



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2012 – 837 Newsy Stuff

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

**May 13 2012**



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### USA, ILL, CHATHAM CO, MAY 4 2012. TANKER OVERTURNED ON U.S. 501 IN CHATHAM COUNTY

An overturned tanker has blocked both southbound lanes of U.S. 501/15 at Lystra Road in Chatham County. The accident occurred just south of the Orange County line and about six miles south of Chapel Hill. According to radio communications to dispatch, the first truck on the scene reported the tanker leaking a material that seemed to be water. Chatham County emergency dispatch could not immediately confirm.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-mct-brief-tanker-overtuned-on-u.s.-501-in-chatham-20120503.0.3383269.story>

### USA, CA, EMERYVILLE, MAY 5 2012. FUEL LEAK AT AC TRANSIT YARD IN EMERYVILLE FORCES EVACUATIONS AT PIXAR, SCHOOL

 **Watch the Video**

- [Hydrogen Tank Leak Evacuates Area near Pixar in Emeryville](#)
- [Hydrogen Tank Rupture in Emeryville Prompts Evacuations](#)

 **Click-2-Listen** [Hydrogen Leak Prompts Evacuations, Road Closures in Emeryville](#)



A hydrogen fuel tank leak caused a small fire at an AC Transit bus yard Friday morning, prompting authorities to evacuate several businesses and a high school and close a number of intersections as a precaution, authorities said. No injuries were reported. Pixar Studios, Emery Secondary School and Emery Bay Village, a complex of townhomes, were among the buildings that were evacuated after residents reported hearing a loud pop and seeing a large fireball at the bus yard on 45th Street near Doyle Street, said Emeryville police Sgt. Fred Dauer. About 7:45 a.m., Emeryville resident Brian Donohue said he was driving along 45th Street while taking his 6-year-old daughter to Anna Yates Elementary school when he heard an "ear-splittingly loud" rushing sound. "I could see the gas disturb the air above my truck. It looked like heat waves," Donohue said. "I drove my truck as fast as I could and dropped her off at school." Firefighters arrived and ordered an immediate evacuation of businesses from Park Avenue to 53rd

Street and from Hollis Street to San Pablo Avenue. Employees trying to get to the affected businesses were turned away. Students were arriving at the high school on 47th Street when the evacuation was ordered, and were shepherded to the school football field furthest from the leak site, Dauer said. Other nearby buildings, including Anna Yates Elementary School at 41st Street and Emeryville City Hall at Park Avenue, remained open. AC Transit spokesman Clarence Johnson said that a fire started at the yard when a hydrogen storage tank began venting for an unknown reason. The fire was small and burned itself out quickly, Johnson said. AC Transit crews and employees of Linde, an engineering firm that built the hydrogen facility, spent hours at the yard investigating the leak, the spokesman said. Johnson said the leak posed no safety risk to the public. "Anyone at ground level would not have been exposed to the hydrogen, because it's lighter than air and would have gone straight up into the air," he said. The hydrogen, which is used to fuel buses, is clear and odorless, so any complaints of smells can't be tied to the leak, he said. Johnson said that safety procedures at the facility were immediately followed, as employees immediately called 911 once they heard the pop and saw the flames, he added. "The automatic safety procedure kicked in and the hydrogen lines were automatically and manually shut off," Johnson said. "The station functioned as it should when there's a malfunction." The facility -- one of four AC Transit bus yards in the East Bay -- opened in 2011. It is home to the transit agency's central dispatch and serves as a hydrogen production, fueling and storage facility. It contains a number of tanks that have a combined hydrogen storage capacity of 360 kilograms, which is equal to about 360 gallons of diesel, Johnson said. Just one of the tanks leaked, and officials are not sure how much hydrogen it contained before the accident. At 11 a.m., authorities reopened every roadway except for 45th Street between Doyle Street and San Pablo Avenue, which has Pixar Studios on one side and the AC Transit yard on the other. By midmorning, Pixar announced it was closing for the day. Hundreds of employees work daily at the bus yard, Johnson said, but not more than 20 people were there when the leak started. Immediately after streets were closed Friday morning, residents milled around behind yellow police tape as news helicopters hovered overhead while the evacuations took place. In addition to Emeryville fire and police, Oakland and Berkeley police and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office were summoned to help secure the scene.

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_20548592/emeryville-emergency-crews-respond-possible-fuel-tank-leak](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_20548592/emeryville-emergency-crews-respond-possible-fuel-tank-leak)



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#### USA, WASHINGTON, MAY 5 2012. CONGRESS MOVES CLOSER TO RAIDING LUST TRUST FUND >> THE HIGHWAY BILL WOULD DIVERT ONE-THIRD OF NEW REVENUES FROM THE LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (LUST) TRUST FUND, FURTHER COMPROMISING THE INTEGRITY OF THE PROGRAM.

Tank spills will take a back burner to road upkeep if Congress reallocates the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) Trust Fund to pay for transportation projects, Inside EPA reports. This comes amid concern that higher grade ethanol might trigger more tank spills. Currently, a projected 88,000 sites await cleanup. Critics of the move think there is little they can do to stop a House-Senate conference committee working on merging the two highway bills from incorporating language that raids \$3 billion from the LUST Trust Fund and diverts future revenues collected for that program to offset the Highway Trust Fund. The provision has generated strong disagreement from state waste officials and fuel retailers, including NACS, who point out it will take money from the LUST fund's intended purpose of cleanup: "Simply because you have continually failed to adequately fund a program you designated to prevent releases and to clean up vital land and water sites within your communities, is not reason enough to divert these monies to highway construction projects unrelated to environmental protection," wrote NACS, SIGMA and PMAA in a letter sent last month to Congress.

[NACS also responded](http://www.nacsonline.com/NACS/News/Daily/Pages/ND0504122.aspx) to final language included in the U.S. House of Representatives' version of highway reauthorization legislation that mirrors the Senate version, noting that Congress has repeatedly failed to appropriate sufficient funds to the program. Since 1986, the LUST Trust Fund has accumulated roughly \$3.2 billion, collects approximately \$194 million in fees and earns \$127 million in interest. However, Congress only appropriates around \$112 million per year.

<http://www.nacsonline.com/NACS/News/Daily/Pages/ND0504122.aspx>

#### USA, TX, NACOGDOCHES, MAY 5 2012. PRICE OF GAS SPILL HITS \$400,000

erin mckeen

The bills are in and Morgan Oil Company is paying a hefty price tag for the gas spill that happened in early March, and the company is waiting for final approval of closure from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. At about 2:30 p.m. March 7, a Morgan Oil Company truck driver hit a pole at The Depot Chevron station and tore a valve off the tank, spilling more than 2,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline, which flowed into nearby Banita Creek.

