



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 892 Newsy Stuff

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

**October 24 2012**



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#### CHINA, HUNAN PROVINCE, HUAIHUA, OCTOBER 7 2012. GAS TANKER EXPLODES IN CHINA

anne sewell

Watch the Video [Gas Tanker Explodes in Huaihua](#)

Maps: [Huaihua, Hunan](#)



Caught on CCTV, a gas tanker exploded in central China on Saturday, killing three firemen and sending out a wave of white smoke. The accident happened on the Changde-Jishou Expressway in Huaihua City, in Yunling county, in the Hunan Province of China. Chinese state television reports that a gas tanker exploded after firemen arrived on the scene to deal with the overturned vehicle. In the video footage, the tanker can be seen lying on the side of the road, next to the entrance to the tunnel. Several fire engines are parked nearby. A sudden explosion occurs, sending out a huge cloud of white smoke down the highway. The explosion caused the death of the three firemen.

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/334388>

#### USA, LA, ASSUMPTION PARISH, OCTOBER 7 2012. SINKHOLE EXPLOSIVE METHANE OFFICIALLY LIFE THREATENING, RESIDENTS NOT TOLD

deborah dupre

Watch the Video [Flyover of 10/02/12 shows road dissolving into giant Louisiana sinkhole](#)



Officials advised the Assumption Parish President on Thursday that Bayou Corne sinkhole area has high levels of [methane in nearby water wells](#), posing risks to health, fire and explosion and that residents need to heed the mandatory evacuation order. That day, parish officials postponed Saturday's resident briefing with no explanation. "Of the chemicals reviewed, only methane, detected in the industrial water wells, presents a potential health risk (Type 2 of fire/explosion)," Dr. Raoult Ratard, State Epidemiologist of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Office (DHH) of Public Health stated in an environmental data report of the Bayou Corne oil and gas sinkhole event sent to

Assumption Parish President Martin S. Triche Thursday. That morning, at 9:00 a.m., parish officials stated in a blog post developed to keep residents informed about the sinkhole incident, "NOTE\* The resident briefing scheduled for Saturday morning has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at the Command Post at 6:00 p.m.

##### Methane, the Mysterious 'Powerful Underground Force' Reported by Officials?

Speculations are increasing that methane is the [mysterious "powerful underground force"](#) wreaking havoc in south Louisiana, including the sinkhole disaster area. Methane gas leaks are spreading throughout the south Louisiana area. Within four months, as of this week, methane bubbling sites have increased to twenty-eight, including in Pierre Part, outside the mandatory evacuation area but within hearing distance and jolts of seismic activities where foul chemical odors are nauseating and burning, as some residents there have reported. When power flickered out a brief spell Friday night, one Pierre Part resident Alicia Heilig, 27, was too frightened to sleep. Heilig lives near one of the latest detected bubbling sites, [#16 on the parish map](#), and has struggled with her two children and mother being sick since the sinkhole gas incident and the smell of strong chemicals there began. "I took a drive down to the sinkhole area to make sure it wasn't anything to do with that," Heilig told reporter Deborah Dupré in an email. "That whole area is hazy," Heilig wrote. "Almost like fog, but its not foggy anywhere else." A power truck was parked at the sinkhole area gas station, according to Heilig. "Don't know what's up, but glad my kids aren't home tonight," she reported, further indicating the ongoing human rights to health and security violation. Ratard stated in the Oct. 3 letter that high levels of methane have been detected in water wells in the sinkhole area, according to DHH that reviewed 11 samples and readings. "With levels as high as 22,400, 26,600 and 27, 700 ug/L, it would appear immediate remediation is warranted," DHH advises. The DHH letter to Triche "encourages local residents" to do three things:



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- 1) "heed the evacuation orders issued"
- 2) "avoid restricted areas"
- 3) "discuss any health concerns they have with their physician"

According to the parish official blog post where residents are updated, and to residents, parish officials have yet to advise them about the DHH letter about high levels of methane or what they are being encouraged to do. Gas has also been found in the aquifer above the 1-mile by 3-mile Napoleonville Salt Dome farther east and deeper underground in the dome's hard cap rock, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials said. DNR then ordered the Napoleonville Dome's seven operators to find and vent or flare any gas. On Sept. 14, the DNR issued an underreported [Declaration of Emergency and Directive advisory](#) regarding gas in the sinkhole area being life-threatening. In that advisory, Louisiana DNR's Commissioner of Conservation James H. Welsh stated: "It is hereby declared that the presence of natural gas in formations and sands shallower than the underlying cap-rock, and in the Mississippi Alluvial Aquifer, and its top stratum in and around the Bayou Corne area has the potential to threaten lives, the environment, property and operations, sites and facilities under the regulatory authority of the commissioner of conservation." The 4-acre sinkhole emerged on Aug. 3 after two months of thousands of earthquakes and natural gas bubbling in the swampland area waterways and at some of the land-based water wells. "This sucks to have to live where you get freaked out anytime there's a loud noise or if the power flicks off," Heilig said Friday. "I'm so on edge and jumpy right now." A transformer failed at 12:59 a.m. in Baton Rouge 50 miles from the sinkhole, according to the website of Entergy Louisiana LLC. Frank's Casing Crew and Rental Tools of Lafayette has been contracted to drill three shallow wells to explore the gas in the aquifer. DNR spokesman Patrick Courreges said Thursday that officials signed contracts earlier this week with the company. The drilling equipment is expected on-site Saturday and Sunday. Courreges said that the approximately 100 feet deep wells will be on land between the sinkhole and Bayou Corne community and another located west of Bayou Corne to see if gas is that far west in the aquifer. Air is being tested from three new bubble sites farther west of the sinkhole, toward Pierre Part, according to officials. The sinkhole is engulfing the entire 1-mile by 3-mile Napoleonville Salt Dome, [according to](#) at least one lifetime resident of the area. Scientists working on the disaster have also listed the salt dome "moving" as a possibility. "I think they need to tell people the truth and how serious this can be," Heilig's mother, Deby told Dupré on the telephone Thursday. "Be honest, especially about the water; that it could be contaminated, even far from the sinkhole."

#### **Methane Threatening Health, Fires, Explosions along Gulf Coast since BP Wrecked Macondo Prospect**

"Long before the sinkhole, we've smelled natural gas," Deby Heilig said. "We don't have natural gas here. We use propane." Lake Peigneur, less than 70 miles west of Pierre Part, also has new methane bubbling sites that officials are dismissing, according to local human rights defenders concerned not only for their welfare and safety, but also those of Assumption Parish residents. Lake Peigneur was a 10-foot (3.0 m) deep freshwater lake until a 1980 Texaco oil drilling disaster turned it into a 1,300 feet deep salt-water lake and turned the peaceful lives of local residents into an ongoing battle with government officials and oil and gas industries and their salt dome storage facilities. This week quakes jolted residents in two parishes between the sinkhole and the Gulf of Mexico. Officials had called extra security to the Bayou Corne disaster area after ["powerful underground forces"](#) caused the monster sinkhole in the swampland, [bent a gas pipeline](#) to a right angle in a 400-foot section next to the bubbling hole, caused [evacuation of 150 homes](#), temporarily shut a four-mile stretch of Highway 70, and renewed discussion about a methane-bubble tsunami from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico BP blow-out. In July 2010, BP found a mega pocket of [highly pressurized methane gas](#) in the Gulf of Mexico. Two years ago, after BP's Deepwater Horizon catastrophe began, [scientists observed](#) methane concentrations in the Gulf up to 10,000 times higher than normal and corresponding oxygen depletion levels. Methane has continued seeping from the Macondo Prospect area for over two years. This week, officials revealed that the "wrecked" Macondo Prospect oil well BP was drilling when its rig exploded, killing 11 men and setting off an irreversible catastrophe, "possibly" has fissures or cracks in the seabed from which oil is leaking, as reported by this author over two years ago. Back on July 1, 2010, Yahoo News reported "millions of lives may be at risk from a deadly methane eruption." "The threat of a methane gas explosion in the Gulf has been attributed to fear mongering. Is there any evidence to these claims?" stated Yahoo News reporter Dave Jackson. Robotic submarines had returned alarming video footage of methane gas hazards. "Cracks and fissures are opening up on the sea floor over an area of several miles. A number of 'pock marks' have appeared on the sea floor as far as 20 miles away from the original Macondo blow out. "Oil and methane gas are escaping from areas that have never even been drilled," Jackson wrote. Frighteningly, these fissures appear to be growing and connecting with each other. The methane pockmarks are growing in size. Even worse, the weakened sea floor is being



