



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 807 Newsy Stuff

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

February 9 2012



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INDIA, GUJARAT, SURAT, JANUARY 25 2012. THREE LABOURERS DIE OF ASPHYXIATION

In a tragic incident, three labourers died of asphyxiation while sleeping in an ornaments factory godown in Surat on Sunday. The labourers hailing from West Bengal died asleep when a utensil, filled with chemicals, fell after one of the workers accidentally hit the container, engulfing the godown with poisonous gas. The incident came in limelight when the owner of the factory reached his factory in the morning and found the three labourers unconscious. Fire fighters were rushed to the spot and with the help of residents the bodies of the labourers were brought out of the godown and rushed to a nearby hospital where they were declared brought dead. "About half an hour ago we received a call that three people are stranded inside a godown. When we reached the spot we found it to be a factory of gold ornaments where methyl and castor oil is mixed for preparing the ornaments. The chemical was kept in a utensil where the three labourers were sleeping. The chemical might have fallen out after being hit by one of the labourers in sleep and they became unconscious," said Jagdish Patel, a fire officer. He further told mediapersons that the owner of the factory was guilty as it was illegal to store hazardous chemicals in residential area and allow workers to sleep in a godown of a factory. The police are further investigating the matter.

<http://truthdive.com/2012/01/22/Three-labourers-die-of-asphyxiation-in-Surat-Gujarat.html>

FRANCE, ERDEVEN, KERMINIHY BEACH, JANUARY 25 2012. GOING, GOING, GONE! SALVAGE TEAMS DISMANTLE 330FT CARGO SHIP WHICH RAN AGROUND IN NORTHERN FRANCE IN JUST ONE MONTH

 **Photo Gallery [60 pictures]** [Dismantling a Shipwreck](#)



Technicians walk on the beach during the oil pumping operations to prevent pollution after the TK Bremen cargo ship ran aground on Kerminihy beach in Erdeven on December 19, 2011. Regional authorities work on trying to contain the slick and to empty the ship of its 180 tons of fuel and 40 tons of diesel.

This dramatic sequence of images shows salvage teams as they dismantled a cargo ship which ran aground in northwest France in just over a month. The Maltese-registered TK Bremen ran aground on Kerminihy beach, southern Brittany, on December 16 during a winter storm - threatening the nearby coastline with a fuel spill. Inspections of the vessel, built in 1982, found it was too badly damaged after hitting rocks to be towed back out to sea and a decision was made to dismantle it in case it

broke up in bad weather. Using specialist cutting equipment, a series of cranes worked on the stranded vessel starting with the forecastle and bow before chopping through the thick hull plates. A giant nature reserve of dunes and wildlife runs through the area near Erdevan, and there were fears the 220 tons of fuel on board the TK Bremen would spill into the water. But the fuel was successfully pumped out and a decision made to scrap the vessel where it lies. The TK Bremen had left the port of Lorient en route to the UK as the winter storm gathered strength. It anchored off the Isle de Groix to wait for an improvement in the weather, but was unable to maintain its mooring and drifted on to the coast. A spokesman for the maritime prefecture said at the time: 'We can't take the risk of towing it, as there is a danger of it breaking up and becoming more difficult to remove. 'Strictly-speaking, the ship owner has the right to repair the vessel where it lies, but it appears it struck several rocks and its hull has been perforated in several places.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2091081/Going-going-gone-Salvage-teams-dismantle-330ft-cargo-ship-ran-aground-northern-France-just-month.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, FREEMANTLE, JANUARY 25 2012. CAR CRASHES INTO FREMANTLE SERVICE STATION



Firefighters had to cut a man free from his car after crashing into the service station. A Warnbro man (50) is in hospital after crashing his Honda sedan into a Fremantle service station this morning. The crash happened about 7.45am at the Shell service station on Hampton Road. Hamilton Hill builder Damon Armstrong (38) was putting petrol into his Landcruiser near the pump into which the Honda collided. "I feel lucky, mate. It was weird. I honestly thought he hit me," Mr Armstrong said. "I was at that bowser when he came in, flat out, doing 60 (kmh) at least." The Landcruiser had scrapes on its left side from the Honda's collision. Acting Sergeant Damien Heseltine



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said it appeared the driver had a seizure and had passed out while travelling east on South Street, veering left into the service station. Firefighters had to cut the driver free from his car and the service station was closed. The driver was taken by St John Ambulance to Fremantle Hospital where he is in a stable condition.

<http://www.inmycommunity.com.au/news-and-views/local-news/Car-crashes-into-Fremantle-service-station/7612630/>

CHINA, BEIJING, JANUARY 25 2012. CONOCO, CNOOC PARENT REACH \$160 MILLION OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT



Conoco Phillips had come under criticism for its handling of the oil spill.

ConocoPhillips and China National Offshore Oil Corp. will pay about \$160 million to compensate Chinese fishermen for losses arising from oil leaks in the country's biggest pollution settlement in at least six years. The companies reached an agreement with the agriculture ministry to pay 1 billion yuan, Conoco, the third-largest U.S. oil company, said in a statement today. That's more than four times the 234 million yuan (\$37 million) 29 fishermen had sought in a lawsuit for the loss of clams and sea cucumbers resulting from spills at China's biggest offshore oilfield last year. In a sign that China is cracking down on polluters, Premier Wen Jiabao

demanding a "thorough" investigation into the leaks after China's maritime regulator ordered Conoco on Sept. 2. to shut the field. Houston-based Conoco operates and owns 49 percent of the Penglai 19-3 area in Bohai Bay, while Cnooc Ltd., the listed arm of China National, has 51 percent. While the settlement may be one of the biggest in China, it's a "drop in the bucket" for Conoco, said Gordon Kwan, head of regional energy research at Mirae Asset Securities HK Ltd. "I'm surprised China isn't asking for more," he said by telephone from Hong Kong. "This doesn't even pay for two deepwater exploration wells in offshore China."

Zijin, PetroChina

The compensation surpasses the 3.26 million yuan a unit of Zijin Mining Group Co. agreed to pay last year after the collapse of a tailing dam at a tin mine in 2010 killed 22 people, Xinhua News Agency said Dec. 28. China's largest gold producer said in May an appeals court in Fujian province upheld a criminal fine of 20.4 million yuan against the company after acidic waste leak from a mine in July 2010 polluted a river and poisoned enough fish to feed 72,000 people for a year. State-owned PetroChina Co., the nation's largest oil producer, was fined 1 million yuan in 2005 for a toxic spill that poisoned the drinking water of about 3 million people. The payments contrast with the \$20 billion fund that President Barack Obama demanded from BP Plc to compensate victims of the worst U.S. oil spill. BP paid \$7.4 billion to individuals, businesses and government entities affected by the Gulf of Mexico spill by Dec. 23, according to its website. Conoco will also allocate about \$16 million of a previously announced environmental fund to improve fishery resources, the company said in today's statement.

Tainted Sea

The leaks tainted more than 6,200 square kilometers (2,400 square miles) of Bohai Bay, resulting in losses to the tourism and fisheries industries in Liaoning and Hebei provinces, Xinhua said in a report today. Conoco Chief Executive Officer James Mulva apologized for leaks in a Sept. 6 statement after state media accused the U.S. company of negligence and cover-ups. China National said on Dec. 24 resuming oil production at Penglai is a priority for 2012 after the closure forced Cnooc to cut its 2011 output target. Cnooc has declined 17 percent in Hong Kong in a year and gained 0.3 percent to close at HK\$15.50 on Jan. 20, the last trading day before the city's markets shut for the Lunar New Year holidays. Conoco has gained 4.6 percent in 12 months and rose 0.1 percent to \$70.61 yesterday. "This should be taken as a positive sign in that a settlement has been reached, which may be one of the elements needed" before the field can start, David Hewitt, an analyst at Credit Suisse Group AG in Singapore, wrote in an e-mailed response to questions today. "You could argue that a key uncertainty for the stock this year is production growth" at Cnooc, he said.

