



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2012 – 810 Newsy Stuff

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

February 15 2012



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CANADA, ONT, BRAMPTON, JANUARY 31 2012. VANDALISM TRIGGERS MAJOR FUEL SPILL IN BRAMPTON

shawne mckeown

 **Watch the Video's**

- [Vandals Responsible for Brampton Fuel Leak](#)
- [Fire Crews Contain Diesel Spill in Brampton](#)



Crews working to contain a diesel fuel spill in a Brampton creek, Jan. 30, 2012.

Crews have contained and are now trying to clean a diesel fuel spill after hundreds of litres seeped into a Brampton creek on Monday. Police say vandals hit a trucking yard on Rutherford Road South at Clark, near Queen and Highway 410, around 2 a.m. or 3 a.m. About five trucks were targeted and some fuel tanks were punctured, spilling between 300 and 400 litres of diesel into a nearby creek through a storm sewer. "It appears there was a break-and-enter at this establishment here," PC Tom Ruttan told CityNews, "and as a result there was some mischief done to some trucks in the back." "Tanks have been punctured and tires have been punctured as well." There are surveillance cameras at the facility and investigators will be reviewing that tape. Crews have laid booms in an effort to collect the fuel before it

runs down into Lake Ontario. Officials from the Ministry of the Environment are at the scene assessing the damage. "The fuel will float to the surface of the water and crews can clean it up once it's contained," Kevin Parkes, spills coordinator for Peel Region, said.

<http://www.citytv.com/toronto/citynews/news/local/article/183944--vandalism-triggers-major-fuel-spill-in-brampton>

CANADA, ONT, HAMILTON, JANUARY 31 2012. AUCTIONEER TO SETTLE OAKVILLE REFINERY CLAIMS



It's expected that a dismantled oil refinery held up in legal limbo and waiting for transport at Hamilton's port will soon find a new home. This picture shows the refinery loaded onto the Beluga Recommendation in 2005.

After six years in limbo on a Port of Hamilton wharf, an auctioneer's virtual hammer will ring down later this year to end an ill-fated plan to move a Canadian oil refinery to Pakistan. The online auction by a firm in Texas will sell what remains of the former Petro-Canada Oakville refinery to pay Hamilton-based Great Lakes Stevedoring for loading the assortment of pipes, drums and other components onto ships. "The material was bought for shipment, some of it went out and then the owners got into financial difficulty and never came to get the rest," said Montreal lawyer John O'Connor of the firm Langlois Gaudreau O'Connor. "There were

promises to pay and then they just disappeared." One auction of material was held just before Christmas and another is planned, likely this spring. "The owners had debts and couldn't pay them," he said. "Whoever buys this will get clear and clean title and sometime in 2012 this whole story will disappear." Until 2005 the piles of metal were a working refinery on the border between Oakville and Burlington where 350 workers turned crude oil into gasoline and other products. That ended when Petro-Canada decided the \$300-million cost of meeting new environmental standards was too high. The plant was sold to a pair of Middle Eastern oil firms — PSI Energy (BSC) and PSI (Middle East) LLC, based in Bahrain and Dubai. The refinery was carefully dismantled, its 100,000 cubic metres of components were labelled and numbered and moved to the port of Hamilton where they were to be shipped to Pakistan. Oakville-based Convoy Logistics Providers was given a contract worth up to \$20 million to arrange that shipping. At the time, CLP owner Dona Asciak Fletcher estimated the project would require up to eight ships and take as long as two years. By June of 2007 at least three shipments had been completed, amounting to about 65 per cent of the material, but then the owners stopped paying their bills, leaving components on two continents that, by themselves, were nothing more than piles of spare parts and scrap metal. "Some ship loads have already gone over to Pakistan, but without what's still here they can't do anything," added Bruce Graham, of Great Lakes Stevedoring. "We haven't heard from the owners in quite a while." Graham refused to say how much his company is owed from the failed plan, or how much he hopes to recover from his legal action. "Even after it's sold the proceeds will be controlled by the court so we don't know how much we'll end up getting," he said. "This has not been a profitable experience for us." CLP is also shown on court



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documents as filing a claim against the cargo. Fletcher refused to comment on the case. O'Connor said he has little interest in what caused the ambitious project to fall apart — his concern is turning what's left of the refinery into cash for his clients. News reports from Asia say the project fell apart after foreign investors pulled their money from Pakistan in the wake of political instability following the 2007 assassination of Benazir Bhutto. In 2010 Chinese investors said they would put almost \$500 million into reviving the project, but in July 2011 Reuters news agency reported they pulled out because of Pakistan's failure to control a rising Taliban insurgency along with official corruption and chronic power shortages. "Whoever you talk to, you have a meeting, you try to finalize anything and then the bombs go off. And the next thing you hear from them is that we are not too sure about investment in Pakistan at the moment," Indus chairperson Mohammad Shamsi told Reuters. Petro-Canada and Suncor Energy merged in 2009. Calls for comment were not returned.

<http://www.thespec.com/news/business/article/663065--auctioneer-to-settle-oakville-refinery-claims>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, JANUARY 31 2012. GAS, NOT PROJECTILE, KILLED TEEN IN TOY CANNON TRAGEDY

emiley morgan



A 14-year-old boy who died when a replica miniature cannon went off in his home was not killed by a projectile, but by the force of the gas, police said Monday. Robby Ostberg died Jan. 23 at his home in Tremonton when a replica cannon he was playing with in his living room either fired or blew up without warning. Investigators initially believed that the teen was struck in the face. But a preliminary autopsy report indicated that he was not hit by any projectile, said Tremonton Police Chief David Nance. "It doesn't appear there was shrapnel," he said, "just the gases from the cannon going off. If it's close enough to the body, then it can be pretty harmful." Nance said the force of the gas coming out of the barrel alone can cause "significant damage," if a person is close to the device. Family members described Robby as a

shy, quiet boy who was drawn to mechanics. The miniature cannon was given to the boy by a neighbor a couple of years ago and it wasn't uncommon for Robby to wrap gun powder in pieces of tin foil, put them in the barrel and fire them, according to his grandmother Lucille Hertel. Nance said the powder is believed to be the propellant that caused the explosion and led to the release of the gas. Police initially believed the cannon was supposed to be merely decorative, but upon further determination found that it was labeled as a working cannon, that could be loaded and fired.

Related Links

- [Grandmother says boy killed in cannon accident was 'mechanically inclined'](#)
- [14-year-old dies after being shot by replica cannon](#)

<http://www.ksl.com/index.php?nid=960&sid=19060340>

AUSTRALIA, CHRISTMAS ISLAND, JANUARY 31 2012. MORE OIL SPILLS FROM CHRISTMAS ISLAND SHIP WRECK

 **Click-2-Listen:**

[MV Tycoon splits into three - Stephen Stockwell speaks to John Richardson from the Christmas Island Volunteer Rescue.](#)



Stricken MV Tycoon off Christmas Island.

