



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 870 Newsy Stuff

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

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BRAZIL, SAO PAULO, AUGUST 2 2012. CHEVRON, TRANSOCEAN MUST STOP DRILLING AFTER SPILL IN BRAZIL



This photo taken Nov. 18, 2011 and released by Rio de Janeiro state government, shows a boat crossing an oil spill in an offshore field operated by Chevron.

A federal court has given Chevron and driller Transocean 30 days to suspend all petroleum drilling and transportation operations in Brazil until investigations are completed into two oil spills off the coast of Rio de Janeiro. The court says in a statement posted Wednesday on its website that each company will be fined 500 million reals, or about \$244 million, for each day they fail to comply with the suspension. About 155,000 gallons of oil crude began seeping from cracks in the ocean floor at the site of a Chevron appraisal well in November. Chevron has placed the amount of oil that leaked at 110,000 gallons. Two weeks later, the National Petroleum Agency said the seepage was under control. But in March, oil again started leaking and Chevron voluntarily suspended production in the field.

"Two environmental accidents in the space of just four months and the lack of equipment needed to identify the origin of the leaks and contain them, shows that the two companies do not have the conditions necessary to operate the wells in an environmentally safe manner," Judge Ricardo Perlingeiro said in his ruling. Chevron said in an e-mailed statement it planned to appeal the court's decision. "Chevron Brasil is confident that at all times it acted diligently and appropriately," the statement said, adding that the company's "response to the incident was implemented according to the law, industry standards and in a timely manner. The source of the leak was contained in four days." Petroleum agency head Magda Chambriard said last month that the November spill involved about 25 safety infractions for which Chevron will be fined up to 50 million reals, or about \$25 million, the maximum under Brazilian law. Chevron has said it underestimated the pressure in an underwater reservoir, causing crude to rush up a bore hole and escape into the surrounding seabed about 230 miles off Rio de Janeiro. The oil seeped from at least seven narrow fissures on the ocean floor, all within 160 feet of the wellhead. No oil reached shore. According to the petroleum agency, Chevron "was not able to correctly interpret the geology and local fluid dynamics" of the reservoir when the leak occurred. It blamed Chevron's water-injection practices for the reservoir pressure. Earlier this year, Brazilian authorities banned Chevron from any new drilling or water-injection activities at working wells in the country. In April, a Brazilian prosecutor filed an \$11 billion lawsuit against Chevron and Switzerland-based Transocean for both the leak in November and the one in March, alleging they caused environmental damage. Prosecutors also asked that Chevron be temporarily prohibited from sending any profits made in Brazil outside the country. A month before that lawsuit, federal prosecutors filed criminal charges against 17 Chevron and Transocean executives accusing them of environmental crimes, of misleading the petroleum agency about safety plans and of not providing accurate information after the spill. The charges carry a maximum penalty of 31 years in prison. Judges must still decide if the cases will go to trial, which would be a lengthy process given the number of defendants, the case's complexity and the Brazilian legal system's room for numerous appeals.

<http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/story/2012-08-01/chevron-brazil-oil-spill-transocean/56657294/1>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, AUGUST 2 2012. PIPELINE SAFETY: INSPECTION AND PROTECTION OF PIPELINE FACILITIES AFTER RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

A Notice by the [Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration](#) of Pipeline Safety: Inspection and Protection of Pipeline Facilities After Railway Accidents

Summary

PHMSA is issuing an advisory bulletin to alert all pipeline owners and operators of the circumstances of the Cherry Valley, Illinois derailment and remind them of the importance of assuring that pipeline facilities have not been damaged either during a railroad accident or other event occurring in the right-of-way. Further, the advisory bulletin reminds pipeline owners and operators of the importance of providing pertinent information to rail operators and emergency response officials during an



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incident. This information should include the presence, depth and location of the pipelines so that the movement of heavy equipment and debris on the right-of-way does not damage or rupture the pipeline or otherwise pose a hazard to people working in, and around, the accident location. The advisory also encourages pipeline owners and operators to inform rail operators and emergency response officials of the benefits of using the 811 "Call Before You Dig" program to identify and notify underground utilities that an incident has occurred in the vicinity of their buried facilities. Show citation box

Background

On Friday, June 19, 2009, at approximately 8:36 p.m., CST, a Canadian National Railway Company (CN) freight train U7069I-18, traveling eastbound at 36 mph, derailed at a highway/rail grade crossing in Cherry Valley, Illinois. The train consisted of two locomotives and 114 cars, 19 of which derailed. All of the derailed cars were tank cars carrying denatured fuel ethanol, a flammable liquid. Thirteen of the derailed tank cars were breached or lost product and caught fire. At the time of the derailment, several motor vehicles were stopped on either side of the grade crossing waiting for the train to pass. As a result of the fire that erupted after the derailment, a passenger in one of the stopped cars was fatally injured, two passengers in the same car received serious injuries, and five occupants of other cars waiting at the highway-rail crossing were injured. Two responding firefighters also sustained minor injuries. The release of ethanol and the resulting fire prompted a mandatory evacuation of about 600 residences within a 1/2-mile radius of the accident site. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) determined that the probable cause of the accident was the washout of the track structure that was discovered about one hour before the train's arrival, and CN's failure to notify the train crew of the known washout in time to stop the train because of the inadequacy of CN's emergency communication procedures. At the site of the derailment was a 12-inch diameter underground natural gas transmission pipeline operated by Nicor Gas. The pipeline well exceeded Federal standards for protective ground cover. Yet, as the wreckage was removed from above the pipeline, Nicor's crews discovered that a railcar wheel and axle assembly had impinged on the pipeline. Although the pipeline was buried about 11 feet deep and protected within a 16-inch diameter casing, the rail car wheels impacted and severely dented the pipeline. The impact caused a severe flattening of the pipe casing with sharp angular bends at two locations where it was contacted by the rail car wheel assembly. This degree of deformation to the 16-inch casing pipe likely caused similar damage to the 12-inch carrier pipe. The NTSB concluded that had the gas pipeline been installed at the railroad crossing with the minimum level of ground cover permitted by the current Federal and industry pipeline construction standards, it likely would have failed as a result of being struck by derailed equipment in this accident. Show citation box

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/07/31/2012-18571/pipeline-safety-inspection-and-protection-of-pipeline-facilities-after-railway-accidents>

USA, OK, TULSA, AUGUST 3 2012. COMPANY INVESTIGATING EXPLOSION, FIRE AT WEST TULSA OIL REFINERY

Watch the Video's

- [Burning Tanker in Oklahoma Refinery](#)
- [Oklahoma Oil Refinery Ablaze after Explosion](#)
- [Company Investigating Explosion, Fire at West Tulsa Oil Refinery](#)



Company officials say they are investigating the cause of a fire at one of their two HollyFrontier refineries in West Tulsa early Thursday morning. Neighbors heard what sounded like a jet engine and explosion which shook their homes at about 2 a.m. at the former Sinclair refinery or what is now called the East refinery. In a statement, [HollyFrontier](#) said no one was injured and the cause of the explosion and fire is under investigation:

The fire was contained by our Emergency Response Team. Tulsa Fire Department was on-call to support our team but have since been released. The cause of the fire, extent of the damage, and the impact on Tulsa East operations are currently being investigated. There is no risk to the surrounding community.