Target Cut

Cnooc, which relies on fields off the Chinese coast for 80 percent of its production, said on Jan. 19 that it aims to produce the equivalent of 330 million to 340 million barrels of oil in 2012, a gain of as much as 2.7 percent from last year. Output was about 331 million to 332 million barrels of oil equivalent last year, compared with a revised target of 331 million to 341 million, Cnooc said. Before the leak the company had a target of as much as 365 million barrels. Cnooc's state-controlled parent said on Jan. 10 that 29 fishermen had sued the country's biggest offshore energy explorer. The Tianjin Maritime Court accepted a complaint from fishermen alleging the spilled oil killed their clams and sea cucumbers, the official Xinhua News Agency



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reported on Dec. 30. "The company will continue to support and assist ConocoPhillips to deal with the subsequent issues in a proper manner," Cnooc said in a statement today.

Related Links

- [Conoco offers compensation for leaks](#)
- [ConocoPhillips to pay 1 billion yuan for oil spil](#)
- [Conoco, Cnooc Parent Reach \\$160 Million Oil Spill Settlement](#)
- [ConocoPhillips to pay 1 bn yuan for oil spill: China government](#)
- [Conoco, Cnooc Agree On CNY1 Billion Compensation For Bohai Oil Leaks](#)

On The Web

- [Conoco Phillips](#)

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-01-25/conoco-cnooc-parent-reach-160-million-oil-spill-settlement.html>

USA, OH, LORAIN, JANUARY 26 2012. CLEANUP CREWS ON THE SCENE OF FUEL SPILL IN LORAIN

bruce bishop

Cleanup crews are on the scene of a fuel oil spill at a West Erie Avenue home in Lorain. A large fuel tank at a trailer home at 3819 West Erie has leaked an unknown amount of fuel oil, according to Assistant Fire Chief Gary Burls. There are multiple fuel tanks on the property, and it is unknown whether others have leaked. Burls said the spill could be anywhere from tens of gallons of fuel to hundreds of gallons of fuel. The occupant of the home didn't seem to be around, and it was unclear what caused the leak. The leak was reported by a resident of a nearby apartment building who noticed the stain caused by the leak. Officials said the leak poses no danger to those nearby because fuel oil is not particularly combustible. The leak has not made its way to any waterways, either. The Lorain Fire Department and Lorain County Emergency Management Agency are on the scene, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is en route. Crews expect the spill to require extensive cleanup, possibly to include moving the trailer home.

<http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2012/01/25/cleanup-crews-on-the-scene-of-fuel-spill-in-lorain/>

USA, TX, MT PLEASANT, JANUARY 26 2-12. DIRT WORK ON THE BYPASS LOOP REQUIRES CLEAN-UP OF 'GHOST' PETROLEUM TANKS

lou antonelli

Earth moving has started for the loop by-pass project, and is moving ahead as quickly as possible in light of recent rains, with one surprise last week. Titus County Commissioners received a formal written report Monday at their meeting on the project of the project. County Judge Brian Lee said it's obvious from the equipment along Hwy. 271 north of Mike Hall Drive (the airport road) that "they're planning to move a lot of dirt in the next six months." The preliminary excavation already has uncovered one thing that wasn't anticipated, Lee said, as he reviewed the report. "Four underground petroleum storage tanks were discovered by the contractor on the site previously owned and occupied by Cameron Auto Salvage." "These tanks were installed and ceased use prior to Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission, the predecessor to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), beginning regulation of underground storage tanks," Lee read. "As such, they do not appear in the TCEQ database, and are considered ghost tanks." The report from Pate Transportation Partners (PTP), the project and construction manager, continues: "The previous owner had agreed to clear the property as a part of the settlement agreement for the land negotiated with Titus County. The site was cleared, as agreed upon, except for a slab which was scheduled to be removed by the roadway contractor. The tanks were adjacent to that slab. "T&P (A licensed petroleum storage tank removal contractor) removed the four underground storage tanks and associated fuel distribution piping from the former Cameron Auto Salvage location. The fill locations of the three tanks on the south side were covered with a thin layer of topsoil and grass. These tanks were intact showing no signs of holes. "They were: one 4000-gallon tank, one 6000-gallon tank, and one 5000-gallon tank, all of which contained small amounts of product mixed with water. The water probably entered through the vent pipes. The south side tanks appear to have contained gasoline. The 4000 and 6000 gallon tanks were removed on Thursday and hauled to T&P's facility. The 5000-gallon tank was unearthed, but not removed until Friday due to TCEQ regulations that it must be removed from the site within 24 hours of being removed from the tank hold. "The tank on the north side was a 4000-gallon tank containing diesel. The tank fill riser had been removed at some point and covered with plastic below. After a rainfall water and soil were able to percolate into the tank, but did not appear to fill it. Fluids and sludge were pumped out of all of the



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tanks by a recycler with vacuum trucks for recycling. "This tank was removed along with the 5000-gallon tank from the south side and all distribution piping on Friday; and hauled to T&P's facility. "Apex GeoScience collected soil samples under the tanks and at appropriate locations along the piping. Two of the samples along the piping showed evidence of a petroleum odor. The results identified petroleum hydrocarbon (gasoline)-affected soils above the level allowed by TCEQ. The site now requires clean-up, which includes excavation of soils, aeration of soils, further testing, removal of contaminated excavation, backfill of excavated areas with approve soil, installation of a monitoring well and submittal of all required documentation to TCEQ to receive a release." While work has started on the Hwy. 271 portion of the loop, PTP is working towards final approval of the design of the FM 2348 section. In Monday's report, PTP Representative Jennie Taraborelli noted a small hang-up, "When submitted for review, a comment was received by the Bridge Division that required a revision to one of the retaining walls. This revision has been completed by Shaumburg & Polk, the design engineer for the project, and quality checked by PTP Transportation., she reported. "The revision was submitted back to TxDOT-Atlanta District who forwarded it to Austin for final review. It is anticipated that Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) will issue a Letter of Authorization releasing the project for advertising by the first of February."

<http://www.dailytribune.net/articles/2012/01/24/news/doc4f1ef2271ee16282140234.txt>

USA, OH, FREMONT, JANUARY 26 2012. WORKER KILLED, 2 INJURED ON TURNPIKE BY TRACTOR-TRAILER

david patch

 **Watch the Video** [Ohio Turnpike Westbound Lanes Closed for Fatal Crash](#)



A veteran Ohio Turnpike maintenance worker from Perrysburg was killed and two co-workers were seriously injured Tuesday morning when a wayward tractor-trailer crashed into a work area in the westbound lanes. Forest John Fletcher, 53, an assistant foreman assigned to the turnpike's Elmore Maintenance Building, was killed in the crash. He had been a full-time turnpike employee since 1985 after starting as a summer student worker in 1978, and had worked at the Amherst Sign Shop and Swanton maintenance base. Seriously injured were turnpike employees James Roudebush, 55, of Millbury, and Anthony J. Stout, 24, of Clyde, Ohio, as was the truck driver, Edward Mills, 53, of Doylestown, Ohio, the Ohio State Highway

