



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 871 Newsy Stuff

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August 17 2012



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USA, N.Y, POUGHKEEPSIE, AUGUST 5 2012. I-84 OPEN AFTER ACCIDENT



A tandem tractor-trailer rolled over on Interstate 84 this morning shortly after 5:30 a.m. but traffic returned to normal and eastbound lanes were re-opened at 10:22 after its removal.

The eastbound and lanes of Interstate 84 between exits for routes 9D and 52 have been re-opened following a rollover accident involving a tandem tractor-trailer. No one was injured in the one-vehicle accident that occurred shortly after 5:30 a.m., said Kevin Barry, spokesman for Rombout Fire Department, which assisted the Chelsea Fire District and state police. Jay Rawley, assistant fire chief with Chelsea, said the accident did not cause any fuel spills. Cargo on the trailers — doors, drums of resin and flour — was not damaged and was off-loaded onto other trucks. Hyatt's Wrecking of East Fishkill removed the truck, which is operated by Con-Way Freight in Orange County. The New York State Police Commercial and Vehicle Enforcement Unit will now inspect the truck. Traffic was diverted off 84 at the exits

for routes 52 and 9D, both of which serve Fishkill and Beacon. The westbound lanes were closed shortly after the accident so vehicles could leave the highway. The incident did not causing any traffic problems on local roads in the vicinity of the Interstate 84 exits, according to police in Fishkill and Beacon. The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Squad also responded.

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20120804/NEWS01/120804001/TRAFFIC-ALERT-Fuel-tanker-rollover-closes-84>

USA, MT, PLEVNA, AUGUST 6 2012. TRAIN DERAILMENT CAUSES EXPLOSIONS IN EASTERN MONTANA TOWN



A train derailment 2 miles west of the small town of Plevna, Montana has caused several explosions and has kept emergency crews busy throughout Sunday in Fallon County. Fallon County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator Chuck Lee says around 3p.m. on Sunday, eight cars from a Burlington Northern Santa Fe train derailed-causing multiple explosions. The rail company did respond to the scene along with Fallon County and several emergency crews from across the region to battle several wildfires which sparked from the explosions. It is believed the explosions are being caused by denatured alcohol, which was one of the cargo items from the derailed cars. Currently, no evacuation orders have been issued for Plevna or the nearby town of Baker, but people are asked to stay one-half mile away from the train line. Highway 12 has been blocked off at either end of the derailment as a precautionary measure. Lee says the plan for now is to allow the fire to burn itself out before clean-up can begin. Crews will remain at the

site for the remainder of the evening.

<http://www.kxlf.com/news/train-derailment-causes-explosions-in-eastern-montana-town/>

USA, AZ, PAULDEN, AUGUST 6 2012. PAULDEN MAN BURNED IN EXPLOSION

scott orr

A man suffered burns to 80 percent of his body Sunday afternoon when a fuel tank he was working on exploded, setting his clothes on fire, a fire department spokesman said. About 2 p.m. Sunday, the victim and his brother were removing the gas tank of a motor home with a torch in the 300 block of East Alder Lane, said Chino Valley Fire Department spokesman Mathew Mayhall, but "apparently, he didn't purge out all of the fuel, or cap off some of the openings that go into the fuel tank." Gasoline vapors ignited and caught his clothes on fire, said Mayhall. The victim, whose name has not been released, is 37 years old. He had second- and third-degree burns over 80 percent of his body, Mayhall said, and was airlifted to the Maricopa Burn Unit in



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Phoenix. The brother was not injured. Mayhall said there was no contract with the CVFD at this address, but, "if it's something life-threatening, then we'll go, and this was."

<http://www.dcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=109475>

USA, AL, SELMA, AUGUST 6 2012. MULTIPLE UNITS RESPOND TO BATTLE TANKER FIRE

tim reeves



First responders from Selma, Sardis and Craig Field fire departments worked to control a fire involving a gasoline tanker carrying nearly 9,000 gallons of gasoline and 80 gallons of diesel fuel.

When a vehicle catches fire it's bad enough. But add to that equation 80 gallons of diesel fuel and nearly 9,000 gallons of gasoline and you've got a situation that would cause concern in even the most experienced first responder. Fortunately for residents along the Cecil Jackson Bypass in Selma, local authorities, starting with the Selma Fire Department, run through that type of scenario and many others all the time. That scenario played out in real life Saturday morning as a tanker, transporting gasoline through Selma had its brakes lock up, catch fire and

nearly create a horrific disaster.

<http://www.selmatimesjournal.com/2012/08/04/multiple-units-respond-to-battle-tanker-fire/>

PAKISTAN, MULTAN, AUGUST 6 2012. SIX KILLED IN MULTAN FIREWORKS FACTORY BLAST



Six persons were killed and 10 others injured when three buildings collapsed due to a blast in a fireworks factory here on Saturday. Explosive chemicals stored in the fireworks factory located in the congested residential area of Hussain Agahi bazaar went off due to unknown reasons. Two persons died on the spot, while four others succumbed to their injuries in hospital. Rescue teams faced problems while reaching the spot due to the narrow streets and congested area. The death toll is likely to increase as the condition of several injured persons was serious. The police registered a case and started the investigations. APP adds: Talking to reporters, City Police Officer Aamir Zulifqar said Kup Police Station SHO Arshad Abass had been suspended immediately, while the Punjab IG had dismissed DSP

Saadat Mehdi. The police recorded the statement of Zulifqar, stated to be the owner of the house by locals. However, Zulifqar said the house belonged to his in-laws. A victim of the fireworks blast alleged that a PML-N Punjab minister was patronising the business in Hussain Agahi. According to Naeem, Haji Ehsanuddin, was patronising the business. However, Haji Ehsanuddin, who visited Nishter Hospital to inquire after the injured persons, rubbished the allegations. He said he would try his best to provide financial help to victim families. According to Rescue 1122 sources, six persons killed in the blast were identified as: Parveen Bibi, Tayyeba, Dilawar, Aamir, Tayyab and Ishfaq. The injured persons included: Muhammad Nawaz, Muhammad Faizan, Suleman, Zulqarnain, Muhammad Ayaz Subhan, Anwar, Ramzan, Ansar and Shabnam. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of lives in the explosion at the fireworks factory. In their separate condolence messages, they expressed sympathies to the bereaved families. President Zardari directed the authorities concerned to provide best possible medical treatment to all those who were injured in the incident.

Related Links

- [Fireworks blast kills seven in Multan](#)
- [Fireworks blast kills six in Multan](#)
- [Six killed in Multan fireworks factory blast](#)
- [Blast in fireworks: Police detain owner of house](#)

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-16566-Six-killed-in-Multan-fireworks-factory-blast>



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CHINA, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, WENZHOU, AUGUST 6 2012. 13 DEAD AFTER EAST CHINA WORKSHOP BLAST >> DUST IGNITION

 [Watch the Video Blast in E. China Workshop Kills 11](#)



Rescuers remove debris at an explosion-hit workshop in Wenzhou city on Aug 5, 2012. Thirteen people died and 14 were injured after an explosion rocked a family-owned workshop in East China's Zhejiang province on Sunday afternoon.

