



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 838 Newsy Stuff

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

May 16 2012



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USA, WI, MONOMA GROVE, MAY 8 2012. VAPORS FROM SOIL CONTAMINATION SEEPING INTO MONONA GROVE HIGH SCHOOL >> DNR SAYS VAPORS DON'T POSE HUMAN HEALTH HAZARD

 **Watch the Video** [Vapors from Soil Contamination Seeping into Monona Grove High School](#)

Soil contamination next to Monona Grove High School is causing vapors to seep inside the building, but state Department of Natural Resources officials said that the vapors pose no hazard to students or staff. Monona Grove Superintendent Craig Gerlach informed parents about the contamination in a letter written on Sunday. The vapors of tetrachloroethylene, also known as PCE, originated at Klinker Cleaners next to the school. "Absolutely it's a concern of everyone, especially those who have children," Gerlach said. "The building's safe. If the building was not safe, we would not send children and staff into that building." After meeting with the school, DNR officials tested the air inside the building. Investigators told Gerlach on Saturday that the results showed that vapors beneath the school have seeped inside the building, but the levels measured don't pose a threat to humans. However, the PCE level was above the DNR action level for a residential site, so the school district has increased air circulation inside the school, caulked foundation cracks and capped a drain tile vent. Klinker Cleaners, which used the PCE chemical until 2005, will pay for additional tests and the eventual cleanup, director Steve Klinker said. "This situation for us is critically important," he said. "We are moving as fast as we can to get as much done as we can, because this is our community and we're proud to call it home." Experts will be on site starting on Tuesday to develop a long-term plan, Klinker said. How long the problem persisted before it was discovered remains a mystery. The state does not require testing for PCE, which about 70 percent of dry cleaning businesses still use to clean clothing, Klinker said. The state is supervising the cleanup of about 230 sites, but the real problem is much bigger, said James Walden, a hydrogeologist with the state Department of Natural Resources. "There are large numbers of properties that have been used, particularly for dry cleaning, and which ones of these are contaminated is really uncertain," Walden said. "The numbers are probably in the thousands (statewide)."

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/Vapors-from-soil-contamination-seeping-into-Monona-Grove-HS/-/1648/12694782/-/12woq9a/-/>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, MAY 8 2012. LEAK REPORTED IN SHELL NIGERIAN PIPELINE >> SPILLING AROUND 150 LITERS OF CRUDE OIL A MINUTE SINCE MONDAY MORNING

A leak on Royal Dutch Shell PLC's Bomu-Bonny oil pipeline in Nigeria has been spilling around 150 liters of crude oil a minute since Monday morning, a local community member said. "Another serious oil spill occurred four hours ago on the pipeline, approximately 200 meters south of the Bomu manifold. About 150 liters of oil is oozing out every minute," said the community member Monday. The manifold is located on the Bomu-Bonny Trans-Niger pipeline, which normally carries around 120,000 barrels a day. It is unclear if oil transit has been disrupted by attempts to stop the leak. Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd. is "investigating reports of a leak on a section of the Trans-Niger Pipeline at K-Dere in Ogoniland," a Shell spokesman said. According to the community member, an SPDC remediation team working in the area has arrived at the scene to address the leak

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/leak-reported-in-shell-nigerian-pipeline-2012-05-07>

USA, OH, COLUMBIA, MAY 8 2012. SEMI AND CAR CRASH SENDING BOTH INTO A GAS STATION

 **Watch the Video**

- [Semi & Car Crash Sending Both into a Gas Station](#)
- [Rig, SUV Slam Into UDF Gas Pump](#)

Columbus police detectives are trying to figure out what caused a semi to crash into a car sending it into a gas station. According to officers on the scene, the car was sitting at the light at High Street and Lazelle Road. The semi driver hit the back of the car sending it into the gas pumps at the United Dairy Farmers at 8450 North High Street. Several gas pumps were taken out when the car and semi came to a stop at the gas station. Fire Fighters had to cut the driver of the car out of the vehicle, but he was transported to an area hospital in stable condition. The driver of the semi was not hurt. Officers aren't sure yet but they say the driver of the semi will likely be charged with failure to control. The UDF is currently closed and will be so for awhile, as workers clean up the damage and repair the gas pumps.

http://www.abc6onyourside.com/shared/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wsux_vid_17327.shtml



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USA, TX, CROSBY, MAY 8 2012. 18-WHEELER TANKER CATCHES FIRE AFTER HIT BY TRAIN

 **Watch the Video**

[Raw: 18-Wheeler Catches Fire After Hit](#)

[Watch Train Blow Tractor-Trailer in Half](#)

[Train Collides With Big Rig Near Crosby](#)

 **Photo's** [18-wheeler catches fire after hit by train](#)



Ramsey Road near Crosby Dayton Road in northeast Harris County on Monday, May 7, 2012.

Harris County sheriff's deputies said an 18-wheeler broke down on the railroad tracks at the intersection of Ramsey Road and Crosby-Dayton Road in northeast Harris County about 11:45 a.m. Monday. A Union Pacific train hit the cab of the 18-wheeler and pushed it several yards down the tracks. The cab caught fire and was destroyed by flames. The tanker part of the big rig was left at the intersection. Deputies said the driver got out of the truck before it was hit. He was not hurt. The train engineer was also not injured, officials said. Investigators have not said what the 18-wheeler or the train were hauling, but they said it was not hazardous.

<http://www.ksat.com/news/18-wheeler-catches-fire-after-hit-by-train/-/478452/12722866/-/d65jwm/-/index.html>

USA, CA, CARLSBAD, MAY 8 2012. COUNTY INVESTIGATING HAZMAT INCIDENT

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Members of a hazmat team walk past barrels after checking them and other parts of a building at 3305 Tyler St. in Carlsbad in response to a chemical reaction April 11.

County officials were investigating a possible violation of hazardous materials regulations by at least one business involved in [an incident](#) that [disrupted a downtown Carlsbad neighborhood](#) last month, a county spokesman said last week. Authorities would not comment on the investigation because it was ongoing, said the spokesman, Gig Conaughton. Authorities were called at 3:09 p.m. April 11 to a report of hazardous materials released at a building at 3305 Tyler St., officials said. Police, firefighters and hazmat officials from the county, Carlsbad and Camp Pendleton were dispatched to stabilize a chemical reaction that reportedly created a "fireball." Workers with Advanced Chemical Transport,

or ACT, a Sunnyvale-based private hazardous waste management business, caused the reaction while cleaning up chemicals that had been left behind when nutritional supplement business K&K Laboratories Inc. quit operating in the building two years ago, Battalion Chief Michael Calderwood of the Carlsbad Fire Department said last month. He said K&K Laboratories had hired ACT to remove the chemicals. The workers who had been handling the chemicals said "food glaze" was mixed with an unknown oxidizing agent, Calderwood said. Authorities determined that the oxidizing agent had reacted with ethyl alcohol, which was either in the food glaze or a container that had been mislabeled as such. Neal Langerman, a chemistry expert and founder of Advanced Chemical Safety Inc. in San Diego, said last month that workers should have known not to mix an oxidizing agent with anything that contains a fuel such as ethyl alcohol. "It's drilled into everybody in this industry's head that you don't do that ---- and doing it is a violation of state hazardous waste regulations," Langerman said. "If ... they knowingly made the mixture, then they screwed up big time." Alex Kononchuk, director of operations for K&K Laboratories, claimed responsibility for the accident during an interview last week. "It just unexpectedly happened, and I don't blame ACT," Kononchuk said. "Ultimately, something was not labeled properly, and that's our responsibility." Kononchuk said he regretted that the mistake disrupted or frightened residents in the neighborhood, where the business operated for about 30 years before it closed operations about two years ago. Kononchuk said he didn't want to diminish the seriousness of what happened, but he



