



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 806 Newsy Stuff

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USA, OH, WELLINGTON, JANUARY 24 2012. DANGER UNDERGROUND? WELLINGTON SPILL BRINGS PIPELINE SAFETY INTO QUESTION

evan goodenow

 **Watch the Video** [Sunoco crews continue clean up work at gas spill site in Wellington on Jan. 21.](#)



The 70 people evacuated in the Jan. 12 Sunoco Logistics gasoline pipeline spill in Wellington are home, but questions linger about the safety of pipelines in the wake of the spill. The spill, which Sunoco officials said leaked 116,700 gallons but didn't cause major contamination of the Black River, is one of more than 30 pipeline spills of more than 42,000 gallons of liquids in the last two years, according to Anthony Swift, an analyst with the environmentalist Natural Resources Defense Council. They include about 1 million gallons of crude oil spilled in the Kalamazoo River in southwest Michigan by Enbridge Energy in July of 2010 and the 63,000-gallon spill by Exxon Mobil in July in the Yellowstone River in Montana. "There's just been a steady drumbeat of these incidents, which is beginning to raise awareness of some of the real weaknesses of both our pipeline system and our general pipeline regulations," Swift said. There are 125 inspectors from the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration for the nation's 2.5 million miles of pipelines which include 71,224 miles in Ohio, according to the administration website. The majority of pipelines carry natural gas rather than hazardous liquids. About

400,000 carry liquids including 3,371 in Ohio. While federal inspectors are assisted by state inspectors, Swift said frequent spills in recent years are due to a lack of inspectors and a lack of will by the pipeline administration to strictly regulate the oil and natural gas industry. The Wellington spill, which remains under investigation, occurred in a populated area, but Swift said that because many pipelines are in more sparsely populated areas, regulation is often reactive rather than proactive. Swift said companies responsible for the spill are often responsible for cleaning them up or paying contractors to clean them up, creating potential conflicts of interest. "It's becoming common for PHMSA to act more as fireman than preventative doctor," he said. "Our regulators themselves need to be independent and have enforcement mechanisms that have real teeth." Pipeline administration spokesman Damon Hill refused to comment on the record about criticism of the administration. However, Peter Lidiak, pipeline director for the American Petroleum Industry, an industry lobbying group, defended the pipeline administration, noting that a new law will allow it to hire 10 more inspectors. Despite the spills in the last two years, Lidiak said spills are down by about 60 percent in the last decade and the volume of liquids leaked by 40 percent. "We're never satisfied with any release really, but PHMSA is a strong regulator," he said. "They're out there keeping the industry honest." Pipeline inspections are required every five years, which critics say is too long, particularly for older pipelines like the 8-inch one in Wellington that was built in 1952 and was last inspected in 2007. About 15 percent of pipelines were built in the 1950s with about 45 percent built in the 1960s and 1970s, Lidiak said. Lidiak said pipelines are electronically charged to prevent rust. Older pipes are coated with cold tar and newer ones with a fusion-based epoxy. Lidiak said he couldn't comment on how Sunoco ranks in terms of spills. However, the \$1.6 million fine Exxon received for the Yellowstone spill is about the same amount Sunoco received in recommended pipeline administration fines for the last four years. Sunoco was issued a "corrective action" order after the Wellington spill and is required to come up with a "remedial work plan" within 90 days. With the possibility of the massive Keystone XL pipeline being built from Canada to Mexico Lidiak said it's important for people to know pipelines are relatively safe. "They need to be respected. They don't need to be feared," he said. "Like any other piece of technology there's the chance for something to happen, but for the most part they are very reliable."

<http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2012/01/23/danger-underground-wellington-spill-brings-pipeline-safety-into-question/>

USA, WYO, PAVILLION, JANUARY 24 2012. WHAT EPA REALLY SAID ABOUT WYO. FRACKING POLLUTION

mike soraghan,

When U.S. EPA issued a report last month on groundwater contamination in Pavillion, Wyo., many saw it as proof that hydraulic fracturing had contaminated drinking water. It wasn't. Fracturing contaminated groundwater, EPA said. Not drinking water. The distinction is important. People in the small central Wyoming town don't drink from the aquifer, 800 feet down. They drink from water wells, which are generally much shallower. Finding fracturing chemicals in any groundwater does puncture a



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big industry talking point -- that fracturing has been used safely for 60 years and has never, ever contaminated groundwater. But fracturing done in Pavillion was much closer to the surface -- and groundwater -- than the mile-deep "fracking" in shale formations like Pennsylvania's Marcellus. The groundwater versus drinking water distinction has been lost in the finger-pointing between environmentalists and industry. So have some other key facts. Among them:

- Oil and gas production activities -- drilling, not "fracking" -- did contaminate wells as shallow as 15 feet with high concentrations of benzene, xylenes and other nasty stuff, according to EPA's study. But those concentrations still have not been found in drinking water.
- "Material Safety Data Sheets" that the local driller, EnCana Corp., provided were not sufficient to determine what chemicals were in the fracturing fluid used, according to EnCana.
- None of the wells, save two, were sealed with concrete all the way below the drinking water zone. Some of those wells were drilled as recently as 2007.

The [report](#) is a draft, and its findings are going to be subjected to peer review. EnCana has disputed most of EPA's findings and disparaged the agency's methods. Wyoming's state oil and gas supervisor, Tom Doll, even suggested that EPA could have contaminated the deep aquifer itself when it drilled deep monitoring wells. But EPA is standing behind the report. Administrator Lisa Jackson last week sent a [letter](#) affirming her support but also explaining some nuances of the study. EPA's findings will be tested in the political arena. The House Science Committee is planning a Feb. 1 hearing on the Pavillion report. Republican committee leaders chose a title -- "Fractured Science" -- that leaves little doubt the report will be attacked. But if EPA's findings are accurate, they point to some very basic problems in Pavillion. Oil and gas operators dumped their waste into unlined pits, which was legal at the time. They also did not seal their wells off from drinking water by encasing them in concrete all the way through the drinking water zone, a basic drilling practice laid out in the American Petroleum Institute's [standards](#). "At least in retrospect, it appears they didn't have the wells sealed enough to make sure that fluid couldn't move up the wellbore," said Dave Yoxheimer, a hydrogeologist at Penn State University's Marcellus Initiative for Outreach and Research. EnCana spokesman Doug Hock said that the wells in question are located far from drinking water wells and there is no indication they have leaked. He also said, "The contamination associated with these pits is isolated and there is no evidence of impacts to drinking water." Material Safety Data Sheets, or MSDS, have been the industry's preferred method of public disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals. Oil and gas companies have long argued that the sheets amount to full disclosure. Texas' new public disclosure law requires disclosure only of chemicals from MSDS sheets. But the sheets, which are posted at work sites as instructions for what to do in the event of accidental contact with chemicals, are designed for worker safety rather than long-term water quality monitoring. In this case, an established operator is saying that its own MSDS sheets are not reliable. As part of the study, EPA got the MSDS from EnCana and compared them to the chemicals it found in the Wind River Aquifer below Pavillion. "Tert-butyl alcohol, was detected ... a known breakdown product of ... tert-butyl hydroperoxide (a gel breaker used in hydraulic fracturing)," EPA says on page 35 of its report. But EnCana says EPA should not use MSDS to link fracturing to contamination in the aquifer. "Peroxide breaker was never used in the field yet we did record it in the MSDSs because it is possibly used in hydraulic fracturing," EnCana officials state in [written materials](#) prepared for a technical briefing for reporters. "Yet they chose to make that claim despite knowing that peroxide breaker was not used." EnCana says EPA never requested more detailed information about what chemicals were used in which specific areas. "However," Hock said, "we are planning to provide this information as part of our rebuttal to the draft report."

