



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 891 Newsy Stuff

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

**October 21 2012**



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#### USA, LA, MORGAN CITY, OCTOBER 5 2012. OIL SHEEN MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARS OFF LOUISIANA'S GULF COAST

##### Story Highlights

- The Coast Guard has discovered a 4-mile-long oil sheen in the Gulf of Mexico
- Response teams collect samples for testing
- The oil is near the location of the disastrous 2010 Gulf oil spill

An oil sheen about four miles long has appeared in the Gulf of Mexico near the site of the worst oil spill in U.S. history, a Coast Guard spokesman said Thursday. It was not immediately clear where the oil is coming from, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Tippetts. The Coast Guard found out about the oil sheen on September 16 after someone spotted it on a satellite image from the multinational oil and gas company BP, Tippetts said. A Coast Guard response team went to the location to collect samples, and sent them to the Coast Guard Marine Safety Lab in Connecticut for testing. Test results are expected in a few weeks, Tippetts said. The service's Marine Safety Unit Morgan City, in Louisiana, is heading up the investigation of the spill, which is in the part of the Gulf officially designated MC252. No one has reported any adverse effects on the environment or marine life, Tippetts said. The sheen is near the spot where, on April 20, 2010, BP's Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded over the Macondo well, killing 11 workers and spewing oil that spread across a huge portion of the Gulf. The badly damaged mile-deep well leaked oil into the Gulf of Mexico for five months. On September 19, 2010, retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, who led the federal disaster response, declared that a cement plug had permanently sealed the leak, so that it posed no further threat. In total, about 4.9 million barrels (205.8 million gallons) of oil leaked into the Gulf, according to estimates from federal scientists. In an incident that appears unrelated to the new oil sheen, the Coast Guard's Morgan City unit also is investigating a small amount of oil leaked from a Gulf oil platform. Apache Corp. reported the spill to the Coast Guard and regulators as soon as the company noticed the leak on Tuesday, said Apache spokesman John Roper. He said a valve problem caused less than two barrels (84 gallons) of oil to spill into the water near Grand Isle, Louisiana. No marine or environmental damage has been reported from this incident either, Tippetts said.

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/04/us/louisiana-oil-sheen/index.html>

#### KENYA, MOMBASSA, OCTOBER 6 2012. GRIDLOCK AS TANKER PLUNGES INTO LIKONI CHANNEL

philip muyanga



*A truck transporting cooking oil on the Likoni channel after the it developed a mechanical problem on the ramp. Photo / Laban Walloga.*

Operations at the Likoni Channel in Mombasa were partially grounded for hours Friday morning after an oil tanker got stuck at a ferry ramp and plunged into the ocean. It's cargo – cooking oil destined for Tanzania – spilled into the sea as ferry technicians and a salvage crew embarked on hauling it from the sea where it lay half-submerged. The development forced ferry operators to scale down operations for some time to allow for the tanker's retrieval before fully resuming work. The situation worsened after two ferries MV Kilindini and MV Nyayo

developed mechanical problems forcing commuters to wait for several hours to cross the channel. At the mainland side where there was massive human and vehicular traffic, ferries were using only one ramp as the oil tanker had taken half of the other ramp. Kenya Ferry Services employees led by the managing director Hassan Musa were at the ferry controlling traffic to ensure normalcy. Mr Musa confirmed that the tanker broke down on the ramp on Thursday but said it has not disrupted operations at the channel. "The operations have not been affected by the breaking down of the lorry," said Mr Musa who confirmed that two ferries had developed problems. He added: "Things will be back to normal by 1pm". Some of the commuters who spoke to the Nation but requested anonymity said they had been at the Likoni channel for almost two hours. "I have been here for the last two hours, it's almost nine and am supposed to report to work at eight," said a civil servant. The early morning transport crisis at the Likoni channel comes at a time when KFS employees are staging go slow demanding increased salaries. The vehicular traffic on both the mainland and Island of the channel had stretched to almost 1.5 kilometers. The Likoni Channel, served by several ferries, is the key link between Mombasa Island and South Coast. It also serves traffic heading to neighbouring Tanzania through the Lunga Lunga border point

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/1525484/-/xtautaz/-/index.html>



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#### USA, TX, CORPUS CHRISTI, OCTOBER 6 2012. TEXAS POLLUTION VICTIMS SEEK MILLIONS FROM CITGO

jim morris



*The Citgo refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas.*

Fifteen residents of Corpus Christi, Texas — so sickened by pollution they have been deemed crime victims — are asking a federal judge to force Citgo Petroleum Corp. to set up multimillion-dollar trust funds to cover medical and relocation costs, in a case with national ramifications. A jury in 2007 convicted Citgo of [criminal violations](#) of the Clean Air Act, concluding that the company's Corpus Christi refinery allowed toxic chemicals to drift from two large, uncovered storage tanks into a nearby neighborhood for a decade. The company was to have been sentenced last month; the Department of Justice has proposed a fine of slightly more than \$2 million. Lawyers for the 15 residents, however, asked U.S. District Judge John D. Rainey to grant the residents crime-victim status so they could testify at the sentencing hearing and, perhaps, win compensation from Citgo. Rainey granted that status on Sept. 14 and postponed the hearing. In a [court filing](#) Wednesday, lawyers for the 15 residents are seeking \$80,000 from Citgo for medical screening. They also want Citgo to establish an \$11 million trust fund for treatment of cancer or other illnesses suffered by the more than 300 people who have submitted victim impact statements to the court. A court-appointed special master would decide whose expenses should be covered. And the lawyers are asking that Citgo set aside \$15 million to relocate those who want to leave the area known as Refinery Row. "[B]ecause of Citgo's crimes, many of the community victims no longer live in a thriving neighborhood, they live in fear that they will be exposed to more chemicals released into the air they breathe, and they understandably wish to move," the court document says. The Justice Department says the refinery made more than \$1 billion in profits during the 10 years it was in violation of the Clean Air Act. Residents complained of vomiting, dizziness and shortness of breath while chemicals — including benzene, a known carcinogen — were wafting from the tanks. In a written statement Thursday, Citgo said it "takes this matter very seriously. We proactively addressed these issues seven years ago, prior to the 2007 trial. Our highest priority is always the safety of our employees and members of the local community and that is reflected in everything we and our employees do." Paul Cassell, a University of Utah law professor representing the 15 residents pro bono, said the legal arguments being made on their behalf apply to "many other similarly situated persons." Rainey's ruling last month was "very significant," Cassell said in a telephone interview Thursday. "I think this is the first detailed opinion analyzing what kinds of health effects are sufficient to trigger crime-victim status," he said. Rainey declined to grant such status last year, saying the residents hadn't proved that emissions from Citgo were the "specific cause" of their ailments. Last month, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit granted a petition — filed by Cassell and another lawyer — stating that the residents were, in fact, crime victims. The appellate court told Rainey to consider new arguments raised by the petition. In a news release Thursday, the Justice Department said that "any member of the community at large who believes they may be a crime victim" should submit a victim impact statement to the court by Nov. 4. "In this instance," the department said, "community members may be considered crime victims based on the immediate negative health effects they suffered from breathing noxious fumes from Tanks 116 and 117 during the 1994-2003 time frame."

