



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 842 Newsy Stuff

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

**May 28 2012**



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#### USA, WA, POINT ROBERTS, MAY 12 2012. CREWS CLEAN UP FUEL SPILL AT POINT ROBERTS MARINA

meg olson



*Crews responded with a boom truck and other fuel spill equipment.*

A fuel spill in the boat yard at the Point Roberts Marina that spread to the pond adjacent to the Marina Mist condominiums has residents concerned about toxins in their backyard. On May 13 at 1 a.m. Marina Mist resident Gail Brunetti called 911 to report a strong smell of fuel. The fire department responded and discovered a 36-foot trawler in drydock in front of Westwind Marine discharging diesel fuel on the ground. "There was a leak in the fuel line and the bilge pump was pumping it out," said fire chief Nick Kiniski. Fire fighters used oil spill containment equipment from the spill response trailer they maintain at the marina to mop up the spill. "While it was pumping out we were catching it in a can," Kiniski said, estimating the amount of fuel discharged was approximately 40 gallons, a portion of which went into the storm drain in the center of the yard. Westwind Marine owner Ben Lazarus said once the boat owner arrived and shut

off the power to the pump, he went through the drainage system with firefighters to see how far the spill had spread. "We traced the leak to the third drain and it appeared to have enough oil to soak an oil pad but not enough to be flowing," he said. "Our understanding at that time was that it was contained in the yard and that's what we reported," to the state department of ecology (DOE) and the county department of emergency management. Firefighters checked the pond and did not see evidence of oil, Kiniski said. "What was reported was a smell and the parking lot reeked of diesel," Lazarus said. "That's where they started and that's where they stopped." The diesel fuel, mixed with dissolved asphalt and fuel stabilizers, however, did not stop in the parking lot. The following morning Marina Mist residents woke up to a sheen on the water and effluent dripping from the storm drain that connects the pond to the marina's storm drains. "It was horrible," said resident Shirley McConnell after crews from NRC Environmental Services cleaned up the spill on May 15 and 16. "We're all sick, the dogs are sick and now it's three days later. This was a toxic spill that should have been handled differently. They didn't come back to look, even once. I think you have an obligation to inform people within a 100 yards of a spill like this." Kiniski and Lazarus said they were not aware the spill had spread to the canal. "I wish we would have known," Kiniski said. "No one contacted me. There are things we could have done." Lazarus said the portion of the canal he could see from the marina building did not appear to have a sheen on it, and access was hampered by large blackberry bushes. "I didn't realize it was accessible through Marina Mist," he said. The delay in getting a cleanup crew on site was due to concerns about their insurance through Canada, he said, but also to a perceived lack of urgency. "We didn't believe it escaped the yard," he said. When crews did arrive Lazarus said he had a patch cleared to check the pond and "we saw scum but weren't sure if it was pond scum or fuel." It was quickly determined to be fuel. NRC used booms and oil absorbent pads, returning the next day with a larger truck and a skiff. The canal discharges into marina waters and Lazarus said they found "what they described as an unrecoverable sheen" at the outfall. McConnell said they had filed a report with the DOE and the federal environmental protection agency. Representatives from these agencies did not have sufficient information about the incident to comment at this time. Brunetti thinks the marina's stormwater system needs to be reviewed and perhaps modified to add a layer of protection for condo residents and the environment. "How much other toxic material gets into it," she said. "This drains into the ocean and affects wildlife." "That detention pond did exactly what it was supposed to do," said marina manager Jacquelyne Everett. "Stop it before it gets to the ocean." Everett said the marina tests its stormwater system four times per year as per DOE requirements, sampling water from the pond for heavy metals and other toxins. "We are one of the few boatyards in the Pacific Northwest that has continually met standards." Clean up costs will be approximately \$20,000 and will be covered by the trawler owner's insurance.

[http://www.allpointbulletin.com/news/article.exm/2012-05-17\\_crews\\_respond\\_to\\_fuel\\_spill\\_at\\_point\\_roberts\\_marina](http://www.allpointbulletin.com/news/article.exm/2012-05-17_crews_respond_to_fuel_spill_at_point_roberts_marina)

#### CHINA, BEIJING, MAY 19 2012. NEW FUEL STANDARDS TO CUT POLLUTION IN CITY

zheng xin

Beijing will introduce new fuel standards on May 31 that municipal officials say are nearly on a par with the European Union's Euro V, the first Chinese city to do so. All fuel sold by retailers in the Chinese capital will be required to adhere to the new standards, which are expected to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from 50 to 10 milligrams per kilogram, according to the Beijing environmental protection bureau. "The new Beijing V standard fuel, once implemented, will greatly reduce the amount



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of pollutants in the air, including the PM 2.5, (particulate matter with a diameter smaller than 2.5 micrometers) and improve the city's air quality," said Li Kunsheng, director of the bureau's vehicle management department. "The capital will become the first in the nation to meet the benchmark." Li said Beijing's new standards will be close to the Euro V fuel standards. The European standards are the strictest in the world, according to Zhao Lijian, a researcher with the Energy Foundation. According to Li, the most vital improvement of the new fuel is that it contains less sulfur, a major air pollutant. "Excessive sulfur will lead to greater pollution," Li said. The cleaner fuel will also increase engine efficiency and reduce fuel consumption, Li said. According to experiments conducted by the China Automotive Technology and Research Center, the new fuel will cut pollutant emissions by 15 percent. "People can imagine, the tremendous improvement of the city's air quality if all of the more than 5 million automotive vehicles in the city adopt the new petroleum," Li said. The production of low-sulfur fuel will increase costs, said Fu Xingguo, an engineer at Sinopec Corp, China's largest oil refiner. However, the price of fuel will not be raised in the coming half year. Fu also said Sinopec and China National Petroleum Corporation have mastered the technologies of petroleum refining, with the country's oil processing capacity reaching 450 million tons in the year 2011. "However, we are still challenged by the shortage of crude oil resources for the moment," he said. Fu said some 56.5 percent of the oil was imported last year and had a high sulfur content. Car emissions have been increasing over the past few decades. "The exhaust emitted by automotive vehicles has replaced the coal-boilers to become the biggest source of air pollution in Beijing," Du Shaozhong, former deputy director for the Beijing environmental protection bureau said in February. Beijing has more than 5 million vehicles and 10 million registered drivers. According to Li, drivers from other provinces also have to pump the refined gasoline or diesel fuel when coming into the capital. "This is the rule of the city," he said. Ma Jun, director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, said improved fuel quality and emission standards are key to improving the air quality. "With many cities nationwide still adopting less strict fuel standards, Beijing is very much ahead of them," he said. Shanghai is adopting the China IV fuel standards and is considering implementing strict standards in 2013, according to the Shanghai environmental protection bureau. However, Ma said execution and joint efforts with neighboring provinces are equally important.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-05/18/content\\_15325468.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-05/18/content_15325468.htm)