Patrol's Milan post reported. The injured workers were taken to University of Toledo Medical Center, the former Medical College of Ohio Hospital, where Mr. Stout was listed in critical condition Tuesday night. The hospital had no information about Mr. Roudebush. Mr. Mills was taken to Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center, also in Toledo, where he was admitted to the neurological intensive-care unit with no condition information available. The turnpike's westbound side was shut down for nearly six hours after the 10:26 a.m. crash, which occurred in Sandusky Township at a bridge over railroad tracks west of the State Rt. 53 interchange where a turnpike crew was repairing the bridge's deck. Traffic was forced off the turnpike at Route 53 and backed up for nearly six miles. All lanes had reopened early Tuesday night. The work zone had closed the right and center lanes, leaving just the left lane open, turnpike officials said. Construction signs included a 50-mph speed limit through the area. The semi, hauling a tank trailer loaded with corrosive liquid that did not spill, went through traffic cones marking off the closed lanes and struck three turnpike vehicles as well as the three men, all of whom were outside of vehicles at the time of the crash, according to the highway patrol's report. No charges were immediately filed, and the crash remained under investigation by the patrol. Patrol Sgt. Anthony DeChoudens said determining the crash's cause will require a detailed accident reconstruction effort. The crash did not occur at a merge point, which is typically the most troublesome spot of a work zone, the sergeant said. Investigators will have to try to determine how fast the truck was going and what, if any, attempts Mr. Mills may have made to stop, he said. Such investigations also typically cover any potential medical issues with the driver or vehicle mechanical failures. "It will be very complex," Sergeant DeChoudens said. "We are extremely saddened to learn of the traffic accident that occurred this morning on the Ohio Turnpike that led to the loss of one of our maintenance employees while also injuring several other maintenance workers," Rick Hodges, the turnpike's executive director, said in a statement. "The commission will be working closely with the Ohio State Highway Patrol to get more information about this incident. The entire turnpike commission and the [Teamsters] union extend our heartfelt sympathy to the employees and their families affected by this tragic event." Gary Tiboni, business agent for Teamsters Local 436, said the accident illustrates the daily danger that



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turnpike maintenance workers face during their efforts to keep the toll road safe for the motoring public. "My guys work awfully hard out there," Mr. Tiboni said. "We're just heartsick about what happened."

<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2012/01/24/Worker-killed-2-injured-on-turnpike-by-tractor-trailer.html>

USA, N.J, ELIZABETH, JANUARY 26 2012. RAGING TANKER TRUCK FIRE IN ELIZABETH

Watch the Video

- [Deadly Tanker Crash Sends Fireball into the Sky](#)
- [1 Dead in NJ Tanker Accident](#)
- [1 Dead after Car Crashes into Full Gas Tanker in NJ](#)
- [Dramatic Video: Raging Tanker Truck Fire in Elizabeth](#) [bottom of page]

Photo's [6] [Tanker truck accident on Route 1 in Elizabeth](#)



The driver of a vehicle that slammed into a fuel tanker was killed this morning, a crash that ignited a massive blaze, authorities said. Video footage from the scene shows flames hurtling into the air, setting aglow the early-morning Elizabeth sky. Authorities have not yet identified the driver killed in the crash, although they believe the victim was a Newark resident. The accident happened in the northbound lanes of Route 1 and 9, with the Mitsubishi heading north and the tanker coursing through the circle toward South Elmora Avenue. Bollwage said cameras in Woodbridge, Linden and near the circle captured the Mitsubishi going at least 75 mph. The truck, he said, was rounding the circle slowly. Baljinder Singh, the owner of Omega Energy Corp., a small Linden-based tanker firm, identified his

driver as a 30-year-old New York City man. He said his employee told him the car appeared to be drag racing another vehicle and had sped through two nearby stoplights. The truck, carrying about 8,500 gallons of fuel, was headed to a Roselle Park gas station, Singh said.

Related Links

- [Authorities believe driver killed in Elizabeth tanker crash was Newark resident](#)
- [Authorities yet to ID driver who slammed into fuel tanker in Elizabeth this morning](#)
- [One killed when vehicle, tanker truck collide on Routes 1&9 in Elizabeth](#)

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/01/video_authorities_battle_ragin.html

CANADA, B.C, ABBOTSFORD, JANUARY 26 2012. UPDATE: THOUSANDS OF LITRES OF OIL SPILLED AT ABBOTSFORD KINDER MORGAN SITE ARE CONTAINED

christina toth

Photo's [5] [spilled oil contained](#)



Kinder Morgan's Sumas terminal includes several storage tanks on Sumas Mountain in Abbotsford, that hold various grades of oil destined for the Lower Mainland as gasoline and abroad as crude oil.

An estimated 110,000 litres of crude oil were captured in a containment area at Kinder Morgan's oil storage facility on Sumas Mountain early Tuesday morning and mopped up later in the day, said a company spokesperson. The only threat to residents was that of "nuisance odours," said Kinder Morgan spokeswoman Lexa Hobenshield on Tuesday. The oil was covered with foam to suppress the odour and

was then removed. The leak was relatively small, less than one-quarter of one percent of Kinder Morgan's daily pipeline capacity of 300,000 barrels per day, she said. Pipeline accidents are rare, she added, but the containment area built to contain such leaks "functioned exactly as it should," she said. However, environmentalist Ben West of the Wilderness Committee said the spill at Kinder Morgan's Abbotsford facility on Lower Sumas Mountain Road should serve as a wake-up call about the risks associated with the oil transportation company's proposed expansion of its Trans Mountain pipeline. "This should be a reminder to people that there is a very serious risk of oil spills when you've got oil pipelines and oil tankers," West said



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Tuesday. Local resident John Vissers noted the event may make Abbotsford residents nervous about Kinder Morgan's plans to double 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. "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. On Tuesday, Auguston Traditional Elementary students were kept inside for most of the day because of the strong-smelling fumes. Some parents came to take their kids home, said school district spokesman Dave Stephen. 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," said Stephen. The Auguston subdivision and school is about a kilometre from the Sumas terminal, which has several large storage tanks. Serena Duckett, who lives on Auguston Parkway East, said her husband noticed the smell when he left for work at 9 a.m. She 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]." Abbotsford Police Const. Ian MacDonald said his department began receiving calls of a strong oil or gas odour in the Auguston area at 4:30 a.m., and calls continued all day. Police and fire crews went to the area at daybreak to find the source of the smell. The police eventually called Kinder Morgan and confirmed there had been an incident at the company's storage facility. MacDonald posted the information on Facebook and Twitter just after 11 a.m. Hobenshield noted that Kinder Morgan follows an incident command system. "As part of that, we notify agencies such as B.C. Ministry of Environment, the National Energy Board and federal Department of Environment. All of which were overseeing the incident yesterday. We did notify local key stakeholders, and worked both on our own and with the Auguston school to notify neighbors - as well as with the media," Hobenshield said Wednesday. The incident is still under investigation, she said.

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

USA, FLA, MIAMI, JANUARY 26 2012. FIRE RESCUE: MORE THAN 2,000 GALLONS OF FUEL LEAKS AT AIRPORT

diana moskovitz

 **Watch the Video** [Officials investigate fuel spill at MIA](#)

More than 2,000 gallons of fuel spilled Wednesday at Miami International Airport, and four people were taken to local hospitals after they were exposed to it, according to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. No flights were disrupted due to the leak, an airport spokeswoman said. The spill happened shortly before 3 p.m. at the Commercial Jet hangar. The fuel leaked from an aircraft due to some type of mechanical issue, Fire Rescue said. About 2,200 gallons leaked before it was stopped. Four people were exposed to the fuel and were taken by paramedics to two hospitals — Hialeah Hospital and University of Miami Hospital — for treatment. The fuel was cleaned up in about three hours. It was turned over to environmental officials for proper disposal.