Safety is our number one priority and we practice regular response drills and training for situations like this and as a result, the fire was immediately contained. "While we are investigating the cause of the fire, safety is our number one goal – safety for our employees, fire team and surrounding neighbors," said Tony Conetta, VP & Refinery Manager. "We appreciate the Tulsa Fire Department's standby support."



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The company says the west refinery was not impacted by Thursday's fire. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality says it has a stationary air quality monitor for sulfur dioxide northwest of the Holly Refinery. In a news release, the DEQ says there "has been some slight elevations but nothing significant. In addition, the DEQ says there has been no exceedance of the SO2 standard." The DEQ says Holly told them that fire suppression water used to extinguish the fire was contained on site. According to the HollyFrontier website, the Tulsa Refineries have a crude oil capacity of 125,000 barrels per day. The refineries primarily process sweet crude oils; however, they have the capability to process sour crude oils when economics dictate, and serve the markets in the mid-continent region of the United States. The company says the only personnel inside the East refinery at the time of the fire was company firefighters.

<http://www.news9.com/story/19176555/fire>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, AUGUST 3 2012. FORMER RAAF FIREFIGHTERS EXPOSED TO TOXIC CHEMICALS

 **Watch the Video** [RAAF fires want toxic chemical answers](#)



Toxic Legacy - a RAAF firefighter extinguishes a blaze at a base.

Former RAAF firefighters are being struck down by cancer and neurological diseases they say are caused by the burning of toxic chemicals at bases around the country. One such site is Point Cook in Melbourne's west, where firefighters were trained to put out chemical fires - simulating blazes typical of plane crashes. The work was hard and hot, and according to the firemen great fun, but following orders might now be coming back to haunt them. Pat Mildren is one of 1,200 ex-RAAF firefighters who trained at Point Cook, and like many of his colleagues has suffered serious health problems. He has had both bowel and bladder cancer, and believes the chemicals he was exposed to during his time in the RAAF are to blame. "When I did my basic training course I can remember my senior instructor

saying to me: 'get in there you mob of bloody wimps, a bit of smoke's not going to kill you'," he said. "Twenty years later when I returned there as the chief instructor I said exactly the same thing to the trainees that were going through. "And it was killing them and is killing them still." Mr Mildren says the same thing happened at every major RAAF base in the country. "I believe that it was a chemical dumping ground. We were there to burn the chemicals that they wanted to get rid of," he said. "Anything and everything that they wanted to get rid of they sent to us to burn. This went on on every major RAAF base in the Air Force. "We were putting out fires six to seven times a week and every time you'd be completely immersed in smoke."

Dumping Grounds

RAAF fire pits across the country became a dumping ground for any company looking to get rid of their toxic waste. John Lyons, a former fire fighter who was based in Townsville, said during his time in the RAAF they burnt everything from furniture to industrial waste, all without proper protection. "At Townsville we sort of burnt anything - we had tyres, batteries, de-icing fluid used to come from the aircraft, and all the old furniture, mattresses used to get thrown into the pit. Anything they wanted to get rid of," he said. "The protection was nil, virtually all we had was a type of raincoat. We didn't have breathing apparatus." Mr Lyons, who now suffers from leukaemia, says while they were not told what much of the fuel was, it was obvious how toxic it was. "We had purple stuff, we had mustard coloured stuff. It was like sludge coming out of the drums, it was so thick you'd have lay the drums down on the side of the pits to empty themselves out," he said. "They'd put off a shocking smell, you'd open the bung and push the drum over and leave it on the side of the pit, and you'd have to shift away because the smell was so great." Lawrie Heath knows all too well the smell and feel of the toxic sludge - he had to wade through it. "One instance I had a fellow fireman fall into the mess, and the fire was coming towards us and he was completely in the liquid. And I went up to my waist to drag him out," he said. "It was very heavy liquid, very thick and sticky, you sort of stuck to it and took a lot of effort to get him and myself to get out of the pit before the fire got there." Despite living at the idyllic Bateman's Bay on the New South Wales south coast, he has not enjoyed the views for nearly a year. He can barely leave his house. Last November Mr Heath, 63, was preparing for a RAAF reunion when he suddenly became paralysed from the waist down and almost died. He was diagnosed with an extremely rare condition called acute transverse myelitis that causes swelling of the spinal fluid, and says he believes it was caused by his exposure to the toxic chemicals. "I personally believe that my condition and all the other conditions of my fellow firemen that I served with is directly related to our exposure to these chemicals. There is no other



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answer to it," he said. His wife Irene says the condition has left him completely dependent on her. "Completely life changing. Lawrie can't even put his shoes and socks on there's a lot of days he can't dress himself," she said. And Mr Heath says the man he saved in the Townsville fire pit is also battling a long list of ailments. "He's had extremely bad problems with his lungs, cancers in the lung, other growths because he swallowed a lot of this stuff," he said. "He's not a very well man today and also has auto-immune problems where his immune system attacks his own body, similar to what I've got."

'They Should be Responsible'

Mr Heath's doctor, John Berick, says the Federal Government should take responsibility for the firefighters' illnesses. "If they've been exposed to such severe toxic elements in their service they should be responsible for looking after them even though there's not a definitive proof on the balance of probabilities there's the very strong chance it was the cause of his problems," he said. A recent Federal Government investigation found 120 different chemicals in the soil at Point Cook's fire training ground. Among them were 12 deadly toxins, including benzene, a known cause of leukaemia. Mr Mildren says it is proof of the validity of their claims. "What we've asked for is a full-scale inquiry to find out if these chemicals have caused our health conditions, because in the past we have been told that we had no proof that we actually used all these chemicals. Now we have the proof," he said. Almost \$30 million is being spent to clean up the Point Cook site, but so far nothing has been paid in compensation to the RAAF firefighters. In a statement to 7.30, Defence acknowledged that RAAF staff were "involved in the handling and burning of many chemicals" and that "some of these can cause chronic health problems". It says firefighters "concerned about health effects they believe are associated with the exposure to chemicals should lodge claims with the Department of Veterans' Affairs". So many different chemicals and so many different diseases makes it virtually impossible to directly link cause and effect. As a result, Defence is reviewing the rules governing military compensation for firefighters. The recent discovery of a cancer cluster at the Country Fire Authority's training base at Fiskville, west of Melbourne, adds weight to the claims. RAAF firefighters also trained at Fiskville and the Air Force provided many of the chemicals burnt by the CFA

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-02/730-raaf-firefighters/4173010>

AUSTRALIA, A.C.T, CANBERRA, AUGUST 3 2012. FORMALDEHYDE UPGRADED TO CLASS 2 CARCINOGEN IN AUSTRALIA



safe work australia

Safe Work Australia, which is the Australia Government statutory authority, has just changed formaldehyde to a class 2 carcinogen. Previously a class 3, which meant that there is, limited evidence that there is a carcinogenic effect whereas class 2 is that cancer may be caused by inhalation. All manufacturers and

importers now need to update labels and data safety sheets to reflect this change.

Hazardous Substances Information System (HSIS) update

[Classifications and exposure standards for hazardous substances can also be obtained from the [Hazardous Substances Information System \(HSIS\)](#)].