Heavy seas off Christmas Island have broken the wreck of a cargo ship into three pieces and there are growing concerns about the environment, as more oil leaks from the ship. The MV Tycoon broke its moorings and smashed up against a sea wall three weeks ago. Residents of the island say the oil spill is getting worse. John Richardson, Commander of Christmas Island Volunteer Marine Rescue, says about one third of the beach at Flying Fish Cove has been polluted by the wreck. "It's unfortunately discharged quite a considerable amount more diesel and oil, so we have a very large slick and a very large area of Flying Fish Cove, towards the port, absolutely black," he says. Administrator of Christmas Island, Brian Lacey, says while

salvage operations can't begin until weather conditions improve, he hasn't been made aware of any plans to remove the vessel.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201201/s3419607.htm>



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AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MILDURA, FEBRUARY 1 2012. 250 000 LITRES WINE SPILL AT VIC FACTORY

jessica burke



About 250 000 litres of wine poured out of a wine tank at a Victorian winery when a door failed. Treasury Wine Estates said no workers were at risk of injury when the incident occurred at its Karadoc winery near Mildura in the state's northwest and the wine was captured using the effluent system on the premises. The incident occurred at about 10:30pm on Monday in the winery's tank farm, where workers would not be located at that time of night, Treasury Estate's Sue Rana told the ABC. She said WorkSafe is investigating the incident and the loss of the wine will not greatly impact the company, as it was 2011 commercial-quality product. "There won't be any impact at all really in terms of our production at that site, it is one of our largest sites so we do have a lot of wine produced there, so this loss won't be a major impact," she said.

<http://www.foodmag.com.au/news/250-000-litres-wine-spill-at-vic-factory>

SCOTLAND, SHETLAND ISLANDS, FOINAVEN FIELD, FEBRUARY 1 2012. BP SHUTS DOWN SHETLAND OIL LEAK

james murray

[Watch the Video Leak Discovered in North Sea Pipeline](#)



Oil giant confirms leak has been stopped, as US court rejects attempt to share Gulf costs with partner. BP has confirmed it has successfully shut down a small leak identified in an undersea pipe near an oil platform off the west coast of Shetland. A spokesman for the company said the leak had been shut down 45 minutes after a hairline fracture was detected in an eight inch pipeline, near the Foinaven platform, 120 miles west of Shetland. He added that the company had detected no oil on the sea's surface and was now working on plans to safely remove the oil from the sealed off pipeline and then fix the leak. He also confirmed that undersea cameras had provided evidence that the crack was no longer leaking. However, the incident is still

likely to be seized on by green groups that are currently campaigning against government plans to open up deep water regions off the west of Scotland to exploration.

<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2142279/bp-shuts-shetland-oil-leak>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, BURWOOD, FEBRUARY 1 2012. PETROL SIGN TURNED INTO TOWERING INFERNO

[Watch the Video Six-Metre Tall Sign Engulfed in Flames](#)



A sign outside a Sydney petrol station exploded into a towering inferno this morning, stunning passing motorists and forcing a nearby school to evacuate. Fire crews were called to the blaze, sparked by an electrical fault within the sign, on Parramatta Rd in Burwood at about 9.30am (AEDT). Video posted online shows the six-metre tall sign engulfed in flames, with pieces of it breaking off and tumbling to the ground only metres from the road. A NSW Fire and Rescue spokesman told ninemsn: "We received a triple-0 call saying there was a fire producing large volumes of smoke". "Only one crew was needed, the power was isolated and then the fire was extinguished." He said nobody was hurt in the incident. A ninemsn reader sent in a photo of the blaze which shows cars driving through the smoke as it billows across Parramatta Rd. The thick smoke prompted St Mary's Primary School — located over

the road from the petrol station — to evacuate, on what was their kindergarten students very first day in the classroom. St Mary's Primary School Principal Trish Bevan said the fire made a memorable day for 80 of the school's newest students. "They [the kindergarten students] had just settled into class with their teachers, and their parents had gone over to the library



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and were enjoying a lovely morning tea when we saw the smoke," Ms Bevan said. "We decided to be safe rather than sorry and decided to evacuate." Students in years one to six were taken to a nearby park and the kindergarten children were moved to the library. Ms Bevan said the evacuation "worked like clockwork" and the new students were very well behaved. "They did exactly as they were asked ... their first day will be a memorable one but there were no tears." Fire station commander Chris Sykes inspected the school to make sure it was safe for the children to return and classes were back to normal around lunch.
<http://www.news.ninemsn.com.au/national/8411539/petrol-sign-turned-into-towering-inferno>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, TWEED HEADS, FEBRUARY 2 2012. TRAWLER LEAKS FUEL AFTER HITTING TWEED ROCKS

brad ricks

 **Photo's [26]** [Trawler capsizes off Tweed coast Jan 30, 2012](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Dramatic Rescue for 2 Fishermen in NSW](#)

 **Web Camera:** [Tweed Heads Bar Crossing Web Camera](#)



A 54ft trawler capsized off the Tweed coast yesterday. Two fishermen forced to jump into the water after their trawler slammed into a rock wall and broke apart off the NSW north

A stricken trawler was left leaking thousands of litres of diesel into the ocean off Duranbah beach last night, with rough seas preventing authorities from getting close to the near-submerged vessel. Two men had a lucky escape when their 54ft vessel, the Toni Kylie, attempted to cross the dangerous Tweed Bar about 5pm (NSW) yesterday. Witnesses said the trawler was smashed by a large wave, which shattered windows in the wheelhouse. Tweed Police Inspector Jim Kain said the crew fired a beacon before the vessel smashed against the rocks at Duranbah beach. Police arrived to find two crewmen, aged 29 and 33, still on board but with the boat smashing against the rock wall. The men jumped into the water and were assisted to shore by local surfers before being checked by NSW Ambulance

Paramedics. Insp Kain said the captain suffered a broken arm and was taken to The Tweed Hospital. The trawler was unable to be retrieved.

http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2012/01/31/386551_gold-coast-lead-story.html

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, NEWCASTLE, FEBRUARY 4 2012. COMPANY CAUGHT STOCKPILING AMMONIUM NITRATE WITHOUT LICENCE

A Newcastle company has been forced to reduce the amount of ammonium nitrate it stores, after it was found to be stockpiling too much without a licence. In December the Environment Protection Authority found Crawfords Freightlines at Sandgate was storing more than the 2,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate it was permitted to store. The EPA's Hunter Region Manager Graham Clarke says a Notice of Preventative Action was issued and the company has been told it must apply for a licence if it wants to exceed the limit. "We carried out an audit of major hazardous facilities and this was one of the facilities that we identified as storing more of the material than they're entitled to do," he said. "What the Act says basically is that if you store more than 2,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate then you are required to hold a licence under the Protection and Environment Operations Act and Crawfords did not hold a licence." The EPA say the action should serve as a warning to others storing hazardous materials. Mr Clarke says every company must act within the law. "It's a matter of making sure that they can handle the material safely and that the environmental considerations in terms of the potential to pollute waters or to impact other properties are dealt with in an appropriate way," he said. "We are not obviously privy to all of the background to the site but clearly when we visited the site they were carrying more material than they were entitled to."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-02-03/company-caught-stockpiling-ammonium-nitrate-without-licence/3809008/?site=newcastle>



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USA, TN, NASHVILLE, FEBRUARY 4 2012. DOWNED TREE CAUSES LARGE FUEL SPILL NEAR OLD HICKORY LAKE

The storms that marched through Middle Tennessee Wednesday night weren't particularly strong in Wilson County, but their aftermath is proving costly as crews rush to clean up a large fuel spill caused by a downed tree near Old Hickory Lake, emergency officials said. Emergency workers are estimating that the cleanup could take anywhere from two or three days. Crews worked all day Thursday and are expecting to work all day today at the site, which is near the Cedar Creek Yacht Club in Mt. Juliet. "We're not sure exactly what time the tree went down," said Joey Cooper, a battalion chief at Wilson Emergency Management Agency. "But it fell on four pipelines. One carried diesel fuel, two carried gasoline and one was electrical. All of these lines were about an inch and a half thick and ran from the tank storage area at the yacht club down to the water, where they fed the service tanks for boats." The tree damaged all four pipelines, but only caused two of them to leak. "We're estimating that under 50 gallons leaked from the gasoline pipeline and anywhere from 400-600 gallons leaked from the diesel pipeline," Cooper said. Emergency officials were notified of the situation at about 10 a.m. this morning, when yacht club workers arrived to do their morning checks.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20120202/NEWS01/120202032/Downed-tree-causes-large-fuel-spill-near-Old-Hickory-Lake->