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was grateful no one was hurt and no hazardous materials spilled into the environment. K&K Laboratories received a letter from county hazardous materials officials about a week ago. "We were told that we were in violation (of hazmat regulations), but we haven't been told what the consequences are," Kononchuk said. Kononchuk said the now-closed company had not violated hazmat regulations in the 30 years it was operating. A cursory search of records Tuesday did not turn up evidence of past violations. "It's crazy that after all these years we've never had a regulatory problem, and then, as we're cleaning up ..." Kononchuk said. Significant hazmat incidents can be costly to hazardous waste companies, taxpayers and the environment. A truck owned by Hazardous Waste Transportation Services of Santa Fe Springs was fined \$35,000 by the state Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Toxic Substances Control for an error that allowed 3,200 gallons of acidic [hazardous waste to spill July 21, 2004](#), onto Interstate 15 in Escondido, according to state documents. Officials found the company was hauling the waste in a tanker that wasn't designed to hold it, the documents said. The acidic waste ate through the truck's stainless-steel tank, county hazmat officials said in 2004. The material spilled into storm drains and contaminated soil in the area, county officials said in the days after the spill, estimating the cleanup bill at as much as \$1.5 million.

Related Links [I-15 reopens, tanker spill under investigation](#)

http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/carlsbad/carlsbad-county-investigating-hazmat-incident/article_b64a92bb-c6e8-51c1-9c83-3d129080ab40.html

USA, MD, BALTIMORE, MAY 8 2012. CANTON FIRE SHOWS GAPS IN INFORMATION FOR RESPONDERS >> CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT LACKS TECHNOLOGY TO UNIFY DATA ON CHEMICALS, OTHER HAZARDS

Photo's [17] [Canton Warehouse Fire](#)



Dispatched to a one-story brick warehouse in flames on Baylis Street in Canton last month, firefighters did not know it contained 8,000 gallons of corrosive chemicals. But not because it wasn't known to the Baltimore City Fire Department. Its hazardous materials permit database included the warehouse and chemicals, but is so arcane that it's impossible to point and click through it using a computer mouse. The chemicals also were disclosed by the owner on an annual hazmat form required under a federal law inspired when a chemical gas leak killed 5,000 people in India in 1984. But those sources aren't married with others that identify flagged buildings in the city's emergency dispatch system, called upon multiple times every day to send police, firefighters and ambulances to scenes of danger around the city. No single database contains a complete picture of all the information that might be relevant in emergency response, whether it's the presence of chemicals, a disabled person or a lack of exits, city fire officials said. In the case of the Canton fire, that meant it took 11 minutes from the time the fire was reported to the time a hazmat unit was called to the scene. The fire caused no injuries, but environmental officials had to dilute runoff from the scene to protect neighbors, animals and the environment from caustic acids. Fire and emergency management officials want to share more data and

make it available to as soon as possible. They see a chance to do it in a planned upgrade of the city's dispatch system. But it will be difficult, they said, because of the city's tight budget. There isn't much left to invest in technology when money woes mean rotating fire company closures. "There is absolutely the potential to get to that perfect world where the [dispatch system] is populated with useful information. The gap between here and there is money and resources," said Deputy Chief Raymond O'Brocki, Baltimore's fire marshal. "It sounds great to be able to do that, but then if you juxtapose that with the closing of fire houses, I think the average citizen would say, 'Keep my fire house open.'" The fire broke out about 8:30 p.m. April 22 in the Canton shop of Eastern Plating Co. The company anodizes metals, a process that uses powerful acids to protect materials from rust or prepare them to be painted. The work requires mass quantities of sulfuric, chromic and nitric acids and sodium hydroxide, a powerful base. It grew to a three-alarm blaze, and strong gusts that Sunday evening led firefighters to evacuate homes downwind along Toone Street. Days after the fire, the neighborhood of rowhouses was littered with ashes. Neighbors said they were unaware of what went on in the warehouse. Its only windows to Baylis Street were painted onto the brick, and there was no signage alerting of dangerous chemicals inside. Firefighters don't need to know immediately what hazards might



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be in a building, they said. They are trained to read fire conditions and respond. Firefighters also are trained not to blindly trust forms declaring what chemicals might be present in a burning building. "First arriving units have to make very swift decisions on what to do," said Rick Hoffman, president of Local 734 of the [International Association of Fire Fighters](#), the union representing Baltimore firefighters. "As we get information, maybe from passersby, the owner of the building or neighbors, we gain our own knowledge and then we start making better calls." But having more information as early as possible can help inform how fires are fought, preventing environmental and health risks, and even deaths, firefighters said. Increasingly, such information is being included in dispatches in fire departments across the country. [Baltimore County's](#) dispatch system alerts emergency workers of hazards not only in the buildings they are responding to, but any in nearby structures as well, spokeswoman Elise Armacost said. [New York City](#) has been praised for its technology, which is capable of processing information on 50,000 emergency calls per hour. Baltimore lacks more advanced technology despite deadly and disruptive chemical-related fire emergencies in the past. When a train derailed inside the Howard Street Tunnel downtown in 2001, a chemical called tripropylene burned for six days, while caustic hydrochloric acid leaked out of another freight tank. In 1998, five workers died at a chemical plant in Wagner's Point when aluminum inside a metal alloy reactor exploded, causing a massive blaze. Accumulated sugar dust inside machinery in the Domino Sugar plant in [Locust Point](#) cause an explosion at that facility in 2007. Firefighters did not have immediate information on the chemicals in the Eastern Plating warehouse because, at first, the fire was reported in the 1000 block of Baylis Street, two blocks from its actual address at 1200 Baylis. But even if the address had been reported correctly, 1200 Baylis was not flagged for dangerous chemicals in the dispatch system, said Battalion Chief Patrick Walsh, who leads the departments communications and information technology division. He could not say why the building wasn't flagged. Sources used to flag buildings include phone calls or visits from concerned residents or business owners to their local fire hall, as well as reports from fire code enforcement inspectors, Walsh said. That type of information is added to the dispatch database on a daily basis, he said. But that doesn't cover all the information in the arcane fire code enforcement database, which isn't accessed as often, he said. Fire code inspections take place once a year, he said, and the Eastern Plating warehouse was inspected in February. "You should know what's in the buildings in your district," said [David White](#), president of Fire & Safety Specialists Inc., a fire consultant in College Station, Texas. "We know how to put out the fires, but sometimes water is not enough." There are other sources of information that city firefighters use that also aren't linked to the dispatch system. Fire companies are encouraged to make routine visits to nearby homes and businesses, at least once every three years or so. They write up reports on any hazards of note, keep a file in the fire house and send a copy to fire headquarters. Firefighters hadn't done such a walk-through of the Eastern Plating warehouse since 2007, fire department spokesman Chief Kevin Cartwright said. The report from that inspection included information on hazardous materials and a layout of the building, he said. But such documents are not stored digitally; they are kept in manila folders. Under a 25-year-old federal law, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, companies like Eastern Plating are required to disclose large quantities of dangerous chemicals to the Maryland Department of the Environment. The forms often are provided to city fire or emergency management officials, but the Fire Department seeks out state environmental officials for the most up-to-date information in the forms while fighting a fire, fire officials said. The forms require companies to disclose any hazardous chemicals in their inventories, any physical or health hazards they pose, the amount used each day, and where and how they are stored. Eastern Plating filed its form for 2011 on Jan. 1, said MDE spokesman Jay Apperson. The Mayor's Office of Emergency Management has been gathering the forms as it receives them and building them into a database to share with fire officials for use in the dispatch system. But there are no official plans to do that even as city officials work on signing a contract for a new dispatch system, potentially by the summer. "Every fire that you have, you try to get better at receiving timely and accurate information as quickly as you can," said Robert Moloney, the office's director. "It's all about providing the person who is in charge on the scene with the timeliest and most accurate information possible for them to make decisions." Putting more information at firefighters' fingertips depends on both technology and money. With the existing system, Walsh said, information like the chemical disclosure forms aren't added because it would have to be done by hand, and it would be difficult to remove or update once it has been entered. And the time it would take to add it means money, he said. To save money, Mayor [Stephanie Rawlings-Blake](#) has proposed closing three of the city's 55 fire companies. The move would not close any fire houses or require any firefighter layoffs. Union officials support the plan because, unlike permanent closures, there is still a chance that local fire companies familiar with nearby buildings are the first to respond, Hoffman said. But fire officials see the benefit of more information, if not a means to share it. "I think there's a lot of potential there if they get a [dispatch] system that is user-friendly," O'Brocki said. "I just don't know there is a lot of money there in a tight budget to have the kind of upgrades done that would be needed to marry all of these databases."