Thirteen people died and 14 have been injured after an explosion rocked a family-owned workshop in East China's Zhejiang province Sunday afternoon, local authorities said. The accident happened in a village in Wenzhou city's Ou Hai district about 4:50 pm and a fire raged in an area of 200 to 300 square meters after the explosion, rescuers said. The rescue work has been concluded as of 11 pm. Among the injured who are receiving treatment in hospital, five are heavily injured and nine are slightly injured. Government of Ou Hai District said that the workshop was illegal and was focused on polishing and processing hardware locks. The

explosion happened after the thick dust in the workshop was ignited by the sparks from the polishing machine, government officials said. A further investigation into the cause of the accident is under way.

Related Links

- [Blast in Illegal China Workshop Kills 13, Hurts 14](#)
- [13 dead after east China workshop blast](#)
- [11 dead, 16 injured in Wenzhou factory blast](#)
- [13 dead in China workshop blast](#)
- [Blast in E. China workshop kills 11](#)
- [China workshop blast kills 13, injures 14](#)

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-08/06/content_15646792.htm

INDIA, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6 2012. ABOUT 3,500 TONNES OF AMMONIUM NITRATE GO MISSING EVERY YEAR

deeptimaan tiwary,



A bag of seized ammonium nitrate in Chennai. Each year tonnes of these explosives goes missing giving law enforcement agencies sleepless nights.

At a time when [ammonium nitrate](#) has become the preferred ingredient for bombs, the Pune serial blasts being the latest example, close to 3,500 tonnes of the chemical goes missing from Indian ports every year. And while the home ministry is working on a system to track sale of ammonium nitrate to stop it from falling into wrong hands, it is unlikely to solve the problem of spillage at ports. According to sources in the security establishment, India imports close to 3.5 lakh tonnes of ammonium nitrate for industrial use. Almost all of this import is done in bulk through the sea route at Vishakhapatnam port. Legally, importers are not questioned on up to 1% spillage of the substance as it is assumed that in bulk transfers, such spillage is unavoidable. "This is the loophole that is prone to

exploitation where unscrupulous elements may sell the chemical to unverified sources during transportation out of ports. Even 1% spillage translates to 3,500 tonnes going missing. To make a bomb, you need not more than a kg of ammonium nitrate," said an intelligence official. This spillage has assumed critical importance in view of jihadis increasingly preferring ammonium nitrate in their [terror attacks](#). The problem is compounded by the relative ease in assembling these explosives, with ready help from bomb making manuals on jihadi websites. According to sources, the spillage takes place when the chemical is loaded on to trucks at the port and transported to godowns where it goes for bagging. "Bagged ammonium nitrate is not imported for reasons of cost-effectiveness, but it's taking a toll on security," said the official. The government has taken serious note of ammonium nitrate falling into hands of terrorists and has recently included the chemical under the 1884 Explosive Act. The change in the law means any substance with more than 45% of ammonium nitrate would be considered an explosive. It is now working on a system to track the explosive. The home department through ministry of commerce has roped in the National



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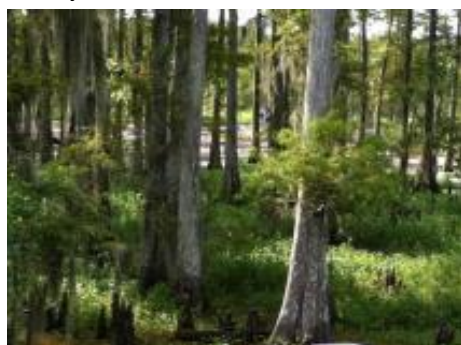
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Institute of Smart Government to prepare an explosive tracking system that will map ammonium nitrate leakage in the supply chain. Called sales tracking, the system involves recording the details of the purchaser of the material at all stages of the supply chain. The purchaser details are backed up with an authenticated ID proof. It's a system widely followed by most of Europe and the US. In the 2011 Norway terror strike, the name of [Anders Behring Breivik](#), the self-styled terrorist who first exploded a mixture of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil near government quarters in Oslo and then went on a killing spree with a gun, had been flagged by the sales tracking mechanism implemented throughout the European Union. However, the Norwegian intelligence did not act on the alert. The government had earlier discussed use of 'taggants' in ammonium nitrate that would allow an investigating agency to track the source of the ammonium nitrate used in a terrorist act. However, that would increase the cost of fertilizers and other ammonium nitrate based products. Apart from this, the government has also been working on tracking ammonium nitrate on the web through spy software developed by the DRDO. It's a standard practice in international security set-up to couple such software with explosive tracking systems for fool-proof analysis of intelligence.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/About-3500-tonnes-of-ammonium-nitrate-go-missing-every-year/articleshow/15369004.cms?>

USA, LA, BAYOU CORNE, AUGUST 6 2012. SINKHOLE BENDS, SHIFTS NATURAL GAS PIPELINE >> OFFICIALS CLOSE PORTION OF LA. 70

david j. mitchell



Assumption Parish officials said powerful underground forces unleashed by the formation of an acre-sized swampland sinkhole had bent and shifted an adjacent 36-inch natural gas pipeline, posing an explosion risk to nearby motorists. As a result, the officials said, they shut down vehicular traffic about 7:30 p.m. Saturday over a four-mile stretch of La. 70 South in Pierre Part and Bayou Corne while the pipeline operator, Crosstex Energy L.P., of Dallas, worked to depressurize the line. John Boudreaux, director of the parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said the pipeline was not leaking but presented an explosion risk if it would rupture. Assumption Parish Sheriff Mike Waguespack noted that two 20-inch natural gas pipelines owned by Acadian Gas run parallel to the Crosstex line and also were at risk from Crosstex's line. "If one of them goes, probably all three of them go," Waguespack said. He said the Crosstex pipeline has an operating pressure of 800 pounds per square inch. An evacuation

order remained in place Saturday but area residents were not being forced to leave their homes, Waguespack said. Officials handling the emergency estimated about 350 people occupy about 150 residences in the Bayou Corne community. Fears that the sinkhole area could expand, shear off nearby wellheads and release flammable materials prompted Friday's evacuation order by parish officials. But Assumption Parish President Martin "Marty" Triche said the slurry area had not grown in size as of Saturday evening. Boudreaux said the decision to close La. 70 — a major east-west corridor — was required because the pipeline crosses under the highway just east of Bayou Corne. Boudreaux said the compromised section of pipeline stretches about 400 feet in length about a half-mile south of La. 70. The pipeline has bent 16 feet downward and 15 feet to the east toward the sinkhole. Crosstex spokeswoman Jill McMillan said in an email that company personnel have responded and "their highest priority is to ensure the safety of all involved." "As a precautionary measure, Crosstex has isolated and shut down the pipeline," McMillan wrote. "We're currently depressurizing the pipeline, and we expect this to be complete by Sunday evening." Waguespack said the road closure would extend from La. 69 and La. 70 southwest to Derrick Street in Pierre Part. He said Derrick is the closest point to the pipeline crossing where 18-wheelers can turn around and find a suitable departure route. He said that while residents have been advised of the risk of remaining, they would be able to continue to access their homes off La. 70 but would not be able to drive into the area where the pipeline crosses under La. 70. News of the endangered pipeline emerged Saturday afternoon after officials and curious residents had taken airboats down the Crosstex pipeline corridor to get a closer look at the slurry area and take air and soil samples. The big sinkhole swallowed and toppled trees overnight Thursday, turning the formerly forested patch of swamp into a watery mud flat flecked with bits of green foliage and tree tops peeking out of the dark-brown muck. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources officials believe a potentially failed salt cavern well owned by Texas Brine Co. LLC, of Houston, could be the cause of the sinkhole, as well as natural gas releases bubbling in Bayou Corne and Grand Bayou for more than two months. Joe S. Ball Jr., director of DNR's Injection and Mining