USA, N.J, LEBANON TWP, FEBRUARY 5 2012. 18 YEARS LATER, LEBANON TOWNSHIP STILL TESTING SPILL SITE

lillian shupe

For how long will the township have to keep monitoring the site of an old gas spill near Fire Station 1 on Anthony Road? A leaky underground gas tank that was removed from the site in 1994 had contaminated the area's soil, and the township has been responsible for decontamination and testing of the groundwater there ever since. In December, John Potenza of TRC Environmental Corp. sent an e-mail to the Township Clerk saying the company would not be submitting a proposal for doing the monitoring in 2012. A new firm was hired but the question remains, how long will it have to continue? The same question came up in 2006. The testing was costing nearly \$19,000 a year at the time. The contamination from the leaky gas tank had contaminated the ground down into the aquifer, spoiling the station's well water and that of a neighboring house. The township replaced both wells and installed filters and monitoring equipment to assure that the new wells' water remains potable. In addition, the state Department of Environmental Protection has required the township to maintain "testing wells," to perform lab tests on the water semiannually, and to submit an official annual report. The testing has shown that the contamination has not spread any further. [The township](http://www.nj.com/hunterdon-county-democrat/index.ssf/2012/02/18_years_later_lebanon_townshi.html) probably has little choice but to comply with DEP requirements unless it wants to risk hefty fines.

http://www.nj.com/hunterdon-county-democrat/index.ssf/2012/02/18_years_later_lebanon_townshi.html

USA, MI, BATTLE CREEK, FEBRUARY 5 2012. DNR CONTINUES INVESTIGATION OF DOMESTIC OIL DUMP IN KALAMAZOO RIVER

 **Watch the Video** [DEQ: Men Draining Tank Source of Spill](#)

Two Battle Creek scrappers could face criminal prosecution and restitution for the latest oil spill on the Kalamazoo River. The DNR has been investigating what turned out to be a home heating oil dump into a storm sewer, that made its way to the river. Apparently the men found a heating oil tank in an old home, dumped the oil and scrapped the tank. Now there is an oil slick on the river stretching all the way into Kalamazoo County, and DNR officials have deployed booms, and are working on the clean-up. There's no telling how much the remediation may cost, but it was all for a few bucks for the metal tank.

<http://wkzo.com/news/articles/2012/feb/04/dnr-continues-investigation-into-home-heating-oil-dump-in-kalamazoo-river/>

USA, S.D, MURDO, FEBRUARY 5 2012. TRUCK HITS BRIDGE ON I-90; 30,000-GAL OIL TANK ROLLS INTO MEDIAN >> THE BRIDGE WILL HAVE TO BE CLOSED UNTIL REPAIRS CAN BE MADE. DRIVER CITED FOR VIOLATING HIS PERMIT TO HAUL AN OVERSIZED LOAD.

A semi-truck driven by a Canadian man collided with a bridge Thursday morning on Interstate 90. The incident occurred around 9:20 a.m. near mile marker 191, about one mile west of Murdo. The truck, driven by Gary Witzko, of Spruce Grove, Alberta, was hauling an empty 30,000-gallon oil tank when it collided with a bridge running over the interstate. The tank broke loose from the truck upon impact with the bridge and rolled into the median. Officers with South Dakota Highway Patrol and Jones County Sheriff's Office responded to the incident. Officials with the South Dakota Department of Transportation were



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called to assess the damage done to the bridge. They decided the bridge will have to be closed until repairs can be made. An estimate of how long the repairs will take has not yet been determined. Witzko was not hurt and was wearing his seat belt when the incident occurred. He was issued a citation for violating the permit he was given to drive the oversize load through South Dakota. The charge is a misdemeanor punishable by 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine. No other vehicles were involved in the crash. The Highway Patrol reported a crane would be needed to remove the wrecked tank from the median and place it on another truck to be hauled away.

<http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/event/article/id/61865/group/homepage/>

USA, TX, SAN ANTONIO, FEBRUARY 5 2012. GAS TANK LEAKING UNDERGROUND ON NORTHWEST SIDE

hollie o'connor

The [San Antonio Fire Department](#) is working to stop a leak in an underground gas tank on the Northwest Side. SAFD spokeswoman [Deborah Foster](#) said the tank, in the 2300 block of Benrus Boulevard, can't be capped. The fire crew will let it vent and burn off the gas, creating a visible flame, Foster said. No evacuations are anticipated, though roads have been closed, Foster said.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/default/article/Gas-tank-leaking-underground-on-Northwest-Side-3043025.php>

USA, MS, GULFPORT, FEBRUARY 5 2012. SCRAPPERS TOOK TRUCKLOADS OF MUNITIONS >> FEDS SAY HOLE WAS CUT IN FENCE AT CAMP SHELBY

robin fitzgerald



Pictures of ammunition found after an explosion with injuries Jan. 19 on Saucier Lane have been made a part of federal court records since Friday's arrest of Jack B. Wilson. The pictures were submitted as evidence in Wilson's detention hearing and were filed in electronic court records. The pictures show an assortment of munitions, including some in a pile with empty beer cans. Wilson was arrested on a charge of felon in possession of firearms at a camper on his sister's property.

Five Coast men used two pickup trucks to scavenge anti-tank rounds from Camp Shelby for scrap metal a few days before one of the rounds exploded in Gulfport, a federal agent testified Friday. One of the five, Jimmy Lee Wilson, told agents he had cut a hole through a fence to reach the firing range by truck, and said he had been scrapping projectiles from Camp Shelby for 20 to 25 years, the agent said.

Dale Ray Johnson, the only one not arrested in the federal case, lost one eye and

most of his vision in the other eye in the explosion, according to testimony. The explosion also blew off a finger, crushed both hands and may cause Johnson to lose a leg. Investigators believe Johnson was cutting a round with an acetylene torch when it discharged Jan. 19 on Saucier Lane. An agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosions testified for about an hour Friday, describing what agents found after learning of the explosion. He said they found 51 complete or partial 84-mm AT4 rounds -- armor-piercing military munitions not available for personal or commercial use. They were found near a home on the property where three children live, and near other homes, Three Rivers Elementary School and a ball field, he said. The munitions were considered too dangerous to move. An Army specialist unit was brought in to detonate them. The agent said Wilson has admitted he had been selling "cleaned" and cut-up projectiles to a scrap yard in Alabama. That state tightened its scrap-metal laws in September. Like Mississippi's scrap-metal law, effective a few years ago, Alabama's new law requires recycling companies to keep records on those who sell scrap. The new details emerged during detention hearings for Wilson and David Bangs, both 48. Court-appointed attorneys Jim Halliday and Stan Fountain, representing Wilson and Bangs, told U.S. Magistrate Judge John M. Roper the case appeared to be more of a scrap-metal case than a firearms case. "That will be an issue for another day," Roper said. Roper denied bond for both men, saying they exhibited reckless disregard for public safety and he could find no conditions to merit their release pending trial. Wilson and Bangs have felony convictions, and Bangs is on probation for a felony and tested positive for cocaine, the judge said. They and two others -- Jack Wilson, 45, and Lance Daniel Looney, 25 -- also are accused in the possession of destructive devices. Jack Wilson was denied bond after his arrest Jan. 27. ATF agents arrested Looney on Friday at the property on Saucier Lane. Looney lives a house on the property, Jack Wilson had been staying in a camper there, and Jimmy Wilson and Johnson had been staying in an adjacent shed, the agent said. Bangs is the only one of the five who was living elsewhere and is believed to be unrelated to the others. Looney



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was ordered held pending hearings Monday. Like the other men, he told the judge he is unemployed, and qualifies for a public defender. The public defender's office must hire separate attorneys to represent each of them.

