



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 881 Newsy Stuff

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

**September 23 2012**



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#### USA, WA, BLAINE, SEPTEMBER 7 2012. BP CHERRY POINT REFINERY CITED FOR WILLFUL WORKPLACE SAFETY VIOLATIONS

sandy smith



*BP's Cherry Point Refinery was cited for willful and serious violations by Washington's Department of Labor.*

The [Washington Department of Labor & Industries \(L&I\)](http://www.wa.gov/industry) cited the BP Cherry Point petroleum refinery in Blaine, Wash., for six violations, including one willful violation of workplace safety and health rules related to management of pipeline and refinery processes. The proposed penalties total \$81,500. L&I began the inspection in February after a major fire caused the refinery to shut down for a period of time. One employee was nearby when the fire erupted, but he was able to escape without harm. The fire occurred when a corroded deadleg pipe ruptured. Deadlegs are pipes that aren't often used but still must be monitored for integrity

for when they are needed to carry material used in the refining process. L&I cited the company for a willful violation for not ensuring that inspection and testing procedures for process piping followed recognized and generally accepted good engineering practices for all deadleg piping circuits. The proposed penalty for the willful violation is \$65,000. A willful violation is the most significant civil classification that can be issued. It is used when L&I alleges that the violation was committed with intentional disregard or plain indifference or substitution of judgment with respect to worker safety and health regulations. The five additional violations cited were for failing to comply with process safety management standards, the requirements for managing hazards associated with processes that use highly hazardous chemicals. The BP Cherry Point refinery reopened in May following repairs and maintenance. It is the third-largest refinery on the West Coast, producing 20 percent of Washington's gasoline needs. It supplies the majority of jet fuel for Sea-Tac, Portland and Vancouver, British Columbia, airports. The company has until Sept. 13 to appeal the citation.

<http://ehstoday.com/osha/bp-cherry-point-refinery-cited-willful-workplace-safety-violations>

#### USA, MO, ST LOUIS, SEPTEMBER 7 2012. SAFETY VIOLATIONS RESULT IN EXPLOSION AND 3 INJURED WORKERS AT MO FIREWORKS PLANT

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Global Pyrotechnic Solutions Inc., a fireworks manufacturer in Dittmer, for 25 serious and six other-than-serious safety violations after three workers suffered burns caused by an explosion at the company's facility in March. The employees were transported to local hospitals, and two were treated for serious burns and released. The third employee, who suffered third-degree burns, was hospitalized for approximately 20 days. "It is imperative that employers who manufacture, sell, display or whose employees work around pyrotechnics recognize potential hazards and take steps to prevent injuries such as the ones that occurred in this case," said Charles E. Adkins, OSHA's regional administrator in Kansas City, Mo. "All employers must take the necessary steps to eliminate hazards from the workplace." The serious violations relate to hazards associated with the improper handling of explosives, improper storage of flammable liquids and a lack of ventilation in rooms where the liquids are used. Several violations relate to process safety management ? which requires managing hazards associated with highly hazardous chemicals ? include failing to address safety hazards, provide engineering controls, train workers on emergency shutdown procedures, implement an effective lockout/tagout program to control hazardous energy, guard machines and repair electrical deficiencies. A serious violation occurs when there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known. Detailed information on process safety management is available at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/processsafetymanagement/index.html> The other-than-serious violations involve a lack of explosives warning signs on storage buildings and transport vehicles, using trucks that are not appropriate for transporting explosives, other issues with process safety management and various respirator deficiencies. An other-than-serious violation is one that has a direct relationship to job safety and health, but probably would not cause death or serious physical harm. Proposed penalties total \$116,900. The citations can be viewed at [http://www.osha.gov/oc/citations/GlobalPyro\\_279658\\_0904\\_12.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/oc/citations/GlobalPyro_279658_0904_12.pdf) Global Pyrotechnic Solutions Inc. employs 20 workers. The company has 15 business days from receipt of the citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. To ask questions, obtain compliance assistance, file a complaint, or report workplace hospitalizations, fatalities or situations



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posing imminent danger to workers, the public should call OSHA's toll-free hotline at 800-321-OSHA (6742) or the agency's St. Louis Area Office at 314-425-4249. Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

<http://www.workerscompensation.com/compnewsnetwork/news/15076-safety-violations-result-in-explosion-and-3-injured-workers-at-mo-fireworks-plant.html>

#### **USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, SEPTEMBER 7 2012. GASOLINE VAPORS BLAMED FOR FIRE AT SALT LAKE CITY HOME BLAZE » ONE PERSON TREATED FOR SMOKE INHALATION, BUT NO SERIOUS INJURIES.**

*bob mims*

Investigators are blaming vapors from gasoline cans ignited by the pilot light of a water heater for a house fire in Salt Lake City early Thursday morning. Salt Lake City Fire Department spokesman Jasen Asay said the gasoline was being stored in the basement of a home in the 1600 South block of Jefferson Street (about 150 West) when the fire erupted just after 1 a.m. The blaze forced a family of four to flee, but quick-acting firefighters managed to douse the flames before they completely consumed their home. About 25 firefighters responded, managing to contain the flames to the basement. "We had a very quick attack on the fire when we got to the scene," added Fire Capt. Arnie Ainge, noting that the first unit arrived at the home just 3 minutes and 59 seconds after being dispatched. One of the family members was treated for minor smoke inhalation at the scene. The Utah Red Cross assisted the family in obtaining overnight accommodations, Asay said. There was no immediate dollar estimate for damage.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/54841367-78/fire-lake-salt-family.html.csp>

#### **USA, WI, RICHFIELD, SEPTEMBER 7 2012. HOLMEN MAN KILLED IN KWIK TRIP TANKER CRASH**

A Holmen man has died in a fuel tanker crash in Wood County. Sheriff's officials said the Kwik Trip tanker had a full load of fuel when 47-year-old Rodney Koenemann lost control on a curve in the town of Richfield early Wednesday and rolled over in a ditch along county Hwy. A. A Kwik Trip representative couldn't immediately say how long Koenemann had been employed as a driver for the company. The La Crosse-based gas station chain is conducting an internal investigation. Kwik Trip drivers cover more than 20 million miles a year. Most years, the company avoids any serious accidents, spokesman John McHugh said. "It's pretty rare for us that we have an incident," McHugh said. Authorities say a minimal amount of fuel was spilled. Kwik Trip loaded the fuel to another tanker.