Change to Hazardous Substance Entry for Formaldehyde

Based on the NICNAS (National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme) Priority Existing Chemical Assessment Report for formaldehyde, Safe Work Australia has updated the entry in HSIS for formaldehyde to reflect recommended changes in classification. The update includes a change to the carcinogen classification from category 3 (limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect) to category 2 (may cause cancer by inhalation) and is made in accordance with the Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances [NOHSC:1008(2004)] 3rd Edition. The full classification is available on [HSIS](#). The NICNAS Priority Existing Chemical Report can be accessed from the [NICNAS website](#). Manufacturers and importers need to consider this amendment and, if necessary, update safety data sheets and labels to ensure they contain correct and current information. Email queries about the update can be directed to [HSIS feedback](#). The HSIS online database is an internet resource that allows users to find information on substances that have been classified in accordance with the [Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances \[NOHSC:1008\(2004\)\] 3rd Edition](#) and/or have National Exposure Standards declared under the NOHSCA adopted [National Exposure Standards for Atmospheric Contaminants in the Occupational Environment \[NOHSC:1003\(1995\)\]](#). The publication [Workplace Exposure Standards for Airborne Contaminants](#) replaces this document under the new Work Health and Safety Regulations.

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/SWA/safetyinyourworkplace/hazardoussubstancesanddangerousgoods/hsis/Pages/HSIS.aspx>



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MOZAMBIQUE, BEIRA, AUGUST 3 2012. SA COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL R2.8M TANK IN MOZAMBIQUE



Bulk Storage Tanks The contract is Tanks 4 Africa's first project in Mozambique.

South African bulk liquid and dry bulk storage tank manufacturer Tanks 4 Africa, which is part of the global Tank Connection Affiliate Group (TCAG), is preparing for the construction and installation of a R2.8-million 1 000 m³ fire-protection tank at a fuel depot in Beira, Mozambique, in September. The tank is the biggest the company has ever undertaken and is the first of its kind in Mozambique. It also represents Tanks 4 Africa's first project in the country. Tanks 4 Africa operational director JC du Plessis says the company plans to have the tank built and installed in just 17 days, which is the only potential challenge he identifies for the project. "Usually, a tank of this size and magnitude could take up to two years to build and install. "We will use a synchronised, hydraulic screw jack process that enables us to fit the panels one ring at a time and jack the tank up so we can start on the next

ring of panels. "This makes the process safer for our six-man crew, as we will not use scaffolding or working at height," he explains. He adds that the tank will be constructed using a rolled, tapered-panel design, which, he states is globally rated as the preferred design for fire-protection applications. "What is also unique about the tank is that it will be powder coated, increasing its life span exponentially. Where normal spray coatings would usually have a life span of about three years, the powder coating can last for up to 20 years," he says. The powder coating is manufactured by global paint and coatings company Azko Nobel and will be used internally and externally on the tank. The panels will be delivered to the company from its US-based partner TCAG, as the company does not have a factory in South Africa, owing to the high cost of building one. Du Plessis notes, however, that the company is considering building a factory in the future, once the demand for its products has increased substantially. "Tanks 4 Africa has been operating since the beginning of 2011, making us relatively new to the market. "We have seen some prospective business from big companies in the petrochemicals sector, but nothing is final yet. "We are hoping and planning to grow further in South Africa and the rest of Africa, wherever opportunities present themselves," he says. The company is also considering opening an office in Cape Town, in addition to its existing offices in Pretoria and KwaZulu-Natal.

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/sa-tanks-company-to-construct-and-install-tank-in-mozambique-2012-08-03>

USA, N.Y, COLUMBIA CO, GHENT, AUGUST 3 2012. GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES COORDINATED RESPONSE TO HAZMAT FIRE



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that New York State agencies, in partnership with local government officials, are responding to a fire involving hazardous materials in the Town of Ghent in Columbia County. "New York State is committing every resource available to assist the county," said Governor Cuomo. "We are working with local firefighters and first-responders to contain this blaze and protect surrounding communities. In the meantime, I urge residents in the area to listen to the orders of law enforcement. The safety and health of New Yorkers is our first priority." The fire at TCI Incorporated in the Town of Ghent began last night at 10 p.m. and involves several different types of materials, including sodium, diesel fuel, propane and mineral oil. In response to the incident, the Town of Ghent declared a State of Emergency. Columbia County officials ordered the evacuation of approximately 40 homes within a one-mile radius of the incident. Residents were notified by New York State Police and the Columbia County Sheriff's Department. The American Red Cross has established a shelter at the Chatham Fire Station at 3 Hoffman Street. Personnel assisting in the emergency response effort include the State Office of Emergency Management (State OEM), Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC),

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), Division of State Police (NYSP), Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA), State Department of Transportation (DOT), Columbia County Sheriff's Department, and Columbia County



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Emergency Management Office. Several local and volunteer fire departments are on-scene, and State OFPC has provided a crash foam truck to apply large volumes of foam to extinguish any remaining fire. Air sampling and sampling of hazardous materials is being conducted by DEC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and will be analyzed to determine when it will be safe for residents to return home and when shelter-in-place orders can be rescinded. The State Emergency Operations Center in Albany was activated with the following agencies: State OEM, Department of Agriculture and Markets, Department of Health (DOH), DEC, and NY State Police. New Yorkers are encouraged to listen to local officials and the media for further developments on this situation. Anyone who is experiencing eye irritation, choking, coughing or difficulty breathing should seek medical attention. TCI Incorporated, located at 39 Falls Industrial Park Road in the Town of Ghent, is a company that disposes of oil filled and drained electrical equipment.

<http://www.fox23news.com/news/local/story/Governor-Cuomo-announces-coordinated-response-to/5NB5RrGKEESZE8CBKPkXfg.csp>

USA, CA, SAN DIEGO, AUGUST 3 2012. OIL FIELD WASTE SPILL LINGERS NEAR SAN DIEGO

mark collette

A spill of oil field drilling mud on State Highway 44 in Jim Wells County took more than 24 hours to clean because the waste hauler was struggling to pay for the cleanup, a county environmental officer said. A tractor-trailer spilled more than 40 gallons of the slick, diesel-based fluid about 1 p.m. Wednesday, prompting closure of one lane of the highway at the eastern edge of San Diego, officer Hector Zertuche said. An environmental company began the cleanup but stopped after the hauler ran out of money to pay for it, Zertuche said. Zertuche said the hauler and the environmental company reached a resolution and the cleanup was expected to finish Thursday afternoon. The truck belongs to J & D Trucking of Beaumont. A company official said a broken gasket caused the fluid to spill from the trailer. He declined to comment further or give his name. The county has stepped up enforcement against waste hauling violations as oil field activity in the Eagle Ford Shale play has boomed. The county was seeing a high number of spills, partly because it has two of only three sites in South Texas where certain wastes can be disposed. The sudden demand for more waste haulers throughout the 30-county region has drawn more independent truckers into the business who sometimes don't have the required permits or know the rules for transporting the waste, which contains diesel fuel and heavy metals. It's used to lubricate wells and lift drill cuttings to the surface. J & D Trucking is an authorized waste hauler, according to Texas Railroad Commission records. The truck driver in Wednesday's spill was ticketed for disposing of oil field waste on a public road, a misdemeanor, Zertuche said.