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Related Links

- [Questions about Canton fire revealed gaps in firefighting information](#)
- [Pictures: Canton warehouse fire](#)
- [Union: Fire co. set to close played key role in saving 3 children](#)
- [Caustic acids stored inside warehouse, site of three-alarm Canton blaze](#)
- [Residents evacuated after 3-alarm fire ignites Canton warehouse](#)

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/breaking/bs-md-canton-fire-response-20120506,0,6128382,full.story>

HAITI, CARREFOUR, MAY 8 2012. : STRONG SMELL OF ETHYL MERCAPTAN AROUND THE OIL TERMINAL OF THOR

Since Saturday, residents around the oil terminal Thor are bothered by a smell recalling that of Propane and some had trouble breathing. Alerted to this situation, Réginald Delva, the Secretary of State for Public Security, launched an appeal for calm to the population, indicating that the product causing the odor, the Ethyl mercaptan (ethanethiol) used in the preparation of propane [product which gives the smell of gas to help detect leaks], is not dangerous... He indicated that this situation could continue for a few hours and that inspectors from his office was on site to collect data... Yvon Jerome, the mayor of Carrefour abounds in the same direction, and said that this gas does not endanger the safety of the population who normally could continue his business... He clarified that it was possible this situation persists for several days due to the high concentration of this odor in the area. It is true that the Ethyl Mercaptan, in trace amounts in the propane gas, poses no danger to human health or the environment, this may be different, if the Ethyl Mercaptan is in the air and the environment at higher concentrations. Pending a statement from the oil company [if it is involved], on the origin, causes, the importance of this incident and the level of concentration per m3 of air in the area, it is a little quick on the part of these representatives of the authority, to assert that there is no danger for the population. Without being alarmist, a minimum of precautionary advice, would not have been superfluous... Recall that from a certain concentration of Ethyl Mercaptan is not only toxic but ecotoxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long term damage to the environment. For the humans, depending on the degree of air concentration and exposure time, this product may cause headache, nausea and a lack of coordination. In France, the permissible exposure limit is 0.5 ml/m³ while 0.002 ppm is enough to smell the Ethyl Mercaptan in ambient air.

<http://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-5577-haiti-health-strong-smell-of-ethyl-mercaptan-around-the-oil-terminal-of-thor.html>

INDIA, NEW DELHI, MAY 8 2012. SC'S NO TO US TOXIC SHIP IN INDIAN PORTS

In a major setback to dirty ships from United States, the Supreme Court on Monday refused permission to beaching of US toxic ship Oriental Nicety - involved in worst oil spill disaster in Alaska in 1989 - from beaching in Indian ports till it is pre-cleaned. The ship, Oriental Nicety also known as Exxon Valdez, entered Indian water over a month ago and has been awaiting permission for berth in an Indian port. The ship is destined for the world's biggest ship breaking industry at Alang in Gujarat where a local agent has bought the ship last week. Sanjay Parekh of Research Foundation for Science moved an application in the apex court saying that the ship, which has been involved in worst environmental disaster, should not be allowed to port as it has not been decontaminated. Under the international treaty on trans-boundary movement of ships, the Basel Convention, ships, which are not de-contaminated at the port of import, cannot be allowed entry in water of the developing countries. Parekh claimed that the US ship has not been de-contaminated in the port of export, which amounted to violation of the Basel convention, covering around 150 nations excluding United States. US had refused to sign the convention that prevents rich nations to dump hazardous waste in ships in the developing countries. But, a large number of toxic ships from US reach ports of the developing countries for breaking. The court, in its order, said the ship cannot be allowed to berth until it meets the Basel Convention. It also instructed the Central Government to ensure that the ship is not allowed to land in any Indian port until it is fully decontaminated to make it non-hazardous. Oriental Nicety is an end of the life ship, which as per definition of the government's Central Pollution Control Board is hazardous. Gopal Krishna of NGO ToxicWatch said that the ship cannot be allowed entry into Indian ports as it violates Basel Convention and CBCB norms. Normally, a ship changes several hands before its final journey thereby estimating the amount of toxics in the ship difficult. It is for this reason the toxicity of Oriental Nicety is not known.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/SC-s-no-to-US-toxic-ship-in-Indian-ports/Article1-852187.aspx>



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INDIA, AJGAIN, MAY 8 2012. TWO KILLED AS GAS TANKER COLLIDES WITH TRUCK

Two persons were today killed when a gas tanker collided with a truck in Ajgain area, police sources said here. The incident occurred this morning when an Indian oil gas tanker rammed into a stationary truck at a toll-tax barrier near Nawabganj town leading into leakage of gas and subsequent explosion, fire officer D K Singh said. He said that driver and cleaner of the tanker were killed in the explosion. The accident led to a jam on Lucknow-Kanpur highway.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/two-killed-as-gas-tanker-collides-with-truck/995174.html>

NIGERIA, SABON GAJIR, MAY 8 2012. COMMUNITY RAZED BY TANKER FIRE

michael oche



A small community along Abuja-Kaduna expressway was completely razed by fire yesterday after a tanker veered off the road and went up in flames. The loud blast from the tanker spread fear around the area as residents fled in panic thinking it was a bomb blast. No life was lost in the incident that triggered a city-wide panic and speculations that another bomb had exploded. The incident which occurred around 12 noon in Sabon Gajiri village was the latest in a series of fire incidents affecting the community, leading to loss of property worth millions of naira. Speaking to leadership Sunday, the village head of Sabon Gajiri, Alhaji Aliyu Haruna whose property was mostly affected in the inferno, said he was still in shock. "As you can see, my houses and that of my sons were completely razed down. My car which I just bought about two weeks ago,

including the village mosque were all gutted by the fire. The local government people and NEMA were here earlier, they promised to look into the situation, we hope they keep to their words. However we believe that everything is in the hands of God". Leadership Sunday gathered that there was no immediate response from the fire service as the fire lasted for several hours and the villagers looked helplessly before their arrival at the scene. A villager, Sani Ahmad told our reporter that the fire had began to subside before the fire fighters arrived at the scene.

http://leadership.ng/nga/articles/23807/2012/05/06/community_razed_tanker_fire.html

USA, ILL, PEORIA, MAY 8 2012. CAR FIRE AT GAS STATION EXTINGUISHED IN MINUTES



Members of the Peoria Fire Department soak the engine compartment of a vehicle that caught fire about 4:30 p.m. No one was injured and only the car was damaged by the small blaze.