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/2012/10/04/11147/texas-pollution-victims-seek-millions-citgo>

#### INDIA, VIRUDHUNAGAR, OCTOBER 6 2012. FIREWORKS UNIT VICTIM FAILS TO RESPOND TO TREATMENT, DIES

One of the four people, who were injured in an accident at a fireworks unit in Vellore village near Sivakasi on Thursday, succumbed to injuries at the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai, on Friday. A Dharmalingaraj, A Koodalingam, M Chellammal and K Karupayi from Vellore village, who were working in Sri Ganesh Colour Matches Company sustained injuries in the accident that occurred on Thursday. Among them, except Karupayi who suffered minor injuries, the others were rushed to the GRH after being provided with first aid at the Sivakasi Government Hospital. According to police sources, the friction, which occurred while dipping matches in the chemicals caused the accident and the four workers who were involved in the process suffered burn injuries. Under these circumstances, Dharmalingaraj (65) who was admitted in GRH succumbed to burn injuries on Friday morning and his body was handed over to the relatives after postmortem. Among the injured, Dharmalingaraj had suffered 100% burn injuries and other person, Koodalingam, who suffered severe burn injuries, is still critical in GRH. This is the second incident resulting in loss of life after the recent one at Mudalipatti, which claimed 39 lives. Though there was



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another accident at a truck shed in Sivakasi town, fortunately, no one was injured in that incident. Officials ruled out any alarming situation in the fireworks hub, stating that the number of accidents in fireworks units this year was lesser than last year but the number of deaths was recorded very high this year due to Mudalipatti accident, they said. Meanwhile, the official teams in Sivakasi continued their inspections in the fireworks units in and around the town. The teams have covered 518 fireworks units after the accident and 57 of the units were temporarily suspended from functioning. The major violations the officials pointed out was overstocking of the raw materials and finished products. "As Diwali is nearing, overstocking of finished products is predominant in the units," a senior official inspecting the units, said. Sivakasi RDO, S Rangan said that the inspection is going on and the units violating safety norms are suspended. "After intense inspections from the officials, the violations have in fact reduced," he stated.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/Fireworks-unit-victim-fails-to-respond-to-treatment-dies/articleshow/16694199.cms>

### SCOTLAND, NORTH LANARKSHIRE, MOTHERWELL, OCTOBER 6 2012. BANGERS WHICH INJURED BOYS IN LANARKSHIRE 'POSE SIGNIFICANT DANGER'



*Officers urged members of the public who may have purchased the bangers to contact police.*

Police investigating two incidents in which children were injured by fireworks have said the bangers involved were counterfeit. Hundreds of fireworks were recovered from a shed in New Stevenston in North Lanarkshire on Thursday. A 12-year-old boy and another teenager, 15, suffered burns in separate incidents in Carfin and Motherwell. Officers have issued images of the bangers and warned that they pose a "significant danger". Police said up to 1,000 bangers were being stored in a shed in Blackmoore Place in New Stevenston. A 15-year-old boy was seriously hurt when a banger exploded in his hand in Motherwell on Thursday. Another boy, 12, suffered superficial burns to his hand after being scorched by the same type of firework. The fireworks involved in the two incidents were examined by Trading Standards officers, Strathclyde Police and the Forensic Explosive Laboratory. Police advised members of the public to contact their local police office rather than trying to dispose of the bangers themselves. Supt John McTear said: "Our primary role is keeping people safe, and as such we are still trying to investigate where these came from. "We are trying to find out where in Strathclyde they can be bought, and would urge anyone who may have purchased them or have them in their possession to contact police, who will dispose of these safely. "Please do not put them in your normal household bin as they could be picked up by a young child and could cause them significant injuries." The fireworks consist of a rolled up paper tube filled with gunpowder and a fuse at the top. After bangers are lit, they are usually thrown before exploding with a loud bang.

**Related Links** [Two children injured by bangers](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-19848191>

### CANADA, B.C, VANCOUVER, OCTOBER 6 2012. 1,000 FISH KILLED IN VANCOUVER CREEK CONTAMINATION

**Watch the Video** [1,000 Fish Killed in Vancouver Creek](#)



*Fish killed in B.C.*

More than 1,000 fish have been killed following a chlorine contamination incident in one of the last salmon-bearing streams in Vancouver. CBC News learned Friday that the kill occurred in late September when a residential swimming pool a south Vancouver was drained into a storm sewer, literally bleaching salmon, trout, and other marine life in a stream that flows through the Musqueam Indian Reserve. Aboriginal fisheries officer Willard Sparrow said he and a partner stumbled onto the "kill zone" after spotting a clear liquid being discharged into Musqueam Creek. "There was clear liquid coming out of here, that smelled of a heavy chlorine smell and upon our approach we saw some fish that were belly up," Sparrow said. Sparrow said a contractor doing work on the swimming pool didn't realize the storm



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sewer went directly into the creek. "What we found really bizarre is that the fish were bleached," he said. Sparrow said the incident is especially regrettable because the Musqueam and many volunteers have spent years restoring the creek. "It kind of felt like somebody burnt my church down. That's how important this system is to me. It's culturally important. It's culturally who I am," said Sparrow. Three spawning coho salmon were also killed. Sparrow is worried that if there isn't rain soon to flush out the creek out, other coho and chum salmon waiting to come upstream will meet the same fate. The Musqueam are now passing out flyers to residents to try to stop any further pollution.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2012/10/05/bc-salmon-killed-bleach.html>

#### CANADA, SK, REGINA, OCTOBER 6 2012. FIRE, FEAR AND THE FIGHT FOR HER LIFE

pamela cowan



Irene Rombaut was the most seriously injured of 52 workers hurt when a series of explosions and a fire rocked the Co-op Refinery Complex on Oct. 6, 2011. Today, for the first time, she tells her story *Emergency crews pour water on the site following last year's explosions and fire.*

On what promised to be a day of glorious autumn weather, Irene Rombaut's shift started like so many others before it. It ended with her being hit by a massive fireball, suffering severe burns and being rushed by ambulance to a Regina hospital, where she would spend 12 days in the intensive care unit fighting for her life. Rombaut was the most seriously injured of 52 people hurt when a series of four explosions and fire rocked the Co-op Refinery Complex on Oct. 6, 2011. Thirteen required immediate medical attention in hospital. The day that changed Rombaut's life began with the routine preparations of any other at the massive refinery complex on the northern edge of Regina. Tucking her shoulder-length hair into her hard hat, Rombaut pulled on blue fire-retardant coveralls, laced up safety boots, grabbed her safety glasses and protective earplugs and went to work as a Skyhigh Canada scaffolder in Middle Distillate Unifier 5,6,7 - a diesel processing area where a pipe, thinned by corrosion, failed and caused the explosions. Around 2 p.m., Rombaut was standing beside a stairwell that led to the top of the compressor building and talking with Shawn Farrell, a Skyhigh Canada foreman, when she heard a noise like steam whistling or fireworks popping. "He said to run and, of course, I had to turn around to see what was going on," Rombaut said. Turning, she saw a huge black and red fireball. Feeling her ears and neck burning, Rombaut screamed to another Skyhigh employee, "Am I on fire?" "I didn't know if I should stop, drop and roll - or do I head for the shower around the corner. She just told me to run. At the same time, my partner, Shane (Ataman-chuk), was screaming at me to run," the 51-year-old said in an interview. "I must have been in shock." She recalls stumbling and believes the blast knocked her down because her shoulder was partially dislocated. "I think I did hit the stairwell because I do have these burns on my shoulder," Rombaut said. She heard Farrell moaning, but couldn't see him. "One moment, he was in front of me; the next moment he was gone," she said. Like a nightmare, events unfolded in slow motion, she said. "After the blast to my face, I felt as though I'd run a marathon because I couldn't breathe," she said. "I couldn't run." Slowly, she walked in full protective gear about a city block to 9th Avenue North. When she got to the gate, a refinery employee was directing workers. "He told me to go out the gates until he looked at me and realized that I was burned," Rombaut said. "He told me to head to first aid." Atamanchuk and Neil Chapman, an Aecon Lockerie employee, helped her, but their progress was slow so Chapman picked her up and carried her to those providing first aid. That's when excruciating pain began, Rombaut said. "They started applying cold compresses and taking off my harness ... a young guy was helping me and I just remember the look in his eyes. He was scared, he was terrified. I felt sorry for him." Rombaut's face was burned from her nose to the bottom of her neck and from ear to ear. The blast hit the back of her neck and hairline and burns ravaged her right arm from the shoulder to the elbow and both wrists. Her left arm was scorched, but the burns weren't as deep. Her safety glasses saved her eyesight, but not her top lashes. Thick black smoke stained the afternoon sky as the ambulance transporting Rombaut left the fire scene. She was on life support during 12 excruciating days in intensive care. During her 22-day hospitalization, skin grafts were done to both wrists and her right arm. The process of taking tissue from her right thigh to her knee was more painful than the grafts. She had recurring nightmares about the



