



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 833 Newsy Stuff

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

**May 02 2012**



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#### USA, MN, ST PAUL PARK, APRIL 23 2012. ILLEGAL BENZENE DUMP RESULTS IN \$700,000 FINE

Marathon Petroleum Corp. has paid a \$700,000 fine for dumping benzene into an unlined lagoon near the Mississippi River in 2010. Benzene is a known carcinogen. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency alleges Marathon lacked the proper permits to dispose of the benzene and had already exceeded its permit limits for ammonia, nitrogen and sulfides at the time of the dump. Since the incident, Marathon has sold the facility located in St. Paul Park to the St. Paul Park Refining Company.

Note: The fine comes at the end of a long investigation that surely included employee interviews. When government investigators come calling, you must make employees available to them. Trying to stonewall or, worse, muzzle whistle-blowers will only make the situation worse.

<http://www.businessmanagementdaily.com/30033/illegal-benzene-dump-results-in-700000-fine>

#### USA, DE, WILMINGTON, APRIL 23 2012. DIESEL SPILL AT PORT OF WILMINGTON

*michelle provencher*



More than a thousand gallons of diesel fuel accidentally spilled into the Port of Wilmington in the early hours of Sunday morning. 1,300 gallons of diesel spewed from a storage tank of a crane onto the terminal and into the Christina River adjacent to berths three and four. The Diamond State Port Corporation says the leak is likely due to an electrical malfunction of a fuel tank fill pump. No further leakage is expected. Containment and clean-up crews are expected to be working throughout the day, U.S. Coast Guard officials are on the scene.

<http://www.wdel.com/story.php?id=42313>

#### PAKISTAN, KARACHI, APRIL 23 2012. ANOTHER SOURCE OF KEENJHAR LAKE TOXICITY EXPOSED >> OIL CONTAMINANTS BEING RELEASED BY AN OIL DEPOT



*Initial probe shows that the high level of lead in a portion of the lake is due to oil contamination released by an oil depot.*

High concentration of lead has been found in one of the water samples taken for analysis from the Keenjhar Lake and its surrounding areas after a drain feeding the lake turned toxic following a rain spell, preliminary results of the test show. According to sources, the high level of lead in a section of the lake is due to oil contaminants being released by an oil depot and has nothing to do with the recent incident of toxicity in the drain. Speaking to Dawn, Dr Mohammad Ahsan Siddiqui, a senior expert on water analysis carrying out the tests on the request of the Sindh Environment Protection Agency (Sepa), said that water samples

were taken from a windmill project site, the mouth of the drain and a portion of the lake from where water was supplied to the Jhimpir town. "Initially, we have determined the levels of arsenic, chromium, lead and mercury compounds at these three points as they existed on April 18 when the incident was reported," he said, adding that a detailed analysis was under way and complete findings would be available by next week. According to Dr Siddiqui, chromium, lead and mercury levels at the windmill project site was found to be at 43.52ppb (parts per billion), 13.89ppb and 5.32ppb respectively. Levels of chromium and lead were found to be at 1.88ppb and 9.46ppb respectively at the mouth of the drain. The level of lead in a section of the lake located about one and a half kilometre away from the drain was found to be at 333.33ppb. No traces of mercury were detected at both these sites whereas samples taken from the latter site didn't show any trace of mercury. The World Health Organisation's recommended value for these compounds for drinking water is: lead (10ppb), chromium (50ppb) and mercury (1ppb). "As one can see, the values are abnormal if compared with the WHO's standards. However, a technically sound analysis of the situation could only be made with the help of complete results," Dr Siddiqui said. He expressed surprise over the high level of lead found in the lake (333.33ppb) as its level at the drain's mouth was low (9.46ppb) and said that there was an urgent need for an investigation as this contamination had nothing to do with the recent incident of toxicity in the drain. Immediate temporary arrangements, he said, should be made to prevent the drain's water from entering the lake and that he



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had advised the same to the authorities concerned in a meeting on Saturday. "I have also recommended suspension of water from the lake to Jhimpir town on emergency basis as well as a significant increase in supply of freshwater to the Keenjhar Lake. Hopefully, we would have good rains in coming days and if that happens the toxicity level at the drain would automatically reduce," he concluded. It is important to mention here that water supply from the lake to Jhimpir town, according to irrigation department officials, was suspended just a few day ago when the news of the drain contamination and animal's deaths surfaced. And before the incidents, the contaminated water was being supplied to the town. However, the irrigation department and the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board have so far been denying contamination of the lake with drain's toxic water. High levels of lead in the human body can cause serious health problems, including kidney failure and brain damage, Dr Siddiqui said.

<http://dawn.com/2012/04/22/another-source-of-keenjhar-lake-toxicity-exposed/>

### BULGARIA, SVILENGRAD, APRIL 23 2012. FUEL THEFTS UNCOVERED AT LOCOMOTIVE DEPOTS IN SOUTHERN BULGARIA



Senior officials of the Freight Services unit of the Bulgarian State Railways(BDZ) have uncovered fuel thefts carried out at the locomotive equipment point in the southern town of Svilegrad. A sudden inspection of the site was conducted late on Saturday by Plamen Dzhurov, head of the Freight Services department of BDZ and Ivaylo Ivanov, Co-Manager of Freight Services. In a Sunday interview, Dzhurov specified that there had been tip-offs about an organized group of BDZ officials from Dimitrovgrad, Svilegrad, Harmanli and Simeonovgrad draining fuel from locomotives on the territory of Kapakule in neighboring Turkey. The check revealed 35-40 liter plastic tanks of in the lockers of the locomotive machinists, as well as 10-12 liter bottles of mineral water filled with fuel. The total volume of BDZ-owned fuel found during the inspection was 120 liters. The lockers were also found to contain a range of hoses, taps, gloves, etc, all of

which pointed to a well-coordinated crime scheme. Dzhurov told journalists that the region of Svilegrad and Dimitrovgrad brought losses of 30-50 tons of fuel over-expenditure. Another Saturday night operation detected fuel thefts at the locomotive depot in the southern town of Dupnitsa. The lockers of the employees were found to contain 59 liters of fuel contained in plastic bottles. One of the guards of the site was revealed to have 15 liters of fuel that had most likely been drained from a machine or a tank truck located near the depot. The investigation of the case continues.

[http://www.novinite.com/view\\_news.php?id=138723](http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=138723)

### USA, ID, BOISE, APRIL 23 2012. MO-PED CATCHES GAS PUMP ON FIRE

jamie grey

[Watch the Video Mo-Ped Catches Gas Pump on Fire](#)

[Photo's \[9\] Mo-Ped Catches Gas Pump on Fire](#)



Police are investigating after a fire at a gas station Saturday morning. It happened at the Shell station on the southwest corner of Capitol Blvd and Myrtle St. at about 11:45 a.m. According to witnesses, a mo-ped stopped at the gas station adjacent a single gas pump caught fire, igniting the fuel pump. "There was a white mo-ped next to us and we didn't really pay much attention to it, but we saw the owner of it kind of walking around, kind of in shock," said Mike McHugh, who stopped with his wife for gas at the service station. McHugh said he saw a small flame on the mo-ped and asked if the man needed help. "Then it went 'Whoosh!' and just caught flame," he said. "And the lady that worked there ran out screaming, 'Call 911!'" The first arriving firefighters found flames from the pump rising 15 feet into the air. Store employees had already evacuated the store and cut the fuel to the gas pump. All gas pumps have an emergency shut off to prevent the fumes from feeding back into the ground storage tanks.