[http://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/holmen-man-killed-in-kwik-trip-tanker-crash/article\\_99a7bf28-f7d8-11e1-ab6a-0019bb2963f4.html](http://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/holmen-man-killed-in-kwik-trip-tanker-crash/article_99a7bf28-f7d8-11e1-ab6a-0019bb2963f4.html)

#### **USA, CA, LAKE ELSINORE, SEPTEMBER 7 2012. DETAILS SPARSE ON FIREWORKS EXPLOSION**

[Watch the Video Lake Elsinore Fireworks Explosion Death](#)



Five days after a fireworks accident that killed a member of a fireworks company's crew, no explanation has been offered for what caused the deadly explosion. A spokeswoman for the Riverside County Fire Department said Wednesday that the investigation is ongoing and has declined to release any new information. The company, Fireworks America of Lakeside, also has declined to comment on what happened. The company's crew was setting up a display that was to be fired off to cap the Lake Elsinore Storm's baseball game on Friday night. The fireworks show was canceled. About 5 p.m. there was an explosion and subsequent fire that damaged work trucks, burned about a half-acre of vegetation and injured three people: two members of the crew and a Riverside County Fire Department [fire prevention technician](#). One of the crew members,

[William Calabrese, 20, of San Diego](#), died Sunday from his injuries. The other two people suffered what were called minor burn injuries by the fire department, which is the lead agency on the investigation. Janice Calabrese, William Calabrese's mother, said Wednesday afternoon that she hasn't been told what happened Friday night, only that the cause is under



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investigation. "Accidents happen, I know that in life they do," she said. "Honestly, I feel comfortable because the people he worked with cared about him, they were not putting him at any risk." In an email to The Californian on Wednesday afternoon, the fireworks company issued the following statement: "Will was one of us, and we will miss him. Out of respect to the Calabrese family, we will not be issuing any other statements at this time." Julie Heckman, executive director of the Bethesda, Md.-based American Pyrotechnics Association, said Wednesday that she hopes the investigation turns up evidence that can be used to prevent similar accidents. "If there is any measure we can take moving forward to prevent a similar incident we certainly want to do that," she said. Heckman said that Fireworks America is a member of the association, which counts 240 members total, and that the company has a good reputation in the industry. According to the company's website, it has produced displays for the Storm, San Diego Padres, Pechanga Resort & Casino, San Diego Chargers and a host of cities and organizations. Heckman said that, in her experience, the investigation by the department could take months, a time frame that allows the agency to piece together exactly what happened. There is not one central database that tracks accidents during the setup or execution of professional displays, Heckman said, but she said they are very rare and she could personally recall only a handful of incidents in recent years. Talking about the items that could be uncovered during the investigation, Heckman said she's curious to find out if static electricity was an issue. Static electricity has been linked to numerous fires at refueling stations.

[http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/lake-elsinore/lake-elsinore-details-sparse-on-fireworks-explosion/article\\_8674b5de-dc41-5c30-a8d0-561d22c99c52.html](http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/lake-elsinore/lake-elsinore-details-sparse-on-fireworks-explosion/article_8674b5de-dc41-5c30-a8d0-561d22c99c52.html)

### USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 7 2012. OIL, CHEMICAL, COAL RELEASES DURING HURRICANE ISAAC SHOULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SAY

mark schleifstein



On Sunday, oil sheen is visible surrounding storage tanks at Phillips 66 Alliance refinery in Plaquemines Parish. Company officials say the material was contained on the refinery's property.

At least [93 pollution incidents](#) related to Hurricane Isaac should have been prevented by proper precautions by oil and gas, chemical and coal-handling facilities, representatives of three environmental groups said Thursday. "Its completely shameful and irresponsible and inexcusable that seven years after Katrina and Rita, the lessons of those storms, the lessons we were taught by the BP oil disaster, that we have industry's continued business-as-usual approach to showcase the fact that their inaction and their ill preparedness has proven to be dangerous and deadly and unacceptable to the health of our communities, our families and our workers," said Jill Mastrototero, Gulf Coast Campaign director for

the Sierra Club. "The 93 industry accidents that have been reported to the Coast Guard's National Response Center demonstrates that we have lax enforcement by regulators and self-regulation by industries just doesn't work," she said. "Industries need to make real investments in equipment, in planning, in training their workers to prevent and respond to future actions." A state Department of Environmental Quality statement released Thursday afternoon said many of the reports to the response center involved small spills "like transformer oil, sheens or orphaned containers." But the agency statement said all reports would be addressed. "DEQ is currently working with state, local and federal officials on post storm assessments," the statement said. "In most of the cases, cleanup has begun and in many it is already finished. There are only a few larger spills, and cleanup has begun on those as well. "The impact to human health and the environment has been minimal, especially considering the size and duration of the storm," the statement said. The incidents through Tuesday, most of which were reported by the companies themselves, included:

Leaking oil from wellheads or platforms, including the failure of one or more storage tanks, with the oil going into the water along the east or west banks of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines or St. Bernard parishes. The release of 277 tons of sulfur dioxide, 1,200 pounds of hydrogen sulfide and 100 pounds of benzene at Chalmette Refining in St. Bernard. The release of an unknown amount of butadiene, benzene, carbon dioxide, ethylene, hexane, ethane and propylene at the Shell Chemical/Motiva campus in St. Charles Parish. The emissions occurred when the facility's operators could not keep an emergency flare lit, according to response center reports. The displacement by storm surge of coal and coal dust from storage piles at the Kinder Morgan Industrial Marine Transport Terminal near Myrtle Grove in Plaquemines Parish over containment



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berms and into nearby wetlands. The terminal stores coal for export to other countries. One report to the response center from an unidentified caller reported that 400 barrels of crude oil and 400 barrels of produce water may have been released from fiberglass tanks at a Texas Petroleum well between Buras and Boothville in wetlands along the west bank of the Mississippi. In most cases, the releases were reported by the industries themselves just before, during or immediately after Isaac passed over southeastern Louisiana on Wednesday. Some were reported anonymously by local residents, or by representatives of the environmental groups who flew over much of Plaquemines Parish and photographed several of the oil spills and coal storage area washouts on Sunday. A spokesman for Phillips 66 said its Alliance Refinery followed its shut-down procedures in advance of Isaac, but that flooding inundated roadways and collection systems within its site. Culverts were sealed off to contain any oily water on refinery property, and the company is now cleaning up any remaining sheen found on vegetation and soil on the site. A light sheen also was found on the river near a refinery outfall on Thursday, Aug. 30, and the area was boomed. No sheen has been seen since then, the spokesman said. Both issues were reported by the company to the response center. Federal and state officials should create a regional citizens advisory council that can play a role in responding to similar incidents in the future, said Aaron Viles, deputy director of the Gulf Restoration Network. Establishment of such a panel has been recommended by several federally-sponsored panels investigating the BP oil spill. He said the overflow of coal into nearby wetlands and water courses at storage facilities operated by Kinder Morgan and a second company in Plaquemines should be a warning against approving development of a third coal export facility near Myrtle Grove by RAM Terminals LLC. "It's a horrible idea to put such an inherently dirty facility at a place where the state plans to build a freshwater and sediment diversion to build wetlands," Viles said. Anne Rolfes, director of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade, which has lobbied refineries for several years to adopt better methods of avoiding damage, and thus chemical releases, during storms and hurricanes, said many of the industries that experienced accidents during Isaac are required by federal law to adopt a "risk management plan" aimed at reducing just such accidents. She charged that Chalmette Refining and other facilities waited too long to shut down operations and prepare for hurricane winds and storms in an attempt to maximize profits at the expense of safety, and said many have a record of similar failures to prepare during past storms, including Katrina in 2005 and Gustav in 2008. Rolfes called on the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environmental Quality to conduct investigations to determine whether the industries with accidents had followed those plans to reduce accident risk in advance of Isaac. Neither agency immediately responded to a request for comment Thursday afternoon. All three environmental groups called on the companies responsible for the pollution releases to clean them up, improve their preparedness plans, and hire more workers to oversee safety and maintenance. They also called on EPA and DEQ to require companies found in violation of federal laws as a result of the accidents to pay monetary fines. According to the DEQ statement, the agency will continue to work with industry officials to minimize releases in emergency events and during normal operations. "Anyone who violates environmental regulations, such as exceeding permit limits or failures to notify, will be subject to penalties," the statement said. "We are still conducting assessments in the impacted areas."