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Division, said some scientists are suggesting that a large gas bubble belched upward from underground and reached the surface, liquefying the overlying soil and creating the slurry. Ball said Louisiana Geological Survey officials have called a meeting for 9 a.m. Monday at LSU where geologists and scientists would be able to see all the data at one time. Parish officials also are planning to hold a community meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church Hall on La. 70 in Pierre Part, a parish government news release says. Gov. Bobby Jindal declared a statewide emergency Friday and the state Office of Conservation issued its own emergency order Friday directing Texas Brine to evaluate the structural integrity of its salt cavern and to begin remediation efforts in 24 hours. Sonny Cranch, spokesman for Texas Brine, said the company is committed to working with state and parish authorities to find out what caused the eruption and perform any remediation deemed appropriate. Cranch said company employees were working on a plan Saturday. He declined to provide details before DNR looked at the document. While DNR officials have pointed to the cavern as a possible, though not confirmed, cause, Cranch said Texas Brine does not know if the salt cavern is related one way or the other. "We're saying, 'We're not sure, but we want to find out,'" he said. Cranch said none of Texas Brine's three brine caverns are used for hydrocarbon storage. DNR officials have speculated that naturally occurring gas could have filled the cavern in question after it was plugged. The slurry area is on Texas Brine's 40-acre facility on the south side of La. 70. The sinkhole could be seen Saturday through a patch of cypress trees from the pad of the salt cavern well drawing DNR officials' attention. The cavern under that pad, which has a capacity of 20 million barrels, each holding 42 gallons of brine, has been plugged since 2011. It has been out of service for brine production for three years but is filled with brine for structural integrity, Cranch said. The cavern's solid salt deposits were dissolved with injected water from the western flank of the Napoleonville Dome and extend from about 3,400 feet deep to 5,650 feet deep. Texas Brine and other brine producers in the area use the salty mix to supply industry. Texas Brine has been operating in the area since 1973 and began using the well in 1982, DNR officials said. Cranch said the cavern, which is in roughly the shape of a narrow vase, is overlain by a salt cap 1,000 feet thick. More than 2,400 feet of dirt and rock lie atop the cap. The cavern well extends through this upper layer from the surface to the cavern's top. He said the cavern has a diameter of 150 feet at the top and 310 feet at the bottom. While Cranch said he could not say if the cavern had collapsed — as some residents fear — DNR's Ball suggested it was not likely, given the amount of earth and salt over the top. Nancy Malone, American Red Cross spokeswoman, said a shelter at Belle Rose Middle School remained open but no one had used it by Saturday afternoon. She said residents were staying mostly with friends and relatives. While some residents remained in Bayou Corne and could be seen cutting grass Saturday, many others have left. Abbie and Jason Hue and their daughter departed after a community meeting Friday when the evacuation order was given, Abbie Hue said. Abbie Hue, 31, said her family was staying with relatives in Belle Rose, at least until school starts late next week. She said her husband has been checking on their residence. "He just kind of goes back and forth to check it out," Abbie Hue said. "I mean it's our home, you know."

<http://theadvocate.com/home/3539214-125/sinkhole-forces-bend-gas-pipeline#comments>

USA, CA, SAN BERNARDINO CO, ANGELUS OAKS, AUGUST 6 2012. PROPANE TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY



This propane tanker over turned Sunday morning in San Bernardino County.

A propane tanker truck overturned while traveling northbound on Hwy. 38 near Jenks Lake Road East in San Bernardino County Sunday morning about 9:45, according to San Bernardino County Fire. The tanker landed on the passenger side near the edge of the roadway. The tanker's male driver was able to exit the semi on his own. He was the vehicle's lone occupant. There were no other vehicles involved in the collision. Firefighters were able to quickly contain a small diesel fuel spillage. Another propane carrier arrived to off-load and transfer the 9,600 gallons of propane. As a precaution against fire catching nearby brush and forest, firefighters from San Bernardino County Fire and the U.S. Forest Service arrived to fight any potential blaze. The driver reportedly sustained minor injuries and was transported by American Medical Response to a local hospital. The California Highway Patrol is conducting the investigation into the cause of the accident.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2012/08/05/propane-tanker-truck-overtorns-in-san-bernardino-county/>



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TANZANIA, DAR ES SALAAM, AUGUST 6 2012. DAR ES SALAAM PREPARES TO CHECK MAJOR SEA OIL SPILLS

masembe tambwe

Tanzanian environmental experts have made history after successfully formulating Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) maps that will be used in case of major oil spills. The Western Indian Ocean Maritime Highway Development (WIOMHP) project local focal point and also senior environmental officer of the National Environment Management Council, Ms Rose Sallama Mtui, said that the maps were indeed a great achievement. "The completion of mapping means that on the event of a major oil spill, prime areas that are of big value to the nation will be given priority in protecting them and these include coral reef areas, islands, tourist hotels, beaches, mangroves and sea grass beds," she explained. Ms Mtui said that the mapping was a good starting point for the country because all that was now needed was to keep updating and incorporating new data and any other changes. She said that the mapping was part of the capacity building component of the WIOMHP, but it was the work of local experts that developed both the ecosystem valuation methodology and ESA maps under the supervision and coordination of the National Environmental Management Council and the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority. "This work was led by Captain Chiragi of SUMATRA and me. Local experts deserve a pat on the back because much as we received guidance from regional experts, the rest were our efforts," she said. Ms Mtui said that efforts of developing ESAs started as far back as 2009 under the Belgian Technical Cooperation that supported phase one but because of lack of funds, phase two never took off and the project was abandoned. Another initiative was done by WWF which covered marine resources and extractive areas for oil and gas in general and wasn't classified as tactical, strategic and operational. Other developmental activities such as oil and gas exploration and extraction has been done by different oil companies to develop maps based on their areas of activity like the case of Mtwara. 'The maps that have been created are classified as tactical, strategic and operational covering the whole coastal and marine areas of the country in case of spill incidence,' she said. The environmental experts said that what was now needed was to extensively distribute the maps to stakeholders for valuation before using them. SUMATRA Marine Inspector and Monitoring Officer, Edson Chalamilla said that the completion of the mapping was a blessing particularly in his line of work, saying that it complements the prevention process. Eng. Chalamilla said that as the country edges towards the establishment of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, it was a prerequisite that ESA maps were in place as well as the right equipment and technologies of combating spills. "Taking into account that Tanzania has signed a number of international maritime conventions and for our own safety, we have invested into the sector appropriately, one cannot sleep, the world simply doesn't allow us to sleep," he said. He revealed that sometime in September, this year, SUMATRA would be conducting an oil spill drill where the marine regulator would showcase their ability to control the spill with minimal damage with the assistance of the mapping.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201208060192.html>