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According to Boise Fire Battalion Chief Tom Pawek, it took firefighters about 15 minutes to knock the flames down and get the fire controlled. Boise Police blocked lanes of traffic at the busy intersection to allow for firefighting operations. No one was hurt. "At this point, it's under investigation, trying to figure out what the actual cause was," Pawek said. The cost of damages is also unknown.

<http://www.ktvb.com/home/Gas-pump-catches-fire-148388875.html>

### USA, N.Y, ALBANY, APRIL 24 2012. TOXIC STAIN FEARED AT OLD DRY CLEANERS >> STATE ENGINEERS ENTER FIRE-DAMAGED ALBANY SITE TO INVESTIGATE CHEMICALS

*jordan carleo-evangelist*

**Photo's [6]** [Toxic Stain Feared at Old Dry Cleaners](#)



*A 55 gallon drum sits submerged in the basement of 566 Washington Avenue in Albany, N.Y. April 24, 2012.*

State environmental engineers began probing a long-abandoned Washington Avenue dry cleaners Tuesday morning for signs of contamination. Escorted by county officials, the engineers from the state [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) entered the burned-out building by prying away one of the many plywood boards enclosing it and used lights to peer through a hole in the floor at the water-filled basement. Earlier this month, Albany County Executive Dan McCoy called on the state to test for the presence of toxic chemicals feared to be stewing in drums submerged in the rank, rust-colored water. The building has been vacant for more than a decade, and the drums were discovered after firefighters battled a fierce December 2000 blaze at the yellow brick building at 566 Washington Ave., across Ontario Street from Beverwyck Park and a half-block from [Albany High School](#). The flames left

the building a charred shell adorned inside with rusted dry cleaning racks and mounds of moldering plywood. A scattering of empty Stewart's coffee cups and paper plates, as well as a basketball, also suggested squatters, despite holes in the ceiling that allowed sunlight and presumably rain to knife down onto the rotting floor. McCoy and neighbors said they worry the drums contain toxic dry-cleaning solvents left behind by the building's owners, whom the county says it has been unable to locate. Of specific concern is tetrachloroethylene — also known as perchloroethylene — a dry-cleaning solvent categorized by federal environmental officials between a possible and probable cause of cancer. Among the tools wielded by the DEC engineers Tuesday was one resembling an insect's proboscis capable of detecting potentially toxic emissions that may be emanating from the basement. County spokeswoman [Mary Rozak](#) said no air emissions were detected and that further work awaits the hiring of a private contractor, with DEC picking up the tab. DEC spokeswoman [Lisa King](#) said no formal testing was conducted Tuesday. The building has been in tax foreclosure for the better part of a decade, but the county has refused to take ownership of it for fears that it would be stuck with a sizable tab to clean up any contamination found there. In an email, [Pine Hills Neighborhood Association](#) President [Todd Hunsinger](#) welcomed the progress at the corner, which he said has been neglected for too long. "I hope that we are finally moving toward actions to mitigate and remediate the site to become a functional part of the neighborhood again," he said.

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/DEC-probes-for-contamination-at-defunct-dry-3505741.php>

### RUSSIAN ARCTIC, NENETS AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT, USINSK, APRIL 24 2012. UP TO 2,000 TONS OF CRUDE OIL MAY HAVE SPILLED FROM OIL FIELD IN RUSSIA'S NORTH

**Watch the Video** [Russians Stop Arctic Oil Spill](#)

Up to 2,000 tons of oil have spilled from a major field in northern Russia after workers struggled to contain the leak for two days, officials said. The accident happened at the Trebs oil field in the Nenets Autonomous District on Friday following work on an exploratory well. The oil had been gushing for nearly two days before the workers finally capped the well Sunday morning, Emergency Ministry officials said. Vladimir Bezumov, chief of the Russian Environmental Agency in the area, said the weekend spill could have produced between 800 and 2,000 tons and contaminated at least 8,000 square meters (86,100 square feet) of land. Another 6,000 square meters (64,600 square feet) of land are believed to have been slightly damaged.



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Bezumov said it was too early to speak of the causes of the accident, but he said it was likely a combination of technical issues and human error. The oil field is developed by a joint venture between Russia's largest private company Lukoil and another Russian oil major Bashneft. It holds some 153 million tons of oil. Russian environmental officials will be preparing a lawsuit against the oil companies after the clean-up is over, Bezumov said. The area around the oil field is largely unpopulated but the oil spill has damaged pastures used by local reindeer herds. Russia has not seen major oil spills for years. But maintenance of pipelines in old fields is poor, and oil leaks from rusty pipes and poorly sealed wells daily, experts say. An AP investigation last year showed that at least 1 percent of Russia's annual oil production, or 5 million tons, is spilled into the environment every year.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/up-to-2000-tons-of-crude-oil-may-have-spilled-from-oil-field-in-russias-north/2012/04/23/gIQA1bknBT\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/up-to-2000-tons-of-crude-oil-may-have-spilled-from-oil-field-in-russias-north/2012/04/23/gIQA1bknBT_story.html)

#### USA, WI, MADISON, APRIL 24 2012. NEIGHBORS WORRY AS TOXIC PLUME FROM MADISON-KIPP CORP. NEARS WELL



City water and health officials are hoping a series of monitoring wells in the neighborhoods around Madison-Kipp Corp. on the East Side will provide crucial information about the extent and movement of a contaminant plume that could be spreading toward a public drinking water well. So far, much of the attention on pollution from the plant has focused on potentially carcinogenic vapors seeping into adjacent homes. Those vapors are from tetrachloroethylene, or PCE, an industrial solvent used at Kipp until 1987. Homes are being outfitted with extraction systems to guard against exposure to the cancer-causing chemicals, which are believed to be coming mostly from contaminated soil. Those same chemicals also are seeping through the soil toward the groundwater that supplies the neighborhood with drinking water, according to Michael Schmoller, a hydrogeologist with the state Department of Natural

Resources. Tests showed high levels of the contaminant in soil and shallow groundwater at the plant at 201 Waubesa St., but there is little information on levels in areas farther away from the plant or in the deep groundwater supplies from which drinking water is drawn. "There are quite a few gaps when it comes to our knowledge about the extent of the plume," said John Hausbeck, with Public Health Madison and Dane County. "It appears to be sinking and spreading. ... We haven't found that proverbial edge yet." Even after recent public meetings about the contaminants and testing, residents remain worried, especially about the potential for groundwater contamination and possible effects on nearby Well No. 8. "We have an incomplete picture of the pollution underground," said Lance Green, with the Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association. "Until we get a better picture of that pollution, we have no idea where it has gone or what it is polluting."

#### Serious Situation

Solving the problems related to pollutants from Kipp, which makes precision-machined parts for vehicles, has been a frustrating process that has gone on for 17 years. Because the contaminants were not regulated at the time Kipp used them, the company was not violating any laws. The problems since arose because of issues related to the company's cleanup efforts. Some residents filed a federal lawsuit against the company in October, charging that the plant released chemicals that contaminated their homes, and that a tentative cleanup plan Kipp proposed did not go far enough. Last week, a judge approved the lawsuit becoming a class action suit, meaning others in the neighborhood affected by the pollution can join. A trial is scheduled for next year. Adding to neighborhood worries was an announcement last week from the DNR that Kipp consultants informed the agency that polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, were found in soil at the plant. The chemicals, banned and no longer used, were contained in certain industrial coolants and were found to cause neurological problems in humans. According to a sternly worded DNR letter hand-delivered to Kipp last week, the company did not properly notify the agency of the discovery of the PCBs nor did it provide information on the extent of the contamination or cleanup plans. "The Department cannot emphasize enough the serious nature of this situation," wrote Linda Hanefeld, DNR remediation supervisor, in the letter. "The fact is, there is heightened neighborhood concern about your site and this contamination was found near the property line. We hope your lack of response is not an indication of a lack of urgency." Calls to Kipp for comment on the most recent problems were not returned.