<http://www.caller.com/news/2012/aug/02/oil-field-waste-spill-lingers-near-san-diego/>

UK, JERSEY, HELIER, AUGUST 3 2012. JERSEY COMPANY BURNS OFF GAS FROM TANK IN ST HELIER

 **Watch the Video** [Footage of flames at gas works](#) **Watch**



Homes, schools and businesses were evacuated after the tank caught fire. A gas tank in St Helier which caught fire and nearly exploded after problems with maintenance works is being emptied. All gas in Jersey will come from the site at La Collette from Friday after the Tunnell Street facility is de-commissioned. Experts will use nitrogen to displace the gas before putting it through a process called "control flaring". Jersey Gas said this was to make sure none is released into the atmosphere. The company said no-one would be able to smell or hear the gas being removed and work would be finished by late on Thursday. Thousands of people had to leave their homes, businesses and schools for up to 24 hours during the fire in Gas Place. Workers were doing maintenance on the cylinder

when it caught fire at the beginning of the month.

Related Links

- [Gas tank to be de-commissioned](#)
- [People home after Jersey gas fire](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-19068997>



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USA, WASHINGTON, AUGUST 3 2012. EX-OFFICIAL: CHEMICAL PLANTS SECURITY AT RISK

armen keteyian

 **Watch the Video** [Chemical Plants Security At Risk](#)

After 9/11, America realized that more than 4,000 chemical plants were sitting ducks for a terrorist attack -- tanks of lethal toxins were stored around many of our biggest cities. Five years ago, Homeland Security started a program to secure those plants. Half a billion dollars have been spent. But it turns out 90 percent of the most threatening plants have not even been inspected. Todd Keil was once in charge of this program and he told what he knows to CBS News. "As the program stands today," Keil said, "it's not effectively protecting the American people from high-risk chemical facilities that may be vulnerable." Keil was the assistant secretary at Homeland Security responsible for overseeing the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program, known as CFATS, from late 2009 to February 2012. He said he was so concerned about problems with the program that he asked for an internal review. The review found that after four-and-a-half years and \$480 million:

- There had not been a single inspection of a chemical plant.
- No plant has a site security plan.
- The review also found "...a catastrophic failure to ensure personal and professional accountability."

"There were administrative missteps," said Keil. "There were management missteps, and there were substantive missteps, that just led the program down a path of failure." So in other words, broken? "Broken," Keil said. "I knew we had to put all of the dirty laundry on the table so we could make corrections, so we could make the program effective." As for the response from Keil's bosses about the problem, the former assistant secretary said: "'Let's keep this internal. We'll see what we can do.' And my efforts at correcting the program were thwarted." Last week, the Government Accountability Office reported that as of the end of June, not one of the 4,400 chemical plants in the program had been fully inspected. "The CFTAS program has been, I think, a tremendous success to date," said Rand Beers in March 2010, the Homeland Security Undersecretary in charge of the program. He was Todd Keil's boss. Beers told CBS News that 120 chemical plants pose a severe risk -- and of those 120, his program had done preliminary inspections on 11. "What the American public has gotten for \$480 million is a map of the vulnerabilities that this country has with respect to chemical facilities, and the process of developing the plans to make those sites safer for the American public," said Beers. "And we have made significant progress in that regard." When told that four-and-a-half-years into the program, there were no inspections, no approved site security plans -- as well as a large number of inspectors that were said to be unqualified for the jobs they were doing, and "an environment of fraud, waste and abuse" -- Beers responded: "We certainly face some management challenges. And I think we have, as a result of the good hard work of the people who are associated with this program, we are moving forward properly according to the basic risk and management standards that are set by independent organizations." Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, wants answers. "I think it's about time that the Department of Homeland Security comes clean," he said, "and admits that this program isn't running because the longer they try to mislead Congress, when the truth comes out, the more egg they're going to have on their face." Todd Keil, who told CBS News about the problems, said he was forced to resign in February. The Department of Homeland Security wouldn't comment officially on his resignation.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563_162-57485847/ex-official-chemical-plants-security-at-risk/

NIGERIA, NIGER DELTA, BODO CREEK, AUGUST 3 2012. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: SHELL HIDING NIGERIA DISASTER'S FACTS



Men walk in an oil slick covering a creek near Bodo City in Nigeria.

Amnesty International (AI) has challenged the Anglo-Dutch oil company Shell over its claims that sabotage was responsible for a seven-day-long oil spill in Nigeria in June. "No matter what evidence is presented to Shell about oil spills, they constantly hide behind the 'sabotage' excuse and dodge their responsibility for massive pollution that is due to their failure to properly maintain their infrastructure," AFP quoted Audrey Gaughran, the director of global issues at the Amnesty, as saying in a statement on Thursday. "The investigation process into oil spills in the Niger Delta is a fiasco," she said, referring to the oil-producing region that is home to Africa's largest crude industry. Amnesty accused Shell of

ignoring evidence that the latest spill in the Delta's Bodo Creek area had been caused by pipeline corrosion. "Shell have said



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locally that the spill looks like sabotage, and they completely ignore the evidence of corrosion," said Stevyn Obodoekwe of the Center for Environment, Human Rights, and Development, which co-authored the Amnesty statement. "This has generated a lot of confusion and some anger in the community." Last month, Nigeria imposed a USD-five-billion fine on Shell over a December leak at the Bonga oilfield that caused roughly 40,000 barrels of crude to spill into the Gulf of Guinea.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/08/03/254140/ai-shell-hiding-nigeria-disaster-facts/>

UK, ESSEX, AUGUST 3 2012. PETROPLUS ADMINISTRATORS REVEAL SCALE OF CORYTON'S FINANCIAL WOES

The joint administrators of Petroplus Refining & Marketing have published their first progress report on the administration. The report provides creditors with a detailed description of progress that has been made in the six months since the appointment of the Administrators and includes an estimate of the likely return for creditors. The key matters disclosed in the report are:

- It is currently estimated that the net funds available for distribution to unsecured creditors may be in the order of \$102m-\$135m.
- Gross realisations from the assets of the company are projected to be \$199m-\$209m.
- Trading losses from refining during the six-month period of administration are currently estimated at \$22m-\$31m, on sales of some \$347m. Of this loss, some \$20m relates to capital expenditure incurred and written off in the period.
- The claim against the Swiss affiliate, Petroplus Marketing AG ("PMAG"), of \$450.4m has been ascribed no recovery value in the administrators' estimates as it risks being subordinated in the PMAG Swiss insolvency proceeding.
- The dividend to unsecured creditors is currently estimated to be between 4.2% and 6.4%, based on total creditor claims of \$2.1bn-\$2.4bn. The financial outcome for creditors reflects the extensive exercise to attain best value for the creditors. Offers for the refinery assets as a going concern were materially lower than for an alternative use.
- The sale of substantially all of the refinery assets is expected to be concluded in the coming few months. The terms of this sale remain confidential.