SRI LANKA, COLOMBO, AUGUST 6 2012. SUSPENDED FUEL COMPANY DENIES SUPPLYING SUBSTANDARD FUEL TO SRI LANKA

The Singapore-based fuel supplier suspended by Sri Lanka for allegedly supplying substandard diesel stocks to the country has rejected the allegation. The Vitol Group of Companies which has supplied the suspected low quality diesel shipment to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Saturday vehemently rejected the allegation that it is in any way responsible for reported incidents of damage to vehicles and machinery in Sri Lanka. Issuing a statement, the global fuel supplier has said that the cargo in question was tested in accordance with international testing standards by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's (CPC) own inspectors before it was discharged. "It was found to be fully in conformity with all the required contractual specifications, as confirmed in the Certificate of Quality issued by CPC to Vitol," a company statement has said. The company has said that the fuel stock was pumped into a CPC tanker that already contained a stock from another supplier. Vitol has suggested that the contamination would have occurred during the pumping or at any of a number of points between the terminal and the end consumers. The company has said that they have seen no evidence to link the cargo supplied by Vitol with the reported damages. "This cargo came from a larger parcel which has been supplied to a number of our customers in the region, where it has been consumed without incident and found to be fully on specification," Vitol has said. The company has expected the government to test every possible point of contamination to avoid further problems. The suspension would be in effect until the investigations on the substandard diesel stocks are over. The company had been blacklisted in an earlier occasion as well before the tenders for importing fuel were given to it. Use of the low quality diesel stock has mostly damaged a large number of state vehicles. Technical failures have been reported from the vehicles belonging to the Ports Authority, Department of Railways, Sri Lanka Transport Board, Postal Department and several other government and private institutions. It has been



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reported that 18 of the container cranes at the Ports Authority malfunctioned due to the substandard fuel. Several trains, state sector transport buses, and postal trucks were among the vehicles damaged by the low quality fuel. Preliminary inspections have shown that the fuel filters in these vehicles have been clogged with some residues and damaged the filters. Meanwhile, top officials at the CPC have expressed suspicion of a possible sabotage attempt by an individual or a group since the most of the damaged vehicles are state vehicles used in major services in the country. The CPC has sent samples of the contaminated fuel to overseas laboratories for independent testing and the results should reveal whether there are any additives in the fuel stocks, the official has said.

http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Aug05_1344185721CH.php

USA, N.Y, BUFFALO, AUGUST 6 2012. ETHANOL SERVES AS UNNATURAL GAS FOR BOATERS

will elliot

First it was five percent, now many gas pumps display a 10 percent ethanol content. Talk has it that ecology-minded planners, concerned about emissions and air pollution, might push percentages to 15 or more as standard gasoline content. Mercury Marine did some testing with E-15 gas in 2011 and the results were disturbing. In 300-hour, full-throttle tests of four-stroke and two-stroke engines, excess heat resulted in damaged exhaust valves and bearing failures before the test hours were completed, according to David Hilbert, Mercury Marine engineer. Hilbert noted that other test engines run with standard gasoline had no issues during the 300 hours of testing. Not only does ethanol in gas affect engine performance, the alcohol content in ethanol can damage older units with fiberglass tanks and older rubber fittings. An increase to E-15 content can just make matters worse for area boaters who keep inboard and outboard motors in storage, often for half of the year. Alcohol blends draw and retain water when boat tanks are left outside during the winter as a result of heating and cooling periods that build up condensation in the gas tank. For this reason, marine engine makers recommend that boaters store their units with the tank nearly or fully filled with gas after the last run each warm-weather season. That caution also goes for buying gas at a pump for marine use. Try to fill up at stations with high-volume use to avoid condensation that may have built up in sales tanks. Savvy motorists, including those doing farm/field work as well as running boat motors, have been adding fuel stabilizers to all their "outside" engines long before the ethanol advent. Many fuel-stabilizing products are on the market; the most popular brand comes in two colors - red for general uses and blue for marine engines. Experts say the red version can be good for intervals of a few weeks, but they suggest running the more expensive and much more effective "blue stuff" in everything from 300-HP outboards to push rotary lawn mowers. For now, E-10 has caused problems mainly for owners of older marine motors, but alcohol can do damage in any fuel system; difficulties with E-15 gas will be worse. One way to check on alcohol content would be with a test kit that gives readings instantly. A good source for test kits can be found at fueltestkit.com

<http://www.buffalonews.com/sports/other/outdoors/article986199.ece>

TAIWAN, TAIPEI, AUGUST 6 2012. CPC PLANS JOINTLY OPERATED FUJIAN GAS STATIONS



Taiwan's CPC Corp. is mulling dual-branded gas stations with Beijing-headquartered CNPC in mainland China's Fujian province.

Taiwan's CPC Corp. plans to work with Beijing-based China National Petroleum Corp. to set up and operate 200 gas stations in the mainland Chinese province of Fujian, the state-run company said Aug. 6. The investment plan will be sent to the ROC Ministry of Economic Affairs in the near future and is expected to be implemented by 2014 at the earliest, the CPC said. A CPC official noted that Taiwan's market scale is relatively small and that although the company enjoys a 75 percent share of the domestic market, it is required under government policy to maintain low prices, in fact the lowest in Asia, thereby making it difficult to turn a profit. The company has therefore been in talks with CNPC on jointly opening and running gas stations in Fujian using dual branding, he added. Around 1,500 new

gas stations are expected to open in the southeast coastal province under Beijing's national development plan, the official pointed out, adding that the CPC and CNPC stations will be set up in Fuzhou, Xiamen and other locations. CPC will hold a 49 percent stake in the planned venture, with a phased investment approach to be adopted, he said.

<http://www.taiwantoday.tw/ct.asp?xItem=194464&ctNode=445>



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USA, N.J, MARLBORO, AUGUST 7 2012. ROUTE 18 IN MARLBORO REOPENED AFTER TANKER FIRE

 **Photo's [7]** [Gas Truck Fire Closes Route 18 South, Homes Temporarily Evacuated](#)



Debris is cleaned out of the roadway near the rear of a loaded fuel tanker trailer, that had a fire in the tires, after those tires were replaced and they prepare to remove the truck from Route 18 south in Marlboro Monday morning. The early morning fire led to the evacuation of nearby homes.

All lanes of Route 18 are now open, according to the [State Turnpike Authority](#). Drivers headed south on Route 18 earlier today were diverted onto Route 9 South because of a tanker truck fire, authorities said. No one was injured in the fire on the southbound side of Route 18, about a mile south of Route 9, said police Capt. Steven Mennona. The tanker is now on Hartman Road, and crews are transferring the gasoline from the damaged tanker to another truck. Mennona said the rear tires of the truck caught fire shortly after 5 a.m., and the tank became very hot, but it never caught fire. As a precaution, residents of the Enclosure, a development

that backs up to the southbound side of the highway, near County Road 520, were briefly evacuated. They have since been allowed to return to their homes, the captain said. Earlier today, a firefighter was treated at the scene for heat exhaustion, police said.