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#### Testing Continues

Already, there is concern Kipp failed to agree to any formal cleanup plan for previously discovered contaminants. The DNR referred that matter, including a draft agreement, to the state Department of Justice in October. When contacted about progress on the agreement, DOJ spokeswoman Dana Brueck said the case is "still being actively worked," and added department lawyers will not comment in more detail. Despite the lack of an agreement, Schmoller said the DNR and the company were moving ahead with more aggressive testing, both for vapors in homes and in monitoring wells. He said samples already are being taken from 18 shallow monitoring wells, most of which are on the Kipp property. Four of the wells are off the property. A sample from one of those, a deeper well just north of the Goodman Community Center that goes down about 70 feet, showed levels of PCE at 12 parts per billion, above the EPA health standard of 5 ppb. Schmoller said the presence of the contaminant at a well farther from the Kipp property means the PCE is most likely moving down as it moves off the plant site. Tests from a nearby shallower well turned up nothing. Three more monitoring wells are being installed in areas away from the Kipp site, Schmoller said, including one northwest of the plant, one to the southwest and one to the northeast. "In the next two months, we're going to get a fair amount of groundwater work done," Schmoller said.

#### Acceptable Risk


While some of the monitoring wells showed PCE at shallower levels, the potential effect of contaminants on the nearby public drinking water well, Well No. 8, is less certain. The well is not in service, but Joseph Grande, water quality manager for the Madison Water Utility, said the utility would like to use the well at a limited capacity for about 60 days in July and August during the peak water-use season. Grande said a decision on using the well has not been made. He said testing showed very low levels of a breakdown product of PCE in the well but added it is impossible to determine whether Kipp is the source. Also, Grande said, pump tests showed when Well No. 8 is in operation, instruments in the Kipp monitoring wells registered an effect, which means the public well could pull in contaminants in the future if it is used at full capacity.

But Grande said hydrogeological modeling shows it would take 50 to 100 years for contaminants from the plant to reach the well and it is unlikely that a contaminant plume is near enough to the well to pose a danger. "The likelihood of us pulling anything into the well this summer is so small," Grande said. He said the utility plans to sink a sentinel well between Kipp and Well No. 8 to monitor for the approach of contaminants. Even so, the idea of using the well makes some neighbors nervous. "There are some people in the neighborhood who absolutely don't want Well 8 to run at all," said Green, with the neighborhood association.

[http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/environment/neighbors-worry-as-toxic-plume-from-madison-kipp-corp-nears/article\\_a03fd26e-8cfb-11e1-9859-001a4bcf887a.html](http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/environment/neighbors-worry-as-toxic-plume-from-madison-kipp-corp-nears/article_a03fd26e-8cfb-11e1-9859-001a4bcf887a.html)

#### USA, CO, COMMERCE CITY, APRIL 24 2012. SUNCOR ENERGY INSTALLS FOUNTAIN, UNDERGROUND WALLS TO REDUCE BENZENE PLUME NEAR DENVER

 **Document:** [Read the state health department's Dec. 30 order to Suncor Energy \(PDF\).](#)

 **Slideshow** [19 photos of Suncor contractors working to clean up liquid leaking into Sand Creek.](#)

 **Map:** [A map showing the plume spreading from under the Suncor refinery in Commerce City](#)



*A new bubbler pumps 500 gallons per minute from Sand Creek into the air, an attempt to remove benzene from the water before it reaches the South Platte River.*

Suncor Energy is spraying Sand Creek water contaminated by its oil refinery into the air, trying to remove more cancer-causing benzene before the creek water flows into the South Platte River. This poses a regulatory dilemma: Is it worse to release benzene into the air or into the water? Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regulators haven't decided. "It's an important balancing act," spokesman Warren Smith said. "We want to protect both as best we can." The latest test data show benzene concentrations in the South Platte River remain more than 30 times higher than the federal drinking-water standard of 5 parts per billion. In an attempt to reduce those levels, a diesel-powered pump

pulls 500 gallons a minute out of Sand Creek and returns it to the stream in an aerial arc. The action is designed to free the



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benzene from the water before it lands back in the stream. Suncor officials want to install a larger pump, capable of aerating more contaminated water. "It's important that we do the right thing for the environment," said John Gallagher, vice president of refining for Suncor, Canada's largest oil corporation, with operations worldwide. The fountain aeration a temporary fix is part of Suncor's overall cleanup efforts following the discovery in November of an underground plume of hydrocarbon material from the refinery oozing into the water from creek banks. Suncor recently completed two underground walls designed to intercept toxic material spreading from the refinery. Sump pumps and vacuum systems near the walls are designed to remove liquid hydrocarbons and toxic vapors from contaminated soil. A Suncor environmental contractor's map, released by CDPHE, shows an underground plume of benzene and other contaminants spreading under the adjacent Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant and nearly reaching the South Platte directly upriver from the confluence with Sand Creek. This plume also is spreading under the open space greenway bicycle corridor toward Interstate 270. Four monitoring wells a fifth is planned may help monitor the eastern edge of the plume. Benzene concentrations are low and decreasing at far edges of the plume but reach as high as 10,000 parts per billion (ppb) at the center. Suncor crews have completed a 1,000-foot wall on Metro Wastewater property to shield Sand Creek. They built a 2,100-foot wall at the western edge of Suncor's property. The latest water data from Sand Creek show benzene levels stabilized and decreasing. However, benzene levels in the South Platte, northeastern Colorado's main waterway, were recorded at 320 ppb on April 9; 340 ppb on April 10; 300 ppb on April 11; and 170 ppb on April 12. This compares with 230 ppb on Dec. 2 — shortly after a carp fisherman spotted black goo seeping into Sand Creek and the federal Environmental Protection Agency launched an emergency response. Under Colorado law, none of these amount to violations because Sand Creek and this segment of the South Platte are governed under a "warm-water aquatic life" standard that allows 5,300 ppb of benzene. No downriver utilities draw water directly from the South Platte. Thornton, Westminster and Aurora use shallow wells alongside the river to draw water that then runs through municipal treatment systems. The state regulators recently allowed Suncor to stop testing water right at the confluence, where tests on Jan. 9 revealed benzene levels at 720 ppb and on Feb. 19 at 460 ppb. The tests now are done from a single point about 50 feet downriver from the confluence and at four other locations, one as far away as Barr Lake State Park. Suncor's strategy relies on the underground walls to isolate contamination on its own property, where extraction systems can remove toxic vapors and liquids from soil. "The fact that these trench systems are in place essentially should stop the movement of liquid hydrocarbons from one place to another," Suncor's Gallagher said. "We have a pretty good idea of where the plumes are." "We are a responsible operator and will continue to manage the situation as best as we can." Suncor has declined Denver Post requests for access to the refinery to observe work in progress. CDPHE regulators release information via written requests to agency representatives. CDPHE officials currently do not believe more walls are needed to contain the toxic plume, Smith said. The hydrocarbon material has spread under Metro Wastewater and nearly reaches the South Platte but does not enter the river directly, he said. "Whether or not it contacts the Platte directly is a distinction without a difference," he said, "because dissolved-phase hydrocarbons already are reaching the Platte via Sand Creek."

