



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 869 Newsy Stuff

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

August 12 2012



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INDIA, GUJARAT, BHAVNAGAR, JULY 30 2012. SC ALLOWS DISMANTLING OF US SHIP EXXON VALDEZ IN GUJARAT



The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the dismantling of the controversial US ship MV Oriental N, formerly called the Exxon Valdez, at the Alang Ship Recycling Yard in The apex court, however, also ruled that in future no vessel should be dismantled in the country in contravention of the Basel Convention, an international treaty on cross-boundary movement of hazardous wastes that, among others, insists on prior consent by the host country and prior decontamination of vessels in the country of origin, a lawyer for the petitioner added in a telephone interview from Delhi. A written copy of the judgement had not been made available by the court at the time of writing this news story. The entry of the former oil tanker, which gained notoriety for running aground and spilling more than one lakh barrels of crude oil on the Alaskan coast in 1989, has

been stalled since May after Delhi-based activist Gopal Krishna filed a petition demanding it not be allowed since Basel Convention rules had not been followed. For their part, government agencies with jurisdiction over the yard at Alang told the SC that an inspection of the ship, which was converted into an ore carrier a few years ago, found no hazardous wastes in loose form onboard. As per the rules framed on the basis of the SC's earlier orders on shipbreaking, the government can therefore allow the ship's entry for dismantling, they had said. The ship is currently anchored about 6 nautical miles off Alang with its 15-member Indian crew. "In their affidavits, the MoEF, the Gujarat Maritime Board, the Ministry of Shipping and the Gujarat Pollution Control Board all said there is no hazardous waste in loose form on the ship. But none have ever filed an inventory of materials found onboard. The court has said during dismantling if any waste is found in the ship, it should be disposed of through proper process in the landfill and the cost borne by the ship owner," said Sanjay Parikh, the advocate who represented Gopal Krishna, the petitioner. "I am happy that the court has also ordered there be no dismantling of ships in the future without the Basel Convention being followed," he said. A government official in Alang who did not wish to be named as he had not seen the court's judgement yet said disposal costs being borne by the owner is standard practice at the yard, and that non-loose waste found onboard ships are disposed of by a company specially hired for the process into a special treatment facility currently being expanded. The strict implementation of the Basel Convention to ship-breaking in India has alarmed state government officials because the Alang Ship Recycling Yard, considered Asia's largest, 'produces' up to four million tons of recycled steel per year, besides providing wares to a thriving antiques and second-hand furniture market nearby the yard itself and supports up to five lakh jobs directly or indirectly. Earlier this month, Gujarat's Chief Secretary A K Joti had publicly pleaded with MoEF Secretary T Chatterjee that a "level playing field" be established because end-of-life ships would go to neighbours Pakistan, Bangladesh and China for dismantling because these countries are "violating the convention with impunity". Prior decontamination of end-of-life ships, said a senior official, would hit business at Alang because ships built in the last century contain asbestos and other material as insulating material for engines and other machinery, and 'decontaminating' these at the point of origin would effectively paralyze vessels, making it either economically nonviable or impossible to ships to Alang.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/sc-allows-dismantling-of-us-ship-exxon-valdez-in-gujarat/981398/0>

USA, W.VA, TALCOTT, JULY 31 2012. TANKER TRUCK ROLLS IN SUMMERS COUNTY, ROAD CLOSED

douglas fritz

Emergency dispatchers in Summers County have announced that Route 12 between Talcott and Lowell is closed as of 8:20 a.m. on Monday, July 30. A tanker truck rolled while traveling the road leading to the closure. 59News has a crew on the scene watch for updates here and on Facebook.

<http://www.wvntv.com/story/19145000/tanker-truck-rolls-in-summers-county-road-closed>



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MALAYSIA, LABUAN, JULY 31 2012. LAST TANKER FIRE VICTIM FOUND IN VESSEL'S HOLDING TANK



Malaysian tanker Bunga Alpinia burns at a jetty on the South China Sea island of Labuan on July 26 in this photo provided by Malaysian Maritime. Firefighters on Monday recovered the body of the last crewman missing after the Malaysian tanker exploded, bringing the death toll from the accident to five, police said.

The fifth and last victim of the Malaysian International Shipping Corporation (MISC) owned MT Bunga Alpinia oil tanker fire last Thursday, was found in a holding tank of the scorched ship about 1.45 pm Monday. According to the Labuan search and rescue team, the body of Mohammad Nazrin Khamsani, 20, from Kuala Lumpur, was found trapped in the flooded hold of the ship. The team had launched their search for the last victim yesterday after the ship had been sufficiently cooled down to board. The oil tanker had caught fire and exploded at

the Petronas Chemicals Methanol Sdn Bhd jetty at the Rantau-Rantau industrial zone near Pulau Enoe in Labuan about 2.32 am, last Thursday. The four other victims of the tragedy were Syahril Azmi Baharudin, 28, and Mohd Hanafi Khalil, 24, both from Melaka, Zahari Hassim, 46, from Negeri Sembilan and Filipino, Colanggoy Errol Calaluan, 22. Labuan police chief, Supt Saiman Kasran, described the recovery of the last victim as the result of consolidated efforts by the police, fire and rescue, Peninsular Marine Department, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and the villagers in the area. "We hope the rescue operation is complete, with this last recovery," he said. Meanwhile, Labuan Search and Rescue Department director Zainal Madasin said the department's participation had provided credibility to their capacity in handling marine operations involving chemicals. Labuan member of parliament Datuk Yusoff Mahal conveyed his condolences to the victims' families. In a statement on Monday, MISC said that the industry experts it had engaged and the authorities were still working to contain the minor slick from Bunga Alpinia, to ensure the environment and surrounding communities were protected. Commenting on speculation that the fire was caused by lightning, Petronas Chemicals Group Bhd chief executive officer, Dr Abd Hapiz Abdullah said a thorough investigation would be carried out to ascertain the actual cause, as it involved the credibility of the Petronas Methanol Labuan jetty safety.

http://www.bernama.com/bernama/state_news/news.php?id=684221&cat=sbe

PERU, IQUITOS, AUGUST 1 2012. OIL COMPANY UNDER FIRE IN AMAZON: NEW INQUIRIES, EXPOSÉS AND PENALTIES FUEL INDIGENOUS MOVEMENT

darrin mortenson



Lakes filled with oil and industrial waste dot the swampy landscape of the Pastaza and other Amazon tributaries where PlusPetrol and other oil companies operate.