[http://dailysentinel.com/news/article\\_5aeee8dc-959a-11e1-833f-001a4bcf887a.html](http://dailysentinel.com/news/article_5aeee8dc-959a-11e1-833f-001a4bcf887a.html)

#### AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, DARWIN, MAY 5 2012. AUSTRALIAN FRIDGE FIRMS IGNORE OXYACETYLENE REGULATIONS

[Related Links](#) [Watch the Video](#) [Gas Explosion Kills Tradie](#)



*The wreck of the van in which Patrick Bird died.*

Over 60% of heating, air conditioning and refrigeration businesses in Australia's Northern Territories are reported to be breaching transportation of flammable gas regulations. The regulating authority, NT Worksafe has slammed the complacency of Australian companies following the deaths of two refrigeration engineers due to explosions in their vans just before Christmas last year. On December 16 a 24-year-old refrigeration mechanic was killed when his work van, which contained oxyacetylene cylinders, exploded in the driveway of his home in a suburb of Darwin. The explosion also caused extensive damage to the house and damage to surrounding properties. The investigation is still

ongoing but preliminary findings from the NT Worksafe investigation showed the probable cause of the explosion was a build-up of flammable gas in the van. Four days earlier, a 25-year-old tradesman was killed in similar circumstances in Melbourne when his work van, which also contained flammable gas cylinders, exploded. In 2009, two young apprentice plumbers in Victoria escaped serious injury when their employer's work van, which contained oxyacetylene cylinders, exploded when they activated the van's keyless entry. Worksafe executive director Laurene Hull said that many businesses in the air-conditioning, refrigeration and plumbing repair services were ignoring the dangers and continuing to place the lives of their workers at risk. "In the first four months of 2012, NT Worksafe has issued prohibition notices to more than 60% of those businesses we have attended to check on this situation," she said. "Despite intense media coverage over the deaths of two young tradesmen within the same week last December, inspections conducted by NT Worksafe Inspectors have shown companies are still transporting



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and storing flammable gas cylinders in enclosed work vans." Strict regulations apply to carrying oxyacetylene and other flammable gases in vehicles. Readers should check safety regulations in their own countries and regions for further information. Australian readers can access their latest safety notice

here: <http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/SafetyAlerts/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=17>

<http://www.acr-news.com/news/news.asp?id=2848&title=Australian+fridge+firms+ignore+oxyacetylene+regulations>

#### AUTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, GLADSTONE, MAY 5 2012. EMERALD FUEL TANKER CLOSES HIGHWAY

rebekah polley



*Port Curtis Way was closed for most of Tuesday, after an Emerald Carrying Company fuel tanker rolled on Monday night.*

A fuel tanker that overturned near Gladstone late Monday night causing lengthy delays, has been confirmed as an Emerald Carrying Company truck. The prime mover and B-double trailers overturned near the Calliope River bridge on Port Curtis Way about 10.30pm. Emerald Carrying Company managing director Greg Haylock said the truck had been unloading fuel in Gladstone before continuing to Rockhampton, when the accident occurred. "The roads are terrible, they certainly contributed to it," he said. "That stretch of road is very badly knocked around." The company has a total of 55 prime movers, which Greg said were on the roads throughout Queensland "24 hours a day, seven

days a week". "The incident is something we dread will happen," he said. Fuel had to be pumped from the overturned tanker into another, which took most of Tuesday to complete and resulted in lengthy traffic delays for motorists. "We regret any inconvenience we caused to people travelling on the road, who were held up," Greg said. "Some accidents can't be avoided." The truck driver received minor injuries and was taken to the Gladstone Hospital and Greg said they were very happy the driver was not seriously injured. "People are our most important priority," he said. "We drum it into the business."

<http://www.cqnews.com.au/story/2012/05/04/fuel-tanker-rollover-causes-lengthy-delays/>

#### USA, MA, SEEKONK, MAY 5 2012. CREWS CALLED TO SEEKONK HAZMAT

• [Watch the Video Crews called to Seekonk Hazmat](#)

• [Watch the Video Seekonk Hazmat 911 Tape](#)



*The Hazmat team opening the car which was parked behind an abandoned movie theatre in Seekonk for over a day.*

Seekonk crews remain at the scene of a hazardous materials situation that stemmed from an apparent suicide, fire officials told NBC 10. Fire officials said a group of boys were riding their bikes Friday afternoon in the parking lot behind a building that used to house Showcase Cinemas on Fall River Avenue. Matthew Stanley, a 13-year-old boy, told NBC 10 that they came upon a car and saw a man, who appeared to be passed out inside the car. "We were riding bikes in the bike and we saw the car with the signs on it, and I used (another boy's) phone and called 911," Stanley said. He said they came across a note that read, "poisonous gas, hydrogen sulfide, don't open the doors call 911 and get the hazmat team." The boys called 911 and soon police and fire crews showed up. A hazardous materials team was also called. Fire officials

commended the boys for calling crews to the scene. Fire officials said it appeared that containers with chemicals were inside the car. Fire officials said the hazmat team was preparing to knock out one of the windows of the car and investigate the chemicals inside. Police have not released any details about the man inside the car. Officials said the hazmat situation has also closed a nearby carnival.

#### Related Links

- [Deadly risk in Seekonk](#)



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The Hazmat team opening the car which was parked behind an abandoned movie theatre in Seekonk for over a day. A man sealed himself in a car, posted a warning on the window and unleashed a poison gas ...

- [Chemical suicide shuts down Seekonk carnival](#)

Fire officials in Seekonk believe that a man killed himself by breathing in a mixture of hydrogen sulfide while inside a car, in a parking lot, where a carnival was scheduled to take place. Thankfully the man did leave ...

- [Hazardous Chemical Situation in Seekonk](#)

The chemical compound hydrogen sulfide kills a man parked in a lot behind the old Showcase Cinemas on Route 114A in Seekonk. An unidentified man was killed late Friday afternoon in Seekonk after his sealed vehicle filled with a poisonous gas that was ...

- [Crews called to Seekonk hazmat](#)

Officials are at the scene of a hazardous materials situation in Seekonk that stemmed from an apparent suicide. (more) Seekonk crews remain at the scene of a hazardous materials situation that stemmed from an apparent suicide, fire officials told NBC...

- ['Chemical suicide' causes hazardous situation in Seekonk](#)

A 20 member hazardous materials team was on the site in the parking lot behind the old Showcase Cinemas on Route 114A after a man was found dead in a parked car - the victim of an apparent "chemical suicide." The team is now clearing the...

- [Boy finds apparent suicide victim in car](#)

A 13-year-old boy discovered an apparent suicide victim in a car filled with poisonous gas Friday afternoon, said Seekonk police Lieutenant David Dyson. The boy made the discovery about 3:30 pm in the parking lot of Showcase Cinemas on Route 114A.

<http://www2.turnto10.com/news/2012/may/04/5/crews-called-seekonk-hazmat-ar-1024891/>

#### USA, OH, MUSKINGUM CO, ZANESVILLE, MAY 5 2012. TANKER ACCIDENT SHUTS DOWN SR 146

State Route 146 in Muskingum County was shut down for hours Friday afternoon following a tanker truck rollover. The crash occurred around 4:30 near Clay Littick Drive. According to Jeff Jadwin with the Muskingum County Emergency Management Agency, the tanker went off the roadway landing in a creek rupturing the fuel tanks and oil panel in the truck. Jadwin says the load the truck was carrying was not hazardous. "It's powdered cement. It's a truck that's used for fracking oil wells and such," says Jadwin. Jadwin says the roadway had to be shut down completely, because a special crew needed to be called in to clean up the creek. Also, in the accident the truck sheared a power pole, which had to be replaced by AEP. "These things happen and it's an inconvenience for people that are trying to travel on the State Route, because of the detour right now but we work as quickly as we can to get this back opened up," he says. The crash knocked out power to a sub-division and the Licking Township Fire Station. AEP says the hope to have power fully restored by 8 p.m.