### Related Links

- Apr 3: [Suncor refinery in Commerce City to pay for air-pollution violations](#)
  - Mar 1: [Suncor working to expel cancer-causing benzene from under Denver-area refinery](#)
  - Feb 8: [Suncor begins building trench to stop flow of contaminants near Denver](#)
  - Jan 21: [Toxics from Suncor refinery spill still seeping into water: Colorado vows to "accelerate" response](#)
  - Jan 7: [Suncor workers at refinery near Denver get blood tests for benzene](#)
  - Jan 6: [Suncor refinery employees tested for benzene contamination](#)
  - Dec 31: [Colorado health officials order additional measures from Suncor Energy over benzene seepage](#)
  - Dec 30: [Benzene is fouling drinking water at Suncor refinery and chemicals are seeping directly into Sand Creek](#)
  - Dec 3: [Trench being dug to halt toxic ooze into Sand Creek north of Denver](#)
  - Dec 2: [Cleanup orders at Colorado's Suncor refinery spill into Sand Creek officially issued](#)
  - Dec 1: [Benzene in Sand Creek measured at 400 times amount tolerated by national drinking water standards, EPA tests show Suncor Energy refinery north of downtown Denver called source of black goo](#)
  - Nov 30: [Health department: Pipe may have broken a half mile from Sand Creek spill site](#)
  - Nov 29: [Three trucks sucking up oily muck in Sand Creek trying to keep more from flowing into South Platte River](#)
- [http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci\\_20447105/suncor-energy-installs-fountain-underground-walls-reduce-benzene](http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci_20447105/suncor-energy-installs-fountain-underground-walls-reduce-benzene)



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#### USA, CT, MIDDLEBURY, APRIL 24 2012. MIDDLEBURY FUEL SPILL OCCURS EARLY TUESDAY MORNING; 266 GALLONS UNDERGOING CLEAN-UP

 **Photo's [3]** [Middlebury Fuel Spill](#)



The incident occurred at the Middlebury Shell gas station. Rush hour will not be affected, according to police. On Tuesday, April 24, at approximately 12:44 a.m., the [Middlebury Police Department](#) and [Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department](#) were dispatched to the Middlebury Shell Gas Station located at 520 Middlebury Rd. for a fuel spill. A tanker truck owned by C. White & Sons of Rocky Hill spilled approximately 266 gallons of diesel fuel while fueling the gas station. The incident was the result of a valve malfunction, Lt. Richard Wildman stated in the press release. The Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department contained the leak to the grounds of the gas station and the shoulder area of Middlebury Road. C. White & Sons contacted a clean-up company which was on scene at 3:15 a.m., according to the e-mailed press release from Lt. Wildman. "The clean-up contractor, Connecticut Tank Removal, is spreading speedy dry on the fuel and vacuuming the product up," Lt. Wildman said. "The clean up should take no more than two to three hours and rush hour should not be affected." The CT

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is on scene and supervising the clean-up effort. No water ways were affected, Lt. Wildman said.

<http://woodbury-middlebury.patch.com/articles/middlebury-fuel-spill-early-tuesday-morning-266-plus-gallon-leak-occurs-shell-gas-station-520-middlebury-road-c-white-sons-rocky-hill-clean-up>

#### CYPRUS, LARNACA, APRIL 24 2012. DEADLY MUNITIONS BLAST >> WARRANT FOR CYPRUS EX-ARMY HEAD



A European arrest warrant was issued Monday against former Cyprus army chief Petros Tsalikides, charged in connection with a deadly munitions blast, after he failed to appear in court, officials said. Tsalikides' seven co-defendants were in court on Monday but did not have the charges read out to them, nor were they asked to enter a plea. The hearing at Larnaca district court on the island's south coast was adjourned until May 18 in order to give time for the former army commander - a Greek national living in Greece - to appear. The judge agreed to a prosecution request to issue an arrest warrant for him in light of the no show. Former foreign minister Marcos Kyprianou and ex-defence minister Costas Papacostas are among the eight public officials facing prosecution over the July 11 blast that killed 13 people and injured 62. They were released on a 150,000 euro bail guarantee to appear in court next month. They face a total of 208 charges including manslaughter, causing death through negligence, dereliction of duty and acts which caused bodily harm in

connection with the deadly munitions blast that also crippled Cyprus' main power plant. Manslaughter, the most serious offence, carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. The other accused are army deputy commander Savvas Argyrou and army Colonel George Georgiades, along with fire chief Andreas Nicolaou, deputy fire chief Pambos Charalambous and commander of the fire service's disaster reaction unit, Andreas Loizides. There were some angry scenes outside the courthouse amid a heavy police. A public inquiry found President Demetris Christofias responsible for the explosion, but there was never any possibility of legal proceedings against him as the constitution gives him immunity from prosecution. Kyprianou, Papacostas and the army commander all resigned over the blast. The deputy commander was sacked. There was a public outcry after munitions stored at a naval base for three years exploded despite repeated warnings that they were unsafe, and street protests called for Christofias to quit. Some 98 containers were piled up unprotected at the Mari naval base, just 150 metres (yards) from the power station. They were seized in February 2009 when Cyprus intercepted a Cypriot-flagged freighter bound from Iran for Syria and a UN sanctions committee said the consignment contravened a ban on Iranian arms shipments. Christofias said the decision to keep the weapons on the island was "correct" and refused to step down. The public



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inquiry said the munitions were kept in Cyprus to placate Syria and Iran in a risky diplomatic game. The loss of the power plant led to rolling daily power cuts and economic disruption that has hit growth targets for the next two years.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/international/24-Apr-2012/warrant-for-cyprus-ex-army-head>

#### USA, MD, CANTON, APRIL 24 2012. FIREFIGHTERS INVESTIGATE 3-ALARM WAREHOUSE FIRE IN CANTON

monique griego

 [Watch the Video Firefighters Investigate 3-Alarm Warehouse Fire](#)



A three-alarm fire at a Canton warehouse forces people from their homes and cuts off power to thousands. It took firefighters several hours to get the fire under control. While evacuated residents were allowed back into their homes Sunday night, the cleanup is going to take a lot longer. Around 8:30 p.m. Sunday, massive flames filled the sky over Canton after a three-alarm fire broke out at a warehouse in the 1200-block of Baylis Street. "It was just flames everywhere. It was escalating. It went through the whole building. It was epic alright," said Brandon Hovermill, witness. Nearly a hundred firefighters were called in to battle the flames. As they worked to get things under control, heavy smoke forced 60 residents to evacuate their homes. "I was worried something was going to blow up or something," Hovermill said. Around 1,500 homes also lost power thanks to torched power lines and a blown transformer. Fire crews were also concerned with what was inside the warehouse, which is owned by the Eastern Plating Company. "It's our understanding that this warehouse makes plates and due to that, the chemicals that they use on a daily basis are hazardous," said Capt. Roman Clark, Baltimore City Fire Department. "So, we have at this time taken all precautionary measures in evacuating some of the homes in the direction in which the wind was blowing, and blowing the embers and the smoke." It would take firefighters more than three hours to finally get the upper hand on the flames. It's easy to see just how much damage was caused to the warehouse. The entire roof of the front portion collapsed and firefighters spent most of the morning putting out hotspots trapped inside the debris. Hazmat teams and the Maryland Department of Environment will now team up to evaluate any hazardous chemicals left behind. As for neighbors, they're praising the fire department that stopped flames from spreading to nearby homes. No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Firefighters say a building inspector is also heading to the site to determine when demolition can begin on the building.