Groundwater Contamination

EPA concluded that contamination from "constituents associated with hydraulic fracturing" are in the "drinking water aquifer," around 800 feet down. But those materials are different than contaminants EPA found in much shallower drinking water wells. And the agency says the contaminants in drinking water are "generally" below health and safety thresholds. "We have absolutely no indication right now that drinking water is at risk," Jackson said last year in a televised interview on Pavillion. Still, after EPA found "petroleum compounds" in 17 of 19 drinking water wells in 2010, the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recommended that some well owners use alternate sources of water for drinking and cooking. The agencies made no conclusion about where those compounds came from. The EPA report notes that contaminants deeper in the aquifer could flow upward toward drinking water wells. Some stock ponds in the area flow, indicating that water moves up from below. They could also come up through old, forgotten oil and gas wells. But they haven't, or at least there is no indication of that in EPA's study. To reach most drinking water wells in Pavillion, the contaminants would need to rise upward several hundred feet. But to reach drinking water in shale formations, any contaminants would have to rise upward a mile or



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more. In shales like the Marcellus or the Barnett in Texas, gas is trapped in hard rock a mile or so below the surface. Drillers inject millions of gallons of chemical-laced water at extremely high pressure to "fracture" the shale and allow the gas to flow out. Because it is deeper, it requires more industrial activity at the surface. Drillers use exponentially more water than in the conventional production found in Pavillion, and the water is under exponentially higher pressure. "I don't think it's something that can be extrapolated across formations all over the country," Penn State's Yoxtheimer said. In dismissing the report, industry figures and Wyoming officials have said EPA itself might have contaminated the water in the aquifer when it drilled deep monitoring wells. But Yoxtheimer said EPA documented a very careful approach to drilling the wells, monitoring everything that went into the wells. He does see a weakness in that the municipal water used to drill the monitoring wells was not tested and suggests its source could be tested, "to fill that gap." Some have noted that a portion of EPA's samples were not tested within the proper time frame. Yoxtheimer said that might invalidate them in a court case, and EPA itself probably would not accept samples that had expired. But he said that given what they were testing for, the time lag probably did not affect the outcome and, if anything, would have shown less contamination because over time such chemicals diminish. "Technically, the samples weren't valid," Yoxtheimer said. "But it probably didn't affect the quality." More troubling to Yoxtheimer is how little data there is overall about fracturing chemicals. EPA said financial constraints prevented drilling more than two deep monitoring wells into the Wind River Aquifer. "That's a very limited data set," he said. "It's not a data set you can draw large conclusions from."

<http://www.eenews.net/public/Greenwire/2012/01/23/1>

USA, AKA, FAIRBANKS, JANUARY 24 2012. SULFOLANE CONTAMINATION FOUND IN 285 NORTH POLE WELLS

dan bross

Click-2-Listen [Listen For the Full Story](#)

The state has released a new report on sulfolane contamination in North Pole. Historic spills of the industrial solvent at a local oil refinery contaminated ground water in a large area, and 285 private wells have tested positive for the chemical. The latest information from the state confirms earlier safety precautions.

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2012/01/23/sulfolane-contamination-found-in-285-north-pole-wells/>

USA, DE, NEW BRITAIN TWP, JANUARY 24 2012. PROPANE TRUCK OVERTURNS IN NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

bill devlin



Firefighters spray water on a propane truck as it lays on its side on New Galena Rd on Monday night.

A propane truck overturned on New Galena Road just past Barclay Road on Monday afternoon releasing the gas and forcing the evacuation of two homes. Hazmat teams and a number of area fire companies responded to the scene of the one-vehicle accident that occurred around 4:15 p.m. New Britain Township police Chief Robert Scafidi, who was at the scene of the accident early Monday evening, said that the truck went on to the soft shoulder of the roadway and when the driver tried to steer back onto the road the truck fell over onto its side. Scafidi said that the driver was able to get out of the truck. He was not injured. Hilltown fire Chief Jim Walter said that two valves on the truck had opened up when the tanker

overturned. It was carrying 2,500 gallons of propane gas. Walter said crews shut off one of the valves within 30 minutes. The other valve was sealed 20 minutes later. He said the propane was released as vapors and not as a liquid. Propane is liquified for transportation. PECO crews shut off power to 500 customers at 7 p.m. while crews worked to right the truck. Two large tow trucks were brought in. The propane tanker was upright at 8:25 p.m. Fire companies from Hilltown, Chalfont, Hatfield, Palmer and Montgomery Township responded to the accident. Warrington and Silverdale crews also assisted. Fire crews were released from the scene at 8:45. Hoses lined New Galena Road from Barclay Road to the accident scene near Maple Avenue. New Galena Road was shut down from Trewigtown Road to Township Line for much of Monday evening.

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/the_intelligencer_news/propane-truck-overtorns-in-new-britain-township/article_139d72e3-3838-5444-ac9f-41c9cab8eb76.html



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NEW ZEALAND, TAURANGA, JANUARY 24 2012. DANGEROUS GOODS REMOVED FROM RENA



Salvage

Salvors yesterday removed four dangerous goods containers from the bow of RENA. The containers held empty tanks which formerly held hydrogen peroxide and still have residual amounts of the chemical inside. Braemar Howells has plans and procedures in place for handling the containers when they are brought ashore. This means there are no dangerous goods containers left above deck on RENA. There are still dangerous goods containers in the holds of the wreck. More information on the dangerous goods held on RENA is available here [Tauranga incident page](#). The total number of containers removed from RENA since it broke in half is now 43. Salvors also removed 18 packets of timber manually from the bow section yesterday - approximately half a container load. Observation flights have identified no

significant changes to the two sections of the wreck. The weather around the Astrolabe Reef is fine today and forecast to remain clear for the next few days.

Container & Debris Recovery

More than 2,300 tonnes of waste has been processed by Braemar Howells - the company responsible for distressed container and cargo recovery - since the RENA grounding. Braemar has processed about 2,325 tonnes of waste. Figures show that 1870 tonnes of waste has gone to landfills including about 25 tonnes of milk powder. A total of 117 tonnes of liquid waste has been processed and taken away for disposal by an environmental company. Liquid waste does not include oil, and is predominantly blood washed out of refrigerated containers. A break-down in figures shows that waste processed to date includes about 177 tonnes from Waihi Beach and 77 tonnes from Matakana Island. The tonnage of waste collected and processed does not include timber. Recently released figures also show that Braemar has processed 120 containers. Meanwhile, fridges are making an appearance on the debris clean-up front. Braemar confirms that at least four fridges have washed up on shore - one on Slipper Island, one on Matakana and two on the East Cape. Small amounts of debris - including the fridge - have been found as far north as Slipper Island. This has been confirmed by MNZ's shoreline clean-up assessment team. A number of one tonne bags have been delivered to Motiti Island today for ongoing debris collection.

Oil Spill Response

Around 40 oil spill responders are working today on clean-up operations at the Mount, on Matakana, Rabbit and Leisure Islands and at Kauri Point. A shoreline clean-up assessment team is working north of Kauri Point today. An aerial observation flight this morning confirmed a metallic sheen around the wreck with a small amount of dark oil within it. A lighter sheen was observed stretching about 3km from the wreck. Members of the public are urged to please contact the 0800 OIL SPILL (0800 645 774) if they come across oil - please provide the best details possible about the location of the oil, and an estimate of the amount observed. Every report is fed into our planning process and followed up.

Wildlife

No oiled birds were picked up over the last 24 hours. Work is continuing on demobilising the Te Maunga wildlife facility. It is expected all equipment will be completely removed this week. Some response equipment will be kept in the Bay of Plenty in case there is a need to escalate the wildlife response.