<http://www.whiznews.com/content/news/local/2012/05/04/tanker-accident-shuts-down-sr-146>

#### NIGERIA, LAGOS, MAY 5 2012. SHELL SHUTS DOWN NIGERIAN PIPELINE CITING RAMPANT THEFT



*An aerial view during a media tour by oil company Shell shows locally built barges surrounded by the runoff from crude oil at an illegal oil refining site along the Imo river near Nigeria's oil hub city of Port Harcourt.*

Royal Dutch Shell announced Friday it has shut down a major crude oil pipeline in [Nigeria](#), citing extensive damage due to theft. The closure will defer some 60,000 barrels of [crude oil production](#) per day while repairs are made, Shell said. The Anglo-Dutch [oil and gas giant](#) warned that continued theft may make it unable to fulfill its contractual obligations on the production of Bonny Light crude, a high-grade type of crude oil specific to [Nigeria](#). "The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd. (SPDC) declared force majeure on outstanding cargoes of Bonny Light with effect from noon today, 4th May 2012," a statement issued by Shell read. "The action is due to production deferment

caused by incessant crude theft and illegal bunkering on Nembe Creek Trunkline (NCTL) ... SPDC is working hard to repair



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the line and resume production as quickly as possible," Reuters quoted the company as saying. The NCTL runs above ground through under-policed areas in the Niger Delta, making it an easy target for criminals who tap the pipelines and send it to their own refineries or to tankers along the nearby coastline. "The oil theft and illegal refining is at a large scale, with tank farms, barge building operations and barges shuttling crude to waiting tankers offshore," Shell chief executive Peter Voser said last month. The Nigerian government has profited to the tune of billions of dollars from oil production in the Niger Delta; however communities there claim they have not seen the benefits of their nation's immense oil wealth. Although militancy in the region has been on the decline after the government gave amnesty to those who gave up arms in 2009, highly organized criminal networks devoted to oil theft remain. Shell estimates some 150,000 barrels of oil are stolen from their facilities across Nigeria every day. "More than 75 percent of all oil spill incidents and more than 70 percent of all oil spilled from SPDC facilities in the Niger Delta between 2006 and 2010 were caused by sabotage, theft and illegal refining," Shell said in a separate statement issued earlier this year. Moreover, the company says 19 SPDC employees and contractors were kidnapped by "criminal gangs" in 2011, and one fatality was reported in 2010. It is unclear when repairs to the NCTL will be completed.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/337459/20120504/nigeria-shell-niger-delta-nembe-creek-trunkline.htm>

#### ARMENIA, YEREVAN, MAY 5 2012. BALLOON FIREBALL EXPLODES AT ARMENIAN RALLY

 Watch the Video

- [Balloon Fireball Explodes At Armenian Rally](#)
- [144 Injured as Balloons Explode During Political Rally](#)
- [Over 140 Injured as Balloons Explode at Political Rally in Armenia](#)



*An explosion injured at least 144 in central Yerevan on Friday during a campaign rally by Armenia's ruling party.*

More than 140 people have been hurt after hundreds of gas-filled balloons went up in flames in Armenia. People scattered as a fireball erupted at a political rally in capital city Yerevan, just days before parliamentary polls. The balloons appeared to have exploded after being ignited by a cigarette during the event, staged by the ruling Republican Party in Republic Square, reports said. "I heard an explosion and saw flames rising high," said a 30-year-old woman who identified herself as Susan. "People rushed away from the square, and I saw a man with a burnt face and a girl whose back was on fire." A video posted online

by internet television station Panorama.am showed a large but short-lived flame billowing in the middle of the crowd where the white balloons had been flying moments before. Health minister Harutyun Kushkryan told state television many people were injured in the chaos as people tried to flee. She described the condition of the injured as "satisfactory". The promotional balloons were decorated with the governing party's election slogan "Let's believe in change". Opinion polls indicate the Republican Party and its coalition ally, Prosperous Armenia, are set to win more than 60% of the votes in Sunday's parliamentary election, signalling little or no change in government. The 2008 presidential elections in Armenia - a landlocked ex-Soviet republic of 3.2 million that is Russia's main ally in the South Caucasus - were marred by violent clashes between opposition protesters and police. The authorities in the mountainous country have promised an unprecedentedly clean contest for the 131-seat National Assembly in the hope of avoiding further political turmoil. But opposition parties have questioned the validity of the opinion polls and threatened demonstrations if there are mass falsifications.

<http://news.sky.com/home/world-news/article/16222424>

#### INDIA, MADHYA PRADESH, INDORE, MAY 5 2012. TRUCK CARRYING AMMO NITRATE GOES MISSING, NO CLUE 15 DAYS ON

Police and intelligence agencies are on alert after a truck carrying 30 tonnes of explosive material ammonium nitrate disappeared mysteriously on its way to Singrauli town from Indore around a fortnight back, sources said today. According to police sources, one Kamal Agrawal, a licenced trader of fertiliser in Indore had booked the truck (MP-19/HA 1163) to transport 600 bags of ammonium nitrate, weighing 30 tonnes, to Singrauli. The truck had left Indore on April 19 for its destination, they said. However, even after 15 days, the truck has not reached its destination. It was when Agrawal's efforts to trace the truck and its driver proved futile, he informed the police about the truck that was laden with the explosive chemical. After registering



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a complaint in this regard, police have launched a hunt to locate the truck. However, it has not received any information about its whereabouts so far. The ammonium nitrate is generally used as a fertiliser. However, in the last few years, the ultras have been using this chemical to carry out blasts, following which, the government has categorised it as an explosive material, police added.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/truck-carrying-ammo-nitrate-goes-missing-no-clue-15-days-on/994584.html>

**CANADA, B.C, HARTLEY BAY, MAY 5 2012. OIL SPILL RESPONSE: CANADIAN COAST GUARD "GONE FISHING" CAUGHT ON VIDEO: LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE SENDS FISHING PARTY INSTEAD OF CLEAN-UP CREW; GITGA'AT NATION ACCUSES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF MISHANDLING OIL SPILL RESPONSE IN THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST.**



*Member of the Gitga'at Nation at Hartley Bay on the B.C. north coast take water samples of an oil sheen in Grenville Channel.*

The leadership of the Gitga'at Nation held an emergency meeting this afternoon to discuss what they see as a failure of the federal government to respond appropriately to an unfolding maritime oil spill in the Great Bear Rainforest. The spill is originating from the Brigadier General M.G. Zalinski, a U.S. army ship that sank in 1946 with 700 tonnes of bunker fuel on board. The Gitga'at say the government is underestimating the size of the spill and they are demanding a full clean-up of the wreckage. "We sent our own people to sample for oil yesterday, and when they got there, they found the Coast Guard fishing," says Arnold Clifton, Chief Councillor of the Gitga'at Nation. "It's disgraceful. How can Canadians have any confidence in this government's ability to deal with an oil

spill if they don't take it seriously?" Video: <http://andrewfrank.ca/2012/05/03/video-canadian-coast-guard-gone-fishing/> The oil spill, which varies in appearance depending on the tides, was recently reported by a commercial pilot as reaching a size between two and five miles long and 200 feet wide inside the Grenville Channel. The Gitga'at have taken their own photos and video of the spill, including an aerial photo showing concentrated plumes of upwelling oil. "We were promised this would be cleaned-up by 2010," says Clifton. "Two years later nothing has happened and it's only getting worse. We've had enough excuses. It's time for action. Our people depend on a healthy ocean for their livelihood." In addition to the Zalinsky, the BC ferry Queen of the North is also leaking diesel fuel just south of the Grenville channel. The ferry sank in 2006 with 220,000 litres of diesel fuel and 23,000 litres of lubricating oil on board. The federal government has also been promising to remove the fuel on board that wreckage since 2006, but with no results. "The last time we took a fuel sample from the Queen of the North and sent it to the Coast Guard, they yelled at us and asked us why we were taking samples," says Marven Robinson, a Councillor with the Hartley Bay Band Council. "We're taking our own samples because the federal government isn't doing its job." The Gitga'at, who were the first responders to the Queen of the North sinking, say the federal government's failure to manage these spills has deepened their opposition to any plan to have oil tankers travel through their territorial waters. The proposed Enbridge pipeline would bring 225 oil tankers per year through Gitga'at territory. Video and photos of the oil spill and the Coast Guard fishing are available here: <http://andrewfrank.ca/2012/05/03/video-canadian-coast-guard-gone-fishing-g/> <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/oil-spill-response-canadian-coast-guard-gone-fishing-2012-05-03>