[http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2012/09/oil\\_chemical\\_coal\\_releases\\_dur.html](http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2012/09/oil_chemical_coal_releases_dur.html)

### USA, CA, SAN DIEGO, SEPTEMBER 7 2012. F/A-18 WORKERS EXPOSED TO TOXIC MATERIALS >> OSHA SETS A SEPT. 26 DEADLINE FOR THE NAVY TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS AT ITS REPAIR FACILITY ON CORONADO ISLAND.

tony perry

Workers at the Navy's top maintenance facility for F/A-18 warplanes have been exposed to "extremely toxic materials" such as lead, cadmium and beryllium, according to surprise inspections by the Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#). OSHA has given the Navy until Sept. 26 to fix the problems at the Fleet Readiness Center Southwest at North Island Naval Air Station on Coronado or face an order to shut down the facility. The violations were revealed Thursday. "Exposing workers to metals such as lead, cadmium and beryllium can result in serious illness and even fatal [respiratory disease](#)," said Jay Vicory, director of the San Diego-area office of OSHA. The Navy has "initiated an extensive plan of action to eliminate the immediate concern and ensure we are within OSHA's standards," readiness center officials said in a statement. The facility employs 1,000 active-duty personnel and 3,200 civilians to work on a variety of fixed-wing and rotary aircraft. The OSHA violations were found in the part of the facility where 350 workers are assigned to the F/A-18. Vicory said OSHA is "encouraged" by the Navy's response to the violations and plans to work with the Navy to eliminate the health hazards to workers. Two violations were deemed "willful" and two were deemed "serious." The former occurs when the employer shows an intentional or voluntary disregard for health threats; the latter occurs when there is a "substantial probability" of death or physical harm from a hazard that the employer knew about or should have known about. The willful violations involved



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allowing workers to store or consume food in a place contaminated by toxic materials, and in allowing "dry sweeping" that can make cadmium dust airborne. The serious violations involved lead dust and failure to control the spread of beryllium. Michael Furlano, a spokesman for the readiness center, said the Navy is removing all paint containing lead, has closed the lunchroom for repair and has stopped dry sweeping in problem areas, using wet mops to keep particles from becoming airborne. One of the hangars is almost 100 years old and was covered with lead paint decades ago, Furlano said. Beryllium has not been used in years but residue was still detected, he said. Cadmium is a component of anti-corrosion materials. New rules will require workers to remove their overalls before entering the cafeteria when it reopens. Furlano said center officials are confident that they will meet the Sept. 26 deadline. He noted that there have been no reported illnesses among workers linked to the toxic materials. The F/A-18 is flown by the Navy and Marine Corps and several U.S. allies. It is designed to fly at supersonic speeds in all weather, can be based on land or aboard carriers, and is capable of aerial combat and also attacking land-based targets.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-navy-toxic-20120907.0.866833.story>

### MIDDLE EAST, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. CNG TANK EXPLODES IN DRIVER'S FACE WHILE REFUELING

 **Watch the Video** [CNG Tank Explodes in Driver's Face](#)



A very scary accident that could have easily resulted in several deaths was captured by a security camera at a filling station, possibly located somewhere in the Middle East, though we can't confirm this from the video (if you happen to know where it took place, leave us a comment below). A man driving what looks like a Peugeot 405 sedan backed in the gas station. The employee then began filling the car while the driver opened the boot at which point, there was an explosion that flung the man to the ground. Fortunately, he was able to get up by himself and walk away. The video description says the explosion was caused by the CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) tank or one of its components that are located in the luggage compartment. A video of the incident can be found after

the break.

<http://carscoop.blogspot.com/2012/09/cng-tank-explodes-in-driver-face-while.html>

### NEW ZEALAND, WELLINGTON, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. NEW ZEALAND ENERGY COMPANY TO CLOSE BIOFUELS DIVISION

New Zealand-based natural energy provider Solid Energy (SE) is weighing up proposals that may see the sale of its biodiesel division. The state-owned business has mooted the potential sale or even closure of subsidiaries Biodiesel New Zealand (BNZ) and wood pellet company Nature's Flame. This all comes as part of a major restructuring of SE amid claims neither of the renewable businesses have yet to make a profit despite nearly NZ\$100 million (€63.4 million) of investment. One feedstock farmer, Colin Hurst of Waimate, was quoted as saying: "I knew they were selling the business, but I'm quite shocked that they are thinking of closing. It's left us in the lurch because once you commit to growing rapeseed, it is liable to stay in the ground for up to 10 years before you can grow another like brassica." BNZ has assured all feedstock growers that contracts for autumn and next spring will still be honoured. SE CEO Don Elder blames the lack of government subsidies, which finished last year, as the reason the projects are now currently not profitable. 'Biodiesel is a business we no longer believe we should be in and we want out as soon as possible. Nobody knows better than us, coming from the industry, how hard it has been to make renewables economic,' he adds.

[http://www.biofuels-news.com/industry\\_news.php?item\\_id=5366](http://www.biofuels-news.com/industry_news.php?item_id=5366)

### AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. CUTTING OR HEATING METAL TANKS.

 **Document Alert-** [Cutting or Heating Metal Tanks](#)

The purpose of this Safety Alert is to highlight the dangers of using angle grinders and/or welders to heat or cut metal tanks.

#### Background

Recently a worker died when a 4500 litre fuel tank he was cutting with an angle grinder exploded. The tank had been stored in the ground for a number of years and had recently been removed for disposal. The employee was cutting the fuel tank to



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ready it for transport. Sparks or heat from the angle grinder may have ignited residual vapours in the tank, which then exploded.

#### Contributing Factors

- The fuel tank may have previously contained a highly flammable liquid and possible chemical residue.
- Angle grinders produce ignition sources such as heat and sparks.
- There was no labelling on the tank to indicate the type of fuel that had been stored, nor information that it had been purged, cleaned and de-gassed appropriately.

#### Action Required

- Do not use angle grinders or any other heat-producing equipment such as welders to cut metal tanks or drums that have or may have contained flammable or combustible liquids or flammable gases. 2. Where there is any doubt about the previous contents of a tank or drum, have the contents tested for chemical makeup.
- Make sure tanks and drums are recycled by specialist cleaning companies.
- Have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) available for all hazardous substances at the workplace and provide this information to all employees who are likely to be exposed to these substances.
- Provide adequate training and instruction to ensure that employees understand the MSDS information, especially employees who have limited understanding of English.
- Treat all tanks and drums as hazardous or having contained an explosive substance or vapour.