A fire in the engine compartment of a car parked next to a gas pump was put out within minutes by members of the Peoria Fire Department. Crews were called to BP, 211 N. Western Ave. about 4:30 p.m. Saturday after an employee saw the flames and called 911. According to Battalion Chief Tom Carr, the owner of the car had just put gas in the vehicle and was attempting to pull away from the pump when he saw smoke coming from under the hood. A few seconds later, he saw flames and exited the car. No injuries were reported. An employee of the gas station saw the flames and hit a "kill switch," which shuts off the supply of gasoline from the tanks to pumps, and sends any gas in the lines back to the

tanks. Carr said the fire was contained to the engine compartment. The heat of the fire caused the front passenger's tire to explode.

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/x1260492944/Car-fire-at-gas-station-extinguished-in-minutes>

INDIA, UTTAR PRADESH, NOIDA, MAY 8 2012. TANKER CONTAINING SPIRIT SEIZED IN NOIDA

District excise officials on Sunday seized a tanker containing denatured spirit and arrested two persons in this connection in Jewar area here, police said. "The arrested persons were trying to smuggle the spirit to Bulandshahr," District Excise Officer Kuldeep Yadav said. A case has been registered against seven persons in this connection, he said. In the last two days, three cases of illicit liquor smuggling were detected from different areas in the district, police said. "66 empty quarter bottles, 20 filled



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quarter bottles and one can of adulterated liquor were recovered from Sector 49 area alone over the last two days," SHO Ravinder Singh Rathai said.

http://zeenews.india.com/news/uttar-pradesh/tanker-containing-spirit-seized-in-noida_773630.html

BULGARIA, DEVNYA, MAY 8 2012. BULGARIAN OLIGARCH'S DEFUNCT FACILITY CAUSES TOXIC SPILL



Controversial Bulgarian businessman Nikolay Banev is facing a hefty fine for a toxic leak at a destitute facility he owns.

A large reservoir for storing chemical substances has caused a toxic leak Saturday afternoon in the industrial town of Devnya, near the northern Black Sea coast. Upon learning about the potential danger, Devnya Mayor, Atanas Kuzev, has called the fire department and convened the municipality's crisis headquarters. Firefighters and fire trucks have been dispatched immediately to the location. The office of the Varna Region Governor assures in an official statement that local residents are not in danger over the spill, while Regional Governor, Dancho Simeonov, visited the scene in person to make sure there is no hazard for the town and the nearby villages. The reservoir contained over 2.5 thousand metric tons of trichloroethane. Employees mending it report they have noticed the leak immediately and managed to control it. They assure the

substance is no more harmful than fumes when painting with oil paint. The reservoir is inside the destitute "Polymers" plant, owned by [controversial businessman Nikolay Banev](#). Just two weeks prior to the incident there had been a probe which established the storage of large amounts of harmful substances way beyond their expiration date. The commission ordered for them to be treated at a suitable facility, but it emerged that such facility does not exist in Bulgaria and the company had made the commitment to find one abroad. Regardless, Banev is facing a fine of anywhere between BGN 10 000 to BGN 100 000 with the Mayor blaming "Polymers" for the hazardous situation. The leaks are said to have been caused by the obsolete equipment/reservoir.

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=139087

USA, MS, KIRBYVILLE, MAY 9 2012. RENTAL CATCHES FIRE IN GASOLINE MISHAP

stephen herzog



A home on Missouri 248, five miles north of Branson, burns Sunday.

A home near Kirbyville caught fire during a kitchen incident Saturday morning, according to the Western Taney County Fire Protection District. Officials said a man renting the residence had just cleaned up a gasoline spill in the garage when he ran into the kitchen to check on breakfast. He laid the gasoline soaked rag on the stove next to the burner when it ignited, according to the department. He reportedly used a hot pad in an attempt to extinguish the fire when it ignited and burned his hand. In order to get it off his hand he threw it into the living room where it ignited an overstuffed chair, the department reported. He then tried to extinguish the fire with water, and when it got too large, he called 911

and left the house, according to report. When firefighters arrived, there was heavy smoke from the rear of the building. The crew took a hose through the garage and found most of the fire in the living room and some in the kitchen. The fire was quickly brought under control, the department reported. The fire and water damage was limited to the living room and kitchen, but the entire house has smoke damage, the department reported. The Red Cross responded to the scene to assist the occupants.

http://bransontrilakesnews.com/news_free/article_5e59199c-9952-11e1-8a75-001a4bcf887a.html

INDIA, RANCHI, MAY 9 2012. INADEQUATE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW LED TO INFERNO

Lack of technical know-how led to Monday night's inferno in the heart of city, which gutted a petrol pump and a fuel tanker. Property over Rs 50 lakh was damaged which includes 12,000 litres of petrol, one truck and two fuel dispensers were reduced to ashes. Fire officer Suresh Prasad suspect that it broke out during refilling. "The dispensers generate some static electricity while refilling. It must have got stuck up somewhere," he added. Staff at the petrol pump, however, claimed that they had basic



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fire extinguishing facilities and even tried to extinguish it. "As soon as we picked up the extinguishers, an ear-piercing sound of six blasts ripped the air," said Anant Kumar, a staff at the fuel station. The petrol pump is located in a commercial-cum-residential area. Some of the staff, however, pointed fingers at the negligence of fuel tanker operators. "During refilling, the operators did not appear to be trained and a spark was noticed," said some staff at the pump. "The oil tanker had turned into a huge fireball and flames reached as high as 100 feet. Fearing blasts, passers-by were in a mad rush to flee," said another staff. "Over 5,000 people reside in flats and residential quarters around the petrol pump. Glass panes of many shops and buildings cracked and broke following the blasts," said a trader S D Singh. The tanker had come to the petrol from Namkum to refill the dispensers. Fire at petrol pumps are not new. "In the past six months, a petrol pump in Lalpur, one in Silli and another one in Pakur, were gutted in almost similar blasts," said president of Jharkhand Petroleum Dealers' Association (JPDA) Ashok Singh. JPDA has decided to organise awareness campaigns at petrol pumps to avoid such incidents in future.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/Inadequate-technical-know-how-led-to-inferno/articleshow/13059084.cms>

USA, WYO, RAWLINS, MAY 9 2012. 4 WORKERS BURNED AT SINCLAIR REFINERY IN WYOMING >> 3 BURNED WORKERS FLOWN TO GREELEY

wayne harrison

Three workers at the Sinclair refinery near Rawlins have been flown to a burn center in Colorado following a flash fire. Sinclair Oil Corp. says the incident happened inside a gas recovery unit at its refinery, about five miles east of Rawlins, about 10:20 a.m. Tuesday. Sinclair Police Chief Jeff Sanders says it was a flash fire and four workers were originally taken to Memorial Hospital of Carbon County. A Memorial Hospital spokeswoman says three of the workers were flown to a burn center in Greeley, Colo., while the fourth was treated and released. No details on the injuries of the hospitalized workers were immediately available. Salt Lake City-based Sinclair says there appeared to be little or no damage to the facility. It says it is investigating the incident.