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/dangerous-goods-removed-rena/5/113014>

USA, ARK, YELLVILLE, JANUARY 24 2012. ADEQ APPROVES PLAN FOR FUEL-LEAK MONITORING

joanne bratton

A state environmental agency has approved a monitoring plan for a fuel leak that was discovered last year in Yellville. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality approved the work plan for a site assessment submitted on behalf of Petromark Inc., which owns the White Oak Station off U.S. Highway 62 in Yellville. The plan includes installing 21 monitoring wells, which is scheduled to begin Tuesday, said Joe Hoover, chief of ADEQ's Regulated Storage Tanks Division. The wells will help environmental officials determine the size, nature and extent of any release, he said. Fuel contamination was discovered in early November, when the nearby Harps Food Store reported fuel vapors in its building. Heavy rains had caused contaminated water to collect in the store's return air tunnel. The store temporarily closed while it finished a construction project to encase and abandon the return air tunnel, so in the event of future heavy rains the situation would not reoccur. Since the contamination was discovered, Jones Environmental Inc. — an environmental company hired by Petromark — has



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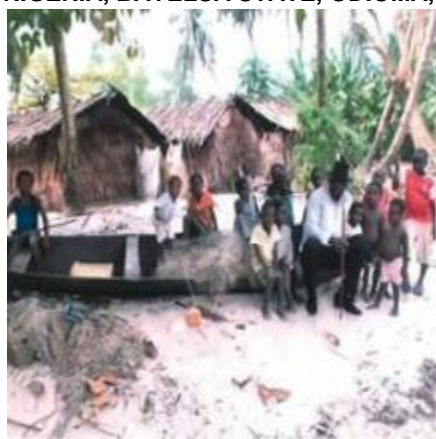
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conducted three mobile dual-phase extraction procedures from wells downgradient from the fuel station's tank pit, Hoover said. The extraction process involves a large vacuum that collects liquid and vapor for disposal. Once the additional wells are installed, the mobile dual-phase extraction will be extended to those wells, Hoover said. The next mobile phase extraction event is scheduled for Jan. 30, officials said. "The goal is to remove fuel from the ground," Hoover said. "If we have success at doing that, the available fuel to recover becomes less and less." After the contamination was discovered, environmental officials said White Oak Station ran a system check, and the tanks and lines connected to it did not lose any pressure. There is no indication there are any continuing leaks from the system, Hoover said. ADEQ officials have no reason to believe the sanitary sewer has been impacted, but the purpose of the site assessment is to investigate the impact, he said.

<http://www.baxterbulletin.com/article/20120123/NEWS01/201230322/ADEQ-approves-plan-fuel-leak-monitoring>

NIGERIA, BAYELSA STATE, ODIOMA, JANUARY 24 2012. UNTOLD STORY OF BONGA OIL SPILL



oluwole igeinhabitants of odioma community affected by the bonga oil spill

Residents of the riverine community of Odioma, in Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State are still counting their losses as the devastating effects of last December oil spillage, which wrecked overwhelming havoc on their aquatic lives and farmlands continue to raise serious concern, regarding their means of livelihood. The growing cases of oil spill in the Niger-Delta region have become recurring phenomena. For decades, oil producing communities in the South-South have been battling with multinational oil companies and the Federal Government on the need to pre-empt and contain oil spills that had culminated in gross environmental pollution, destruction of sea lives and diminishing quality of soil texture. Predominantly, inhabitants of Odioma and other coastal communities in Southern Ijaw and Ekeremor Local Government councils, including Bisangbene, Letugbene, Agge and Ogulagha, Odimodi, in Delta State terribly affected by the Bonga Oil Spill, from the platform of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) are fishermen. So, the spill, which occurred a day before the celebration of Christmas, was a big blow to their means of livelihood. In all, no fewer than 64 communities both in Bayelsa and Delta States are

faced with negative impacts of the spill from SPDC facilities. The latest spillage, which is adjudged to be one of the worst in 10 years, occurred four months after a major United Nations (UN) study said it may take Shell, Chevron and other oil multinationals 30 years and a whopping sum \$1billion to effectively carry out a comprehensive cleaning of spills in the Niger Delta region. Just last year August, SPDC admitted responsibility for two major spills in the Bodo region of Delta, which took place in 2008. But, up till now compensation had not been paid to the victims. Crude oil production capacity from Bonga Field which hovers around 200,000 barrels per day had already been halted as a result of the December 24, 2011 spill. Investigations revealed that the spill area covered more than 923 square kilometres. Findings indicated that no lesser than 40,000 barrels of crude had spilled into the Atlantic Ocean. When Sunday Tribune visited Odioma community on Thursday, the griming effects of the spillage were too visible on the outlook of the villagers, like a group of people mourning the sudden death of their heirs apparent. Majority of their men wore a long face as they clustered in groups, discussing the consequences of the spill and how they could wriggle out of their debilitating predicaments. They could not fish again. Oblivious of the impacts of the spill, children under the age of four were spotted playing around the thatched huts and mud houses while their parents were sobered by the glaring economic hardship staring them in the face. Many wooden and speed boats had been moved to the shore and river banks, signalling the temporary end of any adventure into the sea and other adjoining rivers, just as fishing lines and nets had been hung on the walls of the mud houses. A visitor to Odioma, would be moved by the sight of dead fish of different species, particularly the popular Bonga fish, which is common in the coastal settlements and other neighbouring communities. The fish littered the sea shores and river banks, while many of them were seen floating on the water surface. The dead fish had been blackened by crude oil, which spilled in thousands of barrels not only into the sea, but also into the Atlantic Ocean. The outburst of stakeholders and residents in the coastal community really showcased the bottled up anger in them as they minced no word to express their feelings over the economic implication of the spill to their struggle to earn a living. According to the chairman of Odioma Oil and Gas Committee, Chief Samuel Tubolanyo and his secretary, Mr Evans Baribote, "we are still contemplating on how we can get out of myriad of problems occasioned by this spillage. The solution to this problem is still shrouded in mystery as the SPDC keeps denying the incontrovertible facts that we are affected