<http://www.sunherald.com/2012/02/03/3730627/scrappers-took-truckloads-of-munitions.html>

USA, WI, WHITEWATER, FEBRUARY 5 2012. WORKER ESCAPES INJURY IN PROPANE EXPLOSION

shelly birkelo

 [Watch the Video Huge Tanker Explosion in Rock County](#)

No one was hurt in a propane truck explosion Friday that closed a section of Highway 59 and kept firefighters from more than a dozen fire departments on the scene for nearly three hours. The explosion, which is still under investigation, happened at 3:11 p.m. Friday at Landmark Services Cooperative, a farmers cooperative and fuel supplier at 12743 East Highway 59, just southwest of Whitewater in Lima Township. A hose became disconnected when a worker was trying to transfer propane from a holding tank into a tanker truck in a metal, free-standing building that was the northernmost building and 50 to 75 yards from any other structures, said Capt. Jude Maurer of the Rock County Sheriff's Office. "The worker tried to reconnect the hose but was unable. Upon realizing the severity of the situation, the worker fled from the building. Moments later, the escaping propane led to the explosion," Maurer said. According to a news release from Wisconsin Emergency Management, the truck tank was filled with 3,400 gallons of propane. It isn't known how much propane was in the larger supply tank or if it was involved in the explosion, the release said. Maurer said no damage estimates were available. "The building that was compromised as a result of the explosion sustained extensive damage," he said. A person on scene told Maurer that nearby residents saw one large explosion followed by several smaller explosions. Several other buildings stand on the site, including elevator silos, Maurer said. The fire from the explosion reportedly damaged one nearby building, according to the Wisconsin Emergency Management news release. Landmark Services Cooperative was known as Cooperative Plus until October, when it merged with Landmark, based in Cottage Grove. According to Landmark's website, the Whitewater facility has agronomy, energy and grain divisions. The Department of Labor issued \$721,000 in penalties to Cooperative Plus after a worker was seriously injured at its Burlington facility in February 2010. The cooperative faced other penalties later that year for federal workplace safety violations at both its Whitewater and Genoa City sites, according to Channel 3000. Although a half-dozen houses are within a quarter-mile of the explosion, Maurer said no evacuations were necessary. Deputies rerouted traffic between County Line Road and County KK while Highway 59 was shut down. The Whitewater Fire Department was the primary fire department on scene and received mutual aid from the following fire departments: Edgerton, Janesville, Lauderdale-LaGrange, East Troy, Darien, Fort Atkinson, Clinton, Sharon, Milton, Palmyra, town of Beloit and town of Turtle.

<http://walworthcountytoday.com/news/2012/feb/04/worker-escapes-injury-propane-explosion/>

USA, FLA, TALLAHASSEE, FEBRUARY 6 2012. NEW CUBAN CRISIS THREATENS FLORIDA'S COASTS



Ever since Cuba's intent to drill within 70 miles of Florida's coast has become known, concerned Floridians have been reeling with how to protect our treasured Florida Keys. For many Floridians, this is a very charged issue. It's no secret that having Cuba drill for oil is itself a hugely political issue-- exiles and many others outraged at Cuba potentially developing significant oil resources. Add to that the fact that a spill in the area would seriously endanger one of the country's most sensitive ecosystems, (and an economic engine for Florida tourism) and you have a firestorm. This would not be the first time that oil could generate a windfall for a dictator. We have been enriching unstable governments for years due to our deadly addiction to oil. But so far, our consumptive dependence on oil has only prompted us to deal with threats to our national energy security from our oil "dealer's" threats to increase prices, block the Strait of Hormuz, and manipulate markets knowing we're at their

mercy. In this case, the oil producer is also a neighbor and the risk to the iconic Florida Keys has truly brought the threat home. The Keys are known as the recreational fishing and scuba diving capital of the world. Extensive coral reefs on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico in Florida are home to some of the world's most diverse ecosystems, mangroves, sea grass, coral reefs and marine life and the related tourism it generates is no small sum. In 2010, Florida welcomed 82.3 million visitors who spent more than \$62.7 billion; and the industry provided employment to nearly a million residents. Each year, Florida generates more



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than \$37.3 billion and 452,811 jobs to Florida's economy on fisheries, wildlife, and activities carried out in its waters. We all suffered through the tragic disaster of BP's Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. There was no global precedent to guide the emergency response at such depth and no one could have imagined the economic and environmental consequences that recklessly drilling 5,500 feet deep would cause. Now, this drilling platform, the [Scarabeo 9 is poised to drill deeper](#) yet, and the plan in the event of a spill or explosion, is completely out of our hands, price of our oil dependence and precisely why we need to stop drilling pristine places. We need great political will to pave the way towards a clean energy future and sometimes fear can be a great motivator. In this case, fear that Cuban oil development would result in Cuba becoming an oil producing country or causing a spill that would pollute our beloved backyard has motivated some who generally don't recognize the environmental toll of drilling, to speak out against it. It has also resulted in a bipartisan group of legislators including Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio to introduce a bill in the Senate ([S. 1836](#)), and David Rivera (R-FL) along with a group of 16 bipartisan co-sponsors to do the same in the House ([H.R. 3393](#)) calling for penalties on oil spills-- without limitations. The risks of drilling are real and not limited to drilling done by countries who we don't play well with. Yes, the dangers of a spill in Cuba are real and out of four hands, but even where U.S. drilling is concerned, the president's [National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling](#) concluded the oil industry lacked the kind of safety culture that could prevent another disaster. And even here, the government lacks the authority and resources necessary to police the industry. We cannot waste another opportunity to take measures to ensure the safety and well being of our communities by holding polluters and policy makers accountable. Let's not wait for the next disaster. We must make an effort to wean ourselves from oil now or continue to face big risks and deal with situations like these where dictators are all too ready to become the next "oil dealer" eager to feed our dirty oil addiction. It's time to call on our leaders in Congress to protect special places from drilling, protect our oceans, adopt adequate penalties, and most importantly, to support a swift transition to a clean and vibrant energy future.

<http://theenergycollective.com/nrdcswhboard/75818/new-cuban-crisis-threatens-floridas-coasts>

THAILAND, PATHUM THANI, FEBRUARY 6 2012. TANKER CRASH TIES UP TRAFFIC IN NORTH BANGKOK



A tanker trailer-truck containing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) crashed and tilted early yesterday morning at a major elevated junction in Pathum Thani, causing heavy traffic congestion across northern Bangkok before being finally sorted out without damage. During the eight-hour period beginning at 5 am, residents in a 200-metre radius of the scene had been instructed not to cause any fire, switch on lights or cook for fear that electrical sparks or smoke could cause an explosion. White LPG fumes leaked from the tank until 11.30 am, when PTT safety experts arrived with two empty tankers and three crane trucks. They closed a valve and shut off the LPG in the truck's tank. The truck, belonging to Premruethai Petroleum, was at half full capacity when the gas was offloaded from its tank to the two trucks. Traffic flow was restored at 1pm. Before the PTT experts arrived, water from fire trucks was poured on the valve and around the

scene in an effort to minimise the risk of explosion, while many attempts by non-experts to close the valve had failed. The accident prompted closure of traffic from all road networks north of Bangkok adjacent to the junction, causing heavy congestion stretching into 10-km bumper-to-bumper gridlock in all directions. An eyewitness said the 18-wheel truck was travelling down a ramp at the junction at high speed, before it swerved and tilted. The driver later emerged from the wreck and stood for a while, before walking away. Saran Rangkhari, a senior PTT official, said the truck hit a wall, prompting a valve to open and leak. An inspection into the valve's functionality is underway, to determine why it opened after the impact, and whether the crash resulted from slippery surface or error by the driver, who has not yet been identified. He has been charged with causing damage through carelessness.