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heaved up into a massive, fracturing, mound. A geological time bomb, previously locked away under miles of rock, has been disturbed. Fear is growing for the very grim possibility that a methane gas bubble, 15 to 20 miles in diameter, could indeed rupture the sea floor and escape with unimaginable violence. "This is the most vigorous methane eruption in modern history," said John Kessler of Texas A & M University. The oil contains 40% methane - much higher than the usual 5%. Kessler found that underwater methane in some areas approached "a million times above background concentrations." In addition to methane, the EPA has found extremely high levels of benzene and hydrogen sulfide in the Macondo Prospect investigations, the same chemicals that officials have detected in the Bayou Corne area and that locals there can smell. In 2010 Macondo investigations, early H<sub>2</sub>S readings were 1,200 ppb - far higher than the allowed 5 - 10 ppb. Environmental attorney Stuart Smith concluded this week the same that many human rights defenders have said and continue saying about the Gulf oil catastrophe coverup, one that appears more each day to include the sinkhole disaster: "This is not over by a long shot and BP needs to come up with a lot more money. It's time that BP and the Feds come clean about all this fresh oil."

<http://www.examiner.com/article/sinkhole-explosive-methane-officially-life-threatening-residents-not-told>

### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, ABU DHABI, OCTOBER 7 2012. JET FUEL CROP PLAN IN ABU DHABI READY FOR TAKE-OFF

*caline malek*

An agricultural project aimed at producing sustainable jet fuel from plants is a step closer to taking off.

Scientists at the [Masdar Institute of Science and Technology](#) hope to acquire 200 hectares of land they need to set up a demonstration farm in Abu Dhabi. "Once we get it, we can start producing aviation biofuels," said Dr Jonathan Jed Brown, the director of the Integrated Seawater Energy and Agriculture System Project at Masdar. The institute, in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Urban Council and the Western Region Municipality, is evaluating several land options, with a decision due to be made before the end of the year. Producing the biofuel involves pumping water from the sea into agricultural ponds, where local shrimps and sea-bream are grown. The wastewater from these ponds will then be used to irrigate fields of salt-tolerant plants, such as salicornia and local halophytes. From there, the water will drain from the fields into mangroves. "Halophytes produce an oilseed, like soybean or canola, that can be used to produce jet fuel," said Dr Brown. "In addition, biomass, which are plants left over after we take the seed out, can be converted to energy by a different pathway." The project's research was funded by Etihad Airways, Boeing, Honeywell and Safran, while the demonstration project has been funded by the Abu Dhabi Government. Biofuels are identified as carbon-neutral because the plants from which they are generated assimilate carbon dioxide as they grow. "It's a way to produce a commodity to potentially produce energy and fuel sustainably in arid regions using small water inputs," said Dr Brown. "It also allows for the reuse of water with minimal energy, as waste products from agriculture will go into the halophytes, which will then be used as nutrients for the plants." Salicornia bigelovii - also known as the dwarf glasswort - is considered valuable as its seeds consist of one third oil. "That particular species is only found in the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean," said Dr Brown. "A decent amount of work has been conducted on it, and it produces a good yield of oilseed." Dr Brown has collected salicornia seeds from Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Virginia, Massachusetts and Puerto Rico. A trial on a 400-square-metre plot of land at the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture in Dubai begins next month. "We're going to be testing the different populations of salicornia that we collected and the different halophyte species to grow under seawater," said Dr Brown. "The seeds collected were separated in Arizona and they should be coming over in the next month. We are also trying to get some from Mexico." It will take about six months to observe the plants' reaction to seawater and for one crop to grow. One of the challenges in the process is the removal of salt from the biomass, to enable it to be turned into energy. Five other projects have been launched - three geared towards waste conversion and salt balance, and two focusing on converting biomass into energy. "The individual research projects will help us find out particularly how to take the biomass that we harvest and turn it into energy," said Dr Brown. "This biomass has more salt than other biomasses that you could use, which is one of the constraints." But without a sizeable plot of land, the project can only perform small-scale trials. "It'll take a while to plant the seeds on a large scale, once we acquire the land," said Dr Brown. "But if successful, it would be a way forward for arid-land countries to produce crops on coastal deserts with minimal water use." Although Etihad Airways does not currently use biofuel, it hopes to do so in the future. "The most fundamental issue is that traditional fossil-base fuel is a finite resource," said a spokesman. "All industries need to be looking at how they can make use of renewable energies such as solar and wind. "In an ideal world, an alternative aviation fuel would be readily available at a cost equivalent to regular aviation fuel. It is important for the entire aviation industry to work in close collaboration with the entire supply chain to help enable this to happen."



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\* To convert the salicornia plant into bioenergy, scientists at the Masdar Institute have to remove the salt it absorbs during irrigation. Dr Mette Hedegaard Thomsen, an assistant professor in chemical engineering, said that the conversion process uses enzymes and microbes that do not tolerate a high content of salt. "The first chemical analysis is now ready," she said. "Our findings are that the biomass contains 60 per cent sugar, which is good because this is what is used to make energy, and between 35 and 40 per cent salt." After months of testing, the lab was able to reduce that salt percentage to just 6 per cent last week. The treatment, involving water extraction, takes several hours but scientists are working on speeding up the process.

#### Related Links

- [Plant fuel test for jets nears take-off](#)
- [Model design for green jet fuel](#)

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/uae-news/jet-fuel-crop-plan-in-abu-dhabi-ready-for-take-off>

#### **INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, JALGAON, OCTOBER 8 2012. OVER 50 WORKERS ILL AFTER GAS LEAK IN MAHARASHTRA**

Over 50 labourers on Sunday fell ill in an industrial area of Jalgaon city in Maharashtra owing to a chlorine gas leak from a factory, police said. "The workers belonged to a factory called Tulsi Pipes. They suffered from breathing problems and acute vomiting as one of the 25 chlorine cylinders stacked in the adjoining Kalpataru Agro-Chem Industries leaked," an official from Jalgaon police station said. The manager of Kalpataru Agro-Chem told police that the cylinders were kept on the factory premises for being taken to another plant. He said that he did not know how the chlorine leaked from one of the cylinders, police said. "All victims have been sent to hospital. While 10 labourers are still under medical care, others have been discharged," the official added. A complaint has been registered labourer Mohammed Aslam Mehboob Ilaahi against owners of Kalpataru Agro-Chem under Indian Penal Code Sections 284 (negligent conduct with respect to poisonous substance), 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of other), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of other) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of other), he said.

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/international/2012/October/international\\_October222.xml&section=international&col=](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/international/2012/October/international_October222.xml&section=international&col=)

#### **USA, WA, LAPUSH, OCTOBER 8 2012. LITTLE RISK OF DIESEL LEAKING FROM SUNKEN FISHING VESSEL, AUTHORITIES SAY**

*jeremy schwartz*

Officials with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Coast Guard see little risk that the 500 gallons of diesel that went down with the 40-foot fishing vessel Maverick on Sept. 28 will leak and cause significant environmental damage. The Maverick sank in the waters of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, roughly 30 miles off the coast of LaPush, following a collision in dense fog with the 90-foot fishing vessel Viking Storm at about 4:30 a.m. that Friday. Kelly Dickerson, 33, a crew member aboard the Maverick, is presumed dead after an unsuccessful search that extended into the following day.