**USA, ILL, CHESAW, MAY 5 2012. TRUCK HAULING MINE'S WASTEWATER SPILLS 4,200 GALLONS**

*k.c. mehaffey*

A truck carrying concentrated wastewater from the Buckhorn Mine crashed Tuesday and spilled about 4,200 gallons into Marias Creek. The spill does not pose a threat to human health, said Mark Ioli, the mine's general manager. But pollutants in the water being removed from the minesite may be harmful to fish and aquatic life, the state Department of Ecology said. It was being hauled to the Key Mill tailings impound in Republic. The agency collected a sample of the water from the truck and sent it to a third party for analysis, said Ecology spokeswoman Joye Redfield-Wilder. Ioli said the truck driver pulled over on a Forest Service road at about 7 p.m. to let some traffic behind him pass when the shoulder gave way and the truck slid about 50 feet down a bank and landed on its top. Okanogan County Sheriff Frank Rogers said the driver was taken to a hospital with bumps and bruises. The spilled water contained concentrations of nitrates and sulfates that were removed from water collected from the mine and treated at the mine's wastewater treatment plant. Ioli said a typical sample of wastewater hauled



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## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 837 Newsy Stuff

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from the treatment plant contains concentrations of sulfate that are approved for drinking water. He said concentrations of nitrates would be similar to the nitrates mixed with water to use as a lawn fertilizer. Those concentrations could be dangerous to fish and aquatic life but the risk would quickly diminish as it mixed with the water in the creek, he said. He said the truck driver works for Stotts Construction, which is under contract with Crown Resources Corp. to haul the wastewater from the mine's treatment plant. David Kliegman, executive director of the Okanogan Highlands Alliance, which monitors the mine after opposing its construction, said he was distressed to learn of the spill. He said the close proximity of the Forest Service road to Marias Creek was one of his group's concerns. "It was one of our worst fears when the Marias Creek haul road was proposed," he said of the possibility of a spill. Kliegman said concentrated levels of pollutants could harm fish and other aquatic life.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-mct-truck-hauling-mines-wastewater-spills-4200-20120503,0,3444448.story>

#### ENGLAND, HAMPSHIRE, MAY 5 2012. RIVER POLLUTED NEAR ST MARY BOURNE



*Agency officers at work on the Bourne.*

Environment Agency officers have been dealing with a major oil spill along the Bourne Rivulet in Hampshire— one of the country's most important salmon fishing rivers. Environment Agency officers are doing everything they can to minimize the effects of the spill. Booms and absorbent pads have been placed in the water to contain the oil pollution. The booms are sited between St Mary Bourne and Hurstbourne Priors. No dead fish have been reported, but fisheries officers will continue to keep a close watch on river life. All efforts are being deployed by Environment Agency staff to minimise further impact on the river and local wildlife. Officers will continue to monitor the situation and respond as necessary. Environment Agency Manager Simon Moody said: "This is a major oil spill along the River Bourne. "Environment Agency officers have been out since first light doing everything they can to minimise the impact on the environment. "We will be overseeing the clean up and will launch a full

investigation into the cause. "We advise people to keep themselves and their pets out of the water until the incident is resolved." Anyone with further information regarding this incident please call the 24 hour Incident Hotline number on 0800 807060.

[http://www.thisishampshire.net/news/9690267.Serious\\_oil\\_spill/](http://www.thisishampshire.net/news/9690267.Serious_oil_spill/)

#### USA, ORE, BAKER, MAY 5 2012. DEQ PROPOSING TO CLOSE BOOK ON OIL

*jayson jacob*

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is not planning to take any further action related to an accidental spill of about 80 gallons of home heating oil in a Baker City backyard in January 2011. Although tests of soil and groundwater samples in 2011 and in February of 2012 showed that the diesel oil had spread an unknown distance from the spill site at 3080 Second St., the contamination was not at levels that pose a significant health risk to the public, according to DEQ. And those levels have decreased substantially since the spill happened, said Katie Robertson, a cleanup project manager at the DEQ's Pendleton office. A key factor is that all homes in that north Baker City neighborhood are connected to the city's water system and don't rely on well water for drinking, Robertson said. The heating oil spill had no effect on the city's water system. The only well in the area that is used for irrigating landscaping, not drinking did not contain detectable levels of diesel when a water sample was tested in October 2011. The DEQ's decision is not final. The agency will accept comments from the public about its proposal through 5 p.m. on May 31. The public can comment by:

- Phoning Robertson at 541-278-4620.
- Mailing written comments to the DEQ at 700 S.E. Emigrant, Suite 330, Pendleton, OR 97801.
- Emailing comments to this address: [robertson.katie@deq.state.or.us](mailto:robertson.katie@deq.state.or.us)
- Faxing written comments to 541-278-0168.

The accident happened when a new delivery driver for Black Distributing Inc. in Baker City pumped heating oil into a 2-inch-diameter galvanized steel pipe at Robert and Leslie Harrison's home. The pipe was connected to a well rather than the heating



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oil storage tank. Robertson said the well pipe was almost identical to the standard pipe used for fuel tanks, so the mistake wasn't surprising. Robert Harrison discovered the driver's error and stopped the delivery after approximately 80 gallons of diesel had been pumped into the well. Robertson said Black Distributing has taken full responsibility for the spill. The company's insurance has covered cleanup costs, which had totaled about \$20,000, owner Shannon Black said in an interview in February 2012. More information about the incident is available at the DEQ's web site. Go to [www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecsi/ecsi.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecsi/ecsi.htm). Click on "search complete ESCI database," then enter 5489 in the Site ID box.

<http://www.bakercityherald.com/Local-News/DEQ-proposing-to-close-book-on-oil-spill>

#### USA, VT, MONTPELIER, MAY 5 2012. VERMONT POISED TO BECOME FIRST STATE TO BAN FRACKING

john dillon

 **Click-2-Listen** [VT. Poised to become first State to Ban Fracking](#)

Vermont is poised to become the first state to ban a controversial natural gas drilling technique known as fracking. The Legislature finished work on the measure Friday, and it's on its way to Gov. Peter Shumlin for his signature. Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, involves injecting water and chemicals deep into the ground to fracture rock that contains bubbles of natural gas. Chittenden Senator Ginny Lyons was a lead sponsor of the measure in the Senate. Even though there isn't much shale in Vermont that contains natural gas, Lyons said the ban is important as a preventative measure to protect the environment. "We do have some deposits, shale deposits in the northwestern part of the state and possibly in the southern part of the state," she said. "As this kind of exploration goes on it results, possibly results, in significant problems with the drinking water safety. So it could affect ground water, as well as surface water. Fracking has caused water and air pollution in other states, Lyons said. She says the Vermont ban could be lifted someday if studies show fracking is safe. "But right now the industry is not forthcoming with the process and the chemicals that are used. So until we have total knowledge, I think we ought to err on the side of caution," she said. A bill that passed the House earlier called for a moratorium on fracking. But a conference committee sided with the Senate's version, which called for an outright ban. Stowe Republican Heidi Scheuermann objected. "We don't know what our assets are in this state," she said. "We have no idea if some farmers in Franklin County might be able to take advantage of an economic opportunity on their property. But Westminster Democrat David Deen said he was comfortable with the ban. Deen, who chairs the House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee, said there really wasn't much difference between a moratorium and a ban, since lawmakers can always change it. "No legislature may bind a future legislature," Deen said. "And if we put a ban in place this time, by this time next year, that ban could either be a moratorium or lifted." The final bill also includes language added by the Senate that bans drilling companies from disposing waste in Vermont from fracking operations out of state. Governor Peter Shumlin has said he supports the measure, and has indicated he will sign it.

[http://www.vpr.net/news\\_detail/94397/vt-poised-to-become-first-state-ban-fracking/](http://www.vpr.net/news_detail/94397/vt-poised-to-become-first-state-ban-fracking/)

#### INDIA, BATHINDA, RAMA MANDI, MAY 6 2012. SECURITY TIGHTENED AROUND BATHINDA REFINERY



A BSF personnel deployed for the security of Guru Gobind Singh refinery in Phullokheri village near Bathinda on Saturday.

