program that began several years ago. Because of that, there are containment systems on the market that have already passed muster with the EPA. Tim Ketcham of True North, a North Dakota-based steel company with a Billings shop, has several containment products. Ketcham markets double-lined tanks, and rubber-lined containment areas with steel walls to trap spills from conventional tanks. The costs start at roughly \$3,000 and increase to \$10,000 or more. The lined containment areas are more affordable, Ketcham said. He's had farmers inquire about buying just the liner and constructing their own retaining walls out of grain bin panels. That's risky because grain bin panels are not meant to be exposed to the ground, he said. True North recommends walls made from the galvanized steel used for culverts.

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/epa-moves-to-prevent-fuel-spills-on-farms/article\\_0325148a-cd86-57b8-9bff-c41fec1102bc.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/epa-moves-to-prevent-fuel-spills-on-farms/article_0325148a-cd86-57b8-9bff-c41fec1102bc.html)

### USA, CT, HAMDEN, FEBRUARY 12 2012. HAMDEN MAN CHARGED WITH HAVING A FIREWORKS FACTORY IN HIS HOME >> POLICE, FIRE, FBI AND CSP BOMB SQUAD RAID MATTES RD. HOME.

*kathleen ramunni*

Police on Wednesday arrested a Mattes Road man on charges he was operating a fireworks factory in his home. [Hamden Police](#) got a tip that Kenneth Lupoli, 49, of 7 Mattes Rd., was producing explosives and fireworks in the house, police spokesman Capt. Ronald Smith said. It was a relative that contacted police about the situation, Smith said. When officers searched the home, they found "evidence of illegal possession and manufacturing of explosives," Smith said. "They seized items that included a large amount of illegal fireworks, manufacturing/packaging materials, mortar tubes and various types of powders, which are used in explosives." The FBI and the Connecticut State Police Bomb Squad aided the Hamden Police and Fire departments in the raid, Smith said. Lupoli was charged with Illegal Manufacture of Explosives, Illegal Possession of Explosives, Illegal Possession of Fireworks, Reckless Endangerment and Risk of Injury to a Minor. He was released after posting a \$100,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court Feb. 23.

<http://hamden.patch.com/articles/hamden-man-charged-with-having-a-fireworks-factory-in-his-home#photo-9089477>

### USA, WA, AUBURN, FEBRUARY 12 2012. DUCKS, BIRDS COVERED IN OIL FROM SHEEN ON AUBURN POND

*gary chittim*

[Watch the Video Ducks, Birds Covered in Oil](#)



Investigators don't know if it was intentional or an accident, but the people who love a small pond in Auburn say either way, it's disgusting. A clearly visible oily sheen covers the pond in a shopping center on A Street Northeast. A dozen ducks appear to be stained by the oil and the owners of the pond, a coalition of nearby businesses, has hired a wildlife group to capture and treat the birds before they suffer serious health problems. Bev Holdren, who works nearby, spends her breaks at the pond. "Parents bring their children here. There's a retirement community over there and grandparents bring their grandchildren here to watch the ducks," said Holdren. She said Friday morning she noticed a sick crow struggling near the pond.

Now that bird is dead body rests near the fence around the pond. "It's really sad what transpired here the last couple days,"



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she said. State ecologists point out the pond is a storm retention pond that gets road runoff from around the area. But the sheen in the water is different. Samples show it is some kind of lubricating or mineral oil that is easy to recycle but can be deadly to birds and wildlife. Experts say birds ingest the oil while cleaning their feathers and can be poisoned. Environmental crews put pads in the pond to absorb the oil and the rescue group will attempt to capture the birds sometime this weekend.

<http://www.king5.com/video/yahoo-video/Ducks-birds-covered-in-oil-from-sheen-on-Auburn-pond-139134719.html>

### USA, MISSISSIPPI CANYON BLOCK 20, FEBRUARY 12 201. TAYLOR OIL SPILL: 7 YEARS, 1.1 MILLION GALLONS, STILL GOING

john amos

Today SkyTruth released our [Site 23051 Cumulative Spill Report](#) showing our estimation of the total cumulative amount of crude oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico at the site of [Taylor Energy's ongoing oil spill](#) that began in 2004. In this report, we conclude:

- Crude oil has been leaking continuously from this site for more than 7 years
- Estimated cumulative volume of crude oil spilled is between 251,677 and 1,174,492 gallons

[Read the full report](#) to see how we came up with these numbers. We created this report using [950 pollution reports](#) filed with the [National Response Center](#) (which we presume were filed by the polluter, [Taylor Energy](#)) covering 714 out of 2,662 days (just 27%) from the first report of oil at the site on September 17, 2004 through the end of 2011. We filled in the substantial gaps in this official public reporting record with [observations on satellite images](#), and then computed an Estimated Average Daily Slick Extent. From that we derived an Estimated Average Daily Flow Rate for each calendar year since the spill began. Multiply the daily flow rate by the number of days the site has been leaking, and you have an estimate of the cumulative volume of the spill. There are two key assumptions we used to compute the average daily flow rate:

#### Average oil thickness in observable slicks

Average rate of degradation of an oil slick, expressed in terms of a half-life. For average thickness, we used our tried and true standard of 1 micron (1 millionth of a meter); we also computed everything using 0.5 microns to reflect the possibility that this slick is thinner than most. For degradation half life, we assumed that one half of a given amount of a thin slick of oil on the surface of the ocean will degrade in 3-7 days. We believe this range is a very conservative assumption, because the longer the assumed lifetime of oil on the surface of the water, the lower the implied daily flow rate will be. Combining all our data on slick extent with the high and low values for each of the key assumptions, we get 4 values for estimated cumulative oil spilled

Half Life	Thickness	Estimate
(days)	(microns)	(gallons)
3	1.0	1,174,492
3	0.5	587,246
7	1.0	503,354
7	0.5	251,677

#### Background

[SkyTruth](#), the [Gulf Monitoring Consortium](#) and [others](#) have been actively monitoring this site for 21 months since May of 2010 (during what turned out to be the early days of the massive BP/Deepwater Horizon spill), when [we noticed on our satellite images another much smaller slick](#) about 11 miles off the tip of the Mississippi River Delta. Since then, we have analyzed [historic satellite imagery](#) back to the beginning of the spill, and we have waded through the spotty but extensive public record of official pollution reports filed with the [National Response Center](#). Site 23051 also featured prominently in the recent [Gulf Monitoring Consortium report](#), and earlier this month [Waterkeeper Alliance announced a lawsuit](#) against Taylor Energy over the ongoing spill.