##### **Fuel Tank Intact?**

No trace of fuel or other oily substances from the Maverick has been spotted in the area where the vessel sank, suggesting the ship's fuel tank survived the sinking intact, said George Galasso, deputy superintendent of NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, on Friday. The sanctuary extends 25 to 50 miles seaward from the west coast of the Olympic Peninsula and protects 3,310 square miles of marine habitat. After the collision, the crew of the Viking Storm recovered three of the four fishermen from the vessel, including the Maverick's owner, 66-year-old Port Angeles resident Darby Dickerson. The Coast Guard search for his son was called off the day after the sinking. The Coast Guard is investigating the collision as a "serious marine incident," working with Canadian authorities, said Petty Officer Second Class George Degener, a spokesman for Coast Guard District 13 in Seattle.

##### **Monitoring Waters**

Degener said the Coast Guard also is working with U.S. federal agencies, such as NOAA, to monitor the waters off LaPush for any sign that fuel or oil from the Maverick leaked. The Coast Guard said it will be up to the owner of the Maverick to salvage the vessel since it is posing no direct threat to ship traffic. While the volume of diesel fuel that went down with the boat most likely will not have wide-reaching effects on the local environment if it is released, Galasso said it could have localized effects



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on marine animals. "We can't say we're not worried about it because we don't know what's on the sea floor where it sank," he said.

#### Heavy Fog

Representatives of the Coast Guard have said heavy fog was a contributing factor in the collision. The Coast Guard estimates visibility the morning the Maverick sank was about 40 feet due to dense fog. Galasso said vessel crews are regularly warned of limited visibility due to fog off the coast of LaPush and the waters to the north, especially during the early mornings in late summer and early fall. According to the United States Coast Pilot 7, a yearly collection of nautical charts and information NOAA publishes for coastal navigators across the country, fog exists an average of 236 days per year in this area, with summer being "the true fog season." Fog can reduce visibility in this area to below half a mile on three to 10 days per month during the summer, according to the Coast Pilot. "It can be a very, very dangerous place," Galasso said.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20121007/NEWS/310079987/little-risk-of-diesel-leaking-from-sunken-fishing-vessel-authorities>

#### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, FISKEVILLE, OCTOBER 8 2012. 'NEIGHBOURS FROM HELL' FISKVILLE SPRAY FARM WITH SHRAPNEL

*stephen drill*

Explosives detonated at Fiskville have sprayed shrapnel on to a neighbouring property, narrowly missing lambs in adjoining paddocks. In the latest controversy at the CFA's notorious training base, fuses from the bombs and shards of concrete landed hundreds of metres away from the site of the explosions. Ned Callow, who shares a boundary with the CFA's training headquarters, said the authority was the "neighbours from hell" after he found parts of the bombs on his land. He said that sheep and lambs scattered when the bombs went off and that it was lucky they were not injured by the fallout. The four explosions shook houses surrounding the training centre, 90km west of Melbourne. The CFA confirmed the explosions, saying they had rented out the land to Victoria Police for training. Mr Callow has officially complained to the CFA and said the authority had no respect for its neighbours. "They don't care about the consequences as long as they get their training done," he said. "They are the neighbours from hell. This is a magic block of land, except for the smoke and the shrapnel." Mr Callow has also had to cancel plans to build his dream home on his 37ha property because of smoke from training fires. He has been trying to sell his land to the CFA. CFA chief officer Euan Ferguson said the Fiskville training site was used by other emergency services. "This includes Victoria Police who, for more than 10 years, have been using the site for specialised explosives training," he said. "Victoria Police has assured CFA any explosives training at Fiskville is highly monitored and stringent safety measures are in place." Acting Sgt Jessica Rosewarne said the explosives training at Fiskville was strictly controlled. "Victoria Police conducted a training exercise at Fiskville on 21 June. The exercise included a routine explosives demonstration," she said. "The demonstration was strictly controlled and monitored by Victoria Police explosive experts and carefully calculated to ensure that debris did not spread outside the boundaries of the paddock."

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/neighbours-from-hell-fiskville-spray-farm-with-shrapnel/story-e6frg6n6-1226490219724>

#### USA, MA, LAWRENCE, OCTOBER 8 2012. SOLVENT SPARKED BLAST THAT BURNED BOY

*jill harmacinski*

The father and son seriously burned at a Prospect Hill home Saturday were trying to remove carpet glue from a tile floor with a flammable solvent when a "flash fire explosion" occurred, fire Chief Jack Bergeron said. Luis Lopez, 59, and his son, Frank Anthony Lopez, 13, were working together in the basement of 71 Woodland St. at 2:20 p.m. when the explosion occurred, Bergeron said. Father and son were both airlifted by medical helicopters to Boston hospitals. Frank Lopez is being treated at Shriners' Hospital, a pediatric burn center, while his dad is being cared for at nearby Massachusetts General Hospital. Conditions were not available for father or son at either hospital last night. The explosion occurred after an industrial strength solvent that is "extremely flammable" was being applied to adhesive left behind when a carpet was removed from the tile floor in the basement, Bergeron said. The chief said numerous ignition sources can be found in a basement including a hot water heater, furnace boiler or "even a light bulb." The boy was burned over 60 percent of his body while his father's injuries were unclear. While he didn't know details of the father and son's injuries, Bergeron said explosions of this type can cause both external and internal burns. The pain of such burns is often not felt immediately but becomes progressively more intense in the hours afterward, he said. Bergeron was optimistic both father and son would recover. However, he added the accident provides a sad reminder of the danger of using any type of flammable liquid. "Make sure ignition sources are shut off,"



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Bergeron said. Luis Lopez, whose address was not available last night, is not facing any charges, the chief said. "As far as we are concerned, this was accidental in nature," Bergeron said. Capt. Robert Wilson, a fire department investigator, and troopers assigned to the fire marshal's office investigated. The home where the explosion occurred belongs to Jacqueline Yancey and is currently valued at \$163,900, according to city assessing records available online.

<http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x1475177525/Solvent-sparked-blast-that-burned-boy>

### **NORTHERN IRELAND, CO DOWN, DROMORE, OCTOBER 8 2012. THOUSANDS OF LITRES OF SUSPECTED LAUNDERED DIESEL IS SEIZED**

A flat bed lorry, containing thousands of litres of suspected laundered diesel, was seized by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in an operation over the weekend near Banbridge. HMRC stopped the vehicle on the A1 on Saturday. Following a search of the vehicle, officers found a concealed tank built into the chassis of the lorry. The tank contained 3,000 litres fuel believed to be laundered green diesel. John Whiting, Assistant Director, Criminal Investigation, HMRC, said: "Those involved in the transportation of illicit fuel care nothing for the safety of other road users. "The fact that this vehicle had been adapted to conceal a large fuel tank shows a total disregard for public safety and the safety of other road users. "HMRC takes very seriously the unfair and illegal practice of selling illicit fuel and we would encourage anyone with information about this type of activity to contact us on our Custom's Hotline 0800 59 5000." A 55 year-old man from the Newtownhamilton area was arrested and interviewed in connection with the find and has been released on bail pending further investigation. The lorry and fuel were seized.