Tight security, heavy police force, and more men of the Border Security Force on the scene... the terror threat to the Bathinda oil refinery sure is big. Within days of its inauguration on April 28 by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the refinery has come under the protection of police force from six districts. It must be the severity of the threat that on Saturday forced the BSF to add 60 men to the ring deployed on Friday. The HMEL Guru Gobind Singh Refinery (a joint venture of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Mittal Energy Limited, thus, HMEL) at Bathinda's Phullakari village is just 98 km from the Pakistan border. It's not the

first intelligence bureau input of threat to the installation in which global steel magnate Laxmi Niwas Mittal has a major stake. On Friday, Nirmal Singh Dhillon, inspector general of police in the Bathinda zone, and senior superintendent of police Sukhchain Singh Gill led the teams that combed the fields around the refinery with the help of sniffer dogs and gadgets that detect explosives. Deputy magistrate Kamal Kishor Yadav already has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC (which bans unlawful assemblies) from May 2 to June 30. A gathering of five or more people, a rally without permission



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or provocative speech will all invite tough action. Superintendent of police Gurmit Singh and deputy superintendent of police (special branch) Surat Lal are men in charge of security at the vital installation. Common people and regular villagers are being frisked at checkpoints and all transport moving in and out of the city is under the police vigil. "We have hundreds of sand drums at the refinery gate, and regular examination of internal security," said the DSP. "We are in liaison with the refinery guards and even the drivers of the establishment can go in only after the identity is confirmed." "More than 60 personnel of the BSF and 15 policemen from each of the six districts in the Bathinda zone, are part of the extra security force," said DSP Surat Lal. "Barricades are up on different roads, and every vehicle is under scan. Only registered vehicles can go past the refinery gates." "The security arrangement is complete," said SSP Gill. "The police have raided suspected hideouts of terrorists. We and the BSF are ready for any situation."

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Punjab/Bathinda/Security-tightened-around-Bathinda-refinery/SP-Article1-851298.aspx>

#### USA, ILL, CHICAGO, MAY 5 2012. GARFIELD OIL SPILL CLEANUP ALMOST COMPLETE

After a heating oil tank owned by J.E. Love Co. was found leaking Jan. 12, Jerry Love has estimated that 1,100 to 1,300 gallons of oil leaked from the tank and spread from the 300 block of California Street in Garfield out to Silver Creek through a storm drain. Love estimated that 53 gallons entered the creek, which is a tributary of the North Fork of the Palouse River and flows through the town of Garfield. According to a press release from the Washington Department of Ecology, the city supplied booms that were placed in the creek to stop oil from moving, and workers patched the storm drain. As of April 15, Love estimated that 1,100 gallons of oil had been cleaned up. Ecology spokesperson Jani Gilbert said in January that officials broke surface ice and found diesel oil about 300 feet from a stormwater outfall in Silver Creek. It appeared a pipe near the tank had been contaminated and transferred some oil directly into the tributary, she said. Love worked with Ecology spill responders and the Toxics Cleanup Program, as well as cleanup contractor National Response Corporation Environmental Services. According to the press release, Love is the third generation of his family to head the farm-equipment manufacturer that his grandfather founded more than 80 years ago in Whitman County. The company had planned on removing the tank in 2012 as part of its plan to finish switching buildings from oil heat to radiant heat. J.E. Love Co. is working with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to set up a restoration project to address the state's \$1,419 claim for natural resource damages caused by the spill. The tank, capable of holding 8,000 gallons of oil, is now cleaned out and filled with concrete. In the near future, Ecology will hire a contractor to finish the remaining cleanup work.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-mct-garfield-oil-spill-cleanup-almost-complete-20120504,0,7849330.story>

#### CANADA, B.C, VANCOUVER, MAY 6 2012. KAREN MAGNUSSEN FEARS SHE MAY NEVER WORK >> CHEMICAL BURNS TO HER LUNGS

A gas leak at a North Vancouver ice rink that was reported as a minor incident last fall may have put one of Canada's most prominent athletes out of commission for life. Olympic silver medallist and long-time figure skating coach Karen Magnussen was taken to hospital Nov. 28 after inhaling ammonia gas at the North Shore Winter Club. The early-morning accident, which resulted from a malfunction in the club's cooling plant, originally appeared to have done little beyond inconveniencing the parents and young skaters who had been forced out of the arena. It emerged later that Magnussen had been taken to hospital to be treated for inhalation of the poisonous gas, but again there was little to suggest it was a serious event. But now, more than five months later, the celebrated skater still has not returned to work. The accident has left her with the equivalent of a steam burn on her lungs and bronchioles, causing severe respiratory issues, vision problems and chronic fatigue. This week, Magnussen said her health has only been getting worse, and that she will likely never return to her job. "I won't probably be able to go into a rink again," she said, her voice cracking with emotion. "I've spent my life in the rink, and in seven minutes my whole life has been turned around. I haven't slept in about six months because of violent coughing." Recently, even the administrative duties she had been performing from home were handed off to someone else. WorkSafeBC will not allow Magnussen to work, even from home, according to the club. Magnussen, 60, said she had planned to coach into her 80s and the loss has left a void in her life. "How do you live? I'm used to working eight hours a day," said Magnussen. "I've worked my life to build this up, and I just loved working with kids." Now, she says, she has difficulty even with simple physical tasks. "I have a hard time walking the dog up a half a block," said Magnussen. Instead, much of her time is taken up simply dealing with the fallout from the accident. Magnussen said she takes nine different medications, sees two or three doctors and specialists each week, and has been struggling in her dealings with WorkSafeBC. "It's a battle. [WorkSafeBC] is an insurance company. They certainly don't want to give you what you actually were making or what your future income could be," she said. "I feel so bad



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for other people, and maybe I can be a voice for those people." After the leak, WorkSafeBC cited the North Shore Winter Club for several violations, including improperly enclosing the ammonia room, improperly fitting respirators worn by employees and stocking respirators with the wrong cartridge to remove gas. The ammonia room was also not equipped with backdraft dampers, large fans that permit air to flow in only one direction, and the club failed to conduct emergency drills at least once a year, according to the agency. The facility has since been brought up to code. The official account of the Nov. 28 mishap has evolved over time. Shortly after it took place, North Shore Winter Club president Kevin Banks, as well as local firefighters, said that all club personnel had made it out safely. About three weeks after the leak, spokeswoman Liz Goldenberg acknowledged that Magnussen had been taken to hospital, but explained that club staff hadn't realized she had been exposed to the gas. "Unfortunately, she went outside and went around the back of the building where the fumes were wafting around," said Goldenberg at the time. "She heard the alarm and she went out to see what was wrong." Magnussen later contradicted that version of events, saying that she had been in her office preparing to coach morning skaters when maintenance workers had waved at her from the rink. When she stepped out into the hallway to investigate, she walked into a cloud of gas, she said. Magnussen claimed no alarm had been sounding at the time. Two other workers were also injured in the incident, according to WorkSafeBC. Despite the difficult situation, Magnussen - who captured a silver medal at the 1972 Olympics and won a world championship - said she has resolved to make something positive out of it. "I've never been one to curl into a ball and just lie there; I'm a fighter," she said. "I didn't win a world championship and get to the Olympics twice from nothing."