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/31031405/detail.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, PORT MACQUARIE, MAY 9 2012. NEW PACIFIC HIGHWAY CONTAMINATION TWIST



[Map Port Macquarie 2444](#)

The union covering road workers, the CFMEU says there are still grave concerns about a potentially contaminated Pacific Highway worksite. An exclusion zone was placed around the site near Port Macquarie last month when workers became ill. It was feared they had unearthed an old chemical burial ground. CFMEU regional organiser Jim Hutcheon says in the latest twist, work stopped on the site yesterday and the plant equipment is in quarantine. "There's more questions than answers at the moment," he said. "But what we can tell you is that the site has been effectively shut by the company basically locking up all plant and equipment. "The reason for it being closed is that they've received a doctors certificate from one of our members. "Obviously a lot of people are worried and concerned and don't know which way to go at this stage." The Roads and Maritime Service has confirmed the worksite has shutdown, for health and safety reasons. Yesterday a plant operator received a medical certificate stating his symptoms suggest exposure to caesium, americium, dioxin and DDT. BUT the RMS says it was not issued by a WorkCover doctor. A review is to be carried out of testing so far and a suitably qualified doctor will do more medical tests.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-05-09/new-pacific-highway-contamination-twist/4001006>

USA, N.J, MARLBORO, MAY 9 2012. CONTAMINATED IMPERIAL OIL SITE REMEDIATION COMPLETE

It took 25 years to clean Imperial Oil, a Superfund site in Marlboro, and Freeholder Lillian G. Burry has been there since the beginning. It was only fitting that she was present May 2 when it was announced that the cleanup was complete. "This goes back to the late 1960s and early 1970s when I was chairwoman of the League of Women Voters in Matawan and then later as mayor," Burry said. "We brought attention to the area where there was contamination, which impacted the soil, water resources, wetlands and the entire region." The League of Women's Voters was very active in environmental issues back then, Burry said, and the group made their concerns about Imperial Oil very public. "We had found that groundwater contamination went into a brook that fed into Lake Lefferts," she said. "We weren't taken too seriously, but it did eventually capture the attention of people concerned about our environment, and that's when the talk of Superfund came into play." Still, Imperial Oil didn't make it onto the Superfund list until the 1980s, Burry added. Standing at the Imperial Oil site, which is now a



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picturesque open field off Orchard Street, Burry joined Rep. Frank Pallone, Marlboro Mayor Jonathan L. Hornick, and federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator Judith A. Enck to announce completion of the cleanup. "Sites like Imperial Oil can be put back to good use," Enck said. "The site has gone from being a polluted wasteland to an area with trees, shrubs, grass, restored wetlands, a pond and a bike path." Superfund was created in 1980 to address the country's most hazardous waste sites. The program was enacted in the wake of the discovery of toxic waste dumps such as Love Canal in Niagara Falls, N.Y., in the 1970s. It allowed the EPA to clean up the sites and compel responsible parties to pay for it. Imperial Oil is one of seven Superfund sites in Monmouth County. Hornick credited Burry and many others in elected office who helped get the site cleaned up. "Today comes the end of a very long and terrible saga," Hornick said. "It took a coordinated effort and 25 years to get this site cleaned up." From the 1950s through the early 1990s, Imperial Oil recycled petroleum products on its 15-acre site. Clean up entailed removing 4,600 gallons of oil that had pooled on the land, along with 30 million gallons of ground water and 180,000 cubic yards of soil. A total of \$17 million for the clean-up came from the federal Superfund program, with \$33 million from the American Resource and Recovery Act. Pallone said cleaning up toxic waste sites not only protects the public health and improves the environment, but it also creates jobs.

<http://www.ahherald.com/newsbrief-mainmenu-2/monmouth-county-news/13133-contaminated-imperial-oil-site-remediation-complete>

CANADA, OTTAWA, MAY 9 2012. CANADA'S FOUR MOST EXPENSIVE CONTAMINATED SITES >> CONTAMINATED SOIL, RADIOACTIVE WASTE PUTS GROUNDWATER IN JEOPARDY



An aerial view of the Grum pit at the mine complex in Faro, Yukon. (2006 file photo)

Canada's Environmental commissioner's 2012 report identifies four sites as having the highest reported financial liabilities - although the report does not disclose the financial details, which are "protected information."

1. Port Hope Area Contaminated Sites, Ont.

Natural Resources Canada responsible for remediation of about 1,380,000 cubic metres of low-level radioactive waste, including radium 226, uranium and arsenic. The project is funded through the Port Hope Area Initiative.

2. Welcome Waste Management Facility, Port Hope, Ont.

Natural Resources also responsible for an estimated 620,000 cubic metres of low-level radioactive waste at this above-ground facility and operation of treatment ponds and effluent discharge. Funded through the Port Hope Area Initiative.

3. Faro Mine, Yukon

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is responsible for this former mine, whose owner went bankrupt. Estimated 64,000 hectares of contaminated soil and groundwater, leaching of acids and metals into groundwater and surface water. Requires at least 100 years of treatment of contaminated water and potential physical instability of tailings dams and waste rock dumps. Contaminants include petroleum hydrocarbons, metal, metalloid and organometallics.

4. Giant Mine, Yellowknife, NWT

Another bankrupt mine site managed by AANDC, with 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide dust stored in 15 underground chambers; 16,000,000 tonnes of tailings, which is also arsenic rich; three large tailings ponds that require water treatment and discharge; and eight open pits, with 35 mine openings. Requires more than 100 years freezing of arsenic trioxide and contaminated soil to prevent release; treating and discharging water from tailings ponds; and covering tailings and open pits.

Other high-priority contaminated sites:

The Commissioner's report offers two examples of sites categorized as Class 1 (high priority for action). Both have completed step 7 (remediation strategy) of a 10-step process.

Attawapiskat Soil Remediation Project, Ont. (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada)

Includes the J.R. Nakogee Elementary School, a former water treatment plant and underground fuel supply lines. Site was contaminated in 1979 when 24,450 litres of diesel fuel seeped into the soil and groundwater. In 2000, the school was closed due to health concerns. Students were relocated to portables. The school was demolished in 2009. Contaminants: Diesel fuel contains toxins such as benzene, toluene, xylene and other chemicals. Health and safety concerns are immediate and long term, including headaches, nausea and possibly cancer. Closure objectives: Since 1997, \$3.6 million has been spent on the



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school site. \$10.1 million more has been approved under AANDC's Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan budget by 2014–15. In 2011, AANDC announced a new school was to be built on a new site by 2014.

Victoria Coast Guard Base, Victoria, B.C. (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

Base covers a 7.26-hectares on Shoal Point in Victoria, B.C. There are nine buildings, some dating to the 1970s. Site assessments identified contamination of about 91,000 cubic metres in soil, sediment, groundwater and surface water in four areas. The contamination is being addressed by a combination of remediation and risk management measures. Contaminants: Petroleum hydrocarbons, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and metals. Closure objectives: About \$360,000 has been spent since 2005–06. There will be ongoing risk management, assuming no change in operations.

Source: 2012 Spring Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2012/05/08/canadas-most-expensive-contaminated-sites.html>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, MAY 9 2012. LEAK HITS SHELL NIGERIA PIPELINE AT CENTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL CASE

Photo's Photoblog: [Nigerian Oil Industry Photos Reveal Extremes of Poverty, Wealth](#)



A local farmer looks on as a piece of paper dipped in a pool in the area around the Bomu-Burru pipeline is shown partially covered with oil residue in October, 2011.