<http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2012/04/23/firefighters-remain-on-scene-of-3-alarm-warhouse-fire-in-canton/>

#### USA, ORE, PORTLAND, APRIL 24 2012. FIREFIGHTERS USE SANDBAGS TO CONTROL MAGNESIUM FIRE

 [Photo's \[4\] Firefighters Control Magnesium Fire](#)



Several Southeast Portland businesses evacuated Monday morning after a fire broke out involving a flammable metal. No injuries were reported. Portland Fire and Rescue said they responded to a call from Oregon Engraving & Rubber Plates, located at 2415 S.E. 10th Avenue, at about 10:15 a.m. on reports of a magnesium fire at the business. Before crews arrived, dispatchers told them there were reports of flames 4 feet high and nearby businesses were evacuating employees. Firefighters said the blaze was difficult to contain because it involved plates and magnesium shavings, which burn very hot. A hazardous materials team also went to the scene. "The smoke that emits from magnesium shavings presents a serious health hazard if inhaled. As a safety precaution, we evacuated neighboring businesses and civilians on the street to a safe location," HazMat Lieutenant Jeff Ripley said in a press release. An

employee of a building supply business next to Oregon Engraving offered firefighters the use of sandbags to smother the fire, which firefighters used with success. The remains of the burning magnesium were pulled from the business. Magnesium is



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commonly used in [camping and survival fire starter kits](#). Firefighters did not say what caused the magnesium shavings to ignite.

<http://www.katu.com/news/local/Firefighters-use-sand-to-knock-down-flaming-metal-blaze-148575215.html>

### CANADA, ONT, PORT HOPE, APRIL 24 2012. MAN CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH GAS SPILL

pete fisher



*Northumberland Today Town staff monitor the situation after a five gallon container (20 litre) of gasoline fell from a truck and spilled on Walton Street by John Street on Friday afternoon. April 20, 2012*

A man could face clean-up costs after gasoline spilled into a catch basin on Friday afternoon. Port Hope Police say the driver was traveling on Walton Street by John Street shortly before 4 p.m. when he stopped and a five gallon (20 litre) container of gasoline and a propane tank fell from the back of the truck. The items were retrieved, and the driver placed the container of gasoline by the south curb near a sewer grate. Unfortunately the contents of the container spilled into the sewer grate flowing downhill toward the Ganaraska River. The Port Hope Fire Department were called, and tried to contain the spill as much as possible - placing absorbent materials throughout the sewer grates from John Street to the river. "We're taking precautions to make sure it's not getting into the drinking water," said Water Treatment Supervisor Rick Trumper. Deputy Fire Chief Jim Wheeler said firefighters contained the spill and made sure nothing else got into the river and a company specializing in cleanup was called from Bowmanville. Pedestrian traffic along Walton Street could smell the odour of gasoline along the street. Although the two canisters

fell from the vehicle, police said the pickup truck latch worked properly and was able to be closed. A Bradford man is charged with insecure load and could possibly face cleanup costs.

<http://www.northumberlandtoday.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3541653>

### NIGERIA, DELTA STATE, APRIL 24 2012. COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY BONGA OIL SPILL YET TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION, SAYS COMMISSIONER



The communities affected by the Shell Bonga spill of 2011 have yet to be compensated, says Mr Mofe Pirah, Delta Commissioner for Oil and Gas. "Currently, nobody has been compensated; the compensation will come after the historical analysis of the result and findings have been concluded," Pirah told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Asaba. NAN recalls that the spill which affected communities in four local government areas in the state and other oil-producing states, occurred towards the end of 2011. The spill reportedly wreaked havoc on the affected communities, depriving them of their source of livelihood. Pirah's counterpart in the Ministry of Environment, Chief Frank Omare, told NAN that the affected communities were in Burutu, Warri North, Warri South and Warri South West LGAs in Delta and some LGAs in Bayelsa, Rivers and Ondo states. "The

clean-up process has been done by Shell which admitted that it was a mechanical failure and we supervised the clean-up process in the affected communities in Delta. "We are following the development and at the end of the day when the results would have been made available, we will tell the people of the state," Omare said.

[http://leadership.ng/nga/articles/22671/2012/04/22/communities\\_affected\\_bonga\\_oil\\_spill\\_yet\\_receive\\_compensation\\_says\\_commissioner.html](http://leadership.ng/nga/articles/22671/2012/04/22/communities_affected_bonga_oil_spill_yet_receive_compensation_says_commissioner.html)

### INDIA, UTTAR PRADESH, HARDOI, APRIL 24 2012. CRACKER EXPLOSIONS KILL 5

Four persons, including two minors, were killed in Hardoi while one died in Kanpur following explosion of firecrackers, on Monday. In Hardoi, Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajesh Kumar Srivastava said a fire broke out in the house of one Shakir, causing an explosion, around 2 pm. His wife Wasida (40), daughter Rukhsana (12), mother Naghma (65) and niece Mushran



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(5) suffered injuries caused by fire and the splinters and died on the spot. Srivastava said Shakir, resident of Auladganj locality, has a licence of manufacturing and selling firecrackers. The cause behind firecrackers catching fire is yet to be known. In Kanpur, DIG Amitabh Yash said illegal storage of firecrackers at a house in Colonelganj area led to an explosion, causing the death of house owner Abbas alias Kakku's physically disabled sister Rano (39) and injuring another sister, Afsha (35). A case has been registered against Kakku, who is yet to be arrested.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/cracker-explosions-kill-5/940784/>

### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, PORT MACQUARIE, APRIL 25 2012. CFMEU-WORKCOVER TALKS OVER TOXIC HIGHWAY SITE

Map: [Port Macquarie 2444](#)



The state government has launched an independent inquiry into a contaminated Pacific highway worksite but the union covering workers remains concerned. Highway workers near Port Macquarie became nauseous and some started vomiting after excavation exposed contaminated soil. It is near where a truck carrying radioactive waste and other chemicals crashed in 1980. The Roads and Maritime Service says tests have not detected any radioactive or pesticide contamination. The RMS says instead acid sulphate soils were uncovered. But the 1980s crash site still has not been pinpointed and the union covering workers the CFMEU says it's not good enough. The union says seven workers were hospitalised, the situation is an environmental disaster and there are still grave concerns about the site. The union is meeting with Workcover at 10 this morning.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-04-20/cfmeu-workcover-talks-over-toxic-highway-site/3962016>

### SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN, APRIL 25 2012. STOLEN PETROL SPARKS STING OPERATION

kamcilla pillay



*Two of the men arrested for allegedly selling stolen petrol move containers from their vehicle while Captain Khephu Ndlovu takes pictures for a police investigation.*