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/sports/Karen+Magnussen+fears+never+work/6572094/story.html>

### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, CHINCHILLA, MAY 6 2012. COAL SEAM GAS LEAK MAY TAKE DAYS TO FIX >> 150-METRE EXCLUSION ZONE SET UP

An exclusion zone has been set up following a leak at a coal seam gas drilling site near Chinchilla. Queensland Gas Company says it suspended operations on a drilling rig in the Surat Basin after detecting the gas leak overnight, but it could be days before the problem is solved. In a statement, the company said a 150-metre exclusion zone was set up as a precaution while engineers worked to fix the leak. "The incident occurred during drilling of the Argyle 162 well, about 25km south-west of Chinchilla, on a QGC-owned property," it said. "Nobody has been hurt and the leak is not considered to pose any significant safety risk." A company spokesman said this afternoon gas was still leaking at the site and engineers were working on the problem. "We expect it to be stopped in the next couple of days or so," he said. QGC senior vice president Jim Knudsen said QGC had advised the Queensland Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate and neighbouring landholders. Drew Hutton from the Lock the Gate Alliance, which is calling for a moratorium on coal seam gas, said yesterday's incident added to the long list of accidents at drill rigs in the Dalby to Chinchilla area. "We have had a fracking contamination incident and a well blowout near Dalby, a blowout in the construction of a gas pipeline under the Condamine River last week," he said in a statement. "We currently have about 4,000 wells in Queensland. Imagine how many such incidents we are likely to have when there are 40,000 or even 80,000 wells. Queensland's under-resourced and under-staffed environmental regulator will be running around in circles in the years to come wondering how to contain this mess."

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/coal-seam-gas-leak-may-take-days-to-fix-20120506-1y6mi.html>

### USA, OK, OKLAHOMA CITY, MAY 6 2012. ELGIN COUPLE PLEADS GUILTY IN CONSPIRACY TO STEAL MILITARY JET FUEL

Doyle Latimer, 55, and his wife, Cynthia Latimer, 57, both from Elgin, Oklahoma, pled guilty today to conspiracy to steal military-owned jet fuel and to defraud the United States, announced Sanford C Coats, United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma. The United States government purchases jet fuel (Jet Propellant 8, or JP-8) from fuel depots in Oklahoma City and Wynnewood to supply the jet fuel needs at various military bases, including Altus Air Force Base, Tinker Air Force Base, and Sheppard Air Force Base. Latimer Trucking, LLC ("Latimer Trucking"), owned and operated by Doyle Latimer, transported the JP-8 for the military and picked up JP-8 jet fuel from the fuel depots for delivery to the air force bases. Cynthia Latimer was employed by Latimer Trucking in the office and kept the business records. Based on information in court records and from the plea hearing, Doyle Latimer admitted that from 2001 through 2007 he stole JP-8 jet fuel belonging to the United States and intended for delivery to military bases by draining it from the tankers and using it to operate his trucks. He further admitted that he knew his wife was creating false fuel receipts to cover-up the use of the JP-8 jet fuel in operating his trucks. Cynthia Latimer admitted to conspiring with her husband to cover-up the theft of JP-8 by preparing false fuel receipts which appeared to document legitimate diesel fuel purchases for Latimer trucks when, in fact, there had been no purchase of



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diesel fuel. In carrying out this conspiracy, the Latimers were able to reduce the costs of their daily trucking operation. The Latimers were indicted on December 13, 2011, and charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States. Doyle and Cynthia each pled guilty today to the single count. At sentencing, the Latimers each face up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000, plus mandatory restitution. A sentencing hearing will be set by the court in approximately 90 days. These charges are the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ross N Lillard, III, and Assistant United States Attorney Bob Troester.

[http://7thspace.com/headlines/411773/elgin\\_couple\\_pleads\\_guilty\\_in\\_conspiracy\\_to\\_steal\\_military\\_jet\\_fuel.html](http://7thspace.com/headlines/411773/elgin_couple_pleads_guilty_in_conspiracy_to_steal_military_jet_fuel.html)

#### **SRI LANKA, COLOMBO, MAY 6 2012. NOW CPC GETS CONTAMINATED JET FUEL >> TIMELY CHECK AVERTS LOW QUALITY OIL BEING SENT TO AIRPORT**

A timely check prevented the state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) from providing contaminated jet fuel for use at the Bandaranaike International Airport. A stock of 7,500 tons imported from British Petroleum in Singapore was found to be of low quality, Petroleum Industries Minister Susil Premajayantha told the Sunday Times yesterday. He said his Ministry raised issue and the supplier had agreed to take back the contaminated stock and provide good quality jet fuel. "However, after prolonged negotiations we have now agreed to treat it as kerosene oil and the price differences have been ironed out," he said. The shipment was imported together with another stock of 12,500 tons in another tanker, he said. It was only in June last year that the CPC was embroiled in a related controversy after the import of 20,000 tons of contaminated petrol from a supplier in the United Arab Emirates. More than 2,000 vehicles were affected but only a few vehicle owners were paid compensation. Although an official committee of inquiry was appointed to probe the matter, the report still remains unpublicized. However, airline officials familiar with re-fuelling facilities at the BIA said that pumping contaminated fuel into aircraft touching down there would have had disastrous consequences. Minister Premajayantha said since the detection of contaminated petrol, the CPC was careful and intensified quality checks on stocks obtained. Meanwhile Mr. Premajayantha also announced that the CPC would shortly instal equipment at fuel stations to monitor the quality of fuel they pump into vehicles. He said the objective was to ensure that the motorists obtain quality fuel. He added the fuel station owners too could check the quality they receive. However, some trade unions in the CPC complained that installation of such machines at every fuel station was a waste of funds. They say the primary task of the Corporation was to ensure it delivered quality fuel and conduct periodic checks on fuel stations. "Spending colossal amounts at a time when people are facing major hardships would only benefit people who are after commissions," they said.

[http://www.sundaytimes.lk/120506/News/nws\\_01.html](http://www.sundaytimes.lk/120506/News/nws_01.html)

#### **THAILAND, MAP TA PHUT, MAY 6 2012. 12 KILLED, 140 INJURED IN THAILAND FACTORY EXPLOSION**



*Smoke rises over a over a petrochemical factory at Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate in Rayong province Saturday afternoon after an explosion triggered a major fire.*

At least 12 people were killed and nearly 140 injured in a major fire after an explosion at a petrochemical factory in eastern Thailand. The explosion occurred yesterday at a unit of Bangkok Synthetics Co in Map Ta Phut industrial estate in Rayong province, which is one of the biggest industrial areas in Thailand. A Health Ministry official said 12 people had died in the fire. An initial investigation found that the blast occurred when workers were putting toluene, a type of chemical widely used as an industrial feedstock and as a solvent, into a tank, Rayong Governor Senee Jitakasem said. The fire was quelled early this morning and leak of toxic chemicals has also been brought under control, Governor of the Industrial Estates Authority of Thailand, Verapong Chaiperm

said, adding none of the villagers have been affected by toxic chemicals. Thousands of people had been evacuated from nearby factories within the three kilometre radius of the factory to prevent them from inhaling toxic gases.

#### **Related Links**

- [12 Dead in Blast; Chelsea's Cup; FC Phuket Down; Phuket Mercenary Tells...](#)



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- 12 people were killed and 129 wounded in the explosion and fire at a petrochemical factory at the Map Ta Phut industrial estate in Rayong province, Deputy Public Health Minister Surawit Khonsomboon confirmed
- [13 Killed in Thai Factory Explosions, Fire](#)  
At least 13 people were killed by explosions and fire Saturday afternoon in an industrial park of east Thailand's Rayong Province, Thai media reported. About 95 people were injured and sent to hospital, English newspaper The Nation reported in messages...
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- [Factory Blast Death Toll Rises To 12](#)  
Nine more people have died, raising to 12 the death toll following a blast at a petrochemical factory in the Ma Ta Phut Industrial Estate in Rayong yesterday. Deputy Minister of Public Health Surawit ...
- [Map Ta Phut toll: 12 dead, 129 injured](#)  
12 people were killed and 129 hurt in the explosion and fire at a petrochemical factory at the Map Ta Phut industrial estate in Rayong province on Saturday, Deputy Public Health Minister Surawit Khonsomboon confirmed on Sunday.