#### USA, MA, MIDDLETON, MAY 19 2012. BOSTIK WILL PAY \$600K IN FINES FOR EXPLOSION

jesse roman



Bostik Inc. has agreed to pay \$600,000 in fines as a result of a massive explosion at its Middleton plant that rocked the North Shore last year. The fine was reduced by about a third from the \$917,000 the U.S. Department of Labor levied against the adhesives firm last September for 50 separate violations of workplace safety standards following the March 13, 2011, explosion. The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced the settlement yesterday. The fine reduction is not unusual to prevent a lengthy litigation process and "reflects in part the employer's willingness to put in resources to correct the issues that should have been

addressed in the first place," Ted Fitzgerald, a spokesman for the Labor Department, said in an interview. The most notable change is that Bostik will no longer use the direct solvation process — the chemical process under way at the time of the explosion — at the Middleton facility. The explosion occurred when a valve was left open, resulting in the release of flammable acetone vapors. The vapors exploded after being ignited by an undetermined source, according to the state fire marshal. Four workers were hurt, and the resulting boom was heard and felt for miles. Bostik is at 211 Boston St. near the West Peabody line. The company manufactures adhesives and sealants for use in everything from gas tankers and buildings to furniture and diapers, according to the company's website. A six-month OSHA investigation concluded last fall that the most severe of Bostik's violations were the "serious deficiencies" in the company's process safety management program — an incredibly comprehensive safety document required of companies that have more than 10,000 pounds of hazardous materials on-site. The document must be continually updated and includes all safety precautions, issues, procedures, causes of past accidents and more. Since then, Bostik has taken "corrective action to address deficiencies in its PSM program and enhance the program's effectiveness," according to a statement released yesterday by the Labor Department. "The settlement commits Bostik to strengthening its PSM program to prevent the possibility of a similar incident in the future, and to apprise us of its progress in abating the hazards," said Jeffrey A. Erskine, OSHA's area director for northeastern Massachusetts. Bostik has



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already paid the \$600,000 fine, which goes into the U.S. Treasury's general fund, not to OSHA or the Labor Department, Fitzgerald said. Calls to Bostik's corporate officials in Wisconsin were not immediately returned.

<http://www.salemnews.com/local/x1968162426/Bostik-will-pay-600K-in-fines-for-explosion>

#### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MAY 19 2012. STRICKEN SHIP DRIFTING TOWARDS GREAT BARRIER REEF

Map: [Cairns 4870](#)

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is monitoring a bulk carrier that is drifting out of control toward the Great Barrier Reef in far north Queensland. The Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier ID Integrity broke around 6:00pm (AEST) last night, about 175 nautical miles north-east of Cairns. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority says the ship cannot drop anchor because the ocean is too deep in that area. The crew is trying to repair the engine and the owners of the ship have sent two tugs in case the vessel cannot be restarted. Authority spokeswoman Carly Lusk says the ship is drifting in the ocean. "The crew is currently attempting to repair the engine in the hope that the vessel will be able to resume its passage," she said. "Contingency planning is underway in case the crew cannot get the engine restarted." Australian Reef Pilots chief executive Simon Meyers says the ship is drifting in a westerly direction towards Shark and Vema Reefs about 80 nautical miles from the Great Barrier Reef. "The indications currently are that the emergency response vessels would not reach those particular reefs, however, it is not certain at this stage whether the ship is at risk of hitting those isolated outer reefs," he said.

[http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-05-19/ship-drifting-towards-great-barrier-reef/4021460?WT.mc\\_id=newsmail](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-05-19/ship-drifting-towards-great-barrier-reef/4021460?WT.mc_id=newsmail)

#### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, MUSWELLBROOK, MAY 19 2012. COUNCIL COMMITTEE BACKS ORICA'S EXPLOSIVES STORE PLAN

*frances thompson*

Shire Council is expected to vote on the Denman Orica explosives store proposal in June after a council environment committee gave conditional approval to the project. The committee, which considered the proposal early this year, recommended conditions including restricted hours of operations, a ban on heavy vehicles through Denman and a ban on the use of Thomas Mitchell Drive for ammonium nitrate transport until the major mine access road is upgraded. Muswellbrook mayor Martin Rush noted the committee's comments and recommendations, but said that contrary to reports, the Orica proposal had not yet been approved. "Council has not yet determined Orica's application, and we would not be expecting to determine the application until next month," he said. "The environment committee is an advisory committee that met three months ago and has given advice that it supports conditional approval. "The council is still awaiting information from Roads and Maritime Services. The council is yet to assess all information before it in relation to this application." An Orica spokeswoman said the present focus was to develop a storage site for 2000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, but the company never said expanded operations were "out of the question". Any new proposal would involve a separate application, she said. The possibility of further development of the former Rosemount site was a matter of concern for several environment committee members, including Peter Kennedy and John Shewan, and Denman resident Bruce Macpherson. The environment committee described risk assessments associated with the project as not adequate. Orica said the risk assessment was compiled within NSW government guidelines and risks associated with the project were considered to be "acceptable". A development application for the reuse of the former Rosemount site was lodged with the council in January.

<http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/business/council-committee-backs-oricas-explosives-store-plan/2561522.aspx>

#### NEW ZEALAND, MAPUA, MAY 19 2012. MAPUA WORKERS SHOULD BE GIVEN MEDICAL AID - GREENS

 **Watch the Video** [Workers Made Sick Cleaning Up Toxic Blackspot](#)

Green Party MPs say workers who cleaned up the nation's most contaminated site, near Nelson, should be given the same access to state care as others exposed to dangerous chemicals. A leaked Department of Labour report into a clean-up at the Fruitgrowers Chemical Company site in Mapua several years ago finds significant failures by the Environment Ministry and the company responsible for the clean-up, EDL. It says medical assessments of four workers show a variety of problems such as collapsing, headaches, nausea, visual disturbances, fatigue and slurred speech, and it does not rule out the possibility other workers could suffer future work-related health problems. A Green MP Catherine Delahunty says the report should be recommending the workers get the same access to medical checks and treatment as those exposed to dioxin at the old Whakatane sawmill. In 2010 the Health Ministry offered surviving employees of that mill free health checks and support.



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Environment Ministry officials say they are offering medical assessments to all workers involved in the Mapua clean-up, as recommended in the report. The ministry says it has contacted the firms involved, asking them to offer a medical assessment to the 30 or so people who worked at the site. Decontamination began in 1999 at the former Fruitgrowers Chemical Company site, where chemicals had leached into the ground, but not all possible safety precautions were taken during the soil remediation. The report now recommends the Department of Labour upgrade its guidelines on cleaning up contaminated sites to include that, in such projects, workers are encouraged to report any poor health symptoms. A man involved in the clean-up, who was not part of the report, said standards were lacking and in one particularly bad area workers wore no protective gear. This man, who does not want to be named, said he was fired for speaking out about the way the clean-up was operated. And a woman who lives opposite the Mapua clean-up site says the company responsible for cleaning it up should be held to account for poor safety standards. Annette Walker, whose property borders the site, says it was difficult to get EDL to listen to complaints about the clean-up and she never received the results of tests done on her property. The Department of Labour is not commenting on the claims or the report until it is officially released next week. But in a brief statement, the department says it has already acted on several of the report's recommendations and how to improve the clean-up of contaminated sites in the future.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/top/106179/mapua-workers-should-be-given-medical-aid-greens>

### USA, CA, SAN CLEMENTE, MAY 19 2012. ROCKS IN WOMAN'S SHORTS SPONTANEOUSLY CATCH FIRE

 **Watch the Video** [Beach Rocks that Burst into Flames in O.C. Woman's Pocket Tested](#)

 **Photo's [5]** [Woman Suffers Severe Burns after Rocks Collected during Beach Visit Ignite in her Pocket](#)



*Orange and green rocks: A close-up of the Trestles Beach rocks show smooth stones of grey and green with orange flecks.*