<http://www.app.com/article/20120806/NJNEWS/308060013/Route-18-Marlboro-reopened-after-tanker-fire?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MARYBOROUGH, AUGUST 7 2012. HIGHWAY FIREBALL

 **Watch the Video** [Tanker Fire Shuts Bruce Highway](#)

Truck Crash

- A truck carrying 30,000 litres of fuel crashed and caught alight about 6.40am.
- After calling for extra water, it took firefighters about 20 minutes to douse the flames.
- Trains and traffic were delayed due to a heavy cloud of thick smoke.
- The Bruce Hwy was closed for almost 12 hours yesterday and will be partially closed again this morning.



Firefighters quell a fuel tanker blaze on the Bruce Hwy.

A truck driver had a miraculous escape after his truck carrying 30,000 litres of diesel and unleaded petrol clipped a guard rail 3km north of Maryborough and rolled into a ditch. The driver smashed a window with a fire extinguisher to escape from his crashed petrol tanker, moments before it erupted into a fireball. Burning fuel spilled from the tanker, sending a stream of fire into the gully and setting trees and grass alight. Despite a series of dramatic explosions as the vehicle's tanks went up, the driver managed to avoid injury. Maryborough Queensland Fire and Rescue chief superintendent John Bolger said the truck was burning fiercely when firefighters arrived, sending a thick plume of black,

toxic smoke into the sky. Trains were delayed due to smoke over the rail line, while road drivers were stopped as far back as Walker St at Maryborough. "There was over 30,000 litres of diesel and unleaded petrol in the tank, so it was an extremely dangerous situation, hampered by the limited water available on the Bruce Hwy," Supt Bolger said. An extra water tanker was brought in from Tinana, while hoses pumped more water from the industrial estate near Sexie Coffie. Rural fire brigades from Tinana and Burrum Heads helped Maryborough and Torquay firefighters to bring the blaze under control, with foam used to douse the flames. "They acted extremely well in what was potentially a dangerous situation," Supt Bolger said. "A fuel tanker fire is not something we would get very often but we are keenly aware of situations like that." The crash at Deadman's Gully blocked the highway from about 6.40am yesterday, with traffic diversions at Walker St and Childers sending drivers via Biggenden. By about 8am, traffic was banked up for several kilometres each way along the highway and the diversions remained in place all day. The road was expected to reopen last night about 6pm, but would be closed again this morning as crews started to repair the damage. Maryborough Police Senior Sergeant Tony Cole said it appeared the truck hit a guard rail, caught alight and tipped on its side into the ditch. "A number of explosions were heard," he said. Snr Sgt Cole said the driver



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was unhurt but the truck was destroyed. A Transport and Main Roads said the damaged guard rails would be replaced in the next few weeks and minor pavement repairs would be carried out. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

Related Links

- [Tanker fire closes Bruce Highway](#)
- [Burning tanker cuts highway traffic](#)
- [Inferno closes Bruce Hwy](#)
- [Tanker fire causes delays on Bruce Highway](#)
- [Tanker fire shuts Bruce Highway](#)
- [Diesel fire spreads from truck to grass on Bruce Highway, Maryborough West](#)

<http://www.frasercoastchronicle.com.au/story/2012/08/07/highway-fireball-truck-explosion-to-close-highway/>

NIGERIA, AKWA IBOM STATE, AUGUST 7 2012. JTF SETS FIRE TO PETROLEUM TANKER IN AKWA IBOM

bernard tolani dada

The Joint Military Task Force (JTF) on Petroleum Products yesterday set fire to a tanker loaded with 33,000 litres of diesel believed to be adulterated at Ibangwa in Abak Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The heavy duty truck with Adamawa registration number was intercepted by men of the task force at Ukanafun axis of the state while conveying the products to the Northern part of the country and government gave orders that it be destroyed. An official of the state command of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) said that the product which was bunkered by criminals was also adulterated. The driver of the truck, Abdkadri Amza, who spoke through an interpreter, said he loaded petroleum product at Unwoji in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on the directives of a dealer whose name he refused to disclose to newsmen. Abdkadri said that he was conveying the product to Adamawa State and said it was not his first time. Addressing newsmen, the commander, 6th Battalion of the Nigerian Army, Ibagwa, Lt.-Col. M. B. Abdullahi, who supervised the exercise, said the truck and its contents were destroyed on the orders of the authorities and that the driver had been handed over to the NSCDC for prosecution. He said another truck containing such product would soon be destroyed when JTF gets approval.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201208060133.html>

USA, N.C, GASTON CO, AUGUST 7 2012. CLEAN-UP, INVESTIGATION OF TRAIN DERAILMENT EXPECTED TO TAKE WEEKS

 [Watch the Video Investigation of Train Derailment Expected to take Weeks](#)

 [Photo's \[27\] Train derailment in Gaston Co.](#)



The clean-up and investigation into a train derailment from Monday evening is expected to take weeks, WBTV has learned. Gaston County EMS, HAZMAT, and Norfolk Southern crews responded after a train carrying LP gas derailed along 8th Avenue in Cramerton at about 4:30 p.m. Norfolk Southern told WBTV the train had three locomotives and 121 cars. A company spokesperson said 31 cars derailed and four of them were tankers carrying liquefied petroleum (LP) gas, commonly known as propane. None of the gas leaked from the tankers during the derailment and no one was hurt, officials told WBTV. The train operator and a crew member were the only people involved in the accident, and emergency crews told WBTV both are OK. A Norfolk Southern spokesperson said that the company will open a family assistance center in Cramerton Tuesday at the Cramerton

Town Hall and police department, which is located at 155 N. Main Street. The assistance center will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and will reimburse residents who incurred expenses related to Monday's evacuation. Residents should bring an ID or other documentation that shows their address. The assistance center phone number is 704-824-4337. About 50 homes were affected by the evacuation. First responders treated the scene as hazardous because they were not sure what the tankers were carrying. The side of the derailed cars said "phosphoric acid", but WBTV has learned those cars were empty. Norfolk Southern said the train was headed from Linwood to Macon, Georgia. There is no word yet why the train derailed. Some neighbors were evacuated to the Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church in Cramerton, as a precaution. Others were told to stay back 150 to 200 feet from the scene. The evacuation was lifted around 7 p.m. Sky3 has been flying over the scene and showed one of the two tracks was torn up. The rail line is part of Norfolk Southern's Crescent Corridor mainline where freight



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trains can be several miles long and travel in excess of 60 miles per hour. The investigation is expected to last for several weeks, a company spokesman said Tuesday. One of the two tracks was reopened at 6:20 a.m. The other track sustained extensive damage and will take several days to repair, the spokesman said. The 31 cars that derailed are being put back on the tracks and hauled away

<http://www.wbtv.com/story/19208215/train-derails-in-gaston-co-hazmat-crews-on-scene>

NIGERIA, OYO, IBADAN, AUGUST 7 2012. TANKER FIRE KILLS 5-YEAR-OLD IN IBADAN >> NINE OTHER TRAVELLERS SUSTAIN INJURIES

funso ajewole



A five-year-old girl died on Sunday when a bus in which she was riding alongside nine other passengers caught fire, Olayinka Olunike of the Oyo State Fire Service disclosed. Olunike said the incident happened at Iwo Road, Ibadan. According to her, the bus caught fire when it ran on the petrol spilled by a tanker involved in an accident. She added that while other occupants of the bus, marked LAGOS XL 648 GGE, escaped with injuries, the girl got trapped and died. Olunike, however, blamed motorists and onlookers for not heeding the advice of the service in the event of fire outbreak. "This would not have happened if they had taken to our warning, because we warn motorists and motorcyclists to desist from driving on any spillage but they would not listen. We were in control of the spillage for about two hours before the bus came and ignited the fire with its exhaust pipe. It was

the fire from the bus that eventually ignited the tanker," she said. According to her, the fire had been properly extinguished but the Fire Service would be at alert until the fuel in the tanker was decanted. "The spillage was caused by one of the three tanks of the tanker marked KANO XF 380 DAL, and we are at alert until the fuel in the two other tanks is decanted," Olunike said.