#### Other Sources of Estimates

As far as we know, our report is the first comprehensive attempt to estimate the total amount of oil spilled at this site. However, the Coast Guard was recently [quoted in an AP news article](#) as saying "a total of 12,720 gallons of oil have been reported from daily observations since the spill started in 2004". We called the Coast Guard last week and asked them where that number came from, and they told us "Approximately 12,720 gallons have been reported from daily observations (over flights) as of 2/2/12." Today we followed up and the Coast Guard told us that this number is the total of all the reports filed with them by Taylor Energy who is conducting the regular overflights, but they could not say how many reports this represents. We



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asked them to investigate and get us a breakdown of exactly what they added up to get this number, especially what days are actually covered in that total, but as of this writing we do not have an answer. However, if their reporting record is as spotty as the public NRC record, then this number likely only captures a fraction of the true amount.

#### Parting Thought: Worst-Case Scenario?

The environmental and economic damage from this chronic spill may be relatively minor, although if you ask a biologist and tell her it's a 1.2 million gallon spill, you might get a different answer than if you tell her it's only a 12,000 gallon spill. But imagine that the same event that wiped out Taylor's platform just 11 miles off the coast, had instead happened at a deepwater platform 100 miles offshore.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/bi-skytruth-taylor-oil-spill-2012-02>

#### UK, PLYMOUTH, FEBRUARY 12 2012. 22-YEAR-OLD PLYMOUTH MAN'S HAND IS BLOWN UP BY FIREWORK

Police have issued a stark warning after a young man suffered serious injuries to his hand when a firework exploded. The 22-year-old is currently in Derriford Hospital where he is awaiting a full assessment of his injuries, which is understood to include the near loss of his thumb and one of his fingers. Police have confirmed that they received reports at around 4.41pm on Thursday of "youths throwing fireworks" in Trevithick Road, Kings Tamerton, close to the Marine Academy Plymouth. Police were told four males in their late teens were acting in an antisocial manner, shouting and hurling fireworks while children were still leaving the school. However, a few minutes later police were contacted by a lone rapid response paramedics who had been called to Kings Tamerton Road to treat a 22-year-old suffering severe injuries to his hand. The paramedic, from the South Western Ambulance Service, had called upon the assistance of police after being surrounded by a group of increasingly aggressive youths as he treated the injured man. When police arrived, the 22-year-old – who has not been officially identified by police but is understood to be Sonny Parsons from St Budeaux – claimed another group had thrown the firework into a group of his friends, resulting in the injury to his hand. The injured man was later taken to Derriford Hospital where he remains. Police say they are now keen to hear from anyone who may have seen either incident. Acting Insp Mark Maidment said: "We are linking both incidents and would appreciate any information witnesses may have. "This incident is a good reminder as to the dangers of inappropriately handling fireworks." If you were in the area of Kings Tamerton Road or Trevithick Road around 4.30 to 5pm on Thursday and witnessed people with fireworks, contact police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 quoting police log number 476 or 482 of 9/2/12.

<http://www.thisisplymouth.co.uk/22-year-old-Plymouth-man-s-hand-blown-firework/story-15198100-detail/story.html>

#### USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 12 2012. CAL-OSHA SAYS ALTERNATIVE FUEL BUSINESSES FAILED TO PROTECT WORKERS BEFORE BLAST

adam foxman

 [Watch the Video Employers Fined in Sylmar Alternative Energy Explosion](#)

 [Photo Gallery LAFD Images From Sylmar](#)

After two explosions at a Simi Valley alternative energy business, including one that killed the owner's son, the company failed to correct hazards or protect employees from known dangers, according to the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health. These violations were among findings that led the state agency this week to fine three related alternative energy businesses nearly \$541,000 in connection with an Aug. 9, 2011, explosion that ripped much of the roof off a Sylmar building. It was the third explosion associated with the companies in three years and it injured two people — the brother of the man killed in Simi Valley and an Oxnard man accused of defrauding investors with claims about an alternative fuel process. A third person suffered minor injuries. Cal-OSHA on Tuesday and Wednesday issued a total of 27 citations to Rainbow of Hope, Realm Catalyst Inc. and Strategic Sciences Inc. in connection with the Aug. 9 blast at 12349 Gladstone Ave. in Sylmar. The citations included six "willful serious" violations, meaning the employer knew about the hazards and made no reasonable attempt to eliminate them, Cal-OSHA reported. "There are laws protecting workers in the workplace for a reason, and what this investigation shows is that these employers didn't live up to those responsibilities," said Erika Monterroza, a spokeswoman for Cal-OSHA. Cal-OSHA investigators are currently conducting a criminal investigation in the case, Monterroza said. She said the results would be turned over to prosecutors. The citation reports from Cal-OSHA included findings that employers failed to correct hazardous conditions identified in prior explosions and did not ensure ignition sources were eliminated from the work area despite gas manufacturing and storage that "could reasonably be expected to give rise to explosive environments." The



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employers also failed to develop a written communication plan for the use of flammable gasses, failed to protect employees from explosion hazards, and stored oxygen and hydrogen together despite prior knowledge that the pressurized gasses were "incompatible," Cal-OSHA says. Timothy B. Larson, 42, of Realm Catalyst and William Stehl, 66, of Rainbow of Hope lost limbs and suffered serious burns after a pressurized vessel containing gas including hydrogen and oxygen exploded Aug. 9, Cal-OSHA reported. Larson and Stehl were preparing for a Strategic Sciences sales demonstration involving their "Tylar gas experimental fuel" when a cylinder of the flammable gas exploded in an unsafe work area, the agency reported. The blast was the third involving businesses owned by Timothy A. Larson, a lawyer with an office in Mission Hills. The attorney is the father of Timothy B. Larson, a Los Angeles city firefighter on long-term medical leave after he was hurt in the Sylmar blast; and Tyson Larson, 28, who was killed in June 2010 in one of the Simi Valley explosions. Timothy A. Larson could not be reached Friday for comment. All three explosions reportedly involved hydrogen. Witnesses told investigators that Realm Catalyst in Simi Valley was trying to make alternative fuel from water and Tyson Larson was operating equipment when the fatal explosion occurred. Tyson Larson and Stehl applied in 2009 to patent a process for making energy from water. The science in the application has drawn scepticism, but Cal-OSHA's investigation did not address the validity of the science. Stehl was accused of making false claims about the commercial viability of the alternative energy process. He has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of conspiracy to commit fraud and tax evasion. Stehl's federal trial was postponed due to the injuries he suffered Aug. 9, court records show.