The world that PlusPetrol has built in Peru's Amazon over the last 16 years seems to be crumbling under the weight of the company's alleged crimes. The Argentinian oil company – notorious for allegedly spilling oil, dumping toxic petrochemicals and production waters into streams used by indigenous communities – is finally getting the attention it deserves. On the pleading of indigenous leaders whose people have suffered four decades under the oil regime in the region of Loreto, a congressional investigation finally led to the arrival of four members of

Congress who, in late June, had to see for themselves the contamination that officials at all levels of government have ignored for years. In one visit, a congresswoman slipped into an oil-filled pond that the company allegedly denied even existed. In another, legislators arrived on the scene as PlusPetrol workers were bulldozing dirt and trees on top an oil-filled lake to hide potential contamination. "This is how it is. This is what we live with out there," said Adolfo Rengifo Hualinga, vice president of the Federation of Native Communities of the Corrientes (FECONACO). In recent testimony before Peru's Congress, PlusPetrol officials blamed indigenous "vandalism" for a majority of their spills, claiming that the Natives were responsible for poisoning themselves. After Quechua communities on the Pastaza River rose up to protest PlusPetrol in June, threatening to add to Peruvian President Ollanta Humala's many woes, a cabinet-level commission was mobilized and dispatched to the community of Alianza Topal to diffuse tensions, resulting in new promises from the central government to make life better there – promises now formalized in a binding "Supreme Resolution" that covers residents of four Amazon watersheds. The first two-



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dozen medical personnel arrived in the Pastaza oil town of Andoas mid-July to start surveying the health of indigenous Quechua and Urarinas residents and show that the government might finally mean business. The convergence of the government probes has also led to some of the most damning media coverage of Loreto's oil industry in recent years, perhaps best exemplified in a photo by the Lima daily [La República](#) showing a man hip-deep in an oil-filled lake being pulled out with branches. "Of the 75 (remediation) obligations listed in the PAC (Supplementary Environmental Plan), the company maintains that it has completed all but seven," the La República caption reads. "The reality reveals the lie," it concludes. PlusPetrol remains conspicuously silent through it all, possibly due to damage control after another spill in the Trompeteros region on June 26 – right in the middle of the congressional investigation and visits by the government ministers. Indigenous leaders blame that spill on corroded pipes, some dating to the 1970s, that the company has been allowed to use to cut costs. PlusPetrol officials might also be quiet after several recent oil spills on the Rio Tigre, including one reported on June 11 by Emerson Sandy Tapuy, leader of Tigre River Kichwa communities and president of the regional indigenous federation ORPIO. "They could finally see it and feel it, see with their own eyes that the contamination exists. Just like we've always said it existed," Sandy said of the visit from Congress. Despite any kind of defense, the company can only listen quietly to the new charges laid against it by the Peruvian environmental control agency OEFA, which recently sanctioned it for failing to mop up contamination it claimed to have cleansed from streams, lakes, lagoons and wetlands throughout Loreto. "These resolutions confirm the accusations made by indigenous organizations affected by oil operations and contamination in the watersheds of the Tigre, Pastaza, Corrientes and Marañon (rivers), confirming that the company PlusPetrol is an agent of long term contamination in their territories," reported the indigenous group PUINAMUDT on July 12. This most recent evidence of PlusPetrol's "infractions of environmental laws" and abuses of indigenous communities will surely provide fodder for the ongoing congressional probe, which is nearing publication of its initial report based on data going back six years. Insiders say the report could damage the reputation of PlusPetrol enough to make it impossible, or at least more uncomfortable, for cozy relationships with government officials to continue. It could also make it more difficult for Peru's top ministers to ignore the company's record and not hold local government officials accountable. Insiders talk of blowing the lid off years of corruption at regional and local levels. The evidence could strike a blow to the wall of secrecy and complicity that has allowed PlusPetrol to operate in Peru with impunity for so many years, and finally expose it to the wrath of indigenous communities bent on getting some long-awaited justice. And with the oil industry planning double production in Peru over the next five years, an empowered and unified indigenous movement finally on the national stage could force the change needed to make sure business can't be done as usual in Peru any more.

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/07/30/oil-company-under-fire-in-amazon-new-inquiries-exposes-and-penalties-fuel-indigenous-movement-125976>

USA, MA, BOSTON, AUGUST 1 2012. CONSTRUCTION TORCH SPARKS HOTEL GARAGE FIRE >> CHEMICAL TANK CATCHES FIRE

 [Watch the Video Construction Torch Sparks Hotel Garage Fire](#)

A major Boston hotel has addressed some safety concerns after they were discovered while crews battled a small parking garage fire on Monday. The fire broke out in Level 1 of the Westin Hotel garage just after 10 a.m. Monday, according to Boston fire. The fire started on a control knob of a 3-foot high acetylene tank, and fire crews doused the tank to keep it cool, according to Boston fire. Westin General Manager Michael Jorgensen said an independent contractor was in the basement of the parking garage building a new restaurant when a welding torch malfunctioned, causing the small fire. "Very little effect to the hotel, but there were quite a few fire trucks out front," Jorgensen said. Boston fire's Steve MacDonald said the contractor had the proper permits for the torches, but they will be amended to include a fire watch any time welding is taking place at the site. The fire was extinguished and the tank, which was on a cart, was removed. "The flame was impinging on another cylinder -- an oxygen cylinder downstairs. It created a lot of smoke condition," said Boston Fire Dep. Chief Steve Dunbar. During the incident, Boston fire say they discovered that some of the exhaust fans were not working and gave the hotel until the end of the day to fix them or risk being shut down. Fire officials also said it appeared a standpipe was leaking and it had to be fixed. Jorgensen said the exhaust fans have been fixed. Water that was believed to be leaking from a standpipe was actually from the fire department's hoses, Jorgensen said.

<http://www.wcvb.com/news/local/metro/Fire-reported-in-Westin-Hotel-garage/-/11971628/15827854/-/yrxqj/-/index.html>



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USA, AZ, LAKE PLEASANT, AUGUST 1 2012. MAN INJURED IN BOAT EXPLOSION ON LAKE PLEASANT

stacey delikat

Watch the Video

- [Man Injured in Boat Explosion on Lake Pleasant](#)
- [1 Burned in Boat Fire at Lake Pleasant](#)
- [1 Hurt in Boat Explosion on Lake Pleasant](#)

Slideshow [Boat catches fire on Lake Pleasant](#)



An 18-year-old man suffered critical burns to his arms and legs after the boat he was in exploded on Lake Pleasant Monday evening. Four passengers were on board when the explosion happened. Three of them jumped out and swam to safety. According to Peoria Battalion Chief Tom Pendley, the fourth man did not know how to swim and so stayed on board as the boat erupted into flames. He was eventually rescued from the water as the boat began to sink. He was airlifted to Maricopa Medical Center with burns to his arms and legs. His name has not been released and his current condition was not immediately available. Pendley said the boat had just refueled at the marina and was headed back out to the water when it exploded. "I've never seen anything like that," said Dave Demokos of Vessel Assistance, a group that helps stranded boaters. "The damage was so extreme that [the boat] started to sink." Demokos and his crew went out to the scene to assist. David and Mikal Benion were on board when it happened and were able to escape with minor injuries. "I heard a loud boom," David said. "I didn't even have time to think. We were just yelling at each other to get off." The

cause of the explosion remains under investigation.

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/Man-injured-in-boat-explosion-on-Lake-Pleasant-164359016.html>

USA, WI, WASHINGTON CO, JACKSON, AUGUST 1 2012. 7 PRIVATE WELLS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY CONTAMINATED WITH GASOLINE

Watch the Video [7 Wells in Washington County Contaminated With Gasoline](#)



More problems have come Monday morning for homeowners in Washington County who live near a gasoline pipeline leak. Three more private wells have been contaminated with gasoline, bringing the total of private wells contaminated to seven. Water samples in those wells found unsafe levels of [benzene](#). The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources returned to the Town of Jackson to investigate the well sites on Monday. 56,000 gallons of gasoline leaked after a pipeline ruptured nearly [two weeks ago](#). The pipeline was quickly repaired, and West Shore Pipeline also excavated tainted soil and tested nearby air and water quality. Today's TMJ4 reports that wells as far as 3/4 of a mile away from the

break are being tested. Homeowners along Western Avenue in the Town of Jackson want answers soon. Things have become so bad there that people who live in that area have left town, and have not decided when they will return. "It's very scary," explained neighbor Joe Herman. He is waiting for results after the DNR tested his well on Sunday. "We've stocked up on bottled water, limiting our showers. (I'm angry) at the lack of information." A public meeting on the gasoline spill has been set for Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Jackson Area Community Center.

