



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2012 – 879 Newsy Stuff

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September 18 2012



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NEW ZEALAND, BLENHEIM, AUGUST 28 2012. DRINK-DRIVER RAMS ANOTHER CAR AT PETROL STATION

An impatient drink-driver was caught after trying to ram another car out of the way at a petrol station. Michael Scheidegger, 42 a vineyard worker of Witherlea, appeared in Blenheim District Court yesterday and admitted charges of excess breath alcohol of 1322mcg (legal limit 400mcg), a third or subsequent offence, driving while disqualified, a third or subsequent offence, and careless driving. He was remanded for sentence on October 15. Prosecutor Graham Single said Scheidegger had been driving in Scott St, Blenheim, when he drove to a service station about 12.40pm on August 11. He parked behind a car belonging to a 71-year-old man at one of the pumps, but soon became impatient and rammed the car, causing minor damage. It was Scheidegger's fourth drink-driving conviction.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7560027/Drink-driver-rams-another-car-at-petrol-station>

USA, ILL, PALOS PARK, AUGUST 29 2012. JET FUEL SPILL NEAR CHICAGO CLOSES CANAL, HIGHWAY



Sheen from the jet fuel spill from Westshore Pipeline near Palos Heights, Illinois.

A jet fuel pipeline that ruptured Monday near Chicago has forced closure of Route 83 and part of the Calumet Sag Channel until Thursday. The burst pipeline spilled an estimated 42,000 gallons of jet fuel into a ditch that empties into the Calumet Sag Channel in Palos Heights, Illinois. West Shore Pipeline owns the pipeline and has secured the source of the spill. The Coast Guard is responding on scene with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago. The EPA is the lead agency for the response and has established an incident command post in the vicinity of the spill. EPA officials estimate that the cleanup of the channel and

surrounding areas could take up to three days to complete. In order to help facilitate clean-up operations, the Coast Guard has implemented a seven-mile safety zone on the Calumet Sag Channel that closes down the channel from mile marker 304 to mile marker 311.5. "The Coast Guard will continue to ensure the safety of responders and the public," said Lt. Leslie Downing, senior investigating officer at Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Chicago. "Our other objectives are to initiate any appropriate actions to control the source and minimize further release, assess the trajectory of the spill and identify any sensitive areas that need protecting, and keep the public informed," Downing said. On-scene responders have deployed 600 feet of boom, a temporary barrier used to contain a spill, across the entire channel and around the source of the spill. The Calumet Sag Channel is a 16 mile-long navigation canal in southern Cook County that connects the Little Calumet River and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The western 4.5 miles of the channel flow through the Palos Hills Forest Preserves, a large area of parkland operated by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The channel serves barge traffic in what was an active zone of heavy industry in the far southern neighborhoods of Chicago and adjacent suburbs. The channel is used by pleasure crafts in the summer time. Since 2006 it has also served as a conduit for wastewater from southern Cook County, including the Chicago-area Deep Tunnel Project, into the Illinois Waterway. Dozens of barges use the channel daily, and up to 14,500 vehicles drive on Route 83 every day. The cause of the pipeline rupture is unknown; the EPA is investigating.

Related Links [USA. Coast Guard Aids EPA with Clean Up of Jet Fuel Spill on Calumet Sag Channel](http://ens-newswire.com/2012/08/28/jet-fuel-spill-near-chicago-closes-canal-highway/)

<http://ens-newswire.com/2012/08/28/jet-fuel-spill-near-chicago-closes-canal-highway/>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI, AUGUST 29 2012. ENOC TO OPEN 40 PETROL STATIONS IN SAUDI

claire valdini



Emirates National Oil Co is to open up at least 40 service stations in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) will open 40 petrol stations and retail outlets in Saudi Arabia as part of a joint venture with the kingdom's Aldrees Petroleum & Transport Services Company as it moves to stem losses in its home market. The state-owned firm, which is struggling amid government subsidies in the UAE, will invest SAR45m (US\$12m) as start-up capital together with Aldrees. "We have to increase our source of income to the company," Burhan Al Hashemi, managing director of ENOC Retail told reporters on Tuesday. "[Petrol] prices in



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Saudi have a good margin... it is subsidised by the government but the additional services that we provide, that's another source of income that we get from non-fuel industries like the car wash and car maintenance." The expansion plans in Saudi Arabia are unlikely to have a significant impact on ENOC's overall revenues but could have a positive impact in the long-term, he added. "We are going to start with 40 stations, which is not that big. It depends on the market needs, probably in the long term it will have some [positive] impact on the return," he told Arabian Business. UAE petrol retailers have been hit by significant losses due to the increasing gap between fuel prices and the heavily subsidised cost at the pump. The combined losses of the four UAE state-owned retailers are estimated at AED8.5bn (US\$2.31bn) in 2011, Reuters said in June. The government increased fuel prices twice in 2010 as it moved to reduce the burden of subsidiaries, though current prices remain well below market prices. Plans to increase it for a third time were scrapped in the wake of the Arab Spring. The Federal National Council, which has no legislative power, in June approved plans to cut petrol prices for everyone. ENOC last year shut down several of its stations in Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah, forcing drivers to queue for hours at rival petrol provider Emarat's stations. The closures were because they buy fuel at market prices and sell it at government-set rates. Abu Dhabi's National Oil Company in June signed a deal with Emarat to take over the management of 74 service stations in Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain and Fujairah.

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/enoc-open-40-petrol-stations-in-saudi-471138.html>

USA, FLA, TALLAHASSEE, AUGUST 29 2012. FLORIDA KEYS PARK VIOLATES TOXIC RUNOFF AND WATER CONTAMINATION RULES

judson parker



The surface waters bordering Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park are Outstanding Florida Waters and thus entitled to the highest level of protection that can be afforded by the state. They are particularly susceptible to contamination due to the area.

Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park has a dirty secret. The park is dangerously contaminated but state officials have blocked efforts to assess or clean up the problem, according to documents released today by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). The group is asking the Inspector General for Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to get to the bottom of the murky mess. Located on the northern tip of Key Largo in the Florida Keys, Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park shelters two federally listed species (the Key Largo Woodrat and the Key Largo Cotton Mouse) found nowhere else. Prior to becoming a state park, however, part of the land was used

as a Nike missile launch site which included a popular skeet shooting range. These prior uses, especially the range, left a toxic legacy. In 2003, the DEP hired a consulting firm to survey the area, leading to a site investigation in 2006. That site investigation, which PEER obtained under public record laws, collected soil samples from the former skeet range showing arsenic and lead levels exceeding both residential and industrial exposure limits. Samples from the park's mangrove areas were no better. They showed lead and arsenic levels exceeding industrial direct exposure limits and antimony exceeding residential limits. Besides these toxic metals, sampling also detected high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), such as benzene. DEP park officials, however, prevented the consulting firm from opening any monitoring wells or removing contaminated soil. As a result, the full extent of contamination remains unknown. "This is outrageous. DEP has known about serious toxic contamination in one of its own parks for half a dozen years and has not lifted a finger," stated Florida PEER Director Jerry Phillips, a former DEP enforcement attorney. "If this was some mom-and-pop gas station DEP would have thrown the book at them, but the agency somehow exempts itself from its own rules." The PEER complaint details the state rules that DEP ignored at the Key Largo park, including:

- Notice must be given to the public that the site is contaminated, including warning signs;
- DEP must fully analyze the area (including groundwater and surface water) where hazardous wastes are found to determine the exact nature of the contaminants and the risks they pose to people and the environment; and
- DEP must develop and execute a plan to clean up the contaminated site.