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/Tanker-crash-ties-up-traffic-in-north-Bangkok-30175205.html>

SOUTH KOREA, SEOUL, FEBRUARY 6 2012. CANCER-CAUSING MATERIALS FOUND AT SEMICONDUCTOR PLANTS OF 3 FIRMS: STUDY

Cancer-inducing elements were detected at semiconductor plants operated by three firms including Samsung Electronics Co., a study showed Monday, renewing concerns about the health of their workers. The detected levels of carcinogens such as benzene, arsenic and formaldehyde were unlikely to pose risks of cancer, but their presence was enough to give cause for



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concern, according to the study by the state-run Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute (OSHRI). The study was conducted on five wafer-manufacturing lines and four semiconductor assembly lines at Samsung, Hynix Semiconductor Inc., and Fairchild Semiconductor over three years starting in 2009. The report could deal a blow to Samsung, which last July denied any link between its chip plants and cancer, citing a study by U.S. environmental consulting firm Environ International Corp. After a spate of deaths and illnesses among young semiconductor workers, Samsung had commissioned Environ to study the cases of six workers who developed leukemia and other blood-related diseases while working at the electronics maker's chip factories in suburban Seoul. "The results of our study are significant in that they reveal that the sources of carcinogens are inside the plants," said Park Jung-sun, chief of OSHRI. "Though the levels are very low, they must be further reduced as much as is technically possible." Benzene, which is known to cause leukemia, was produced as a by-product at some of the manufacturing and assembly lines, although its levels were within the acceptable range of less than 1 part per million, according to the study. Exposure to levels below the upper limit poses no health risks over the lifetime of a worker who works eight hours per day at the plant, the study said. However, the amount of arsenic detected at wafer-manufacturing lines was found to exceed the acceptable limit of 0.01 milligram per cubic meter, prompting calls for countermeasures. The level of arsenic, which is known to cause lung cancer, reached as much as 0.061 milligram per cubic meter, according to the study.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/business/2012/02/06/57/0501000000AEN20120206008900315F.HTML>

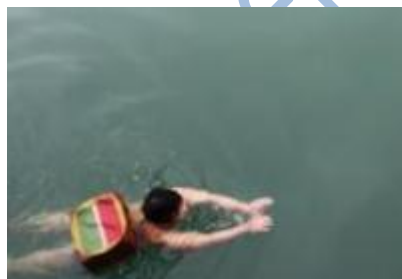
BRAZIL, SAO PAULO, FEBRUARY 6 2012. PETROBRAS SAYS NO FURTHER TRACES OF OIL SPILL IN CARIOCA NORDESTE FIELD

vinod sreeharsha

No further oil traces at sea have been found during overflights on Friday which were investigating an oil spill at a Petrobras FPWSO, or floating production work-over storage and offloading platform, in the sub-salt Carioca Nordeste field in the Santos Basin. Petrobras said in a statement on Friday night that as a result of this, contingency actions have been demobilized, and that the Brazilian Navy, the Brazilian Petroleum Agency, or ANP, and the Brazilian Environmental Agency, or Ibama, were apprised of this. The state-owned oil company did say that ships would remain in the area to monitor the situation. The ANP also said Friday in a statement that it had conducted two flights Friday and found the spill area to have reduced compared with what it saw on Thursday, when it measured the spill area to be approximately 70 sq km. It also said that the Brazilian Marines continues to keep a ship at the site of the spill. Petrobras still has not determined the cause of the oil spill, the first in the prized pre-salt area. Production at this FPWSO continue to be suspended, ordered by Ibama. The regulatory agency had measured the spill last week at 160 barrels. According to Ibama, there was a rupture of the riser that connects the platform to the head of the well at the bottom of the sea. This happened last Tuesday morning at the FPWSO platform Dynamic Producer in the Carioca Nordeste field, 300 km of the coast of Sao Paulo state, in 2,140 meters of water, according to Petrobras. The FPWSO platform, which was carrying out a long duration test, has a capacity of 30,000 b/d and it had been producing 22,000 b/d, according to a Petrobras spokeswoman. So far, no fines have been levied against Petrobras, nor have Brazilian politicians lambasted Petrobras, in contrast to the reaction against Chevron in last year's spill, for which several investigations are still ongoing. Oil was first discovered in the Carioca Nordeste in January 2011. The long duration test began in October 2011. Petrobras operates the field with 45% participation. BG Group has 30% and Repsol 25%.

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Oil/7144169>

CHINA, BEIJING, FEBRUARY 6 2012. CHINA FIRES 7 OFFICIALS AFTER SPILL



One brave soul swims in the Liujang River in Liuzhou city, dragging a bag filled with his clothes, despite the cadmium spill.

Seven officials in southern China have been removed from their jobs in the wake of a toxic heavy metal spill that fouled drinking water supplies for tens of millions of people, the state news media reported Friday. The spill, which affected 200 miles of the Longjiang River in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, was caused by two companies that accidentally released tons of cadmium into the river last month. The contamination was not reported for at least two weeks, during which people continued to use the water for drinking and cooking. Cadmium, a poisonous component of batteries and other industrial products, can cause kidney failure and bone damage. According to the official Xinhua news agency, among those fired from their jobs was



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the head of environmental protection in the city of Hechi, which failed to report the spill and then botched the attempted cleanup. Several other officials, including the city's deputy mayor, were reportedly disciplined. The police have also arrested six people at the Hongquan Lithopone Factory and the Jinhe Mining Company, which are blamed for the spill. Four other managers at the companies have fled, Xinhua reported. During a news conference in Hechi on Friday, officials said that 90,000 pounds of fish and more than a million fry had been killed and that several hundred villagers downstream had consumed river water for five days before they were notified about the dangers. Officials say it will be another month before the cadmium settles or is safely diluted by the currents.