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explosions. "That was all I thought about," Rombaut said. "The nurses kept asking me if I wanted a radio and I said no because I did not want to hear what happened ... I was worried that someone was killed and I didn't want to hear it at that time." Despite being on life support in intensive care, she didn't realize she was near death. The oldest of her four children - Joshua and Justine - were at her side almost every day. But Amanda and Nicholas "weren't up to seeing me," Rombaut said. She had extensive facial swelling and the burns on her face got infected twice. When she got home, nurses regularly changed the bandages on her arms. She cared for her face. "It was painful," Rombaut said. "There were days you didn't want to get up because you had to do it." A year later, she suffers intermittent jabs of pain in her face and neck and her scorched lips, nose and mouth remain painful. "I inhaled that fireball," Rombaut said. In December, she began therapy twice a week at Was-cana Rehabilitation Centre. Over six months, one therapist worked on her right shoulder, another used laser and massage therapy to improve circulation and try to reduce scarring on her face. "They had to massage the skin so it doesn't grow together," Rombaut said. She's nearly completed an additional 12 weeks of therapy at Courtside Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation and in late September, she began working as a scaffold-er with another company in Estevan. "I have no intention of going back to the refinery or any gas plant," she said. Returning to work is physically tiring and emotionally draining, but overall the transition was easier because Rombaut knows many employees at the Este-van site. Reflecting on her last day at the Regina refinery, Rombaut brushes her fingers lightly across her reddened right cheek and said of the fire and explosions: "There have been a lot of people affected by it - they may not have been hurt physically, but mentally." She said her daughter Amanda has not been the same since the explosion. "She used to be an honour roll student and since the accident it's been a struggle," Rombaut. The teen heard about the explosion while at school. "But I never thought maybe my mom was injured or my brother or sister," Amanda said. "I was calling everyone. My mom didn't answer, my sister didn't." Neither she nor her brother Nick knew what had happened until family members filled them in later that day. "It was worse than I thought it was going to be," Amanda said. "It's very stressful and upsetting that it happened to my mom. I had a lot of trouble focusing and sleeping. I wasn't there, but I was having dreams about it. Honestly, I thought she was going to die for sure. That really scared me." Her older brother and sister - Justine and Joshua - were working at the refinery, but not near the explosion. Both were traumatized, but they returned to their jobs there. Neither stayed. "My son said he'd be physically sick before he even got to the site," Irene said. "He hasn't returned to scaffolding at all." At the muster point at the refinery, Justine heard over the radios foremen were wearing that her mother was missing. "It was quite traumatic for all of them," Rombaut said. "My youngest son doesn't like to talk about it, Amanda doesn't like to talk about it. I don't find it too hard to talk about the accident, but when I talk about the kids, that's when the tears start coming."

**Related Links** [OH&S investigation is now complete](http://www.leaderpost.com/news/Fire+feat+fight+life/7353966/story.html)

<http://www.leaderpost.com/news/Fire+feat+fight+life/7353966/story.html>

#### USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, OCTOBER 6 2012. MISSISSIPPI RIVER OIL SPILL COSTS BEING BATTLED IN COURT FOUR YEARS LATER

katherine sayre



*Part of the sunken barge is removed from the Mississippi River in 2008.*

Four years after a massive oil spill coated the [Mississippi River](#) in New Orleans in a thick, black sludge, the owner of the crashed barge continues to battle the barge operator in court over who is ultimately responsible for paying millions in clean-up costs and fines. In July 2008, a tugboat pulling an oil-laden barge near the Crescent City Connection swung into the path of the Tintomara, a 600-foot tanker. The vessels collided and the barge broke in half, spilling 282,000 gallons of No. 6 heavy oil into the water. The dark ooze blanketed the waterway and its banks, forcing the [U.S. Coast Guard](#) to shut down river traffic. Aside from the [BP oil spill](#) in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, it was the worst spill to hit the New Orleans area in recent memory. Last week, U.S. District Judge Ivan Lemelle ruled that the owner of the tugboat and barge, American Commercial Lines, is not to blame. He also released the Tintomara from liability, instead placing all fault on the barge operator, DRD Towing of Harvey. That order came down in a civil case in which the three parties were pointing fingers at each other. Thus far, ACL has paid the bulk of the clean up costs and



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damages, which could exceed \$100 million, according to court records. ACL has sought to recover some of those expenses from the government and from the other parties involved in the crash. Meanwhile, the government is pursuing its own case in federal court, seeking unspecified fines from ACL and DRD Towing under both the Clean Water Act and the Oil Pollution Act. ACL had contracted with DRD Towing to operate the tugboat. ACL has argued in that case that, because the company isn't at fault, it should be paid back for the costs of the immediate spill cleanup with funds from the Coast Guard's National Pollution Fund Center. In court records, ACL claims to have spent more than \$64.7 million in cleanup costs and nearly \$700,000 in damage claims already, with another \$40 million possible in the future. Representatives of the Department of Justice and Jeffersonville, Ind.-based ACL declined comment Friday. A lawyer representing DRD Towing couldn't be reached for comment. An investigation into the spill revealed that shortly before the crash, the captain of the Mel Oliver tugboat — an employee of DRD Towing -- had driven to Illinois to check on a rumor that his girlfriend was unfaithful, leaving an apprentice without a full master's license at the helm. That man, John Bavaret, had previously been fired twice by DRD Towing for sleeping on the job. Immediately after the crash, a crew member found him slumped over the steering gear and unresponsive, according to court records. His license didn't allow him to steer without supervision from a captain. "DRDs principal managers engaged in the practice of using unlicensed crew members aboard its vessels at the time of and prior to this collision," Judge Lemelle wrote in his Sept. 28 ruling. "DRD's principal managers also knew that its vessels were being operated by crew members in excess of 12 working hours in violation of Coast Guard safety regulations." Lemelle issued his order one year after a 9-day trial in the civil case. He wrote that ACL could have done a better job digging into the background of its contractor, but "we find credible evidence that ACL acted reasonably in that vetting process, albeit minimally here." The Liberian-flagged Tintomara was also cleared of any fault. The judge wrote that the Tintomara, which had the right-of-way on the river that day, shouldn't be held responsible because its last-minute maneuvers to avoid the crash failed. Hugh Straub, a lawyer with Phelps Dunbar who represented the Tintomara, said the ship's damages totaled \$750,000. Lemelle wrote that DRD Towing should be held liable for the collision, the oil spill and the resulting damages. Meanwhile, the government's lawsuit in the crash, also before Lemelle, follows a criminal prosecution of DRD Towing, which ended in several guilty pleas last year. DRD Towing, as a company, [was sentenced to two years probation](#) and a \$200,000 fine for violating the Ports and Waterways Safety Act and a misdemeanor violation of the Clean Water Act. The company's co-owner, Randall Dantin, was sentenced to 21 months in prison on a charge of obstruction of justice for deleting payroll information from a company computer in the midst of a Coast Guard investigation into the collision. Bavaret, the apprentice on board the tugboat, pleaded guilty to violating the Ports and Waterways Safety Act and the Clean Water Act. He was ordered to serve six months in a Volunteers of America residential re-entry program. Terry Carver, the captain who abandoned ship for Illinois, also pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years probation for violating the Waterways Safety Act.