<http://dailytimes.com.ng/article/tanker-fire-kills-5-year-old-ibadan>

USA, MT, PLEVNA, AUGUST 8 2012. RAIL CARS EXPLODE, BURN AFTER DERAILMENT IN EASTERN MONTANA



A flaming mushroom cloud rises from a train derailment Sunday west of Plevna, where 14 rail tankers filled with denatured alcohol left the tracks. At least eight of the cars caught fire, including four that exploded.

A train west of Plevna has derailed and eight cars carrying alcohol are on fire. Burlington Northern Santa Fe reports that 15 rail cars went off track around 2:45 p.m. Sunday. Fourteen of the cars were carrying denatured alcohol, which is used as a fuel additive. The fifteenth car was carrying cardboard. No injuries have been reported. Highway 12, which is near the derailment, has been blocked off at both ends to secure the accident scene. "Eight cars are on fire. It was a chain reaction of one car catching fire and another car catching fire as well," said Gus Melonas, BNSF spokesman. "It's a fuel additive. There are no air-quality issues. They are letting the product burn." Four or five of the tank cars are on their sides. No lives or property have been threatened. Firefighters rushed in to extinguish grass set

on fire by the derailment, then retreated to a safe spot a half mile away as the rail cars exploded. "We were just waiting for the cars to blow up and got a good mushroom percussion," said Kelly Gray, of Plevna, who fought the fire with her father, Roscoe. "The heat felt like your eyebrows were going to singe." One after another, four of the cars exploded, then the fire crews rushed back in to put out new grass fires, which they were still mopping up seven hours after the derailment. The 106-car train from Aberdeen, S.D. was on a single lane of track that doesn't get a lot of use, Melonas said. Only 63 of the cars involved were loaded with freight. BNSF crews will work to have the track operational again by Monday. Roughly eight to 10 trains pass through the area daily

http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/rail-cars-explode-burn-after-derailment-in-eastern-montana/article_d11e1412-df5e-11e1-a230-001a4bcf887a.html



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USA, N.C, CRAMERTON, AUGUST 7 2012. CLEANUP CONTINUES AFTER TRAIN DERAILS IN CRAMERTON

dan tordjman

 [Watch the Video Train Derails in Cramerton](#)

 [Photo's \[17\] Scene of Train Derailment in Cramerton](#)



As crews worked to pull the heaviest train cars and tanks off the track they derailed from on Monday, Eyewitness News heard how concerned neighbors were when they called 911 moments after the accident. "On Mayflower Avenue in Cramerton," said one caller, "we've got a train completely derailed." Within minutes, others called expressing concern. "The train tracks are directly in front of my house... it's in pieces, like, it looks like pieces have just flipped off the tracks," a caller said. The primary concern for neighbors was not so much the train itself but rather what it might have been carrying. "I don't know what's in those tanks," said another caller. "But it looks like gas tanks to me." "There's a very bad smell," the caller added. A dispatcher responded by saying, "Get away, get as far away from it as

you can." No one was hurt and there were no leaks in any potentially dangerous containers, like the ones carrying liquified petroleum gas. Still, Mayflower continued to attract onlookers who saw images of the derailment on TV and wanted to get a closer look in person. Wendy Caudill came with her family from Belmont and took pictures. "It's a mess," she said. "It's crazy." The tracks could take a few more days to clear and for a new track to be laid over the damaged one, where the derailment occurred.

<http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/news/train-partially-derails-cramerton/nQCDq/>

UK, AUGUST 8 2012. SALVORS RE-BOARD MSC FLAMINIA AS MANAGERS HUNT FOR SAFE HAVEN

mike weir



Reederei NSB negotiates with 'several' countries as wider questions are raised over ocean freight safety.

Firefighters have re-boarded the MSC Flaminia after a week-long absence from the stricken container ship which was hit by an explosion in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean more than three weeks ago. The stricken vessel (pictured three weeks ago) had previously been towed to within 100 nautical miles of the UK mainland but by 31 July, amid worsening weather conditions, firefighters were unable to board and the ship was towed back out to sea. According to the ship's managers, Germany-based Reederei NSB, the MSC Flaminia is currently 360 miles off-shore. In

its latest statement, published Monday, the company said: "Thanks to improving weather conditions, a team of firefighting experts is able to board MSC Flaminia and continue the salvaging efforts. "The current measures aim at inspecting areas which had not been accessible so far. Also, data is being collected to calculate and assess the stability of the vessel. The fire is believed to have originated in cargo hold 4 but salvors have said that there is no longer any fire in holds 4, 5 or 6 and that smoke from hold 7, adjacent to the superstructure, has 'declined significantly'. "Temperatures in this area are also dropping again," said the company. "Currently, no cooling by the accompanying tugboats is necessary. MSC Flaminia is still listing by approximately 10 degrees." A spokesman for Reederei NSB told Lloyd's Loading List.com today that the situation remained unchanged as the company negotiated with 'several' countries in its efforts to find a safe coastal haven for the listing 6,732 teu ship. One member of the crew was killed, one remains missing and three others were injured when the original explosion occurred. A second explosion on 17 July put a temporary halt to firefighting efforts. In legal and regulatory terms, key questions raised by the MSC Flaminia could turn the incident into one of the most significant ocean freight transport events of recent years. Questions have already been raised as to how cargo with the potential to explode found its way aboard and beneath deck, while some commentators have suggested that if such cargo was mis-declared by the exporter, the incident should invigorate industry and government efforts to tackle the endemic issue of mis-declaration.

http://www.lloydsloadinglist.com/freight-directory/news/salvors-re-board-msc-flaminia-as-managers-hunt-for-safe-haven/20017980432.htm?source=ezone&utm_source=Lloyd%27s+Loading+List+Daily+News+Bulletin&utm_campaign=a938e4ad4b-08_August_2012&utm_medium=email#.UCO2HU0gfjl



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NEW ZEALAND, MILFORD SOUND, AUGUST 8 2012. TOPPLED CRANE POSES MILFORD SOUND THREAT



This 50-tonne crane toppled yesterday at the southern end of Freshwater Basin in Milford Sound about 2.15pm.