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The surface waters bordering Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park are Outstanding Florida Waters and thus entitled to the highest level of protection that can be afforded by the state. They are particularly susceptible to contamination due to the area's porous soils, high water table and strong tides. "We are asking the Inspector General to find out why the DEP violated its own very clear rules designed to protect our citizens and our environment," added Phillips. "At Key Largo, DEP did not just drop the ball but kicked it over the fence hoping no one would ever find it."

<http://www.examiner.com/article/florida-keys-park-violates-toxic-runoff-and-water-contamination-rules>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, MOSSVALE, AUGUST 29 2012. SCHOOL EXPLOSION INJURES 11 STUDENTS

Map: [Moss Vale, AU](#)

Eleven students and a teacher have been taken to hospital after an explosion at a school in the New South Wales southern highlands. Fire crews were called to Moss Vale High School where it is understood sodium hydroxide may have been used in a classroom experiment. Paramedics say the students have been taken to Bowral Hospital with eye injuries caused by a reaction to the gas. Adam Wallace from the NSW Ambulance Service says their injuries are not serious. "Eyes and skin affected by a small amount of gas that came from a small shattered beaker of sodium hydroxide and they're really being taken to hospital for observation," he said. The rest of the school remained open after the incident. Police and the Fire and Rescue Service are investigating.

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-28/high-school-explosion-injures-12/4228282?WT.mc_id=newsmail

CURACAO, JAN KOK, AUGUST 29 2012. OIL SPILL FOULS CURACAO SHORE, THREATENS FLAMINGOS



In this picture released by the Smoc Curacao Environmental Group, taken Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012, an oil-smudged pink flamingo stands at the Jan Kok nature preserve in Curacao where pink flamingos gather. An extensive fuel spill has fouled a stretch of shoreline and oiled pink flamingos and other wildlife in a nature preserve in Curacao.

An extensive fuel spill has fouled a stretch of shoreline and oiled pink flamingos and other wildlife in a nature preserve in Curacao, conservationists and residents of the tiny Dutch Caribbean island said Monday. The leader of a local environmental group asserted Monday that the spill of crude oil at Curacao's Jan Kok preserve was from at least one storage tank owned by the Isla oil refinery, the largest business and employer on the southern Caribbean island best known for its diving opportunities and colorful capital of Willemstad. The island's refinery is run by the state-owned oil company of Venezuela, only about 40 miles away. "This is probably the biggest (environmental) disaster in Curacao," said Peter van Leeuwen of the Stichting SMOC group. "The whole area of Jan Kok is black. The birds are black. The crabs are black. The plants are black. Everything is draped in oil." Curacao-based journalist Dick Drayer, who covers the Netherlands

Antilles for Dutch television, estimated that the spill covers an area "of around 30 soccer fields." He added that three distinct oil slicks are floating offshore and are "threatening the southern coast of Curacao." Photographs of Curacao's southern Jan Kok area show a darkened coast and gobs of oil dripping off of coastline rocks and mixing in the surf. Oil-smudged flamingos, crustaceans, and lizards can be seen struggling on the wind-swept reserve of salt flats. Van Leeuwen said the spill started threatening wildlife sometime last week but cleanup efforts by the company only recently got under way at the nature reserve, no more than 1,000 meters away from big tanks where Petroleos de Venezuela SA stores thousands of gallons of crude oil. "A lot of time has gone by without any action. It's been about one week before somebody at the company has done anything at all," he said, adding that workmen are now excavating holes on Jan Kok's beach to capture the spilled oil and mix it with sand and soil in order to cart it away. Numerous calls to Kenneth Gijsbertha, the Curacao spokesman for the Isla oil refinery, went unanswered Monday. The Isla refinery is a sprawling expanse of metal pipes, chemical converters and concrete by Willemstad's bay. For years, activists have complained about the thick haze of smoke that sometimes blankets the area around the refinery, which can produce roughly 220,000 barrels a day. Venezuela's state-owned oil company is grappling with arguably more pressing problems. On Saturday, a huge explosion rocked the energy-rich country's biggest oil refinery, unleashing a ferocious fire that killed at least 41 people and injured more than 150 others. Jacintha Constancia, Curacao's minister of public health, environment and nature, also did not answer calls on Monday to explain what the government was doing about the spill or to prevent future accidents. Nena Sanchez, a painter and former "Miss Curacao" who runs a plantation house and art studio on a hillside just above the Jan Kok salt flats, described the oil spill as "definitely extensive." "We're very,



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very upset about the whole deal. We don't know if the damage is so bad that the flamingos will go somewhere else because there is nothing left to eat here," Sanchez said from her cactus-studded retreat above Jan Kok. Curacao dive shop operator Ingrid Van Den Bosch said she has seen no evidence that the island's world-class diving sites have been impacted by the spill.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245_162-57501527/oil-spill-fouls-curacao-shore-threatens-flamingos/

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI, AUGUST 29 2012. CAR CRASH IGNITES PETROL STATION IN DUBAI

salma sultana



A fire broke out at an ENOC petrol station yesterday on Emirates Road, when a car lost control and crashed into one of the vehicles already fuelling at the station. According to [Gulf News](#), two cars were burnt, and the roof of the petrol station had started melting off. Fortunately no one was injured during this mishap. The incident was reported at 3:52 pm, and within seven minutes the Dubai Civil defence had fire trucks, police cars and ambulances at the location. The station had an automatic shut-off system which turned off the fuel supply immediately as the accident occurred. While the incident got people caught up in an evening traffic jam, many of them saw clouds of thick smoke, heard loud sirens and police officials cordoning parts of the road. Apparently everyone was evacuated in time and no one was injured. The petrol station is now shut down for investigation and eventual

restoration.

<http://www.drivearabia.com/news/2012/08/29/car-crash-ignites-petrol-station-in-dubai/>

INDIA, KERALA, TRIVANDRUM, AUGUST 29 2012. TWO KILLED AS GAS TANKER EXPLODES



After the Blaze: Remains of an LPG tanker lorry that exploded near Chala in Kannur late on Monday night.

Two persons were killed and over 40 others injured when a tanker carrying liquefied petroleum gas or LPG exploded after hitting a road divider at Chala in Kannur district of Kerala on Monday night. Sreelatha, 50, who was injured when the fire engulfed her house, 200 metres from the mishap site, succumbed to her injuries at a hospital on Tuesday morning. Her husband, Kesavan, is among the injured. Later in the evening, a resident of the area near the accident site, Abdul Azeez, succumbed to burn injuries in hospital. The condition of the 10 injured persons is critical, police said. Two of them have been put on ventilator at the Pariyaram Medical College Hospital, according to hospital sources. A majority of

the injured have suffered more than 60 per cent burns. The incident occurred when an Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) tanker on route from Mangalore to Calicut overturned after hitting a divider around 11.30pm on Monday. The fire spread extensively in the area following the explosion, also causing damage to several houses, shops and vehicles nearby. Five houses were completely destroyed by the fire. The local people swung into action and saved several lives by evacuating residents from the accident site to a hill top before fire brigade and police reached the spot. The heavy rain lashing the area also helped bring down the casualties. Police and Fire and Rescue Services personnel from Kannur and Thalassery later rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. Reports said there were two explosions. The driver and the helper, who ran for safety, have not been identified so far. Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and Revenue Minister Adoor Prakash visited the injured at three hospitals at Kannur. Health Minister V.S. Sivakumar visited the injured at the Calicut Medical College Hospital. The CM announced a financial relief of Rs1 million to the family of the deceased and Rs300,000 to Rs500,000 to all those who have suffered more than 40 per cent burn injuries and up to Rs200,000 to those with less than 40 per cent burns. Chandy said the government will also fully meet the medical expenses of all the injured. He has also urged the IOC authorities to grant adequate compensation to the family of the deceased and the injured over and above the government assistance.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/international/2012/August/international_August929.xml§ion=international&col=