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/10/mississippi\\_river\\_oil\\_spill\\_co.html](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/10/mississippi_river_oil_spill_co.html)

### USA, OH, CARROLLTON, OCTOBER 6 2012. SPEAKER ADDRESSES CONCERNS OF THOSE LIVING NEAR GAS, OIL DRILLING SITES

*nancy schaar*

Dr. Deborah Cowden recently presented information regarding the health risks to people who live within half a mile of any gas or oil drilling site. Cowden, a board certified family practice physician who lives in Jamestown, Ohio, addressed a group of about 50 residents Thursday evening during the Carroll Concerned Citizens meeting held at the Church of Christ. Cowden, a Dover native, also is a graduate of Wright State University. Dozens of facts, figures and explanations were provided by Cowden at the meeting. Cowden detailed the health effects people experience when exposed to high volume hydrofracturing. "This type of oil and gas drilling and the fracturing being done today isn't like the old process. The process they are using today has many chemicals put into the water used to fracture the well site," Cowden said. Cowden explained that many chemicals are added to the water used in fracturing. Major health risks are found in the dust from the truck traffic, the diesel fumes from drilling engines, as well as the fracking pumps and diesel trucks, she said. Each fracking process usually requires 1,000 trucks of water per well. The dust brought up from these wells is not benign. The most common chemical found in the dust is benzene. Cowden showed photos of a well site that looked "normal" with no clouds or exhaust of gases or chemicals. But when the same photo was taken at the same place and time with an infrared lens, a cloud of dust and chemicals could be seen around the well. During a study of four well pads in Colorado, 163 air samples were taken six days apart from 2008 to 2010. Monitors had been placed on them. Benzene was found every time in the testings, Cowden said. Other chemicals found in these testings were benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and xylene. Benzene is known to cause chronic lymphocytic leukemia,



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acute lymphocytic leukemia, and acute myeloid leukemia, according to Cowden. Other health issues resulting from exposure to such chemicals include shortness of breath, impaired lung functions, and irritations to the eyes, nose and throat. The ethylbenzene risk is bigger during the process of flow back at the well site. When the water has filled the crevice drilled, the water will begin to flow back up out of the well hole, Cowden explained. That water has to go somewhere. And Cowden said it could be open vaporization tanks, sealed tanks — or it could be transported elsewhere. Studies have shown that the gas and oil workers are well-protected and taught what to watch for as far as dangerous clouds or emissions of gasses. But the people who live near or around these well sites aren't given that knowledge. Hydrogen sulfide is a colorless gas, for example. The smell is similar to that of rotten eggs. But the stronger the concentration of hydrogen sulfide, the less it will smell. If you smell it, you know to get away from it. But when the concentration reaches higher levels, and you can't smell it, you don't know to leave the area, Cowden said. When a person is left unconscious from exposure to hydrogen sulfide, neurological damage occurs, she added. The landscape of Ohio tends to make more problems, according to Cowden, as the gasses and vapors will blow down into valleys or be driven down into them by the atmosphere. "Does this county have an evacuation plan? If a danger is discovered, would you know which way to drive to even get away from it?" questioned Cowden. These things need addressed at a county level, she said. Cowden said residents can protect themselves by: mapping and monitoring the wells in their area; knowing which way the wind blows; establishing neighborhood networks, such as phones and emails ready to get information out to the community if a high concentration of hydrogen sulfide is discovered. "Educating yourself is always your best form of defense," said Cowden, adding it's important to pay attention to trucks drawing water from a stream, river, lake, or creek, or a truck that is dumping water into these water sources — and report concerns. Cowden advises getting water tested for Tier one, two, three and for radioactivity. She also said to watch pets for hair falling out, or other sicknesses because they are affected by hydrogen sulfide, too. Carroll Concerned Citizens was formed several years ago and educates area residents about their water rights. For more information, contact Paul Feezel, chairman of the group, at 330-627-7163 or email [paulfeeze@carrollconcernedcitizens.org](mailto:paulfeeze@carrollconcernedcitizens.org).

<http://www.timesreporter.com/newsnow/x1784018680/Speaker-addresses-concerns-of-those-living-near-gas-oil-drilling-sites>

#### USA, MT, BOZEMAN, OCTOBER 6 2012. EXXON HIT WITH NEW LAWSUIT OVER YELLOWSTONE SPILL

*matthew brown*

More than a dozen eastern Montana landowners filed a lawsuit Friday against Exxon Mobil Corp. claiming the company ignored warnings before a pipeline break that spilled an estimated 1,500 barrels of crude oil into the Yellowstone River. The lawsuit from property owners along the scenic waterway claims last year's spill could have been avoided if Exxon followed the lead of other companies and shut down its pipeline during severe flooding in July 2011. The 14 plaintiffs claim they suffered harm to their property and livestock operations, damage to wildlife, and health problems from exposure to oil. They are asking for unspecified compensation for their losses and punitive damages against Exxon to serve as a deterrent against future spills. "They should have known long before this happened that this river floods every spring and produces massive erosive forces," said plaintiff's attorney Jory Ruggiero, from the Western Justice Associated law firm in Bozeman. Exxon Mobil spokesman Patrick Henretty said the company had not received the lawsuit. The case was filed in state District Court in Gallatin County and assigned to Judge Holly Brown. The suit names as co-defendants Exxon Mobil Pipeline Co., pipeline superintendent Jason Montgomery and pipeline builder Barnard Construction Co. of Bozeman. A representative of Barnard said the company has no comment. A second lawsuit against Exxon from another group of property owners is pending in state District Court in Yellowstone County. Barnard Construction was not named as a defendant in that suit, which is set to go to trial in October 2013 before Judge Gregory Todd. Exxon has been ordered to turn over documents related to the accident to attorneys in the Yellowstone County lawsuit by Oct. 22. The spill came after officials in the town of Laurel — where the break occurred — repeatedly warned that the pipeline was at risk. It was one of several major accidents in recent years that underscored lax government oversight of the nation's sprawling pipeline system. An estimated 70 miles of the Yellowstone's riverbank were contaminated. Exxon Mobil spent an estimated \$135 million on cleanup work and upgrades to the pipeline where it crosses the Yellowstone and other major waterways along its route from Wyoming to a company refinery in Billings. The Exxon spill caused more property damage than all other accidents in Montana over the last decade combined. The line was buried only a few feet beneath the riverbed when it was installed in 1991. Investigators suspect that scouring caused by flooding on the Yellowstone River was responsible for the spill, but a final cause has not been determined. During repair work after the spill, the pipeline was re-installed dozens of feet beneath the riverbed.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-10-05/exxon-hit-with-new-lawsuit-over-yellowstone-spill>



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#### USA, N.Y, BROOKLYN, OCTOBER 6 2012. THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF FIREFIGHTERS WERE TOLD ABOUT THE TOXINS, FDNY OFFICIALS SAY

colin mixson



*A clean up crew works to clean up the spill — a spill some say the FDNY helped cause.*