*Blackened: Other samples of the stones show the same orange colour - but now with blackened areas where they have 'burned'.*

If you think you've had some strange days in your life, listen to this: rocks that a California woman was carrying in her shorts caught fire – as in spontaneous combustion - after a trip to a California beach with her family. The fire left her with severe burns and local authorities are looking into whether phosphorous on the stones may be to blame for the fire. The rocks were given to the Orange County Health Care Agency for testing and Denise Hennessey, assistant director of environmental health at the agency, told a reporter that initial tests indicated two of the rocks had phosphorous on them. They are being sent to a state lab for verification. Local officials said the woman was carrying rocks that her kids had picked up during a family trip to the San Onofre State Beach on Saturday. The unidentified woman, 43, said she was in her kitchen about an hour after returning from the beach to her San Clemente home, and the shorts she was wearing all of sudden caught fire. She tried to stop, drop and roll as people are taught to do but it did not put the flames out. Her husband tried to help and he got second-degree burns when he tried to pull the shorts off. Eventually the two rocks fell from the shorts onto the floor and continued to burn the wood floor and fill the house with smoke. The husband was eventually able to get the shorts off his wife and was hosing her down with water outside when firefighters arrived. His wife sustained second- and third-degree burns on her right



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leg from her thigh to her knee and on her right arm and the husband sustained second-degree burns on his arm. A local newspaper, the Orange County Register said paramedics treated the woman and man for their burns and then transported both to a medical center in Santa Ana. The rocks were reportedly still smoking when firefighters took the couple to the medical center. Firefighters took the rocks with them to show to doctors.

#### Related Stories

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<http://www.skyvalleychronicle.com/BREAKING-NEWS/ROCKS-IN-WOMAN-S-SHORTS-SPONTANEOUSLY-CATCH-FIRE-1005179>

## SCOTLAND, MORAY, KINLOSS, MAY 19 2012. INVESTIGATION INTO RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION CONCERNS AT RAF KINLOSS

david miller

*"It does seem that there's an absence of records about where material was deposited" - Dr Paul DaleSepa*

*It is believed that more than 1,000 aircraft were dismantled at Kinloss after the end of WWII.*



RAF Kinloss in Moray is to be the focus of a new investigation into radioactive contamination, BBC Scotland has learned. It is linked to the use of "glow in the dark" paint in aircraft from WWII. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) has already threatened to designate Dalgety Bay in Fife as radioactive contaminated land. But the site is now just one of nine locations across Scotland which are under scrutiny. Environmental reports, known as Land Quality Assessments, prepared for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) show the authorities have been aware of "potential human health and environmental risks" at Kinloss since at least 2004. The documents also suggest that radiological contamination could extend to land which was sold and is no longer part of the base. It is believed that more than 1,000 aircraft were dismantled at Kinloss after the end of WWII. Instruments coated with "glow in the dark" paint containing radium

were burned and buried at the site. The Scottish government is to write to Defence Secretary Phillip Hammond calling for the "full disclosure" of records relating to radiological contamination at Kinloss. Richard Lochhead, Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, said: "It's very clear that here we have another case where we need absolute transparency from the MoD. "We have to understand what the situation is at that site, particularly if it is the case that we're talking about land that has been sold off and is no longer owned by the MoD. People living there, or close by, will want peace of mind." Fred Dawson, a former head of policy for radiation protection at the MoD, said it was vital that accurate records were kept of land which may be



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contaminated to allow future users to ensure radioactive material is not disturbed. He added: "As long as radium remains buried, it's of no great concern. The problem is if it's disturbed. For instance if you're redeveloping a site, and lots of airfields have been redeveloped, you're then putting in foundations. "It's then that you're bringing this material to the surface and into contact with people. That's really what happened at Dalgety Bay." Sepa has told BBC Scotland it is to investigate the situation at Kinloss. Dr Paul Dale, the agency's radioactive substances specialist, said: "It does seem that there's an absence of records about where material was deposited. "We need to look at that, and we need to look at the assessments that have been done by the MoD and evaluate whether they're appropriate and evaluate whether anything further is needed." The MoD has not commented on the suggestion that land outside the base may be contaminated. But it said a review of the quality of the land at RAF Kinloss was already under way, ahead of the transfer of the base to the Army. A spokesman said: "The MoD is committed to assessing land quality across the entire defence estate. This robust, proactive programme mirrors industry best practice, ensures the land is suitable for use and will not cause harm to people or the environment. "RAF Kinloss is considered suitable for its current use."

#### Scottish Sites Which are, or have been, Contaminated with Radium

- Dalgety Bay, Fife
- RAF Kinloss, Moray
- RAF Machrihanish, Argyll
- RM Condor, near Arbroath
- Former Defence Aviation Repair Agency site, Almondbank, near Perth
- Stirling Forthside (remediation work completed)
- The locations of three other sites have not been released by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency

#### Related Links

- [Fishing ban over radiation fear](#)
- [Radioactive beach warning ignored](#)
- [No solution for radioactive beach](#)
- [MoD briefed on radioactive beach](#)
- [Call over airbase 'radium' probe](#)
- [Investigation into radioactive contamination concerns at RAF Kinloss](#)
- [Radium contamination at RAF Machrihanish publicly admitted](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-18122594>

#### USA, FLA, TALLAHASSEE, MAY 19 2012. CONTAMINANTS FOUND IN WAREHOUSE PARKING LOT SOIL >> POPULAR GAINES STREET SITE TO UNDERGO FEDERALLY FUNDED CLEANUP

nina reich



*Soil in the parking lot outside of The Warehouse. A federally funded cleanup will remove contaminants from the contaminated site.*

A federally funded test and assessment provided by Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT) has found soil and groundwater contamination at The Warehouse property on Gaines Street. Chemical tests of the site evidenced levels of benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(a)pyrene equivalents and arsenic. The ECT reported the sources of contamination as the release of petroleum products while the site was used as a bulk fueling facility, the application of arsenical herbicides along the former railroad tracks and potential releases of fluids from vehicles using the property for parking. Past industrial uses of the property led to the present day contamination. According to the Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives and Remedial Action Plan's (ABCA/RAP) historical land

use review, The Warehouse property was home to two fuel distributors, which operated from at least 1930 until 1980 or later. As found by the ECT, discharges of generic gasoline, vehicular diesel, fuel and fuel oil were reported on April 20, 1990 on the eastern half of The Warehouse Property. With these findings, the Florida Department of Health was notified, and under the Abandoned Tank Restoration Program (ATRP), the site was deemed eligible for state funded cleanup. In 1992, the ATRP