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2012/feb/10/calosha-alternative-fuel-businesses-failed-to/>

#### USA, N.Y, LEROY, FEBRUARY 12 2012. BOWCOCK RELEASES LEROY RESULTS

ashley zilka

[Watch the Video LeRoy Results](#)



Environmental activists on Erin Brockovich's team says chemicals released in a 1970 train crash have not moved towards LeRoy High School. Bob Bowcock, who came to LeRoy two weeks ago to test groundwater wells, is leading the investigation for Brockovich's team. His results found no TCE; a chemical the EPA says affects the central nervous system. However, the tests may have revealed another environmental problem in LeRoy; groundwater contaminated with a hazardous chemical called MtBE. MtBE is a chemical exclusively manufactured by the petroleum industry. It was banned in the state of New York in 2004. The chemical was found in one of the three ground-water wells tested; the well closest to the school. "If we are able to determine that the MtBE in these private wells is

from natural gas fracking, I would hold the petroleum industry that continues to spill this chemical, that they know causes environmental damage, I think they should be on the hook for cleaning this up," said Bowcock. Although several youth basketball games in LeRoy have been canceled this weekend, Bowcock believes there is no danger to participating in sporting activities in LeRoy. He says the town is not contagious. "I do not think the whole town is impacted at all. I think if we discover this is an environmental cause, then it's going to be an isolated area. It just happens that the one area that's most been common to all the effected children is the school ground." Bowcock says at this point it's irresponsible to say that an environmental concern in LeRoy is not the problem. He says his investigation will continue well into the summer months, but as of right now, no information has been released on the natural gas wells. "I'm frustrated from the perspective of this shouldn't be taking this long to get this kind of information out, and when I ask a very specific question, I get a flood of information, but the question isn't really answered." Bowcock says his team will continue to run tests and pull information out of the school district and use all environmental resources. Both Bowcock and Brockovich hope to be back in LeRoy within the next two weeks. Bowcock's statement read as follows:

*"Preliminary test results indicate three private groundwater wells tested by Bob Bowcock, Environmental Investigator associated with Erin Brockovich, indicate the TCE plume migrating from the 1970 Lehigh Train Derailment has not moved toward the LeRoy Jr. & Sr. High School.*

"This is good news", said Bowcock, "it is one of the many areas we are investigating where we are able to reprioritize so we can focus our attention and resources on other environmental concerns". Bowcock has said many times his investigation is looking at a myriad of environmental concerns, including; the natural gas wells on the school grounds, fill material used at the



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school, the routine complaints of fumes or odors in the school vent system, the storm water system and sports field biological and chemical concerns. "When we arrived in LeRoy it was to conduct a very preliminary site assessment, a true investigation will take well into the summer months", said Bowcock. Unfortunately, later in the day as he was being shown around the community by a half a dozen of the parents of affected children, he happened upon the mess left behind at the derailment site by the contractor hired to remediate what amounts to the largest TCE spill in the system for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). "What we found was astonishing; approximately 100 barrels that had rusted away and leaked back into the environment left in an enclosure overgrown by weeds". "All aspects of the derailment spill cannot be ruled out as I remain concerned about the use of fill material from the site as well as the levels of TCE reported recently in the adjacent aggregate quarry by the New York State Health Department", Bowcock said. "If 5 ug/L TCE remain in an open water quarry, 41 years after the spill, the source must be magnitudes more significant than I would have originally thought". Sites like this will take over 500 years to clean up. "To bad this site seems to have been forgotten and/or somehow mismanaged; it will be hard to tell what ultimate environmental impacts could have been avoided", Bowcock said. "Erin and I are committed to investigating the environmental impacts on this community for as long as it takes to rule out all environmental concerns." The preliminary test results may have revealed another environmental problem in LeRoy...groundwater contaminated by methyl tertiary butyl ether or MtBE. MtBE is a suspected carcinogenic by the USEPA and manufacture exclusively by the petroleum industry. MtBE was banned in New York beginning Jan. 1, 2004. Under the legislation, the law prohibited gasoline containing MtBE as an additive from being imported, sold, dispensed or offered for sale in New York. MtBE is used in the cocktail of chemicals for hydro fracking natural gas wells in the LeRoy area. "I do not think this an environmental concern for the symptoms presented by the affected children, but I am concerned with the finding as MtBE moves faster in water than any other chemical in the fracking chemical soup, and could be the first indicator of things to come."

[http://rochesterhomepage.net/fulltext?nxd\\_id=299372](http://rochesterhomepage.net/fulltext?nxd_id=299372)

## AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, NEWCASTLE, FEBRUARY 12 2012. ORICA FACES LONG PR RECOVERY FROM CHEMICAL LEAK

brendan king

Maps: [Newcastle 2300](#)



*Orica's chemical plant in Newcastle has now re-opened.*

Orica finally reopened its ammonia plant in Newcastle this week, six months after a toxic chemical leak that became a PR disaster for the global chemicals giant. The company took far too long to notify local residents, the environment regulator and the Health Department said. Some residents in neighbouring Stockton were still unaware of what had happened five days after the leak. One of Orica's contractors has spoken to the ABC about what happened on the day of the leak on August 8 last year. Karl Hitchcock says he was in the eating area when he heard a loud noise and the room began to move. "It started to shake a little bit which doesn't normally happen. And then two other blokes they actually came in and said, 'Don't go outside boys because a couple of operators from Orica had just told us to go inside because

it's raining acid'," he said. The next day Mr Hitchcock went to work as usual and saw the extent of the spill. Some parts of the plant were covered in a green film he later found out was the toxic chemical hexavalent chromium. Mr Hitchcock lives in Stockton directly opposite Orica's Kooragang Island plant on the Hunter River. His boat, parked in his yard, showed signs of spotting from the leak the night before Mr Hitchcock's house was the first to be visited by representatives from Orica after the spill and he told them they should be alerting everyone, especially the local school. He says he is angry the company took so long to notify others. "I think they handled it very poorly actually. The communication is what really got me," he said. "I would have thought that if something like this affected the community they should have straight away come and informed everyone what was going on because people eat their vegetables out of their gardens. And this stuff would have went all over them."

### Call for Dialogue

Mr Hitchcock says Orica have otherwise been a good employer for himself and other local residents. "Orica's been over the road for a long time and Orica employs a lot of people," he said. But he says they should clean up their act. "In future they need to be more open with us and tell us what's going on. And I don't know what's happened in the past, but ... it's really worrying actually," he said. The August leak at Newcastle forced changes in environmental protection laws, which now require



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companies to notify authorities immediately after an incident that poses a risk to the environment. The new laws came into effect this week and companies that fail to notify can now face fines of up to \$2 million. Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) acting chief environmental regulator in New South Wales, Mark Gifford, says the changes to the legislation have beefed up the authority's powers. "As a result of the incident that occurred at the Kooragang Island plant in August last year and the subsequent investigation and review under taken by the Government, changes have been made to the legislation to increase penalties, in particular for failure to notify. That penalty has now doubled from \$1 million to \$2 million," he said. The new laws also mean hazardous companies now have to have in place community response plans so locals are also notified sooner. Orica chief executive Graeme Liebelt admits the company has a long way to go to restore public confidence. "There's no doubt that Orica is presently attracting more publicity than anybody else around these kinds of issues," he said. "I'm on the record of having apologised to those who are affected by the incident. I'm also on the record as saying that we are very determined to rebuild the trust of the community and others in our company, and no matter how long that takes we'll get it done."