Environmentalists claim that the "hard booms" cleanup crews have installed are not stopping the oil spill from spreading. The FDNY flushed a hazardous muck-like mixture of oil and gasoline [into Paerdegat Basin](#) last week, say state officials cleaning up the spill — a spill that's teeming with cancer-causing carcinogens, investigators claim. Both the state Department of Environmental Conservation and National Grid claim that the FDNY inadvertently sent the toxins — which included massive amounts of polychlorinated biphenyl, a cancer-causing pollutant — into the basin when firefighters turned on a fire hydrant to dissipate a natural gas odor reported on Paerdegat Avenue North. The water from the hydrant carried chemicals released from an unused gas

main, the actual cause of the natural gas odor, to a nearby storm drain that empties out into the Bergen Beach waterway, investigators determined. "Through this flushing, some of this liquid entered Paerdegat Basin," a National Grid spokesman said in a statement. FDNY officials say firefighters answering multiple calls about a strong gas odor in Canarsie and Bergen Beach weren't told that somewhere between 800 and 1,400 gallons of the toxic crud had gushed out onto Paerdegat Avenue North as contractors poured cement into the unused pipe. The contractors at the scene even recommended that firefighters open up nearby fire hydrants, fire officials claim. "The bottom line is the contractors screwed this up," the FDNY spokesman said. "If the firefighters at the scene had the correct information, they possibly would have taken correct measures to dike the storm drain, so that if there was any type of release it wouldn't have gone into the basin." Yet environmentalists say the FDNY made matters a lot worse. "You can close off a street, but you can't close off a waterway," said New York Parks Advocate spokesman Geoffrey Croft, claiming that the clean-up crews putting in floating barricades known as hard booms in the basin to prevent the spread of the oil spill are botching the job. "I was out there with some fisherman and we saw the oil go right over the booms. By Friday, it was all throughout the bay." Samples taken from inside the unused National Grid pipe found hazardous levels of polychlorinated biphenyl, inciting fears that fish in the basin have been contaminated. Officials say the cleanup effort — which includes removing the oil and scrubbing down 130 contaminated boats — should be finished by this weekend, but an investigation conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard has just gotten underway, according to Coast Guard spokeswoman Petty Officer Second Class Jetta Disco. If the investigation determines that National Grid is at fault, the utility will have to pay for the cleanup, Disco said. Residents are advised to avoid swimming in the basin until the cleanup is officially completed — but some civic leaders are questioning the assurances they've been given. "You never take the word of the person who did it for how bad [it is]," Councilman Lew Fidler (D-Marine Park) [told the Daily News](#). "I know it's not on the level of the Exxon-Mobil spill, but if it's in your neighborhood it sure feels like it."

[http://www.brooklyndaily.com/stories/2012/41/all\\_paerdegatblamegame\\_2012\\_10\\_12\\_bk.html](http://www.brooklyndaily.com/stories/2012/41/all_paerdegatblamegame_2012_10_12_bk.html)

#### USA, N.M, SANTA FE, OCTOBER 7 2012. CERRILLOS ROAD BLOCKED DUE TO GASOLINE TANKER ACCIDENT

chris quintana

 [Watch the Video Evacuations from Santa Fe Gas Crash End](#)



Rush-hour traffic was temporarily blocked in both directions on Cerrillos Road between St Michaels Drive and Camino Carlos Rey while emergency responders clean up an accident involving a tanker truck carrying gasoline. At 6:20 p.m. police reopened Cerrillos Road. In addition to the road closure, businesses from Camino Carlos Rey to St. Michaels Drive were temporarily evacuated to protect people from any potential fires or explosions from the gasoline. Capt. Aric Wheeler said at the scene. The accident occurred when a female driver in a white Honda Accord reared-end the fuel tanker, breaking the truck's rear axle. Both vehicles were on southbound on Cerrillos Road when the



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crash occurred at the Camino Carlos Rey light. The Accord was removed from the scene right away. But it took a city crew until about 6 p.m. to offload the 4,500 gallons of fuel in the tanker to another truck before the damaged tanker could be towed away. No one was seriously injured, though the female driver was taken to Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center. Wheeler said investigators don't know what caused the accident but they don't believe alcohol was a factor. No citations were issued as of Friday afternoon. As of 6 p.m. the tanker had been emptied and police allowed people back into the area. Wheeler said police wouldn't lift the road closures until they cleared the tanker.

<http://www.santafenewmexican.com/Local%20News/100612CerrillosClosureBrief#.UHCIZE1OQrU>

### **SOUTH KOREA, GUMI, OCTOBER 7 2012. PUBLIC ANGER RISES OVER GUMI ACID LEAK DAMAGE: HYDROFLUORIC ACID GAS LEAK HORROR, 5 DEAD 28 INJURED**

 **Watch the Video's [2]** [South Korea Chemical Factory Explosion Kills 5, Injures 28](#)

 **Photo's [12]** [Chemical Factory Explosion Kills 5, Injures 28](#)



An acid leak at a chemicals factory that exploded last week in Gumi, North Gyeongsang Province, is seriously affecting residents, crops and livestock in the neighborhood. The explosion claimed five lives with 18 wounded. About 400 were treated for headaches and breathing difficulties, according to the Gumi government and the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement. Gumi has set up a task force to counter the rapid spread of the leak that has affected some 100 households, and their crops and livestock some 150 meters surrounding the industrial complex. The city office has asked the central government to designate its region a disaster zone so that it can secure finances to take immediate measures. The government has not yet responded to this situation that erupted a week ago. The incident had already put Gumi under growing criticism for belatedly dealing with the matter and calling off an evacuation, saying that the leak is "not life-threatening." However, hydrochloric acid is extremely harmful to

human and agriculture assets, and even minor exposure will cause negative side effects on the respiratory system and skin, said Koh Do-hyun, a researcher at Citizen Institute for Environment Studies of KFEM, who went to Gumi and is on constant watch over the matter. KFEM has requested that Gumi and Hube Global, the acid manufacturer for displays, disclose how this happened and the safety system within the complex that is managed by the city, the government and the state-run Korea Water Resources Corp. The Citizen Institute said that the complex needs to be thoroughly examined as it may lack an adequate safety system, adding that its location is highly unsuitable given that it is in very close proximity to residences and crops. Officials have not yet disclosed the cause of the leak. Hube Global declined comment. On Sept. 27, the leak occurred from a factory owned by Hube Global. Officials claim there was no explosion. They said, the acid leak was first contained with water by firemen, which caused a chemical reaction and created smoke that made it look like an explosion. There is a claim that a process machine malfunction may have led to the acid spill or leak. Hube Global has not yet made any official comment on the incident. Media reports said that the company has settled with Gumi to compensate the families of the five who died in the accident. It may be difficult for Hube Global to pay for all damages caused by the leak given that it is a small- and medium-size company with very limited financial resources. Hube Global, 66 percent owned by founder and CEO Heo Ik-sang, had a net income of some 842 million won in 2011. It had liquid asset of 22 billion won, according to a regulatory filing.

#### **Related Links**

- [Chemical Plant Explosion Kills 4, Injures 8](#)
- [South Korea Chemical Factory Explosion Kills 5, Injures 28](#)
- [South Korea Chemical Factory Explosion Kills 4, Injures 8](#)

<http://view.koreaherald.com/kh/view.php?ud=20121004000849&cpv=0>

### **GREECE, ATHENS, OCTOBER 7 2012. GREECE TOUR BOAT EXPLOSION KILLS CAPTAIN, INJURES 6 OTHERS >> MOCK CANNON EXPLODES ON GREEK TOUR BOAT BUILT TO RESEMBLE A PIRATE SHIP.**

A tour boat captain died and as many as six others were injured when a replica cannon exploded on a Greek tour boat today near the Aegean island of Kos, Reuters reported. The boat was built to look like a pirate ship and the cannon held the same



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gunpowder used in fireworks. The injured are two from the Netherlands, one from Belgium and two children from Germany, a coast guard official told Reuters. "Their injuries are not life-threatening," the official said. A relative of the captain steered the 45-foot boat with 26 passengers aboard into port. The injured children are age 7 and 9, The Associated Press reported. The AP said six tourists, who included Greeks, aboard the ship were hurt. The tour boat landed at the island port of Mandraki, the Merchant Marine Ministry told the AP.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/europe/121006/greece-tour-boat-explosion-kills-captain-injures-6-others>

#### UPDATE: SOUTH KOREA, GUMI, OCTOBER 7 2012. DOZENS OF VILLAGERS EVACUATE GAS LEAK-CONTAMINATED VILLAGE TO TEMPORARY SHELTER