<http://www.dromoreleader.co.uk/news/business/thousands-of-litres-of-suspected-laundered-diesel-is-seized-1-4322158>

### **INDIA, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9 2012. WHY THE BHOPAL DISASTER SITE, 28 YEARS LATER, IS STILL A TOXIC KILLER**

julien bouissou



*The Bhopal plant, abandoned but still deadly.*

Who will be able to decontaminate Bhopal? During the night of December 3, 1984, a Union Carbide pesticide plant exploded in the north Indian city of Bhopal, releasing toxic gases that killed between 15,000 and 30,000 people. Nearly 28 years after one of the worst industrial catastrophes in history, toxic chemicals abandoned on the site are still contaminating the groundwater. On September 17, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) announced that it would not be removing 347 metric tons of waste to incinerate them in Germany, in spite of having started negotiations at the beginning of the year with the Indian government. The reason given for the decision was that the Indian government's refusal to be responsible in case of any accident in the transport and handling of these toxic substances. Another reason was the opposition of German activists and environmentalists to the transport and

incineration of the chemical waste in their country. "We do not want highly toxic substances to travel across half the planet," Manfred Santen of Greenpeace told Deutsche Welle. The decontamination of the Bhopal site is a gigantic project. Between 4,000 and 12,000 metric tons of toxic products are thought to be present in the soil. Removal of the 347 metric tons of waste stocked in the former factory would only be the first step. However, no incinerating center in India is capable of disposing of the waste safely. If Europe refuses to do it, the waste will have to be buried in India. Waste and toxic chemicals, used to make pesticides, had infiltrated the soil long before the explosion. In 1982, two years before the disaster, Union Carbide's internal notes reveal that there were leaks in 23 hectares (56.8 acres) of basins used for storing chemical waste. "The evaporation basins continue to leak, which is very alarming," said a telex sent to the American headquarters of Union Carbide in 1982, and seen by Le Monde. The same year, farmers had complained of the sudden death of several cows that had been grazing near the factory.

#### **Ongoing Health Problems**

Seven years later, Union Carbide took samples on the factory grounds and in the waste treatment reservoirs. The analysis revealed high concentrations of naphthol and naphthalene. During the tests, fish exposed to the samples of toxic substances, even diluted, died instantly or within two days. How many inhabitants of Bhopal were and still are contaminated by toxic



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waste? How many of them have died because of it? It is hard to know the truth. No independent study has evaluated the extent of groundwater contamination, nor the effects of these products on human health. More worrisome is that these effects are added to those of the gases emitted during the explosion of the factory, and that these effects are being transmitted over generations. The Center for Rehabilitation Studies for the state of Madhya Pradesh, whose capital is Bhopal, stated in 2005 that, "the contamination of soil and groundwater clearly increased the morbidity rate among the population living around the factory." The results of an expert study ordered by the Indian Supreme Court should be known this autumn. Around the contaminated site, children continue to be born malformed. Many local people suffer from anemia, skin ailments and cancer. Nothing has ever been done to clean up the site. In 1994, Union Carbide sold its Indian subsidiary to a purchaser who resold the property four years later to the State of Madhya Pradesh. As the transactions multiplied, the question of soil contamination was ignored. In 2009, the government of Madhya Pradesh maintained that the ground was not contaminated. The regional minister in charge of the victims of Bhopal even announced a plan to open the site to tourists. It took a Supreme Court order in 2005 for local authorities to supply drinking water to inhabitants so that they would stop using wells. But the tanks that have been installed are not all connected to the homes. This August, 47% of the at-risk population did not have access to them, according to a study carried out by the associations for the defense of the victims of Bhopal. Dow Chemical, which did not answer our requests for an interview, considers that it has no responsibility for Bhopal. Dow bought Union Carbide in 2001, after Union Carbide already detached itself from its Indian subsidiary. "However, it is the principle of polluter-payer that should apply," says Karuna Nundy, a lawyer for the associations of victims of Bhopal. "It's important to distinguish the two tragedies," she says. "It's as if burglars were arrested for having robbed a bank, but later the police also discover a corpse in the trunk of their car. Dow Chemical is responsible for both the factory explosion, which killed thousands of people, and for the groundwater pollution that continues to hurt new victims." Dow Chemical spends millions of dollars to show off its image as a company of "integrity," "respectful of the individual" and "protecting the planet." It spent 82 million euros to sponsor the London Olympic Games. Without such support "there would be no goosebumps, no hearts beating fast... nor union of the whole planet," the Olympic Organizing Committee said in its thanks.

<http://www.worldcrunch.com/culture-society/why-the-bhopal-disaster-site-28-years-later-is-still-a-toxic-killer/india-bhopal-dow-contamination-toxic/c3s9764/#.UHNZtk1OQrW>

## USA, TX, TEXAS CITY, OCTOBER 9 2012. BP SELLS TEXAS CITY REFINERY TO MARATHON PETROLEUM FOR \$2.5 BILLION

marie cabural

### Sale Key Points:

- 3 intrastate NGL pipelines
- An allocation of BP's Colonial Pipeline Company shipper history
- 4 marketing terminals
- Jobber contracts for approximately 1,200 branded retail sites in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida
- A 1,040 megawatt cogeneration facility



### *Oil refinery blast in Texas City killed 15 people.*

BP agreed to sell its Texas City Refinery to Marathon Petroleum Corporation for \$2.5 billion. The Texas Refinery is one of the largest and most complex refineries in the United States, producing 451,000 barrel per calendar day (475,000 barrel per stream day). The agreement also includes BP's logistics in the Southeast part of the United States, including three intrastate NGL pipelines originating at the Texas City refinery, an allocation of BP's Colonial Pipeline Company shipper history, four marketing terminals, jobber contract assignments for approximately 1,200 branded retail sites in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida; and a 1,040 megawatt cogeneration facility. Under the terms of the agreement, Marathon Petroleum Corp would pay \$598 million for the refinery

and pipelines, \$1.2 billion for hydrocarbon inventories, and a \$700 million earn-out arrangement based on future margins and refinery throughput over the next six years. Marathon Petroleum expects to pay the deal with its available cash on hand. BP decided to sell \$35 billion worth of assets to help cover the costs of the Deep Water Horizon Explosion in 2010. According to



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BP, the sale of the Texas Refinery would increase the total amount of assets sold by the company, to \$38 billion. Aside from the Texas Refinery, BP also sold its Carson Refinery in Southern California, as part of its decision in 2011, to cut its refining capacity in the United States by 50 percent. Last month, the company also sold some of its assets in the Gulf of Mexico, worth \$5.6 billion. In statement, Iain Conn, chief executive of BP's global refining and marketing business, said the sale of the Texas City Refinery is a second major milestone of the company's strategy in refocusing its fuels business in the United States. According to Conn, selling the Texas City refinery allows BP to focus its fuels investments in the company's three northern refineries, with crude feedstock advantage and associated marketing business. In addition, Conn said, "Marathon Petroleum is a highly respected refiner and marketer. Their ability to take on the responsibilities of this large and complex refinery will be good for the long-term future of the business and its employees. Although largely a merchant refinery, we have decided to sell certain terminals and marketing assets in the Southeast U.S." Furthermore, he said that BP remains committed in providing fuels, lubricants, and petrochemicals to its customers in the country, while delivering long-term growth and profits to our shareholders. BP has approximately 8,000 BP and ARCO-branded sites and will remain a significant fuels retailer in the country, particularly in the in the Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and in the East Coast. On the other hand, Marathon Petroleum Corp (NYSE:MPC) CEO, Gary R. Heminger, said the company's acquisition of Texas City at an attractive amount provides an opportunity to add significant value to its shareholders. According to him, "We have a long-standing commitment to safe and environmentally-conscious operations. BP has made significant investments to improve the safety, reliability, and environmental performance of the refinery in recent years. We will leverage those investments in the refinery with our continuing focus on safe and reliable operations." BP and Marathon Petroleum Corp expect to close the transaction during the early part of 2013.

<http://www.valuewalk.com/2012/10/bp-sells-texas-city-refinery-to-marathon-petroleum-for-2-5-billion/>

### USA, LA, CONVENT, OCTOBER 9 2012. MOTIVA CDU FIRE DOUSED [OIL & GAS NEWS]

Motiva Enterprises said a fire in a crude distillation unit (CDU) at its 235,000 barrel-per-day (bpd) refinery in Convent, Louisiana, was contained within 35 minutes by on-site emergency response crews. The incident came as Motiva, a 50-50 joint venture of Saudi Aramco and Royal Dutch Shell, is repairing its flagship 600,000 bpd US refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, after too much of a corrosive chemical raced through part of a new CDU last June and cracked and ruined thousands of feet of pipes. "All personnel have been accounted for and there were no injuries resulting from the incident," company spokeswoman Kayla Macke said about the Convent fire. Macke did not answer questions about whether the Convent CDU was shut or when it would restart. She said there was no impact to other refinery process units. The refinery had been operating at reduced rates for several weeks after it was shut on August 30 in advance of Hurricane Isaac. Motiva had not released any updates since a September 5 statement that said the refinery had not resumed normal operations.