Related Links

- [4 hospitalized after fuel spill at Miami airport](#)
- [Officials investigate fuel spill at MIA](#)

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/01/25/2608367/fire-rescue-more-than-2000-gallons.html>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, JANUARY 26 2012. MINISTER ABANDONS INAUGURATION OF FUEL TANKERS OVER EXPLOSIVES

bayo amodu

The Minister of Transport, Senator Idris Umar, yesterday abandoned the inauguration of 20 fuel tanker wagons meant for the haulage of petroleum products, after some dangerous cargoes believed to be explosives were discovered on board a ship. The Federal Government had imported the tankers from China to kick-start the haulage of petrol and other refined petroleum products from the seaports to lighten the pressure on the roads, believed to be responsible for the country's dwindling road infrastructure. A senior executive of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), who was offloading the tankers from the ship, stopped abruptly when the discovery was made. Concerned about his safety, the transport minister had to abandon the inauguration of the tankers. Idris had arrived at the Greenview Terminal, Apapa Port, managed by the Dangote Group, for the inauguration of the wagons, but was held up in his car for over 30 minutes because the NIMASA deputy director for maritime safety and standards, Capt. Warriiddi Enisuoh, said he could no longer continue offloading the tankers from the ship. Enisuoh said although the dangerous goods were on the manifest, the consignees had failed to confirm



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the products, adding that at a time in Nigeria when bomb blasts had become a common experience, the maritime agency could not afford to play with its security functions. He also explained that, going by the way the ship berthed, the agency had reason to suspect that all was not well with the vessel. He, therefore, demanded that the offloading of the tanker wagons, which the minister was to launch, be suspended. 'When we did a surveillance of this terminal this morning, this ship was not on berth, but we knew that it has been on the nation's waters in the last seven days. As much as the items in question were manifested, they needed to be confirmed by the consignees. Every day in this country, we hear reports of hundreds of people being killed by bomb blasts in some parts of the country. We can no longer joke with security as far as this agency is concerned. 'However, I will not want to pre-empt the situation. We have begun an investigation to determine the exact the nature of the arms,' Capt. Enisuh told journalists. Also briefing journalists shortly after the departure of the minister, the Managing Director of the Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC), organiser of the inauguration event, Engr. Adeseyi Sijuade, said, the programme had to be postponed due to "some technical hitches." 'We have been asked to stop offloading the tanker wagons. In a few days, the minister will be here again after the tankers would be completely offloaded to inaugurate them,' he said.

<http://www.momentng.com/en/news/6184/minister-abandons-inauguration-of-fuel-tankers-over-explosives.html>

USA, WASHINGTON D.C, JANUARY 26 2012. NATIONAL PETROCHEMICAL & REFINERS ASSOCIATION BECOMES AMERICAN FUEL & PETROCHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS



The National Petrochemical & Refiners Association (NPRA) today changed its name to the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) at an event where speakers said U.S. petroleum refiners and petrochemical manufacturers can create jobs, strengthen America's economic and national security, and continue serving consumers for many decades. "This trade association has been around for 110 years, serving our nation and the American people," said AFPM Chairman James Mahoney, executive vice president of operations excellence and compliance for Koch Industries. "We believe our new name better describes who we are and what we do.... Our members have been able to stay in business all

these years – and will stay in business for many, many decades to come – because American consumers continue to choose our products in the free market."

<http://www.afpm.org/>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, JANUARY 26 2012. OIL SPILL PAIR MUST POST \$40000 FOR BAIL

The master and chief engineer of a ship that spewed oil into the Brisbane River will not be allowed to leave Australia until they have each paid \$20,000 to secure their bail. Captain Cecillio Balagatas and chief engineer Marlon Arceo have each been charged under the Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995 with one count of discharging oil into the water. They appeared on Wednesday morning in the Brisbane Magistrates Court, where they successfully applied for bail. Balagatas and Arceo were preparing to leave Brisbane for Japan on the GL Lan Xiu, which was carrying 2000 head of livestock, on Monday when the spill occurred during refuelling, the court heard. It took less than two minutes for between five and 10 tonnes of oil to spew into the Brisbane River, the court heard. The ship's owner, Glocal Hong Kong, faces a similar charge over the incident. Defence barrister Craig Chowdhury told the court Arceo and Balagatas were Filipino nationals with a long history as mariners. He said the spill "seems to have resulted from an accidental error", and that it was not clear exactly what role his clients had played in the incident. Mr Chowdhury asked that the pair be released on bail and did not oppose the \$20,000 surety for each man, sought by the crown. Bail was granted on condition the two men did not leave Australia until they had paid the surety. The court heard they will probably depart on the GL Lan Xiu when it is released from detention by Maritime Safety Queensland later this week. The matter was adjourned until April 5, when Balagatas and Arceo will not be required to attend court.

Related Links

- [Three charged over oil spill](#)
- [Environmental concerns after oil spill in Brisbane River](#)
- [Brisbane River oil spill spread quickly](#)

<http://news.ninensn.com.au/national/8408562/oil-spill-pair-must-post-40000-for-bail>



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USA, WA, KITSAP, JANUARY 26 2012. EPA FINES NAVY FOR PROBLEM IN MONITORING UNDERGROUND FUEL TANKS

ed friedrich

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has fined the Navy \$161,000 for failing to properly monitor pipes and underground fuel storage tanks for leaks at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. No leaks were detected, but if there were leaks, nobody would have noticed. "Luckily we did not find a leak during the time period we were looking at," said Anne Christopher of the EPA's Groundwater Unit in Seattle. "But the whole point of the underground storage tank program is it's preventive. If there was a leak, they'd detect it quickly." The tanks are supposed to be checked every month. The EPA inspects facilities with underground tanks every three years. Bangor was checked in March 2010. It has 53 underground tanks on the base for storing diesel, used oil and gas, ranging from 170 gallons to 45,000 gallons. EPA inspectors found 37 violations, including failure to properly monitor the tanks and pipes for leaks, failure to have the proper leak-detection equipment installed for the pipes, and failure to provide an adequate alarm system to prevent delivery drivers from overfilling the tanks. The Navy had the right equipment at most of the sites, it just didn't monitor it. It has corrected the violations and agreed to provide EPA with documentation showing it is in compliance with proper monitoring, according to the EPA. Leaks from underground storage tanks allow toxic fumes to escape and collect in areas such as parking garages or basements where it can cause explosions or respiratory illness. Toxic contaminants can also leak into groundwater that people depend on for drinking water. Regular monitoring reduces contamination risks. "We're concerned about them because of the base's proximity to Puget Sound," Christopher said of Bangor, which lies on the shore of Hood Canal. "Even a small leak could cause considerable damage to Puget Sound. We're also concerned because residential areas around the base depend on groundwater for drinking water." The Navy says all of its Bangor tank systems have audible and visual alarms if tanks leak. The monitoring systems are certified by an independent laboratory to meet EPA standards and are inspected annually by technicians certified by the manufacturer. During the March 2010 inspection, monitoring systems were operating at all sites, showing they were operating properly and no fuel or oil was leaking, the Navy said. Regulations require that records be kept on file showing that monitoring systems were operating for the previous 12 months. Bangor records are kept by the EJB Facilities Services, which maintains and operates the tanks. Before the EPA inspection, the Navy found inadequate record keeping and had filed complaints with EJB, which corrected or was in the process of correcting the problems before the inspection. Equipment deficiencies noted by the EPA had passed previous inspection by the Washington State Department of Ecology. Two sites had piping-release detection equipment that didn't meet state requirements, but other environmental protection was in place in the form of monitored double-walled piping equipped with alarms or systems capable shutting pumps down if leaks were detected. The Navy has completed more than \$600,000 worth of projects on fueling systems since the EPA inspection, it says. It has upgraded tank-monitoring systems for 15 tanks, installed new leak-detection and overfill-prevention equipment, upgraded pipeline monitoring for five tanks, installed five new fuel dispensers with remote leak monitoring, installed improved high-level alarms, and installed five new mechanical pipeline leak detectors. The Navy also recently awarded an additional \$375,000 worth of fuel system upgrade contracts, addressing EPA's concerns as well as installing voluntary upgrades. Several variables are considered when determining the fine, Christopher said. The money goes directly to the U.S. Treasury.