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by this oil spill.” Continuing, Chief Tubolanyo stated that, “the community expressed regret that the SPDC has deliberately concealed facts about the Bonga oil spill as it affected the Odioma kingdom. We have evidences of damages done to us as a people and we would prove same when asked or required to do so. “Our water has been completely polluted and our means of livelihood severely damaged, thereby destroying the eco-system and economic well-being of Odioma people, most of who are fishermen,” he asserted. While calling on the SPDC to fully accept responsibility for the damages precipitated by the spill, Chief Tubolanyo, urged the oil multinational giant to speed up cleanup activities and also provide relief materials for the fishermen. In a chat with our correspondent, Lucky Tema, a fisherman in Odioma expressed worry over the low catch of fish since the December 2011 spill disaster. He said: “I have been in this fishing camp here in Odioma for about 12 years now. I am from Ilaje and fishing is my main occupation. That is what I do here. As you can see, I’m just returning from the ocean. If you go into the ocean, you will find the thick slick of crude oil floating, tossed here and there by the waves. It is spreading due to the dictates of the water current. That is what we are seeing even right here at the waterside on St. Nicholas.” “As a fisherman, one of the things I know about this crude oil is that, apart from killing aquatic life, it chases away the fishes that used to be around. If our nets get in contact with the crude oil, it would be stained and because of the smell and its colour, fish will avoid such nets in the water. Look at the little catch that I just returned with. This is not how it used to be. Our efforts are yielding far below expectations these days. It is quite sad,” Tema lamented. Apparently corroborating the submission of Tema, Ayeomane Ayela, another fisherman said: “Before now, we were managing to keep our body and soul together with the proceeds from fish sales to the people. But, our condition now is pathetic, considering the latest spill from Bonga Oil Field. It is a terrible development, which is already threatening our survival instinct.” His words: “Actually, we started noticing this crude oil on the Atlantic some weeks ago. But it came ashore about three days ago. Oil spillage vividly affects our fishing business and this one is not an exception. We used to catch enough fish before, but it is now extremely difficult. I go into the ocean almost every day and, since we began experiencing this spill, we have been unhappy. He further said: “if you had come when we had full tide, you would have noticed the crude oil slick all around the shorelines. Now the water has ebbed, though you can still see signs of crude oil at the waterfront. “But I think a responsible government should be able to appreciate our plight and assist us. Because of this kind of situation, we are becoming debtors as we hardly even meet up the payment of fuel we use to run our ocean-bound speed boats. Our business has been negatively affected as a result of this terrible development. Bonga fish that used to come to the surface are no more. As you can see, we are powerless, we cannot order the government on what to do” he submitted. A farmer, identified as Boloubu Ebikake said crops leaves in his farmland, just like any other area had turned yellow since the spillage crept in December. “Definitely, we are not expecting good harvest this year. That is not even the major problem. The quality of the soil or its texture would affect and this poses a dangerous trend to our continued farming or cultivation in these areas,” he said. Similarly, a stakeholder from the Niger Delta region, Osteen Igbapike (Esq), who is a counsel to Odimodi, Isiayei-Gbene, Beniboye and Samayin-Gbidipou of Burutu Local Government Area of Delta State, while speaking to Sunday Tribune expressed anger over what he termed the lackadaisical attitude of the Federal Government, regarding the Bonga spill. He cited the United States government’s role in the case of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill which held BP accountable for deepwater spill sometime in 2011. Said he: “I have read with utter embarrassment the comments of the Honourable Minister of Environment, Hajia Adiza Ibrahim Mailafia, after an inspection of the Bonga deep offshore facility in company of the Director-Generals (DGs) of NIMASA and NOSDRA on the very unfortunate oil spillage which spilt about 40,000 barrels (using Shell’s own estimate) of crude oil into Nigeria’s maritime area. The Bonga oil Field belongs to Shell but is operated by Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCO). “Nigeria is a maritime state with a maritime area of 46,510sq Km. Nigeria has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 210, 900 sq km and 853km of coastline which is shared by all of Nigeria’s coastal states of Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Edo Ondo, Lagos and so on. This is the area wherein Shell’s SNEPCO has negligently on December 20, 2011 “during routine operations to transfer crude oil from Bonga FPSO Vessel to a waiting tanker through an export line linking the FPSO, polluted with 40,000 barrels of oil which could be more if proper assessment and inspection of the spill facility is carried out strictly following due process”, Barrister Igbapike remarked. Continuing, he argued that “Nigeria and those on whom the buck rest on issues of protecting the environment have learnt nothing from the very recent Gulf of Mexico oil spillage wherein 45,000 gallons of crude was spilt into the Atlantic Ocean. The Bonga Oil Spill is a point source and a third tier spill. A third tier spill ought to be a national emergency and the response cannot be led by the polluter itself. What is happening now from the Bonga spill is that the polluter is in charge of the regulators because the regulators do not have helicopters, vessels, dispersants, booms and the expertise to manage oil spill response.” But contrary to the claims of the Odioma community, SPDC spokesperson, Mr Precious Okolobo posited that the spill did not get to the shores of the coastal community. According to him, “the oil was largely dispersed by Sunday, December



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25, 2011 due to natural processes of dispersion, spreading and evaporation and the integrated efforts of SNEPCO, government and our industry partners." While Okolobo insisted that initial modelling suggested 50 per cent of the total spill had gone via natural processes by December 22, 2011, he said "oil disperses naturally through evaporation and bio-degradation. Dispersants speed up natural dispersion. Main benefits are that they remove concentrated oil from water surface and disperse oil into the water column where it naturally degrades. "It is important to understand that the Bonga FPSO is 120km offshore, about one hour by a helicopter flight from Warri. There are no communities near the facility. As part of our emergency response planning, we envisage the most likely emergency response scenarios and plan accordingly. To ensure no oil from the Bonga leak reached the beach, we leveraged assets from around Shell's global portfolio. We also worked with and benefited from the assistance of our industry partners. Our main goal was to ensure the oil fully dispersed and that none of it reached the shore. We were successful", the SPDC spokesman emphasised. We believe the oil on the beach is not from Bonga. We made significant progress every day to disperse the oil that leaked from Bonga. We were disappointed to see images of a third party spill which appeared to be from a vessel in the middle of an area that we had previously cleaned up," he added. "We advise the peaceful populace of Yenagoa to remain calm, but strong and vigilant as we work together to overcome these challenges," he stated.

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/sun/crime-features/6216-untold-story-of-bonga-oil-spill>

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The Voice of Fire Protection

CANADA, MONTREAL, JANUARY 25 2012. DIESEL FUEL SEEPS INTO SOIL, SEWER >> INSPECTOR TO PROBE SPILL AT HEART INSTITUTE AFTER 16,000-LITRE DELIVERY TO WRONG TANK

peggy curran

[Watch the Video Emergency crews pump out spilled fuel at Montreal Heart Institute](#)



Emergency teams quickly jumped into the task of pumping out the fuel once it was detected.

How do you pump 16,000 litres of diesel fuel into the wrong tank in a hospital parking lot, where it then seeps into the soil and the city's sewer system? An Environment Quebec inspector will visit the Montreal Heart Institute on Wednesday to try to find out how the mix-up occurred last week, how much damage was done, and what needs to be done to make sure it doesn't happen again. As crews worked late Tuesday to clean up the spill, environment and hospital officials said there was



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no safety risk to patients or the public and the fire department had not signalled any risk of an explosion. But Environment Quebec's Hélène Proteau said the incident raises troubling questions about how such a mistake could happen, and go undetected. She said it wasn't yet clear how much fuel had escaped and what risks it could pose to soil or water. An emergency team from the ministry is working with the city and hospital to limit the environmental impact. Hospital official Julie Chevette said the spill occurred on Friday when the hospital received a delivery of fuel to replenish its emergency generator. However, it took four days before the Montreal fire department, alerted by anxious neighbours, pinpointed the source of a strong smell of gas in the district near the hospital and research centre on Belanger St. "Nobody at the hospital had noticed anything until the fire department contacted us," Chevette said. She expected the cleanup operation to be completed late Tuesday. "What's important to stress is that there was no safety risk for patients or neighbours," Proteau said environment officials were informed Tuesday afternoon, although the fire department began receiving complaints from neighbours on the weekend.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/todays-paper/Diesel+fuel+seeps+into+soil+sewer/6047180/story.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, FISKVILLE, JANUARY 25 2012. FISKVILLE IS SAFE: CFA

sarah scopelianos

The CFA have released two reports this afternoon stating the Fiskville Training ground is safe for staff, trainees and visitors. The reports were commissioned after concerns were raised about the use of chemicals in the past at the site and a suspected cancer cluster. A CFA statement said hygienists found there were "no significant risks to the health and safety of those working at the site or those attending as trainees or visitors". CFA chief Mick Bourke said: "The health and safety of our people is CFA's highest priority. These reports can give them confidence Fiskville is safe." The CFA also released a 1988 geotechnical report which tested the contents of and soil around, drums buried at the site. Analysis found the drums may have contained resins and solvents, including benzene, toluene, xylene and phenol. A two-page report from WYNSAFE OHS states since about 1995 only LPG gas, unleaded petrol, diesel and wood have been burnt during training at the site. It said risk control measures included respirator protection and protective clothing. "The past and current location of drum burial sites is still unclear and past and present CFA personnel are being contacted, and reports being sourced to establish these location and whether or not drums and/or contamination is still present," the WYNSAFE reads. The Independent Investigator's inquiry is expected to report in March, the statement said.