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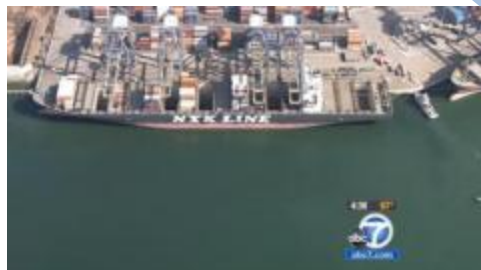
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funds were put to work, and in line with information gathered in the ABCA/RAP by a review of the FDEP's OCULUS database, both soil and groundwater petroleum contamination were documented. However, the ATRP work was halted due to the low score (in regards to contamination) of the site. Due to the chemicals' Soil Cleanup Target Levels (SCTL), the ABCA/RAP reports that the highest risk that the site may present would occur at a time that included any below-grade or surface construction activities, leading to the disturbance of existing soils to the point where they would become prevalent within the air and potentially impact construction workers, citizens who walk on or near the property and workers and customers of adjacent businesses. Although risks of exposure have been found, the main goal of the ABCA/RAP is to rid the area of hazard, as reported specifically, "to limit or eliminate exposure pathways as they relate to the chemicals of concern in the soils." Since the Gaines Street renovations began, City of Tallahassee Environmental Programs Coordinator Koren L. Taylor says there has been a renewed interest in cleaning the site. "Since the City of Tallahassee's water and sewer upgrade work in 2010 and the 2011 road work in the Gaines Street area, 'G Street' has experienced an increase in redevelopment interest from development companies," Taylor said. The City of Tallahassee recently received \$1 million in federal Brownfields Grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be used for contamination testing and cleanup. The cleanup is now actively being handled under the Brownfields Grant. The EPA's Brownfields Program works closely with other EPA programs and federal partners, along with state agencies, to pinpoint environmental concerns and make available resources that can be put into use for Brownfields projects such as the Gaines contamination cleanup. According to the EPA's website, cleanup grants provide funding for a grant recipient to carry out cleanup activities at Brownfields sites. "Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties protects the environment, reduces blight and takes development pressures off greenspaces and working lands," The EPA stated on the site. The grant money provided Tallahassee with a solution to the contamination problem, Taylor said. "As part of ongoing City and Brownfields work in the area, the city is using EPA Brownfields Grant funding to address soil contamination at two lots known as The Warehouse Property, adjacent to The Warehouse Bar," confirmed Taylor. "This will allow the city's Public Works Department to build a parking lot at the northwest corner of Gay Street and Gaines Street [to address the problem]." In line with the City of Tallahassee's redevelopment plan, the ABCA/RAP states the paving of the property will "result in the removal of some of the contaminated soil from the property, serve as an engineering control to prevent exposure to contaminated soils and serve to prevent storm water infiltration through contaminated soils." The construction itself will last a short time and will be completed by the end of summer 2012. "The project will begin in mid-June, and the cleanup will last about two weeks," said Taylor. Additional changes, including the paving of The Warehouse parking lot, are projected to take an additional two to three weeks past the start date of the overall cleanup efforts.

<http://www.fsunews.com/article/20120518/FSVIEW/120518019/Contaminants-found-Warehouse-parking-lot-soil?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7Cfrontpage>

#### USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, MAY 19 2012. SHIP EVACUATED FOR LEAK OF UNKNOWN GAS IN LA PORT



*A cargo ship that was evacuated after gas leak was reported on board in the LA Harbor is seen Friday, May 18, 2012.*

Fire officials say a large cargo ship has been evacuated in Los Angeles harbor as firefighters work to find the source of a gas leak. The incident began early Friday afternoon. Fire spokesman Matt Spence says the type of gas is unknown and may be coming from a container at the bottom of a deep stack of containers. About 25 firefighters, wearing gas masks, are working to find the source of the gas by removing the containers piece by piece. Spence says the ship was outbound from the Port of Los Angeles, and it's unclear what its haul is. Spence says there's no immediate cause for alarm or immediate indication

of terror threat as firefighters investigate the situation.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_20657231/ship-evacuated-leak-unknown-gas-la-port](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_20657231/ship-evacuated-leak-unknown-gas-la-port)

#### USA, TX, DEER PARK, MAY 19 2012. SHELL LIFTS DEER PARK REFINING SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER, SRU RELEASE SECURED, UNIT SHUT

Royal Dutch Shell said Friday that its call to residents in the vicinity of its joint-venture refinery in Deer Park, Texas, to shelter in place was lifted after refinery personnel stabilized operations following a sulfur recovery unit shutdown. Deer Park Refining's on-site emergency responders shut the sulfur recovery unit shortly after 7:30 p.m. CDT on Thursday, when the unit



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experienced the release of hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide. The release was reported to the National Response Center. "The affected unit was shut down and operations stabilized within an hour," Shell spokeswoman Emily Oberton said. All personnel are accounted for and 65 contractor workers were medically evaluated, four of whom were treated on site for symptoms, such as skin irritation, Oberton added. Citing company policy, she wasn't able to comment on whether the incident had, or is having, an effect on production at the 327,000-barrels-a-day refinery. The Deer Park refinery is operated by Shell Oil, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, in partnership with PMI Norteamerica S.A. de C.V., a subsidiary of Petroleos Mexicanos.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/05/18/shell-lifts-deer-park-refining-shelter-in-place-order-sru-release-secured-unit/>

### USA, WA, PUGET SOUND, MAY 19 2012. COAST GUARD FAILED TO FIND THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF FUEL ON DERELICT VESSEL



The fishing vessel, Deep Sea, was moored at the Seattle Terminal until December, when Rory Westmoreland bought the boat and moved it to Penn Cove.

Four months before the derelict fishing vessel, Deep Sea, caught fire and sank in the Puget Sound, the U.S. Coast Guard reported finding "minimal fuel" in its tank. That assessment has turned out to be inaccurate. A Coast Guard contractor has removed 3,600 gallons of diesel fuel and that work is not complete. The vessel has a fuel capacity of more than 30,000 gallons. Coast Guard Marine Science Technician Michael Berlin conducted the fuel assessment in January, about a month after its owner, Rory Westmoreland, anchored it in Penn Cove off Whidbey Island. He explains how the miscalculation occurred: "We could only access one forward tank which had 50-100 gallons in it and we didn't have any schematics for the ship and so we couldn't identify the other fuel tanks." Berlin [emailed](#) his January findings to

Washington state's Derelict Vessel Program manager. The email noted the following aboard the Deep Sea:

- "Minimal fuel" in fuel tank
- A 55-gallon drum on deck marked "motor oil"
- Six 5-gallon buckets with waste oil
- Ten inches of oily water in bilge

At that time, the Coast Guard determined the vessel did not pose a substantial or imminent threat to the environment, Berlin said. The shellfish industry did not agree and asked state officials to move the boat, which was anchored over state aquatic lands. The Washington [Department of Natural Resources](#) had been trying to make Westmoreland move the vessel since January, contacting the owner almost two dozen times and fining the owner \$83.44 each day the vessel remained illegally moored. The Deep Sea is only one of dozens of derelict and abandoned vessels that threaten the waters of Washington and Oregon. Officials in the two states, along with the Coast Guard, have identified 41 vessels that they have dubbed "vessels of concern." The Deep Sea was not on the list. The Coast Guard hired a private contractor, Ballard Diving & Salvage, to remove the oil from the Deep Sea. The Coast Guard and Washington state officials will decide the final fate of the vessel. Leaving the Deep Sea underwater is not a good option, said Larry Altose, a spokesman for the Department of Ecology. "This is a steel vessel. When it's resting on the bottom, over time it will rust. So in spite of all best efforts to locate whatever oil may be on board the vessel, there's still the possibility that pockets may have floated into some nook or cranny," Altose said. State officials have estimated it could take about \$500,000 to lift and remove the vessel. An investigation of the fire and sinking of the vessel is underway. This story originally appeared through the [EarthFix public media collaboration](#).