<http://english.samaylive.com/world-news/676503617/12-killed-140-injured-in-thailand-factory-explosion.html>

#### USA, N.Y, OGDENSBURG, MAY 6 2012. ELDERLY OGDENSBURG WOMAN FINED \$107,500 FOR CHEVRON SPILL

It was a case of buyer beware. When Laurel B. Roethel and her late husband, Thomas G., bought their commercial property at 1801 Ford St. in 1984, they had no idea that the site might be contaminated, said her daughter, Laurel Lee Roethel. Nearly 30 years later, Mrs. Roethel, under pressure from the state, is being saddled with a bill for more than \$100,000 to clean up a mess her daughter says her family didn't make. In April 1988, two neighboring landowners, Donald H. Forsythe and Frederick S. Wilder, found oil on their property believed to have been left by a former Chevron gas station and an auto parts store on the site. Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Wilder were business partners dealing in real estate and insurance. The state Department of Environmental Conservation cleaned up the property using \$374,153.90 from the state's oil spill fund. In 2006, the state Attorney General's Office sued Mrs. Roethel, Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Wilder to recover the cost of the cleanup, alleging that they were responsible for the contamination. After arguing the case for six years, Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Wilder have settled with the state, and the state is now pressuring Mrs. Roethel to follow suit. On Friday, Mrs. Roethel signed a settlement that admits responsibility for the spill on her property, though she did not own it when the contamination occurred. The Roethels bought their property intending to operate a Kawasaki dealership, but it never opened. Mrs. Roethel did not want to sign the confession, said her daughter, but her attorney told her that she might be arrested for contempt if she refused. "I don't believe it myself. I just never would have thought it," Laurel Lee Roethel said. "If I don't get my mom to sign this paperwork today and send it in, she could be in contempt." Her daughter said Mrs. Roethel, who is 85, is in poor health. She believes she has done no wrong. "She may be elderly and she may be forgetful, but she knows right from wrong," said Ms. Roethel. "This is wrong. The worst part is that the paperwork said 'confession,' and that makes her sick. She has nothing to confess to." Under the language of the 1974 state Navigation Law, property owners can be held responsible for covering the cost of oil spills that occur on their property, even if they did not cause the initial contamination. Mrs. Roethel's daughter said the law is an injustice. "They go after the ones they really think they can get money from, the small people," she said. "The big companies have lawyers on retainers so they can keep it tied up in court for years, so we look like we're easy marks." In a settlement, Chevron USA Inc. was fined \$15,000 and made no admission of liability. Case law states that defendants cannot dispute the charges for the cleanup, another aspect to the issue that does not sit well with the family. "When I got copies of the bills, because I asked for how much and how they arrived at that figure, there was a bill for a bar tab at the Gran View for the people who worked on the spill," Ms. Roethel said. "There was a bill for the fill at \$400 a load when local people only charged \$40 a load." Jennifer L. Givner, press secretary for Attorney General Eric T. Schiederman, said her office did not intend to charge Mrs. Roethel with contempt if she did not sign. "We've been engaged with negotiations from Mrs. Roethel for quite some time and



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**May 13 2012**



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we're committed to creating a flexible repayment schedule," she said. Mr. Forsythe, also 85, said he didn't want to admit responsibility, but could not justify continuing to fight the case. "I'm 85, my partner is 86 and we decided at long last to settle it," he said. "It cost us over \$70,000 in legal fees." In order to cover his share of the \$101,250 settlement, Mr. Forsyth had to mortgage his house, which he said was not a simple task at his age. "I had to take a mortgage out on my house and I was happy to get it," he said. "I figured what we have in Social Security, we'd just make the payments the best we can and the worst we can do is go on welfare." Ms. Roethel says her mother lives on a fixed income and cannot afford to pay the \$107,500 settlement. As a result, the family is tapping into their savings and retirement to come up with the funds. "It is very easy to say go ahead and settle if you have a full bank account, but if you don't, what can you do?" she said. In order to make the first \$20,000 payment due to the state Comptroller's Office next week, Ms. Roethel is withdrawing the money from her retirement account. In order to pay the remaining \$87,500 due in the settlement, the state has recommended the family sell or mortgage the property — but the Roethels say that would be difficult since the parcel has not been certified as clean. "There isn't a bank in the country who is going to give us a loan on this piece of property," said Ms. Roethel. "Even after the cleanup is completed, you still don't get a clean bill of health." The Attorney General's Office has been aggressive in pursuing the case, said Ms. Roethel. "They have tormented these people for the last 12 years. I would like to see this end before the end of their lives," she said. "It is not like they are going to have better parts of their lives. If we put them through this, it would be called elder abuse." Mr. Forsythe said the state should treat veterans, like himself, better. "It is a pretty rough way to treat a couple of old fellows like us," he said. "I am a veteran of World War II. My partner is a wounded veteran with a Purple Heart. We were a part of that Greatest Generation that Tom Brokaw wrote about. People need to see how their government operates." Ms. Roethel says she would have preferred arguing the case in court. "They haven't gone to court yet. They are doing this before going to court," she said. "I would like to see this go before a jury. What kind of jury would let the state do this to people?"

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20120506/NEWS07/705069905>

#### USA, MO, SIKESTON, MAY 8 2012. ACID EXPLOSION REPORTED AT LOCAL POWER PLANT

Sikeston Public Safety is reporting an active Haz-Mat incident at Sikeston's Board of Municipal Utilities Power Plant. Around 4:30am Sunday, the Sikeston BMU Power Plant reported a trailer containing hydrochloric acid exploded at their facility. The catastrophic failure of this container resulted in a 7,500 gallon spill. Sikeston DPS immediately dispatched their Haz-Mat team to the site to evaluate the incident. It was learned that the spill was confined to the immediate area of the incident and no one was injured during the release. It isn't known at this time what caused the pressurized container to fail, but we know that fire was not the cause. This type of chemical release requires a relatively short evacuation distance, which fell inside the property of the BMU facility. At no time was anyone outside the property lines of the power plant in any danger. Residents who live nearby the Sikeston Power Plant are completely free of any danger. In addition the Power plant did not suffer any significant damage. According to BMU, this incident has had no effect on their operation. Every year BMU has a planned outage to conduct yearly maintenance at their facility. The Power Plant was currently going through this annual maintenance when this incident occurred. As a result, this incident did not disrupt their service

<http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/news/local/Acid-explosion-reported-at-local-power-plant-150351075.html>

#### USA, PA, FISHTOWN, MAY 8 2012. SLICK & STINKY OIL IN PHILA. NEIGHBORHOOD

[Watch the Video Slick & Stinky Oil in Phila. Neighborhood](#)



Slick and stinky oil is everywhere in one Philadelphia neighborhood. The problem is on the 400 block of Memphis Street, where people live just steps from what looks like a demolition site. Neighbors here are fired up. They want this site cleaned up as soon as possible. They're worried about underground contamination, piles of oil soaked dirt and the possibility that another oil tank may be buried here. Cancer survivor Henry Brinton looks out his front door on Earl Street in Fishtown and this is what he sees. A recently demolished building, piles of contaminated soil and a big hole in the ground that appears to have oil leaking from it. He says it not only looks bad, it smells really bad. It's not safe for the community Pearl Petrowski lives just a few doors away. She has the same complaints. Residents here say it all started a few weeks ago when a demolition



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company knocked down the building here and pulled this big fuel tank out of the ground. They dug a 15-20 foot hole, put the oil contaminated soil off to the side with a tarp over it and left. Now the safety fencing is all down. Chris Bruder and Ron Christy just build \$300,000 green townhomes with a great view of the city skyline right next to the site. This is what you see on the other side. Neighbors have called 311, licenses and inspections, state environmental officials and city council president Darryl Clark for help, but the hole, the contaminated soil and demolition debris remain. DEP and the demolition contractor say the company notified them about the oil tank. Pumped it out and is awaiting soil sample results and cleanup cost estimates before they will complete the job. No fines have been issued at this point. We are still waiting for answers to our questions from L & I and Councilman Clark's office.