<http://www.equities.com/news/headline-story?dt=2012-10-08&val=566528&cat=energy>

### USA, TN, PARKERS CROSSROADS, OCTOBER 9 2012. FUEL TRUCK CRASH ON I-40; TRAFFIC BACKED UP FOR HOURS DURING CLEANUP



*A tanker loaded with fuel wrecked on westbound Interstate 40 in Parkers Crossroads just east of Tenn. 22 on Monday afternoon. Cleanup of the site continued into the evening.*

An 18-wheeler fuel truck crashed near Interstate 40 Exit 108 on Monday afternoon and backed up traffic for hours in both directions as firefighters and emergency responders worked to prevent leaked fuel from catching fire. Henderson County Fire Chief Lynn Murphy said the fuel truck crashed in the westbound lanes of I-40 near the Parkers Crossroads exit about 3:30 p.m. and that the cause of the wreck is still under investigation. Murphy said Emergency Medical Services workers took the driver of the truck for medical treatment and that no one else was involved in the wreck. He said that when firefighters arrived, the fuel truck was lying on its side in the ditch beside the outside, westbound lane. He said the wreck caused a major gas leak on the truck and that firefighters poured a foam-like substance onto the fuel to keep the flammable liquid from anything that could cause it to ignite. "The fuel is contained underneath the truck itself, and a blanket of foam prevents the fuel vapors from the leaked fuel to reach the fuel in the tank itself," Murphy said.



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"The foam is a nonhazardous material that applied with water creates a vapor-resistant blanket over any flammable liquid." Initially, authorities closed the interstate in both directions between exits 93 and 126. Firefighters covered the fuel in foam for close to three hours before the eastbound lanes were reopened to traffic and drivers in the westbound lanes were allowed to get off the interstate via the 108 exit, roughly 60 yards from where the fuel truck overturned. Murphy said firefighters monitored the fuel to make sure the vapors could not reach traffic exiting the interstate or traffic in the eastbound lanes. Traffic moved again around 7 p.m., though the westbound traffic bottlenecked through the 108 exit, over a bridge at the intersection of I-40 and Tenn. 22 and back down onto Interstate 40's westbound lanes. Murphy said as of 7:30 p.m. there were still no flames from the wreck. He expected cleanup to finish no sooner than midnight today and for traffic to be slowed down for just as long. He said 28 Henderson County firefighters responded to the wreck, with two fire engines and two tankers, along with the Henderson County Sheriff's Department, Tennessee Highway Patrol, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and Emergency Medical Services. Trucks also came to the crash site to deal with any hazardous material, he said, and a cleanup crew and oil-retrieval trucks came from the company that owns the truck. Murphy said the wreck and fuel leak was the first such incident he has responded to in 30 years as a firefighter.

[http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20121009/NEWS01/310090003/Fuel-truck-crash-40-Traffic-backed-up-hours-during-cleanup?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE&nclink\\_check=1](http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20121009/NEWS01/310090003/Fuel-truck-crash-40-Traffic-backed-up-hours-during-cleanup?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE&nclink_check=1)

#### UPDATE 2 SOUTH KOREA, GUMI, OCTOBER 9 2012. DAMAGES FROM TOXIC GAS LEAK WORSEN IN SOUTHERN S. KOREA



More than 3,000 people have received emergency care for nausea and other symptoms, officials said Sunday, following a disastrous gas leak that also caused widespread damages to crops, livestock and factories in southern South Korea. A total of 3,178 people have been treated for nausea, rashes and other symptoms since the Sept. 27 explosion of a chemical plant that leaked some eight tons of hydrofluoric acid, an acute poison that can damage lungs and bones and affect the nervous system. Five workers were killed and 18 others were injured in the blast at chemical maker Hube Global at the Gumi National Industrial Complex in the industrial city, about 200 kilometers southeast of Seoul. The gas leak has cost factories in the industrial complex about 17.7 billion won (US\$15.9 million) in lost production, officials said. Hundreds of angry villagers in Gumi who suffered after the massive gas leak moved to a safer region with some residents reporting blood in their saliva. About 110 elderly people in

Bongsan-ri village evacuated to a facility about 10 kilometers away. "We decided to move because the government overlooked us and did not come up with countermeasures," Park Myeong-seok, the head of Bongsan-ri, told reporters. About 190 people in nearby Imcheon-ri left their village and moved to a training center for teenage students. An acrid smell still hangs in the air in the two villages, home to some 1,200 people. Villagers accused the government of failing to give proper and timely information about the gas leak, and expressed disbelief over the announcement hydrofluoric acid was not detected in their towns. Crops and fruit on more than 212 hectares of farmlands and orchards have withered, and some 3,200 livestock animals have been drooling heavily or showing symptoms similar to a cold, according to local officials and villagers. The central government, under mounting criticism for poorly handling the disaster at the initial stage of the explosion, is considering designating the affected area as a special disaster zone, a move that would bring extra financial support for the victims. On Monday, the government will announce the results of its in-depth inquiry into the gas leak, officials said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2012/10/07/16/0302000000AEN20121007003200315F.HTML>

#### USA, KS, LAWRENCE, OCTOBER 9 2012. TOOTHBRUSH TRANSFORMED INTO ROBOT DESIGNED TO SCRUB TOXIC OIL SPILL

*meagan thomas*

Children in the Clinton Eagles 4-H Club were given a mission: Build a robot to clean up a toxic spill. Their supplies? A toothbrush head, a battery, straws, paper cups and tape. The mission was a part of Clinton Eagles Science Day, which was held in honor of National 4-H Week and National Youth Science Day. "This is to get the kids excited about (4-H program) Space Tech and robotics," parent leader Marisa Dallman said. During the event on Monday night at the former Wakarusa



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Valley School building, members of the Clinton Eagles talked about what they thought robots were and what were some ways people used robots in everyday life. The children then built an eco-bot, or a robot to clean up a simulated environmental spill. The children were given a map with the spill drawn on and after building the eco-bot, also had to figure out how to keep the robot on the map. When the project was ready to test, bird seed was poured as fake oil and the toothbrush eco-bot "cleaned" the toxic spill. At the end of the project the children discussed what could have made the robot more effective. "I think it's pretty cool, even if it's just the tip of a toothbrush," said 8-year-old Ashton Rapp. When the event began, Austin thought robots walked around and talked, but by the end he learned about the tasks they can do to help humans and decided he may want to try Space Tech as a future 4-H project. Space Tech, cooking, photography, art and sewing are some of the projects available for 4-H members to participate in. "A lot of people have in their mind it's just about showing animals," parent leader Kurt Dallman said. "But there are so many different things; there's always an opportunity to learn and grow." Clinton Eagles 4-H Club will continue celebrating National 4-H Week by telling others about 4-H, wearing green, wearing 4-H pins and stickers and through displays of projects in various schools in Douglas County. For more information on the Clinton Eagles 4-H Club visit [clintoneagles.org](http://clintoneagles.org).