#### Vessels of Concern

Following the \$22 million Davy Crockett cleanup, agencies united to form the Derelict Vessel Task Force. So far, they have identified 41 vessels to monitor. Sizes range from small floating homes to the LST 1166, which is 373 feet long. Source: Derelict Vessel Task Force.

<http://news.opb.org/article/coast-guard-failed-to-find-thousands-of-gallons-of-fuel-on-derelict-vessel/>



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#### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, YARRAVILLE, MAY 19 2012. MOBIL TOLD TO STOP POLLUTING YARRA



*Mobil has been pumping waste into the Yarra River for 40 years.*

Mobil Oil has been ordered to stop polluting the Yarra River with industrial discharge in a historic deal to improve the health of the waterway. The deal to be announced by the state government today will end decades of companies being allowed to pour contaminated water into the Yarra, which environmentalists fear is already over-polluted. Mobil has been pumping waste water into the Yarra for 40 years. It was the last remaining corporation allowed to do so, after the Environment Protection Authority last year granted it a licence to continue the discharges, a move widely condemned at the time. Under a new agreement with the EPA, the company will now be required to divert the waste water from its oil refinery at Yarraville to City West Water's sewerage system. It has been given until June next year to make the infrastructure upgrades necessary to comply with the arrangement - meaning up to 25 kilolitres of waste water will go into the river every day until then. Environment Minister Ryan Smith said the deal would nonetheless see an end to "yesteryear practices" that were "completely inconsistent with community expectations". "Improving the health of the river and bay is a job for all of us in the community and it is good to see industry playing their part," he said. But while the minister hopes the river will eventually be safe for swimming, EPA chief John Merritt said this was unlikely. "If you look at the health of every river that flows through every major city, none of them are swimming pools," he said. E. coli bacteria readings taken by the EPA on Wednesday show pollution remains a big problem, with low water quality around the Princes Bridge and medium quality around Docklands, Abbotsford and South Yarra. Over the years, businesses along the Yarra - including the Port of Melbourne, Orica and Sugar Australia - were allowed to discharge waste water into the river, but the EPA has been phasing this out gradually. Mobil has had a licence to pump waste water into the river since 1973. Spokesman Alan Bailey said Mobil discharged about 25 kilolitres of waste water a day, far less than the maximum permitted under the licence. Environmentalists and lobby groups have welcomed the shift, but say a lot more needs to be done to improve the Yarra's health. Ian Penrose, for the Yarra Riverkeepers Association, said greater priority must be given to finding alternative water sources - such as stormwater and recycled water - to safeguard the river from "over-extraction". But a major problem, he said, was the river being "constantly degraded by encroaching urban development".

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/mobil-told-to-stop-polluting-yarra-20120519-1yxt2.html>

#### USA, CA, SACRAMENTO, MAY 20 2012. CAL-OSHA CITES COMPANY OVER RAIL CAR PROPANE FIRE

cathy locke

The [California Division of Occupational Safety and Health](#) alleges that an employee and a [rail car](#) tanker involved in a propane tanker fire in August were not properly grounded or bonded to prevent the accumulation of static electricity that could have ignited flammable vapors or gases. Cal-OSHA issued five citations to Titan Propane/Northern Energy, the owner and operator of the propane storage and transfer facility in Lincoln, where the fire started Aug. 23 and burned for two days, forcing the evacuation of approximately 4,800 homes. The citations - one for a general violation and four for violations categorized as serious - carry proposed penalties totaling \$42,975, according to Cal-OSHA documents. The company has appealed the citations, which were issued in February. Erika Monterroza, a spokeswoman for the state Department of [Industrial Relations](#), said no date has been set for an appeal hearing. The company in appeal documents takes issue with the citation regarding static electricity, stating that a determination has yet to be made as to the ignition source or cause of the rail car fire. It also argues that bonding and grounding of a rail car sitting on a spur line is not required unless fuel is being transferred, and in this case fuel was not being transferred. The general citation also says that an inspection of the [storage facility](#) found that two tall compressed gas cylinders containing propane were not secured or stored to prevent them from creating a hazard by tipping, falling or rolling. The company in its appeal, states that the cylinders were being stored before being taken to a different location for refurbishing and were believed to be empty of fuel at the time. Other citations address issues involving employee clothing and safety gear. Monterroza said the appeal process often takes several months, and a judge typically works with the parties to resolve issues before scheduling a hearing.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/05/19/4501390/cal-osh-cites-company-over-rail.html>



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#### CHINA, HUNAN PROVINCE, YANLING COUNTY, ZHUZHOU CITY, MAY 19 2012. 20 DEAD IN EXPRESSWAY TUNNEL BLAST IN C. CHINA

One body of the 20 victims killed in the central China tunnel explosion Saturday has been retrieved, rescuers told Xinhua in the wee hours of Sunday. When the blast occurred, a total of 24 people were working at the Bamianshan tunnel, which is being built for the Yanling-Rucheng expressway, in Yanling county of Zhuzhou city, Hunan Province. Four of them were pulled out, including one in critical conditions and another slightly injured, the Hunan provincial transport department said in a statement. The two injured have been hospitalized. Rescuers have conducted life detections for six times at the site, with no sign of life detected, Yang Jun with the fire brigade of Yanling county told Xinhua. The explosion happened at about 8:30 a.m. when a vehicle carrying explosives was unloading in the tunnel that involves a designed length of 2,355 meters. The explosives were contained in 12 cases each with a weight of 24 kilograms, according to the contractor of the tunnel project. An investigation into the cause of the explosion is under way, and rescue and clear-up work is continuing.

<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2012/05/20/3241s700814.htm>

#### SINGAPORE, MAY 19 2012. FERRARI CATCHES FIRE AT PETROL STATION



The car was slightly burnt and had to be towed away from the Havelock Road kiosk. The driver, said to be in his 30s, escaped unscathed. Amid the attention on Ferraris this week, one burst into flames at a petrol kiosk on Thursday night. The car was slightly burnt and had to be towed away, while the pump station was damaged and had to be shut down for three hours. The driver of the Ferrari, described as plump and in his 30s, escaped unscathed as he managed to put out the small flames on his pants quickly with a nearby fire extinguisher. Speaking to The Straits Times at the Singapore Petroleum Company kiosk in Havelock Road, pump attendant Prakash, who goes by only one name, said he usually lays a towel under the petrol tank before filling it up to prevent any leakage.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory\\_800655.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory_800655.html)

#### USA, MA, WESTWOOD, MAY 20 2012. MBTA BUS GAS LEAK FORCES EVACUATION

erin smith &jordan graham

 Watch the Video

- [MBTA Bus Accident East Street Bridge, Westwood, MA](#)
- [MBTA Bus Roof is Torn Off by Railroad Bridge](#)
- [Roof of MBTA Bus Torn Off by Bridge in Westwood](#)

 Photo's [5] [MBTA Bus Stuck under East Street Bridge](#)



**Gas Leak:** Firefighters surround an MBTA bus after it hit a railroad bridge in Westwood yesterday afternoon.

An MBTA bus driver took a wrong turn and crashed into a Westwood bridge yesterday, peeling the roof off the compressed-natural-gas-powered vehicle and causing a leak that led firefighters to evacuate the area. The bus driver, a 12-year veteran who was making her first trip to a shuttle service between Dedham and Readville, slammed into a low railroad bridge on East Street clearly marked "Low Clearance" in bright yellow paint about 3:15 p.m., MBTA spokeswoman Lydia Rivera said in an email. The driver, the only one on the bus at the time of the crash, was not injured. A pipe on one of the six gas tanks on the bus roof broke on impact and damaged the valves, making it impossible to turn the potentially dangerous gas off, said Westwood Fire Department Capt. Steven Lund. Crews had to empty the gas tanks before towing the bus, Lund said.