A crane which toppled on a barge in Milford Sound contains a large amount of oil and fuel, but authorities say the situation is stable with no oil leak. Southland officials are confident a crane that toppled in Milford Sound is stable, but they are preparing for a potential oil spill. The 50-tonne crane, aboard a barge, was being used on a \$6 million harbour redevelopment project at the Freshwater Basin when it toppled sideways on Wednesday afternoon. The only thing stopping the crane tumbling into the harbour is an old pole, on which the crane's boom is caught. The crane's driver escaped unharmed. The crane contains a large amount of hydraulic

oil and fuel, which poses a risk to the environment, Milford Sound Development Authority manager Andrew Welsh told NZ Newswire. "At the moment, if the pole that it's resting on was to fail, the crane will go in the harbour, so we're mindful of that and all the work at the moment is to stabilise the crane as it is." Oil booms have been deployed but there is no sign of oil on the water so far, Environment Southland regional on-scene commander Dallas Bradley said. The crane had not moved overnight and officials were confident it was stable. Two Environment Southland staff and two port maintenance staff from Bluff were on the scene to help, he said. The crane's owners were working on a salvage plan to remove the crane. Mr Welsh said the reason the crane toppled was not yet known, with Maritime New Zealand carrying out an investigation. He said the crane's driver was very fortunate to escape without injury. "I think everyone's grateful that the outcome was, we've got a crane on its side and we've got a problem, but no one was killed or injured." The accident would delay the development project, which includes safety and operational improvements. A new breakwater is being constructed, while the harbour is also being dredged and enlarged. Mr Welsh says it will probably take "a good week" before work can resume. "There's obviously a fair bit of work to be done to stabilise the crane, get it back on its feet and get things up and running again."

<http://home.nzcity.co.nz/news/article.aspx?id=151749&cat=1038&fm=newsarticle%20-%20National.nur>

IRAN, TEHRAN, AUGUST 7 2012. IRAN'S PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX FIRE KILLS 3



The fatalities of a fire incident in Iran's Imam Port Petrochemical Complex have reached three, the semi-official Fars news agency reported Saturday.

In the incident which took place on Friday in southern country, 14 others were injured, an unnamed informed source was quoted as saying. Earlier on Saturday, Manouchehr Hayati, governor of Mahshahr county adjacent to the Persian Gulf, told the official IRNA news agency that in the incident two were killed and 15 others were injured. Earlier on Saturday, the state IRIB TV website quoted Qodratollah Nasiri of Iranian National Petrochemical Industry as saying that in a gas leakage incident on Friday a fire broke out in the complex and a person was killed and 15 others were injured. In the fire accident, the processing units of the

petrochemical complex were not damaged, Nasiri said, adding that some of the production units are offline while other units are functioning regularly. The official said the fire was completely contained and the cause of the fire was under investigation and the results would be announced soon, according to IRIB report. Earlier this year, another fire took place in Imam Port Petrochemical Complex, the country's biggest petrochemical facility, due to "technical reasons." The complex has 4 million tons production capacity per year and produces oil byproducts.

<http://english.cri.cn/6966/2012/08/05/191s715446.htm>

USA, AZ, PAULDEN, AUGUST 8 2012. PAULDEN MAN BURNED IN EXPLOSION

scott orr

A man suffered burns to 80 percent of his body Sunday afternoon when a fuel tank he was working on exploded, setting his clothes on fire, a fire department spokesman said. About 2 p.m. Sunday, the victim and his brother were removing the gas tank of a motor home with a torch in the 300 block of East Alder Lane, said Chino Valley Fire Department spokesman Mathew Mayhall, but "apparently, he didn't purge out all of the fuel, or cap off some of the openings that go into the fuel tank." Gasoline vapors ignited and caught his clothes on fire, said Mayhall. The victim, whose name has not been released, is 37 years old. He



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had second- and third-degree burns over 80 percent of his body, Mayhall said, and was airlifted to the Maricopa Burn Unit in Phoenix. The brother was not injured. Mayhall said there was no contract with the CVFD at this address, but, "if it's something life-threatening, then we'll go, and this was."

<http://www.cvrnews.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=446&ArticleID=55599>

BULGARIA, RAZGRAD, AUGUST 8 2012. 2 CRITICAL AFTER GAS STATION BLAST IN BULGARIA

A gas tank exploded in a busy district of Bulgaria's northeastern city of Razgrad Monday afternoon.

Five people were injured when a tank loaded with fuel exploded at a gas station in the northeastern Bulgaria city of Razgrad late Monday afternoon. Two of the injured, a driver from the city of Stara Zagora, 38, and a man from Razgrad, 48, have sustained severe burns and are listed in critical condition in the hospital of the Danube city of Ruse. Their state does not allow for them to be transported to the capital Sofia. Three other men, of the total of seven people at the gas station at the time of the incident, have sustained lighter injuries, such as light burns and a broken ankle. One of them is the manager of the station. The call was placed on the 112 emergency hotline after 5:15 pm. People who were in the vicinity at the time say that they heard a loud bang. Nearby offices and stores were evacuated. The fire was tamed close to midnight. A fire truck remains on the spot Tuesday still cooling down the tank. Air probes have not revealed increased amount of harmful substances. The station is



the only one in the city providing household gas and is located in a busy district with two gasoline fuel stations, the central bus station, the local college and several large stores nearby. The initial lead is that the explosion was sparked when gas has been loaded from the tank of a truck to the gas column at the station.

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=142076

NEW ZEALAND, HAWKES BAY, AUGUST 8 2012. OWNER RELIEVED OIL SPILL SMALL

corey charlton



Oil spilt from a boat sunk near Nelson Quay last week was cleaned up successfully.

Fewer than 50 litres of diesel and 10 litres of engine oil was spilt into the water around Nelson Quay when a moored vessel was found fully submerged, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council says. The boat owner said it was capable of holding up to 300 litres of diesel. At the time of its discovery, regional council staff were unsure how full it had been, how much oil had been spilt and how long it had been underwater. Hawke's Bay Regional Council manager (compliance and harbours) Bryce Lawrence said the clean-up had been successful. "The staff removed all the booms and absorbent materials on Friday morning and it was a successful clean-up," he said. "It was less than 10 litres of oil and less than 50 litres of diesel over the course of the entire period." Despite other boats discharging oil in the harbour from time to time, the council was confident the oil found in the immediate vicinity could be attributed to the sunken vessel. The boat's owner, Dale Salomonson, said it had sunk on Wednesday night and he was glad there was not more oil in it. He was still unsure about how it had sunk, but thought

it was probably weather-related. He believed there had been 30 litres of diesel, and 4.5 litres of engine oil in the boat at the time, and he was facing clean-up costs. "It holds up to 300 litres, so I'm glad I didn't have it full because it'd be a lot more money I would have lost, too. There is some oil that has come from my boat, but overall it is just a minute drip that's going in there on a daily basis."

<http://www.hawkesbaytoday.co.nz/news/owner-relieved-oil-spill-small/1495108/>



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USA, CA, RICHMOND, AUGUST 9 2012. REFINERY FIRE HIGHLIGHTS POLLUTION CONCERNS

jason dearen

Watch the Videos

- [Chevron Oil Refinery Fire in Richmond, California](#)
- [Live Video of Richmond Chevron Refinery Fire](#)



Firefighting crews continue to pour water onto a unit after a fire at a Chevron refinery on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012 in Richmond, Calif. The fire, which sent plumes of black smoke over the San Francisco Bay area, erupted Monday evening in the massive Chevron refinery about 10 miles (16 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco. It was out early Tuesday.