<http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2012/oct/08/toothbrush-transformed-robot-designed-scrub-toxic/>

### USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, OCTOBER 10 2012. GAS CAN MAN GOES FREE

*pete donohue*

What do you do with a homeless nut-job caught riding around on the subway with an open jug of gasoline? If you're the Bronx district attorney's office, you drop the case and let him go on his merry way. This disquieting tale from the underground starts on the evening of May 21. Subway motorwoman Marcia Seale was operating a northbound No. 6 train, and detected a strong smell of gasoline coming from the first car. After pulling the local train into the 138th St./Grand Concourse station, she left the driver's cab to investigate. There were about 12 riders in the lead car, including Richard Langhirt, 52, holding a red jug of gasoline, she said. "He was holding it in his hand, looking around, being oblivious to everyone telling him to get off the train," Seale said. "Everyone was yelling, 'You can't be on the train with that,' but he just sat there ignoring them." Conductor Brett Nias joined Seale in the first car. "I'm 10 feet from the car and I could smell the car," Nias said. "It was reeking with gasoline." Nias insisted Langhirt get off the train, and he finally complied — but poured the gasoline into a garbage can on the platform on his way out of the station, Nias and Seale said. Langhirt didn't get far. Seale radioed the Rail Control Center, and a dispatcher alerted the NYPD Transit Bureau. Within minutes, an officer arrived and arrested Langhirt, charging him with misdemeanor reckless endangerment, police said. Langhirt later told police that he needed the flammable liquid to clean the popsicle sticks he uses to build birdhouses. The arresting officer vouchered his gasoline jug as evidence. But when the case got to court, prosecutors took a pass. "Insufficient evidence," a spokesman for the Bronx district attorney's office inexplicably claimed when asked about the case last week. The spokesman said he couldn't elaborate because the case was legally sealed after prosecutors decided not to prosecute. But the MTA certainly had enough evidence to honor its workers. For their actions, Seale and Nias received letters of commendation from MTA chief transportation officer Herbert Lambert. And the union nominated them for a Daily News Hometown Heroes in Transit award. "Your promptness in confronting the individual, who turned out to be elderly and mentally challenged, and having him leave the train at the next station stop, prevented him from carrying out any criminal activity on the train," Lambert wrote to Nias. "The individual was a suspect in pouring gasoline on two other trains earlier that day. Given his mental status, his criminal activity had the potential of causing injury and possibly death to our customers." The oddball straphanger couldn't be reached for comment. The address he gave police is a nonprofit organization's office building. It provides services to the homeless. After being confronted in the station, Langhirt said, "I know. I can't have gasoline on the subway," said a law enforcement source. Gee. You think? Hopefully, Langhirt has learned his lesson and won't do something this stupid and dangerous again.

[http://articles.nydailynews.com/2012-10-09/news/34346779\\_1\\_local-train-gasoline-first-car](http://articles.nydailynews.com/2012-10-09/news/34346779_1_local-train-gasoline-first-car)

### USA, ALA, TUSCALOOSA, OCTOBER 10 2012. HAZMAT CLEARING OVERTURNED TANKER IN TUSCALOOSA

*amber roberston*

The off-ramp from Interstate 20/59 to Buttermilk Road in Tuscaloosa is closed to facilitate the cleanup after a tanker wrecked there earlier this morning. According to Lt. Travis Parker of Tuscaloosa Fire and EMS, a tanker truck wrecked on the off-ramp about 10:09 a.m. It was in transit from Texas to Delaware when it overturned on the off-ramp, after seeing a vehicle approaching that did not look like it was going to stop. The driver hit the breaks and the load shifted, causing the truck to turn



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over on its side. When it overturned, a guardrail punctured the truck's cargo tank. The tanker was carrying Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene or DDE4, a cleaning solvent. While the chemical isn't hazardous, the ground will need to be cleaned by HAZMAT crews. Approximately 3,000 gallons of the substance leaked out. There were no injuries in the incident, but the off-ramp remains closed. Parker said there was no estimate at this time as to how long it will take to clear the scene <http://www2.alabamas13.com/news/2012/oct/09/3/hazmat-investigating-overturned-18-wheeler-tuscalo-ar-4716218/>

#### BAHRAIN, OCTOBER 10 2012. STRICKEN TANKER TO BE BROKEN UP IN BAHRAIN

*mandeep singh*

Chemical tanker Stolt Valor, severely damaged in an explosion in the Gulf on March 15, is to be broken up in Bahrain, it has been revealed. Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard Company (Asry) chief executive Chris Potter said, in a first for Bahrain, experts would be flown into the country to oversee the breaking up of the vessel. "The owners of the vessel have been given permission to dispose of it and they have decided to break it up in Bahrain," Mr Potter told the GDN. "It was initially thought the ship would be towed away but that is not going to happen." He said the process of breaking up the vessel would begin by the end of the month. "Asry has the capability and the expertise available to assist the breaking up in every way and we are going to be offering that expertise," added Mr Potter. "That is the reason the owners have decided to carry out the work here." He said stainless steel from the ship, after it is broken up, would be exported while other steel would be disposed of in Bahrain. The Stolt Valor had been brought to Bahrain for extensive repairs at Asry, but Mr Potter earlier said the cost of repairs would be more than its actual value. The tanker was adrift off Bahrain for weeks after the tragedy in which one sailor went missing and 23 others were rescued by the US Navy. A decision to tow it to Bahrain was taken in May. A fire onboard the Liberian-registered vessel resulted in an explosion, which crippled it on its way from Jubail, Saudi Arabia, to Bahrain. It was carrying 12,700 metric tonnes of a volatile flammable liquid chemical (methyl tertiary butyl ether), petrol additive and several tonnes of lube oil and other additives. The fire was extinguished on March 22, while the removal of all pollutants - both chemical cargo and fuel - was completed by April 29, with no spillage during the transfer. The cause of the original explosion is still unknown. Bahrain was on red alert for more than a week after the incident due to fears of a chemical spill from the tanker.

<http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/NewsDetails.aspx?storyid=339292>

#### USA, TX, FREEPORT, OCTOBER 10 2012. TAKING ON GULF CHEMICAL IN FREEPORT

*priscila mosqueda & forrest wilder*



Three months ago, Melanie Oldham moved from Angleton to a tiny old home in downtown Freeport, a southeast Texas town that lies in the shadows of petrochemical plants. She began filling a spare room with posters, photos, newspaper clippings, reports and books about one of the town's most notorious polluters, Gulf Chemical & Metallurgical Corporation—a reading room for the community. Her home's proximity to the company, and to other plants like Dow Chemical's massive campus, also allows her to claim legal status in challenging the plant's permits. Not that many years ago, Oldham enjoyed a life of relative luxury. She was married to a Dow chemical engineer and lived in a spacious home. Now she works as a physical therapist, making enough money to support her real passion: trying to force Freeport's chemical companies and refineries to clean up. "They've sacrificed Freeport, Texas, for the sake of making money," she says. "They've sacrificed the people's health, their lives." In 2006 she created Citizens for Clean Air & Clean Water in Brazoria County, and has spent the years since educating the community on the links between industrial pollution

and public health. Working with a handful of locals, she has made Gulf Chemical her main target, a company so brazen in its disregard for environmental laws and the surrounding community that even the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has cracked down on it. In 2010, Gulf pleaded guilty to 11 felony counts of illegally discharging toxic wastewater into the Brazos River. The plant's pollution-control devices, inspectors found, were literally held together with duct tape (see "Heavy Metal," August 2012). Oldham and others in the community have pressured local and state officials to take action, and the company has promised to install scrubbers and real-time pollution monitors on its stacks by the end of the year. But sustaining a campaign against the industry has proven difficult. Freeport is poor, and the companies are powerful and sophisticated. "One



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of the biggest issues is how to educate the community and the public on the issues; we can't get things in the newspaper that much," Oldham says. "The companies have great PR people and they pretty much control the media down here, so it's very hard to educate people about both sides of the issue and let people know that there can be a balance between having jobs, but also having a quality of life." In a town where the companies causing the pollution employ much of the population, Oldham says, many residents are afraid of losing their jobs or being viewed as anti-industry. Although one Citizens for Clean Air meeting about Gulf Chemical drew 200 people, Oldham says the organization has only about 20 consistently active members. A native of Missouri, Oldham moved to Texas with her then-husband 30 years ago. She lived in Angleton, about 20 miles from Freeport, until recently, when she decided she wanted to better understand what the people of Freeport were experiencing, and solidify her role in the fight against the companies polluting the area. She travels to Austin to testify before legislators about public-health and environmental issues that affect citizens beyond the borders of Brazoria County. In Freeport, she often talks to the city manager, with whom she has discussed the idea of creating a community enhancement fund the city and industry could both contribute to. Oldham says the fund could help establish a health clinic in Freeport, or an alert program similar to Houston's ozone alert system, which would inform residents when high concentrations of certain chemicals are released into the air. Oldham says she'd also like to open discussions with leaders of Freeport's petrochemical companies to lessen pollution. Dow Chemical has proven especially elusive, she says. In 2010, the company had the highest on-site releases of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds in Texas, and the fourth highest in the nation. But the key to change in an industry town lies in education, Oldham says. She and her small group of activists will continue to inform the community about the dangers posed by pollutants, and do what they can to stop local industries from emitting them. "Until people understand what's going on, there's going to be a relatively small amount of people speaking up and trying to change things."