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USA, S.C, MULLINS, AUGUST 29 2012. GAS SPILL FORCES EARLY DISMISSAL AT MULLINS HIGH SCHOOL

naeem mcfadden

Students at Mullins High School were evacuated and later sent home, following a gas spill. Marion County School District Superintendent Dr. Dan Strickland said a custodian turned over a container of gas shortly before 11 a.m., resulting in fumes traveling through the school's air conditioning vents. Strickland said he was told the spill was in a storage room off from the main building. "Somehow it must've been close to a vent system somewhere," he said. School administrators evacuated the student body and staff to the gym and later outside to football practice field while firefighters responded, placing fans in the building to clear the odor. Strickland said parents were notified and students were dismissed at 12:45 p.m. "We will call them back later on this evening to let them know everything is back on schedule for tomorrow," he said.

<http://www2.scnw.com/news/pee-dee/2012/aug/28/gas-spill-forces-early-dismissal-mullins-high-scho-ar-4430571/>

VENEZUELA, PUNTO FIJO, AUGUST 29 2012. FIRE DOUSED AT VENEZUELA REFINERY HIT BY EXPLOSION

jorge rueda



Fire rises over the Amuay refinery near Punto Fijo, Venezuela, on Monday. A fire at a Venezuelan refinery spread to a third fuel tank on Monday nearly three days after a powerful explosion that killed 41 people and ignited the blaze, Vice President Elias Jaua said.

Venezuela's biggest oil refinery remained shut down Tuesday after firefighters extinguished a blaze that raged for more than three days following an explosion that killed at least 41 people. While fuel tanks smoldered at the Amuay refinery, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said officials expected to restart operations at the refinery in two days. The blast early Saturday was the deadliest disaster ever at a Venezuelan refinery and has thrown open a national debate about safety and maintenance within the country's oil industry. The debate has also touched the presidential campaign, with President Hugo Chavez's rival calling for a transparent

and thorough investigation. The fire took longer to put out than officials had initially hoped. Ramirez had said Saturday that the state oil company would be able to restart the refinery "in a maximum of two days," then later said it would be two days once the fire was out. "Now of course come all of the subsequent tasks: evaluation, securing the entire area," Ramirez told the Caracas-based television network Telesur on Tuesday morning. He said firefighters were still working in the area spraying the tanks with foam to cool them down. "We need to check all the lines, all the connections, all the valves," Ramirez said. He added that the disaster hadn't affected the refinery complex's productive capacity, although operations were halted while the fires burned. Officials said the explosion killed at least 41 people, including at least 20 National Guard soldiers stationed next to the refinery, and injured more than 150. Government officials had said on Monday that the fire was under control but then announced that a third tank had begun burning. Residents said the flames finally began to diminish several hours before dawn on Tuesday. Criticisms of the government's response came from some of the refinery's neighbors as well as oil experts. Officials have said a gas leak led to the blast, but investigators have yet to determine the precise causes. Investigators entered damaged areas to gather clues, Ramirez said. He declined to discuss details of the probe but said officials had followed safety protocols once they detected the gas leak in an area of fuel storage tanks shortly before the blast. Another state oil company official told Chavez during a televised conversation Sunday that at about midnight officials had detected the leak and "went out to the street to block traffic." Residents said they had no official warning before the explosion hit at about 1 a.m. Saturday. The blast knocked down walls, shattered windows and left streets littered with rubble. On Tuesday, residents said they were relieved the fire was out. Edgar Medina was working with his father to clear rubble that blocked the way to what remained of their windowless home. "Now what we hope is that they help us rebuild everything," Chavez, who visited injured victims in a hospital Monday, announced the creation of a 100 million bolivar (\$23 million) fund to help rebuild. He said more than 500 homes were damaged. On Tuesday, Chavez spoke at a televised Cabinet meeting and praised state oil company officials and firefighters for their handling of the disaster. He paused for a live appearance by Gov. Stella Lugo in Falcon state, where the refinery is located, as she presented homes to families at a new government housing project. The disaster occurred little more than a month before Venezuela's Oct. 7 presidential election. Opposition candidate Henrique Capriles said Monday that the tragedy shouldn't be politicized, but he also strongly criticized a remark by Chavez, who said that "the show should continue, with our pain, with our sorrow, with our victims." "It seems irresponsible, insensitive ... to say 'the show should continue,'"



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Capriles told reporters. He repeated past criticisms about the number of accidents at the state-owned oil company and said the government "has to give answers." The refinery is among the world's largest and is part of the Paraguana Refining Center, which also includes the adjacent Cardon refinery. More debate about the government's response is likely during the presidential campaign. Some Chavez critics and oil industry experts say insufficient maintenance could have made such a disaster likelier. Chavez and other government officials deny that, saying billions of dollars have been spent in recent years on upkeep at refineries including Amuay. Chavez's government has been hit recently by other infrastructure-related problems including a prison riot that killed 25 last week, the collapse of a major highway bridge and power outages in parts of the country. Pollster Saul Cabrera's said he doesn't think the refinery disaster is likely to cause significant political damage for Chavez nor shifts in most Venezuelans' views about the government. Cabrera said that like in the case of the collapsed bridge, the apparent problem behind the refinery explosion "is government inefficiency, but it seems that doesn't matter much to people." "It doesn't affect (Chavez) among his voters, which are nearly half the country," Cabrera said. Still, Cabrera predicted the vote will result in a very tight race and predicted those who are undecided "are going to end up deciding the election." His polling firm, Consultores 21, found in a survey earlier this month that the two candidates were nearly even, with Capriles at nearly 48 percent and Chavez garnering about 46 percent. The poll consulted 1,000 people and had an error margin of about 3 percentage points. Other polls have given a significant lead to Chavez. The Venezuelan polling firm Datanalisis found Chavez with a 15-point lead in one June poll, but also said 23 percent of those surveyed were undecided or didn't reveal a preference. The refinery fire appeared to contribute to fluctuations in U.S. gasoline futures, though Hurricane Isaac's approach toward the U.S. Gulf Coast appeared to have a bigger effect. Gasoline futures rose 7.7 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$3.155 on Monday in New York, on concerns about supply disruptions from the storm and, to a degree, the closed Venezuelan refinery. On Tuesday, U.S. gasoline futures fell 2.87 cents to \$3.126 as traders waited to see how big an impact Isaac has on U.S. refineries, and as Venezuelan officials said the Amuay refinery would restart in two days.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/08/29/fire-doused-venezuela-refinery-hit-explosion.html>

USA, PA, KANE, AUGUST 29 2012. PART OF PA. TOWN EVACUATED AFTER TRUCK OVERTURNS

Emergency officials are evacuating part of a northwestern Pennsylvania community after tanker carrying butane overturned at an intersection at the center of town. McKean County emergency dispatchers say the truck overturned around 4:30 a.m. Wednesday in Kane and hundreds of residents are likely affected. No injuries have been reported. The precautionary evacuation affects an area up to a half-mile from the accident scene. Schools in the area are operating on a two-hour delay. Kane is a town of about 5,400 residents about 100 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/08/29/4767155/part-of-pa-town-evacuated-after.html>