Steven Pearson, Joint Administrator and PwC partner, said: "This has been an exceptionally difficult administration. The information we have published today illustrates the scale of financial and operational challenges we faced in operating the refinery for nearly six months. "The unfortunate reality is that, despite rigorous cost control, the refinery incurred significant losses from operations between January and June. This high risk, low reward environment was the main driver in having to cease operations – put simply, we could not afford to incur the ongoing losses associated with continuing refining. "Despite this, during the period since January we have explored all possible options and concluded a sale of the site and of significant assets of the company. Consistent with our statutory duties, the sale of Coryton for an alternative use represents the best possible outcome for unsecured creditors. We are now working towards meeting the conditions of the sale contract, in ensuring the site is in a stable state ahead of handover and completion. "Operating the refinery and managing the sale and closure have been both technically complex and unusually demanding on all the people involved. I would again like to publicly thank the management, employees, contractors, suppliers, customers, the authorities and the PwC team for their commitment throughout this administration."

http://www.forecourtrader.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/6055/Petroplus_administrators_reveal_scale_of_Coryton_92s_financial_woes.html?utm_source=newsletter_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2BWeekly

USA – NIOSH, AUGUST 3 2012. NEW HEALTH MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE TOOL FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Emergency responders have been called to duty over the past decade by an increasing number of natural and man-made disasters, as evidenced by 9/11 in 2001, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. As each large-scale disaster occurred, the importance of how best to ensure the safety and health of professional and volunteer emergency responders before, during and after a disaster has grown. While some guidance had been developed about how best to prepare response workers both before and during deployment, less attention had been placed on assessing responders' health after they complete their deployment. Post-deployment assessment is important because long-term health effects on responders following disasters may not be readily apparent for many years, and reconstruction of exposure information needed for a long-term health monitoring and surveillance program can be difficult. This information includes where each responder was, doing what job tasks, for what length of time, what they were exposed to, as well as other important pieces of information. The Government Accounting Office and others have called for this information to be collected more prospectively throughout an incident. This information can be used both during the incident to mitigate acute safety and health concerns as



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well as provide the critical information needed to set up long-term health monitoring and surveillance systems quickly and effectively. With this in mind, in 2008 NIOSH convened an multidisciplinary public health workgroup to address these concerns. The Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) system was developed in 2011 by this workgroup. It includes both written guidance and epidemiology/surveillance tools as examples of current best practices for protecting response, remediation, and recovery workers and volunteers. The system is described in a new federal publication, "Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance: Technical Assistance Document," which was recently published by the National Response Team, an organization of 15 Federal departments and agencies, including NIOSH, responsible for coordinating emergency preparedness and response. The ERHMS system can be applied in both smaller, localized incidents, as well as larger incidents. Importantly it provides guidance to help protect emergency responders before, during, and after an incident. The document provides tools and resources for response organizations that will help in ensuring the health and safety for responders within each phase of the incident and, will assist organizations in monitoring the health of responders in the post-incident phase. The next step in the development of this system has been to implement and field-test the principles and components of ERHMS in both real-world emergency response events, practice exercises, and training venues. NIOSH successfully implemented some of the components of ERHMS in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 such as rostering, injury and illness surveillance, and Health Hazard Evaluations. We more fully demonstrated an implemented of ERHMS in a large scale interagency training exercise conducted last year, which also tested the utility of hand-held electronic data collection techniques. NIOSH and other stakeholders among the centers and institutes of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are currently seeking funding to conduct advance training seminars for public health agencies to learn more about ERHMS and other CDC-developed disaster response resources in order to better translate this research into practice. The full ERHMS document as well as a summary document is available on the NIOSH website <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/erhms/> or on the NRT website at www.erhms.nrt.org/. For a comprehensive list of emergency response resources from NIOSH please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emergency.html>. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/enewsV10N4.html#director>

USA, CA, BERKELEY, AUGUST 3 2012. CITY COMMISSIONS REQUEST REPORT ON CAMPUS DIESEL SPILL

derek remsburg



A worker places absorbant plume onto oil in Strawberry Creek.

Two city of Berkeley commissions requested a report Tuesday on the effects of the diesel spill that took place on the UC Berkeley campus last December. The spill, which originated at Stanley Hall on Dec. 10, [resulted in approximately 1,290 gallons of fuel being released into the environment](#), with a portion of the fuel flowing into Strawberry Creek. The request, issued by both the city's Community Health Commission and the city's Community Environmental Advisory Commission, was brought before the Berkeley City Council at its meeting Tuesday night. "All our recommendations moved forward onto the consent calendar, meaning that unless someone had a major disagreement with the recommendations, they would stand as is," said Community Health Commission

chair Pamela Speich. According to the [recommendation](#), the request involved "asking UC Berkeley to provide the City with an implementation timeline and the revised UCB Contingency Plan for Hazardous Waste Releases and Threatened Releases" and "requesting that UC map all sump pumps and piping diagrams on campus." The recommendation also requests that UC Berkeley consider alternative uses for water discharges, such as irrigation, rather than direct discharge into the creek. According to campus spokesperson Janet Gilmore, the campus will be removing the Stanley Hall underground storage tank and replacing it with an above-ground tank, which will provide additional protection against future leaks. Additional spill safeguards and alarm systems will also be installed. Gilmore confirmed that an outside consultant has reviewed fuel storage at various campus locations and the campus is currently reviewing suggested changes. "Following the spill, UC Berkeley and its contractors took action to install absorbent materials in Strawberry Creek, and to remove contaminated vegetation and rocks," Gilmore said in an email. "Regulatory agencies, including DFG and federal EPA, signed off on the final creek cleanup. We do not believe there will be any lasting effects of this spill on Strawberry Creek." The commissions requested the campus fulfill the commissions' requests by Sept. 1. According to commission chair Brian McDonald, the goal of the Community Environmental Advisory Commission is to advise the council and, in this case, to recommend precautionary measures to prevent this sort of



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incident in the future. UC Berkeley held two "lessons learned" sessions with the city, according to the recommendation, in order to improve response to incidents such as the spill. The "lessons learned" documents, which covered communication and training, were supplied to the Community Environmental Advisory Commission on May 3 and to the Community Health commission on May 9. "We are very grateful that (the campus) has a timeline of how fast they are going to implement their own suggestions about lessons learned from these sorts of accidents," Speich said. Still, the commissions are not content with UC Berkeley's current contingency plans. McDonald said his commission would like to see the campus be more active in updating its "lessons learned" sessions as well as its contingency plans for emergency response. "The neighbors don't want this to happen again, and (the campus) needs to revise its current plan to make it more realistic," Speich added.