### Related Links

- [Orica extends its on-site health program](#)
- [Orica taking no chances with re-start](#)
- [Orica set to restart Newcastle plant... again](#)
- [Residents wary of Orica's plans for the Upper Hunter](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-02-12/toxic-leak-becomes-pr-disaster/3824336>

### AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, KEWDALE, FEBRUARY 12 2012. TWO TRUCK CRASHES CLOSE ROADS

ronan o'connell



*Truck containing liquid explosives rolls north of Meekatharra.*

Great Northern Highway was closed for more than 15 hours after a road train transporting hazardous materials rolled near Meekatharra on Friday night. A police spokesman said the truck carrying 30 tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate had rolled about 11.10pm. An exclusion zone was set up around the crash site after Ammonium Nitrate began to leak from the truck. The road was reopened at 4.30pm on Saturday. Kewdale Road was closed for more than an hour this afternoon after two trucks collided spilling fuel. A police spokesman said the trucks collided in the southbound lanes of Kewdale Road near the intersection with Abernethy Road about 12.25pm.

One of the trucks was a fuel tanker and the collision caused it to begin to leak fuel on to the road. Police and FESA officers attended the scene and cleaned up the road before it was reopened about 1:50pm.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/wa/12880858/two-truck-crashes-close-roads/>

### USA. MI, LIVINGSTON, FEBRUARY 12 2012. STUDENTS MAKE REMOTE VEHICLES TO FIX OIL SPILLS

frank konkel

[Watch the Video](#) [Students Design & Build Underwater Remote Operated Vehicles](#)



Pretend you're a developer for a cash-strapped company that produces remote-operated underwater vehicles, and you've been given the task to build an efficient, affordable model capable of fixing a burst oil pipeline a few thousand feet below the ocean's [surface](#). You're in charge of everything: designing the least expensive fully functional vehicle possible, creating an itemized budget, building it and, finally, testing the product in a real-world situation. The above were the directions given by Pinckney New Tech High School teachers Joel Craig and Rich Lamb to their 65 GeoDesign students last month, having developed the project based on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010, also known as the BP PLC oil spill. Students answered the challenge, working together in groups of four over a four-week period, making use of a \$12,000 grant from the Square One Education Network that paid for

all materials associated with the construction and design of each group's remote-operated underwater vehicle. Students tested their fully operational vehicles at the Pinckney Community High School pool Thursday after a month of [work](#). "I've never done



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a project like this before; it's been challenging, but a lot of fun," said Wesley Sanders, who teamed with Joey Panessidi, Luke Hutchens and Joey Uppleger to build the Manta Ray vehicle. Sanders was the control man for his group's vehicle, operating it with a hand-held controller and watching its movement through a monitor attached to a video feed from the vehicle's on-board video camera. "This is the fun part," he said. Group members aided him by manning the vehicle's tether and communicating instructions. For test day, each group's remote-operated underwater vehicles had to complete four distinct challenges. The students knew about three of the challenges ahead of time: picking up a PVC pipe in the bottom of the pool, maneuvering through a mazelike box, and completing remote measurements of an underwater object and calculating its area in square. However, Craig and Lamb threw one more curveball on test day, simulating an actual oil spill in the bottom of the pool and requiring a vehicle to cap it by carefully inserting a piece of plastic pipeline that fit tightly into it. The caveat, though, was that controllers could not face the water when operating their underwater vehicles. Not being able to see the simulated spill, Craig said, would be a more accurate simulation of fixing a pipeline in real life. Instead, operators had to rely on their group to expertly guide them, requiring a total team effort. Sanders' team was the first to complete the final challenge, fitting the cap amid cheers from his teammates and several other students who watched. Their teacher was watching, too. "You just saved the Gulf!" Craig told the Manta Ray team. Lost in the visual buzz of all the cool machines simulating an oil-spill-and-capping operation was the work done by each group in the project. Each group, Lamb said, designed models on a computer program called Google SketchUp and based monetary calculations for its vehicles on itemized budgets. They even had to market their models with brochures and presentations. Students built their vehicles using PVC pipe to build a frame that attached to a motorized propeller. Each group came up with unique ways to handle underwater issues like reaching proper buoyancy, with some groups opting to add water bottles to their vehicles. In keeping with Pinckney New Tech High School's project-based curriculum implemented by the school district in 2010, the project incorporated every possible aspect required in GeoDesign, which teaches students geometry and design. Lamb teaches math and Craig teaches design, and neither was able to do projects of this magnitude before they started teaching New Tech High School classes two years ago. "It's been phenomenal to see the progress they've made and what they've been able to do," Lamb said, speaking of his students. "You give them a task, and these students can do anything." Each four-person group's remote-operated underwater vehicle was able to complete the required tasks, meaning that within one month, students were able to do something on a simulated small scale that took some of the world's best and brightest people billions of dollars and three months to do in the Gulf of Mexico two years ago. Plus, they had fun doing it. "It was definitely a challenge, and some parts were hard, but I think we enjoyed the project," said Terra Lomber, who built a vehicle named Macho Bacho with partners Megan Spry, Clare McKolay and Cassidy Silva. Each member was proud to be in the only all-female group. "It was a total team effort," McKolay said.

<http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20120212/NEWS01/20120323>

#### VENEZUELA, CARACAS, FEBRUARY 12 2012. OIL SPILL FOULS RIVER IN EASTERN VENEZUELA

**Watch the Video Oil Spill Blackened & Fouls River**

Crude oil that spilled from a ruptured pipeline has blackened a river in eastern Venezuela, and the state oil company said workers are containing the spill. Workers have removed a "good percentage of the crude" from the Guarapiche River in Monagas state, said Ramiro Ramirez, environmental director of state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA. Ramirez told the state-run Venezuelan News Agency on Friday that workers have been using absorbent barriers to block the crude in the river. He said they have also shut off water intakes along the river, where a drinking water purification plant is located. State oil company officials said a pipe that transports crude to a processing plant ruptured on Feb. 4. Ramirez didn't say how much crude has spilled. He said officials were investigating what caused the accident. Gov. Jose Gregorio Briceno said earlier in the week that the government had declared an emergency in Monagas state after the spill forced officials to halt normal water distribution to parts of the city of Maturin, the Venezuela television station Globovision reported. Briceno said classes have been canceled at schools in affected areas, and public offices have reduced hours due to the water supply problems.