<http://www.620wtmj.com/news/local/164208576.html>

USA, TX, DALLAS, AUGUST 1 2012. 7-ELEVEN TO ACQUIRE TETCO STORES

7-Eleven Inc., has signed an agreement to acquire San Antonio-based Tetco Stores Inc.'s company-operated convenience stores, CSP Daily News has learned. Sources put the number of stores at between 174 and 185. TETCO has been owned and operated by the Tom E. Turner family for more than 60 years. C-store operations, construction and equipment sales, fuel system sales and service, petrochemical distribution and environmental engineering are the company's primary revenue



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sources, with significant interests in oil and gas exploration, real-estate development, paving and utility construction. TETCO operates stores in Texas, as well as Arizona, Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming. The majority of its company-operated sites are in three markets: San Antonio, Dallas/Fort Worth and Austin, Texas. It has a strong dealer network and offers numerous services to the dealers through its Tetco Stores LP division. There are 756 locations in total. Based in Dallas, 7-Eleven operates, franchises or licenses more than 9,300 7-Eleven stores in North America. Globally, there are more than 46,800 7-Eleven stores in 16 countries. During 2011, 7-Eleven stores worldwide generated total sales of more than \$76.6 billion.

[http://www.cspnet.com/?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20News%20Flash%202012%20\(18\)&utm_content=&spMailingID=39528308&spUserID=MjY3NTM2OTUxMDES1&spJobID=152641603&spReportId=MTUyNjQxNjAzSO](http://www.cspnet.com/?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20News%20Flash%202012%20(18)&utm_content=&spMailingID=39528308&spUserID=MjY3NTM2OTUxMDES1&spJobID=152641603&spReportId=MTUyNjQxNjAzSO)

USA, AL, BIRMINGHAM, AUGUST 1 2012. DRIVER OF BURNING CAR PULLS UP TO GAS PUMP

tricia forbe

 [Watch the Video Driver of Burning Car Pulls Up to Gas Pump](#)



A driver pulled over in the worst possible place when he realized his car was on fire Monday afternoon near Birmingham. He went to a gas pump. After firefighters put the fire out, the gas pump was destroyed. However, some quick thinking prevented the situation from becoming a lot worse. Fire officials said the driver noticed smoke and flames coming from the inside of the car on the passenger side, and he pulled in to get water to put it out. The gas station attendant inside helped make sure no one got hurt by rushing to turn the pumps off before the fire could get to them. Witnesses said they could not believe the driver pulled in right next to a gas pump. "We were all freaking out hoping it wouldn't blow up, because we knew the explosion would be really bad," said Andrew Harden, who witnessed the fire. Fire officials said drivers with a fire inside their vehicle should stay as far

away from gas pumps as possible and immediately call for help.

<http://www.wsfa.com/story/19154738/driver-of-burning-car-pulls-up-to-gas-pump>

USA, CA, SANTA CRUZ, AUGUST 1 2012. PG&E, CHEVRON TO BEGIN CLEANUP OF 19TH CENTURY GAS SITE IN SANTA CRUZ

jason hoppin



PG&E and Chevron have undertaken the cleanup of a former lamp oil production site at the intersection of River Street and Pacific Avenue.

A 145-year-old polluted manufactured gas site is being cleaned up, right in the shadow of downtown Santa Cruz' Town Clock tower. The Standard Oil of California facility was located along North Pacific Avenue, prime real estate that has long since been paved over for a variety of buildings, including apartments. For years until natural gas came into widespread use, it was one of 50,000 coal gasification plants nationwide, once widely used as a source of municipal fuel. Pacific Gas & Electric and Chevron Corp. are jointly cleaning the site, a project that gets under

way in August and is being overseen by the state Department of Toxic Substances Control. It is one of a number of former gas manufacturing sites PG&E is cleaning up around the state. "A major part of why we're doing this is we're committed to safe environmental practices and operations," said PG&E spokeswoman Monica Tell. "And as part of this commitment we are responsible for impacts of our prior operations." Standard Oil of California later became Chevron. PG&E purchased the property in the 1950s, which extends up North Pacific Avenue and turns north on River Street, terminating at the ProBuild property. PG&E never operated the plant, which was active from 1867 to about 1930. Standard Oil of California purchased it from the previous operator in 1928. Standard Oil of California closed it a short time later, when natural gas became widely available in Santa Cruz. It was later dismantled and redeveloped. When the city gave River Street a makeover in 2002, residues from the former plant were found on part of the former site. Manufactured gas plants often left behind a roster of



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environmental problems, especially since they were typically located near waterways for the ease of importing the raw materials needed to make the gas. "By the time we acquired it was no longer a functioning plant," Tell said, adding that the cleanup is occurring with the cooperation of the current property owners. About 2,700 cubic yards of dirt will be removed from the site, the equivalent of about 15 truckloads. It will be replaced with clean soil. As part of the project, about 18 trees will be removed. They will later be replaced with at least 20 native trees, along with a variety of drought-tolerant landscaping. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_21194980/pg-e-chevron-begin-cleanup-19th-century-gas

USA, TX, PORT ISABEL, AUGUST 1 2012. DIESEL SPILL REPORTED IN THE WATERS OF PORT ISABEL

Photo's [4] Diesel Spill in Port Isabel



Authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of a large diesel fuel spill in the waters of Port Isabel. It all happened off South Shore Drive just after 7:45 a.m. Monday. Officials with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) told a tugboat owned by CCM sank discharging an undisclosed amount of diesel into the water. It's still unknown what caused the tugboat to sink but Port Isabel residents told Action 4 News that red fuel has been seen in the waterways on the city's southside. The diesel spill is impacting the turning basin in Port Isabel, the South Shore Shell boat ramp and their main facilities. Officials with the Texas General Land Office are working to contain the spill and clean it up using buoys and other means. South Shore Shells told Action 4 News they alerted authorities of the spill around 7:45 a.m. this morning. Both the GLO and the U.S. Coast Guard met with the responsible parties this morning. Contractors have been on the scene trying to clean up the mess. Action 4 News will provide more details as

they become available.

http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=782047#_UBhASLQ_8rU

USA, AL, HUNTSVILLE, AUGUST 1 2012. FIGHTING FOR YOU: CUSTOMERS WANT CARS DAMAGED BY FAULTY FUEL REPAIRED ON GAS STATION'S DIME

vention blandin

Watch the Video Customers Want Cars Damaged By Faulty Fuel Repaired

Customers of one Huntsville gas station are pumped up. They're demanding the gas station's manager fix their cars. Customers discovered water was put into their cars' gas tanks from fuel bought at the Chevron on Jordan Lane and Mastin Lake road almost two weeks ago. We've heard from a couple of the drivers. We're saying faulty fuel, but the bottom line is, what ended up the customers' cars was bad gas. Drivers told WHNT NEWS 19 their cars stalled at the gas station or a couple of miles away from the gas station. Drivers say the manager of the Chevron is not fixing their cars. They say he's ignoring their calls. The manager told WHNT NEWS 19 that's not the case. "I pumped \$15 worth of gas. I went inside the store to pay the \$15," said Clarie Cawthorn. Cawthorn thought she was buying a necessity, but ended up walking out of the Chevron with a headache. "My car died on me. It stopped. It would not start-up again. It would not do anything," added Cawthorn. Cawthorn was one of the drivers who pumped water-contaminated gas into their cars at the service station. She and one other driver said they've tried talking to the service station's manager about getting their cars fixed. "I've been going up there to see was he in. He is never there. He never did call. I never had a response from him at all," added Cawthorn. Both say they've not had any luck, so decided to fix the cars themselves. Cawthorn took her 2004 Acura to Jerry Damson Honda. "When they took it apart, they told me it was bad gas. He said you need to take it to the place where you got your gas from," added Cawthorn. Cawthorn says frustration does not begin to describe the last week. "I had to find a way to work. I took three days off from work. I had to gas money to my sister. It was hard for me to get to work because no one wants to get up at 5:00 a.m. to take you to work," added Cawthorn. The faulty fuel has caused stress for Cawthorn. It's also created a financial burden. "I had to go get me a \$500 loan. When I got paid, I put \$200 more with it and paid to get my car fixed so I can get back to work," added Cawthorn. Cawthorn only wants the gas station to pay for her cars repairs. She was not able to reach its manager, but WHNT NEWS 19 got him on the phone. The manager says his company has cleared up the issue for some of the customers. "There