Related Links [Friskville site cleared by CFA](#)

http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2012/01/25/435091_latest-news.html

USA, IA, IOWA CITY, JANUARY 25 2012. COMPANY RECAPTURES, REPLACES GAS

Magellan Midstream Partners said Tuesday the company has safely recaptured and replaced gasoline containing low levels of ethanol with gasoline without ethanol after an unintentional loading of incorrect fuel mixture at its Iowa City petroleum distribution terminal. The gasoline was intended to be sold by retail service stations as gasoline without ethanol, the company said. The fuel in question was delivered to some individual service stations in Iowa City and surrounding communities between Jan. 12 and Jan. 15. Initial indications suggest the cause of the incident is related to a mechanical failure at the terminal. An investigation is under way to determine the root cause, the company said. As a result of this incident, some of Magellan's truck loading capability at the Iowa City terminal has been temporarily discontinued while the issue is investigated. However, the majority of the truck loading capacity for gasoline, gasoline-ethanol blends and diesel fuel at the terminal is operating normally, with additional precautionary measures and enhanced product quality assurance checks to ensure that gasoline distributed from the terminal meets all appropriate standards. Magellan's truck loading operations for gasoline and gasoline-ethanol blends at its other terminals in Iowa and the Midwest continue to operate normally.

<http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20120125/NEWS01/301250019/Company-recaptures-replaces-gas>

USA, N.Y, QUEENS, JANUARY 25 2012. QUEENS MAN MAY HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE BY FIREWORKS

larry celona & rebecca rosenberg

A troubled Queens man may have committed suicide by fireworks yesterday. Horrified relatives discovered Theodore Ellinghaus Jr., 50, dead in the second-floor hallway of his house on 111th Avenue in South Ozone Park at 9:28 a.m. — after the powerful M80 he was holding to his stomach exploded, police said. "I'm mourning my son," said the victim's anguished



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father, Theodore Ellinghaus Sr., who was inside the home during the blast. The blast ripped off two fingers from Ellinghaus Jr.'s hand and tore a hole through his stomach, leaving his organs exposed, sources said. The NYPD's bomb squad responded to the scene, but determined it was an isolated incident. No one else was injured. Cops described Ellinghaus Jr. as emotionally disturbed. Sources told The Post that police were investigating whether he killed himself with the fireworks, at least partly because of the way he was holding the lit device so close to his body when it went off. But his distraught family refused to believe the victim would take his own life. "It was an accident," Ellinghaus Sr. said, with tears welling up in his eyes. "It went off. He wouldn't kill himself. He told me he wouldn't kill himself." Still, neighbors painted a picture of a man who had grown increasingly paranoid. The former car-repair worker had been unemployed for six months and recently begun installing surveillance cameras in his home, fearing that people were out to get him. "He said people were coming to the closet and the window," said neighbor Frank Kleineisel, 42. The victim recently admitted he suffered from depression and had a doctor's visit scheduled for yesterday, the neighbor said. "I saw him shoveling snow outside [Sunday]. He looked depressed. "He said, 'I was on medication for depression and the doctor stopped it,' " said Kleineisel, 42. "His father said he had an appointment with a new psychiatrist [yesterday] morning." Neighbor William Foley, 28, agreed that the victim "had problems. I've known him for 20 years." Ellinghaus Sr. — who lived downstairs from his son with Ellinghaus Jr.'s twin brother — said he didn't find it unusual that his son kept fireworks in the house. "All kids have fireworks," the heartbroken father said.

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/queens/gloom_boom_doom_cAqtai0DUQSqYTafGgrEiN

ITALY, GIGLIO, JANUARY 25 2012. WORKERS TO PUMP OIL FROM COSTA CONCORDIA ON SATURDAY

fulvio paolocci & nicole winfield,

 **Photo's** [Cruise ship Costa Concordia](#)



Italian Guardia di Finanza and Civil Protection officers recover pieces of furniture from the grounded cruise ship Costa Concordia off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, on Jan. 23.

Actual pumping of the oil isn't expected to begin until Saturday, but teams from the Dutch shipwreck salvage firm Smit were working on the bow of the Concordia on Tuesday and divers were to make underwater inspections to identify the precise locations of the fuel tanks. A barge carrying a crane and other equipment hitched itself to the toppled Costa Concordia on Tuesday, signaling the start of preliminary operations to remove a half-million gallons of fuel from the grounded cruise ship before it leaks into the pristine Tuscan sea. Actual pumping of the oil isn't expected to begin until Saturday, but teams from the Dutch shipwreck salvage firm Smit were

working on the bow of the Concordia on Tuesday and divers were to make underwater inspections to identify the precise locations of the fuel tanks. They were at work on the now-hitched Meloria barge as divers who blasted through a submerged section of the third-floor deck located another body from the wreckage, bringing the death toll to 16.

Cruise Ship Costa Concordia

The Concordia ran aground and capsized off the Tuscan island of Giglio on Jan. 13 after the captain veered from his approved course and gashed the ship's hull on a reef, forcing the panicked evacuation of 4,200 passengers and crew. The 16 bodies found so far include the one located on the third-floor deck Tuesday. Seven of the badly decomposed bodies remain unidentified and are presumed to be among some of the 17 passengers and crew still unaccounted for. On Tuesday, the [U.S.](#) ambassador to [Italy](#) David Thorne was at Giglio's port where he had lunch with relatives of two missing Americans, Gerald and Barbara Heil of [Minnesota](#). "I think it's a tragedy, we feel very badly for all the families," Thorne told journalists after the meeting. Giglio and its waters are part of a protected seven-island marine park, favored by VIPs and known for its clear waters and porpoises, dolphins and whales. Officials have identified an initial six fuel tanks that will be drilled into, tapped and outfitted with hoses to vacuum out the oil from the Costa Concordia. Franco Gabrielli, head of the national civil protection agency, told reporters Tuesday that once those initial six tanks are emptied, 50 percent of the fuel aboard the ship will have been extracted. The pumping will continue 24 hours a day barring rough seas or technical glitches, he said, noting that these six tanks are relatively easy to access. "At this stage we don't see a big risk in an oil spill, but if weather deteriorates nobody can tell what the vessel will do," Bart Huizing, head of operations at Smit, told [The Associated Press](#). The disaster prompted the [U.N.](#) cultural organization to ask the Italian government to restrict access of large cruise ships to [Venice](#), which is a [UNESCO World](#)



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[Heritage Site](#). [UNESCO](#) charged that the liners cause water tides that erode building foundations, pollute the waterways and are an eyesore. Italy's environment minister, Corrado Clini, appeared to take up the cause Tuesday. "The aim is to free St. Mark's basin from the big ships once new canals have been dug," Clini was quoted by the Italian [news agency ANSA](#) as saying during a public appearance in northern Italy. He did not elaborate. But Clini added that "in the meantime, it will be up to the port authority and to the city to decide which (sea) traffic is sustainable and compatible" with Venice's particular situation." Venice officials have said that since tug boats guide the big cruise ships through the part of the lagoon weaving through the city, the risk of accidents is virtually eliminated.