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501715\\_162-57376014/oil-spill-fouls-river-in-eastern-venezuela/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501715_162-57376014/oil-spill-fouls-river-in-eastern-venezuela/)

#### NIGERIA, NSUKKA, FEBRUARY 13 2012. PETROL FIRE BURNS 3 CHILDDREN IN NSUKKA

Three children of the same parents narrowly escaped death on Saturday in Nsukka, Enugu State, as petrol mistaken for kerosene exploded into a fire. The children, born to Mr Richard Igweabunwa of No. 216, Enugu Road, are now receiving treatment at Nsukka Medical Clinic for burns resulting from the explosion. The explosion occurred around 7.48 p.m., an



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eyewitness said. The eyewitness who pleaded anonymity said on Sunday that the explosion occurred when a house help mistakenly poured petrol into a kerosene stove, resulting in the explosion. It was learnt that the neighbourhood was thrown into confusion as people ran in different directions, mistaking the explosion for a bomb blast. "The affected children are between five and 12 years. "Amarachi, the house help poured fuel into a kerosene stove with the three children around her. "The explosion made people to run in different directions trying to escape from the danger. "In fact, what we all had in our minds when we were running was that it was a bomb explosion," the witness added. "The parents of the children were at Ogige Main Market, Nsukka, when the incident occurred and it was neighbours that rushed them to hospital," the witness said. Efforts to see the children in hospital was disallowed by the hospital management, but an official said they were responding to treatment. The father of the children said that he was grateful to God and the neighbours for their effort in limiting the effect of the incident. "I would have lost five members of my family at once. I'm in pains given the degree of the burns they received and what they are going through now. "It could have been worse, if five of them were together when it happened but only three were seriously affected," Igweabunwa, who hails from Imo, added.

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/02/petrol-fire-burns-3-children-in-nsukka/>

### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, CAIRNS, FEBRUARY 13 2012. FITZROY ISLAND JETTY SET ON FIRE, BOAT EXPLODES THEN SINKS

tarina white



*Fire charges: The Fitzroy Island resort jetty, prior to Sunday morning's fire which police allege was deliberately lit.*

A fire at Fitzroy Island that started on the jetty and then caused a boat to explode and sink was "stupidity" that came dangerously close to causing major damage to the resort and the tourism industry, a tour operator says. Two Fitzroy Island resort guests are accused of dousing the wooden jetty with fuel and starting a fire that spread along the dock to a dive company boat. Fitzroy Island general manager Glen Macdonald praised resort staff who noticed the fire about 2.30am yesterday and rushed to put it out. "It's just annoying that people have a blatant disregard for people's property and possessions," Mr Macdonald said. "Potentially it could have been dangerous all round." The jetty was continuing to operate as normal, he said.

Fred Ariel, owner of Raging Thunder Adventures which transports guests to Fitzroy Island, said a fuel line ran under the jetty leading to a 20,000 litre fuel tank. "If that had caught fire it would have run along the line and to the fuel tank. It wouldn't have been pretty," he said. Mr Ariel said if the jetty had been destroyed, it would have impacted his business and the tourism industry, with about 150 staff and guests travelling to the island each day. "That would have put everything at a standstill," Mr Ariel said. "It's just stupidity and wanton vandalism and it should be dealt with accordingly." A 17-year-old boy and a 23-year-old man allegedly stole fuel from a nearby boat to start the fire at the jetty, a police spokesperson said. The flames spread along the jetty and engulfed the 3.5m dive tender, which exploded into a fireball before it sank. "The flames shot up 20m in the air," the police spokesperson said about the boat explosion. "It is believed the dive tender belonged to Cairns Dive Centre, but the company declined to comment on the incident yesterday. The fire also destroyed a storage container and charred a section of the jetty. The accused ran away from the fire but one of them later reported to resort staff and helped police with their investigation, Mr Macdonald said. He said it was the first time this sort of damage had occurred at the island, which is located 30km east of Cairns. Mr Ariel said the incident highlighted the fact that three water police patrolling between Cardwell and Cooktown is not sufficient. "There's just not enough water police in Cairns – it's just not physically possible to patrol that whole area," he said. The boy and the man have been charged with one count each of stealing and two counts of endangering property by fire. They are due to appear before the Cairns Magistrates' Court on February 28.

[http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2012/02/13/205225\\_local-news.html](http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2012/02/13/205225_local-news.html)

### USA, FLA, PORT EVERGLADES, FEBRUARY 13 2012. TANKER TRUCK HITS LIGHT POLE AT PORT EVERGLADES

 **Watch the Video** [Tanker crashes into pole in Port Everglades](#)

A driver of a gas tanker truck crashed into a light pole at [Port Everglades](#) on Sunday morning, BSO said. The driver apparently had a medical problem near the entrance of Checkpoint 2. He lost control of the truck and hit a light pole and transformer,



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BSO said. No gas was in the truck at the time, BSO said. The driver was taken to Broward General Medical Center. No information on his condition was available Sunday morning.

[http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/fl-tanker-truck-port-20120212\\_0\\_3921890.story](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/fl-tanker-truck-port-20120212_0_3921890.story)

#### NIGERIA, BAYELSA, IKEBERE, FEBRUARY 13 2012. NEW OIL SPILL FROM ENI SPA IN NIGERIA



Nigeria's Environmental Rights Action said today that there has been yet another oil spill in Nigeria's oil-rich southern delta. The environmental watch dog group says the spill is happening at a well head run by Italian oil firm Eni SpA in the Ikebiri community of Bayelsa. The spill occurred near a pipeline that had been struck by Niger Delta militants in renewed attacks last week. Eni SpA's fresh spill comes even as the Chevron corp. offshore rig, a short distance from the region, continues to blaze after an industrial accident on 16 January. Members in the community have complained that the

effects from the Chevron fire have done damage to the environment, sea life and sickened residents in the area. Chevron corp representatives in Nigeria, in an interview with Al Jazeera continued to deny the claims.