USA, VA, FAIRFAX CO, AUGUST 30 2012. DRIVER KILLED IN FIERY TANKER TRUCK CRASH IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

maggie fazeli fard

 **Watch the Video** [Fatal Tractor-Trailer Crash Snarls Va. Traffic](#)



The driver of a tanker truck carrying 9,000 gallons of fuel in Fairfax County was killed overnight after his vehicle overturned and burst into flames. The fiery crash happened about 2:15 a.m. as the driver attempted to merge from Route 286 (Fairfax County Parkway) onto I-95 North. The truck overturned on the ramp, Virginia State Police said. When first responders arrived on the scene, the truck was fully engulfed in flames, police said. It took nearly 3 hours before troopers and firefighters were able to safely approach the vehicle. The driver, who was not identified, was found dead inside the truck. Police are still in the process of notifying the driver's next of kin. Investigators are at the scene of the crash, which is expected to tie up traffic throughout the morning commute. The far right lane of

I-95 North is closed, but the three other lanes and HOV lanes remain open. Exit 166B, which is the entrance ramp to Route 296 North, is closed. The ramp from Route 286 South to Route 1 is also closed.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/crime-scene/post/driver-killed-in-fiery-tanker-truck-crash-in-fairfax-county/2012/08/29/90eca36e-f1c3-11e1-a612-3cfc842a6d89_blog.html



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AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, DARWIN, AUGUST 30 2012. COMPANY ADMITS FAILURES OVER MONTARA SPILL DISASTER

Map: [Perth 6000](#)



The damaged West Atlas rig and Montara well head platform in 2009.

The oil production company PTTEP Australasia has pleaded guilty to four charges relating to Australia's largest oil spill. Oil leaked from the company's West Atlas Rig off the Western Australian coast for 11 weeks in 2009, following a blow-out on the Montara platform. In the Darwin Magistrates Court, PTTEP Australasia pleaded guilty to breaching the Offshore Petroleum Act. The company has admitted it failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent the spill from occurring and placed workers on the rig in danger. Chief executive Ken Fitzpatrick says mistakes were made that should never be repeated. "We've taken full

responsibility for the incident, the individuals acted in good faith at the time but the fact remains verified barriers were not in place," he said. The company faces a fine of up to \$1.5 million and will be sentenced tomorrow.

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-30/oil-company-admits-guilt-in-montara-disaster/4233476?WT.mc_id=newsmail

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MORANBAH, AUGUST 30 2012. EXPLOSION CLAIMS LIFE OF FATHER >> WELDING IN AN OUTSIDE WORK AREA AROUND GAS BOTTLES AND DIESEL FUEL

janessa ekert



Tri Q Group chairman Greg Thomsen (centre), general manager Bernie Scott and operations manager John Kraft secure the Moranbah site after Tuesday's fatality.

A small group of workers gathered in front of a Moranbah industrial site Tuesday morning, where, just hours earlier, an explosion claimed the life of a young father. Pale and visibly shaken, the men shared a few consoling hugs between them. The incident occurred just before 7am. Police, paramedic and fire crews rushed to the scene – Tri Q Moranbah, a not-for-profit mining support service organisation on Goonyella Rd, between the Moranbah Recycle Shop and Moranbah Motorcycle Riders Club. The 22-year-old was the proud father of a newborn boy, just two weeks old. A family member described him as a "great guy" who would be "sadly missed". A Caboolture man, he had recently moved to Moranbah to

work at Tri Q. He was not a full-time resident of the region. Tuesday was his second day on the job, Tri Q Group chairman Greg Thomsen said. He was killed instantly as a result of the explosion. It was believed he was welding in an outside work area around gas bottles and diesel fuel prior to the explosion, a police spokesman said. No one else was injured and very little structural damage was done. However, the exact cause of the explosion was not known late Tuesday. The incident is being investigated by Moranbah police and Workplace Health and Safety inspectors. Mr Thomsen, who visited the site, said counselling had been arranged for the eight staff members who had been there when the explosion occurred. "It was quite distressing to the staff who were onsite this (Tuesday) morning," he said. Police will compile a report for the coroner. A Workplace Health and Safety spokesman confirmed the incident was being investigated.

<http://www.dailymercury.com.au/story/2012/03/13/man-killed-in-moranbah-explosion/>

CUBA, SANTIAGO, AUGUST 30 2012. GAS STATION BLAST INJURES 31 IN CUBA; 5 SERIOUS

Cuban state media say an explosion at a gas station in the eastern city of Santiago has injured 31 people, five seriously. The Sierra Maestra newspaper says on its website that the blast happened Tuesday evening when the driver of a government-operated truck struck a gas tank, which tipped over and spilled its contents. As firefighters tried to contain the flammable liquid, a spark that originated from among a group of people set off the blast and a "fire of great proportions." The victims were taken to a burn unit at a nearby hospital. Five were reported in "very grave" condition. The blaze destroyed the gas station before being put out. Sierra Maestra said today that authorities were investigating.

Related Links

- [Gas station explosion injures 31 in Cuba; 5 'grave'](#)



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An explosion ripped through a gas station in the eastern city of Santiago, injuring 31 people, including five seriously, Cuban state media reported Wednesday. The blast happened Tuesday evening when the driver of a government-operated...

- [31 Injured in Gas Station Blast in Cuba](#)

Thirty-one people were injured in a gas station blast late Tuesday in Santiago de Cuba, the second largest city of Cuba, with five of them in critical condition, state-run media said Wednesday. Daily Sierra Maestra reported that a truck crashed into a gas pump...

- [Gas station blast injures 31 in Cuba](#)

Cuban state media say an explosion at a gas station in the eastern city of Santiago has injured 31 people, five seriously, the Associated Press reported today. The Sierra Maestra newspaper says on its website that the blast happened Tuesday evening when...

- [Fire Injures Dozens in Santiago de Cuba](#)

A large-scale fire at a gas station in Santiago de Cuba on Tuesday night injured 32 persons, 14 seriously, reported DPA news. The injured were treated for burns at local health facilities, noted the "Sierra Maestra" online publication. The fire...

<http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Gas-station-blast-injures-31-in-Cuba--5-serious>

NEW ZEALAND, HUNTLY, AUGUST 30 2012. NZ MINERS CALL FOR AUSTRALIAN SAFETY REGULATIONS

angela welsh



Workers in New Zealand's Huntly East mine have called for safety regulations used in Queensland to be applied to New Zealand mines, following last week's discovery of a lethal gas build-up. Solid Energy suspended coal extraction at the site last Wednesday night after high methane levels detected in a recently-mined area prompted the Labour Department to issue a prohibition notice. According to a report in [the Waikato Times](#), Solid Energy said last Friday that there was no safety risk from the accumulation of methane that had been detected on Wednesday by Department of Labour inspectors. Spokeswoman Vicki Blyth said mine managers had been aware of the gas accumulation before the inspectors' visit, but were confident no lives were in danger, the Waikato Times reported. "We were aware of that particular area and we were managing it," she said. "We can't stop gas in a coal mine underground." According to [Nine News online](#) the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union (EPMU) said 120 workers at a meeting on Friday called for a system of worker-elected check inspectors, which is a key part of Queensland's mining regulations. Late last year reports surfaced that staff at the same site had [put rags over the mine's methane sensors](#) in order to maintain production. The sensors are designed for safety underground and automatically

switch off machinery if gas levels reach a certain level. Last year Solid Energy [bought New Zealand's Pike River mine](#), where a series of underground explosions killed 29 workers in 2010. EPMU national secretary Ged O'Connell told the Waikato Times, "New Zealand still has essentially the same mine safety regime as it did before Pike River, and until the Government brings our safety regulations up to international standard New Zealand's underground miners will continue to be put at risk."