 **Related Stories** [China Says It Curbed Spill of Toxic Metal in River](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/05/world/asia/china-fires-officials-for-not-reporting-toxic-spill.html)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/05/world/asia/china-fires-officials-for-not-reporting-toxic-spill.html>

USA, KY, PIKE CO, FEBRUARY 7 2012. TANKER CARRYING BLASTING AGENT OVERTURNS IN PIKE COUNTY

 **Watch the Video** [Tanker Carrying Blasting Agent OvertURNS](#)

A tanker truck overturned in the Robinson Creek area of Pike County earlier today spilling several tons of hazardous material into a creek. State Police say the driver, 58-year-old Karl Ashley, lost control on Kentucky 3415. The tanker leaked a powder substance, which was a premixed fuel and Ammonium Nitrate blasting agent, into the creek. Both northbound and southbound directions of KY 3415 (Little Robinson Creek Road) were closed down. "When we responded we found that the truck was in the creek and it was carrying a material that was hazardous," said Shelby Valley Volunteer Fire Chief Darrell Compton. The truck was carrying nearly 43,000 pounds of Ammonium Nitrate. Nearly one third of that poured into the creek along with several tons of fuel. "We've got some diesel fuel in the creek and also some of the nitrates will dissolve out of the ammonium nitrate," said Emergency Management Director Doug Tackett. Crews put booms across the creek to help catch the spilled materials. "We can probably collect most of the diesel fuel in the absorbents we put in the stream. the part the can't collect is the nitrates which dissolve from the ammonium," Tackett said. As a precautionary measure, Emergency Management Services evacuated a one-half mile area around the spill until they could get it cleaned up. "The only concern right now is just fire where it was mixed with diesel fuel and there's been a limited evacuation just of this little area right here," Tackett said. Officials say there is not an explosive hazard, and the drinking water in the area is not affected. The driver of the truck was not injured in the crash. Officials say they should have the spill cleaned up by Monday night.

http://www.wkyt.com/wymt/home/headlines/Tanker_overtURNS_in_Pike_County_138799809.html

MALTA, WIED IL-GHASEL, FEBRUARY 7 2012. FEARS OVER MOSTA VALLEY OIL SPILL >> IS IT 'MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING'?

 **Watch the Video:**

- [Dumping of oil-Malta/Mosta.\[5\]](#)
- [Dumping of oil-Malta/Mosta. \[1\]](#)
- [Fears over Mosta valley oil spill](#)



A 400-metre stretch of the Speranza valley has been marred by the accidental oil slick.

Up to 200 litres of black oil could have been "accidentally" spilled into the picturesque Mosta valley from an old tank in the quarry of Ballut Blocks, The Times has learnt.

Some Impacts are Immediately Evident

The police investigated the case with officers from the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and said it was an "accident" caused when oil leaked from an old 45-gallon tank. Mepa said the operator of the yard was cooperating fully with the authorities and will be covering the costs of the entire clean-up operation. "Mepa will

consider what appropriate action to take against the operator after the clean-up operation within the valley is completed," it said. Most of the oil was removed over two days by Mepa-contracted pollution response company Alpha Briggs, whose director described the "fuss" over the incident as "much ado about nothing". But biodiversity expert Alfred Baldacchino and hydrologist Marco Cremona have warned about possible long-term impacts of the spill which tainted a 400-metre stretch of the valley. Mr Baldacchino, who accompanied The Times on site yesterday, said the spent oil leaked from the quarry and



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streamed into the nature-rich valley with the help of rainwater. "Some impacts are immediately evident," he said, pointing out plants covered in the tar-like substance and "microhabitats" destroyed by pockets of concentrated oil. The clean-up operation saw several men using shovels, white absorption pads and a suction machine to remove the oil. Mr Baldacchino said this would have further disrupted the biodiversity, with any flora and fauna being vacuumed away with the oil and water. The long-term impact would only be measured once the rainy season was over and experts assessed the damage. When The Times was on site, the only people involved in the operation seemed to be Ballut Blocks and Alpha Briggs. Mr Baldacchino said this operation should be managed carefully and supervised at all times, particularly by Mepa, which is responsible for the protection of biodiversity. Meanwhile, Mr Cremona warned that certain components of spent oil were "toxic" and some may have dissolved in the water. "It is likely that some of the contaminated water seeped into the ground, which explains the black stains on rocks which show the original level of the contaminated water." The valley lies over the mean sea level aquifer, whose water is pumped up for public supply by the Water Services Corporation from a station adjacent to the valley. "If the oil-contaminated water seeped through, it could take anything between a few hours to decades to reach the aquifer and be pumped up. However, since the water is at the bottom of a valley, its journey will probably be shorter than the average for the country, which is estimated at 40 years," Mr Cremona said. It takes only a small amount of oil to contaminate large tracts of water and make it unfit for drinking, according to the limits set by the EU Drinking Water Directive. For instance, one litre of Benzo(a)pyrene, a compound found in spent oil, will make 100,000 litres of water unfit for drinking. In the past, where reservoirs were contaminated with spent oil, WSC took action by ceasing supply, testing the pumped water regularly and discarding the remaining supply. "I presume WSC and the health authorities will act cautiously and temporarily discontinue production from the station until samples are collected and lab tests abroad give the all clear," Mr Cremona said. This could take weeks or months and could prompt WSC to take legal action against the polluter to recover costs. But according to Alpha Briggs's director Paul Pisani, the incident was blown out of proportion. "The problem is that we are making a fuss about nothing ... This was just a 45-gallon tank." He added that if full this would have been equivalent to 205 litres. Asked if this could have affected biodiversity, he admitted: "I'm not a biologist." But when asked if contaminated water could have seeped into the ground, he said: "No... Oil stays on the surface. And we cleaned it. There is no problem." Mr Pisani also denied chemicals were used to disperse the oil in the clean-up process. Meanwhile, Mepa said it ensured the clean-up was done "sensitively and in the shortest period of time" by calling in a private company with the expertise and equipment to deal with these situations. Mepa was alerted by the police department on Monday afternoon, the same time passer-by Marcus Camilleri alerted the police and The Times to the case. Meanwhile, questions sent to Ballut Blocks, the Environment Ministry, and the health authorities have all remained unanswered. The Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs simply said the clean-up was coordinated by Mepa officials and the director of the cleansing department.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20120207/local/Fears-over-Mosta-valley-oil-spill.405656>

SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH, FEBRUARY 7 2012. RESIDENTS TOLD: GO FOR CONCEALMENT AS FUEL OIL THEFTS RISE



An artist's impression of a camouflaged oil tank.

Camouflaging tanks to avoid being spotted by satellite technology is normally only a feature of modern battlefields. However, Lothian and Borders Police are urging residents to take unusual steps to avoid falling victim to computer-savvy thieves on the look-out for oil and diesel. Thefts from tanks located at farms and rural homes across the UK have soared in recent years, and the culprits are said to have started using online services such as Google Maps to identify targets. Now Pc Mark Singleton has issued advice on how to conceal outdoor fuel tanks from crooks spying on them, and he's using mother nature's help to do it. The community officer for the Gorebridge area of Midlothian has taken his own advice to heart, camouflaging his fuel tank with trellising covered with a prickly shrub called

firethorn. The force's advice follows the theft of 2000 litres of gas from an external tank at Newlandrig, near Vogrie Country Park, in December. The fuel was valued at £1700. Pc Singleton said: "What thieves are taking to is using things like Google Maps and aerial reconnaissance. That's why, during crime prevention surveys, I encourage people, if they can, to camouflage their tank from the air." Police have encouraged residents worried about being targeted by burglars to plant "jaggy bushes" around their property to deter thieves. Prickly plants can also help to track down the culprit if they leave DNA evidence such as



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a blood sample or scrap of clothing behind, after being cut by a spiky hedge or razor-sharp leaf. Pc Singleton said that he was not aware of any fuel thefts involving online satellite services so far in the Lothians, but urged residents to be prepared. He said: "There have been cases south of the Border where satellite imagery was used by thieves to find tanks. Owners should look to keep them locked in a shed, or they can camouflage the tanks if possible. "Camouflaging a tank depends on the size of it. A domestic 1000 litre tank would be easier to conceal in a shed which can be locked. "Otherwise, residents just need to be vigilant. They should look out for flat-bed trucks carrying external tanks or other vehicles being driven suspiciously, and contact police if they are concerned." Pc Singleton added that a tank with a padlocked connection point was another method of deterring fuel thieves. But he said determined thieves often sawed through padlocks, causing additional damage to tanks. In November, James Boyle, 42, needed 12 stitches in his cheek after he was attacked at his workplace by two men with a craft knife who broke into Seafeld Sewage Works to steal diesel.