<http://www.dailycal.org/2012/08/02/commissions-request-report-on-december-diesel-spill-2/>

MALAYSIA, KUALA LUMPUR, AUGUST 3 2012. FATAL ACCIDENTS AT PETRONAS SITES FORCES RELOOK AT SAFETY STANDARDS

quintella koh

Separate fire accidents—in three Petronas sites over the last few months, two of which involved casualties—are raising pressing concerns surrounding the safety procedures in Malaysia's oil and gas industry (OGI). The most recent Petronas-related incident involved an oil tanker which caught fire and exploded at the jetty of Petronas Chemicals Methanol Sdn Bhd on July 26, 2012. The facility is part of the Ranche-Ranche industrial zone, which is located on the island of Pulau Ence, near Labuan. The 38,000 deadweight-tonne MISC tanker was loading six tonnes of methanol when a small fire broke out during a thunderstorm. The Star Online reported on July 29, 2012. The fire quickly turned into a raging inferno sparking off at least three major explosions that could be felt throughout the island, the daily added. MISC, a subsidiary of Petronas, confirmed July 30, 2012, through a published statement on its website, that the accident had claimed five lives, with the body of its fifth and last victim found in a holding tank of the scorched ship. A spokesperson from Petronas told Rigzone on Wednesday that "the identification of the bodies took several days as they were badly damaged and DNA tests had to be administered". Petronas added that an investigation on the accident started on Wednesday. This incident follows closely from another fire which blazed at the Petronas Carigali's Tukau B Platform offshore Miri on June 11 this year. In an earlier statement, Petronas said it was forced to stop production at the platform and five out of 16 persons on board were injured. Out of the five victims, the most severely affected was a technician who was reported to have suffered second-degree burns. Earlier on May 11 this year, a Petronas gas process plant in the GPP Complex A in Kerteh was rocked by two explosions. A worker died on the spot, while 23 others were injured. Some 2,000 workers were at the site when the explosions occurred.

Lessons to be Learnt

The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), in an exclusive interview with Rigzone, raised two main concerns when commenting about the overall safety procedures in Malaysia's OGI, in relation to the two earlier incidents. The first concern pertains to an establishment of complete written procedures within the OGI, while the second concern touches on the education of the OGI workforce. Commenting on the establishment of complete written procedures, a spokesperson with IEM told Rigzone that "time and resources are spent to prepare, review and harmonize procedures such that they are suitable for the activities encountered in the OGI. Upstream exploration and production companies in Malaysia have safety and operational integrity management systems that they enforce on their contractors. However even with these company-dictated directions in place, it is the onus of the front line staff to ensure adequate engineering documentation is available and reviewed prior to an operation, as equipment of the same utility may not have the same configuration, with possible subtle differences. The work crew should not assume that a procedure which is applicable to one equipment will also be applicable to another." The spokesperson was referring to the incidents which took place at the Petronas Carigali's Tukau B Platform offshore Miri and the Petronas gas process plant in the GPP complex A in Kerteh. In both instances, Petronas was conducting maintenance work on the facilities when the fires occurred. "The similarity for these accidents is that they occurred when a non-standard operation – maintenance works – is being performed," the spokesperson said. With the proper documentation in place, he "believes that further attention should be on the correct and appropriate implementation of procedures in activities carried out by personnel in the front line." "If the activity deviates from the work plan, a review needs to be carried out to ensure any new risks are identified and adequately managed. The team should be aware of actions which will affect systems outside of their work area, and compromise integrity and safety," the spokesperson added. Giving his views on the education of the OGI workforce at present, the spokesperson said that there is an urgent need for the industry to clearly define the term "safety concern". "All safety management systems explicitly state that work may be stopped if there are safety concerns, but the



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definition of the term 'safety concern' is different across companies. The industry, perhaps under the supervision of the IEM or the Malaysian Construction Industry Development Board, should conduct regular accreditation of safety personnel to calibrate and maintain acceptable safety standards," the spokesperson said. Educating the OGI is an ongoing process at every echelon of the workforce. A proper understanding of safety needs to be instilled regularly, as portions of the workforce are seasonal and migratory. Employees ought to be encouraged to surface best practices that they had encountered in previous projects. "It is important to constantly convey the message to the workforce that having a safety-conscious mindset does not develop out of habit, it is a conscious choice," the spokesperson remarked. An example brought up by the spokesperson is when an offshore employee becomes observant and conscientious enough to remind his team members to put on their appropriate protective gear. "This is a seemingly small example, but it embodies the ideal of an employee who is properly educated," the spokesperson said.

Other Considerations

Other than safety procedures and workforce culture, there are other technical considerations, chiefly business and financial decisions taken by companies. A business decision to operate and maintain an asset near the end stage of its designed life may produce cost savings for the company, but could result in the facility running at a sub-optimal safety level. Without a corresponding tightening of the surveillance of the equipment and the work environment, the risks of failure run higher and the end result could be catastrophic.

Sum of its Parts

The state of Malaysia's OGI's safety records can be improved despite the recent costly setbacks. With a multi-pronged approach of watertight documentation, workforce education and safety-oriented business decisions, further needless tragedies can be avoided. Safety cannot be accomplished in half-measure, as the spokesperson aptly rounded up, "melepaskan batuk di tangga". IEM is a professional and learned body established to promote the science and profession of engineering and to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas relating to engineering. Founded in 1959, IEM has at present 32,000 members. It is projecting to increase its membership strength to 100,000 over the next five years.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=119752

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, SHUTE HARBOR, AUGUST 4 2012. ROLLOVER AT SHUTE HARBOUR



The truck rolled while the driver was negotiating a turn near the service station at Shute Harbour.

An oil tanker rolled over about 1am on Friday morning in Shute Harbour, cutting off power supplies and blocking traffic for several hours. The truck rolled while the driver was negotiating a turn near the service station at Shute Harbour. He was taken to the Proserpine Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Corporate communications manager at Ergon Energy Bob Pleash said the accident had affected power supply to about 80 customers in the surrounding areas. "The fuel tanker rolled over and made contact with one of our power poles which brought down the power line in the area. To enable the safe recovery of the vehicle we had to interrupt supply to the area," he said.

<http://www.whitsundaytimes.com.au/story/2012/08/03/rollover-shute-harbour/>

USA, N.D, CASSELTON, AUGUST 3 2012. OIL TANKER ROLLS OVER ON INTERSTATE 94

A Hope man was injured when his semi clipped a tanker truck near here on Interstate 94 on Thursday afternoon, according to the North Dakota Highway Patrol. The patrol is still investigating the cause of the incident that put the unidentified North Dakota man in the hospital. "He claimed he was having some kind of medical problem, coughing, and didn't remember what happened," said Sgt. Dave Wolf of the patrol. "We're kind of unsure as to why he lost control." The semi driver is being kept overnight at Sanford Medical Center with non-critical injuries, he said. Both drivers were wearing their seat belts. Wolf said the driver of the tanker truck, also unidentified, was transported to Essentia Health but was later released. Troopers spent hours cleaning up an oil spill caused by the collision, after the westbound semi clipped the westbound tanker, causing the tanker to go into the ditch and roll over, Wolf said. Between 200 and 300 gallons of low-grade oil spilled out of the tanker, but Wolf said



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it was not hazardous. One lane of traffic was closed in each direction of I-94 as troopers worked to right the tanker and clean up the spill, Wolf said.