[http://www.channelstv.com/global/news\\_details.php?nid=31412&cat=Local](http://www.channelstv.com/global/news_details.php?nid=31412&cat=Local)

#### USA, MD, TALBOT CO, FEBRUARY 13 2012. OVERTURNED TANKER SHUTS RT. 50

becca newell

 [Watch the Video Overturned Fuel Truck](#)

 [Photo Gallery \[4\] Overturned Fuel Truck](#)



*This overturned fuel truck leaked nearly 4,000 gallons of fuel Saturday and caused traffic to be re-routed for eight hours around the U.S. Route 50 crash site between Airport Road and Hiners Lane in Easton.*

U.S. Route 50, from Hiners Lane to Airport Road, was closed for almost eight hours Saturday after a fuel tanker left the road while traveling east along Route 50, according to the Maryland State Police-Easton Barrack. Robert James Bellman, 39, of Baltimore was driving a 2005 Peterbilt truck tractor, with a 2006 Heil tanker trailer attached on eastbound Route 50, when he was cut off by another vehicle, police said. Bellman told police he moved onto the shoulder to avoid a collision with the vehicle, but the truck went into the soft grass and continued into the ditch. The

incident occurred around 7 a.m., police said. Bellman was taken to the Memorial Hospital at Easton, where he was treated and released, according to a hospital spokesman. The approximately 7,800 gallons of gasoline in the tanker caused the truck and trailer to fall onto its side, police said. The rig then hit a utility pole before coming to rest in an empty field on Route 50 near Airport Road. As a result of the crash, police said, close to 4,000 gallons of gasoline leaked onto the road and field. Firefighters from the Easton Volunteer Fire Department responded to the scene, extinguishing two separate fires that occurred in the cab of the tractor within 30 minutes of their arrival, said Chief Jamie McNeal. The fires were contained with a foam substance, he said, which also consumes the fuel's vapors. "We try to eliminate the product's exposure to any electrical hazards or ignition sources," he said. "That's a serious concern." In addition to the spill, a transformer was knocked loose when the rig hit the utility pole, McNeal said. Easton Utilities removed the transformer, he said, while maintaining power throughout the area. "It was just another hazard we had to take care of," he said. Due to the large amount of spilled fuel, there was a strong odor of gasoline that was easily detectable several hundred yards from the accident site. The Maryland Department of the Environment responded to contain the spill, siphoning the remaining 3,800 gallons of gasoline from the tanker into a holding tank, McNeal said. The spilled fuel will be cleared by a private contractor hired by MDE, he said. The contaminated dirt has to be removed and replaced with fresh dirt, which will take several days to complete. "The cost is going to be in the thousands," he said. "Any tanker spill like this is a very costly incident." Talbot County Special Operations set up a heated tent on site, which emergency officials used as a command post, McNeal said, adding that the climate-controlled tent is used during all large incidents. Additionally, the Ridgely Volunteer Fire Department brought the "canteen," he said, providing



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those on scene with refreshments. "It was a big help having that, obviously," he said. Other responding agencies included: Cordova Volunteer Firemen's Association, St. Michaels Fire Department, Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company, Talbot County Emergency Management, Talbot County EMS, Easton Police Department, Talbot County Sheriff's Office and State Highway Administration. "We had between 60 and 65 personnel on the scene," McNeal said. Earlier Saturday morning, state police responded to a separate accident on Route 50 between Easton and Trappe. Someone involved in the accident was reportedly taken to a Baltimore trauma center. No additional information was available at press time.

[http://www.stardem.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_0f02099a-5572-11e1-a2ac-001871e3ce6c.html](http://www.stardem.com/news/local_news/article_0f02099a-5572-11e1-a2ac-001871e3ce6c.html)

### USA, IA, BUSSEY, FEBRUARY 13 2012. TWIN CEDARS BUS BARN DESTROYED BY FIRE >> GAS SPEWED OUT OF GAS TANK & IGNITED



*Fire fighters work at the scene of this Twin Cedars Community Schools bus barn fire in Bussey Sunday afternoon.*

The quiet of a Sunday afternoon was broken by a fire alarm that rang out at the Twin Cedars Bus Barn. Don Haines, Assistant Fire Chief for Bussey, said that a school employee was working on a Twin Cedars school van and was removing the gas tank when, "He spewed gas out of it and it caused an ignition that caught the building on fire." A school car was also in the building, but was driven to a safe place along side the building after the fire had started. Haines said the employee managed to get out OK, "He was looked at in the ambulance and refused treatment." "The building is a total loss; everything in it's a total loss", was how

Haines described the damage. As of 4:30 pm, the fire department was doing some cleanup of the scene to prevent anything, such as fuel or other fluid, from escaping the scene. The school was moving the buses to the school grounds so they could be plugged in overnight because of the cold temperatures that are expected. Knoxville, Clay Township, Lovilla and Eddyville fire departments all assisted on the scene, while Marion County Sheriff's Department blocked traffic, for some time, along Highway 156 so that crews could extinguish the flames. The one problem that might possibly impact school for tomorrow is that the water main to the school was broken during the fire, so water is currently shut off to the school. Haines said a repair crew is going to be there soon to attempt the repair.

<http://oskynews.org/?p=40011>

### USA, OH, AMHERST, FEBRUARY 13 2012. 20 GALLONS OF GASOLINE LEAK INTO STORM SEWER

jason henry

Roughly 20 gallons of gasoline poured into a storm sewer last night and emptied into Beaver Creek after a spill from a Sunoco gas station on the corner of SR 58 and Cooper Foster Park Road. It is unknown exactly how the spill occurred, but a trucking company was filling the station's underground storage tank at the time, said Heidi Griesmer, an Ohio EPA spokeswoman. It is unclear if Sunoco or the trucking company is to blame. "They are doing a tank test to see if there were any leaks in the underground storage tank to figure out which is the responsible party," she said. A police officer noticed the spill just after 12 a.m. and contacted the Lorain County Emergency Management Agency which contacted the Ohio EPA, Griesmer said. An official from the Ohio EPA arrived at about 5 a.m. and the clean up operation completed at approximately 11 a.m., Griesmer said. "The spill is contained," she said. Chemtron Corporation of Avon Lake vacuumed the fuel from the creek. Crews also placed containment booms in the creek as a precaution. "We will be continuing to go out and monitor the creek for the next several days," Griesmer said. "We don't expect much of an impact for the creek." The Amherst Fire Department, Lorain Fire Department and Lorain County and the Lorain County EMA assisted with the operation.

<http://morningjournal.com/articles/2012/02/13/news/mj5732563.txt>

### USA, FLA, MARION CO, FEBRUARY 13 2012. EQUINE EXPERT KILLED AS HORSE SHOE SPARKS EXPLOSION HEARD 30 MILES AWAY

An equine expert, Erica Marshall, was killed when a horse she was treating in an oxygen chamber became spooked and kicked out, sparking a freak explosion which could be heard 30 miles away. Mrs Marshall, a 28-year-old newlywed, was monitoring a horse receiving oxygen therapy when the animal kicked through the wall of the pressurised hyperbaric chamber. Its steel horseshoe created a spark which caused a huge blast which threw debris 1,200ft and could be heard 30 miles away.