[http://www.scotsman.com/edinburgh-evening-](http://www.scotsman.com/edinburgh-evening-news/edinburgh/residents_told_go_for_concealment_as_fuel_oil_thefts_rise_1_2100180)

[news/edinburgh/residents_told_go_for_concealment_as_fuel_oil_thefts_rise_1_2100180](http://www.scotsman.com/edinburgh-evening-news/edinburgh/residents_told_go_for_concealment_as_fuel_oil_thefts_rise_1_2100180)

USA, CT, DURHAM, FEBRUARY 7 2012. CLEANUP TO COST \$23 MILLION IN DURHAM

jonetta badillo

 **Watch the Video** [Durham Cleanup cost \\$23 million](#)



The cleanup of hazardous waste at a Durham Meadows Superfund Site may cost about \$23 million, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials. Though the environmental cleaning is no cost to the town, the agency is hoping to receive a portion of the money from a proposed settlement with Merriam Manufacturing and entities related- Aztec Industries, LLC and the estate of Allam Adams, the agency's New England project manager, Anni Loughlin, said. In a consent decree filed on Jan.11, the above companies agreed to what Loughlin calls a "stipulated judgment" in the amount of \$20.1 million to help recover some of the costs to remove contaminated soil. But after extensive financial information was submitted to the government, the agency realized the entities had a "collective limited ability" to even pay for what the cleanup has cost so far, she said. The

agency has already dished-out approximately \$7.48 million on countless investigations and cleanup, not including groundwater samplings done at Durham Manufacturing Company and wells around it, Loughlin said. Future costs are expected to total up to more than \$15 million, since the agency has also proposed the installation of a public water supply from Middletown. These estimations will most likely exceed the costs on "every level, unfortunately," the project manager said. "We purpose the entities make claims on old insurance policies and provide the proceeds," Loughlin said. "Back town taxes were also left over to the government and negotiations with one insurer is still ongoing." A 30-day public comment period on the settlement began Jan. 23. and the project manager encourages all to provide their feedback. "If anyone wants to post comments they can," Loughlin said. "The consent decree is not final and until the court approves it, it is still a draft, so it's not really a done deal." Organized by the agency, the Superfund Site includes the cleanup of 275 Main St., where the former Merriam Manufacturing Company once stood, and 281 Main St., both of which are areas affected by groundwater contamination. However, soil excavation and offsite disposal has only started at Merriam Manufacturing and over half of the work is complete, Loughlin said. "We've been very lucky and trucking off site later than expected," she said. "Winter has been very mild—knock on wood." Crews began working on the three-acre property in October and have been operational ever since. Weather permitting, the work is projected to last another couple months. Once everything wraps, Loughlin said the property can be marketed and sold. First Selectman Laura Francis told Patch she hopes by this time next year someone interested in the property presents a plan to develop it. "No active work is occurring at the Durham Manufacturing Company," Loughlin said. "We're still working on groundwater and soil investigations." The company, she said, hired a contractor who has been conducting soil samplings for several years now. Once the most recent sampling is submitted to the agency and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, negotiations to implement work will resume. Known for its metal cabinets and boxes, the two companies' disposal of wastewater into the soil and inadequate drum storage played a huge role in the contamination. Years ago, Loughlin said, many businesses didn't know the proper way to dispose of waste since there were no environmental regulations in place. The Environmental Protection Agency wasn't founded until the 1970s, the project manager told the Press.



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"In many cases, businesses had a standard procedure to just dig holes and dispose of waste in the backyard," she said. "In hindsight it wasn't a good idea, but it was a commonly accepted practice that led to the unintended problems in the town of Durham today." Much of the town is serviced by private water wells and in 1982 the DEEP ordered both Main Street companies to install carbon filters on impacted residential wells. The agency as well as the Department of Public Health, and both Durham and Middletown have all been working on a plan to provide residents affected by the contamination with clean water. "I'm optimistic, but it's a very complex and difficult project we've been struggling with for the last several months, trying to determine if Middletown has the power to do this sort of thing," Loughlin said. There has been no discussion on the construction of a waterline for this calendar year, she said. But it "will come into town eventually, hopefully as quickly as possible."

<http://middletownpress.com/articles/2012/02/06/news/doc4f3063039a368870500841.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

NEW ZEALAND, TAURANGA, FEBRUARY 7 2012. COST OF RENA CLEAN-UP RISES TO \$NZ130 MILLION



Volunteers cleaning up Papamoa Beach after the oil spilled from Rena.

The Rena disaster clean-up is estimated to have cost about \$130 million, Environment Minister Nick Smith told Parliament today. The container ship ran aground on the Astrolabe Reef off the Bay of Plenty coast last October, and eventually broke up last month. Tonnes of oil leaked into the sea and washed up on local beaches, as did some of the hundreds of containers onboard and their contents. Dr Smith, who today faced a grilling in Parliament over the cost and possible prosecutions in relation to the disaster, said there was still significant uncertainty about the total cost of the salvage and clean-up, and it would not be clear until the operation was completed. "A crude estimate of the total costs has been provided to me by officials, of \$130m, of which the bulk is for the salvage of

fuel cargo and the ship itself," Dr Smith said. The majority of the costs were being met by the ship's owner, Greek shipping company Costamare Inc, but Dr Smith said government agencies had spent about \$28m. "It is our intention to fully recover those costs from the ship's owner and its insurers." Labour deputy leader Grant Robertson questioned Dr Smith about charging Costamare under the Resource Management Act, asking whether he believed the Bay of Plenty Council should take such a prosecution. "It is a decision for Environment Bay of Plenty whether they wish to prosecute under that Act," Dr Smith said. "The Government has made plain that we hold the owners of the Rena responsible for the environmental damage that has occurred with the worst environmental disaster in New Zealand's history. "That is why the Government, both through the negotiations over the issue of pollution costs, the Resource Management Act, and the maritime transport laws does intend to use the full force of the law to hold those responsible for that disaster."

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10783985

PAKISTAN, LAHORE, FEBRUARY 7 2012. MEDICINE FACTORY COLLAPSE: DEATH TOLL RISES TO 20 AS RESCUE OP CONTINUES >> GAS CYLINDER EXPLOSION

imran chaudhry



Rescue teams have managed to pull out 17 people alive.

Another three bodies have been recovered as rescuers continued their search for survivors on Tuesday from the rubble of a factory that collapsed on Multan Road in the Hanjarwal police precincts on Monday. Miraculously, a 60-year-old woman survived the collapse, despite being trapped in rubble for 30 hours. She was pulled out as the new death toll of the mishap reaches 20. Rescuers claim to have spotted more survivors, and are said to be making way through the rubble to recover them. According to details, the three-storey veterinary medicine manufacturing factory collapsed after a boiler and a gas cylinder exploded in its basement. Rescue teams were working on the spot, digging through the debris with axes, hammers and other tools to clear the rubble, till the filling of this report. According to Rescue 1122

Director General Dr Rizwan Naseer, the Punjab Emergency Services have so far retrieved 27 victims, including the dead, while 12 survivors were being treated at Jinnah Hospital. He said the rescue operation