#### Further information

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au) or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email [safety@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@commerce.wa.gov.au)

[http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au/PDF/Safety\\_alerts/2012/09-2012\\_Cutting\\_or\\_heating\\_metal\\_tanks.pdf](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au/PDF/Safety_alerts/2012/09-2012_Cutting_or_heating_metal_tanks.pdf)

#### INDIA, MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. TRUCK-TANKER COLLISION ON EXPRESSWAY CAUSES MASSIVE GAS LEAK, TRAFFIC JAMS



A tanker carrying 30 tonne of inflammable isobutane was hit by a truck on Mumbai-Pune Expressway on Thursday leading to a massive leakage from the tanker. The accident took place around noon near the Khandala exit — where old Mumbai-Pune highway and the expressway meet— causing huge traffic snarls on the expressway and the highway. The tanker was going towards Pune when a truck from the opposite direction collided with the tanker after the driver lost control. After the accident, the Pune as well as the Mumbai lanes were closed to prevent any untoward incident. Dileep Bhujbal, superintendent, State Highway Police, said, "The knob of the tanker (valve ) was damaged causing severe gas leakage. "Efforts were made to plug the leak by installing a new valve. However, nothing could be done as the leakage was severe," said Bhujbal. Three fire tenders from Lonavla, Khopoli and

IRB were rushed to the spot to plug the leak. A team of technicians on their way to the accident site to plug the leak, was also caught in the traffic snarl delaying their arrival at the spot. Bhujbal said a decision to drain out the remaining gas into containers was taken after experts expressed inability to replace the valve. About the traffic snarls, Bhujbal said the diversions that were put in place by the Highway Police were not effective as the alternative roads were narrow and the volume of traffic too large. He said the location of the accident was such that the Highway Police was unable to divert the traffic effectively.

<http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/trucktanker-collision-on-expressway-causes-massive-gas-leak-traffic-jams/999221/>

#### INDIA, GUJARAT, BHAVNAGAR, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. INDUSTRIES IN DOCK AS TRUCK WITH TOXIC LOAD APPREHENDED

Industries based in Vapi, Vatva, Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar have found themselves in the dock after Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) officials apprehended a truck, allegedly just before it started dumping its cargo of 17,820 litres of ammonium carbonate into a creek near Bhavnagar city on Thursday evening. At around 4 pm, officials from the GPCB's regional office in Bhavnagar approached a parked container truck near the newly inaugurated cable-stayed bridge, its crew apparently readying



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to dump the toxic load. By Friday evening, officials said investigations have revealed that several well-known companies were involved in the operation, including the Vapi-based Phthalo Colours and Chemicals Private Limited, a flagship company of the Nanavati Group, which allegedly sent the ammonium carbonate. Another company that has been hauled up is the Ahmedabad-based Acid Chem Corporation, a transport-contractor that officials said is in contract with Novel Spent Acid Management, a Vatva-based facility supported by the industrial association via a cooperative model. Industries in Vatva, Naroda and Odhav send their wastes to the Novel facility, from where it is routed to industries located in Chitra, at Bhavnagar, where industries use it as an input or raw material. The third company directly involved in the incident is Bhavnagar-based Super-White Chemical, which was allegedly buying the cargo. "We will not tolerate any such illegal activity in Bhavnagar and we will deal with this matter toughly," said A V Shah, GPCB's Regional Officer at Bhavnagar, adding an FIR has been launched with the police there. GPCB's member-secretary Hardik Shah said, "We will be issuing closure notices to the involved parties under the Environment Protection Act, as they were selling the chemicals without permission." An FIR has been lodged at Velavadar police station in this regard.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/industries-in-dock-as-truck-with-toxic-load-apprehended/999704/0>

### **SOUTH AFRICA. KWAZULU-NATA, KOKSTAD, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. TWO DIE IN N2 TANKER CRASH**

*tamlyn canham*



*Two people have died following an horrific accident on the N2 between Kokstad and Harding.*

A tanker and a bakkie collided at about 1pm, leading to both vehicles bursting into flames. The accident happened around 20km outside of Kokstad, in the direction of Harding. Firefighters have since managed to extinguish the blaze after battling for more than two hours. The driver of the tanker escaped from the vehicle before it was engulfed by flames. He's unhurt. ER24's Derrick Banks says both occupants of the bakkie were killed. "Emergency personnel are still on scene, while the N2 has been closed off for salvaging and clean-up operations," he said. At 4.30pm, it was still unclear when the road would be reopened. The entire stretch of N2 between Kokstad and Harding was affected.

<http://www.ecr.co.za/kagiso/content/en/east-coast-radio/east-coast-radio-news?oid=1727058&sn=Detail&pid=490476&Two-die-in-N2-tanker-crash>

### **USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. TOO FEW STATE OIL REFINERY-SAFETY CHECKS**

 **Photo's [6]** [Too Few State Oil Refinery-Safety Checks](#)



*A cloud of black smoke billows upward after the vapor cloud ignited, starting a blaze at the oil plant.*

California regulators have not been conducting the intensive workplace-safety inspections of Chevron's Richmond plant and the state's 14 other oil refineries that federal standards call for, a Chronicle investigation shows. The limited checks that California inspectors have performed over the last decade have not led to a single fine collected from a major oil company, according to inspection records. Those findings are backed up by a recently released federal audit of the state's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, which is charged with enforcing state and federal workplace-safety rules at California refineries. It found that the California agency had conducted "very few, if any" comprehensive inspections of oil and chemical plants under its authority. Cal/OSHA officials said the federal auditors'

findings did not reflect the complete picture of their inspection and enforcement efforts. They said they would respond in detail directly to the auditors. The federal report was completed not long before the Aug. 6 fire at Chevron's Richmond refinery that destroyed part of the plant and, according to investigators, narrowly missed injuring more than 20 workers.



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#### Federal Investigation

Investigators with the federal Chemical Safety Board have said they are examining what caused a pipe in the refinery's crude oil-processing unit to rupture, emitting hydrocarbon vapor that ignited. They are also looking into regulators' inspection history at the Richmond plant. A Chronicle review shows that California workplace-safety regulators conducted three planned inspections of the Chevron plant from 2006 to 2010, dedicating an average of about 50 man-hours per audit. That total is well below the 1,000 man-hours that federal auditors and investigators in other states averaged in recent, intensive refinery inspections of the type called for under federal law. Refineries where those investigators found workplace-safety violations averaged 11 citations. The California agency's planned inspections of the Chevron refinery were mostly designated as being "partial" in scope, records show, and found no violations of workplace-safety rules. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration began its three-year refinery inspection drive in 2007, two years after a vapor cloud emitted by an overflowing refinery tower exploded at BP's Texas City, Texas, refinery, killing 15 workers. In launching the national effort, federal officials said that since OSHA promulgated industrial safety standards in 1992, "no other industry sector has had as many fatal or catastrophic incidents related to the release" of volatile chemicals as refineries. In 2010, federal officials said the effort had uncovered a "deeply troubling" pattern of workplace-safety breakdowns among the 126 refineries that inspectors checked nationwide. Federal fines for refineries with violations averaged \$76,000. When the U.S. job-safety agency undertook the crackdown, California opted not to ramp up enforcement or seek federal help in auditing refineries, calling its own program sufficient. The state has long said it has one of the nation's most rigorous refinery oversight operations. From 2001 to 2012, the process safety management unit of Cal/OSHA performed more than 600 inspections at refineries and other locations, a total that encompasses not just planned audits but also investigations prompted by complaints and accidents, the agency said. Those inspections resulted in more than \$3.4 million in fines, Cal/OSHA said. However, a Chronicle review shows that, as at the Chevron plant, California investigators found few workplace-safety violations when it conducted planned audits of the state's refineries. In more than two dozen planned audits that the state workplace-safety agency performed over the last decade, it collected just one fine – \$850 from a small, independent refinery in Paramount (Los Angeles County). In the other five instances in which inspectors cited refineries, the violations were quickly dismissed or settled without a fine. The state did not provide information on how many man-hours those planned inspections entailed. But the average of 50 hours at the Chevron plant was far less than recommended by federal watchdogs. The Chemical Safety Board has repeatedly called for far more comprehensive inspections – lasting "several weeks or months" under 1992 federal safety guidelines – for the nation's oil refineries. Kim Nibarger, a safety official with the United Steelworkers union, which represents 600 workers at Chevron's Richmond refinery, said 50 hours is "not enough time to do a comprehensive audit." "If they are not finding anything here, it looks like they aren't really looking very hard," Nibarger said. "It doesn't fit the bill for what they are supposed to be doing." Dean Fryer, a spokesman for Cal/OSHA, said the state has "created the greatest level of refinery oversight in the nation. There are no other states with such a program, and the feds do not have such an effort." Fryer added, "Refineries are regulated at a greater level in California than any other state in the nation. That's why it's been 13 years" since the last fatal refinery accident in the state. Ellen Widess, chief of Cal/OSHA, said focusing on planned audits alone does not accurately portray the state's enforcement efforts. She said such audits "are not meant to be comprehensive, given resources and given the enormity and complexity of refineries."