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/369594/group/News/>

VIETNAM, HANOI, AUGUST 4 2012. CELL PHONES BANNED FROM PETROL STATIONS

Customers who use cell phones at petrol stations will now be fined up to VND5 million (US\$240), a new Government decree has stipulated. Decree 52/2012, which will take effect tomorrow, stipulates fines for many types of fire-related violations. The goal is to prevent and control explosions. Those who use cell phones at petrol stations and near fuel storage and those who cut metal without taking preventive measures will receive the highest fines - between VND2-5 million (\$96-240), the decree said. Police and local authorities at district and grassroots levels will be in charge of spotting violations and fining the perpetrators. Lieutenant Dinh Van Ngan, head of HCM City's Fire Prevention and Fighting Police Department told Tuoi Tre (Youth) newspaper that the decree was necessary to warn people about the risks of cell phone-caused fires. Ngan said the department would be responsible for educating people about the regulation. Tens of thousands of informational leaflets will be distributed. "These educational efforts will be maintained after this Saturday, when the regulation takes effect, to ensure public awareness," he said. Ngan added that petrol stations would be required to install signs banning cell phones and petrol staff and customers were encouraged to report violations to relevant authorities. However, many have raised doubts about the feasibility of the regulation. Tran Dai Dung, owner of a petrol station in the city's Cong Hoa Street, said many customers were talking on cell phones while having their vehicles filled up. "We remind them not to, but they do what they want," he said. Petrol buyer Nguyen Thuy Linh doubted that many violators would actually be fined. She said she knew the risks of using her cell phone at petrol stations, but she did it anyway. Last December, a man in Ha Noi's Duong Xa Commune was hospitalised for being seriously burnt while talking on a cell phone at a petrol station in Long Bien. Doctors of the city's Saint Paul Hospital said the 34-year-old patient suffered burns on 60 per cent of his body. This was the first time a cell phone user was burnt so badly he had to be treated in the hospital. The decree also stipulates that those who bring matches, lighters, cell phones, electronic devices or tools that cause fire or heat to banned areas will be fined between VND100,000-200,000 (\$5-10). Those who use devices causing fire or heat without staying at the required distance will be fined VND500,000 (\$25).

<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/social-issues/228305/cell-phones-banned-from-petrol-stations.html>

USA, ARK, BERRYVILLE , AUGUST 4 2012. TANKER FLIPS, GAS LEAK AVERTED; DRIVER AIRLIFTED

t.s. strickland



Sheriff's deputies and emergency workers secure the scene of a tractor-trailer accident on Thursday on Highway 21 near County Road 705 south of Berryville. The gasoline tanker overturned and struck a stand of trees after it missed a curve, witnesses told the Carroll County News.

A tractor-trailer driver was injured when his gasoline-filled tanker overturned on Highway 21 late Thursday morning. The accident occurred around 11 a.m. near County Road 705. As of press time, the Arkansas Highway Patrol had not released the driver's name, and his condition was not known. However, he had been airlifted to Mercy Hospital in Springfield Thursday afternoon after originally being taken by ambulance to Berryville's hospital. By 11:30 Thursday, at least 20 officers

and firefighters were on the scene of the wreck. They milled around the crumpled remains of the tanker, which was wedged against a stand of trees at the bottom of the highway embankment. They urged bystanders to stay at a safe distance, fearing a possible explosion after the gasoline was initially thought to be leaking slowly. A second tanker soon arrived to siphon off the wrecked tanker's gasoline load. Authorities closed the northbound lane of the highway for several hundred yards, directing cars around the wreck and bringing traffic to a crawl. Bobby Edens, who stood nearby, was driving directly behind the truck when the accident occurred. He said he and another man had pulled the driver from the cab before paramedics arrived. The cause of the accident is not clear. Edens said the driver told him he thought something had come loose in the front of the tanker. However, Edens added that he thought the driver was driving too fast on the windy highway. The accident occurred at a curve in the road where local residents say many crashes have occurred over the years.

<http://www.carrollconews.com/story/1878015.html>



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NIGERIA, LAGOS, AUGUST 4 2012. NIGERIA LEAKS BILLIONS FROM RAMPANT OIL THEFT



Al Jazeera Television in this feature exposes more on the extent of oil bunkering in the Niger Delta area of Nigeria. Oil firms and government say nearly 200,000 barrels of oil are stolen each day from pipelines and wells by criminal gangs. This is also a sophisticated criminal network has stepped up its operations in Nigeria's Bayelsa State, costing state and oil companies as much as a billion dollars per month. Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company's Nigerian subsidiary said in a recent report that between 150,000 and 180,000 barrels of oil are stolen each from its pipelines and wells. Government estimates have put the number of stolen oil as high as twice this amount. The trade in stolen oil involves international traders who provide oil at discounted prices to refineries in other parts of the world. Al Jazeera's Mohammed Adow, reporting from Nigeria's Bayelsa State, said the impact of oil theft on the environment was devastating. Adow witnessed what he called "effectively a crime scene" and "rivers covered by thick films of oil" while on a helicopter tour of the region. "Vegetation in this once heavily forested region is also devastated by frequent spills and explosions," Adow said. Philip Mshelbila of Shell Oil in Nigeria told Al Jazeera, "cleaning up what has already occurred would be futile unless you stop more from happening". Meanwhile, the men responsible for the oil theft say they will cease their actions only if the government offers support to the people of the oil-rich region of western Africa. "It's stealing, we know, but if the federal government can help us then we will leave this [work] entirely," said Ibegi Alakoroa, an oil thief in Bayelsa State.

Dodging Responsibility

On Friday, Amnesty International said investigations into Shell Oil spills were a "fiasco", alleging the company repeatedly blamed sabotage in an effort to avoid responsibility. "No matter what evidence is presented to Shell about oil spills, they constantly hide behind the 'sabotage' excuse and dodge their responsibility for massive pollution that is due to their failure to properly maintain their infrastructure," Audrey Gaughran, director of global issues at Amnesty, said in a statement. She said "the investigation process into oil spills in the Niger Delta is a fiasco", referring to the region that is home to Africa's largest crude industry. The London-based rights group accused the Anglo-Dutch oil giant of ignoring evidence that the latest spill in the Delta's Bodo Creek area, discovered in June, was caused by pipeline corrosion. Bodo Creek saw two major oil spills in 2008 over which the Anglo-Dutch petroleum giant is being sued in a London court by 11,000 Bodo residents. An official from Shell's Nigerian subsidiary told the AFP news agency the company was not ready to comment on the latest allegations. In the statement, Amnesty said it hired the US company Accufacts to examine pictures of the Bodo Creek pipeline over the June spill. According to Amnesty, the company said it noticed a "layered loss of metal on the outside of the pipe," which is "a very familiar pattern" consistent with corrosion. "Shell have said locally that the spill looks like sabotage, and they completely ignore the evidence of corrosion," said Stevyn Obodoekwe of the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development, which co-authored the Amnesty statement.

<http://tribune.com.ng/sat/index.php/features/8204-nigeria-leaks-billions-from-rampant-oil-theft.html>

PAKISTAN, MULTAN, AUGUST 4 2012. BLAST AT FIREWORKS WAREHOUSE KILLS 2, INJURES 9



Fire fighters extinguish a fire as rescue workers clear rubble from the site of an explosion in Multan on August 4, 2012.