Would you buy petrol sold from the back of a bakkie in a taxi rank? Well, at R7 a litre, it appears some motorists will – never mind that they are breaking the law and running the risk of doing expensive damage to their cars' engines. On Monday morning, police arrested three people after receiving a tip-off that the sale of allegedly stolen fuel was set to take place at a taxi rank in Greyville, Durban. The man making the purchase, however, evaded capture. Captain Khephu Ndlovu said the three men allegedly had "an arrangement" with the driver of a fuel tanker. "The men would receive a call from the driver, and they would meet at various points and take the petrol," he said. He said petrol theft was rife and involved syndicates who "made a killing". Ndlovu said the men

would appear in court on charges of theft and being in possession of stolen goods. The allegedly stolen petrol was worth R8 000, and the largest containers found in the men's possession held 250 litres. There were about six containers, of varying sizes, all on the back of a small white bakkie. A funnel was used to put petrol into the tanks of buyers. Fuel Retailers Association chairman Reggie Sibiba said it was difficult to say how frequently illicit petrol sales were happening. He noted that the price of petrol was regulated and it could not be sold at a discount legally. "Our members haven't really reported many incidents of this nature – of course they would notice if their deliveries were short." He said this process was cumbersome for service station owners, and they were sometimes never compensated. "Motorists who buy stolen fuel are not only breaking the law, but they are also robbing us of future business," he said. He said the problem was not new and often occurred when petrol prices increased. "Yes, they are getting the fuel cheaper, but how do they know it has not been diluted, with paraffin, for example?" He said damage to car engines as a result of fuel being adulterated could cost consumers more in the long run. He also said transporting stolen fuel was potentially dangerous. "What if there's a spark or an accident? What if that then causes a fire or an explosion?" he asked. Avhaphani Tshifularo, the chairman of the SA Petroleum Industry Association, said that when prices rose syndicates needed to be watched closely. "While it's not as common here as it is overseas, service station owners and attendants needed to be careful that drivers don't fill up and then drive off," he said. Because SA stations employ pump



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attendants – unlike stations in many countries which are self-service – it made it much harder for thieves to get away without paying. Total SA, whose truck was involved in the illegal fuel sale, said it was not aware of the incident. "Now that we are aware of it, the appropriate steps will be taken as a matter of urgency. "Total will identify the transporter and immediately request (them) to launch an investigation and suspend the driver, pending that investigation." The company outsourced its transport and said there had been isolated incidents before. They could not disclose how much they lost on average due to theft like this, or what steps the company took once it found a discrepancy in the amount of fuel initially loaded and the amount that arrived at its expected drop-off point, saying such matters were confidential. In Australia, the Herald Sun newspaper reported last month that there had been 5 090 cases of drivers leaving stations without paying for petrol in the last financial year, a jump of 17.8 percent in the crime. - Daily News

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/stolen-petrol-sparks-sting-operation-1.1282826>

#### USA, TX, HOUSTON, APRIL 25 2012. BP ENGINEER ARRESTED IN GULF SPILL PROBE

*guy chazan & ed crooks*

The US government has [filed its first criminal charges in connection with the 2010 Gulf of Mexico spill](#), accusing a former BP engineer of intentionally destroying evidence about the size of the disaster. Kurt Mix was charged with two counts of obstruction of justice for allegedly deleting records relating to the amount of oil flowing from BP's stricken Macondo well, after the April 2010 blowout and explosion that triggered the disaster. According to court documents, Mr Mix, who resigned from BP in January, was part of a team that tried to estimate the amount of oil leaking from the well and was involved in attempts to stop the flow. These included the "top kill", which involved pumping heavy mud into the blown out wellhead. The Department of Justice alleges that in October 2010, Mr Mix deleted text messages he sent to a BP supervisor indicating the top kill was not working, contrary to BP's public statements at the time. In one, he allegedly wrote that the flow rate from the well was 15,000 barrels a day – a level that he and his colleagues had determined was too high for the operation to succeed. At the time, BP's public estimate of the flow rate was just 5,000 b/d. The flow rate will determine the penalties BP faces under the 1973 Clean Water Act. It has challenged the government's estimate that 4.9m barrels gushed from the well. The charges against Mr Mix do not touch on the central question of responsibility for the disaster, which could still be brought against BP employees or the company itself. "The Deepwater Horizon taskforce is continuing its investigation into the explosion and will hold accountable those who violated the law in connection with the largest environmental disaster in US history," said Eric Holder, US attorney-general. BP declined to comment on Mr Mix's case but said it had clear policies requiring preservation of evidence. The blowout and explosion on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in April 2010 killed 11 men and triggered the world's worst offshore oil spill. Mr Mix allegedly deleted another set of text messages concerning how much oil was flowing from Macondo after the blowout – despite receiving a number of legal hold notices requiring him to preserve such data. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each count.

[http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/0e8bfddc-8e33-11e1-b9ae-](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/0e8bfddc-8e33-11e1-b9ae-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=published_links/rss/home_uk/feed/product#axzz1t0gMC3n9)

[00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=published\\_links/rss/home\\_uk/feed/product#axzz1t0gMC3n9](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/0e8bfddc-8e33-11e1-b9ae-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=published_links/rss/home_uk/feed/product#axzz1t0gMC3n9)

#### NORWAY, FREDRIKSTAD, APRIL 25 2012. 'SEVERAL DEAD IN DAIRY PLANT GAS BLAST'



*Debris from the explosion lies on the factory's outer compound in Fredrikstad.*

A gas explosion at a dairy plant in Norway has killed at least one person and wounded three others, police have said. Local media are reporting that rescuers are also searching for five people believed to be missing following the blast in Fredrikstad, in the southeast of the country. Rescue service spokesman Ola Vaage previously told the NTB news agency that several people are feared to have died or been seriously injured in the blast. Rescue workers, ambulances and a helicopter were dispatched to the scene. According to NTB, 20 to 25 people were working in the factory at the time of the explosion. Police cordoned off the area and footage from the scene showed significant damage to parts of the plant as well as surrounding buildings. "One person is confirmed

dead and three people have been injured," police in Fredrikstad said in an emailed statement. The statement said a "large gas explosion" was involved and added that police had requested aid from Oslo, which is sending a bomb squad to the scene. Hilde Floekstad, a manager at the Mills plant, told broadcaster NRK that service was being performed on a gas tank. "When



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the gas tank was empty, something happened that led to the explosion," she said. Mr Vaage told NTB that police were using dogs to search for five people who could be missing.

<http://news.sky.com/home/world-news/article/16214491>

#### NIGERIA, LAGOS, APRIL 25 2012. HOW OIL IS BEING STOLEN IN NIGERIA

[Watch the Video](#) [How Oil Is Being Stolen](#)

Nigeria is in the top league of world oil producers but the country could export much more if it was not plagued by inefficiency and an armed insurrection in the Delta of the River Niger where the oil is found. The government has brought an end to some of that militancy by offering an amnesty. But another problem is the widespread theft of crude oil in the Delta. The BBC's International Development Correspondent Mark Doyle recently flew over the area to see how much oil is being stolen.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-17793234>