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was underway at the site, adding that as many as 120 rescuers, besides town officials, Lahore Waste Management Company personnel, Edhi and Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation workers and volunteers were taking part in relief activities. "Rescuers managed to save two more women in the evening after five hours' effort. We hope to clear most of the rubble by tonight. It is a very slow and difficult operation," he added. A senior police officer said 19 people had been killed in the mishap, including 11 women, three young girls and three boys. Officials fear the death toll could rise further, as dozens are still believed trapped under the concrete mass, with police putting the number of victims at 100. Police say that according to the duty roster, 62 workers, including 45 males, had signed in for the morning shift, while some workers of the previous shift were also present inside. The factory was said to be illegal, and local residents said it had been shut down twice since 2008, but the owners reopened it. "The owners violated the court orders and broke the seals," said District Coordination officer (DCO) Ahad Cheema. Locals said that the medicine company, which was operating in the area since 1981, worked around the clock with more than 100 hundred workers, which included mostly under-age children and women. They said it was sealed on the orders of a judge after residents had filed a case for the removal of the factory from the residential area. But the owners allegedly broke the seal 15 days after the court's decision. They said the owners had built more illegal structures and the authorities concerned did not respond to several pleas made by the residents. They said hundreds of such small factories were operating in residential areas across the city, violating all labour laws, but the authorities concerned do not take any action against them. Hanjarwal police have registered a case under Section 302 against the owners of the company, while the factory manager has been arrested.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012%5C02%5C08%5Cstory_8-2-2012_pg13_1

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UMM AL QUWAIN, FEBRUARY 8 2012. MORE FUEL LEAK FROM SUNKEN VESSEL REPORTED

aghaddir ali



The rainbow colours of diesel, leaking from the sunken vessel White Whale, is floating off Umm Al Quwain.

Diesel cargo in ship poses risk to marine life as high waves hamper salvage operations. The White Whale, an oil tanker that sank in late October, poses a serious risk to coastal marine life in the UAE if the ship cannot be salvaged before 1,000 tonnes of diesel escape into the environment, an official has warned. Lying on the seabed 35 kilometres off the coast, the shipwreck is leaking fuel, according to reports, despite efforts to patch holes in the hull late last year. "It will be catastrophic if any of the diesel tanks burst as it would likely pollute the shoreline and cause contamination and endanger marine life," an official with Khalid Port told Gulf News.

Any spill could seriously affect a nearby commercial fish farm that raises species of Gulf fish bound for restaurants across the UAE and beyond. Fear of a major fuel spill comes amid documented sightings in recent days by fishermen of diesel on the surface of the Gulf waters. A fisherman told Gulf News that the slick of oil on the water appears to be growing larger by the day leading to an advisory issued by the Ministry of Environment for commercial anglers to avoid the area.

Raised to the Surface

The ministry is now working with Dubai Ship Building and Engineering to recover the sunken ship although efforts have been hampered by strong winds and high waves in the past few weeks. Salvage plans called for a ship to be dispatched to the area where, accompanied by smaller vessels, the White Whale could be raised to the surface and towed back to harbour, said an official at the company who declined to be identified. "Every time we set a date for the operation, unfortunately the weather changes the entire plan," said an official yesterday. Word that fuel oil was once again leaking to the surface was disheartening for authorities who quickly initiated steps to patch up the holes in White Whale's hull. Dr Mariam Al Shenasi, acting undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment and Water, confirmed that expert divers had worked to stop diesel leaking from the engines as part of a three-phase retrieval plan.

Related Stories

- [Rough weather delays Sharjah ship recovery](#)
- [Sunken ship causes waves as recovery is delayed](#)

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/environment/more-fuel-leak-from-sunken-vessel-reported-1.976495>



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USA, S.C, ANDERSON CO, FEBRUARY 8 2012. TANKER TRUCK WRECKS, BURNS IN HONEA PATH

 [Watch the Video Tanker Truck Explodes, Causes Raging Fire](#)

 [Photo Gallery Tanker Explosion](#)



An unidentified Friendship fireman looks on as flames and smoke billow across Shady Grove Rd. following an accident Tuesday morning that involved a tanker truck loaded with gas belonging to O'Dell Oil Company. The accident occurred around 10:30 am near the intersection of Vaughn Rd. The driver was able to get out before flames reached to cab of the truck.

Dozens of firefighters and others helped put out a gasoline tanker fire in about 15 minutes. The fire started at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday at the intersection of Shady Grove Road and Holiday Dam Road, according to the South Carolina Highway Patrol. Friendship Volunteer Fire Department Chief Brian Moon said that the first crews were at the Belton intersection almost immediately and were able to get the difficult gas flames extinguished fast by using foam mixtures. The truck driver lost control and overturned, Moon said. Flames reached about 30 feet in the air, he said. Jose

Emilio Calderon, 46, of Easley was driving the truck, said Lance Cpl Bill Rhyne of the highway patrol. He was wearing a seatbelt and suffered injuries. He was treated and released from AnMed Health Medical Center Tuesday. Calderon drove the tanker off the left side of the road then drove off the right side, striking a fence and a power pole, Rhyne said. Power lines fell onto the tanker after it overturned and burned the truck's fuel. Calderon was charged with driving too fast for conditions. While the immediate fire was quickly contained, firefighters will be staying with the wrecked truck throughout the day to keep a layer of foam on the gasoline while contractors contain the environmental damage from the leaked gas, Moon said. The county has a flat-bed truck with equipment on it that allows firefighters to spray a high concentration of non-alcoholic foam onto a dangerous chemical fire, said Taylor Jones, Anderson County's director of emergency services. The foam puts out the fire quicker and easier. Friendship, Cheddar, Ebenezer and Craytonville volunteer fire departments came to the fire along with firefighters from Belton, Honea Path and Abbeville County. Others assisted including the Anderson County Hazardous Materials Team and emergency medical responders from Honea Path and Belton.

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2012/feb/07/tanker-truck-wrecks-burns-honea-path/>

CHINA, JIANGSU PROVINCE, NANTONG, FEBRUARY 8 2012. CHEMICAL LEAK INTO YANGTZE SPARKS ALERT

Shanghai authorities are on alert after a chemical leak polluted the Yangtze River, the main source of water for China's most populous city, although there appeared to be no health threats, the Shanghai Daily newspaper reported on Wednesday. Officials in Zhenjiang in Jiangsu province said phenol, an acid compound used to make nylon and detergents, was found in its water source last week. The newspaper said it may have been caused by a leak from a South Korean ship. According to the Shanghai Daily, Jiangsu officials said the pollution did not pose a health threat to people. But Chen Wei, a director at Shanghai's environmental protection bureau, said the city was ready to shut its main reservoir at the mouth of the Yangtze if abnormal levels of chemicals were detected. Bottled drinking water in Zhenjiang and neighbouring cities had been sold out as residents reported a bad smell from tap water, the newspaper said. A cancer-causing cadmium discharge from a mining company polluted a long stretch of two rivers in southern China last month, prompting officials to warn some 3.7 million people of Liuzhou in the Guangxi region to avoid drinking water from the river, state media reported. Pollution as well food safety are hot topics in China, where numerous crackdowns on the country's food sector have had little effect as it continues to be beset by poisoning and toxin scandals that have shaken consumer confidence. In 2008, at least six children died and nearly 300,000 became ill from powdered milk laced with melamine, an industrial chemical added to low quality or diluted milk to fool inspectors by giving misleadingly high readings for protein levels. Beijing has repeatedly promised to clean up pollution of waterways by toxic runoff from factories and farms -- a problem that is pervasive throughout the country. But it often fails to match rhetoric with resources to enforce mandates as local officials put economic development ahead of environmental protection. In September, children in the Kangqiao area of Shanghai were found to have ultra-high levels of lead in their blood during medical checks. Residents in Kangqiao had said at least 10 children have been hospitalised due to the high levels of lead in their blood.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/02/08/china-pollution-shanghai-idINDEE81701K20120208>



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