A troubled Shell oil pipeline in Nigeria ruptured, spilling around hundreds of gallons of crude oil a minute for around 24 hours, a member of a nearby community told msnbc.com on Tuesday. "I saw oil coming out from the ground, like a stream, on the pipeline," Erabanabari Kobah, who lives near the Bomu-Bonny pipeline, told msnbc.com. "Coming from four different points that are leaking and in every one second from each of these point. (It was) not less than two liters of oil are coming out every second," Kobah said, adding that he had filmed Sunday night's leak, although msnbc.com had yet to see the footage. A company spokesman confirmed the onshore spill on the Bomu-Bonny pipeline in Nigeria's Delta region but said the company would not release any details related to it until an ongoing investigation involving the Royal Dutch Shell-run joint venture, SPDC, Nigerian regulators and representatives of the local community was complete. The development could well complicate efforts for Shell, which is already facing a lawsuit for tens of millions of dollars in a London court for a leak on the same pipeline in nearby swampland. Shell admits responsibility for two spills that devastated the Bodo fishing communities in the delta, a labyrinth of creeks and swamps. The lawsuit brought by 11,000 Nigerians from the Bodo community in the London High Court for two oil spills in 2008/9 that they say destroyed their livelihoods was at least 60 times worse than the company originally announced, advocacy group [Amnesty International said on April 23](#).

Success for the claimants in the case would create a precedent that other communities affected by oil spills around the world might follow. It is being nervously watched by the oil industry. Shell maintains that much of the oil spilled in the region is the result of theft and sabotage. The case against the Shell rests on the contention that operational spills have caused extensive damage and, while there may be ongoing illegal theft from pipelines in the region, Shell are responsible for cleaning up the damage and compensating rural communities who have lost the fishing and farming income. "If this was indeed operational failure, on the same pipeline from which the Bodo 2008 spills occurred, then it demonstrates an urgent need for the integrity of this particular pipeline to be reinforced or for it simply to be replaced," said Kristen Roy, of London-based law firm Leigh Day, which is representing the 11,000 Nigerians in the U.K. While Shell no longer operates in the area after lengthy disputes with local Nigerians about pollution, it still has pipelines and other infrastructure there and says it is committed to clearing up spills, whatever the cause. A United Nations report in August last year criticized Shell and the Nigerian government for contributing to 50 years of pollution in Ogoniland, which it says needs the world's largest ever oil clean-up that could take up to 30 years. Kobah, a local environmental activist, said regardless of the outcome of the case against Shell he and others in the community wanted the company out of Nigeria. "I was brought up in that community and I can see an unbelievable change over time," he



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said. "Our trees are no longer producing fruit, harvests no longer produce food, the fishing is pathetic." "I don't think Shell should be here anymore," he said.

Related Links

- [Landmark case: Nigerian villagers sue Shell over oil spills](#)
- [100 miles of oil: Spill likely Nigeria's worst in decade](#)

<http://worldnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/05/08/11594963-leak-hits-shell-nigeria-pipeline-at-center-of-environmental-case?lite>

ENGLAND, LONDON, MAY 9 2012. FIRMS TOLD TO PULL THE PLUG ON EXCESSIVE ELECTRICAL TESTS

 **Document** The revised HSE guidance can be found [here](#).

According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), unnecessary electrical safety tests are costing office-based businesses an estimated thirty million pounds a year. As a consequence, they are keen to point out that it's a myth that every portable electrical appliance in the workplace needs to be tested once a year. They say that misleading advertising from companies who offer the testing, is contributing to low-risk businesses such as offices, shops and hotels paying unnecessarily for over-the-top electrical maintenance regimes. The law simply requires an employer to ensure that electrical equipment is maintained in order to prevent danger – it does not state that every item has to be tested or how often testing needs to be carried out. New information from the HSE says that testing appliances to ensure that they are safe to use can contribute to an effective maintenance regime, but in low-risk environments, most dangerous defects can be found simply by checking the appliances for obvious signs of damage such as frayed cables. Launching HSE's revised guidance on portable appliance testing (PAT), HSE Chair Judith Hackitt said: "We know that low-risk companies are being mis-led over what the law requires when it comes to maintaining portable electrical appliances, and many are paying for testing that is not needed. "Businesses are responsible for protecting their employees, but they shouldn't be wasting their money on unnecessary checks that have no real benefit. HSE has always advocated a proportionate, risk-based approach to maintenance. This new guidance is simple and clear to follow." Nick Starling, Director of General Insurance at the Association of British Insurers, said: "Insurers have never required policyholders to undertake unnecessary portable electrical appliance tests which are not proportionate to the risk. We welcome HSE's guidance, which will help businesses focus on what they do best, free from worries about health and safety myths." One of the recommendations in the government-backed report on health and safety by Professor Ragnar Lofstedt ([Reclaiming Health and Safety for All](#)), was for the HSE to further clarify the requirement for portable appliance testing in order to stop over-compliance.

<http://www.santia.co.uk/blog/2012/05/04/firms-told-to-pull-the-plug-on-electrical-tests/>

USA, LA, JENNINGS, MAY 9 2012. SERIOUS INJURY CRASH INVOLVING HAZARDOUS MATERIAL ON I-10 NEAR JENNINGS

 **Watch the Video** [Hazardous Materials Incident on I-10](#)



On May 8, 2012, at 5:02 a.m., troopers assigned to Louisiana State Police Troop D responded to a single vehicle crash on Interstate Highway 10 just east of Jennings in Jefferson Davis Parish that sent a Texas man to the hospital with serious injuries and resulted in the eventual closure of Interstate 10. The preliminary investigation revealed that an 18-wheeler tanker driven by 28-year-old Hector Martinez of Channelview, TX was traveling east on I-10 just east of Jennings when the 18-wheeler he was driving entered the median and overturned. Martinez, who was not wearing a seatbelt, had to be extricated from the vehicle. He sustained serious injuries as a result of the crash and was transported to a local hospital. The truck Martinez was driving was carrying Benzene, a flammable and toxic liquid. As a result, Interstate 10 was closed near mile post 65 at 11:00 a.m. to facilitate the safe off-loading of the truck. Louisiana

State Police Emergency Services troopers are on-hand to help assure the safe transfer of the Benzene and to expedite the process in an effort to minimize inconvenience to the motoring public.

<http://www.klfy.com/story/18181521/hazardous-materials-incident-on-i-10>



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INDIA, NEW DELHI, MAY 9 2012. INDIAN SUPREME COURT BANS TANKER BLAMED FOR ALASKA OIL SPILL FROM ENTERING INDIA FOR DISMANTLING



April 1989: The Exxon Valdez till under repair in Prince Williams Sound in Outside Bay, Alaska. The State of Alaska questioned Exxon about further leakage, and tested water to prove that the ship was still leaking oil in to the Sound.