Compressed natural gas is an asphyxiant and is highly flammable. However, it is lighter than air and disperses more quickly than regular natural gas. Firefighters closed the road and a nearby Roche Bros. for several hours as a precaution. "They came in and took readings and told us we should evacuate," said Roche Bros. manager Kevin Morrison. Morrison said no one was



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injured from exposure to gas and the store reopened at 5 p.m. The bus sustained "significant damage," Rivera said. When asked if the driver would face suspension or a driving citation, Rivera said, "The accident will be investigated and appropriate action will be taken."

[http://bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20220520mbta\\_bus\\_gas\\_leak\\_forces\\_evacuation](http://bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20220520mbta_bus_gas_leak_forces_evacuation)

### CANADA, NL, COME BY CHANCE, MAY 20 2012. 30,000 BARRELS LEAK AT COME BY CHANCE; OIL CONTAINED



There has been a major leak of oil at the Come by Chance refinery. No oil has entered the water, officials say, and the leak has been contained. It is currently being cleaned up. Refinery official Gloria Warren-Slade says 30,000 barrels of crude spilled. The problem is a leak in one of the 45 holding tanks on site. The company says there's no threat to the environment. And the spill hasn't interrupted operations at Come by Chance. The oil is the type commonly referred to as bunker oil. Warren-Slade says the leaked oil has been contained by the berm system known as an impounding basin that surrounds each of the 45 storage tanks. She says the system is an emergency mechanism — like a trenching system or a ditch — that performed as designed in this case, containing and controlling the oil. The oil will be reprocessed at the refinery, according to

Warren-Slade. Refinery officials are now investigating the reason for the leak.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2012/05/18/nl-come-by-chance-spill-518.html>

### USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, MAY 20 2012. HILCORP LOOKS TO RESUME OIL STORAGE IN SHADOW OF VOLCANO >> HILCORP ALASKA TOOK OVER DRIFT RIVER TERMINAL AND APPLIED FOR PLAN RENEWAL.

wesley loy



*The Drift River Terminal tank farm is seen from the air with Mount Redoubt behind it. The facility, located on Cook Inlet, was affected by lahars and sediment-laden water flows after the volcano erupted on March 23, 2009. The facility has 148,000 barrels of crude oil stored. Production has been halted. Coast Guard and the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation are monitoring the site.*

Hilcorp Alaska plans to resume storing oil at the Drift River tank farm on the west side of Cook Inlet. In fact, the company already has obtained interim permission to fill one of the enormous tanks at Drift River. Hilcorp has told state officials it's important to bring Drift River storage capacity back online to avoid production shut-ins. But the state is requiring Hilcorp to make certain improvements to safeguard the remote property from flooding that could result from an eruption of nearby Redoubt volcano. An eruption in 2009 forced an evacuation of the Drift

River terminal and an emergency drawdown of stored oil. The tank farm since has been essentially mothballed. Because of the proximity to an active volcano, not everyone is pleased to see the tank farm come back into service. The Drift River terminal is where tankers load west Cook Inlet crude for delivery to refineries, chiefly Tesoro's refinery on the opposite side of the inlet. The Redoubt eruption sent mud flows known as lahars down the Drift River. Berms built around the tank farm saved it from a potentially disastrous inundation and spill. Hilcorp took over the terminal Jan. 1 as part of its purchase of Chevron's Cook Inlet properties. A Hilcorp subsidiary, Cook Inlet Pipe Line Co., or CIPL, operates the terminal. Hilcorp has applied to the state for renewal of the oil spill prevention and response plan for the terminal and the 42-mile pipeline that feeds into it from fields to the north. The company proposes using two of the terminal's seven storage tanks as a way to improve handling of west Inlet oil production. Hilcorp plans a public workshop on the Drift River terminal reopening on May 23 at the Soldotna Sports Center. Hilcorp hopes to have a range of people on hand to answer questions, including representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the Alaska Volcano Observatory. Also expected at the workshop is Jim Aldrich of Fairbanks, who helped design the flood control system after Redoubt's 1989-90 eruption produced a lahar that partially flooded the Drift River terminal. Redoubt is 106 miles southwest of Anchorage. It rises to 10,198 feet above sea level. The Drift River terminal is about 22 miles northeast of



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the volcano. The Drift River is on one side of the tank farm, with an offshoot called Rust Slough running along the other side. The river currently is sediment-filled and dry, said DEC environmental program specialist Shannon DeWandel. Hilcorp spokeswoman Lori Nelson said Hilcorp is planning summer construction to improve the fortifications around the tank farm. But it's unclear exactly what that work will entail. The company is still awaiting a final engineering report from Aldrich, Nelson said. The 2009 lahars deposited a lot of material up against the tank farm berms, reducing their "freeboard," so the barriers will have to be raised a few feet. This will involve building up the earthen berms, or installing sheet piling. "We've already ordered the sheet pipe," Nelson said. The engineering report, she said, will help determine the height needed and what forces the barriers will need to withstand. "We're hoping to have the project completed by early fall. Oct. 1 is the deadline we're shooting for," Nelson said. Brice Construction, which helped install the original tank farm protections after the 1989-90 volcanic event, will be involved in making the improvements, she said. The original fortifications worked well to protect the tank farm in 2009, Nelson said. "It was a non-incident. There was not a single drop of oil spilled," she said, and no one was hurt. DEC on April 27 approved CIPL's request to use Drift River Tank 3 for oil storage. The approval is good until Sept. 30. The company cited a number of circumstances as the basis for its April 24 request, including a disruption in tanker arrivals at the terminal. Since the tank farm shutdown, operators have used a "tight line" technique to pipe crude from upstream producers directly onto tankers. But due to unscheduled maintenance on one of the ships hauling for Tesoro -- the tanker Overseas Boston -- west Cook Inlet oil producers were facing shut-ins for lack of storage and tankers calling often enough at Drift River. Not only was Hilcorp's production subject to shut-in but also that of Cook Inlet Energy and Exxon Mobil, CIPL said. The company also noted it had lost 40,000 barrels of storage capacity due to tank maintenance at the Trading Bay production facility. Finally, CIPL said having Drift River storage available would alleviate problems in trying to pig its pipeline during tight line operations. A pig is a device that slides through a pipeline to test for anomalies such as corrosion. CIPL said it has a regulatory obligation to conduct a pig run by August. In granting approval to use Tank 3, DEC is requiring CIPL to schedule a tanker to respond right away to drain the tank should the volcano observatory raise the Redoubt alert level. And the tank may be used "only as needed to avoid shutting in the producing wells." Resuming regular storage operations at the Drift River terminal would have significant benefits. Tight lining requires tankers to call at Drift River more often. Arrivals now average one vessel every two weeks. Storage availability would reduce tanker visits. Further, ships can load faster by withdrawing oil from Drift River storage rather than tight lining. This has the benefit of shortening tanker berthing times at the Christy Lee offshore loading platform, which currently is somewhat hobbled as it awaits replacement of a "fender" damaged by Cook Inlet ice, DeWandel said. The Drift River terminal was constructed in 1966, and sits in a floodplain. Bob Shavelson, with the Homer-based nonprofit Cook Inletkeeper, said he believes it's a poor idea to revive the tank farm, given what he considers the facility's poorly chosen location. It's good to reduce the number of tankers calling at Drift River, he said, but "the fact remains that putting an oil storage facility at the base of a volcano is one of the stupidest things you could ever do." Shavelson believes the real solution is to lay a subsea pipeline to carry west Cook Inlet oil to the refinery. John Barnes, Hilcorp's senior vice president for Alaska, addressed the pipeline idea in a May 10 talk to the Alaska Support Industry Alliance. With Hilcorp just now embarking on efforts to increase Inlet oil production, he said, it's not yet clear how to size a pipeline that obviously would be quite a cost commitment.