[http://www.myfoxphilly.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/slick-%26-stinky-oil-in-philadelphia-neighborhood](http://www.myfoxphilly.com/dpp/news/local_news/slick-%26-stinky-oil-in-philadelphia-neighborhood)

#### USA, WA, SEATTLE, MAY 8 2012. EXPLOSION ROCKS GAS PLANT NEAR BOEING FIELD



An explosion at an acetylene manufacturing facility near Boeing Field shook the building Monday afternoon, but no one was injured. The blast happened in the generator room of the Airgas-Norpac Inc. plant at 7700 14th Avenue S. about 1:30 p.m. Firefighters rushed to the building, but the explosion had been contained by blast-proof safety equipment and there was no fire, officials said. The building was evacuated and firefighters vented flammable gas from inside before allowing employees to return. Airgas, Inc. spokesman Doug Sherman said that all gas has been shut off and there is no danger to the surrounding community. He said the company has been operating at the South Seattle location for about 30 years.

<http://www.keprtv.com/news/local/Explosion-rocks-gas-plant-near-Boeing-Field-150495695.html>

#### USA, N.J, CLIFTON, MAY 8 2012. CO-WORKERS RESCUE MAN FROM VAT OF ACID

marlene naanes, richard cowen & hannan adely

 **Watch the Video**

- [N.J. Roofer Falls 40 Feet into Acid Tank](#)
- [Man Dives Into Vat of Acid to Save Co-Worker](#)



*This image apparently depicts a piece of tubing suspended above a mix of Nitric/Hydrofluoric acid pickle and passivate solution.*

In what fire officials described as an act of bravery, four roofers rescued a co-worker who had fallen through a factory roof in Clifton and dropped 40 feet into a tank of acid. Martin Davis, 44, of Avenel, an ironworker and father of three, was working on the roof of Swepeco Tube LLC, a metal tube manufacturing plant, when he fell into the tank of nitric acid around 8:40 a.m. Monday. Davis was in critical condition with a broken rib, punctured lung and burns on his legs and side, his brother John Davis said in an interview Monday. Clifton Fire Chief Vincent Colavitti Jr. initially said that one of the co-workers, Rob Nuckols, 51, of Frenchtown, had jumped into the vat and was aided by three other roofers in pulling out the victim. Nuckols declined to comment Monday night, but a relative, who asked that her name not be used, said he did not jump into the vat but was

among four workers who pulled Davis to safety. Nuckols told firefighters after the ordeal: "I had to get him out of there." The tank was filled with a 40 percent to 70 percent solution of nitric acid used in cleaning metal tubing. Davis was fully submerged in the solution. The three other roofers were identified as Rob Fulton, 24; Joe Dabkowski, 45; and William Walker, who is in his 20s. Authorities did not have the rescuers' hometowns. The men were working for Gar Con Enterprises, based in Flemington. It was the first day of the roof replacement job at Swepeco, Colavitti said. "It takes a lot of courage" Colavitti said of the rescuers' actions. When he was rescued, Davis was red and seemed to be in shock. "He was incoherent," Colavitti said. The fire department arrived about five minutes later and cut off Davis' clothes and sprayed him down with water to stop the acid from burning through his skin, Colavitti said. Nuckols had rinsed himself off, Colavitti said. An ambulance took Davis to Weasel Brook Park where a waiting medical helicopter took him to St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston. Davis, who is divorced,



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has a 20-year-old son who lives with him, and two daughters, ages 6 and 9, who live in Florida, said his brother. Davis also has a sister, Kim, who is 43. "They have him on a breathing apparatus and he's in critical condition," John Davis said. "His condition is not so good. But he's a young guy. He'll pull through." Nuckols, who suffered burns on his legs and abdomen, was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in [Passaic](#) where he was treated and released Monday. One other roofer was taken to St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in [Paterson](#), and the other two were taken to St. Mary's Hospital with irritation on their hands and arms. Two of the roofers returned to Swepco hours later, gathered personal items and left. One was in his socks and neither had any apparent injuries or bandages. On their way out, they said they did not think the acid was strong enough to kill the roofer. "It's not that kind of acid," said one of the workers, declining to give his name. "It's diluted. He's going to be fine." Davis has been a union ironworker for about 15 years and worked for different companies. Davis hardly knew his co-workers, said John Davis, adding that Nuckols was new on the job. But John Davis, who like his brother works in construction, said he knew why co-workers rushed to save him. It is an ethics code in the business, he said. "In our trade we stick together. It's a serious business. You'll die out there. You've got your family to feed and you have got to protect each other," he said. Martin Davis wasn't able to communicate because of the breathing apparatus, his brother said, adding that their mother and stepfather were at his side. He said Martin is healthy and strong. "He'll fight right through this," he said. "I know he will." An employee at Swepco said the company had no comment, and no one from Gar Con returned calls. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration was on the scene Monday investigating the accident. Spokeswoman Leni Fortson said she could only say that the agency is investigating and looking into both companies. OSHA does not comment on open investigations, she said. Colavitti said Monday the contractor did not have a building permit, which would have triggered a safety inspection before or during the roofing work. Swepco did not have any outstanding fire code violations. The building's last fire inspection was in December 2011. Fire broke out at the plant in 1999 when stacked tubing touched off some cardboard. The smoky blaze caused about \$20,000 in damage, but no one was injured. The chief said over the years acid steam and mist had eaten away at the corrugated metal roof above the tank, so the roof needed to be replaced. The roof replacement work has been shut down, but the factory remained open Monday. [Clifton](#) City Manager Matthew U. Watkins said an investigation is under way. He said if it is found that the contractor did not take out a building permit, the company could be fined up to \$2,000. "We have to let the investigation run its course," Watkins said. "If the facts are that they didn't have a building permit, then it's safe to assume that something is going to happen to them." Watkins said that contractors are usually required to submit drawings for large-scale jobs, which in turn prompts a series of inspections by the city's Building Department. Watkins said those inspections usually occur during the project, not before it begins. Based on pounds of toxic chemicals released into the air, Swepco was among the top polluters in [Passaic](#) and Bergen counties in 2010, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Release Inventory Program. The inventory cites nitric acid as the plant's top chemical and reported that air emissions, at 1,817 pounds, were more than 10 percent higher in 2010 than in 2009. Air emissions from the plant steadily declined in the past several years, government data show.

#### Related Links

- [New Jersey Roofer Falls Into Acid Vat](#)  
A New Jersey roofer fell 30 to 40 feet through a partly collapsed roof into a container of acid on Monday and was rescued by co-workers, including one who jumped in to grab him, fire officials in Clifton, NJ, said. The roofer, Martin Davis,...
- [NJ man jumps into vat of acid to save coworker](#)  
Fire officials say a roofing company employee jumped into a vat of nitric acid to save a co-worker who fell 40 feet through a roof and into the tank. Clifton Fire Chief Vince Colavitti tells The Record of Woodland Park the men ...
- [Worker jumps into vat of nitric acid to save colleague who fell 40 feet into it](#)  
A New Jersey roofer jumped into a vat of nitric acid solution to save a co-worker who had fallen 40 feet into the tank, fire officials said. Rob Nuckols, 51, was working on the ground floor Monday morning at Swepco Tube LLC when his...
- [Hero jumps into vat of acid to save co-worker](#)  
A New Jersey roofer yesterday accidentally plunged 40 feet into a vat of acid — and a hero co-worker leaped into the corrosive pitfall to save him. The two men had been repairing the roof at Swepco Tools in Clifton about 8:40 am when...

[http://www.northjersey.com/clifton/Man\\_falls\\_40\\_feet\\_into\\_a\\_tank\\_of\\_acid\\_in\\_Clifton.html?page=all](http://www.northjersey.com/clifton/Man_falls_40_feet_into_a_tank_of_acid_in_Clifton.html?page=all)



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