Related Links

- [Navy settles with EPA on Silverdale fuel tanks](#)
- [Naval Base Kitsap fails to properly monitor fuel](#)

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2012/jan/17/epa-fines-navy-for-problem-in-monitoring-fuel/>

USA, TX, CORPUS CHRISTI, JANUARY 26 2012. LET'S RESOLVE TO POLLUTE LESS IN 2012

elena craft

2011 was a year for extreme weather in Texas; epic wildfires and extreme drought have left Texas in a state of repair. As the fervor of our adherence to New Year's resolutions may be starting to fade, I ask that we hold steady in the fight against harmful air pollution. As the heart of the energy sector, [Texas pumps more benzene and other hazardous air pollutants into the air than any other state in the nation](#). And shelter in places and emergency responses happen way more often than they should. In thinking about the New Year and our resolutions for 2012, let's remember how pollution and our actions affect our precious resources and climate. And let's not forget the pollution events that occurred in the Lone Star state, and think about how we can do better. Below is a list of some of the top environmental pollution events in Texas over the last decade:



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Flint Hills Resources Benzene Spill- 2001

Koch Petroleum Group (now Flint Hills Resources) [pled guilty in April 2001 to lying](#) about benzene emissions coming from its petroleum plant located in Corpus Christi, Texas. [Benzene](#) is a known carcinogen, which can cause leukemia and other cancers. In 1995, Koch environmental technician Sally Barnes-Soliz found 91 tons of benzene emissions from the petroleum plant in Corpus, more than 15 times the legal limit. However, Koch only reported 0.61 tons of benzene the following year, 1/149 of the actual emissions found. Barnes-Soliz reported the falsification to the government and, as a result, Koch was charged \$20 million in fines and penalties. The company [earned a reported \\$176 million in profit from the plant in 1995; it is estimated to have cost only \\$7 million to](#) comply with the Benzene emission standards.

BP Refinery in Texas City- 2005

On March 23, 2005, an [explosion](#) killed 15 employees and injured 170 as a result of workers re-starting a unit at the BP refinery that had been closed for repairs, an extremely dangerous process. The problem started when workers filled a tank with 138 feet of flammable liquid, when it should have only been filled with 6.5 feet of liquid. The window in the tower that should have let workers know the tank was too full was too dirty to see through and safety devices that should have sounded an alarm failed. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that BP had cut costs, resulting in risky working conditions, which were likely the cause of the catastrophic event. An [investigation by the Chemical Safety Board found](#) numerous problems including out of date equipment, corroded pipes, and faulty safety alarms. [This explosion has been characterized as the worst workplace incident in the U.S. from 1989 up until 2005.](#)

Arsenic Contamination of Drinking Water- 2009

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality [found](#) that 120 water utility systems across the state were not in compliance with the EPA standard for arsenic in 2009. Arsenic is a naturally occurring element in rocks and soil; it can contaminate drinking water as a result of mining runoff, erosion of natural deposits, emissions from glass and electronic processing and the use of compounds containing arsenic (ex: wood pesticides). While most drinking water naturally has a small amount of arsenic, larger amounts resulting from improper disposal of industrial wastes can lead to lung cancer, bladder cancer and gangrene. Since 2004, the state of Texas has had 596 violations for arsenic levels over the maximum limit in drinking water. You can see a list of the top 10 most polluted communities for arsenic in Texas [here](#).

American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO)- 2009

The ASARCO plant was built in El Paso in 1887. In the 1970s, a [study by the Centers for Disease Control found](#) that the plant was responsible for high levels of lead in children living near the facility. The copper smelter site contaminated the air with a variety of chemicals including lead, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, selenium, and zinc. Specifically, the study found over half of the children living within a mile of the smelter had levels of lead in their blood four times the limit considered acceptable by the EPA. [Research shows](#) that even small amounts of lead in a child's blood system can cause nervous system damage, neurological disorders, loss of IQ points, lowered attention spans, behavioral problems, and even an increase in delinquency. In February 2009, ASARCO closed the El Paso plant permanently after EPA intervened. To settle claims for hazardous pollution, ASARCO is in the process of paying [\\$1.8 billion](#) over the course of several years for environmental cleanup at more than 80 sites across the country, including the El Paso plant.

Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill- 2010

By far, the most horrific pollution incident over the last decade is the explosion at the Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig, where a fire burned for 36 hours before the oil rig sank. Caused by a gas leak, this explosion resulted in hydrocarbons leaking into the Gulf of Mexico for 87 days until they were finally sealed off. Eleven people died and 17 were injured from the explosion. The spill caused extensive damage to marine and wildlife habitats and to the Gulf's fishing and tourism industries. Scientists reported an [80 mile "kill zone"](#) surrounding the well. Over 400 wildlife species hurt/threatened by the [biggest oil spill in U.S. history](#) and the second largest environmental disaster in U.S. history. Almost five million barrels of oil leaked into the ocean before the well was capped on July 15, 2010. The well is dead, but it has left industries and livelihoods on life support in its wake.

Citgo Petroleum Corporation- 2007

At the Citgo East Plant refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas, [state inspectors found during an unannounced visit](#) that the organization was operating open top tanks as oil water separators without first installing emission controls for benzene required by federal and state regulations. The inspectors found 4.5 million gallons of oil in two 12 million-gallon tanks; these tanks accounted for more than 57 metric tons of benzene in the waste streams, which are exposed to the air. Federal regulations limit refineries to operate with 6 or less metric tons of benzene in their exposed waste streams. As a result, [Citgo was indicted](#) for the lack of emissions controls and for failing to identify all of the points in the refinery wastewater system



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where benzene was generated in a report to the TCEQ. This case is still ongoing; however, if Citgo is found guilty, the company could face up to \$500,000 fines for each of the 10 counts of environmental violations at the refinery. Residents near the plant are paying careful attention to the outcome of the case; many of them believe the dangerous benzene emissions are responsible for their health problems. [The Houston Chronicle spoke with Kimberly Curiel](#), a resident in the area. "Cancer, cancer, cancer," she said, pointing to a string of houses on her old street where neighbors have fallen ill. "That just doesn't happen very often."

Air Products and Chemical Plant- 2010

On February 16, 2010, the Air Products and Chemical Plant [shut down due to a pipe leak](#) after a unit tripped offline. This leak emitted an orange cloud of nitric acid, a toxic irritant, over Highway 225, an area with heavy traffic. The City of Pasadena officials initially claimed "there was no danger to the public". However, several individuals who came in contact with the nitric acid cloud were sent to the hospital after they had trouble breathing. Nitric acid is a dangerous colorless, highly corrosive liquid which can cause severe burns and irritation to the eyes. The city shut down Highway 225 for several hours and issued a shelter in place until the leak could be contained and the plant was secured.

BP Refinery in Texas City- 2011

In November 2011, there were reports of gas leaks at a BP refinery in Texas City, the third largest refinery in the U.S. A caller initially [reported a sulfur dioxide leak](#) to the National Response Center. There is some confusion on the extent of the sulfur dioxide leak, since [BP claims](#) the report was not made by a company employee. However, BP did confirm an ongoing leak of methyl mercaptan, a smelly gas added to natural gas as a safety measure; the odor was bad enough that [30 workers from a neighboring plant downwind were taken to the hospital](#). Texas City Emergency Manager and Homeland Security Director Bruce Clawson said of the gas leaking from the plant, "It smells ugly and makes you sick. It's not a small matter."

Magnablend Chemical Plant Fire- 2011

[As we told you late last year](#), a fire broke out at Magnablend, Inc. on October 3, 2011 in Waxahachie, Texas that was caused by blending of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing fluid. This led to the evacuation for an apartment complex, an elementary school, a junior college and nearly 1,000 residents who live close to the chemical plant. Upon further investigation, officials discovered that neither EPA officials nor the Waxahachie Fire Rescue team were aware of what Magnablend produced at the plant and that a risk management plan had not been filed for the facility. The TCEQ issued an air pollution watch level orange for that day.