#### ENGLAND, LONDON, APRIL 25 2012. CORYTON REFINERY FATE TO BE DECIDED IN MAY

*simon falush & zaida espana*



*A general view shows the Coryton oil refinery in south-eastern England January 24, 2012.*

future of Petroplus' UK refinery Coryton, which employs around 900 people, will be decided by the middle of May, when the current deal supplying it with crude runs out, administrator PwC said on Tuesday. Work on a potential sale or restructuring of the refinery's debt is underway with a view to reaching an agreement before the deal expires in the middle of May, or the plant will close. "We'll do a deal or shut Coryton when the current arrangement finishes," Steven Pearson, partner and joint administrator of Petroplus Refining & Marketing Limited (PRML) told Reuters. The plant received a three-month lifeline in February from a consortium of Morgan Stanley, private equity firm KKR

and the co-founder of the stricken Petroplus Marcel Van Poecke. But with capital expenditure needs of around \$1 billion and upcoming maintenance costing \$150 million due in September, the conditions for securing a deal remain challenging. "One of the big factors here is that with the price of oil being where it is at the moment, the cost of funding the working capital is so enormous in the short term, that the economics are difficult," Pearson said. "But that's true for any refiners out there." Brent crude futures rose to highs not seen since 2008 of \$128.40 a barrel in early March, further squeezing refining profits. Swiss-based refiner Petroplus filed for insolvency in January after defaulting on \$1.75 billion of debt. Its shares fell through 2011 as refining margins were squeezed and questions surfaced about its ability to raise debt to cover costs. The tough operating environment has taken its toll across the European industry, with tight credit conditions making deal-making difficult. "We need committed investors to invest in the turnaround programme, there's no point in asking if the sun will come out tomorrow, we have to deal with it now," Pearson said. With a throughput capacity of 175,000 barrels per day (bpd) and a high Nelson complexity - meaning it can produce a larger proportion of high grade fuels - Coryton is the most prized asset of the Petroplus stable.

#### Jobs on the Line

The plant is a big employer in the Essex region, east of London, with around 900 jobs on the line. Richard Howitt, local member of the European Parliament, said it was important that everything possible was done to ensure the plant remains open. "It's worrying that there is talk of a collapse in the rescue deal, this should drive a deep determination to achieve a successful buyout," he said. Adding to the tough economic climate, Pearson said the difficulties and higher costs associated with running a company in administration meant a deal needed to be done soon. "It's costlier and more difficult to get supplies, and the staff become unsettled because of the uncertainty when a company is administration, so it's important that we get the deal done. May will be a big month for the company." A pool of no more than ten candidates remain involved in the talks for a potential sale, although Pearson declined to comment on specifics. "We are still working with all parties to try to find a deal, I suspect it will go up until midnight until the day before the deal expires," he said. The closure of the refinery would lead to further upward pressure on already elevated petrol and diesel prices, squeezing hard-pressed British consumers and businesses. Suitors are said to include major trading houses, sector specialists like Gary Klesch and private equity investors.



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In the United States, Sunoco has entered into exclusive talks with private equity investor Carlyle to form a potential joint venture to run the biggest refinery on the East Coast, the 335,000 barrels per day (bpd) plant in Philadelphia.

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/coryton-refinery-fate-decided-may-123221466--sector.html>

## CANADA, B.C, PRINCE GEORGE, APRIL 25 2012. 'DOWN-TO-EARTH' SUPERVISOR SOLE FATALITY IN 'GIANT FIREBALL' EXPLOSION AT B.C. SAWMILL

ian bailey

### Watch the Video

- [1 Worker Dead, 17 in Hospital after Huge Explosion](#)
- ['Catastrophic' B.C. Sawmill Explosion Kills 1, Leaves Gruesome Injuries in its Wake](#)
- [B.C. Sawmills Face Uncertain Futures after Explosions](#)



### Photo's

- [\[9\] 1 Worker Dead, 17 in Hospital after Huge Explosion](#)
- [\[4\] Flames engulf sawmill](#)



*Lakeland Mills in Prince George is on fire after a huge explosion occurred at around 10 p.m. on Monday, April 23, 2012.*

A 43-year-old shift supervisor suffered fatal injuries when a Prince George sawmill exploded in what the coroners' service described as a "giant fireball" on Monday night. The B.C. Coroners Service has confirmed that Alan Little of Prince George was the sole fatality in the explosion and fire at the Lakeland sawmill in Prince George at about 9:45 p.m. on Monday. Mr. Little was taken to the University Hospital of Northern BC immediately after the blast, but died there several hours later at 5:30 p.m. John Neilson, a forklift operator who was working the shift when the explosion occurred, remembered Mr. Little fondly, as a former laborer who had become a supervisor in the last two to three years. He said Mr. Little was married, but did not believe he had any children. "He was a

down-to-earth person, easy to get along with," said Mr. Neilson. "Everybody is in shock and disbelief," said Frank Everitt, president of the regional United Steelworkers local. "Nobody has got a handle on what happened. They just know there was a huge explosion and it was heard kilometres away from the facility. "The explosion happened and walls were taken down and flooring erupted underneath folks that were in the lunchroom. Subsequently they all got out." Mr. Everitt said the tragedy was especially sobering because it came after a January explosion that killed two workers at the Babine Forest Products in Burns Lake, about 230 kilometres northwest of Prince George. "I said after Burns Lake I didn't want to see anything like this ever again," said Mr. Everitt. But he said now that he won't speculate on causes before the inevitable investigations have provided answers. The fire at Burns Lake remains under investigation, and no cause has been confirmed. Workers are worried, said Mr. Everitt. "There is the overall concern for folks who work in the forest industry because we have had one and now we have had a second one. Certainly the emotions are there, and people are saying 'We have to find the cause and make sure this doesn't happen.'" In an update, the Northern Health Authority disclosed that four patients injured in the explosion – described by a B.C. coroner's service statement as a "giant fireball" – and subsequent fire at the Lakeland Sawmill have been transferred by air ambulance from Prince George – three to Vancouver, one to Victoria and one to Edmonton. Six patients remain at the university hospital in serious condition. Thirteen have been treated and released. Donita Kuzma, the regional coroner for the Northern Region, said all workers have been accounted for, and none are missing at the facility, located on a square-kilometre property. The fire has consumed a main mill on the property, but a nearby planer mill is untouched. According to Sinclair Group Forest Products, which owns the mill, there were 24 employees working in the sawmill at the time of the incident, with a further 16 employees in the adjoining planer mill and four working in the mill's yard. Premier Christy Clark offered the provinces' support to Prince George, referring, in particular, to the family of the worker who died from his injuries. She also paid tribute to Prince George for its response to the disaster. "Emergency officials managed to keep the fire from spreading under extremely adverse conditions, neighbours rushed onto the scene to offer their assistance and health officials worked through the night treating the injured," Ms. Clark said in a statement. "I want Mayor Shari Green to know that her city has the full support of our government as they persevere through this terrible time." RCMP Corporal Craig Douglass said Tuesday morning that



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### Release 2012 – 833 Newsy Stuff