#### Fines Totalled \$11,000

In addition to the planned audits, Cal/OSHA has conducted six post-accident and 11 complaint-based investigations at the Chevron Richmond refinery since 2001. Those probes found two serious violations and several minor ones. The fines for those problems totaled about \$11,000. Cal/OSHA officials say that, depending on the scope, some of those probes can substitute for planned audits. Those post-accident probes and complaint-based investigations, coupled with the planned audits, better represent the state's efforts, Widess said. "Just to focus on (planned inspections) is not a complete accurate picture of our total enforcement history with Chevron or, frankly, any refinery," she said. Critics, however, say Cal/OSHA hasn't always been tough on Chevron even when it found problems. They point to a \$185 fine the agency issued against Chevron for a fire at the Richmond refinery in 2007. The state found that the company had not maintained a 20-year-old pipe valve, leading to a diesel fuel spill that caught fire and badly burned a worker. Richmond City Councilman Tom Butt, a longtime critic of Chevron's refinery operation, noted that motorists face stiffer fines for driving solo in a carpool lane.

#### 'I Would be Embarrassed'

"If I were OSHA, I would be embarrassed to issue a \$185 fine," he said. "What's the point? "Penalties are intended to do two things, provide some punishment and ... get people's attention so they won't do it again," Butt said. "Nobody's behavior is



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going to change with a \$185 fine, especially one of the largest corporations in the world." Randy Sawyer, head of Contra Costa County's hazardous materials program, which monitors refineries but has no authority to issue workplace-safety fines, said the pipe that failed was a "serious problem." "It should not have been there," Sawyer said. The fire was something that was going to happen eventually, as the corrosion got worse. It as just sitting there, forgotten." Widess had no comment on the \$185 penalty, saying it was lodged before she took over last year.

[http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/09/07/too-few-state-oil-refinery-safety-checks/?utm\\_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm\\_medium=FuelFix&utm\\_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter](http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/09/07/too-few-state-oil-refinery-safety-checks/?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=FuelFix&utm_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter)

### INDIA, TAMIL NADU, MUDHALIPATTI, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. SIVAKASI FACTORY FIRE: 54 CHARRED TO DEATH IN THE INCIDENT

#### Watch the Video

- [46 feared dead, 78 hurt in fire at cracker factory in Sivakasi](#)
- [Sivakasi Fire 2 Arrested, Toll Rises To 38](#)
- [Sivakasi Fire: a Result Of Indians Greed for Cheap Fireworks?](#)



*Firefighters try to douse fire at a fireworks factory at Sivakasi, Sept. 5.*

In one of the worst fire tragedies in Tamil Nadu, 54 persons were charred to death and 50 others injured today when a devastating blaze swept through a cracker factory complex at nearby Mudhalipatti. The factory and 48 sheds in the complex exploded in flames as the fire broke out when workers were mixing chemicals to make fancy fire crackers, trapping many in the inferno, police and fire brigade said. The dead bodies were accounted for by doctors at Sivakasi (25), Virudhunagar (15), Sattur (13) and Madurai (1). Explosions could be heard across more than two square km in the sleepy village as thick plumes of smoke engulfed the area with bodies burnt beyond recognition and scores of injured lay all round presenting a sight of a battle zone. Almost all those killed were workers, with

some persons who rushed inside the Omshakthi factory complex to try and rescue those trapped inside also falling victim to the blaze, police said. All the victims suffered more than 80 per cent burns. The entire production had been stored in a godown against official advice, they said. Fire fighters handicapped by lack of proper equipment, including masks, to tackle such major fires had to battle for four hours to douse the raging flames after struggling to enter the complex with thick smoke hampering their efforts. Officials said all the victims who perished in the fire had suffered more than 80 per cent burns. The task was now to protect sheds where crackers had been stored in nearby areas, they said. An angry mob in the area tried to enter the factory premises but were prevented by the police who sealed the area. Senior minister O Panneerselvam and four other colleagues have rushed to the spot to oversee relief operations. Officials attributed the delay in dousing fire to the lack of enough equipment for fire fighters, including masks.

#### Here are the Latest Developments in this Story:

- The police are yet to trace the owner of the factory, identified as a man called Murugesan. He is the accused number one in the case. Virudhunagar's Superintendent of Police Najmal Hoda said that ten teams have been formed to nab him. A search is also on for six other contractors.
- Among the 12 people arrested for the fire at Om Sakthi Crackers are three contractors, a chemical mixer and the factory lessee Paul Pandi, who according to the police is accused number two in the case. Mr Murugesan, who held the licence to run the factory, had leased it to Mr Pandi, which was illegal. Cases have been registered against the lease holders and owner under various sections of IPC and Explosives Act.
- Chief Minister Jayalalithaa today announced a magisterial investigation into the accident. More than 40 violations of safety norms like over-crowding, wrong mixing of chemicals and overstocking, have allegedly been discovered. The state Explosives Department had suspended the factory's licence on Tuesday. The factory should not have been running operations on Wednesday.
- An official of the Controller of Explosives has said the licences of the factory, valid up to 2014, were suspended three months ago due to 40 different types of violations. However, Revenue official Rajagopal said they had not received the communication in this regard from the state controller of explosives.



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- Most of those killed were relatives of workers and others standing anxiously outside the factory and the fire raged. They were hit by stone splinters and even by the firecrackers called "rockets". Some of these bystanders fell ill from the strong fumes.
- Over 300 workers were believed to have been inside the factory when the fire broke out on Wednesday afternoon. But most of them reportedly managed to escape the building.
- The fire broke out at the factory at about 12:30 pm on Wednesday. It took 10 fire tenders close to five hours to bring it under control. They had to approach cautiously as there were explosions and huge flames in the building.
- Conditions of 40 out of 52 injured admitted in various hospitals were stated to be serious. Those seriously injured were taken to a multi-specialty hospital in Madurai, 100 kilometres from Sivakasi. The others were admitted to a government hospital in Sivakasi and also in Virudhnagar.
- All 60 rooms in the factory building were gutted. These included 20 rooms that stored chemicals. The fire also spread to godowns about 200 feet away. Two of the three godowns in the factory were burnt down.
- Sivakasi is India's biggest hub for the manufacture of matches and fire crackers. Work to meet the Diwali demand for crackers has been on in full swing in Sivakasi factories and factories have employees at work in full strength.