We Need Better Solutions and to Increase Prevention Efforts

Within Region VI of EPA, which includes Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Arkansas, there is an average of one shelter in place a week due to upset events at different facilities. One a week! While a rare disaster may be unavoidable, most of these terrible pollution events are completely preventable. These disasters are unfortunate and cause severe damage to our health and our environment. My hopes for this year are that we will resolve to lower the number of pollution events through strict air quality standards, strong rules in place for construction and operation of chemical facilities, and harsh penalties to encourage companies to keep our air and water clean and safe. I am thrilled to see the [recent passage of new Mercury and Air Toxics Standards by the EPA](#). Let's keep up this great momentum throughout the next decade and prevent disasters like these from destroying our environment and contributing to increased public health risks.

<http://blogs.edf.org/texascleanairmatters/2012/01/23/let%E2%80%99s-resolve-to-pollute-less-in-2012-part-1/>

USA, TX, DALLAS, JANUARY 26 2012. ALLEN STEWART, P.C. ATTORNEYS CELEBRATE WIN FOR BENZENE LEUKEMIA VICTIM >> U.S. SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO HEAR DEFENDANTS' APPEAL OF EXPERT TESTIMONY ON CAUSATION

Attorneys at Allen Stewart, P.C. applaud the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision refusing to review an appellate court's ruling that preserves a leukemia victim's right to show at trial that benzene caused his cancer. Brian Milward, a refrigerator technician, developed Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia ("APL") after years of exposure to benzene in the defendants' products. The defendants--U.S. Steel Corp., The Clorox Company, Rust-oleum Corp., and The Sherwin-Williams Co., among others--convinced the trial court to exclude expert testimony that benzene can cause APL, and judgment was entered for the defendants. Last March, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit reversed, holding that the trial court abused its discretion because the expert's reliance on "the weight of the evidence" was a universally accepted method of scientific reasoning. The court also detailed a trial court's "gatekeeping" duties when evaluating the admissibility of scientific testimony versus the jury's role as fact-finder. Now that the Supreme Court has declined to review the First Circuit's decision, the



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Milwards' case will return to the trial court for further proceedings. "We are very pleased with the result," said law firm founder Al Stewart. "The Milwards are entitled to their day in court, and we will continue to fight until they receive the justice they deserve." Since the Supreme Court's 1993 decision in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, which recognized a judge's limited role as gatekeeper over admissibility of expert testimony, Daubert challenges have become popular with defendants and their supporters--organizations like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Product Liability Advisory Council, which filed supporting briefs in this case. When a defendant wins a "Daubert challenge," it may succeed in avoiding trial altogether. The First Circuit's decision makes clear, however, that judges must allow evidence supported by generally accepted methods of scientific reasoning. "These companies have tried to drive a wedge between reliable scientific knowledge as it is understood by scientists and as it is recognized and understood in the courtroom, distorting science for their own benefit," said Steve Jensen, who represented the Milwards on appeal. "The decision of the First Circuit and now the Supreme Court are significant in their defense of valid scientific method."

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/allen-stewart-pc-attorneys-celebrate-win-for-benzene-leukemia-victim-2012-01-25?reflink=MW_news_stmp

USA, MD, BALTIMORE, JANUARY 27 2012. SHIPOWNER, OPERATOR FINED \$1.85M IN POLLUTION CASE >> WHISTLE-BLOWER, A FILIPINO CREWMAN, TO RECEIVE A REWARD; AMOUNT TO BE DECIDED

candus thomson

When Coast Guard inspectors boarded a new freighter docking in Baltimore last February, a junior-level engineer from the [Philippines](#) approached and slipped them a note. "I have something to tell you but secret," he wrote, using all capital letters. The secret — that the ship had illegally dumped oily waste and garbage into the ocean — resulted in the owners and operators of the M/V Aquarosa being fined \$1.85 million in federal court Wednesday and also ordered to pay \$550,000 to a foundation to help restore the Chesapeake Bay. And the whistle-blower, a seaman who supports a wife and four children on \$27,000 a year, stands to earn a six-figure reward for his efforts, including gathering copies of the ship's logs and snapping hundreds of pictures of illegal onboard activities with his [cell phone](#). A decision on the size of his reward is pending; federal law says the amount can be as much as half the fine. "Without Salvatore Lopez coming forward, the crimes that occurred aboard the Aquarosa would still be going on," said federal prosecutor Richard Udell, who called illegal ocean dumping "virtually an epidemic." The case is the latest in a series of high-profile pollution enforcement efforts sparked by whistle-blowers and carried out by Baltimore's Coast Guard investigators and the [Justice Department](#). Efploia Shipping Co., the operator of the vessel, and Aquarosa Shipping, the owner, were each fined \$925,000. In addition, the defendants were each ordered to perform community service by writing checks for \$275,000 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for nonprofit projects aimed at restoring the Chesapeake Bay and other Maryland waterways. The two companies have agreed to prepare an environmental compliance plan that will be reviewed and audited by a court-appointed monitor. Gregory Listin, a lawyer for Efploia, told U.S. District Judge Marvin Garbis that in pleading guilty to four felony counts of polluting and attempting to cover up the actions, his client did not dispute any of the evidence gathered by Lopez. But Listin argued that Lopez does not deserve any reward money because he should have alerted company officials, who, he said, would have corrected the problems. Listin said a reward would send a message to other seamen that whistle-blowing can be lucrative. "They can snap their pictures and take their notes knowing that when they get to Baltimore or another U.S. port they can turn it over and earn the equivalent of 33 years' salary," Listin said. "Eight months on board and 96 days in port and [Lopez] said not a single word until he got to the cash register." Lopez's lawyer, J. Stephen Simms, countered, "If money was the driving factor, where were the other 21 seamen on the Aquarosa?" The 623-foot ship was built in China in 2010. Owned by Aquarosa Shipping, a Danish company, it is registered in Malta and run by a Greek company. Greek nationals hired by Efploia made up the senior staff, and the crewmen were Filipinos hired by an agency in the Philippines. In its short life, the ship has delivered Chinese steel to [Brazil](#), Brazilian sugar to [Indonesia](#) and Indonesian agricultural products to Europe. The Aquarosa arrived from Europe on Feb. 19 — its first visit to Baltimore. Members of the Coast Guard's inspection team boarded the ship because it was operating with provisional safety and environmental certificates. As they spoke to the engineering staff, a tall, soft-spoken man handed them a note, court documents said. Within days, Lopez turned over to Coast Guard investigators copies of the ship's logs over the eight-month voyage and a cell phone containing more than 300 photos of illegal onboard activities, court documents show. Investigators found that the ship's senior engineers had devised a "magic pipe" that allowed them to bypass pollution-control devices and discharge waste oil and bilge sludge into the ocean undetected, court records showed. The records also showed that engineers then falsified logs to hide the fact and that top engineers ordered crewmen to dump oily garbage overboard.



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After the investigation began, two crewmen were ordered to lie and another crew member was threatened with being fired and sent home, court documents said. The chief engineer pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice and witness tampering in December and was sentenced to three months in federal prison. "Everyone in the engine room knew what was going on, but only Mr. Lopez came forward," Udell said. "This individual, when he came forward, made sure he had proof. His information alone opened the investigation and resulted in the guilty pleas." But Lopez has paid a price. Udell said that since Lopez returned to the Philippines in November after assisting investigators for nine months, he has been unable to find work — while everyone else on the Aquarosa has signed on to other ships. Udell suggested that Efploia Shipping had sought to retaliate against Lopez. This is the most recent in a series of similar pollution cases. In 2010, Irika Shipping — a Greek-owned firm — was fined \$4 million and ordered to write a \$1 million check for Chesapeake Bay projects after pleading guilty to illegally discharging oil and plastic into the ocean. Last year, a Liberian shipping company was fined \$2.4 million for similar crimes and the chief engineer was sentenced to six months in federal prison for ordering crew members to dump oily waste and then obstructing investigators. "I think the word is getting out to whistle-blowers that Baltimore is the place," said Coast Guard Cmdr. Kelly Post, who is in charge of the inspectors. "We listen."