<http://www.texasobserver.org/cover-story/taking-on-gulf-chemical-in-freeport-texas>

#### USA, MA, HINGHAM, OCTOBER 10 2012. WEYMOUTH WOMAN WITH CAR ON FIRE CHARGED WITH DRIVING DRUNK

A Weymouth woman was charged with drunken driving Sunday after police say she pulled into a gas station with her car on fire and stopped within 15 feet of a customer pumping gas. Barbara Ann Bearden, 49, of 170 Mediterranean Woods, No. 53, Weymouth, was arrested on charges of drunken driving, driving to endanger, leaving the scene of a crash causing property damage and failure to stay in marked lanes. She was due to be arraigned today in Hingham District Court. Police say Bearden crashed into a guardrail on Chief Justice Cushing Highway, also known as Route 3A, at about 10 a.m. Sunday and continued to drive for about a half-mile on two bare rims before pulling into a Mobil gas station, where an alarmed customer sprayed the car with a fire extinguisher. Firefighters were called to the scene and doused the car as well. Officers sent to the gas station reported that Bearden was unsteady on her feet, slurring her speech and confused about the time of day. Police said she admitted to drinking two glasses of wine at about 1 p.m., even though it was 10 in the morning. Police said gouge marks left in the roadway by the rims on Bearden's 2009 Pontiac G6 indicated that she had swerved between lanes after striking a guardrail between Summer Street and Rockwood Road. Police said officers also found pieces of Bearden's car near the damaged guardrail.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/weymouth/topstories/x383195180/Cops-Woman-charged-with-OUI-after-pulling-into-gas-station-with-car-ablaze#axzz29L9hmyjR>

#### IRELAND, CO LONGFORD, BALLYMINION, OCTOBER 11 2012. RESIDENTS WANT ESTATE EVACUATED AFTER GAS EXPLOSION

People living in an estate of unsafe houses want a chief fire officer to inspect them so he can order an evacuation. The families in the Gleann Riada estate at Ballyminion outside Longford town have been told by HSE doctors their properties are unsafe to live in. They have also been told not to light fires in them because of sewer gases. Two explosions have already occurred in the houses. However, Longford County Council said as the estate was privately owned, it did not have the authority to deal with the problem. "The council has advised residents on more than one occasion to have their houses assessed and essential repairs carried out," a statement said. Doctors met residents at the estate to discuss the build up of carbon monoxide and methane gases from sewers in houses at the development. The HSE has been monitoring gas levels at Gleann Riada since mid-March, when an explosion blew the front window from a house. Occupants at the partly NAMA-owned development of about 80 houses, also say seeping sewage gases are responsible for headaches and nausea. HSE national director of health protection Dr Kevin Kelleher, who met residents, said all remaining houses on the estate were unsafe to live



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in unless urgent professional assessments and repairs were carried out. The HSE did not have the power to evacuate the remaining 79 houses in the estate. However, Dr Kelleher said there was clear evidence of the effect of carbon monoxide, methane and hydrosulfite in the area. He said he had been told by residents they were suffering from symptoms such as headaches and nausea. "They need to get those assessments done rapidly and get the remedial work done. If that doesn't happen, then the houses are not safe to live in," he said.

#### Smoking

In the meantime, he asked the residents to install carbon monoxide alarms, keep their homes ventilated, refrain from smoking or lighting fires and to ensure the water traps in their toilets are functioning. Engineer [John McNamara](#), who represents over 30 homeowners at the estate, has asked Housing Minister [Jan O'Sullivan](#) and the HSE to evacuate the development. "I'm actually quite horrified. The doctors there admitted that the houses are dangerous to live in unless essential remedial works are carried out. Gases are still getting into the houses and the sewage system is clearly acknowledged as not to be functioning," he said. "They could not be happy with keeping people in properties that are clearly dangerous."

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/residents-want-estate-evacuated-after-gas-explosion-3255603.html>

#### ENGLAND, SOUTH YORKSHIRE, OCTOBER 11 2012. DONCASTER 'FIREBALL' FIRM FINED £20,000



*Aftermath: The scene of the inferno at chemical firm Solvents With Safety Ltd where a fireball erupted after unsafe working practices were followed.*

A huge fire which could have cost the lives of workers at a Doncaster chemical firm was caused by unsafe working practices, a court heard. Solvents With Safety Ltd had twice been warned about the method used to decant a highly flammable liquid with a very low flashpoint before a fireball erupted at its premises between Bawtry and Harworth in June 2010. The inferno engulfed the premises and staff were evacuated. The firm, based on Plumtree Farm industrial estate, off Tickhill Road, was fined £20,000. Doncaster magistrates were told employees were transferring a highly flammable liquid called toluene from a bulk container into a smaller drum using a pipe from the container, but the pipe was too short. It meant dropping the liquid from the pipe into the drum, a process called 'splash filling' known to generate static electricity - a potential ignition source. The court was told the flashpoint of toluene is just 4C so on a hot June evening when the process took place, the toluene would have a flammable vapour over its surface. The build-up of static electricity in the drum is thought to have ignited the vapour and sparked a fire that quickly took hold and spread to other containers of flammable and dangerous solvent mixtures at the site, some of which exploded. Seven workers managed to escape unharmed after a quick-thinking supervisor ordered them to evacuate the site and called the emergency services. The blaze was described as a raging inferno. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found the 'splash fill' method was 'wholly inappropriate' and posed a clear risk that wasn't properly assessed. Worker safety was further compromised by the fact that the pipe used to fill the container wasn't earthed, and because the personal protective equipment worn by the workers wasn't anti-static and was therefore unsuitable. The court also heard the HSE had twice written to Solvents With Safety, in May 2006 and December 2007, to warn of the dangers of splash filling containers. The company pleaded guilty to breaching the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 and was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £6,860 in costs. Afterwards HSE inspector Jayne Towey said: "The workforce was extremely lucky to escape unharmed from this incident. The size and scale of the fire was immense. "Lives were needlessly put at risk because there would have been no blaze at all had the company taken more care with the decanting operation." Brendan Pope, managing director of Safety With Solvents, declined to comment.