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are actually no more problems. There was a little misunderstanding between the mechanic and me. We have solved the problem. We have already made the payments to the mechanic," said Aziz, the store's manager. The manager acknowledged the original delay. He says he had to consult with the gas station's corporate office before helping with repairs. The Chevron manager says two other cars filled with the faulty fuel have been repaired on his store's dime. He says two more cars still need repairs. The manager says those owners must come to the store, ask for him and pick up the information to get everything worked out.

<http://whnt.com/2012/07/30/faighting-for-you-customers-want-cars-damaged-by-faulty-fuel-repaired-on-gas-stations-dime/>

USA, N.C, TYRRELL COUNTY, AUGUST 1 2012. 2 KILLED IN ACCIDENT WITH JET FUEL TANKER, RESIDENTS EVACUATED, ROAD CLOSED

Watch the Video

- [Driver to Face Charges in Deadly Tyrrell County Accident](#)
- [Troopers: Dozing Driver Crashes, Kills Brother](#)
- [Man Charged in Brother's Death after Tanker Crash](#)



We made calls overnight and have confirmed Highway 94 is back open after a deadly crash involving a car colliding with a big rig, Monday. An 18-wheeler hauling jet fuel crashed with a car, killing two people, the Highway Patrol said. The wreck caused jet fuel to leak, shutting down the road and prompting a hazmat crew to respond. The crash happened about 5:00 p.m. Monday on Highway 94, between South Riders Creek and Levels Road in Tyrrell County, said Sergeant Tim Crumpler. That area of the highway was closed as of Monday night. The car was traveling north on Highway 94, when the driver went off the right side of the road, Sgt. Crumpler said. The driver then over-corrected into the center line and slammed into the 18-wheeler, killing two people in the car. Two other people in the car survived, Sgt. Crumpler said. They were being treated at Vidant Medical Center. The truck driver was also injured, but he was expected to be okay. The 18-wheeler

was flipped over on Highway 94 as of Monday night. Hazmat crews were working to clean the leaking jet fuel from the road. One resident who was evacuated Daphanie McClees said she heard the crash outside her home Monday night and called 911. "I asked him (the driver) how many people were in the car and he said four. He said I can't find my brother. As I walked toward him on the street the other man said stay back because he saw the body in the field," McClees said. The driver Kelby Grubbs has been charged with 2 counts of misdemeanor death. Sgt. Crumpler said Grubbs told troopers he may have dozed off for him to cross center line. The victim in the back left of the car has been identified as 31 year old Kevin Grubbs from Elizabeth City, the brother of the driver. The victim in the back right of the car has been identified as 37 year old Calvin Perkins also from Elizabeth City.

Related Links

- [UPDATE: 2 killed after 18-wheeler crashes Monday afternoon](#)
Troopers say one of the drivers involved in a fatal accident will face charges. The stretch of Highway 94 in Tyrrell County where it happened is back open this afternoon. Troopers say a Nissan crossed the center line and hit a tractor...
- [Troopers: Dozing driver crashes, kills brother](#)
We made calls overnight and have confirmed Highway 94 is back open after a deadly crash involving a car colliding with a big rig, Monday. An 18-wheeler hauling jet fuel crashed with a car, killing two people, the Highway Patrol said.
- [2 Killed In Accident With 18-Wheeler Hauling Jet Fuel, Residents Evacuated...](#)
The driver of a vehicle that struck a tanker carrying jet fuel has been charged with killing two people, one of them his own brother. The Highway Patrol has released the names of those killed in the deadly tanker wreck that sent three to the hospital...

<http://www.witn.com/news/headlines/2-Killed-In-Accident-With-18-Wheeler-Hauling-Jet-Fuel-Residents-Evacuated-Road-Closed-164334156.html?ref=156>



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INDIA, KARNATAKA, BANGALORE, AUGUST 1 2012. FIVE PETROL OUTLETS IN THE DOCK FOR CHEATING CONSUMERS

The weights and measurement department, in an attempt to protect consumers from getting cheated at petrol pumps, has ordered the closure of five outlets in the city for allegedly cheating consumers. Controller of legal metrology, GS Naik, has ordered the closure of Universal Filling Station on Cockburn Road, TP Petrol Bunk on Nandi Durga Road, Sri Lakshmi Service Station at Jalahalli, Ashtalakshmi Enterprises at Nandini Layout and Jawahar Service Station at Hudson Circle. An appeal filed by assistant controller of legal metrology, Circle I, used TV channel footage as the evidence to confirm that Universal Filling Station had cheated a customer by providing him with less amount of petrol than he had paid for. "We have taken stringent action against erring petrol pumps. It is for the first time in the country that simultaneous action has been taken on five petrol pumps. We will continue to take similar action," Naik said. The controller of legal metrology has directed the assistant controllers of legal metrology to file police complaint against the owners of petrol pumps. The controller has also cancelled the verification certificates issued to these pumps and their owners have been directed to stop delivery of petrol and diesel with immediate effect. He also requested the oil companies concerned to stop the supply of petrol and diesel to the above petrol pumps, since their verification certificates have been cancelled. He has also directed the owners to appear before him at 11 am on August 6, to tell why action should not initiated against them. Meanwhile, Bangalore Petroleum Dealers' Association president Sqn Ldr (Retd) GV Bhushan Narang has termed the legal metrology controller's action as hasty. "It is the mistake of workers at the respective petrol pumps. If the authorities concerned wanted to take any action, they have to take against those boys and certainly not against the owners of those petrol pumps. What sin the owners have committed? I am not happy with the controller's action," Narang said. "We will meet DN Jeevaraj, minister for food and civil supplies on Tuesday to seek justice," he added.

Useful Tips

- Ask the attendant at the petrol pump to ensure zero reading before dispensing petrol.
- Do not entertain people who want to divert your attention.
- Do not hesitate to ask for a five-litre jar that was calibrated by weights and measurements department, if you feel dispensing unit is not providing correct amount of fuel.
- If you feel the fuel is adulterated, you can always check the density of the product using the hydrometer and thermometer at the outlet. It is the only method to ascertain the quality of a product.

http://www.dnaindia.com/bangalore/report_five-petrol-outlets-in-the-dock-for-cheating-consumers_1722029

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UMM AL QUWAIN, AUGUST 1 2012. OWNER OF SUNKEN DIESEL SHIP FACES CHARGES

aghaddir ali



The White Whale with its 1,000 tonnes of diesel cargo is lifted from the sea bottom in Umm Al Quwain. According to Public Prosecutor Rafhid Jumaa, the owner and captain of the 60-metre-long tanker are facing up to five charges to be introduced into Umm Al Quwain court.