##### Key Points:

- Five workers killed
- about eight tons of hydrofluoric acid leaks
- 1,594 people have been treated for nausea, rashes and other symptoms
- 90 hectares of farmlands of Crops and fruit have withered
- 1,300 livestock animals are showing symptoms similar to a human cold.
- 73 companies reported property damage totalling 9.4 billion won (US\$8.5 million)
- Firefighters fail to use calcium hydroxide, the neutralizing agent for hydrofluoride
- local authorities were slow to evacuate workers at the factory and residents in nearby regions
- The region could be designated a special disaster zone



##### *South Korean health officials wearing sanitation.*

Dozens of villagers evacuated to a temporary shelter Saturday as officials tried to assess the extent of damage from a poisonous gas leak that devastated a large farmland. About 70 elderly residents left their village, Bongsan-ri, in the southeastern city of Gumi to a public facility considered safer from the aftermath of the Sept. 27 leak of about eight tons of hydrofluoric acid. The chemical is an acute poison which can damage lungs and bones and affect the nervous system. The village is home to about 300 people, and the disaster management office in Gumi said the rest will be evacuated in stages. The evacuation came after villagers demanded their relocation in a meeting earlier in the day. "We decided to relocate by ourselves as the government is doing nothing for us," village leader Park Myung-seok said, demanding the Gumi city

government and the Bongsan-ri office provide them with shelters. Residents in nearby Imcheon-ri village are also demanding evacuation, officials said. Five workers were killed in the accident at the compound of chemical maker Hube Global at the Gumi National Industrial Complex in the industrial city, about 200 kilometers southeast of Seoul. The secondary damage has been extensive and fast spreading. A total of 1,594 people have been treated for nausea, rashes and other symptoms. Crops and fruit on more than 90 hectares of farmlands and orchards have withered, and some 1,300 livestock animals have been drooling heavily or showing symptoms similar to a human cold. On Saturday, the disaster management office in Gumi said 73 companies have reported they have suffered property damage worth a combined total of about 9.4 billion won (US\$8.5 million) from the accident. The region could be designated as a special disaster zone, which allows for financial assistance from the central government to cover rehabilitation costs, as well as tax cuts and other benefits for residents, officials said. The government has been under fire for responding poorly to the accident. Firefighters failed to use calcium hydroxide, the neutralizing agent for hydrofluoride, in the first place and the local authorities were slow to evacuate workers at the factory and residents in nearby regions. The government has pledged comprehensive measures to support victims and prevent further damage. On Friday, a team of 26 investigators and concerned officials led by the Prime Minister's Office launched an investigation to assess the extent of the damage.

##### Related Links

- [Villagers escape toxic leak in South Korea](#)  
About 70 elderly residents left their village of Bongsan in Gumi by two buses to neighbouring Baekhyeon six kilometres away, to avoid the fallout from the September 27 leak of about eight tons of hydrofluoric acid.



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- [South Korean villagers demand evacuation amid fallout from toxic gas leak](#)

A woman, who asked not to be identified, sobs during an interview with AFP as she explains the painful ailments she got working at South Korean group Samsung's factory in Campinas, Brazil on November 8, 2011. Campinas' labour control department...

- [Villagers evacuated after deadly acid leak](#)

More than 70 elderly residents were evacuated Saturday from a South Korean village in the aftermath of a poison leak that killed five people and sickened 1,600. A Sept. 27 accident at the compound of chemical maker Hube Global.

<http://view.koreaherald.com/kh/view.php?ud=20121006000069&cpv=0>

### USA, CO, DENVER, OCTOBER 7 2012. SUNCOR INSTALLS CLEANUP SYSTEM AT RIVER, WANTS SEWAGE PLANT TO HELP

bruce finley



*A view from the confluence of Sand Creek and the South Platte River shows the Sand Creek aeration system that Suncor Refinery, pictured in the back, is using to expel benzene from the water. Air bubbles can be seen surfacing halfway upstream in Sand Creek.*

Mobile equipment is being installed on the South Platte River to clean benzene from groundwater spreading from under Suncor Energy's oil refinery to metro Denver's adjacent sewage-treatment plant. Suncor had proposed that Metro Wastewater help handle the cleanup. Metro declined. "Petroleum-contaminated groundwater is not what the wastewater-treatment facility is designed for," Metro Wastewater Reclamation District operations director Steven Rogowski said. "It isn't our ratepayers' responsibility to treat Suncor's water." The plumes moving from Suncor contain concentrated, undissolved petroleum, Rogowski said, and

threaten to disrupt a \$211 million project Metro must complete by 2015 to comply with tightening federal regulations for treatment of sewage. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regulators have set a May deadline for cleanup of all contaminated groundwater flowing from Suncor's 300-acre refinery property. Suncor officials on Friday said they may not be able to comply. The machinery set up by Suncor contractors, at a cost of \$1 million, sits on Metro property along the river. Later this month, it will be ready to remove benzene and other toxic material as soon as it is detected in monitoring wells near Metro's construction site. A permit issued by state regulators lets Suncor discharge 3,000 gallons per minute of treated groundwater pumped from Metro Wastewater property into either Sand Creek or the South Platte. (A separate permit governs Suncor's discharges from refinery property.) These actions reflect broadening and increasingly costly efforts to contain toxic plumes spreading in new directions from the refinery — one of the region's longest-running sites of industrial pollution. Last fall, after black goo was found oozing directly into Sand Creek, Suncor stepped up work to keep pollution from spreading from the property, focusing at first on plumes spreading north toward Sand Creek and the South Platte. The primary source of the contamination, according to Suncor officials, was a broken pipe under a storage tank that was repaired in February 2011. CDPHE environmental- cleanup specialist Rob Beierle last week pointed also to later problems under two other tanks that were fixed. Yet toxic plumes still are spreading, and deadlines loom.

#### Federal Health Standard

By May, Suncor must prove that groundwater migrating off Suncor's property meets a state standard requiring the concentration of cancer-causing benzene to be below 5 parts per billion. That's the federal health standard for drinking water. "The deadline to meet drinking-water standards next year is a very aggressive and challenging goal, and it is not certain that it can be achieved in this timeframe," Suncor spokeswoman Lisha Burnett said Friday in an e-mailed response to queries. Suncor already has installed underground clay walls at the northern and western edges of its property — designed to hold back the thickest undissolved petroleum. "Monitoring does not suggest that undissolved contaminants are escaping any longer," CDPHE spokesman Mark Salley said. However, Beierle said some concentrated material that escaped before an underground wall was installed is still present. Metro Wastewater officials said concentrated petroleum is approaching its construction site along with benzene dissolved in groundwater. The latest data show benzene also is still entering Sand Creek and the South Platte — with the concentration at 145 ppb this month in the river just below the confluence. That's less than the



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benzene levels averaging above 200 ppb earlier in the year but still is 29 times higher than the 5 ppb federal health standard. Three monitoring wells in Sand Creek, near where the seepage was detected last fall, showed elevated benzene levels of 55 ppb, 212 ppb and 510 ppb. Suncor's releases of contaminated groundwater into Sand Creek without a permit and discharges exceeding water-quality standards constitute a violation, according to an e-mailed response attributed to state health department water-quality-control division director Steve Gunderson. But the state standard in Suncor's permit for benzene discharges into Sand Creek from its refinery property allowed concentrations up to 5,300 ppb, Salley said. "Suncor has not violated the 5,300 micrograms per liter (ppb) benzene limit assigned in its refinery permit," Salley said. However, a tougher standard set Sept. 27 takes effect Nov. 1, limiting benzene discharges into Sand Creek to a 30-day average of 5 ppb. CDPHE's "enforcement options, including potential fines, remain open," Gunderson said.