<http://www.adn.com/2012/05/19/2471782/hilcorp-looks-to-resume-oil-storage.html>

#### INDIA, RAJASTHAN, JAISINGHPURA KHOR, MAY 20 2012. MAFIA STRIKES PIPELINE, SPILLS CRUDE OIL



The oil mafia is at work again! Professional gangs of thieves drilled into the Indian Oil Corporation Limited's (IOCL) underground pipeline carrying crude oil from Gujarat basin to the oil major's Panipat and Mathura refineries, in Jaipur leading to a huge oil spill. The oil company has also decided to shut down supply to the refineries till the pipeline, which covers 2230 km in Rajasthan, is restored. The leaking pipeline resulted in an oil spill of 1000 litre crude oil in a river basin near Jaipur. The spill was spotted on Saturday afternoon by one Babulal near Jaisinghpura Khor (six km from Jaipur-Delhi highway). By then, nearly half-a-dozen birds were drowned in the viscous oil. An IOCL rescue team from Chaksu was pressed into action to plug the damage and reclaim lost crude oil. "The oil mafia drilled deep up to four or five ft into the pipeline. It will take more than a week for our experts to repair the damaged pipeline. We will have to shut the supply to the



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May 28 2012



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Mathura and Panipat refineries," IOCL (Rajasthan Western Region) chief security officer Pramod Goswami told DNA. This the second time the mafia drilled into the IOCL pipeline in Jaipur this year. The kingpin of the oil racket Gaurav Singhal (hailing from Delhi) along with an aide is absconding, officials said. A Jaipur police team cordoned off the area and fire tenders were pressed into action to shield the people in the area from any after-effects. Civil defence volunteers were also pressed into action. IOCL sources believe that the damage done to the pipeline by the oil mafia has not been done in a single day, but is the result of recci done by an organised gang over a long period. Sources also believe that without the help of locals such a major drill into the pipeline is not possible. The last time two local men were arrested for aiding the mafia in Bassi area. The locals were paid by the gang for regular inputs about the pipeline. The pipeline, which connects Abu Road to Gujarat, Shahjahanpur to Haryana and Bharatpur to Mathura runs across Rajasthan, including Sirohi, Pali, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Jaipur Rural, Alwar, Dausa and Bharatpur before foraying into refineries in Panipat and Mathura. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Jaipur North) Mahendra Singh Chaudhary, said a case has been registered against unidentified persons under relevant provisions of Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety Act). "It seems to be the handiwork of expert gang of crude oil thieves and could well be linked to the gang involved in the January incident in Bassi," he added.

<http://daily.bhaskar.com/article/RAJ-JPR-mafia-strikes-pipeline-spills-crude-oil-3292373.html>

#### NIGERIA, LAGOS, MAY 21 2012. GAS EXPLOSION - CHEVRON MUST PAY U.S.\$3 BILLION FINE, FG INSISTS

The Director-General/Chief Executive Officer of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Peter Idabor, on Thursday insisted that Chevron must pay an administrative fine of \$3 billion to the federal government for the environmental disaster that accompanied the gas explosion in some communities in Bayelsa State. Idabor stated this before the House Committee on Environment, recalling the loss of hunting and fishing grounds, particularly in Koluama, a nearby settlement, and other neighbouring communities. "The gas that erupted from the subsurface sustained the fire that raged for days. The Agency has investigated the incident; the fire was caused by equipment failure. Chevron is to take responsibility for the millions of cubic feet of gas blown into the air," he said. He explained that due to the nature of the gaseous substance, it was very difficult to assess the level of damage, as the terrain was in constant flux. "Our perspective is that the environment is in a state of flux and impacted on the people, and they had to travel far to catch fish. "The \$3 billion administrative fine will go to the federal government; and the federal government will determine how to distribute it to rehabilitate the affected communities. We're tired of oil companies polluting our environment." But chairman of the committee, Hon. UcheEkwunife said that the committee would take its time to deliberate on the \$3 billion fine proposed by NOSDRA, and communicate its decision to Chevron at a later date.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201205200214.html>

#### ENGLAND, ESSEX, MAY 21 2012. PETROPLUS JOBS UNDER THREAT AFTER PLANS TO TURN CORYTON PLANT 'INTO STORAGE TERMINAL'



*There are fears for the 1,000 jobs at the plant.*

There are fears for 1,000 oil refinery jobs amid reports that an Essex plant which went bust is likely to be closed and turned into a storage terminal. The [Coryton plant in Essex](#), which is the biggest provider of petrol and diesel in the south east of England, was plunged into administration by its Swiss owner Petroplus in February. A deal with a consortium of financiers to keep the plant running for three months expired on Wednesday but administrators are still scrambling to find a buyer, [according to the Sunday Times](#). Vitol, the world's largest independent oil trader, is understood to have dropped out of the auction last week and although another bidder is still interested, sources told the newspaper that the plant is now likely to be shut and turned into a storage terminal. It has been reported that a tanker reached the plant last week with enough crude oil to keep the site working for 11 days but the plant is unlikely to carry on operating

beyond the end of this month. Administrators had previously said that the plant would close by the middle of May unless a deal was reached. As well as seeking a potential buyer, administrators at PwC have been trying to engineer a one billion US dollar (£632.6 million) deal with its banks and creditors to keep the plant running in the medium-term. After taking over the running of the plant, they discovered that the refinery has debts of £2.3 billion US dollars (£1.5 billion). East of England MEP Richard



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Howitt believes about 80% of the jobs at the site would go if it was converted into a terminal, which would be "a disastrous outcome for all involved". He added: "Converting Coryton into a terminal would be a low-grade solution for a high-grade product." He is meeting representatives of a remaining bidder tomorrow and said there was still hope of a deal.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/05/20/petroplus-jobs-under-threat-coryton-essex-plant\\_n\\_1531213.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/05/20/petroplus-jobs-under-threat-coryton-essex-plant_n_1531213.html)