A massive Chevron oil refinery fire that sent hundreds of people rushing to hospitals and is pushing West Coast gas prices higher was just the latest pollution incident at the facility that records show has increasingly violated air quality rules over the past five years. The refinery is one of three such facilities near San Francisco that rank among the state's top 10 emitters of toxic chemicals, according to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's](#) Toxic Release Inventory. Chevron's

Richmond refinery — the scene of Monday's fire that shrouded the area in black smoke — has been cited by San Francisco Bay area regulators for violating air regulations 93 times in the past five years. The number has increased from 15 violations in 2007 to 23 in both 2010 and 2011. The refinery is also the state's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, according to state regulators. The Richmond refinery produces about 150,000 barrels of gasoline a day — or 16 percent of the West Coast's daily gasoline consumption of 963,000 barrels, said [Tom Kloza](#), chief oil analyst at [Oil Price Information Service](#). With inventories of gasoline in the region already low compared with the rest of the country, pump prices on the West Coast will soon average more than \$4 a gallon, Kloza said. This week's disruption in production quickly sent the price of a gallon of regular gasoline in California up 3 cents, said analyst [Patrick DeHaan](#) of the website GasBuddy.com. Investigations continued Wednesday into Chevron's response to the fire and the effectiveness of Contra Costa County's emergency warning system. The [U.S. Chemical Safety Board](#), a federal agency, sent a seven-member team to look into possible exposure of workers after vapor ignited and caused the fire. Monday wasn't the first time Richmond residents had received shelter-in-place orders to stay in their homes and close the doors and windows after fires or accidents at nearby refineries. They were anxious about the latest fire, and reports of a minor, secondary fire at the refinery on Wednesday only magnified concerns. "Events like this most recent fire are a trigger for a longstanding mistrust of Chevron," said [Jason Corburn](#), a [University of California](#), Berkeley public health and urban planning professor. "People feel these spikes in air pollutants, and feel these dangerous events in the context of the daily (air quality issues) that don't show up on county air monitors." The Richmond facility is not the biggest violator of air quality laws among the region's five oil refineries, but it has been cited for violating air regulations numerous times. Some of the violations remain under investigation for determination of penalties. Chevron spokeswoman [Melissa Ritchie](#) said in an email that the refinery "places the highest priority on the health and safety of our work force, our neighbors and the protection of the environment." "We know our ability to do so is dependent on a proven capability to operate safely and in an environmentally sound way," she wrote. Some of the San Francisco Bay area's other refineries have more violations than Chevron. The most involved a Valero-owned refinery in nearby Benicia, which has 222 violations over the same five-year period. A Shell refinery in Martinez, a few miles east of the Chevron facility, posted the fewest violations with 83. Not all of the air violations were for exceeding legal limits on pollution emissions, said [Brian Bateman](#), the district's health and science officer. Some, he said, can be for bad record-keeping or other administrative problems, as well as equipment problems. While the sprawling Chevron refinery has produced much of the West Coast's daily gasoline supply over the past dozen years, it has also emitted an average of 543,155 pounds of toxic chemicals into the air annually, according to [EPA](#) data. In 2010, all of the state's toxic emitters, including hazardous waste disposal sites combined, released more than 9 million pounds of toxic chemicals into the air. Still, most releases, when mixed with the cleaner air surrounding the refineries, fall below thresholds considered dangerous to human health, Bateman said. Chevron paid \$170,000 to the air district for all of its violations between 2005 and 2009 after reaching a settlement. The total amount of fines for more recent violations has not been determined. The federal [Clean Air](#) Act sets limits on pollutants that refineries and other emitters can release and imposes penalties for violations. Local air districts enforce the law. While some of the region's 27 air monitoring station's detected an uptick in



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pollution during Monday's fire, further laboratory testing confirmed that the levels did not pose a significant health concern, the air district said. Fires and accidents over the years have inspired community protests and litigation. A court recently blocked Chevron's plans to expand the facility, after a lawsuit from community groups alleged Chevron had not properly determined the potential health impacts. "The fact that we've had two major fires in the last five years is unacceptable and symptomatic of Chevron's tenuous relationship with the community," said [Roger Kim](#), executive director of the [Asian Pacific Environmental Network](#).

Richmond Chevron Refinery Fire Health Facts [Contra Costa County Health Services Department]

Contra Costa County's Health Services Department issued this FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) Wednesday evening.

1. What are the health impacts from the refinery fire?

Smoke can cause throat and eye irritation, though it generally is not serious if the exposure is limited. These symptoms should resolve on their own after a few days for most people. Exposure to smoke can be more serious for people with pre-existing lung disease, such as asthma, and they may experience wheezing or have trouble breathing. As of August 8, more than 1,700 people have gone to the emergency room with nose, throat or eye irritation or respiratory issues, although none have been hospitalized.

2. What chemicals were released into the air and how dangerous are they?

A variety of chemicals were released during the Chevron Richmond refinery fire. Smoke particulates, which are what makes smoke black, was the major concern during this fire. Smoke particulates can irritate the throat, lungs and eyes particularly in those with pre-existing lung disease, such as asthma. Benzene, a chemical that can cause cancer, and other toxic chemicals can also be present in smoke. Test results from air samples that were taken by Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Response Team and staff from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) were analyzed by BAAQMD and show the level of benzene and other toxic chemicals was below harmful levels during the fire and poses no risk of cancer. We do not have good measurements of the smoke particulates that impacted the community.

3. Is it safe to eat fruits and vegetables from my garden?

Yes, it's safe. It's always a good idea to wash fruits and vegetables before eating. If you live in an area that was affected by the refinery fire, you can wash fruits and vegetables from your garden with soap and a mild detergent (like liquid dish soap). Washing your fruits and vegetables will remove any particulates that might have been on the surface from smoke. You also can peel off the outer layer of lettuce or peel your fruit if you are concerned.

4. Is our water safe for drinking?

The tap water in Richmond is one of the best waters in the country and it is safe for you to drink and to give to your pets. The ground water from local wells in Richmond should not be used for drinking by you or your pets.

5. What should I do if there is soot on my car, patio furniture or outdoor play structures?

If there is residue on your car, patio furniture or outdoor play structure wash it with a mild detergent and water.

6. Why was shelter-in-place lifted if the air sample results aren't in yet?

The shelter-in-place was lifted because the fire at Chevron was under control and our hazardous materials monitors confirmed there was no ongoing exposure.

7. What should I do if I am having trouble breathing or have burning eyes and a sore throat?

People who are experiencing trouble breathing should seek medical attention. If you have burning eyes and a sore throat contact your health care provider.

8. Is there any assistance in paying for my medical expenses related to this incident?

Contact Chevron for information regarding payment of medical expenses or claims. You can reach them at 510-242-2000 for general information or at 1-866-260-7881 for claim information.

Related Links

- [Fire Is Latest Pollution Problem at Chevron Plant](#)
- [Refinery Damage may take Months to Repair](#)
- [Chevron Faces Criticism over Huge Refinery Fire](#)
- [New Fire, Now Out, Flares at Chevron Plant as Residents Treated for Respiratory...](#)
- [Questions Raised about Chevron's Handling of Gas Leak that Sparked Massive Blaze](#)

<http://www.sfgate.com/business/article/Refinery-fire-highlights-pollution-concerns-3770927.php>



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