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/breaking/bs-md-whistleblower-reward-20120124.0.7393067.story>

SCOTLAND, ABERDEEN, JANUARY 27 2012. MAN TRIED TO START FIRE AT PETROL STATION

Craig Forbes endangered life and property by playing with naked flames at a petrol station forecourt, a court heard.

A man has admitted putting people's lives in danger by trying to start a fire at a petrol station on Boxing Day. Craig Forbes repeatedly lit a cigarette lighter while standing within the Torq Service Station in Aberdeen, with complete disregard for the potential consequences. The 25-year-old was also caught using his mobile phone in the forecourt of the garage on Great Northern Road on December 26, last year. Forbes, of Aberdeen, has admitted behaving in a culpable and reckless manner which put lives and property in danger by deliberately and repeatedly trying to start a fire within a petrol station. Sentence was deferred for a report from the community mental health team, at Aberdeen Sheriff Court on Wednesday. Defence solicitor Mike Monro told the court that his client had been seen by a doctor shortly after the offence, but no psychiatric assessment had been made. Forbes will return to court next month.

<http://news.stv.tv/scotland/north/295017-man-put-lives-in-danger-by-playing-with-fire-at-a-petrol-station/>

USA, CA, KERN CO, JANUARY 27 2012. EXPLOSION, FIRE DAMAGES AERA OIL FACILITY

 **Watch the Video** [Truck explodes at Kern Co. oil processing facility](#)



An explosion and fire destroyed a truck and damaged an oil facility north of McKittrick Tuesday night. Kern County Fire Department Spokesman Derek Tisinger said firefighters the truck was at an Aera oil processing facility in the area of Highway 33 and Lost Hills road when the explosion occurred. An unidentified person was near the truck at the time but was not hurt, Tisinger said. Firefighters found the truck engulfed in flames and fire was spreading to a nearby loading rack when they arrived shortly after 5 p.m.. The fire was contained about 90 minutes after it broke out. The cause of the explosion and fire is still under investigation. There has been no damage estimate released yet. Twenty Kern County firefighters, including a hazardous material team, responded to the fire along with the Kern County Department of Environmental Health.

http://www.taftmidwaydriller.com/news/police_and_fire/x1870691895/Explosion-fire-damages-Aera-oil-facility

USA, FLA, JACKSON CO, JANUARY 27 2012. DERAILED JACKSON COUNTY TANK CAR CHEMICALS WILL BE MOVED LATE TODAY

Chemicals from a derailed tanker in Grand Ridge will be transferred to a new compartment later today. The tanker was one of 11 railroad cars that jumped the tracks nearly two weeks ago. Jackson county officials emphasize there has been NO leak at the site, where methyl chloride will be transferred to a new tanker later today. As A precaution, the surrounding neighborhood



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was notified of the plans to make the transfer in case the residents wished to evacuate while the procedure was underway. Parents at a nearby school were also informed of the plans in case they felt they wanted to take their child from school. The plans now call for the transfer to begin around 5pm

http://www.wjhg.com/home/headlines/Derailed_Jackson_County_Tank_Car_Chemicals_Will_Be_Moved_Late_Today_138132288.html

INDIA, JAMMU, RAMBAN, JANUARY 27 2012. JK HIGHWAY CLOSED AFTER LPG TANKER LEAK, PEOPLE EVACUATED

Jammu and Kashmir Highway was today closed for traffic, electric supply cut off and people were evacuated after leakage of gas from a Srinagar-bound LPG tanker in Ramban district. The leakage of gas from a big LPG tanker occurred on the highway at Nashri area in Ramban district, 125 km from here, Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Anil Mangotra said. Traffic on both the sides of the highway were closed, electric supply to the area stopped and mobile phones and other gadgets that might ignite fire jammed as a precautionary measure, he said. The people in the adjoining areas were evacuated and special teams requisitioned to take charge of the situation, the SP said.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/jk-highway-closed-after-lpg-tanker-leak-people-evacuated/956258.html>

USA, PA, PHILADELPHIA JANUARY 27 2012. EPA REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH COMPANIES TO PAY CLEANUP COSTS FOR OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORP. SUPERFUND SITE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced that current and former owners and operators of the Occidental Chemical Corporation Superfund Site in Lower Pottsgrove Township, Montgomery County, Pa. have agreed to pay \$2.1 million in past cleanup costs for the site. In a consent decree filed in federal court by the Justice Department on behalf of EPA, the companies also assumed responsibility for all future cleanup costs at the site. The companies included Occidental Chemical Corporation (OxyChem), Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations and Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc. Under the "Superfund" law, the landowners, waste generators and waste transporters that are responsible for the contamination of a Superfund site must either clean up the site, or reimburse the government or other parties for cleanup activities. OxyChem currently owns the site where it manufactured polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic resins from 1980 to 2005. OxyChem purchased the site from Firestone Tire & Rubber Company (now known as Bridgestone Americas Tire operations), which manufactured tires and PVC there from approximately 1945 to 1980. Settling defendant Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc., a corporate affiliate of OxyChem, is the current operator of the site. Glenn Springs assumed management of the site in 2005 after OxyChem closed its PVC-manufacturing facility. From 1942 to 1985, operators used the site for disposal of industrial wastes including cutting oils, metal filings, tires, and PVC sludge resins. In 1989, EPA placed the site on its Superfund list of the nation's most contaminated sites to address unsafe levels of trichloroethylene ("TCE"), vinyl chloride, and other hazardous substances in the soil and groundwater. OxyChem, under EPA oversight, performed remedial action at the site and completed construction in 2008.

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD980229298/index.htm>

USA, W.VA, NEW MARTINSVILLE, JANUARY 27 2012. DIESEL SPILL REACHES RIVER

amy witschey

Sunday's thaw of snow and ice carried diesel fuel from an earlier spill into the Ohio River Sunday. New Martinsville Fire Chief Larry Couch said his department was notified of the spill at approximately 1:22 p.m. The initial call came from some fishermen on the "down-river" side of the Hannibal Locks and Dam near the outlets of the Hydro Electric Plant. "We first found a sheen on the water at the dam, as well as the obvious odor of diesel fuel," said Couch. "We were able to trace the fuel spill up-river, following the sheen to several possible locations until we were able to clearly identify the location where the fuel and runoff from the recent snow and ice storm was carrying the remains of a fuel spill that was alleged to have happened on Friday, Jan. 20th." The entry point was on the river bank near the staging yard for Litman Excavating, located on Union Street. "Upon arrival of fire department personnel, Litman Employees were making attempts to stop the flow into the river," said Couch. "We assisted those employees in performing damming of the run-off, laying down over 800 absorbent pads and 30 feet of absorbent socks." The NMVFD was on scene for about three hours. The Coast Guard, National Response Center, and the WV Department of Environmental Protection were all notified and Litman's notified their own Private Contractor to perform the mitigation and clean-up of the site of the spill. "It appeared that a chain reaction of inappropriate actions took place to make