India's Supreme Court has banned the Exxon Valdez from entering India, saying the ship involved in one of the worst U.S. oil spills will not be allowed in for dismantling until it has been decontaminated. The ship, now known as the "Oriental Nicety," entered Indian waters last week and was headed for the western Indian state of Gujarat, when the Supreme Court gave its order, environmental activist Gopal Krishna said Wednesday. The ship was bought recently by the Hong Kong-based subsidiary of an Indian shipbreaking firm and was being taken to the coastal town of Alang, the hub of India's shipbreaking industry, for dismantling. After the court's order, Gujarat maritime authorities and the state's pollution control authorities withdrew the permission they had granted to the company to anchor the ship near the Alang beach. Krishna, the environmental activist, had filed an application asking the Supreme Court to give directions to the Indian government and the shipping ministry on the purchase of

the ship and its entry into Indian waters. The court has issued notices to the government and the ministry asking for information on steps it intends to take regarding the ship. The Gujarat company contracted to dismantle the ship plans to appeal the court order. "We will abide with the Supreme Court order. We are studying the order, and will appeal," said Harshadhbhai Padia, a partner in the company. On March 24, 1989, millions of gallons of crude oil spewed into Alaska's ecologically sensitive Prince William Sound when the Exxon Valdez dashed against rocks, coating the shoreline with petroleum sludge and killing nearly 40,000 birds. The spill caused incalculable environmental damage and demolished the area's fishing industry. Texas-based Exxon Mobil Corp., spent \$900 million in restitution in a 1991 settlement and is battling more litigation from the spill. The tanker moved on, with five name changes since the spill and ownership changing repeatedly, apparently to keep the ship in use while distancing it from the disaster. The ship is 26 years old, not significantly aged for tankers, but it was considerably damaged in its lifetime. It was split open by rocks in the Alaska spill and was damaged in a collision in the South China Sea in 2010. The Indian court cited the Basel convention, an international treaty that calls for decontamination in a ship's country of export. Mercury, arsenic, asbestos and residual oil can contaminate ship hulls and holds. India has one of the world's largest industries for breaking down old ships and oil tankers centered around Alang, and workers in the coastal town are expected to process the ship to salvage scraps of metal and parts that retain value. However, environment activists say that shipbreaking companies do not follow any precautions while breaking and handling end-of-life ships, exposing workers and the environment to toxic materials.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/supreme-court-bans-tanker-blamed-for-alaska-oil-spill-from-entering-india-for-dismantling/2012/05/09/gIQAwdMCU_story.html

KENYA, NAIROBI, MAY 9 2012. KENYA SHELL SOLD TO NIGERIAN FUND IN BILLION-DOLLAR DEAL

kennedy senelwa



Shell petrol station along Kenyatta Avenue in Nairobi. Kenya Shell's petroleum trading business is set to change ownership in the next three weeks and its country chairman Jimmy Mugerwa is expected to step down.

Kenya Shell's petroleum trading business is set to change ownership in the next three weeks and its country chairman Jimmy Mugerwa is expected to step down. Plans are in place for the firm to get a new corporate brand as Vitol Holding BV and Helios Investment Partners acquire Royal Dutch Shell Plc's Kenyan business. Kenya Shell's name is expected to change to Vivo Energy Kenya. Vitol and Helios each have 40 per cent shares of Vivo Energy while Shell Plc retains 20 per cent stake. Shell's businesses in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Senegal, Cape Verde, Mauritius,



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Tunisia, Madagascar and Mali have transitioned to the Vivo Energy brand. Kenya, Uganda, Ghana and Egypt will be transferred within 2012. Industry sources said the takeover of Kenya Shell, to be spread out over a period of time, starts in the next three weeks and Mr Mugerwa's departure is imminent, thought it could not be confirmed from him as he was outside the country on official duty. The next port of call for Mr Mugerwa, who is also Shell's general manager for East Africa is yet to be known. He has worked for over 20 years in oil industry in Africa and Europe.

Key Player

Kenya Shell which control's 17.8 per cent of the market, owns storage facilities in Mombasa and Nairobi with retail outlets countrywide. The firm markets petrol with other refined oil products and Shell brand of lubricants. Data compiled by Petroleum Institute of East Africa shows KenolKobil holds 25 per cent of Kenya's market, Total (23.3 per cent) Libyaoil (8.8 per cent), National Oil Corporation of Kenya (5.6 per cent) and Bakri (3.1 per cent). The takeover is likely to spark anxiety as the Industrial Court on July 2, 2010 restrained Kenya Shell from selling or transferring its assets to before receiving written consent that employees were agreeable to the transition. With the takeover, Shell will join multinationals like Agip, Mobil, BP, and Chevron (Caltex) that sold their assets in Kenya and other African countries as a result of dwindling returns and difficult business environment. It has led local firms like Hass Petroleum, Hashi Energy, Galana and Petrocity to increase market presence while Kenyan owned KenolKobil and Engen of South Africa have expanded operations on the continent.

<http://www.theeastfrican.co.ke/news/Kenya+Shell+sold+to+Nigerian+fund+in+billion+dollar+deal/-/2558/1399936/-/logdix/-/>

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, PORT BONYTHON, MAY 9 2012. SANTOS SAYS OIL LEAK CLEAN-UP WORKING

Map: [Whyalla 5600](#)

Oil and gas producer Santos says the rate of oil recovered from a leak at its processing plant near Whyalla is continuing to decline. Santos built a trench around the plant at Port Bonython when the leak was found three years ago, to stop groundwater from being contaminated. It has also been remediating groundwater to extract any oil. A company spokesman says it has treated about 16,000 cubic metres of groundwater but recovered fewer than nine cubic metres of oil. It says the declining rate of oil recovery indicates the remediation has been a success. Santos says it is still working closely with the Environment Protection Authority to prevent any environmental impact. A cracked drain taken out of service at the plant in 2008 is believed to be the source of the leak.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-05-09/santos-says-oil-leak-clean-up-working/4000918?section=sa>

USA, MO, SIKESTON, MAY 9 2012. HAZMAT TEAMS, PLANT PERSONNEL WORKED TOGETHER TO CLEAN SIKESTON ACID SPILL

scott welton

Thanks to quick action by Sikeston Board of Municipal Utilities personnel and the regional hazardous materials team, things are back to normal at the Sikeston power plant after a weekend chemical spill. Board officials reported the explosion of a trailer at about 4:30 a.m. Sunday that resulted in a spill of about 7,500 gallons of hydrochloric acid. The cleanup is "well on its way to being completed," said Sikeston Department of Public Safety Capt. Ken Dicus. "It's not affecting plant operations anymore. They've got everything back in service." Members of the department are part of the SEMO Hazmat Team, so the first elements of a hazmat team were on the scene within minutes of the spill being reported, said Dicus, a supervisor for the hazmat team. Without a local hazmat team to quickly respond, "the situation could have been much worse," Dicus said. "Without a hazmat team, there is the possibility we would have had to evacuate a wider area. One of the byproducts of working with this chemical can be hydrogen gas and the proper mixtures of hydrogen gas and oxygen can be highly volatile." Additional manpower and equipment then continued to arrive in the hours following the initial response. In addition to Sikeston, the SEMO Hazmat Team includes members in Jackson and Cape Girardeau. Dicus said the state has "taken a regional approach" to hazmat teams. "We've been an organization since about '99," Dicus said. "We were already established a couple of years before 9/11. When that occurred, that opened up some additional funding we were able to get from the feds, which enabled us to purchase some equipment we would not otherwise have been able to afford." The equipment included such items as air monitoring equipment, which is able to check for several types of chemicals, and level A entry suits, he said. "Those are the type of suits used to evaluate the spill at the power plant," Dicus noted. Additionally, hazmat teams are always ready to help out a neighboring team. "We all work very closely together," Dicus said. The Poplar Bluff, Mo., area's Ozark Regional Hazmat Team assisted with the spill at the plant, for example. "This is one where we brought in a lot of people because initially you are not sure what you've got. We wanted to make sure we had plenty of people, plenty of equipment ready if we needed to take further action,"



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Dicus said. "All the feedback I've heard was very good: Operations went very smoothly, everyone worked well together." Dicus said part of the credit for the incident being handled so well goes to the power plant's personnel. "Actions they took before we got there were very critical," he said. "They had done everything right: They had a good accounting of their people, had their people out of harm's way and moved to safety, and had done everything they could to contain the incident." Having good information was also an important factor in the response. "The contractor there working with the chemical knew what had exploded," Dicus said. "We knew right away what the chemical was, the amount of it and the concentration of the chemical. All those make up how dangerous and persistent it is." As the cleanup comes to conclusion, the Department of Natural Resources and the contractor's insurance company will investigate the incident. "Right now as it stands it doesn't appear to be suspicious," Dicus said. "It would be difficult to reproduce what occurred." Once the site is decontaminated, investigators will be able to determine the cause of the failure of the container. They may find it to have been just a freak accident, Dicus said. "One of the gentlemen there has been working with this chemical for over 15 years and works with this particular chemical up to 30 times per year and has never ever heard of that occurring," Dicus said.