#### Conflict Surfacing

The spread of toxic plumes beyond the refinery is causing conflict. Suncor last summer proposed plans to pretreat contaminated groundwater and then discharge it into Metro Wastewater's treatment systems. "It is unreasonable to expect Suncor to begin immediately building a facility to deal with Metro's potentially impacted water until the state, Suncor and Metro have come to a joint resolution," Suncor vice president John Gallagher said in a letter to state regulators. On June 12, Metro Wastewater directors voted unanimously against accepting such a discharge. A Metro document says CDPHE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials told Metro that doing so would make Metro partly liable for the problem and says Metro's member agencies "and ratepayers would be subsidizing the cost of the cleanup." The CDPHE backed Metro. "The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District is an innocent third party that is not responsible for Suncor's releases," hazardous-waste division spokesman Warren Smith said. Suncor's installation of the groundwater-cleaning machinery may resolve the dispute. "We're confident that this facility will effectively manage any hydrocarbons, should they appear," spokeswoman Burnett said. "As we stated from the beginning, we are committed to making this situation right." Metro officials say their equipment still will have to be used to pump toxic groundwater to Suncor's machinery. Metro's priority has been completing its \$211 million aeration project to remove ammonia and nitrates from sewage so that treated wastewater can be discharged legally into the South Platte under stiffer federal clean-water rules. The plant treats 130 million gallons a day of wastewater from 1.7 million ratepayers around the Denver area.

[http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci\\_21716871/suncor-installs-cleanup-system-at-river-wants-sewage](http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci_21716871/suncor-installs-cleanup-system-at-river-wants-sewage)

#### NIGERIA, LAGOS, OCTOBER 7 2012. HOW OIL THIEVES FEED FAT ON NATION'S CRUDE •WHY OIL THEFT, ILLEGAL REFINING ARE UNSTOPPABLE

Despite concerted efforts of the Federal Government, through the military operations of the Joint Task Force (JTF), otherwise known as "Operation Pulo Shield," in the heart of the Niger Delta, influential multi-billionaires, who, for decades, have been funding illegal oil bunkering and local refineries are scaling up their cartel to steal the nation's crude and refined oil in the creeks of the South-South Sunday Tribune exclusive investigation indicated that most of the suspects arrested by the JTF in the ongoing battle to checkmate siphoning of oil along the coast line and in some oil producing communities located in Bayelsa, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Edo states are foot soldiers of powerful barons who actually play behind-the-scene role to sustain illegal bunkering trade in the Niger Delta. However, majority of the suspects often find their way out of police cells after they must have been handed over by the JTF for prosecution, a development that makes it easier for them to return to the creeks to further perpetrate stealing of oil through ruptured pipelines and abandoned well heads.

#### Sponsors should be Govt Target

Credible sources in some communities, villages and cluster towns where most of the illegal refineries and oil installations are situated informed our correspondent that unless the government goes after the businessmen lubricating the rings of oil thieves in the region, the success recorded by the JTF in its harvest of criminals and locals, employed by the cartel would continue to pale into insignificance. Highly placed security source informed Sunday Tribune that "most of these recalcitrant business moguls who are politicians, former workers of multinational oil companies, retired and serving military officers and some former militant leaders with knowledge of the terrain in the creeks invest funds and also provide logistics, including arms used by their boys to engage the JTF operatives in the creeks." Some of the oil vessels used in stealing oil products on the high seas owned or hired by these individuals often secure loading permits from appropriate quarters to load crude from Brass loading terminal in Bayelsa State under pseudo names to shield their identities from the prying eyes of security agencies. It was also learnt that after obtaining loading permits, their vessels would veer into the creeks, where their accomplices are waiting to pump locally refined AGO into the ocean liners before being sold to pirates roaming the waterways at black market rates. The proceeds of



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their illicit trade, Sunday Tribune investigation revealed, are invested in the choice properties in highbrow cities such as Abuja, Warri, Port Harcourt, Lagos, while some of these illegal bunkerers also delve into hospitality business, just as few others plough back their proceeds to strengthen their operational bases in the creeks.

### 'JTF Remains Undaunted'

But the media coordinator of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in the Niger Delta, Lieutenant Colonel Nwachukwu Onyema, said the special security force would not be deterred by the unrepentant attitude of illegal oil bunkerers and thieves, contending that new strategies were being evolved to deal with economic saboteurs in the Niger Delta. In a statement made available to Sunday Tribune, he asserted that "we usually conduct aerial and ground patrols of pipeline networks to deter vandals from sabotaging the pipelines. This has enabled regular pumping of products by the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Port Harcourt Refinery to Aba Depot." According to Onyema, "no fewer than 3,778 illegal refineries had been destroyed by the JTF in the second quarter of 2012, while 1,653 persons have been arrested in the creeks for involvement in oil theft." He added that eight oil vessels, namely; MT Oxo, MT Tamuno Ibi, Princess Nnena, MT Vanessa, MT Zia, MV Premier and MV Som Trans, used by suspected bunkerers were impounded during the period under review. "We have also destroyed 120 barges, 878 Cotonou boats, 878 oil tankers, 178 fuel dumps, 5,238 surface tanks, 606 pumping machines, 626 outboard engines, among other facilities used to siphon crude and refined oil products. "Similarly, cordon and search operations are conducted occasionally, based on credible intelligence to recover arms and ammunition. Worthy of note are the large quantities of assorted ammunitions which were recovered in a shrine at Ojoma Creek, behind Dutch Island, Okrika on 23 February. "Besides, a raid at Safarogo village in Ovia South-West Local Government Area of Edo State on 26 May led to the arrest of a suspect and the seizure of three AK 47 rifles and other assorted weapons. Also recovered are 1,600 rounds of ammunition," Onyema continued.

### Why Perpetrators seem Unstoppable

Meanwhile, more facts have emerged on the inability of the Federal Government to stop oil theft in the Niger Delta as industry sources cited high-level corruption and harsh inter-agency rivalry as the main reasons. Sunday Tribune interactions with top level industry stakeholders during the week revealed that forces behind oil theft and illegal refining business are allegedly closely tied to political and security establishments and that this makes their stoppage a serious problem. An official in one of the multi-national companies told Sunday Tribune that the illegal business has many facets which do not start or end with "the boys in the creeks and waterways who are just victims of the situation." Another official narrated that the illegal business is divided into about three or four parts, each coordinated and managed, adding that "some do the refining, some the transporting, some the barge construction and others on the high seas. "Now, tell me how anybody can claim that miscreants are involved. It is a very highly sophisticated deal involving many influential figures. Evidence of this is available. The boys in the creeks are regularly updated about plans and moves of the task forces." Speaking further, the official narrated that moles operate everywhere, saying "if a raid is to be conducted on an identified illegal refinery or theft point, those boys, within minutes, are in the know. Who briefs them?" Other stakeholders who talked to Sunday Tribune questioned alleged inability of the military task force to take out the illegal refining sites at a go, citing what they alleged might be complicity within the security circles. Said an official, "tell me, how can the Nigerian military claim helplessness in rounding up this illegal operators? If the military cannot police the creeks as they claim, how are they fighting those peacekeeping wars?" We suspect foul play. That is just my point. But we also know that the matter goes beyond the task forces. You know they are also under command." Checks within a particular multinational company, however, raised another level of complications facing the nation in its efforts to combat the illegal trade. This was said to be linked with community security groups normally employed by the operators to police their pipelines. Findings showed that some of these community groups are, at times, double agents, helping out the pipeline hackers in the night, while purportedly assigned the task of protecting the pipelines from oil thieves. "We face that challenge sometimes. We resort to employing layers of community guards. At times, rival groups within the same community sabotage the pipelines and aid the oil thieves to discredit the other faction," our source said.

### Clash of Agencies also a Factor

Further investigations showed that aside the alleged official complicity in the theft and illegal refineries, the agencies involved in the oil industry also operate parallel operations and policies with blame game as a result. For example, the Director-General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Mr. Patrick Akpobolokemi, recently declared that the intervention of Global West Vessel Specialist Limited in securing the nation's maritime domain had reduced crude oil theft by as much as 70 per cent. The NIMASA boss said the engagement of Global West Vessel, owned by a former militant chief in the Niger Delta, was a game changer in government's efforts to stop oil theft, declaring that the company, contrary to earlier



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fears, had made positive impact in securing the nation's borders against oil thieves and their international gangs. Akpobolokemi, however, affirmed that plan to stop illegal oil bunkering could only be achieved if the NNPC can account for every drop of crude that leaves the country.