Cruise ship Costa Concordia

Divers, meanwhile, continued blasting holes inside the steel-hulled ship to ease access for crews searching for the missing. The search and rescue operation will continue in tandem with the fuel removal operation. Smit officials say the first thing divers will do is drill holes into the tanks and attach valves onto them. The sludge-like oil will then be heated and hoses attached to the valves to suck out the oil as seawater is pumped into displace it. "It's never a routine, there is always a risk, but we've done this before, so at this moment we don't see any problems," Huizinga told AP. "But still it is difficult because it's really heavy fuel oil which we most probably need to heat before we can pump." On Monday, islanders and officials spotted an oil film on the water about 300 meters (yards) from the wreck. Absorbent panels were put around the oil to soak up the substance and officials said Tuesday it was a very thin film that didn't present any significant levels of toxicity. Gabrielli said he had formally asked Costa Crociere SpA, the owner of the Concordia, to come up with a plan for what to do with the innards of the ship that are floating away — the tables and chairs and other furniture that are knocking into divers and being hauled away by barge on a daily basis. And he said he had asked provincial authorities to designate a site on the mainland where the material can be dumped. Costa is a unit of [Miami-based Carnival Corp.](#), the world's biggest cruise operator. It has blamed the captain, Francesco Schettino, for the disaster, saying he made an unauthorized and unapproved deviation from the route. Schettino remains under house arrest facing accusations of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning the ship before all passengers were off. Early Tuesday, amid continued outrage by passengers of the chaotic evacuation, Costa promised to refund the full cost of the cruise, reimburse all travel expenses to and from the ship, all on-board expenses and any medical expenses incurred as a result of the grounding. "Every effort will be made to return the valuables left in the cabin safe," Costa said in a statement.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Latest-News-Wires/2012/0124/Workers-to-pump-oil-from-Costa-Concordia-on-Saturday>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, JANUARY 25 2012. THREE TO FACE COURT AFTER BRISBANE RIVER OIL SPILL

alison sandy & lara lauth

 **Click-2-Listen** Hamilton oil spill update - [Download the audio file](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Pelicans caught in oil spill](#)



Troubled Waters: Aerial view of the oil slick on the Brisbane River. The clean-up is expected to take the rest of the week.

The oil spill into the Brisbane River, which caused commuter chaos and contaminated wildlife and at least 26,000 litres of water, will cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. Authorities last night charged the ship's owner, master and chief engineer of the Korean-owned, Japan-bound livestock carrier, the GL Lan Xiu at Hamilton Wharves after a 5000-tonne oil slick occurred during refuelling earlier this week. Maritime Safety Queensland told The Courier-Mail the case would be before Brisbane Magistrates Court today after the three were

charged over alleged breaches of the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act. It's understood the clean-up, which has already cost about \$100,000, will take the rest of the week. Earlier, MSQ acting general manager Jim Huggett said investigators had finished collecting most evidence relating to the spill this morning. "We're very confident we'll determine the contributing factors," Mr Huggett said. "We've recovered at least half of the oil." Mr Huggett said details of the incident would be made public once the investigation had been completed. "At the moment there is a lot of oil behind the boat and the boat itself is acting as a barrier," he said. Mr Huggett said five pelicans had been affected by the slick. One had been captured and received treatment, but authorities were still looking for the other four. The oil slick spread from Breakfast Creek to the water



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around the Gateway Motorway. Most of the oil has been reclaimed. "We're in the process of containing and recovering that oil," Mr Huggett said. "It's too early to indicate what the cause of the incident was ... (but) the oil has moved upstream this morning with the incoming tide (and) we've got teams out there recovering most of that oil." The cargo ship was being refuelled by the Valiant III at Hamilton No.4 when the oil spill took place, he said. About 2000 head of cattle due to be loaded on to the GL Lan Xiu remained in holding yards while authorities investigated. CityCat services will remain disrupted. Brisbane City Council yesterday extended its suspension of 10 services at the Northshore Hamilton terminal, but hopes they will resume by the end of the week. The council has organised buses to take commuters between Bretts Wharf terminal and Northshore Hamilton terminal until the re-opening.

 **Related Links** [Oil spill suspends Citycat services](#)

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/arrests-amid-oil-clean-up/story-e6freoof-1226252912960>

THAILAND, KOTA KINABALU, JANUARY 25 2012. FIREWORKS BLAST KILLS NEWLY-WED >> FIREWORKS PLACED IN LAUNCHER BLOW UP IN MAN'S FACE

avila geraldine

 **Watch the Video** [Fireworks Kill 3, Injure 57](#)



Police carrying the body of By Shaow Yong, 26, who died in a fireworks blast in front of his house at Taman Seputeh, Luyang in Kota Kinabalu, on Monday.

A man was killed when fireworks blew up in his face just 30 minutes into the Lunar new year on Monday. By Shaow Yong, 26, who had tied the knot only last month and whose wife is expecting, had almost half his head blown off in the 12.30am incident. By and his family had taken part in a reunion dinner in Taman Seputeh, Luyang, and were celebrating the turn of the year when the incident occurred. City police chief Assistant Commissioner Ahmad Sofi Zakaria said the deceased was alone in front of the house when he lit the fireworks. It is understood By had placed the fireworks inside a tube which he was using as a launcher. When it did not go off, he had walked towards to the tube to check. Just as he reached the tube, the fireworks blew

up. Family members found By's lifeless body shortly after. Ahmad Sofi classified the case as sudden death, but stressed that possession of fireworks or firecrackers was an offence. "The police will continue to monitor shops or individuals selling fireworks and will take action against them," he said. In Sitiawan, Perak, a Chinese New Year celebration among devotees at a temple in Jalan Pantai here, took a tragic turn when a box of fireworks exploded and injured three men. In the incident which occurred just after midnight on Monday, 34-year-old Sim Kit Chong suffered serious burns and lacerations on his head. He was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital in Ipoh and underwent a 13-hour surgery to remove fireworks shrapnel from his wounds. Temple committee treasurer, Goh Meng San, 65, suffered injuries on his face and hands, while the third victim, a 30-year-old man, who had yet to be identified, suffered injuries on his right leg. Both received outpatient treatment at Manjung Hospital. It was learnt that a box containing fireworks which had been left on the road, suddenly caught fire and exploded, causing chaos among the crowd.

<http://www.nst.com.my/local/general/fireworks-blast-kills-newly-wed-1.36740>

USA, N.Y, HUDSON FALLS, JANUARY 25 2012. CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST MOTORIST IN HUDSON FALLS GASOLINE LEAK CASE

don lehman

 **Watch the Video's**

- [Case Dismissed Against Man Accused of Hitting Gas Pumps](#)
- [Charges Dropped Against Man Accused in Gas Tank Explosion Incident](#)

Washington County prosecutors dropped charges Tuesday against a Gansevoort man who was accused of backing his vehicle into a gas pump and triggering a massive gasoline leak. The Washington County District Attorney's Office concluded it had insufficient evidence to convict Gary A. Vadnais in the case. Vadnais, 51, had faced a misdemeanor charge of endangering the public health or welfare and a traffic violation of leaving the scene of a property damage accident. Hudson Falls Village Justice Michael Feeder dismissed the counts with the consent of the district attorney's office. "The police are



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looking at two other suspects," Washington County District Attorney Kevin Kortright said. Vadnais's lawyer, Tucker Stanclift, notified the court earlier this month his client had an alibi for the time of the incident. "The DA agreed with me that the charges should be dismissed," Stanclift said. "They know it wasn't him." The Hudson Falls Police investigation into who was driving Vadnais's car the night of Dec. 27 in the parking lot of Cumberland Farms on Main Street was continuing this week. The distinctive Dodge Challenger sedan is seen on a store surveillance camera backing into a pump, a bump that caused a malfunction inside the pump that caused an estimated 1,200 gallons of gasoline to leak. Police used the surveillance video to identify the car and questioned Vadnais, who gave a written statement in which he is quoted as admitting he was driving the car that night. But he said he didn't know he bumped into the pump. "No one else was in my vehicle when I was at the Cumberland Farms that night," Hudson Falls Police Sgt. John Kibling quoted Vadnais as saying. However, Vadnais told The Post-Star Jan. 12 he did not remember being at the store, but when officers told him his image was captured on surveillance video there, he replied he must have been there. He said he had been drinking that night. The case was further clouded when it was determined the beer purchased from the store - by a person who was in the vehicle that bumped the pump - was purchased by someone who gave a different date of birth than Vadnais's birth date. Stanclift would not comment when asked if Vadnais knows who was driving his car at the store. Hudson Falls Police Chief Randy Diamond said police were continuing to investigate the case, pending a conclusion about who was behind the wheel. "The investigation is going to continue until we determine who was driving," Diamond said. Kortright said police are also looking into whether Vadnais should be charged with giving a false statement, in light of the fact police said he gave a sworn confession admitting he was driving the vehicle at the time of the incident. The minor collision, which caused very little damage to the car, caused a malfunction inside the gas pump that led to gasoline pouring from it for 15 minutes or more. The gas ran into the storm drain system, eventually making its way downhill into the village of Fort Edward. Gasoline vapors led to numerous underground explosions that damaged streets, homes and a school, injuring one person. The state Department of Environmental Conservation investigation of the leak was continuing Tuesday.