According to Public Prosecutor Rafhid Jumaa, the owner and captain of the 60m tanker are facing up to five charges to be introduced into Umm Al Quwain court. Federal and local authorities now believe a reported heavy payload of diesel fuel, in transit by ocean vessel The White Whale that sank in here last year, escaped into the sea prior to the ship's raising last month, Gulf News has learnt. But at this point, no estimates are being given as to the ecological damage to marine life that 450 to 1,000 tonnes of diesel fuel may have exacted upon the Umm Al Quwain reef and

shoreline habitats. According to Public Prosecutor Rafhid Jumaa, the owner and captain of the 60-metre-long tanker are facing up to five charges to be introduced into Umm Al Quwain court on Tuesday that accuse the defendants of polluting the environment in connection to the ship's sinking on October 22, 2011. The ship came to rest in 35 metres of water, 25 kilometres off the UAQ where it languished for eight months until it was liberated from the sea bottom on June 14 by crane barge. Jumaa told reporters on Monday that his office received documentation from the Ministry of Environment and Water alleging that after The White Whale was raised, investigators discovered the ship's holds were empty. The find was in sharp contrast to earlier reports that the ship was laden with diesel fuel. "The Ministry of Environment sent an official paper saying



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that there is no diesel inside, it is all out," Jumaa said, adding that "the case will now be with the court" on Tuesday. Charges filed by prosecution allege that the Ajman-based shipping company put lives of the nine-member crew at risk when the ship foundered in heavy seas and, that senior officials with the company didn't take the necessary precautions to limit pollution from contaminating the environment. Additional charges include allegations that The White Whale entered UAE waters without paperwork, carried diesel fuel in an improper oil transport ship and, carried diesel without a proper certificate. It is not known if the defendants will appear before the courts on Tuesday to answer charges against them. The suggestion that the ship no longer held its diesel fuel lends credence to reports by Gulf News in February from commercial fishermen in the area who said there were repeated sightings of oil slicks in the area. One fisherman said in an interview that the oil slick appeared to be growing larger by the day and coincided with an advisory issued by the Ministry of Environment for commercial fishing operations to avoid the area. Anglers said that the sight of dead fish in the water was becoming more commonplace and they blamed the shipwreck for the losses. It's still anyone's guess, meanwhile, who will foot the heavy costs of raising The White Whale from the sea bottom in mid-June of this year. The estimated Dh3 million cost for the raising effort by crane barge Emlaq and a team of 10 divers and operators of heavy equipment is being covered by the Ministry of Environment and Water which has not publicly said whether it will pursue the sunken tanker owners for damages.

Rock bottom

- October 22, 2011 – The 60-metre tanker The White Whale sinks in 35 metres of water carrying anywhere from a reported 450 to 1,000 tonnes of diesel fuel.
- October 27, 2011 – Nine crew members are arrested by police after being rescued by fishermen.
- December 12, 2011 – The owner of The White Whale is unable to pay the costs of salvaging his ship from the deep, says the Ministry of Environment and Water.
- February 7, 2012 – Fisherman along Umm Al Quwain coastline complain that diesel is contaminating daily catches of fish.
- June 14, 2012 – The White Whale is liberated from the sea bottom by a massive crane barge.
- July 30, 2012 – Umm Al Quwain court officials say tanker owner and captain face charges for endangering crew and polluting the environment.

Related Links

- [Sunken oil tanker on seafloor since October](#)
- [Winds hamper bid to retrieve sunken tanker](#)
- [More fuel leak from sunken vessel reported](#)

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/environment/owner-of-sunken-diesel-ship-faces-charges-1.1055454>

NIGERIA, PORT HARCOURT, AUGUST 1 2012. JTF WARNED AGAINST BURNING OF PETROL TANKERS

bashiru abdullahi

Experts on environment in the Niger Delta have kicked against the new mandate given to the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) to burn petrol tankers carrying illegally refined petroleum product in the region. Addressing newsmen in Port Harcourt, national president of the Nigerian Environmental Society, Anderwest Augustine, said burning of trucks carrying petroleum products in the open exposes the environment to a lot of danger. Augustine advised the JTF to instead move the products to storage facilities for proper disposal. "What we are saying is that tankers carrying those illegal products should be escorted to good storage facilities where you can adequately treat or dispose the products rather than burning them in the open. If you burn them in the open, you will be contaminating the air and vegetation", he said. Also speaking, Executive Director of the Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Anyakwee Nsirimovu, said the act of burning tankers in the open will only add to the level of degradation of the environment in the Niger Delta. "The action will add to the degradation that is already on. We are talking about UNEP report in Ogoni, Shell has messed up Ogoni and Ogoni people are dying of cancer and you are now compounding the problem by openly burning these products. If they were given the order to burn, there should be a central place where it can be done," he said. He urged the JTF to engage an independent body to monitor the destruction of such illegally refined products. Meanwhile, The Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) in the state has condemned the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) in the state over what it described as the indiscriminate burning of petrol tankers.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201207310657.html>



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AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, SALE, AUGUST 1 2012. OIL AND GAS COMPANY PROSECUTED THE SECOND TIME FOR WORKPLACE SAFETY VIOLATIONS >> FINED \$40K OVER LONGFORD GAS LEAK

Map: [Sale 3850](#)



An oil and gas company has been convicted for the second time over workplace health and safety charges. WorkSafe VIC told the Sale Magistrates Court today that a leaking underground pipe in November 2009 prompted repairs. However, the pipes were not safely isolated and 650kg of highly combustible gas escaped. The Court was told the team working on the repairs were given incorrect information when they were told that the pressure in the pipe was at a very low level when it was

actually at high levels. When a valve was opened, a high-pressure gas caused a hose flail about and a worker suffered bruised ribs. Magistrate Clive Alsop convicted and fined the company \$40,000 after it pleaded guilty to failing to provide sufficient training or supervision to its employees in relation to the draining and depressurising of gas pipes. WorkSafe's acting General Manager for Health and Safety Operations, Jarrod Edwards, said greater level of risk control is required for major hazards facilities because of potential impact on the wider community. "Those who operate major hazards facilities have the legal responsibility for safety on their sites and WorkSafe will take action to ensure appropriate systems are in place. "WorkSafe's expectation is that industry standards are not only maintained, but efforts are made to further reduce risks where possible. "Maintenance must be kept up to date and safety procedures have to be monitored and tested to ensure incidents do not occur." Magistrate Alsop was informed technicians did not see a pressure transmitter located on the pipeline and instrument diagram. The company also failed to identify the person in charge of the workers undertaking the work; determine what type of gas in line to be drained or depressurised and whether breathing apparatus was necessary; and determine whether to secure the hose during the task and what equipment was needed. The company was first prosecuted in 2001 after a gas explosion at Longford killed two men and injured eight in 1998. The incident reduced Victoria's gas supplies for several weeks.

Related Links [Esso fined over Longford gas leak](#)

[Oil and gas company prosecuted the second time for workplace safety violations](#)

USA, W.VA, NEW MARTINSVILLE, AUGUST 2 2012 GASOLINE LEAKS FROM VERTICAL TANK



The New Martinsville Volunteer Fire Department responds to a leaking valve at an 11,000 gallon gasoline tank at Tri-State Petroleum Tuesday.