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

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Part of the roof and side of the chamber was ripped off in the explosion, killing the horse and Erica who was watching the horse via video link in a nearby room. Yesterday Erica's husband Kieran, of Corsham, Wilts., paid a heartfelt tribute to his "best friend" who died "doing what she loved". He said: "Erica was such a kind and generous woman. "She only cared about other people and wouldn't want all this fuss but that was Erica, she was selfless." Erica, who is originally from Medford in New Jersey, USA, met Kieran while studying equine science at Hartpury College near Gloucester and they married in November. They moved to Ocala in Florida in 2010 after she was offered her dream job at the Kentucky Equine Sports and Rehabilitation Centre. The incident happened on Friday as the former barmaid monitored the horse, from Virginia, with her colleague Sorcha Monely, 33, from Ireland. It is believed the horse kicked through the padding inside the chamber and its shoe sparked when it connected with out metal wall - igniting the oxygen. Erica had been running the chamber for two years had treated between two to six horses every day. The horse had not been tranquilised before using the chamber as it had been inside four times previously and not had any adverse reaction. Hyperbaric chambers are used to speed up recovery times in injured horses by exposing them to pressurised oxygen. Sorcha currently being treated for head injuries at Shands Hospital in Gainesvillein. Pete Rust, landlord of the Fountain Inn, in Gloucester, where Erica worked for around a year, said he was deeply saddened to hear of her death. He said: "She was perfect really, that just about sums her up. "She really was wonderful, and very well-liked by all. She met her husband Kieran while studying at Hartpury and they were the dream ticket, the world was their oyster. "I knew she was always looking to get back over to America and when she got the job it was fantastic." Friend Tim Errock, owner of Phoenix Fine Drinks in Gloucester, added: "She was lovely and vivacious, outgoing and a great laugh. "Kieran and Erica were the perfect couple, I've never seen two people more ideally suited and more in love. It is such a great shame." The chamber, which contain pressurised oxygen to help injured horses heal quicker, was built three years ago by New Phase Construction and went through five inspections. It is unclear when it was last inspected. Thirty other horses inside the Kentucky Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Centre were not hurt in the explosion. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration in Florida is now investigating the tragedy.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/9079168/Equine-expert-killed-as-horse-shoe-sparks-explosion-heard-30-miles-away.html>

### USA, TX, GONZALES CO, FEBRUARY 14 2012. HIGHWAY 97 REOPENS FOLLOWING PROPANE SPILL



*A zoom lens used from a safe distance captures the overturned trailer and the disabled tractor at the intersection of state Highway 97 and FM 108. Homes within a mile radius of the accident were evacuated as a precaution after propane began spilling at the accident site.*

State Highway 97 was reopened to traffic late Friday after a truck from Eagle Pass offloaded the propane from an overturned trailer and officials at the scene were able to right the trailer. Officials at the scene had decided earlier in the day that attempting to upright the trailer would be best pursued empty, so a truck was to have been dispatched four hours away. Emergency responders are still waiting at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Homes within a one-mile radius of the accident were evacuated Friday morning, and electrical service to many homes in the area of Highway 97 and

FM 108 near Cost was interrupted when the trailer overturned, spilling propane and threatening residents with dangerous fumes. Electricity was restored about 6 a.m. Saturday. Shortly after the accident, Gonzales County Sheriff's deputies were turning away traffic in a several-mile radius of the accident scene. Large signs announcing the closure now direct traffic around the site. Closest to Gonzales, the road is blocked at Highway 97 and FM 1116. Gonzales County Judge David Bird's office also sent out an electronic telephone announcement about the highway closing, recommending residents avoid the area. According to sources in the area, the tanker truck carrying propane was headed west on Highway 97 when it attempted to make an abrupt left turn south onto FM 108. It is reported that the driver did not slow down enough to make the turn, and ran wide of the road onto soft ground, causing the trailer to overturn. An electrical pole at the scene was damaged, downing wires dangerously close to the overturned trailer. Initially, gas escaped from the fill hose on the trailer, prompting reports that the tanker was leaking. It was later determined that no leak occurred, sources say. Nevertheless, officials at the scene were cautious and suspect of the tanker's structural integrity. The truck was then requested from Eagle Pass. There is no word regarding any injuries resulting from the accident, the spill or the evacuation.

[http://www.gonzalesinquirer.com/news/article\\_beb70220-5403-11e1-a7d5-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.gonzalesinquirer.com/news/article_beb70220-5403-11e1-a7d5-0019bb2963f4.html)



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#### **NIGERIA, LAGOS, FEBRUARY 14 2012. BONGA OIL SPILL: NOSDRA ASSESSES IMPACT ON AIBOM COASTLINE**



National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), has commenced assessment of the impact of the Dec. 20, 2011, Bonga oil spill on Akwa Ibom coastline and communities. The officials of the agency had already visited coastal communities in Ibeno area to verify claims made by their fishermen. NOSDRA's Zonal Director in the state, Mr Irvin Obot, confirmed the exercise and said that he was the leader of the investigating team. Obot said the team inspected sites and shoreline, which the fishermen claimed had been polluted by the spill, adding that the fishermen showed the team fishing nets and accessories allegedly destroyed by crude oil. Commenting on the development, Mr Inyang Ekong, Secretary of Artisan Fishermen Association of Nigeria in the state, expressed delight in

NOSDRA's determination to "get to the root of the spill and ascertain extent of its impact on the shoreline." He commended the agency for what he described as its "transparency in the management of oil spill incidents." Ekong urged the agency to sustain its efforts and to prevail on Shell to compensate fishermen who were since the spill incident, advised to withdraw from the river to avoid catching contaminated fish. "We complied with that directive but regrettably, nothing has been done to compensate us for loss of income we would have made for the period we were asked to stay away from the waters," he said. It would be recalled that NOSDRA and Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) held divergent views on the spill incident which occurred at Shell's deep sea oil field. Shell Nigeria Production and Exploration Company (SNEPCO), operator of the Bonga field, located about 120 kilometres off the coastline had reported that about 40,000 barrels of crude leaked into the Atlantic Ocean in the incident. A statement by the company had claimed that the spill had been cleaned up and that oil production at the Bonga platform had resumed in January.