http://poststar.com/news/local/charges-dropped-against-motorist-in-hudson-falls-gasoline-leak-case/article_df503eea-46be-11e1-9731-0019bb2963f4.html

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JANUARY 25 2012. ETHANOL CAN PROVE A CURSE FOR OLDER CARS

Rhys Haynes & Carleen Frost

Drivers whose cars can't take E10 fuel will face a 15c-a-litre slug for premium unleaded from July 1. Experts say drivers need to be aware of the damage E10 can do to older vehicles. Mechanics and retailers across [Sydney](#) yesterday said ethanol-based petrol slowly eroded the rubber used in fuel pumps in older cars. Up to 750,000 drivers in NSW - mostly the young and elderly - will be forced to pay more for petrol because their cars can't use ethanol fuel and will be forced to use the more expensive premium blends. South Peakhurst mechanic Tony Petrovski said drivers should avoid using E10. "It wrecks the fuel system in the cars," he said. "I see a lot of it here. You pay (less) for it, but it doesn't last as long. Cars have rubber components, in fuel pumps, fuel injectors and fuel lines and over a period of time it deteriorates it. 2GB's Alan Jones has been revealed as having lobbied the NSW government to stick with a 6 per cent ethanol mandate, marking the end of unleaded fuel. "It shortens the life of the fuel system. They are building new cars to overcome that, new plastics." APW Wentworthville service station owner Bill Morcos said the E10 product dries the rubber out in older cars. "It deteriorates rubber hoses and seals," he said. "You also have a serious reduction in efficiency." Laura Fendt, 25, of [Dover Heights](#), said she never uses ethanol. "I use the 95 octane premium," she said. "I use it because my boy- friend told me it was better."

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/ethanol-can-prove-a-curse-for-older-cars/story-e6freuy9-1226252797745>

USA, CA, FRESNO, JANUARY 25 2012. TOXIC CHEMICAL "BOMB" BLOWS IN CENTRAL FRESNO

Some garbage collectors got quite a scare Tuesday morning while making their rounds in Central Fresno. They called on Fresno Fire crews to check out the scene on North Fulton Street south of Olive Avenue around 8:30 a.m. after hearing an explosion. Spokesperson Sean Johnson says it was obviously loud enough to cause them great concern. He says one person said it sounded like "ten M-80s going off at the same time." Johnson says crews determined the device to be what the Centers for Disease Control describe as a "toxic chemical bomb". He says people sometimes experiment by placing toxic chemicals into a bottle, tighten the lid, then pressurize the inside, which leads it to blow up. Thankfully, no one was hurt when the device



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blew Tuesday morning. Johnson says HazMat crews neutralized the chemicals and deemed the area safe, but adds this is a good reminder to residents to not play with potentially deadly concoctions.

<http://www.kmjnow.com/pages/landing?Toxic-Chemical-Bomb-Blows-in-Central-Fre=1&blockID=582504&feedID=806>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, COFFS HARBOR, JANUARY 25 2012..HAZARDOUS DRUMS ON BEACHES

Local firefighters are begging residents to leave drums found along the beach well alone after a hazardous materials scare at Mullawarra Beach this week. Woolgoolga firefighters, Hazmat crews from Coffs Harbour and paramedics were called to Arrawarra Beach Road about 7.10pm Monday after reports of a suspicious drum in the car park at the beach. "It turned out to be a drum that had gone overboard from a ship a very long time ago," station commander Ray Webb said. The 25 litre drum, property of the Wilhelmsen Ship Service in the Netherlands, was filled with the chemical Rocor NB Liquid - a nitrate/borate based compound used as a cooling inhibitor on ships. "It is toxic is swallowed and can cause severe irritations to the skin. It's also highly toxic to waterways," Mr Webb said. Authorities used protective equipment to place the drum into a sealed Hazmat bin, which was collected by a Coffs Harbour City Council Environment Protection officer for disposal. Mr Webb said this was an important reminder for people to leave drums, whether floating in the ocean or washed up on the beach, well alone and contact authorities. "The person who picked it up and carried it to the carpark thought it was empty but it was indeed full. Luckily, even though it was encrusted with barnacles, it was still in tact. If they had spilt any on their hands or got any on them they would end up with severe exposure and serious irritations. "We do have these things happen, particularly at Mullawarra Beach because of the current. "When boats go down, you can find anything, anywhere. "People need to be extremely careful and report anything to the local authorities before touching or going near it."

<http://www.coffscostadvocate.com.au/story/2012/01/25/hazardous-drums-beaches/>

USA, S.C, SIMPSONVILLE, JANUARY 25 2012. PELZER MAN KILLED IN SIMPSONVILLE METHANOL TANKER WRECK

paul alongi



State troopers work the scene of a fatal wreck on northbound Interstate 385 at Highway 417 near Standing Springs Road in Simpsonville.

A Pelzer man was killed Tuesday when a pickup slammed into the back of a tanker truck, a wreck that slowed traffic on northbound Interstate 385 in Simpsonville shortly after morning rush hour, authorities said. A pickup struck the tanker from the rear at 9:10 a.m., said Lance Cpl. Bill Rhyne of the Highway Patrol. The tanker truck had stopped for traffic, and the pickup for unknown reasons did not, Rhyne said. The pickup's driver was confirmed dead, said Greenville County Chief Deputy Coroner Mike Ellis. His name was not immediately available. The tanker was carrying methanol, which did not leak, Rhyne said. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control was notified but did not need to respond to the scene,

he said. The front of the white pickup was wedged under the back of the tanker in the left lane just beyond the on-ramp coming from North East Main Street in Simpsonville. While the on-ramp was closed, traffic on northbound I-385 was reduced to one lane around the scene. The wreck was in an area where the lanes have been narrowed due to construction.

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20120124/NEWS/301240039/1-dead-385-collision-Simpsonville?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

USA, OK, STILWELL, JANUARY 25 2012. FBI AGENTS INVESTIGATE ANDERSON GAS EXPLOSIONS >> AGENTS SAY EXPLOSIONS 'INTENTIONAL'

Watch the Video <http://www.4029tv.com/r/30278441/detail.html>

The FBI is investigating three explosions that happened early Monday morning at Anderson Gas and Propane in Stilwell. Between 2 to 4 a.m., local police said they got calls about three separate explosions at the gas company, which is located at the intersection of Highways 51 and 59. FBI Special Agent Brian Boetig said that Oklahoma's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Stilwell police and the Adair County Sheriff's Office are collaborating on the investigation. According to FBI Special Agent James Finch, they believe the explosions were intentional. Investigators said no one was hurt, and the



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property damage was minor. The side door to Anderson's has visible burns from one of the explosions. A worker with Anderson Gas and Propane refused to comment on the incident. Anderson's is where many local residents go to buy propane. 40/29 News spoke with one resident who wished to remain anonymous but did explain what she saw. "When we first came through, there were just a few police, and we came back an hour or two later and they were everywhere," the Stilwell resident said. "It's kind of scary being in your hometown. You kind of expect it somewhere else but not in your home place, especially where everybody knows everybody." Roman Gubara lives next door to Anderson's and said he was legitimately scared when he awoke to numerous law enforcement agencies gathered in his front yard. "I got up and looked out the window, and I saw a lot of cops. I was a little nervous because I saw the cops and all the cars," Gubara said.