#### Related Links

- [A day after Sivakasi inferno, blame game on](#)
- [Only 3 of 38 killed in blaze at firecracker unit were workers](#)
- [36 killed in cracker unit fire mishap in Tamil Nadu](#)
- [54 charred to death in Tamil Nadu's Sivakasi factory fire](#)
- [50 killed in Sivakasi firecracker unit fire](#)

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-09-05/chennai/33614489\\_1\\_cracker-factory-sivakasi-factory-fire-factory-premises](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-09-05/chennai/33614489_1_cracker-factory-sivakasi-factory-fire-factory-premises)

#### TURKEY, AFYONKARAHISAR, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. 25 DEAD IN TURKISH DEPOT BLAST

##### Watch the Video's

- [25 Dead In Explosion in Turkey](#)
- [Aftermath of Blast that Killed 25 Turkish Soldiers](#)

##### Photo's [6]

- [6] [Blast Kills 25 Turkish Soldiers >> Hand Grenade Accidentally Dropped](#)
- [7] [In Pictures: Turkey Arms Depot Blast](#)



Soldiers search near the site of an explosion at an ammunition store in Afyonkarahisar in western Turkey which killed 25 soldiers and wounded four others, Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012. An explosion and blaze triggered by an accidentally dropped hand grenade has killed 25 soldiers during a stock check at a Turkish ammunition depot, the government said Thursday. Four other soldiers were injured in the blast, which lit up the night sky late Wednesday with flames, and shattered windows in homes in the nearby town of Afyonkarahisar in western Turkey, terrifying residents.

An explosion and blaze triggered by an accidentally dropped hand grenade killed 25 soldiers during a stock check at a Turkish ammunition depot, the government said Thursday. Four other soldiers were injured in the blast, which lit up the night sky late Wednesday with flames, and shattered windows in homes in the nearby town of Afyonkarahisar in western Turkey, terrifying residents. Forestry and Water

Minister Veysel Eroglu ruled out terrorism and sabotage, saying the blast occurred in a section where hand grenades were kept. The soldiers' remains were discovered early Thursday after a subsequent blaze was extinguished. "One hand grenade was dropped during stock-taking and sorting, causing a large explosion," Eroglu said. "There was no external intervention. There certainly was no sabotage or anything like that." Eroglu said hand grenades were found strewn across the area and authorities were detonating them with controlled explosions. Turkey's NTV television showed security officers walking along a



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road and in fields, looking for unexploded ammunition. President Abdullah Gul urged a full investigation, though some opposition lawmakers questioned whether any high-ranking military officials would be called to account. Cihan News Agency quoted Yakup Evirgen, a retired military major who handled logistics, as saying a variety of factors can be involved in an accident involving munitions, including their production date, where they had been previously stored and whether they had degraded over time, making them unstable. Another retired military officer, Haldun Solmazturk, said that, based on his experience as a brigadier general, the stock check should not have been conducted at night and that the number of soldiers involved in the procedure at Afyonkarahisar seemed to be too high. His comments were reported by Ilhas News Agency. Families of conscripts serving at the facility rushed to the area after hearing news of the explosions. Many broke into tears after the deaths were reported, NTV said. Some remains were sent to the capital, Ankara, for DNA tests so they could be identified. Some civilians were evacuated from the nearby town overnight. Authorities warned people to stay away from the area. In 1997, an explosion at Turkey's largest weapons factory in Kirikkale in central Turkey killed two people and sparked a fire that raged for days

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/world/25-dead-in-turkish-depot-blast-1.1377520#.UEq3xl0gfjl>

### USA, TX, CORPUS CHRISTI, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. AS CLEAN AIR ACT SENTENCING NEARS, JUSTICE CITES VIOLATIONS AT TEXAS CITGO REFINERY

*jim morris*



Days before Citgo Petroleum Corp. faces its long-awaited sentencing for criminal Clean Air Act violations at its refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas, a Justice Department [court filing](#) alleges that a "wide range" of environmental and worker safety violations continue to plague the plant. Citgo was convicted in June 2007 of two criminal counts stemming from 10 years of toxic emissions from two massive, uncovered storage tanks. Such convictions are rare: The Center for Public Integrity [reported](#) last year that Clean Air Act cases have been prosecuted at a far lower rate than Clean Water Act or solid waste cases. In its filing this week, the Justice Department asks a federal judge to fine Citgo \$2,090,000, the maximum allowed under the statute, and put the company on five years' probation — also the maximum — for illegal emissions of benzene and other hazardous chemicals from the tanks between 1994 and 2004. The department says the refinery made almost

\$1.16 billion in profits during that period. Citgo's sentencing hearing is scheduled to begin Monday in U.S. District Court in Corpus Christi and could last several days. In an e-mailed statement Friday morning, the company said it "embraces a culture of safety that is reflected in everything we and our employees do. We are proud of our record and of the important role our refineries play in providing good jobs and much needed tax revenue for the communities they serve, including Corpus Christi." The Justice Department document alleges that Citgo "has violated a wide range of environmental and worker safety regulations" — as recently as this year in some cases. An inspector with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for example, found that the refinery had five releases of hydrofluoric acid (HF), a potentially lethal gas, between Feb. 11 and March 20, 2012. As [reported](#) last year by the Center and ABC News, the refinery had a major HF release in July 2009 that severely injured a worker and put the nearby Hillcrest neighborhood at risk. Citgo told state regulators that only 30 pounds of the acid escaped plant boundaries. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board later estimated, however, that at least 4,000 pounds left the refinery and concluded that failures in a Citgo water system meant to contain HF had nearly led to a bigger release. The 2012 HF releases occurred "because equipment deficiencies are not repaired in a safe and timely manner" and are evidence of "systemic failure," the Justice Department document says. The document also cites incidents such as the "preventable" release of more than 142,000 pounds of pollutants into the atmosphere on Dec. 25 and 30, 2009. On Thursday, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration proposed fines totaling \$66,500 against Citgo for five alleged violations related to an HF leak. "The employer did not have proper safeguards in place to protect employees from the release of toxic chemicals," Michael Rivera, OSHA's area director in Corpus Christi, said in a written statement. Suzie Canales, executive director of Citizens for Environmental Justice in Corpus Christi, said she is disappointed that Citgo faces, at most, a fine of slightly more than \$2 million for the 2007 Clean Air Act conviction. "It's pocket change to them," she said. She also doesn't understand why it's taken [more than five years](#) for the company to be sentenced. "When you go that long, it sends a message to Citgo and others that it doesn't matter if you violated the Clean Air Act — you're going to get away with it," Canales said. In



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a related development Thursday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans granted a [petition](#) seeking crime-victim status for 14 people who live near the refinery. The trial judge in the Citgo case, John D. Rainey, ruled last year that the residents didn't qualify as victims under the Crime Victim's Rights Act and therefore couldn't testify at the company's sentencing hearing because they hadn't proven that emissions from the Citgo tanks were the "specific cause" of their alleged health problems, including shortness of breath, vomiting and dizziness. The Fifth Circuit instructed Rainey to consider new arguments raised by the petition. "The judge needs to hear from these people to determine an appropriate sentence in the case," said law professor Paul Cassell, who is representing the residents pro bono through the Appellate Clinic at the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney College of Law. It's not yet clear, however, whether the residents will speak at next week's hearing.