[http://leadership.ng/nga/articles/16137/2012/02/12/bonga\\_oil\\_spill\\_nosdra\\_assesses\\_impact\\_aibom\\_coastline.html](http://leadership.ng/nga/articles/16137/2012/02/12/bonga_oil_spill_nosdra_assesses_impact_aibom_coastline.html)

#### **USA, CA, MONTEREY, FEBRUARY 14 2012. CHEMICAL MIX LEADS TO MONTEREY HOTEL EVACUATION: 30 WORKERS SENT TO HOSPITAL FOR EVALUATION**



*Monterey firefighter talks with staff and guests.*

A mismatched mixture of cleaning chemicals released toxic chlorine gas in the basement of the Portola Hotel & Spa in downtown Monterey early Monday, sending 30 employees to area hospitals and causing the evacuation of 210 guests as well as other hotel and city employees. Workers were mixing chemicals in the basement laundry area about 9 a.m. when the combination generated a cloud of chlorine gas, general manager Janine Chicourrat said. "We evacuated the hotel as a precaution," she said. "Just to be safe." A team of workers went door to door to all the rooms, she said, and to each department to tell managers to have their employees leave. "I went into the kitchen, where chefs were preparing meals for 400 people," Chicourrat said, "and told them to leave it; it's time to go." Hotel guest Lauren Hobson of Los Gatos, huddled under a hotel blanket outside the entrance, said she learned of the emergency when an alarm went off and "a person on a speaker started saying we

had to evacuate. He didn't say why." She and others took shelter beneath the entrance overhang from rain showers, awaiting word to go back in and retrieve luggage. Firefighters, county Health Department officials and the county hazardous-materials response team combed the hotel for signs of remaining gas. Hobson said she had come for the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am Golf Tournament and planned to leave Monday. Nancy Williams, sales manager at the Monterey Conference Center, said, "The evacuation went very well, very professionally." She was among about a half-dozen city employees who evacuated the conference center during the incident. Jack's restaurant hostess Laura Coskey said she saw 40 to 50 guests waiting to check out when the alarm came, and she directed breakfast diners at Jack's to the exit facing Custom House Plaza. They left very quietly out the back exit doors," she said. The hotel's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system was shut off, city spokeswoman Ann McGrath said. Initially five workers in the basement went to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula after complaining of respiratory problems. As the day wore on, others exposed to the gas were sent there and to other hospitals for evaluation, she said. In all, 14 patients went to Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, five to Natividad Medical Center in Salinas, and 11 to Community Hospital, said Bruce Welden, supervisor with the county Health Department's hazardous-



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waste response team. Hospital officials said no one was admitted for treatment after being examined and kept for several hours to evaluate symptoms. Welden and another hazardous-waste technician donned protective masks and checked for chlorine gas in other parts of the hotel, Welden said. They found none. Release of the gas occurred, he said, when common household bleach was accidentally mixed with a cleaning chemical - flourosilicic acid - with the brand name Tri Star Sour Seven. Mixing other chemicals - notably ammonia - with bleach, also will release chlorine gas, Welden said, which immediately causes irritation of the nose, throat and lungs. Monterey Fire Chief Andrew Miller said his department routinely responds to such incidents in homes and businesses. "You should never mix chemicals with bleach," he said. The first fire engine was dispatched at 9:18 a.m. to investigate an odor report, Miller said. When those firefighters found what they were dealing with, other units were called in. Three engines, a ladder truck and 11 ambulances came to the hotel along with assistance from Monterey Peninsula Airport District firefighters for a total of 46 police, fire and medical responders. Miller praised the professionalism of the hotel staff in handling the evacuation, which Chicourrat attributed to monthly training drills held for the hotel's 350 employees. She also noted that many guests had already checked out or had left the hotel that morning to go shopping or dining. By late afternoon, guests were allowed to return to their rooms and retrieve luggage, Chicourrat said. The hotel assisted them with missed flights and offered alternative accommodations to those displaced by the evacuation.

[http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci\\_19957041](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_19957041)

#### USA, CO, AURORA, FEBRUARY 14 2012. HAZMAT SQUAD FINDS CHEMICALS, BODY IN VEHICLE >> AURORA CREW RESPONDS TO SUICIDE BY CHEMICALS

[Watch the Video Aurora Crew Responds to Suicide by Chemical](#)

Emergency crews shut down a stretch of Cornell Avenue east of Peoria Street, and ordered people in two nearby businesses, one of them a daycare center, to stay inside while they dealt with a hazardous chemical situation involving a body. A maintenance employee at an apartment complex on Cornell Avenue told 7NEWS that he noticed a car parked in an adjacent lot and thought it might be abandoned. "I walked up to it and noticed a woman slumped over inside," the man said. "The doors were locked." He said there were notes posted on the driver side door window stating that chemicals were in use and to call 911. So he did. Aurora Fire officials say the young woman in the car apparently used hydrogen sulfide to take her own life. They immediately cordoned off the area and sent in a hazmat crew to remove the chemicals, the body and the car. There were no evacuations because the chemical was contained inside the vehicle, according to Capt. Allen Robnett with Aurora Fire. "We defended the daycare center in place," Robnett said, "which means we ask them to stay inside until the operation is complete and it's completely safe there." The man who found the woman inside the car said there was a chemical smell lingering outside the vehicle. He said, "I backed away from the car and called 911." That man was taken to a nearby hospital to be checked out. "I'm OK," he said. Fire officials said they received a call about another car with notes warning about chemicals in use. "That car was at Florida and Fulton," Robnett said. "There was no one in that car. We believe it was the same woman who posted those notes."

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/30447004/detail.html>

#### USA, OH, YOUNGSTOWN, FEBRUARY 14 2012. TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS - PORTION OF INTERSTATE 680 CLOSED

Interstate 680 southbound at the 7-11 ramp are closed after a tanker truck flipped on its side shortly before 2:00 p.m. Tuesday afternoon. Interstate 680 is closed southbound at Meridian Road and northbound at 422. The detour route is Meridian Road to Interstate 80. According to our print partner, The Vindicator, the driver was extracted from the truck and has been taken to an area hospital. The hazardous materials unit is en route to the scene, as well as a crew from the Youngstown Air Reserve base, which has sprayed foam from a ground unit on the spilled fuel. Residents on Division Street are also being evacuated as a precautionary measure due to a house fire in close proximity to the fuel spill. Youngstown Fire Chief John O'Neill is asking all residents in the areas of Salt Springs Road, Waverley and Division Streets to monitor their homes for the smell of gasoline. Due to the spill on 711, windows should be opened and any sources of ignition (pilot lights for water heater, etc) should be turned off. It is suggest that you evacuate the area. Per Chief O'Neill, the Youngstown fire department is opening hydrants to flush fuel out of the sewer system.

<http://www.wfmj.com/story/16933573/tanker-truck-overturms-portion-of-680-closed>



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