Approximately 6,000 gallons of gasoline is believed to have leaked from a vertical storage tank at Tri-State Petroleum at 98 Main Street, New Martinsville, Tuesday. New Martinsville Fire Chief Larry Couch said the 16,000-gallon tank contained 87 octane unleaded gasoline. While they don't know how much gasoline the tank contained at the time of the incident, they do know it contained 11,000 gallons at the start of the business day. The staging area for fuel loading is not typically manned. "One of the trucks apparently accidentally caught part of the plumbing as it was leaving the scene," said Couch. "It tore the housing for the valves away from the bottom of the tank." He said apparently the driver didn't realize he vehicle had caused damage to the three-inch valve. The NMVFD received the call of a fuel leak at 12:12 p.m. He does not know how long the tank leaked before the call came in. As required by law, the area does have a dike to prevent spills outside of the area. Couch believes 1-2,000 gallons may have leaked into the ground. But the good news is they do not believe any fuel made its way to the adjacent waterways. "To this point we haven't seen any sheen come up in Fishing

Creek or the Ohio River." The emergency responders set up a temporary chute to run the leaking fuel from the compromised tank into a portable water tank. The fuel was then off-loaded into fuel trucks. "We were able to recover over 4,000 gallons of gasoline," stated Couch. The incident caused the evacuation of several buildings in the immediate vicinity, but caused no fire, explosion, or other known hazards. The New Martinsville Police Department evacuated, on order of Couch, five houses and several businesses including West Virginia Northern Community College. New Martinsville Electric Department workers shut off electricity to the area and the New Martinsville Street Department closed streets in the vicinity. The NMVFD was also assisted by the Clarington, Sardis, and Paden City fire departments. "All of the help from the neighboring communities was a



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true asset today," noted Couch. The entire incident lasted five hours. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and United States Environmental Protection Agency came to the scene to assure compliance and assure proper clean up. Tri-State Petroleum has contracted with Weavertown Environmental to remediate the site, which will begin this morning. "I will be back there tomorrow conferring with WVDEP and USEPA to follow up and make sure everything is going well," said Couch Tuesday evening.

<http://www.wetzelchronicle.com/page/content.detail/id/511431/Gasoline-Leaks-Gasoline-Leaks-From-Vertical-Tank-Vertical-Tank.html?nav=5001>

NIGERIA, Ogoniland, AUGUST 2 2012. UN BACKS NIGERIA'S DECISION TO CARRY OUT OIL CLEAN-UP

abiodun oluwarotimi

The United Nations on Wednesday welcomed the decision by the Nigerian Government to clean up a major oil contamination in the Ogoniland region in the country. The decision comes twelve months after the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) presented a scientific assessment of oil pollution in Ogoniland to the Government, underlining serious public health and environmental impacts. "On the anniversary of the Ogoniland assessment there are now clear and encouraging signals that the Government is keen to move on the recommendations – this is a welcome development for the people and the environment of this region who have suffered, and continue to suffer, the legacy of some 50 years of unsustainable oil exploration and production," UNEP's Executive Director, Achim Steiner, said in a news release. The independent scientific assessment, carried out over a 14-month period, showed greater and deeper pollution than previously thought after an agency team examined more than 200 locations, surveyed 122 kilometres of pipeline rights of way, analyzed 4,000 soil and water samples, reviewed more than 5,000 medical records and engaged over 23,000 people at local community meetings. The assessment emphasized the need for swift action to prevent the pollution footprint from spreading further and exacerbating the situation for the Ogoni people, and had proposed an initial sum of \$1 billion to cover the first five years of clean-up operations. The assessment had also estimated that while some on-the-ground results could be immediate, a fully sustainable recovery of Ogoniland could take 25 to 30 years and would require long-term financing. Last month, the Nigerian Government announced that it would establish the Hydrocarbon Pollution Restoration Project, a government initiative that would fully implement UNEP's assessment report to clean-up the area. Over recent weeks, UNEP has held discussions with Nigerian environment officials on how to implement the assessment's recommendations. "The immediate need is for the necessary funds to be mobilized and to be deployed to take the Project forward at a scale and speed commensurate with the challenge. Everyone has a part to play in realizing significant and positive results from the Government of Nigeria, local authorities and the oil industry to NGOs and local communities," said the Director of UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, Ibrahim Thiaw, who presented the UNEP report to the Government last year.

http://www.leadership.ng/nga/articles/31455/2012/08/01/ogoni_un_backs_nigerias_decision_carry_out_oil_cleanup.html

ZIMBABWE, HARARE, AUGUST 2 2012. ATTEMPT TO POISON 1,5 MILLION HARARE RESIDENTS?



Hydrogen cyanide, under the name Zyklon B, is a fatal chemical that was once used as a genocidal agent by the Germans during World War II.

An alert truck driver sent to deliver 19 tonnes of poisonous sodium cyanide to Harare's main waterworks averted disaster last Wednesday when he raised alarm just when he was about to offload the chemical. Hydrogen cyanide, under the name Zyklon B, is a fatal chemical that was once used as a genocidal agent by the Germans during World War II. The driver told workers at Morton Jaffray Water Treatment Plant that he suspected he was carrying a poisonous chemical. The workers were preparing to offload the chemical into drums, which they would have used to "treat" water for consumption by Harare residents. They were expecting to receive liquid aluminum sulphate water treatment chemical on the day. Sources said there was a mix up, resulting in the driver with the truck loaded with sodium cyanide being sent to deliver the chemical to the water treatment

plant. The workers at the plant informed town clerk Dr Tendai Mahachi after being alerted by the driver. Dr Mahachi directed that the consignment be returned to Bak Storage. Sources close to the matter said over 19 tonnes of the deadly chemical were being delivered through a local delivery company (name supplied). Local Government, Rural and Urban Development Minister



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Ignatius Chombo yesterday said he had received a report on the matter from Dr Mahachi. "I am still studying the report. I will only be able to give a full report when I have done the necessary investigations," he said. Dr Mahachi declined to comment and referred all questions to Minister Chombo. "We have given a report to the minister," he said. City officials confirmed they had refused to take in the huge consignment, which was received through Bak Storage. Last week, the city water supply situation was depressed with very few suburbs accessing water. City officials blamed the shortages on the heavy pollution of Lake Manyame. According to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention website, cyanide is a rapidly acting, potentially deadly chemical that can exist in various forms, which can be a colourless gas, such as hydrogen cyanide (HCN) or cyanogen chloride (CNCl), or a crystal form such as sodium cyanide (NaCN) or potassium cyanide (KCN). Hydrogen cyanide, under the name Zyklon B, is a fatal chemical that was once used as a genocidal agent by the Germans during World War II. In manufacturing, cyanide is used to make paper, textiles and plastics and is present in the chemicals used to develop photographs. Cyanide salts are used in metallurgy for electroplating, metal cleaning, and removing gold from its ore. Cyanide gas is used to exterminate pests and vermin in ships and buildings. People can be exposed to cyanide through breathing air, drinking water, eating food, or touching soil that contains its particles. The extent of poisoning depends on the amount of cyanide a person is exposed to, route of exposure and length of exposure. Inhaling the gas causes the most harm but ingesting it can be toxic as well. It prevents the cells of the body from using oxygen and is more harmful to the heart and brain. There are reports that some poachers use cyanide to kill elephants and rhinoceros. They put the chemicals in major drinking points and later come and remove horns when the animals eventually die.