<http://tribune.com.ng/sun/front-page-articles/8753-how-oil-thieves-feed-fat-on-nations-crude-why-oil-theft-illegal-refining-are-unstoppable>

#### IRELAND, CO CLARE, KILKEE, OCTOBER 7 2012. DAD'S HORROR: FIREWORK BLEW MY LAD'S HAND IN TWO



*Bloodied and scarred ... Patrick's injured hand.*

A Distraught dad has warned about the dangers of fireworks after seeing the horrific injuries caused by a freak blast. James Lucey from Kilkee, Co Clare, told how he thought he was looking at "raw meat" when his son's hand was blown apart last weekend. Patrick, 14, had two bangers in his fingers moments before one exploded — burning flesh and ripping through bone. Dad James, 45, explained: "He lit one banger for his friend and then a spark came over and lit his. It was in his hand when it went off. "I was called to the doctors and he was lying on the chair with blood pouring out of his hand. "When the air ambulance came to bring him to Galway they took a couple of bandages off. "I saw how bad the index finger was — it was just like a bit of raw meat. The skin was red raw. It had been blown completely off." Patrick's injuries were so severe that, once in hospital, surgeons quickly realised there was no way to save the fingertip. His dad said: "They had to cut the top of the bone off. He could've lost a couple of fingers. He also had terrible burns." "He didn't feel any pain for the first ten minutes after the blast because his hand was numb. "Then the pain kicked in and it was really bad." While the teen is now recovering at home with sister Lauren, James wants other parents to be vigilant as Halloween season approaches. He added: "I wasn't aware at all that Patrick had the fireworks. "A nurse said we were lucky — there was a boy in a few weeks ago who lost a couple of fingers." Last night the Irish Fire and Emergency Services Association

warned of the dangers of illegal or homemade fireworks. A spokesman said: "Halloween fireworks cause burns, lacerations, amputations and blindness."

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/irishsun/irishsunnews/4576090/Dads-horror-Firework-blew-my-lads-hand-in-two.html>

#### NEW ZEALAND, CANTERBURY, OCTOBER 7 2012. SPILL STOPPED, DIESEL REMOVED FROM HARBOUR >>SPILL STOPPED, DIESEL REMOVED FROM HARBOUR

*alastair bull*



*The 60m Ocean Breeze leaked fuel from its tank under the waterline overnight*

Fuel has stopped leaking from a fishing trawler tied up at Lyttelton Harbour after spilling up to 150 litres of diesel which has now mostly been removed. Fuel began leaking about 7:30am from the Ocean Breeze, a 60m fishing vessel which caught fire at the port in August. Clean-up teams contracted to the ship and from Environment Canterbury spent much of the day trying to extract the diesel and there wasn't much left by mid-afternoon, Environment Canterbury regional on-scene commander Jim Dillely said. He said they were helped in their clean-up because the fuel was diesel, which tends to evaporate, something aided by a warm day. "It's still oil, it's still nasty stuff, but it's easier to deal with. It doesn't stick to everything like a black oil does," he said. Floating barriers called booms — some absorbent, some not — were put in the water to clean up

the fuel, and the diesel was drained from the ship's tank to stop further leaking. Mr Dillely said between 100 and 150 litres of diesel was spilled, most of which was cleaned up by 2pm. "There's still a little bit of it about, and we'll continue to monitor it to



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make sure it disperses and doesn't cause any issue." He said there was little birdlife in the area bar seagulls, which were unlikely to be affected. "Seagulls are pretty canny devils. They know when there's something wrong."

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Oil-spill-in-Lyttelton-prompts-cleanup/tabid/423/articleID/271765/Default.aspx>

#### INDIA, GUJARAT, ALANG, OCTOBER 7 2012. 5 LABOURERS KILLED AFTER BLAST IN OIL TANKER

Ahmedabad: Five labourers were on Saturday killed and two others seriously injured after a blast in an oil tanker at Alang ship-breaking yard in Bhavnagar, police said. "Labourers were working on the tanker when the blast took place. Soon, the tanker caught fire that killed five labourers and their bodies were charred. Two persons, who were seriously injured in the incident, were admitted to a local hospital," Bhavnagar SP Mahendrasinh Pawar said. The cause of the blast was yet to be established and officials of the Forensic Science Laboratory had started their investigations, he said. To a question regarding fire-safety measures on the tanker that was being broken down, Pawar said, "As of now, we have no idea whether the labourers had a safety kit with them or not. "We also do not know about the fire-safety measures inside the oil tanker. But, if any criminal negligence is found on the part of the owner who had purchased the tanker, we will take necessary action," Pawar said. The tanker was of Portuguese make and brought here by a local company. The deceased have been identified as Hiralal Chaudhary (28), Ajay Chaudhary (22), Ram Prasad (35), Sanjay Yadav (28) and Subhash Yadav (28), all hailing from Uttar Pradesh, while the injured are Ram Chandra (25) and Dharmendra (37). Alang, which is the largest ship breaking yard in the world, has often generated controversy about poor working conditions and the impact of ship-breaking on the environment.

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/gujarat/five-labourers-killed-after-blast-in-oil-tanker\\_804155.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/gujarat/five-labourers-killed-after-blast-in-oil-tanker_804155.html)

#### BANGKOK, PHUKET, OCTOBER 8 2012. LPG SHIP CATCHES FIRE OFF PHUKET



*Smoke pours from the aft of the tanker Kanticha.*

A fire broke out on a vessel carrying LPG tanks moored in Taphao Yai Bay about 2 kilometres from the Phuket deep-sea port off Muang district on Sunday morning. It was later put out by firefighting launches. The damage was estimated at 20 million baht. A marine launch under the command of Pol Lt-Col Panya Chaichana on patrol duty in Taphao Yai Bay at about 8.30am spotted the ship with a crewman on board waving for help. He was later identified as Panurat Rakchon, 34, of Samut Prakan province. Mr Panurat was immediately rescued from the vessel. He said the fire broke out in the radio room on the second deck of the ship which carries two LPG tanks, each capable of holding 10 million litres of the gas, about 5,000 litres of bulk oil and 200 litres of diesel oil. Firefighting launches from Tambon Wichit Municipality and the Phuket deep-sea port were rushed to the scene and were able to put out the fire in about two hours. Mr Panurat said the 600-million-baht vessel had been moored in the bay for about two months to sell the LPG. When the fire broke out, there was no LPG left in the two tanks and Mr Panurat was the only person still on the ship after three other crewmen had gone ashore in the morning.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/315876/fire-rages-lpg-boat-off-phuket>

#### USA, PA, SUSQUEHANNA TWP, OCTOBER 7 2012. MAN LOSES HANDS IN ACCIDENT WITH MORTARS



**Map:** [Susquehanna, PA](#)

Susquehanna Township Police report that a man lost his hands in an unusual accident early Saturday morning. The man was allegedly playing with mortars in a home on the 3900 block of N. 6th Street when there was an explosion. He was taken to Hershey Medical Center for treatment. The Pennsylvania State Police Hazardous Device and Explosives unit, Dauphin County Hazmat and the Fire Rescue Department assisted at the scene. Susquehanna Township Police say they removed fire works and other explosive materials from the home. Police also say they think this is an isolated accident and don't suspect any foul play.

**Related Links** [Man Playing with Mortars Blows Off Hands in Susquehanna Township](#)

<http://www.whptv.com/news/local/story/Man-loses-hands-in-accident-with-mortars/5hO2UTLzy0SglQsLRIE-Eg.csp>



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