<http://www.safetowork.com.au/news/nz-miners-call-for-australian-safety-regulations>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, WORKCOVER AUTHORITY, AUGUST 30 2012. SWITCHLOADING WHEN TRANSFERRING FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS: SAFETY ALERT

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

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



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SRI LANKA, COLOMBO, AUGUST 30 2012. OIL SLICK IN SRI LANKA SEA CANNOT BE CONTAINED - MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY



General Manager of Marine Environmental Protection Authority of Sri Lanka Rear Admiral S.R. Samaraturunge says that the oil slick from the Cypress flagged cargo ship MV Thermopylae Sierra sank off the coast of Panadura cannot be contained. He told media that the exact place of the oil leak could not be traced so far. The Sri Lanka Navy divers who were deployed to search for the oil leak have reported that it was highly dangerous for the lives to reach the internal parts of the ship due to rough sea and other dangers such as floating objects. He further said that the oil floating in the international waters are being removed. The Disaster Management Center of Sri Lanka says that the oil floated ashore is being collected and destroyed whenever it occurs. The ship which has been anchored for three years in the sea off Sri Lanka's west coast due to a pending court case sunk completely about 20 kilometers off Panadura coast after efforts to move the ship before the monsoon rains failed. The 155 meters long and 127 meters wide ship with a weight of 15,612 tons began to deteriorate as it remained at sea without being maintained and subsequently it started taking in water.

http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Aug30_1346299617KA.php

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, AUGUST 30 2012. AIR NZ COMPANY FINED FOR EXPLOSION

A company owned by Air New Zealand has been fined more than \$57,000 over a fuel tank explosion at Adelaide Airport that injured a worker. Mark Meehan was repairing the wing on a twin-engined Cessna 401 in March at the premises operated by TAE Aviation Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Air New Zealand. He had begun using a cutting tool to remove a corroded panel when a spark ignited residual fuel vapours in the plane's fuel tank. The blast smashed Mr Meehan's left arm, burned both hands and burnt and lacerated his face. TAE pleaded guilty to breaching workplace safety laws by not ensuring the fuel tank was free of fuel or fuel vapours and by not warning Mr Meehan of the risk of an explosion. Industrial magistrate Stephen Lieschke said the skilled aircraft engineer could have suffered much more serious injuries. "He was exposed to an explosive force of sufficient intensity to deform metal and break an arm bone and with the potential to cause shards of metal to fly off," the magistrate said. "He was relatively fortunate to sustain only minor lacerations and minor burns to his face." TAE Aviation was fined \$56,000 and ordered to pay other court costs after receiving a discounted penalty because of its early guilty plea and contrition. The company had also instigated new safety measures.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/7582604/Air-NZ-company-fined-for-explosion>

USA, WASHINGTON DC. AUGUST 30 2012. EPA APPROVES EMERGENCY FUEL WAIVER FOR LOUISIANA

As Hurricane Isaac makes landfall in the U.S. Gulf Coast, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has exercised its authority under the Clean Air Act to temporarily waive certain federal clean gasoline requirements for Louisiana. This waiver will allow greater flexibility for the fuel distribution system to support an adequate supply. This waiver was granted by EPA in coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE), at the request of Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson determined that extreme and unusual supply circumstances exist, which are likely to result in a shortage of gasoline compliant with federal regulations. The federal waiver will help ensure an adequate supply of gasoline in Louisiana until normal supply to the region can be restored. The waiver applies to 7.8 psi low Reid vapor pressure (RVP) requirements for the State of Louisiana. The waiver is effective for 10 days and allows the sale of 9.0 psi conventional gasoline in the following fourteen Louisiana parishes: Ascension, E. Baton Rouge, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Point Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. Mary, and W. Baton Rouge. EPA is continuing to actively monitor the fuel supply situation as a result of Hurricane Isaac, and is ready to act expeditiously if extreme and unusual supply circumstances exist in other areas in Louisiana with a 7.8 psi RVP fuel requirement. As required by law, EPA and DOE evaluated the situation and determined that granting a short-term waiver was consistent with the public interest. To mitigate any impacts on air quality the Clean Air Act provides strict criteria for when fuels waivers may be granted, and requires that waivers be limited as much as possible in terms of their geographic scope and duration.

<http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/air/fuel-waivers.html>



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VENEZUELA, AMUAY, AUGUST 30 2012. REPORT: VENEZUELA'S STATE-RUN REFINERIES AFFLICTED BY MISMANAGEMENT >> VENEZUELA STRUGGLES WITH REFINERY BLAZE

Michael Martinez

 **Watch the Video** [State-Run Refineries Afflicted by Mismanagement](#)

Story Highlights

- Venezuela's state-run oil company under scrutiny after a weekend fire kills 42 people
- An engineer's report in March finds problems in major and routine maintenance
- Oil company faces "severe mismanagement and underinvestment," analyst says
- President Hugo Chavez is up for re-election in October



The Venezuelan oil refinery whose explosions killed 42 people suffers mismanagement, delays in major maintenance and underinvestment, according to analysts and an engineering firm's recent report. The state-run oil company that operates the refinery has been hampered by how Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez uses the refineries as "a cash cow" to fund social programs such as building homes for low-income voters, taking funds away from plant improvements, an analyst said. Venezuela is one of the world's largest oil exporters. The fires at the Amuay refinery since Saturday have been described as "the most lethal industry accident in Venezuela to date" by analysts and come as the country faces other infrastructure problems, apparently because of a lack

of maintenance, including a bridge collapse in Caracas, analysts said. The United Socialist Party of Venezuela said this week, however, that the 197-foot bridge was rebuilt in record time. In the aftermath of the fires, the government's refinery manager said the explosion wasn't due to a lack of maintenance, according to government television. Chavez has also said that such suggestions are "irresponsible" because investigators are still trying to determine the cause of the accident. The Venezuelan embassy in Washington and the state-run oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela, didn't have an immediate comment Wednesday. Earlier this year, an engineering firm's inspection of the giant Paraguana refinery complex in Falcon state, which includes the Amuay plant, found problems in major and routine maintenance, according to a March 2012 report prepared by RJG Risk Engineering of London. The report also said 100 fires occurred in 2011 at the refinery complex, which includes a second refinery called Cardon. The Amuay refinery is one of the world's largest, producing more than 1 million barrels per day, according to OPEC. The engineer firm's report was circulated on the Internet, and CNN confirmed its authenticity through a source who had a copy of the original. "Overall, we see some positive progress, although we continue to rate this large refinery complex as 'in need of improvement' as in 2010," the report said. "A stronger 'proactive' approach is necessary in our opinion. "Major maintenance (turnarounds) has been seen to be suffering from delays, typically of one or two years," the report said. "Routine maintenance suffered a significant 'low' in 2009, the effects of which are still being felt, evidenced by a marked increase in the ratio of corrective to preventive maintenance," the study said. "The effects are also evident in the maintenance backlog particularly for pumps and motors, and in a higher than target proportion of 'Emergency' and 'Urgent' work orders." The deadly incidents at Venezuela's largest refinery highlight serious problems at the state-run refineries and are "a reminder of the bleak outlook for the company's declining production and investment capacity," said the analysis firm Eurasia Group in a note Wednesday to investors and media. The firm conducts global political risk research and consulting. Chavez is up for re-election in October, and while the accident is "not a game changer," it could help boost the chances of opposition candidate Henrique Capriles, the analysis firm said. The state-run oil company is faced with "significant operational problems stemming from both severe mismanagement and underinvestment," the analysts said. When Chavez overhauled the oil company in recent years, he fired numerous senior managers and experts with technical know-how, said Eurasia Group analyst Risa Grais-Targow. At the same time, the company has taken on more responsibilities, as Chavez uses oil revenues for subsidies to the elderly and families with children, among other programs, Grais-Targow said. "The company has been stretched in a lot of different directions, and they don't have the money to make the investments they need," especially in the past two years as Chavez has prepared for this fall's elections, Grais-Targow said. "He's really been doling out money, and a lot of the money has been coming from PDVSA's funds," Grais-Targow said. "It's turning out to be the cash cow for the government." The engineering firm's report was prepared at the request of the oil company's underwriters and examined progress made on recommendations by the underwriters' risk engineers during their survey visits in 1993, 2002, 2005, 2007 and 2010, the study