<http://nehandaradio.com/2012/07/31/attempt-to-poison-15-million-harare-residents/>

AUSTRALIA – NEW SOUTH WALES WORCOVER AUTHORITY – ALERT. SWITCHLOADING WHEN TRANSFERRING FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS: SAFETY ALERT

 **Document** [Switchloading when transferring flammable liquids: Safety alert](#) [2009 KB]

This alert on switchloading when transferring flammable liquids is published following a recent coroners findings into an incident that highlighted the dangers of switchloading and static electricity.

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/switchloadingtransferringflammableliquids.aspx>

NEW ZEALAND, AUGUST 2 2012. PETROL TANKER CRASH ON SH2 CAUSES DELAYS >> LONG COMMUTER DELAYS AFTER TANKER CRASH

Rail commuters and motorists heading from Hutt Valley to Wellington face long delays after crashes on State Highway 2. There were two crashes near Horokiwi about 5.30am. The first involved a fuel tanker and a vegetable truck in the southbound lane and the second was in the northbound lane when a car crashed into a power pole. Both southbound lanes opened about 9am this morning, but motorists should expect long delays until the congestion clears. The Hooker Pacific tanker has been moved to an area just north of the Ngauranga interchange. The tanker and trailer unit has damage to its back right-hand side and the right rear tyre was blown off the vehicle. The tanker driver declined to comment. Inspector Peter Stokes, of Wellington, said both northbound lanes of the motorway opened about 7am. Motorists had to use State Highway 58 over the Haywards Hill to get to and from the Hutt Valley this morning. Wellington Free Ambulance transported the driver of the car which crashed in to the power pole to Hutt Hospital in a serious condition. One of the truck drivers was also treated at the scene. NZTA Wellington operations manager Mark Owen says he was grateful to motorists for their patience. "We appreciate these delays have been an almighty headache."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/hutt-valley/7397604/Petrol-tanker-crash-on-SH2-causes-delays>

INDONESIA, BALI, DENPASAR, AUGUST 2 2012. DRIVER ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTING TO STEAL FUEL

The Bali Police arrested a tanker driver for attempting to siphon fuel from his tanker after filling it at Manggis Depot in Karangasem regency on Saturday. "After filling the tanker at Manggis Depot, the suspect, INS, stopped his vehicle at a warehouse in Labuan village, Manggis district, Karangasem, aiming to remove the seal from the tanker so that he could siphon the fuel into his jerrycans," Bali Police head of public relations Sr. Comr. Hariadi told a press conference on Tuesday. "We are currently investigating the involvement of another party who supplies the new seals. Three witnesses are being questioned," said head of special crime sub-division Adj. Sr. Comr. Tri Kuncoro. The police confiscated the tank's 16,000 liters of premium



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fuel, along with the tanker, DK 8375 BV, registered to PT KBD, a needle used to open the tank crane, and a new seal. The suspect is facing a maximum three years imprisonment.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/bali-daily/2012-08-01/driver-arrested-attempting-steal-fuel.html>

THAILAND, PHUKET, PHI, PHI, AUGUST 2 2012. POLLUTION STRIKES PHI PHI: MYSTERIOUS OIL SLICK DRIVES TOURISTS FROM BEACH



Beautiful Phi Phi loses its tourism lustre as an oil slick strikes a beach

Phi Phi, perhaps the most iconic tourist destination in the Phuket region, is suffering a serious environmental crisis after an oil slick polluted a beach. Officials don't know where the slick came from - and at this stage there has been no official attempt to remove the one-kilometre long sludge from Ao Lo Dalam beach. Tourists were covered in the slick's black slime for the first time on Saturday, sounding the alarm that one of Thailand's natural gems is under threat. Visitors are still staying away from the beach, with a few locals trying their best to scrape the oil from the sand and bag it for disposal. Wirapat Jantaro, President of the Tourist Association of Phi Phi, told Phuketwan today that local authorities needed to become involved to prove they could deal with an environmental threat. So far there has been no official reaction, he said. "Tourists are unable to use the beach

and the slick is clearly a threat to future tourism on Phi Phi," he said. "It really does call for action." Locals have no idea where the slick came from, and no idea when or if the sludge will disappear. Lieutenant Commander Chisiri Koondam, the Marine 5 Office chief for Krabi province, which oversees Phi Phi, said today: "We are not sure when it will go. We suspect the oil may have come from a passing trawler. "Perhaps they were working on the engine or taking on a load of fuel at sea." He said it was even possible that the slick could have drifted with the currents from further afield, in Phuket or mainland Phang Nga province. "There is no swimming at the beach for now," he said. "It may be a small environmental issue compared to other country's problems, but it's an indication of the need for the Andaman region and Phang Nga Bay to be prepared." Phi Phi, a rites-of-passage destination for many 20-somethings, has yet to have June's tragic double death riddle resolved. Forensic scientists are still making laboratory tests on both sides of the world to solve the mystery of what killed Canadian sisters Noemi and Audrey Belanger. Audrey, 20, and Noemi, 26, were found dead in a room at the Palm Residence Phi Phi on June 15. The riddle was an all-too-real reminder that the cause of death of American Jill St Onge, 27, and Norwegian Julie Bergheim, 22, on Phi Phi in May, 2009, has also never been determined.

<http://phuketwan.com/tourism/pollution-strikes-phi-phi-mysterious-oil-slick-drives-tourists-beach-16430/>

NEW ZEALAND, HAWKES BAY, AUGUST 2 2012. AUGUST 2 2012. CHEVRON FACES ORDER TO CLEAN UP SITE

Oil giant Chevron is facing legal action after failing to clean up a petrol leak that entered groundwater from a Napier service station and is drifting beneath other properties. In what is believed to be a precedent-setting case, Hawke's Bay Regional Council is seeking a court order to force Chevron - which uses the brand name Caltex in New Zealand - to remediate the contaminated groundwater. The council also claims the company may have tried to sell the service station to reduce its liability. An unknown amount of petrol leaked from the Caltex service station in Hyderabad Rd in 2007. Two "plumes" of petrol were found in groundwater, with one extending beneath a neighbouring property and believed to be drifting toward residential properties. Documents obtained by The Dominion Post under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act show the council was shocked to discover in mid-2010 that Chevron had done nothing to clean up the contamination. The council says Chevron had given numerous undertakings that the contamination would be addressed, but this did not occur. It has now gone to the Environment Court seeking an enforcement order. If granted, this would legally require the company to undertake the work. In an affidavit to the court, the council said Chevron's position appeared to be that, because the groundwater was not used as drinking water, there was no breach of the Resource Management Act. It is suggested that Chevron also said it would not undertake remediation until the entire plume had been assessed and that it preferred "natural attenuation" - leaving it to break down naturally - as a means of dealing with the contamination. This was not acceptable to the council, according to the affidavit. When approached by The Dominion Post, a Chevron spokesman said the matter was confidential and "therefore you are on notice that Chevron requires you to maintain strict confidentiality of the same, and you are not at liberty to disclose this confidential information to the public or any third party". Among the documents is an email to