<http://www.semissourian.com/story/1846788.html>

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 9 2012. DUBAI STAR OWNERS MUST PAY \$2 MILLION FOR S.F. BAY OIL SPILL

albert samaha



This is what a \$2 million spill looks like.

The owners of the Dubai Star oil tanker has to shell out \$1.96 million for a 2009 oil spill in the San Francisco Bay that impacted more than 200 acres and killed some 100 seabirds, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon said today. About 75 percent of that cash -- which will be divided up among San Francisco, Oakland, and the California Department of Fish and Game -- covers the cost of the damages, including restoring wildlife habitat and recreation areas. The rest of the sum will pay off civil penalties. The DA's complaint, which also included Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, charged South Harmony Shipping of Panama, owners of the Dubai Star, with violating the Lempert-

Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act and the Fish & Game Code. The problems began just before 6 a.m. on [October 30, 2009](#), when a fueling barge pulled up beside the Dubai to pump bunker oil into its tank. The ships were stationed two-and-a-half miles south of the Bay Bridge. What happened next, as the DA's complaint explains it, was a cascade of human and mechanical errors. The complaint claims that the bunker oil overflowed out of the tank, onto the deck, and into the bay because a valve failed to close after a crewmember turned the wheel that was supposed to close it. Another crewmember overseeing tank levels from the control room "inexplicably failed to notice on his computer monitor" that the levels had exceeded capacity. There were two alarms set up to go off when this happened, and neither of them sounded. Nobody on board noticed the ship's deck filling up with oil until more than 400 gallons had spilled. The captain of the ship did not notify any federal or state authorities until about 30 minutes after the accident, which leaked between 400 and 800 gallons of oil and took seven months to clean. However, the spill is rather minor when compared to the 2007, [Cosco Busan](#) incident, which spilled more than 53,000 gallons, causing significant damage in the Bay Area. Tides carried the oil to Alameda and Bay Farm Islands, and destroyed habitats as far away as the Oakland Airport. In total, the California Department of Fish & Game counted 113 dead seabirds. And because of similar wildlife losses, local crab fisherman [are now suing the Dubai Star owners](#) for \$10 million.

http://blogs.sfweekly.com/thesnitch/2012/05/dubai_star_oil_spill_settlement.php

CANADA, OTTAWA, MAY 9 2012. FEDS FACE \$7.7B IN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP >> CONTAMINATED SITES ACROSS COUNTRY

The federal government is facing \$7.7 billion in environmental liabilities for 22,000 contaminated sites across the country and a funding shortfall to clean up the polluted lands, the commissioner of the environment and sustainable development warned Tuesday in a new report. As the Conservative government shrinks federal ecological oversight by moving to a one project, one review process, the federal environmental watchdog also cautioned that Canada "cannot go back and repeat the errors of the past," where natural-resource developments and weak regulations contributed to contaminated lands across the country. While the government has made progress in identifying contaminated sites for which it is responsible - having closed the files



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on more than one-third of them - about half of the sites have yet to be assessed for remediation and prioritized for action, Environment commissioner Scott Vaughan says in his report. There is also a \$500-million shortfall to deal with the sites that have already been assessed, he notes, and federal funding is shrinking significantly for examining the remaining locations. Most of the allocated funding that remains is earmarked for a few high risk sites and it remains unclear how thousands of other contaminated sites will be addressed, he adds. "Many of these sites are buried and out of the public eye, but they will impose human health risks and environmental and financial burdens for generations to come," Vaughan told reporters in Ottawa. Of the 22,000 identified federal sites, around 14,500 of them are considered active, with the remaining having been closed (deemed no further action is required, which doesn't necessarily mean they have been remediated). Federal sites can include anything from small areas of soil contaminated by fuel spills to massive abandoned mines with heavy metals. The contaminants include toxic and hazardous substances and range from petroleum products to radioactive materials. Unless properly managed and remediated, the sites can contaminate water, soil and air, and threaten human health. Many of the sites are located on aboriginal lands, but there are also hundreds in major cities across the country, including Ottawa, Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal and Toronto. Nearly half of the active sites were in the initial stages of being identified and examined, while 81 per cent of the active sites do not yet have a recorded financial liability. Furthermore, a performance reporting system does not yet exist so it's difficult to know whether federal dollars spent on cleaning up sites are delivering results. "We found that the government does not know the full extent of its financial exposure at this time," the report says. "Because so many sites are still at the early steps of the process, the government does not have the information it needs to know the cost and the resulting financial liability for federal contaminated sites." Moreover, Vaughan said at a news conference that the federal budget to evaluate the risks of contaminated sites has been cut 68 per cent. The environment commissioner made two recommendations, which have generally been accepted by the government: to conduct a risk review of contaminated sites and issue a publicly available report on the progress of the government's action plan. Federal Environment Minister Peter Kent, in a statement, said the government accepts the recommendations and is committed to a strong economy and environment. "This government recognizes the importance of ensuring that Canadians have clean air, clean water, and a strong, diverse environment in which to raise their families," Kent said.

<http://www.windsorstar.com/news/Feds+face+environmental+cleanup/6589817/story.html>

USA, CA, EMERYVILLE, MAY 10 2012. HYDROGEN LEAK OCCURS AT LINDE'S EMERYVILLE FUEL CELL BUS FILLING STATION



A hydrogen fuel tank leak occurred at a Linde-operated AC Transit fuel cell bus refuelling station in Emeryville, California on Friday (4th May 2012) morning. A pressure valve in a hydrogen storage tank malfunctioned, causing it to leak. This resulted in an explosion and small fire, which quickly burned itself out; the exact reason why the valve malfunctioned is currently unknown. The explosion and fire led to the precautionary evacuation of several surrounding businesses and a nearby secondary school by local authorities. There were no injuries during the event, in which local residents are said to have heard a loud pop and seen a fireball rise in the sky at the bus yard. There are inherent risks in handling any compressed flammable gas or liquid, and it is important to note that automatic safety procedures initiated as soon as the leak began, including the shut-off of hydrogen lines. Hydrogen is lighter than air and although explosive, quickly escapes upwards when released, meaning that fires typically begin with an explosion but quickly run out of fuel. This is unlike petrol or diesel, which are

flammable liquids that result in longer-lasting and typically more dangerous fires when leaked.

<http://www.fuelcelltoday.com/news-events/news-archive/2012/may/hydrogen-leak-occurs-at-linde%E2%80%99s-emeryville-fuel-cell-bus-filling-station>



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