At least six people were killed and nine others were injured whereas many more were buried beneath rubble when a blast ripped through a fireworks warehouse in the Hussain Aghahi area of the city, causing the building and other structures nearby to slowly collapse, Express News reported on Saturday. Explosions continued in the building, causing a steady fire due to chemicals stored there. At least eight people were reportedly present in the building at the time of the explosion. Rescue teams reached the scene and began efforts to extract people buried under the rubble whereas firefighters attempted to put out the fire caused by the explosion. A heavy contingent of police also reached the scene and began efforts to evacuate nearby buildings that were at risk of collapsing. The injured



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were shifted to Nishtar Hospital. CPO Multan reached the scene with his team and informed media personnel that the area SHO had been suspended and assured of action against those involved in letting the banned business continue. Earlier, four members of a family were injured in a blast at a house used for manufacturing fireworks.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/417490/blast-at-fireworks-warehouse-kills-2-injures-9/>

PERU, ANCASH, SANTA ROSA DE CAJACAY, AUGUST 4 2012. MORE THAN 100 SICKENED IN PERU TOXIC MINING SPILL

carla salazar

More than 100 rural Peruvians have been sickened by the spill of a toxic copper concentrate produced at one of the Andean country's biggest mines, authorities said Friday. The Ancash state regional health office said 140 people were treated for "irritative symptoms caused by the inhalation of toxins" after a pipeline carrying the concentrate under high pressure burst open in their community. Most of the injured had joined in efforts to prevent liquid copper slurry from reaching a nearby river after the pipeline linking the Antamina copper mine to the coast ruptured last week in the village of Santa Rosa de Cajacay, said the community's president, Hilario Moran. "Without taking into account the consequences, we pitched in to help," Moran told The Associated Press by phone. The people used absorbent fabric provided by the mine but were not given gloves or protective masks, said Antonio Mendoza, the mine's environmental director. Shortly afterward, people became ill, vomiting, suffering headaches and nose bleeds. "That's unethical and irresponsible and they should know better," Greg Moller, a professor of environmental chemistry and toxicology at the [University of Idaho-Washington State University](http://www.idaho.edu), said of the mining company's enlisting villagers in the cleanup without proper protective gear. Mendoza said the substance that spilled "was not necessarily toxic." "It's a dangerous substance to the extent that it's an industrial substance," he said. "They are dangerous substances that require a particular handling but aren't necessarily toxic." Moller disputed that characterization. "This was actually a toxic episode and these people are intoxicated," he said, adding that the alkaline copper concentrate likely damaged lung tissue, causing chemical burns. He said it was his understanding that the rupture released a mist of concentrate, which could have created a fine cloud of toxic airborne particles. "There are a lot of chemical and physical irritants in that mix," Moller said. About 30 people were taken to the San Pablo hospital in the highlands regional capital of Huaraz immediately after the July 25 rupture, Moran said. "Some people continue to get sick and continue to go to Huaraz," he added. The director of the private San Pablo hospital, Raul Guisse, refused to say how many patients were being treated there Friday from the spill. He said he was not authorized by his superiors to provide the information by phone. Peru's Civil Defense agency said July 28 that five children under age 10 were among those sickened. Moran said Antamina is paying the health care costs of those sickened by the spill. Antamina is a consortium that includes some of the world's biggest mining multinationals, [BHP Billiton](http://www.bhpbilliton.com) Ltd. Of [Australia](http://www.australia.com), [Xstrata](http://www.xstrata.com) PLC of Switzerland, [TECK Cominco Ltd.](http://www.teck.com) Of [Canada](http://www.canada.com) and the [Mitsubishi](http://www.mitsubishi.com) Corp. of Japan. Peru's Environment Ministry has said it will release details on Saturday of medical exams of the victims. The company said 45 tons of the concentrate spilled and all but 3 tons were cleaned up. Moran and Mendoza said the spill was the first from the 190-mile (302-kilometer) pipeline, which delivers copper concentrate to a treatment plant on the coast from which it is loaded as a powder on ships for export to smelters abroad. The company says the pipeline measures between 8-10 inches (21-25 centimeters) in diameter. Peru is the world's No. 2 producer of copper behind Chile and mining has been central to its recent economic boom, accounting for more than 60 percent of export income. But the environmental costs have had a negative social impact. Fearing water supplies could be diminished or contaminated, residents of the bordering state of Cajamarca continue to resist a \$5 billion gold mining project that would be Peru's largest. The dispute has triggered violence that killed five civilians last month and prompted Peru's government to impose a state of emergency that suspended civil liberties in three provinces. That emergency was extended Friday for another 30 days. Environmental protection has been relatively lax in Peru. The country did not have an environmental ministry until 2008 and the mining ministry continues to sign off on environmental impact studies for mining projects. The director of the environmental group Cooperaccion, Jose de Echave, called the Cajacay spill another example of government neglect. He said local authorities in mining districts are unprepared to deal with such incidents and companies have inadequate safety precautions in place. "What is evident with this spill is that companies in their zones of influence effectively self-regulate. There is no presence of the state to control or regulate," De Echave said. One of the most serious toxic spills on record in Peru occurred in 2000 in Cajamarca when a tanker truck carrying mercury crashed and broke open in the village of Choropampa, sickening more than 700 people. The mercury belonged to the Yanacocha consortium, whose majority owner is U.S.-based [Newmont Mining](http://www.newmontmining.com) Co. and which is in charge of the Conga project that has triggered the opposition in Cajamarca.



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MEXICO, COAHUILA, NUEVA ROSITA, AUGUST 5 2012. 6 FOUND DEAD INSIDE MEXICAN COAL MINE



A rescue team found and recovered the bodies of six workers trapped inside a coal mine in the northern Mexican state of Coahuila, officials told Efe. State Public Safety Secretary Jorge Luis Moran Delgado said initial reports indicated five miners were trapped but that that number later rose to six, while another worker, Armando Robles Piña, was rescued alive. Coahuila's deputy emergency management chief, Francisco Martinez, also confirmed to Efe Friday afternoon that a rescue crew had recovered the bodies of the six miners who perished in the accident. "The most recent report is that we now have the bodies of the six people and all that's left is to officially identify them," the official said. Martinez said some 75 rescue workers using special equipment took part in the search operation at

the mine, which is located in the town of San Juan Sabinas and operated by the Mimosa unit of Minera del Norte, a subsidiary of steelmaker Altos Hornos de Mexico. Moran said an investigation will now be launched "to determine the causes of this fatal accident." He said the accident occurred at a large coal mine being "professionally" developed by a company "that normally has all the permits and (complies with all) safety standards." "Unfortunately, accidents happen in all situations," Moran said, adding that Mimosa "has been fully cooperating with authorities" and contributed to the search-and-rescue effort. In a statement, Mimosa said the one worker rescued alive had "only bruises" and was taken to a hospital for treatment. It added that a pocket of methane gas caused a giant landslide of "approximately 100 tons of coal" and that "proper functioning of the ventilation system prevented the gas from igniting and exploding, while the automatic control systems inside the unit instantly suspended the operation." The mine's equipment allowed "the immediate and risk-free exit of 285 workers who were on the first shift," Mimosa said. The Labor Ministry, for its part, said that once the rescue efforts have concluded it will conduct a "special inspection of safety and hygiene conditions to identify possible violations of (mining) regulations." The ministry said it has instructed the federal prosecutor for the defense of labor, "who is already in the region," to provide free legal counseling and representation to the workers and their families. Seven men were killed last week in an explosion at a coal mine in the nearby town of Muzquiz, Coahuila. Coahuila is home to numerous coal mines, many of which fall short of official safety standards. A February 2006 gas explosion at the Pasta de Conchos coal mine in San Juan de Sabinas, Coahuila, killed 65 men. Only two of the bodies were ever recovered.

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- [Blast kills Mexico mining family](#)
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<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/08/04/6-found-dead-inside-mexican-coal-mine/>



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