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/2012/09/07/10826/clean-air-act-sentencing-nears-justice-cites-violations-texas-citgo-refinery>

### USA, N.Y, RESENDALE, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. NY STATE PROBING GROUND CONTAMINATION NEAR GAS STATION IN ROSENDALE

*william j. kemble*

The state Department of Environmental Conservation on Monday will begin investigating the extent of contamination at the Citgo gas station on state Route 32 at Madeline Avenue, as well as a vacant lot across the road. "The main contaminant of concern is tetrachloroethene, a chlorinated solvent," said department spokeswoman Wendy Rosenbach. "The next step will be to complete a remedial investigation with the goal of fully delineating the nature and extent of the contamination," Rosenbach added. After that, she said, a feasibility study will be conducted to determine the best method of cleanup. Other chemicals listed as possibly present at the site are trichloroethene and dichloroethene because they were found in nearby monitoring wells. The Department of Environmental Conservation says the Citgo property was identified as the source of contamination after a 2008 investigation that initially focused on a nearby former dry cleaning business. "Reports indicate that, from approximately 1960 to 1970, the site operated as a chemical company which dyed clothing," state officials wrote. "The site operated as a garage from 1970 to 1979. Since that time, the site has predominantly been utilized as a gas station. The current owner has been operating a Citgo gas station at the site since 1994." The name of the current owner was not immediately available. State officials said the contamination, which has been found at depths of 3 to 12 feet underground, is a concern because the property is only about 600 feet from the Rondout Creek. "The site presents a significant environmental threat due to the ongoing releases of contaminants from source areas to groundwater," they wrote.

<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2012/09/07/news/doc504957ce58576901568796.txt>

### USA, MI, EGELSTON TWP, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. EGELSTON TOWNSHIP'S SUN CHEMICAL: NEW STAFF MISUNDERSTOOD LAW ON REPORTING AMMONIA LEAK

*john s. hausman*

 [Watch the Video Sun Chemical Faces Ammonia Leak Penalty](#)



Sun Chemical blames new staffers' misunderstanding of the law for the [company's failure to call 911 or notify other authorities](#) during a six-hour leak of anhydrous ammonia vapor Monday at Sun's plant on Evanston Avenue. No one was injured in the incident and no employee or neighbor was endangered, the company said in a statement Friday afternoon. The company said the incident was handled appropriately, except for the failure to notify authorities. Sun did notify the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the National Response Center, but not until the morning after the Labor Day incident. Sun said it's "cooperating and working closely" with emergency response teams and regulators and will emphasize the reporting

requirement when training employees so the mistake is not repeated. The failure to call 911 upset local emergency officials. "Whenever you have an emergency you should call 911," Muskegon County Undersheriff Dan Stout said Thursday. Stout is the county's emergency services director. The failure to notify authorities "immediately," as required by federal law, is punishable by a fine of as much as \$37,500 per day, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official said Friday. That doesn't mean the penalty will necessarily be that steep, said James Entzminger of the EPA's Chicago office. It's just the maximum penalty stated in the law. It's "premature" to say how the Sun Chemical incident will be handled, Entzminger said. "We have to look at the facts and circumstances," he said. "Right now we're just trying to sort through the information we have and see



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what are the next steps." The law requires "immediate" notification of authorities. The EPA interprets that as requiring notification within 15 minutes, Entzminger said. Anhydrous ammonia, used as part of the company's pigment manufacturing process, is stored as a liquid but turns into a gas when exposed to air. It's highly caustic in high concentrations, causing burning of the eyes, nose and throat and ultimately coughing, choking and death. In the case of Monday's release, no one was exposed to concentrations that high. The release from a chiller unit began at 3 p.m., lasted some six hours and released some 1,400 pounds of anhydrous ammonia into the air at the pigment plant at 4925 Evanston Road. The release of the caustic gas began after a part called a rupture disc failed. No one was in the immediate area of the leak. Company engineers determined that the safest way to handle the release was to keep the few employees working during the holiday away from the area of the leak, to monitor the levels of ammonia in the air and to let the unit "bleed out" until empty. This is the company's statement on the incident released Friday:

*"Employee and community safety is and always has been Sun Chemical's most important concern, and we do that through ongoing training of our employees and our internal emergency response team.*

*"The ammonia leak incident in our Muskegon facility was handled appropriately in every way except for a failure to notify the appropriate authorities within the 15 minutes as required by law. The EHS support in our Muskegon facility was in transition over the last three weeks and this fostered a misunderstanding on the reporting requirements. As part of our ongoing training at this site, we will put particular emphasis on our reporting obligations so that this mistake is not repeated again.*

*"We are also cooperating and working closely with all local emergency response teams and regulators. Never at any time throughout the incident was any employee or the community at risk."*

<http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2012/09/sun-chemical-new-staff.html>

#### AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, NORTHAM, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. TRUCK DRIVER CHARGED OVER FIREWORKS HAUL

**Map:** [Northam 6401](#)

A road-train driver has allegedly been found trying to transport a tonne of illegal fireworks near Northam. Officers say they discovered the explosive cargo when they stopped the truck on Great Eastern Highway about 5:30pm yesterday. Police say they charged the man, from Sawyers Valley, with not having the authority to possess the pyrotechnics.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-09-08/truck-driver-charged-over-fireworks-haul/4250204?section=wa>

#### USA, N.M, ROSWELL, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. HAZMAT SPILL SPURS ROSWELL EVACUATIONS

*bill diven*

A semi truck hauling a hazardous substance crashed near Roswell Friday afternoon spilling its load and launching evacuations within a one-mile radius. The crash on the U.S. Highway 285 near U.S. 70 northwest of Roswell happened about 1 p.m. Evacuations were expected to remain in place for up to 10 hours. New Mexico Department of Transportation maintenance workers have been covering the spilled solution of sodium hydroxide with sand and then placing tarps over that to protect the material from rain. [Sodium hydroxide](#), also known as lye and caustic soda, becomes particularly dangerous when it comes in contact with water. Rain is reported in the area. The truck driver, Sue Joe Sharabi of Sherman, Texas, was not injured in the crash, according to a statement from NMDOT. The truck belongs to Conway Truck Loads, the statement said. Both lanes of the Relief Route are closed as are a section of Pine Lodge Road.

[http://www.kasa.com/dpps/traffic/hazmat-spill-spurs-roswell-evacuations\\_4503247](http://www.kasa.com/dpps/traffic/hazmat-spill-spurs-roswell-evacuations_4503247)

#### USA, OH, TRUMBULL CO, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. STATE SEEKS INFO ON SPILL >> THREE TRUMBULL WORKERS SUSPENDED AFTER MERCURY FIND

*ron selak jr*

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency plans to contact the Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer's Office to learn more about the discipline taken against three workers who failed to report a mercury spill near a water tank in Champion last year. Ohio EPA spokesman Mike Settles said the agency was waiting on the outcome of the investigation into the October 2011 spill before determining if action is warranted by the state, too. "At no time was there concern that mercury was in the water system," Settles said Friday. "It's just a matter of the folks that operate the system and were they doing as they should." County commissioners Thursday suspended without pay: Ronald Watson, senior environmental engineer, hired in 1994, for 15



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days; Charles Davis, water operator, hired in 2000, for 10 days; Thomas Elder, operator in charge, hired in 1994, for three days. Watson, a classified employee, can still appeal the county's suspension to the State Personnel Board of Review. According to a report from the Human Resources Department from an Aug. 17 hearing on the matter, Davis found mercury while cleaning the sump pit at the water tank on Woodrow Avenue in October 2011. Davis told Elder and Watson what he found and found more mercury as he continued his cleaning, according to the report. The mercury was collected in a plastic sample bottle. At the end of the job, Davis tried handing the bottle to Watson, who refused and asked Davis to dispose of it. Davis put the bottle "in a protected area" in his county vehicle, the report states. Sometime in March, April or May, Davis gave the bottle to Scott Verner, sanitary engineer, who gave it to another worker in July at a safety committee meeting, the report states. That July 12 meeting is when sanitary engineer's office executive director Rex Fee learned of the spill and took steps to have it cleaned up. No mercury entered the water system, but there was a dangerous level of mercury vapor contamination that was still present two days later when the Ohio EPA arrived, Fee testified at the hearing. A gauge installed inside the pit some time in the 1960s that had mercury in it was the source.