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

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this spill far worse than it may have initially been," according to Couch. He said Robert Litman, company owner, explained to him that one of the Litman employees was fueling a pick-up truck from their "on-site" fuel tanks when the individual fueling the truck left the running diesel fuel and went inside of a nearby building for an undetermined period of time. When he returned to the truck he found that the filler nozzle had not shut-off, allowing fuel to spill on the ground. An undetermined amount of fuel was spilled and the spill area had spread to an area in excess of 40 feet wide by 120-150 feet in length. "I believe that their intent was to perform a thorough cleanup of the material on Monday, but the sudden warming temperatures allowed the spill to quickly get out of control and begin to flow into the river," said Couch. "Mr. Litman and his employees worked diligently to stop the flow of fuel, but it simply got past them before they could stop it." The investigation into the spill is now in the hands of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and others to determine the proper approach for site clean-up and complete mitigation of the spill and ensuing release into the Ohio River, Couch said. Mike Zeto, chief inspector of DEP environmental enforcement, said the DEP was at the site Monday morning. Water and hazardous waste staff did a joint inspection. The DEP did not see a sheen or anything on the river; Zeto said it had probably had passed on. "The bulk of the material appeared to be bound up with the solids on site," he added. Contaminated soil was being collected for proper disposal. "A contractor was on site and they were still actively cleaning up," said Zeto. "We'll loop back through there later on this week and do a follow up to make sure they've done an adequate job of removal of contaminated material." Zeto says his office deals with diesel fuel spills on an almost daily basis. "In the overall scheme of things, this is a fairly minor incident. . . but it doesn't mean that it shouldn't be properly cleaned up," he said. As for any fines from the incident, Zeto simply said, "We don't speculate on fines. "Our primary focus right now is to ensure that we get a proper clean up and the environmental concerns are addressed."

<http://www.wetzelchronicle.com/page/content.detail/id/510642/Diesel-Spill-Reaches-River.html?nav=5001>

USA, MO, JEFFERSON CITY, JANUARY 27 2012. MO. AG SUING GAS STATION OVER UNDERGROUND TANKS

bryan cohen

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster filed a lawsuit on Thursday against a Lafayette County gas station operator who allegedly operated a station without insurance in violation of state law. Craig Peters, the operator of Cross Roads Country Market gas station in Alma, allegedly violated Missouri's Underground Storage Tank Law by managing the store without insurance. "Underground storage tanks can pose a serious health threat to Missourians," Koster said. "We must ensure that those responsible for maintaining them have the means to clean up any contamination that may occur." Missouri law requires that operators and owners of underground storage tanks maintain insurance for the cost of cleaning up any contamination that may seep from the tanks. In addition, the insurance is meant to provide coverage for any contamination that the tanks may cause the public. Koster's lawsuit requests that the court shut the Cross Roads Country Market station down until Peters brings it into compliance. In addition, the lawsuit seeks a fine against Peters of as much as \$10,000 per day for each Missouri law violation. In October, Koster filed a similar suit against a business in Gentry County that allegedly also violated the Underground Storage Tank Law. Avenue C-Stores, the owner and operator of US Oil in King City, allegedly operated the underground storage tank without financial responsibility.

<http://www.legalnewsline.com/news/235007-mo.-ag-suing-gas-station-over-underground-tanks>

SCOTLAND, ARGYLL, JANUARY 27 2012. LOCH CRERAN BARGE DEATH FIRMS HAVE £640,000 FINES CUT



Maarten Den Heijer and Robert MacDonald died on the barge.

Two companies who were fined a total of £640,000 over the deaths of two men on a fish farm barge in Argyll have had their penalties cut by appeal judges. Maarten Pieter Den Heijer, 30, and 45-year-old Robert MacDonald died on Loch Creran, near Oban, in May 2009. Scottish Sea Farms was fined £600,000 and Logan Inglis was fined £40,000 over health and safety breaches. Appeal court judges agreed the fines were too harsh and reduced them to £333,335 and £20,000 respectively. The original fines were imposed by Sheriff Douglas Small last year after the case was heard at Oban Sheriff Court.

Low Oxygen

The court heard how Scottish Sea Farms worker Campbell Files and engineer Arthur Raikes - employed by Logan Inglis - were fixing a hydraulic crane on the barge when they went below deck to find cabling and pipework. The oxygen levels below



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deck were very low and Mr Files passed out while Mr Raikes managed to climb back out. In an attempt to rescue Mr Files, his Scottish Sea Farms colleagues Mr Den Heijer and Mr MacDonald entered the small chamber below deck but lost consciousness almost immediately. The three men needed to be rescued by emergency services but only Mr Files recovered. Following the incident on 11 May 2009, inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) discovered Scottish Sea Farms had failed to suitably prepare staff for working in the small, sealed chambers on the Loch Creran barge. Logan Inglis was also found to have failed in its duties to staff in terms of information provided and training. Neither company had identified the risk to their respective employees from working in the confined spaces. Both firms pleaded guilty to breaches of safety rules, but appealed against the level of fines imposed. Lawyers for the companies told the Court of Criminal Appeal in Edinburgh that Sheriff Small had failed to take account of factors which should have made the fines more lenient. Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, sitting with Lord Menzies and Lady Dorrian, agreed and ordered that the fines should be reduced. The court heard that both firms had good records on health and safety matters. Scottish Sea Farms was said to have an annual turnover of almost £94m. For Logan Inglis the figure was more than £2.7m. The appeal judges were told the engineers had been hit by the economic downturn and that if the fine was too heavy it could lead to redundancies.

Related Links

- [Companies fined over barge deaths](#)
- [Police investigate barge deaths](#)
- [Barge death men named by police](#)
- [Investigation into barge deaths](#)
- [Sea loch barge accident kills two](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-16743183>

USA, N.C, COLCHESTER, JANUARY 28 2012. BAD BATCH OF FUEL IN COLCHESTER STRANDS MOTORISTS

matt ryan

The Maplefields in Colchester shut off some of its pumps late Wednesday, after more than a dozen motorists filled up on bad gasoline. "We got a bad load of fuel from our supplier," said Skip Vallee, CEO of R.L. Vallee, which owns the store, located on U.S. 7. "It caused the ethanol to separate from the gasoline." Vallee said a customer alerted them to the problem, and that as of noon Thursday, about 16 customers had complained to the company that the fuel had damaged their vehicles. "If they've got a towing bill, we're gonna pay for it," Vallee said. "If they have any work on their car, we'll pay for it." Vallee said the supply of bad fuel arrived at about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday. He said he did not know when word about the problem reached the store's night manager, who in turn shut down the pumps. "This happens very rarely," Vallee said. "I don't think it's ever happened at Colchester before." The Tewksbury, Mass., supplier, Energy North Group, was working Thursday to determine what went wrong, said Pat O'Connell, the company's vice president. "We're trying to identify what the issue is," O'Connell said. "It is isolated to that station."

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20120126/NEWS02/120126030/Bad-batch-fuel-Colchester-strands-motorists?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

USA, OH, TUSCARAWAS TWP, JANUARY 28 2012. PROPANE TRUCK OVERTURNS, TEMPORARILY CLOSES US 30

lori monsewicz

A propane truck overturned early Friday morning, closing a section of U.S. Route 30. No one was seriously injured and the road was reopened by 8 a.m., according to the Ohio Highway Patrol's Canton post. The crash occurred about 1:15 a.m. near the Wayne County border when the westbound 1998 Freightliner went off the left side of the road, into the median and overturned onto its left side, said Lt. William Weirtz. The tanker trailer was carrying propane, but no propane or any other hazardous material was spilled. The Dalton Fire Department, the Ohio Department of Transportation and Stark County HazMat units were called to the scene, Weirtz said, adding that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio also was notified of the crash. The driver, Nowyll B. Trippe, 31, of Norwalk, was treated at the scene by Dalton emergency medical services personnel, Weirtz said. Trippe sustained minor injuries, investigators said. Trippe owns the truck. He was driving for McIlvaine Trucking in Wooster, Weirtz said. He was cited for failure to control his vehicle, but the crash remained under investigation later Friday, troopers said.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/news/x675926810/Propane-truck-overturns-temporarily-closes-US-30>



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