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said. At the time of the March assessment, the refinery complex was faced with 46 action items, and the engineering firm found that 11 of them had "no progress," 19 were "in progress," and 16 were completed, the report said. The report also found 222 reported incidents at the two refineries, "including some 100 fires, many of these being in contaminated pipe trenches," the report said. "Although there is a good procedure for incident investigation, we were disappointed to not(e) that few had progressed past the stage of setting up a study committee, and only nine were 'closed', with recommendations carried out," the report said. Among those killed at the Amuay fires were 18 members of the national guard and 15 civilians, officials said.

Related Links

- [New tank burns at Venezuela refinery; death toll revised down](#)
- [Venezuela's Chavez visits site of deadly refinery blast](#)

<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/08/29/world/americas/venezuela-refinery-problems/index.html>

CANADA, ALBA, HINTON, AUGUST 30 2012. TANKER ROLLOVER SPILLS 9,000 LITRES OF DIESEL NORTH OF HINTON

eric plummer

News was released this week of a large volume of diesel fuel spilled from a tanker truck north of Hinton on Aug. 18. Most recent reports collected by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development state the tanker rollover spilled 9,000 litres of diesel on Highway 40, 45 kilometres north of Hinton. The Hinton Fire Department received a call about the spill from the RCMP at 9:34 a.m. on Aug. 18. "The tanker truck rolled over on its side and was leaking from the tank, going down into a small creek that was leading into a smaller wetland," said fire chief Peter Ensor of the accident. The Fire Department immediately attended to the spill by laying down absorbent booms to prevent the diesel from flowing too far downstream to the southeast. "Our initial containment efforts using those little absorbent booms was very rapidly overwhelmed," Ensor said. However, the fire department did manage to build a dam nearly 400 metres downstream to stop the fuel from getting any further. With the help of a backhoe provided by Northland Maintenance, firefighters built a dam with a combination of dirt and absorbent booms at the downstream location. Upstream another dam was constructed with similar materials. "We contained it to the area of spill using a diking system so that the cleanup crews could come in, dig it and cart it off to a treatment site," Ensor said. Firefighters were working at the scene of the accident until after nine o'clock that evening, and over this time other crews came to remove the diesel-contaminated water. Diesel recovery was conducted by Tervita and Hasco, as well as Nichols Environmental, who attended to the scene on Aug. 19. These response companies were contracted by the tanker's operator, Westcan Bulk Transport. Following the spill 10,000 litres of water mixed with diesel was collected from the creek on the day of the accident. Over the following three days respective amounts of another 36,000, 31,000 and 75,000 litres were removed, comprising a total collection of 152,000 litres of diesel-contaminated water after the tanker rollover. The liquid went to a facility in Niton Junction for the diesel to be separated, allowing the spilled fuel to be taken to refineries for it to be processed for reuse. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development have been overseeing the recovery efforts. "They did take a lot of water but it's difficult when the product is in there," said James Pokorski, the regional emergency responder for hazardous spills with AESRD. "Diesel spreads and it gets in the water, so you've got to take it down to what the guidelines require for water quality." Water at the site has been regularly monitored since the spill, and results have come back below the province's criteria for contamination. Pokorski is confident that the diesel did not flow past the downstream dam and stayed within the 400-metre-long area of containment. "Between there there's muskeg and bush and stuff like that that would trap and contain," he said, adding that contaminated soil has been removed from the area and replaced by the companies involved in the recovery effort. "They'll monitor it for quite a bit longer. They've dug up everything, they've hauled in fresh material, clean fill." Pokorski expects that the location will show no signs of the diesel spill a year from now after the ecosystem weakens the effects of the spill. To help this process responders added micro-organisms to the spill to help the diesel break down and be less detrimental to the environment. "This will naturally over time attenuate itself," Pokorski said. "The risk of impact to any wildlife long term is very minimal." Recovering the area following the tanker rollover has proven to be a large undertaking for Alberta Environment, the Hinton Fire Department and the numerous companies contracted. This has been by far largest diesel spill Ensor has seen in his 2 ½ years as Hinton's fire chief. "This is my first time of that magnitude," he said. Fortunately, several local firefighters attended a Hazardous Materials Operations course last spring, and this training proved to be beneficial for the seven fire personnel who attended to the accident. Pokorski was pleased by the emergency response shown by the fire department as well as other crews on the scene. "It's unfortunate, however there was a very good response



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from the companies for containment," he said. "The people were very knowledgeable and the actions that they took were exemplary."

<http://www.hintonparklander.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3602263>

VIETNAM, HO CHI MINH CITY, AUGUST 30 2012. ADULTERATED PETROL SOLD IN NEIGHBORING PROVINCES

tuoi tre

Click-2-Listen [Adulterated Petrol Sold in Neighboring Provinces](#) [English Language]

Watch the Video [Inside a fake gasoline mixing facility](#) [Vietnamese]



A tanker truck leaves the Crazy Buffalo depot to transport the adulterated gasoline to sell to the An Huy Tuong Co Ltd in Binh Duong Province.

The adulterated petroleum produced by the [Trau Dien illegal fuel mixing facility](#), also called Crazy Buffalo, in Ho Chi Minh City is distributed to many fuel companies and filling stations in the southern provinces. Crazy Buffalo is a fuel depot secretly used as a place to adulterate A92 gasoline with unknown, potentially toxic chemicals imported from China, spanning thousands of hectares in the city's Thu Duc District. The facility receives a number of tanker trucks on a daily basis, which come to extract pure A92 gasoline, and then take on the mixed, substandard petroleum, which will be sold in provinces such as Binh Duong, Dong Nai, Long An, and Tien Giang. Crazy Buffalo supplies some dozens of thousands of liters of its self-made oil, which is produced by merely combining water with

waste oil and Chinese-imported chemicals, to the An Hung Tuong Co Ltd, based in Ben Cat District, Binh Duong Province. Another Binh Duong-based company, the Kien Hoang Co Ltd, also sources a huge amount of adulterated gasoline from the facility, undercover Tuoi Tre journalists discovered. Nguyen Thanh Tung, head of the mixing team at Crazy Buffalo, said the pure A92 gasoline extracted from tanker trucks coming to the facility will be sold at the depot owner's filling station in District 9. "The mixed, substandard petrol will be sold in other localities, including those in the Central Highlands," said Tung. Dozens of tanker trucks enter and leave the depot on a daily basis, with those from distant areas allowed to buy at lower prices. "It is quite difficult to sell the [adulterated] gasoline in HCMC, but this is not the case in other localities, where the product is considered authentic and high quality," a fake fuel producer said on condition of anonymity. However, there still are cases when the customers complain that there is too much water left in the oil, he added. "We just send a tanker truck there to take it back and replace the bad product."