<http://www.tribtoday.com/page/content.detail/id/576337/State-seeks-info-on-spill.html?nav=5021>

### USA, AKA, UNALASKA BAY, SEPTEMBER 8 2012. MARINE SAFETY DETACHMENT DUTCH HARBOR RESPONDS TO DIESEL SPILL



*The landing craft Joshua sits at a pier after sinking in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, Sept. 6, 2012.*

Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Dutch Harbor personnel responded to a report of a vessel sinking in Unalaska Bay Thursday. Coast Guard 17th District watchstanders received the report that the 68-foot landing craft Joshua had begun to sink at its mooring at approximately 10 a.m., and directed MSD investigators to respond. After arriving on scene, MSD personnel met with the vessel's owner and determined that approximately 10 gallons of diesel fuel had been discharged while it was sinking. The responsible party deployed a containment boom around the vessel and had divers secure fuel vents to minimize environmental impact. MSD personnel are continuing to work with the responsible party, and will monitor efforts to refloat the vessel on Friday. "Responding to oil spills and ensuring proper steps are being taken to protect the

environment is one of the Coast Guard's primary missions," said Lt. James Fothergill, supervisor of Marine Safety Detachment Dutch Harbor. "The port sees a lot of traffic, and we are here to help keep both mariners and the waters they travel on safe." The cause of the sinking is under investigation.

<http://alaska-native-news.com/alaska-native-news-at-sea/6602-marine-safety-detachment-dutch-harbor-responds-to-diesel-spill.html>

### SOUTH KOREA, SEOUL, SEPTEMBER 9 2012. NO. OF GAS STATIONS IN KOREA DECLINES DUE TO TOUGH COMPETITION

 [Gas Stations In Korea Declines](#)

Sampoong Gas Station, where the government set up a disaster countermeasure center after the collapse of Sampoong Department Store in 1995 in Seoul's Banpo-dong neighborhood, once topped overall sales in the nation. It was the first in Korea to use attendants who pump gas on roller blades and introduce gifts such as kimchi or bottled water to regular customers based on the amount of purchase. The famed gas station was often packed with cars just like the department store across the street when staging a bargain sale. In June last year, however, the station was transformed into a meat restaurant due to low margin from gas sales. Cheonggiwa Gas Station near Hongdae subway station, the first modern gas station in Korea, also went out of business. A high-rise building will be built at the site. Owners of gas stations were once considered rich but this is no longer true. The number of gas stations going out of business is surging due to intensifying competition. According to the Korea Oil Station Association on Friday, 174 gas stations closed through July this year, 40 percent more than the 124 that went belly up over the same period last year. The number of gas stations that closed gradually increased from 101 in 2008 to 109 in 2009 and further to 127 in 2010. The figure surged to 205 last year, however. About 10 to 30 gas stations are applying for liquidation every month this year. The industry predicts the number of gas stations to close will top



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300 by year's end. More filling stations are going out of business because of plunging profitability plunge amid increasingly intensifying competition. They have been dealt a hard blow by the chain Altl (Saving) Gas Station, which the government introduced nationwide to help stabilize gas prices, and NongHyup (National Agriculture Cooperatives Federation)'s entry into the sector. With more gas stations going out of business due to financial trouble, the overall number has fallen in the country. The number of gas stations continued to increase from 12,139 in 2007, 12,498 in 2008, 12,862 in 2009, and 13,003 in 2010. But those that went out of business outnumbered newly registered ones for the first time last year, with the number of operating gas stations declining to 12,901. The number has continued to fall this year to 12,892 as of late July. A gas station owner in the Suji district of Yongin, Gyeonggi Province, said, "The average profit ratio relative to sales has been less than 4 percent in recent months," adding, "We make virtually no profit after extracting various expenses including personnel costs and credit card settlement fees."

<http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?bicode=020000&biid=2012090847198>

#### CUBA, SANTIAGO, SEPTEMBER 9 2012. 6 DIE OF BURNS FROM CUBA GAS STATION BLAZE

Six of the 32 people hurt last week in a fire at a gas station in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba have died, Cuban official media said Friday. Of the 17 people who remain hospitalized after the blaze, eight are in critical condition and three others are listed as "very serious," according to Sierra Maestra, the official Communist Party daily in Santiago de Cuba. Most of the dead succumbed to "generalized infections" arising from severe burns, the newspaper said. The surviving injured people range in age from 16 to 49. The fire started the night of Aug. 28 when "a state truck collided with one of the gasoline pumps" at the service station in Santiago, Cuba's second city, located about 950 kilometers (590 miles) east of Havana. The crash caused a fuel spill, with experts concluding that spark from a nearby motorcycle may have ignited the gasoline, state television said.

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/09/07/6-die-burns-from-cuba-gas-station-blaze/>

#### USA, DE, ELSMERE, SEPTEMBER 9 2012. CHEMICAL REACTION CAUSED FIRE, EXPLOSION AT FACTORY

robin brown

 **Photo's [5]** [Building Explodes off Maryland Avenue](#)



An explosion and fire Friday night that severely damaged a manufacturing company site near Elsmere was caused by a chemical reaction, state fire investigators said this morning. The 8:18 p.m. blast tumbled some concrete block walls and buckled others at Homalite Corp. in the first block of [Brookside Drive](#) off Maryland Avenue. Emergency crews were ordered out of the chemical manufacturing building Friday night due to hazards of its collapse. Robert L. Fox, chief deputy state fire marshal, said most of the damage, estimated at several hundred thousand dollars, was to the exterior of the building. He said no one was in the building at the time of the blast and no injuries were reported. The investigation is continuing. Delaware State Police Sgt. Paul G. Shavack said Friday night that no nearby structures are believed to have been affected. Brookside Drive was closed indefinitely, he said. The drive was filled with

emergency equipment Friday night and some of the road was strewn with building debris. Due to chemicals at the site, crews from nearby Five Points Fire Company wore hazardous materials protective gear and self-contained breathing apparatus. Fifty to 75 firefighters from Five Points and other [companies](#) responded after an automatic alarm signaled authorities the complex's sprinkler system had activated. Smoke was showing as the first crews arrived, but the scene quickly was under control, Shavack said. State environmental crews also responded. A recording on Homalite's phone line says it closes weekdays at 5 p.m. The website says its products include thermally set plastics such as the dominant material used for eyeglass lenses. Company officials could not be reached Friday night.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20120908/NEWS/309080039/Official-Chemical-reaction-caused-fire-explosion-factory?odysey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CHome>



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