<http://www.4029tv.com/r/30278441/detail.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, MENANGLE, JANUARY 25 2012. HUGE FUEL SPILL AFTER FATAL SYDNEY CRASH




 **Watch the Video** [Three killed in horrific Hume Highway crash](#)



One-and-a-half thousand litres of diesel have spilled into a river after a crash that killed three people in Sydney's west. A B-double truck collided with a car on the Hume Highway, near Menangle, about 11.25am (AEDT) today, crushing the vehicle and killing its three occupants. The accident happened on the Menangle Bridge over the Nepean River, with the B-double's fuel tank rupturing and spewing the fuel into the water below. "We've currently got fire and rescue and the SES to place floating booms across the river to contain the spill," Fire and Rescue NSW spokesman Ian Krimmer said. "We anticipate that over the next 24 hours it will dissipate through natural processes." Initial reports suggest the truck was travelling south when it crashed into a guard rail on the highway and careered onto the other side of the road. The three occupants of the car, whose ages and sex are not yet known, died at the scene after the truck drove over the top of them, flattening their

vehicle. The truck driver escaped with minor injuries and has been taken to Campbelltown Hospital for treatment, police said. Motorists are being urged to avoid the area, with all northbound lanes on the Hume Highway now closed and traffic diverted onto Picton Road. Police are urging witnesses to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Related Links

-  [L-plater may be involved in Hume crash](#)
-  [Crash victims identified as a family](#)
-  [Logan couple did 'everything together'](#)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/huge-fuel-spill-after-fatal-sydney-crash/story-e6frf7jx-1226252542879>

CANADA, B.C, VANCOUVER, ABBOTSFORD, JANUARY 25 2012. ABBOTSFORD OIL SPILL AT KINDER MORGAN'S TANK FARM >> PUBLIC WARNED TO STAY AWAY



An oil spill happened just before 7 a.m. Tuesday at the Kinder Morgan Sumas Terminal on Sumas Mountain in Abbotsford. The terminal contains six storage tanks with an overall volume of 103 000 m3, but there is no word yet how much oil spilled.

Students from Auguston Traditional Elementary were kept inside Tuesday and the public is warned to stay away from the Kinder Morgan oil terminal in Abbotsford due to strong oil smell from a spill on its storage site. The odour was first reported to Abbotsford police and the fire service as early as 4:30 a.m., and it continued to linger in the Straiton Bowl area of Sumas Mountain throughout the day. The pungent smell came from a spill or "release" at the Kinder Morgan Sumas terminal, which houses several large storage tanks in the rural area, a little over a kilometre

from the Auguston subdivision and school. In an e-mail release, Kinder Morgan's external affairs manager Lexa Hobenshield said at about 6:50 a.m., "oil was discovered in a tank containment area at our Sumas Terminal." The spill was fully contained



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on company property, and there was no fire or injuries, she wrote. "Foam will be applied to control any odours and the product is being vacuumed up. Air monitoring is being performed to ensure public and employee safety. Appropriate regulatory agencies have been notified, along with local authorities and residents," her e-mail said. However, the oil transport company didn't have information on how much or what type of oil was spilled, or if there was any danger to the immediate environment. The incident is still under investigation. Abbotsford Police Const. Ian MacDonald said he began receiving calls of a strong oil or gas odour in the area at 4:30 a.m., and calls have continue all day. Police and fire crews went to the Auguston area at daybreak to find a source of the smell, which turned out to be from the Kinder Morgan tank farm, or storage facility. Kinder Morgan officials told MacDonald that based on air quality tests done at the site, the biggest issue was the odour and that there was no concern for public safety, he said. "They were using foam and bringing in some kind of equipment to mitigate the odour," said MacDonald. He posted the information on Facebook and Twitter just after 11 a.m. School administrators decided early in the day to keep students inside, said Abbotsford School District spokesman, Dave Stephen. "We're keeping them inside and that's a result of the very strong smell outside, as a result of the oil incident," he said. The principal also decided to limit outdoor air intake to reduce any odours inside the school, he said. "Other than that, it's a normal day at the school." Sumas Mountain resident and local environmentalist John Vissers, who noticed the strong crude oil smell at about 6:20 a.m., said many locals are familiar with the odour. Sometimes oil fumes from activities at the tank farm linger in the Straiton bowl area, which included many rural homes and the Auguston neighbourhood. "The smell was really strong. I thought they were flushing the tanks," he said. Vissers said this event may make local Abbotsford residents nervous about Kinder Morgan's plans to increase the capacity of its pipeline, especially since there was a significant spill at the tank farm in 2005 that forced some people from their homes temporarily and threatened local streams. "They're still doing monitoring and remediation – you can see it from the (Sumas Mountain) road," he said. "Even the best technology we have, and they assured us they have it, oil spills can still happen. These spills seem to be inevitable – we have to accept that," Vissers said. Serena Duckett, who lives on Auguston Parkway East, said her husband noticed the smell when he left for work at 9 a.m. "He said it smelled like gas and asked me to check the barbeque," said Duckett. She has a teenaged daughter at home and is uneasy about potential health, air quality or environmental issues associated with the spill. "[The fumes] aren't something you want to breathe into your lungs or respiratory system," she said Tuesday. "I don't know how much is getting into the ground or if it's seeping into the water or sewer or all of the above." "I'm concerned knowing it's just behind my house," she added. "I think we should have been told [about the spill]."

<http://www.abbotsfordtimes.com/news/Abbotsford+spill+Kinder+Morgan+tank+farm/6045411/story.html>

CYPRUS, NICOSIA, JANUARY 25 2012. CYPRUS POLICE CHARGE EX-FOREIGN, DEFENSE MINISTERS IN IRANIAN MUNITIONS BLAST THAT KILLED 13

Cyprus police have filed criminal charges against two former Cabinet ministers over last year's explosion of seized Iranian munitions that killed 13 people and touched off a political crisis, a senior police official said Tuesday. The official said the charges against ex-Foreign Affairs Minister Markos Kyprianou and ex-Defense Minister Costas Papacostas include negligence causing death. Police did not publicly disclose the charges, and the official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. Defendants convicted of that charge can be jailed for up to four years. State-run CyBC television said the two men also face the more serious charge of manslaughter which carries a maximum life sentence. Both Kyprianou and Papacostas told CyBC that they denied to police investigators all the charges. Kyprianou said he believes the decision to prosecute him is politically motivated. "I consider it as an attempt to distract public opinion and to find a scapegoat," he said. Papacostas said he looks forward to setting the record straight in court. The police official said unidentified charges also have been filed against three senior army officers and three fire department officials regarding the deaths. Kyprianou and Papacostas resigned after the July 11, 2011, blast, which wrecked the island's main power station and triggered weeks of street protests calling for President Dimitris Christofias' resignation. A public inquiry into the explosion said he was mainly to blame for the events that led to the explosion. Christofias rejected the inquiry's nonbinding findings. The munitions packed in some 98 containers were confiscated in February 2009 from a Cypriot-flagged ship suspected of transporting it from Iran to Palestinian militants in Gaza through Syria in breach of a United Nations ban on Iranian arms exports. The containers had been left piled in an open field inside a naval base on the island's southern coast, despite warnings from military officials that the munitions could spontaneously ignite as a result of their exposure to the elements.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/cyprus-police-charge-ex-foreign-defense-ministers-in-iranian-munitions-blast-that-killed-13/2012/01/24/gIQAQRn4NQ_story.html



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