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Chevron from a man looking to buy the service station in November. When he asked about the contamination, he was told by a Chevron employee that there were no problems with the site. The employee said the contamination was the result of a "steel pipeline failure in 1998" and "there haven't been any ongoing issues since the fibreglass system was installed". In an email, the employee said it was "not practical to physically remediate the site" and that the contamination would "gradually clean itself up over time . . . [bugs present in the soil clean up the contamination]". There were no risks to human health and the regional council "have not asked us to do any remediation work or to apply for a discharge consent". When the council contacted the employee, he said he was "completely unaware" of the council's discussions with Chevron over remediation. The council affidavit said the council "found that very difficult to accept, given the history of contact between the council and Chevron's agents". In the affidavit, the council said it was "concerned that Chevron is attempting to sell the property, and subsequently reduce its liability, without informing the potential buyer that the liability a contaminated site comes with [sic]. In fact the email to [the man] indicates an attempt to mislead the buyer". The council said it believed that, historically, hydrocarbon contamination by service stations appeared to be treated differently to other cases of contamination of soil or groundwater. The affidavit suggested this could be because councils were "reluctant to engage in a legal process with large petrochemical companies as these companies had deep pockets". "This enforcement order, if granted as requested, would probably create a precedent and the council is acutely aware that Chevron's interest in this matter extends beyond the cost of the requested remediation." The council also said it believed it was in Chevron's interests not to respond to the council's requests "as the longer this takes to resolve, the more likely it is that remediation is not practical". While there were no known bores registered near the site, hydrocarbon contamination may be a potential risk to future groundwater users, according to a report compiled for Chevron by URS New Zealand in 2008. Raymond Young, owner of the commercial property next door to the service station, said he was concerned at the contamination but had not heard anything from the company for several years. If the groundwater was contaminated, he expected Chevron to clean it up, he said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/7395940/Chevron-faces-order-to-clean-up-site>

RUSSIA, MOSCOW, AUGUST 2 2012. OVER 600 SQ KM OF OIL SLICKS COVER BLACK, AZOV SEAS

Black Sea.



Oil slicks cover 613 square kilometers of the surface of the Black Sea and Sea of Azov, the Russian-based SkanEks satellite Earth monitoring center reported on Tuesday. A total of 233 oil slicks, each covering between 0.1 and 60 square kilometers have been registered in the two water bodies. The largest slicks are located in the area between Russian and Ukrainian territorial waters, the report said. Most of the slicks are due to ship navigation, while some of those registered in the Georgian sector of the Black Sea originate from natural springs on the sea bottom, the report said.

<http://en.ria.ru/Environment/20120731/174880733.html>

MALAYSIA, KUALA LUMPUR, AUGUST 2 2012. RM3.37M WORTH OF FIRECRACKERS, FIREWORKS SEIZED

The Customs Department seized RM3.37 million worth of firecrackers and fireworks between January and July 29. Its Intelligence Branch director R. Mariappa said within that period, there were 127 attempts to smuggle such goods with tax amounting to more than RM2.18 million. "The department's prevention efforts have been fruitful and last year 309 smuggling cases were reported with firecrackers and fireworks worth RM7.8 million seized compared with 326 cases and goods worth RM11.11 million seized in 2010." In curbing the illicit sale and smuggling of firecrackers, he said, the Customs Department had always been monitoring suspected outlets, containers at ports and vehicles at entry points into the country. Mariappa said those involved would be investigated for transporting prohibited goods. The offence carries a fine 20 times the value of the goods seized or three years' jail or both, if convicted. Mariappa called on the public to cooperate with the department in preventing smuggling activities by calling its toll-free hotline at 1-800-88-8855. Meanwhile, Malaysia Muslim Consumers Association secretary-general Datuk Dr Maamor Osman said playing with firecrackers or fireworks was prohibited and considered a wastage in Islam, besides endangering oneself and property. "This culture should be changed and parents should teach their children of its potential danger rather than buying fireworks for them for the Aidilfitri celebration." He urged the government to strictly enforce the ban on firecrackers and fireworks to prevent the danger to body and property, as well as



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to control the sale of brimstone which had been used in home-made firecrackers. Firecrackers were banned in 1991 under the Explosives Act.

<http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/rm3-37m-worth-of-firecrackers-fireworks-seized-1.118352>

USA, MA, NEW BEDFORD, AUGUST 2 2012. NEW BEDFORD HEATING OIL COMPANY FINED FOR FAILING TO REPORT SPILL

A New Bedford home heating oil company has agreed to pay a \$40,178 penalty for failing to properly report the rupture of a 275-gallon fuel tank that released the contents into a residential basement. The state Department of Environmental Protection penalized Warrior Fuels Inc. \$48,803 for the Oct. 4, 2011, spill. The firm agreed in a consent order to pay \$40,178, with the DEP suspending the remainder of the penalty provided the company does not violate any provisions of the consent order and cleanup. DEP said the company did not inform the agency within two hours, as required, and initiated a cleanup on its own. "MassDEP did not receive any notification about this incident until a full day of exposure to petroleum vapors occurred at this occupied residence," said Millie Garcia-Serrano, deputy regional director at DEP's Southeast Regional Office in Lakeville. "A release of home heating oil from a ruptured tank certainly prompted response on the part of Warrior Fuels attempting to clean it up, yet they did not comply with the essential components of the law about notification to MassDEP that ensures the public's safety." DEP spokesman Joseph Ferson said Warrior Fuels cleaned up the spill itself, collecting the oil and soaked absorbent equipment in three 55-gallon drums, two trash cans and two 5-gallon buckets and taking it to a location in New Bedford that was not approved to accept such material. The DEP learned of the spill the following day from a third-party environmental cleanup company that had been called by the homeowners, Ferson said. A phone call to Warrior Fuels was abruptly terminated when The Standard-Times asked about the incident. Documents on file with the Secretary of State's office list the company's address as 113 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, and its president, secretary, treasurer and sole director as Sigurd Johannessen of Fairhaven. Ferson said the appropriate response of the company would have been to inform DEP of the spill within two hours. The agency then would have dispatched an emergency response crew "to determine the extent of the problem and make sure the cleanup was instituted quickly and properly by the responsible party."

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120802/NEWS/208020351/1018/OPINION>

NORTHERN IRELAND, CO TYRONE, DUNGANNON, AUGUST 2 2012. ILLEGAL FUEL FACTORIES FOUND ACROSS NI



The illegal diesel plant found in Newry on Monday.

Diesel laundering plants capable of producing millions of litres of illegal fuel have been found and dismantled in the past week. Revenue and Customs officers uncovered one facility hidden in a storage shed at a house in Dungannon on Tuesday morning. They seized a large steel tank, which they said was used to "wash" up to four million litres of diesel a year, along with pumps and filtration tubes. It comes after a plant was found in a commercial premises in Newry on Monday. The HMRC and PSNI seized and removed 3,100 litres of illegal fuel, 3,600 litres of toxic waste and storage tanks. Together the two operations were capable of producing almost five million litres of illegal fuel a year, with an

estimated duty loss to the public purse of £3m per year. And in an unconnected operation in east Belfast, officers raided a filling station and seized the forecourt pumps along with 12,500 litres of diesel and 12,300 litres of petrol on Friday. The underground fuel storage tanks were also removed during the operation. "Fuel fraud represents a significant threat to the economic, social and environmental welfare of Northern Ireland," said Graeme Anderson of the HMRC. "Laundered fuel is being sold at a reduced price and motorists may think they are getting a good deal; but it is unregulated and dangerous and I would caution them to think again as the true cost is far from a bargain. "HMRC will continue to carry out raids and roadside checks to detect those attempting to smuggle, launder, sell or use illicit fuel but this fraud could be happening in your area with the profits from it funding organised crime. "Making one phone call to our Custom's Hotline on 0800 59 5000 could help to stamp it out."

<http://www.u.tv/News/Illegal-fuel-factories-found-across-NI/be667fb9-26e4-4354-b495-11b9209beb43>



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