"Upgrading" A83 Petrol

While A83 gasoline has been suspended from circulation, there are still many suppliers of this product, and the customers are mainly illegal fuel producers who turn the low-octane rate petroleum into higher grades – A92 and A95. Tung revealed that A83 gasoline is mixed with A92, and dyed with a green chemical before being sold to retailers. Dinh, 30, from Binh Dinh Province, said selling A92 gasoline partially made from A83 yields whopping profits, although it is not easy to source the low grade fuel due to the circulation ban. Meanwhile, a woman called Be, who runs a system of eight tanker trucks transporting fuel across HCMC, said she can supply A83 gasoline in any quantity. "Filling stations usually sell the adulterated A92 gasoline to reap an additional profit of VND500 a liter," she revealed.

<http://www.tuoitrenews.vn/cmlink/tuoitrenews/society/where-the-adulterated-petrol-is-distributed-1.84636>

USA, OH, CINCINNATI, AUGUST 30 2012. SUSPENDED OHIO FRATERNITY SUES UNIVERSITY FOR \$10M

amanda lee myers

A fraternity at [Miami University](#) in southern Ohio has sued the school for \$10 million, arguing that university officials acted with "malice, hatred and ill will" by suspending the organization for having a fireworks battle with another fraternity house, which led police to find marijuana. The lawsuit, filed by the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati on Tuesday, said university officials violated members' constitutional rights by suspending the fraternity without providing an appeal process and despite the fact that police had not filed charges. University spokeswoman [Claire Wagner](#) said the school acted in the best interest of student safety and followed written policy by suspending the fraternity, which included forcing its youngest members — all sophomores — to move back into on-campus housing. "Any activity that so readily may cause harm to people or their



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homes, we have to be aware of and do our best to protect those students," Wagner said. The university suspended Phi Kappa Tau and another fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, last week after police said the two fraternities shot fireworks at each other on Aug. 19. That led to the discovery of a baggie of marijuana and a couple pipes, police said. Oxford police Sgt. [John Varley](#) said Wednesday that charges were pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation. [Steve Hartman](#), chief executive officer of the national fraternity, said in a statement that items seized by police involved between two and four members, not the entire 80-plus-member chapter, and that those responsible will be held accountable. "The fraternity shares the concern of the university for the importance of student safety and providing living environments that are conducive to student learning and development," he said. In the lawsuit, Phi Kappa Tau alleges that the absence of sophomore members from the frat house will cost the fraternity at least \$130,000, and that statements made by university officials have embarrassed fraternity members and ruined their reputations. In addition to \$10 million, Phi Kappa Tau is seeking a jury trial and had asked Judge [Susan Dlott](#) for a temporary order forcing the university to lift the suspension while the case is pending. Dlott denied the latter request Tuesday. The [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) first reported about the lawsuit Wednesday.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Suspended-Ohio-fraternity-sues-university-for-10M-3823353.php>

CHINA, SICHUAN PROVINCE, PANZHUIHUA CITY, AUGUST 30 2012. CHINA COAL MINE BLAST KILLS 19



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, rescuers work at Xiaojiawan Coal Mine in Panzhihua City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, Aug. 30, 2012.

A gas explosion at a coal mine in south-west China has killed 19 miners and trapped 28 underground, authorities said on Thursday, in the latest disaster to hit the country's troubled mining industry. Around 150 miners were working underground at the Xiaojiawan mine in the city of Panzhihua in Sichuan province when the blast occurred on Wednesday afternoon, city authorities said in an online statement. Rescue workers pulled 104 people out of the mine by early on Thursday morning and they were rushed to local hospitals, where three of them

died. Another 16 of the remaining 44 trapped underground were confirmed dead, it said. Rescue efforts were still under way and the individual responsible for the mine had been detained, the city government said on its website. China's mines are known for being among the world's most deadly due to lax regulation, corruption and inefficiency, and accidents are common as safety is often neglected by bosses seeking quick profits. Latest official figures show 1 973 people died in coal mining accidents in China in 2011, a 19 percent fall in fatalities compared to a year earlier. Labour rights groups, however, say the actual death toll is likely to be much higher, partly due to under-reporting of accidents as mine bosses seek to limit their economic losses and avoid punishment. China is the world's leading consumer of coal, relying on the fossil fuel for 70 percent of its growing energy needs. Authorities in Panzhihua could not immediately be reached for further comment.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/world/china-coal-mine-blast-kills-19-1.1372729#.UD9UJ9Ygfjl>

USA, TX, WEST ODESSA, AUGUST 30 2012. MACHINE WELDER KILLED IN EXPLOSION

A welding explosion killed a worker in West Odessa on Tuesday night. We're told 32-year-old Justin Heronema was found unconscious at Lackey Machine off 10th Street. Ector County Deputies say he was working on a gas tank at the shop when it exploded. Investigators think he lit the striker for the welder and gas fumes from the tank ignited causing the blast. Heronema died at the hospital.

<http://www.newswest9.com/story/19402344/machine-welder-rushed-to-hospital-after-possible-explosion-in-west-odessa>

MEXICO, OAXACA, MORRO AYUTA, AUGUST 30 2012. ENVIRONMENTALISTS SAY OIL SPILL KILLED SEA TURTLES IN MEXICO

A total of 24 sea turtles have been found dead on the beaches of the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca after oil spilled from a sunken loading buoy owned by state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, the environmental group Wildcoast/Costa Salvaje said. Some 53,000 olive ridley sea turtles have arrived on Mexico's coasts in the past two days to nest on Morro Ayuta beach, which has been "polluted with oil residue," the environmental group said. The loading buoy (an installation used to load crude oil on to tanker ships at sea) sank at a spot off the Oaxacan coast facing the Salina Cruz refinery, causing crude to spill onto six beaches in that state. Since then, several grassroots organizations, including Costa Salvaje, have denounced



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environmental damage and economic harm to local fishermen. An inspection of that area revealed "solidified petroleum residue" on numerous beaches - including Morro Ayuta, which draws massive numbers of nesting turtles, the environmental group said. Last week, personnel with the federal prosecutor's office for environmental protection, or Profepa, registered 13 dead sea turtles with oil on their shells or skin, "bringing to 24 the number of sea turtles found dead on hydrocarbon-polluted beaches," the environmental group said. Costa Salvaje demanded that Pemex "assume its responsibility for the environmental damage caused by the spill of 18,000 liters (4,750 gallons) of oil" and coordinate clean-up actions in coastal communities in compliance with "all necessary health and safety measures." For its part, the National Human Rights Commission, Mexico's equivalent of an ombud's office, said Tuesday it has opened an "ex-officio" inquiry into the oil spill. Environmental officials have given Pemex 48 hours to clean up the crude spilled on the beaches of Salina Cruz and instructed Profepa to ensure the company complies with the order.