<http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/local/doncaster-fireball-firm-fined-20-000-1-4995625>

#### REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, KINSASHA, OCTOBER 12 2012. EX-MINISTER IN CONGO REPUBLIC CHARGED IN ARMS DUMP BLAST

*christian tsoumou*

Republic of Congo's former defense minister has been charged with negligence over his role in a blast at an arms dump that killed more than 280 people earlier this year, according to a letter from the former minister seen on Tuesday. Charles Zacharie Bowao, who remained in his job for months before being sacked in a September government reshuffle, is the most senior



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official to be blamed for the March 4 blast, which injured 2,500 and left 16,000 more homeless after a heavy weapons depot exploded. "The judge in the 'March 4 case' summoned me on October 4 to inform me that I had been charged with carelessness, recklessness, absent-mindedness and negligence," Bowao wrote in a letter to the ruling PCT political party of which he is a member. The letter was written on Oct 7 but was handed to reporters by an aide of the former minister's on Tuesday. It was not clear when the case would begin. "I deny the charges," wrote Bowao. "Everything leads me to believe that I am the victim of political maneuvering." Neither the court nor the judge were available for comment. [Congo](#) Republic's government came under fire for leaving the vast stock of heavy weapons in a densely-populated neighborhood in the country's main city. Another defense ministry official and about 20 soldiers are being held in prison over the incident. However, President Denis Sassou Nguesso's ruling PCT party went on to secure a majority in a July parliamentary election that was shunned by many Congolese.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/09/us-congo-republic-blast-idUSBRE89817P20121009>

### USA, WASHINGTON DC, OCTOBER 12 2012. JUSTICES STEER CLEAR OF CHEVRON'S \$18B ECUADOREAN POLLUTION JUDGMENT

*lawrence hurley*

 **Document** [E&E's special report on the case](#)

The Supreme Court decided today not to intervene in the ongoing battle between Chevron Corp. and Ecuadorean plaintiffs over an \$18 billion judgment against the oil giant. Chevron had wanted the justices to review a January ruling by the New York-based 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The court ruled that the oil company must wait before seeking to challenge enforcement of an Ecuadorean judge's \$18 billion judgment in favor of thousands of indigenous Ecuadoreans over alleged oil pollution ([Greenwire](#), Jan. 26). The appeals court had earlier lifted an injunction imposed by U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan of the Southern District of New York that would have prevented the plaintiffs from enforcing the judgment in U.S. courts. Justice Samuel Alito was not involved in the court's consideration of Chevron's petition, the Supreme Court said. The plaintiffs must seek overseas enforcement of the judgment because Chevron has no assets in Ecuador. Chevron is desperately fighting to avoid paying any of the judgment over the pollution allegedly caused by Texaco Petroleum Corp., which was acquired by Chevron in 2001. The oil company's strategy includes hard-hitting claims -- in the form of a racketeering lawsuit against the defendants' legal team -- that the entire case against it is a sham and that the Ecuadorean court system is corrupt. The plaintiffs have responded with their own allegations about Chevron's conduct during the litigation. In a statement, a Chevron spokesman said the company "will continue to defend against the plaintiffs' lawyers' attempts to enforce the fraudulent Ecuadorean judgment." The oil giant will also try to "further expose their misconduct" in the racketeering case and other proceedings, the spokesman added. Karen Hinton, a spokeswoman for the Ecuadorean plaintiffs, welcomed the Supreme Court's refusal to take the case. "While we applaud the decision and welcome it, Chevron continues its futile battle to evade its legal obligations even as the victims of its reckless policies face a grave public health crisis and imminent danger of death in Ecuador," she added.

<http://www.eenews.net/public/Greenwire/2012/10/09/1>

### USA, CA, CALISTOGA, NAPA CO. OCTOBER 12 2012. DECADES OLD CANISTERS DESTROYED IN NORTH BAY EXPLOSION >> THE BOX WAS PART OF DISASTER RELIEF FOR THE HOSPITAL AND WAS PACKED IN 1957.

Authorities safely detonated a volatile and dangerous crate of decades-old ether in "one shot" at the Napa County Fairgrounds in Calistoga this afternoon, a Napa County sheriff's captain said. At about 12:30 p.m., Calistoga residents heard a loud explosion when the 96 quarter-pound canisters of highly explosive ether were detonated using a counter-charge, Capt. Tracey Stuart said. The ether was found in a wooden crate at the fairgrounds on Monday during a hazardous materials collection event, Calistoga police said. The crate was marked that it was packaged in March 1957, and sheriff's officials said it was originally part of a stash of disaster supplies for a 200-bed hospital and had been stored at the fairgrounds for decades. Stuart said authorities were lucky they could move the ether to an unpopulated field in the fairgrounds and take care of it in one explosion. The explosion created "quite an impressive fire ball," which burned off the ether nearly instantaneously, Stuart said. "You could smell the ether," Stuart said about the explosion. "As soon as it was up, it was gone." Everything in the area is safe and residents can go about their regular routine, she said. Stuart had said prior to the explosion that detonating the canisters was the only way to get rid of it. Sheriff's officials contacted residents of nine nearby homes about 30 minutes prior to the



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detonation warning them to either evacuate the area or stay inside while the detonation took place, Stuart said. Stuart said the explosion left some debris and a one-foot hole in the ground, which fairgrounds staff are cleaning up, she said.

<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Decades-Old-Canisters-Destroyed-in-North-Bay-Explosion-173394971.html>

#### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, OCTOBER 12 2012. WARNING OVER BARBECUE GAS CYLINDERS

As barbies and gas cylinders are dragged out for a new sizzling season, authorities are warning people to be careful when firing up or filling up. Fire & Rescue NSW and WorkCover issued a joint warning today aimed at NSW residents. The warning follows recent service station fires and a series of LPG and barbecue fires caused largely by wear and tear on gas hoses and burners. WorkCover's health and safety manager John Watson said the station fires at Newtown and Hoxton Park were sparked by unsafe decanting of LPG into smaller cylinders for use in barbecues. "LPG cylinders should be earthed while being filled by placing them on the ground to limit the risk of static electricity build from the flow of gas," Mr Watson said in a statement. "They should also never be left unattended while being filled as this can lead to overfilling and gas escaping." Fire Commissioner Greg Mullins said that, since June 1 this year, firefighters had responded to 64 barbecue fires and 67 leaking or damaged LPG cylinders and hoses, most from barbecue cylinders. "When a cylinder leaks, especially on balconies, the gas pools until something ignites it like a cigarette or an electrical spark." Mr Mullins said that happened at a residential unit on August 29, when the resulting explosion and fire caused extensive damage and nearly claimed the lives of the family who lived there. "The barbecue hadn't been used for several months and the cylinder had not been turned off. When the airconditioner kicked in, the gas ignited." Mr Mullins said if LPG cylinders and hoses looked old or perished, they should be checked by a specialist at local barbecue, camping or caravan stores. He said a new hose and regulator for gas cylinders could be purchased for less than \$50. Safety tips:

- Never use an LPG cylinder indoors or in a confined space.
- Check cylinders for rust or damage and make sure connections are clear and fit properly before lighting.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and use the correct start-up and shut-down procedures.
- After use, make sure the gas is turned off at the cylinder.
- Never put flammable liquid on to a barbecue.
- Keep children away from the barbecue and store lighters and matches in a secure place.
- If a gas leak occurs and it is safe to do so, shut off the cylinder immediately and allow any gas to disperse.
- In an emergency, get away, stay away and call triple-0.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/warning-over-barbecue-gas-cylinders-20121010-27ciy.html>

#### USA, TX, MUSTANG RIDGE, OCTOBER 12 2012. SH 21 REOPENS AFTER DEADLY TANKER CRASH >> PICKUP COLLIDED WITH GAS TANKER AND GOT PINNED

haley cihock



*Tanker wreck in Mustang Ridge kills one.*

One person died overnight when a pickup truck got pinned under a gas tanker on State Highway 21 in Mustang Ridge. The accident at about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday shut down the eastbound lanes of SH 21, near the interchange with U.S. Highway 183. The highway reopened at 6:20 a.m. Wednesday. The pickup truck driver died at the scene. The tanker driver was not hurt. Emergency workers have freed the truck from under the big rig. They off-loaded the fuel from the tanker, and no fuel spilled. It was a tricky process. "Dealing with the product that we had -- but unleaded fuel and diesel fuel and the mixture of the two with fumes -- any type of spark could have caused an explosion of some kind," said Chisholm Trail Fire Rescue Assistant Chief Craig Kolls. "So that's one thing we were being very careful of -- to make sure we didn't cause any kind of spark." Mustang Ridge police officers are still investigating the cause of the crash.

<http://www.kxan.com/dpp/news/deadly-gas-tanker-crash-closes-hwy-21>



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