#### USA, TX, PORT ARTHUR, MAY 21 2012. MOTIVA PORT ARTHUR REFINERY REPORTS MALFUNCTION-FILING

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Motiva Enterprises' 600,000 barrel per day (bpd) Port Arthur, Texas, refinery reported a malfunction on Saturday and Sunday in a hydrocracking unit that increased sulfur dioxide emissions beyond the level authorized by its operating permit, according to a notice filed with state pollution regulators. The refinery reduced the amount of sulfur dioxide being released, according to the notice filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Motiva is a joint-venture between Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Saudi Aramco subsidiary Saudi Refining.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/05/20/refinery-operations-motiva-portarthur-idUKL1E8GK3QQ20120520>

#### SCOTLAND, MORAY, MAY 21 2012. MUSTARD GAS SCARE HITS SCOTTISH RAF BASE >> RAF KINLOSS IN MORAY, ALREADY AT CENTRE OF RADIATION INVESTIGATION, COULD ALSO BE CONTAMINATED WITH SULPHUR MUSTARD



*RAF Kinloss in Moray. About 930 personnel are preparing to move from Cambridge to the Scottish airbase in July.*

A potentially unstable chemical weapon could be buried beneath an airbase that will shortly become home to more than 900 army personnel. RAF Kinloss in Moray is already the focus of an investigation into radioactive contamination, and a report has emerged suggesting the site could also be contaminated with mustard gas. Officially known as sulphur mustard, the colourless, oily liquid can cause severe burns and cancer when released. A land-quality assessment uncovered by BBC [Scotland](#) identified potential sulphur mustard contamination in 2004 before construction work began on a pipeline for a water treatment project. The report states: "Sulphur mustard is not a persistent chemical and

under most conditions will readily break down. Under damp conditions (such as within soil) the action of hydrolysis can form an unreactive protective barrier around globules of active sulphur mustard. These globules can exist within the soil matrix and any disturbance to such a soil may puncture the globule and release the active sulphur mustard." RAF Kinloss stopped functioning as an operational airbase last year after 72 years of service, as part of the government's strategic defence and security review. About 930 personnel from 39 engineer regiment (air support) are due to move from Waterbeach, Cambridge, to Kinloss in July, where they will provide engineer support to the [Royal Air Force](#) and the army. A [Ministry of Defence](#) spokesman said: "Our investigations to date suggest there is no indication of significant risk to public health or the environment associated with the past storage or disposal of chemical weapon agents in the UK. Work undertaken indicates the sites are suitable for their current use, provided that any management systems, restrictions or procedures remain in place. "We consider protection of human health and the environment to be very important, and if we identify threats to either we inform the regulatory authorities and public as soon as possible ensuring the necessary management measures are put in place." Thomas Docherty MP, a member of the Commons defence select committee, said he had called on the government to make an urgent statement on the matter. He told the BBC's Sunday Politics Scotland: "The MoD has had a culture over seven decades of not sharing information. There's an arrogance about the MoD that is not new, but it has to be tackled once and for all." He added: "We need an urgent statement from the UK government that spells out exactly who knew what when, that says what is the actual independent scientific risk, when did they inform the Scottish regulators, when did they inform the local authorities, and when did they inform Scottish ministers? And that needs to be done as soon as practicable." The Scottish environment secretary, Richard Lochhead, said: "I am deeply concerned by media reports that the MoD may have sold land contaminated with radioactive material to communities around RAF Kinloss. I understand that the MoD is conducting investigations into possible contamination at the site. "The secretary of state for defence must ensure that this work is comprehensive, transparent and completed as soon as practically possible. Should the presence of radioactive contamination be confirmed I will press the MoD to work with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) and start remediation work as a matter of urgency." He



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continued: "Understandably, these reports will cause anxiety in communities around RAF Kinloss. It is imperative the Ministry of Defence does all it can to reassure the public in Moray and across the rest of Scotland that any further relevant information will be disclosed in full." The SNP's Westminster defence spokesman, Angus Robertson, MP for Moray, has called for a meeting with the defence secretary, Philip Hammond, to discuss reports of waste at the Kinloss base. Robertson said: "Recent reports raise questions relating to potential dangers at the Kinloss base. Given reports of radioactive material at Dalgety Bay, it is important that we understand the situation at Kinloss. This is why I'm requesting a meeting with the defence secretary Philip Hammond. It is important that there is as much transparency as possible from the Ministry of Defence." The Moray-based convenor of the Scottish Green party's Highlands and Islands branch, Fabio Villani, said: "The MoD should come clean and disclose its records about the disposal of potentially harmful materials at Kinloss, Balnakeith and at other former airbases elsewhere in Scotland. This would pave the way for contaminated land to be managed to avoid risks to human and environmental health, and for uncontaminated land to be brought safely back into productive use."

### Related Links

- [MoD accused of leaving toxic legacy at Kinloss](#)

The convenor of the Moray Greens who is also Chairman of the Forres Area Community Trust has accused The Ministry of Defence of leaving behind a toxic legacy at RAF Kinloss, and failing to provide adequate economic support for the local community in...

- [Chemicals risk at UK air base uncovered](#)

The MoD has had a culture over seven decades of not sharing information. There's an arrogance about the MoD that is not new, but it has to be tackled once and for all." Military authorities at Britain's RAF Kinloss army base in Scotland have kept...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/may/20/mustard-gas-kinloss-raf-base?newsfeed=true>

### CANADA, AB, CALGARY, MAY 21 2012. GAS PUMP EXPLODES AFTER BEING HIT BY VAN

 **Photo's [5]** [Gas Pump Explodes](#)



A gas pump and a car caught on fire at a Shell service station 17th Avenue and Fifth Street S.W. in Calgary Sunday morning. Emergency crews briefly shut down the area, which is across from the popular Ship and Anchor bar, just after 11 a.m. MT. A security guard driving by was the first on scene. He said the gas pump exploded three or four times after a woman drove her van into it. The explosions started a fire that shot flames a few metres in the air. The woman and her two children escaped unharmed. Fire crews quickly got the fire under control, but the pump and overhang at the station are charred. The area is now safe and fire crews remain on scene to clean up.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/story/2012/05/20/calgary-fire-gas-pump-car-fire-17-avenue.html>

### INDIA, JAIPUR, MAY 21 2012. OIL SPILL AT INDIAN OIL CORPORATION DEPOT, SWIFT ACTION AVERTS MAJOR DISASTER

A major disaster was averted at the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) depot in Sitapura on Sunday when thousands of litres of oil spilled on to the premises after a "gasket failure". However, swift action by company officials averted a major tragedy. The nearby factories also witnessed a shower of oil, which created panic among the labourers. They moved out of their units immediately fearing that this could lead to a major inferno like the last one. An FIR has been registered against IOC officials by some owners of nearby factories for putting their life in danger. In October 2009, a devastating fire that broke out at the same depot killed many people, including IOC employees. The Sunday incident brought back the memories of the ghastly incident.

### Related Links

[3-member panel begins probe into oil spill case](#)

A high level committee constituted by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) started its probe on the cause behind the oil leak while the police officers were on the job of collecting ground evidence to find out the exact reason behind the...

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-05-21/jaipur/31800239\\_1\\_ioc-officials-ioc-pipelines-oil-spill](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-05-21/jaipur/31800239_1_ioc-officials-ioc-pipelines-oil-spill)



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