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**May 02 2012**



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firefighters were making some advances on the fire. "Firefighters are ahead of where they thought they would be in terms of the fire being extinguished," said Cpl. Douglass, adding in the hours after the Monday night explosion crews had thought it would take 24 hours to control the fire. "Now it is being extinguished more quickly than expected," he said. He said there was no immediate prospect of sending in investigators to begin trying to figure out what happened. "Because of all the elements inside the sawmill, including compressed gases and sawmill dust, some things could be difficult to put out, but the best case is we're able to put it out today." Ms. Kuzma said the investigation will involve the coroners' service, the Prince George fire department, the RCMP and WorkSafeBC. "This will take time to investigate, months. It's just the complexity of the investigation," said Ms. Kuzma, who was among the coroners' staff investigating the January explosion and fire that killed two workers at the Babine Forest Products in Burns Lake, about 230 kilometres northwest of Prince George. No cause has been determined for the Burns Lake incident, which left 250 workers without jobs. "I'd like to prepare the public for the fact that this will take time to investigate - months. It's just the complexity of the investigation, search and experts needed to go through the site," she said. The president of the Sinclair Group said they would not immediately speculate on the cause of the incident until an ongoing investigation is completed. "We're devastated by the news of this incident," Greg Stewart said in a statement. Colleagues at the sawmill scrambled to help each other, with one saying he used scissors to cut charred clothing off those whose burned skin was dripping. "It was quite gruesome," said Brian Croy, first vice-president of the United Steelworkers Local 1-424, in an interview from his home. "When you walk out, there was guys with their skin hanging off their arms and stuff from being burned." Mr. Croy said he was among six people inside the mill's lunchroom talking about training when the explosion happened. "That thing came up so fast, so quick. I don't know where it came from, but it was almost like a cannon going off. It blew through there. It ended just that quick," he said. He said the explosion knocked the lunchroom's plywood walls down on top of him, but there was a little bit of space between him and the collapsed wall. The mill's lights remained on, but dark smoke engulfed him and he had to put a coat over his face so he could breathe. "I thought: 'This is it.' I consciously stuck my face in my coat, eh, and it (the smoke) went away." He and his coworkers got out through the gap in the outside wall created by the explosion. Behind them, smaller explosions went off. "It's almost like you were coming out of the war zone. Everything was levelled. I met that one fellow. I think his fingers were blown off, and his clothing, a lot of it was gone. It was burned off and his hair." Mr. Croy said he asked the injured co-worker to follow him and others to a first-aid station, located outside the mill and near a planer. At the first-aid station, injured workers were sitting on a tarp, holding up their burned arms and hands, he said. Some were moaning but others were in shock and were quiet. One worker, suffering from burns, refused to sit on a chair, said Mr. Croy, because the injuries were less painful if he stood up and bounced around. Another worker lay on the tarp naked, without any hair and burned black. Mr. Croy said paramedics set up an ambulance station, and he drove a few people to hospital before dropping by the office and then heading home to his wife and grandson. It took a while, but Mr. Croy said he has calmed down and quit shaking. "The explosion was catastrophic," said RCMP Cpl. Craig Douglass early in the evening. "They're throwing water on it but I don't think it's going to be one we can win." The explosion shattered a quiet evening for Glen Thielmann, who was reading bedtime stories to his kids when the blast occurred. "It rocked the house and sucked the window shut." Shortly afterwards, Mr. Thielmann walked down the block to join his neighbours, who were watching the flames in the distance consume the mill. Mr. Thielmann said he lives about two kilometres away from the mill site. He estimated the flames had shot more than 60 metres into the air. Hours later, clouds and steam were still pouring from the mill. Sirens screamed through the night and the air smelled of wood smoke, he said. Andrew Johnson, 30, a web designer and a photographer, said he lives about five kilometres from the mill. "I actually felt the windows shake and the house shake from the initial explosion," he said. "It was interesting because it felt like there was a really big gust of wind that kind of just shook all of the windows in the house. So it kind of just caught you off-guard because you didn't expect it and it didn't seem like there was any wind outside." He said he could see the orange fire and smoke in the sky. "I can't tell what caused the explosion," said Mr. Croy. "All I know is that there was no warning, no nothing, because we'd walked through the mill and stuff to come up to that lunchroom and didn't smell no gas, no nothing. "So I couldn't say it was gas." According to the company website, about 170 people work at the facility. The sawmill and planer mill complex includes a hot oil energy system for drying lumber. The website said the mill's primary products are premier-grade, kiln-dried studs. The mill also supplies fibre for two bio-energy systems.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/down-to-earth-supervisor-sole-fatality-in-giant-fireball-explosion-at-bc-sawmill/article2411993/>



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#### USA, FLA, POLK CO, BARTOW, APRIL 25 2012. HIGHWAY 60 STILL SHUT DOWN FROM SULFURIC ACID SPILL IN BARTOW

eric glasser

[Watch the Video's](#)

- [S.R. 60 closed, driver burned after Polk acid spill](#)
- [One injured in Polk County sulfuric acid spill on State Road 60](#)
- [Highway 60 still shut down from sulfuric acid spill in Bartow](#)
- [Sulfuric acid spills onto Hwy. 60](#)

[Slideshow](#)

- [Chemical spill shuts down Bartow highway](#)



Hazardous materials crews were still on the scene of a major acid spill along Highway 60 in Polk County at midday Tuesday. The driver of the truck that was hauling the acid received burns over 10 percent of his body, mostly on his feet and legs. The closure is at Highway 60 at Rifle Range Road between downtown Bartow and Lake Wales. At noon, officials estimated it would be at least another hour on the eastbound side, as they try to clean up the 1,000 gallons of acid that spilled. However, the closure could last until late this afternoon or early Tuesday night for the westbound lanes. The accident happened at about 5:50 a.m. when investigators say the driver of the truck from DSI out of Ft. Myers was apparently forced to stop short at the intersection. In the back of his truck he was hauling six pods, each containing

250 gallons of sulfuric acid with a 93 percent concentration. Those pods are supposed to be tied down, but apparently they either were not or malfunctioned, said a fire rescue official. In either case, about a thousand gallons of the highly corrosive acid then leaked onto the road and into the median. The driver, who had still not been identified, apparently got out his truck and slipped, falling into the acid. Fortunately, a firehouse was within just a few hundred feet of the accident, and they were able to de-contaminate the victim quickly. He was then airlifted to Tampa General Hospital with second-degree burns on his legs and feet. Brad Ruhmann with Polk County Fire Rescue says they are using sodium bi-carbonate and baking soda in large amounts to neutralize the acid, and will then safely dispose of the soil which was affected. There does not appear to be any further environmental consequence. Traffic from the east and west was being diverted to a 10-mile detour around the spill site. At Dusty's Camper World, they were forced to shut down Tuesday since no traffic could come through the area. "This was supposed to be our grand re-opening week," says one worker, who described the parking lot as "packed" on Monday.

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/article/252528/250/Hwy-60-still-shut-down-from-sulfuric-acid-spill->

#### USA, ILL, TREMONT, APRIL 25 2012. TRUCK TOWING HERBICIDE TANK TIPS OVER, SPILLS INTO PRAIRIE CREEK

An agricultural spreader containing about 1,200 gallons of herbicide fell into a Tazewell County creek Tuesday morning. The spreader being pulled by a truck tipped over into Prairie Creek after hitting a guard rail close to the intersection of Allentown Road and Fourth Avenue, according to a preliminary report by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. A strong chemical odor was present about 1,000 feet from the area of Allentown Road between Baer Road and Fourth Street. Workers posted "Emergency Scene Ahead" signs on Baer Road between Morton and Tremont. An unknown amount of the herbicide, as well as oil and diesel fuel from the vehicle, leaked into the water, according to a news release by Morton Fire Department Chief Joe Kelley. Kelley said the tank capacity was 1,200 gallons and it was nearly full, but that not all of the material spilled. The EPA was notified of the spill at the edge of a farm at about 11:30 a.m. and provided assistance to the Morton and Pekin fire departments. Two agents on the scene reported a large fish kill one mile downstream from the spill site, according to Illinois EPA spokeswoman Maggie Carson. The fish kill was reported to the Department of Natural Resources, and the two agencies will continue to investigate. Crews were working Tuesday afternoon to dam the creek and prevent further contamination. A private environmental consultant has been hired to design and implement a plan to minimize the effects and prevent any further damage from the accident, according to Carson. The driver was transported to Pekin Hospital after the accident. That person's identity and condition were not released on Tuesday.

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/x513713663/Truck-towing-herbicide-filled-tank-tips-over-spills-into-Prairie-Creek>



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