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/08/29/environmentalists-say-oil-spill-killed-sea-turtles-in-mexico/>

USA, ILL, CHICAGO, AUGUST 31 2012. BP LISTS STATIONS THAT SOLD TAINTED GASOLINE

sandra guy

 **Document** [List of stations, map of areas that sold tainted gas](#)

BP said Wednesday it shipped nearly twice as much contaminated gasoline as it first reported on Monday — 4.7 million gallons — to 557 gas stations in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Ohio. The company has recalled that gasoline and replaced it with the good-quality kind after inspecting its distribution system, said BP spokesman Scott Dean. Motorists may type the street address or intersection where they filled up from Aug. 13 through Aug. 23 in a searchable online database to see whether the station received the tainted gasoline. They can also search by city or Zip code. The database, at bpreponse.com, contains only those gas stations that received the tainted gasoline — both stations with the BP sign and independent sites that buy their gasoline from BP. Of the total gas stations, 300 are in Illinois, including 61 in Chicago; 207 in Indiana, 49 in Wisconsin and one in Ohio. Motorists who purchased bad gas would have already experienced problems such as hard starting, stalling and rough idling, the BP spokesman said. BP has started processing 9,600 complaints, of which 63 percent are from Indiana residents, 29 percent from Illinois.

Related Links

- [BP stops sales of upper gas grades in Chicago area](#)
- [BP says more than 200 stations got tainted gas](#)

<http://www.suntimes.com/business/14801992-420/bp-lists-stations-that-sold-tainted-gasoline.html>

GHANA, ACCRA, AUGUST 31 2012. DANGER! FUEL AND GAS STATIONS THREATEN LIVES



Thousands of lives and properties in residential areas of the country are under threat and likely to suffer from severe burns and possible deaths in the case of humans, if measures are not taken to halt the wanton abuse of laid down rules and regulations in the construction of gas and fuel stations in residential areas of Ghana. National Petroleum Authority (NPA) rules and regulation stipulate that gas and fuel stations should be situated at a minimum of 30.8 meters (100ft) from residential areas. This situation has arisen as a result of the constant neglect of city authorities are persistently turning a deaf ear to is posing danger to lives and properties in residential areas. In Ghana over the years, gas and fuel explosion have been the cause of destruction of precious lives and properties, citing the recent gas explosion incidence at Axim, a farming community in the Western Region. In the Greater Accra region for instance checks by Today reveal that some of the gas and fuel stations which are owned by the central government and individuals are sited as close as five meters to homes and businesses whilst the National Petroleum Authority (NPA) rules and regulation stipulates that gas and fuel stations should be situated at a minimum of 30.8 meters (100ft) from residential areas. Today further observed that some of the

fuel and gas stations were situated on plots earmarked for residential purposes. At Abeka-Lapaz for instance, Today investigation team spotted eight fuel and nine gas stations situated close to residences, restaurants, super markets, schools



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and churches. The situation is much dangerous at Santa-Maria Last Stop, where a gas station is situated close to a refuse dump which is continuously blazing dangerously. Fuel and gas stations also situated at the Osu Police Station, Osu-Kajaano and Addy junction between Odorkor to Kwashieman, stretch right in front of houses, businesses and churches. In addition, a fuel station situated opposite the Odorkor Lorry station on the Kaneshie-Mallam road is very close to houses and shopping centers with another fuel and gas station at Jar Love Hotel near Kwashieman situated close to a drinking spot. The Greater Accra was not the only region fallen foul of the law-at Kumasi specifically the KNUST junction and Asafo are eight fuel stations which are all located close to houses and business. In contrast to our findings, the NPA documents states that: 'stations will not be allowed in any area where the traffic situation is such that it will cause obstruction when entering or leaving a station. Another guideline in the document is that petrol pumps shall be located at a minimum of 30.8 meters/100ft from any residential building; Where the site adjoins the side or rear boundary of a residential lot, a solid wall of 10ft in height should be constructed and maintained along lot boundary,' the document stated. An official of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who spoke to Today on condition of anonymity stated that EPA gives permit for the construction of filling stations after it has conducted an environmental analysis of the area. He said the analysis is to ascertain if the soil and environment for the construction is suitable to have a fuel tank underneath and whether it would not pose any danger to inhabitants around the area. A top official of the Accra Regional Directorate of the Town and Country Planning (TCP), told Today that the TCP serves as physical planning department, process the applications by various oil marketing companies adding that this is done, before a technical sub-committee meets to evaluate the application, visits the site and makes recommendations to the Statutory Planning Committee (SPC) which are the Metropolitan, Municipal District Assemblies MMDAs which includes the Mayor of Accra, EPA, Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS), engineers and other agencies. Officials of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) told Today that permits are not given to build fuel or gas stations in areas that could affect people. They said it is illegal for anybody to construct a fuel station without a permit, adding that the AMA in some instances had stopped people from building fuel stations in residential areas. An official of the Ghana National Fire Service also said according to the LI1724 Fire precaution Premises Regulation of 2003, the fire services is legally mandated to check the location of such business before its construction. The official said the owners need to bring drawing of the fuel station for determination and checks whether it would not be a bother to the people in terms of safety. "The GNFS will not give permit to anyone who decides to construct an LPG filling station in a residential area," the official stressed.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=249063>

USA, IN, JACKSON CO, SEYMOUR, AUGUST 31 2012. TANKER HAULING ANHYDROUS AMMONIA ROLLS OVER IN SEYMOUR

A tanker hauling anhydrous ammonia to The Andersons Inc. in Seymour rolled onto its side as it turned from Tipton Street onto Agrico Lane around 7:25 a.m. Thursday. None of the dangerous, pressurized gas leaked, and the driver was not seriously injured, Seymour Police Chief Bill Abbott said at the scene. One westbound lane of Tipton Street was blocked. No immediate evacuation was needed, but Applebee's will be closed along with all lanes of Tipton Street and Meadowbrook Drive when cleanup workers upright the tanker later today, Seymour Fire Chief Brad Lucas said. Anhydrous ammonia is a colorless gas used as a nutrient in farm fields, as a building block in fertilizers and pharmaceuticals and in cleaners. "Wischmeier Trucking will be bringing in another tanker and they'll transfer as much as possible into it before they upright the other tanker," Lucas said. "As long as the wind stays down, we should be in pretty good shape." Applebee's, however, will be closed during that up-righting process, Lucas said, as a safety precaution. Police will also block all Tipton Street and Meadowbrook Drive. That's one of the city's busiest intersections, with traffic flowing from Walmart and Home Depot parking lots onto those streets. The truck driver, Donnell Mathena, 30, Freetown, had what Abbott described as a minor cut but was in good shape. Mathena, an employee with Seymour-based Wischmeier Trucking, said he was unsure what happened. "I was turning and it just flipped over," he said at the scene. Mathena was turning from westbound Tipton Street north onto Agrico Lane when the mishap occurred. A witness told police they saw the tanker shake before it rolled over, Abbott said. "The gas inside may have sloshed and tipped it over during the turn," Abbott said. Under pressure in the tanker, anhydrous ammonia is a liquid gas. It vaporizes once it escapes that pressure and hits the air. Debbie Crow of The Andersons' corporate communications office in Ohio said the company uses anhydrous ammonia as an ingredient in its fertilizers. Mathena said the anhydrous ammonia in the rolled tanker was hauled in from Frankfort, in northern Indiana

http://www.tribtown.com/view/local_story/Tanker-hauling-anhydrous-ammon_1346330658



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