



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 911 Newsy Stuff

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

**December 15 2012**



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#### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, MUSWELLBROOK, NOVEMBER 28 2102. WORKCOVER INVESTIGATES DENMAN SPILL

*david marchese*

**Map:** [Muswellbrook 2333](#)



WorkCover New South Wales is investigating a serious chemical leak at an Upper Hunter water treatment plant. 2,000 litres of hydrochloric acid escaped from a vat at the Denman plant last month before being contained by staff. WorkCover has issued three improvement notices to Muswellbrook Shire Council in relation to emergency management procedures, plant maintenance and work procedures. Muswellbrook Mayor Martin Rush says council is treating the spill seriously. "It was contained within the area that the plant was designed to contain it when there is a spill of this nature but nonetheless serious," he said. The council says it has some concerns about the cause of the spill. Nobody was injured in the incident. Councillor Rush says staff have co-operated fully with

Workcover investigators. "But there are some things that are of concern," he said. "Standard work method statements didn't appear to be in place. "It would appear that a maintenance regime would have assured that this didn't occur."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-28/denman-chemical-spill/4395914>

#### CHINA, BEIJING, NOVEMBER 28 2012. GAS CRACKDOWN FOLLOWS FATAL HOT POT RESTAURANT EXPLOSION

Firefighters in Beijing have commenced a series of spot checks on restaurants in the capital, prompted by a deadly explosion in a hot pot restaurant last week. "This inspection is a specialized check on the safety usage of gas in canteens. It's a response to the hot pot gas explosion in Shanxi last week," said Li Zhuo, media officer from Beijing Firefighting Bureau. A blast caused by a gas canister at Xiyangyang hot pot restaurant in Jinzhong, Shanxi Province, killed 14 and injured 47 Friday, reported the Xinhua News Agency. Explosions caused by gas leaks are common in the capital. On September 18, three chefs were injured in a fire at a Yunnan restaurant in Xicheng district. In May, five people were burnt in two separate incidents in restaurants in Haidian and Chaoyang districts. All involved gas leaks. However, Li said that in Beijing, fires caused by gas explosions are rare. "More fires [in Beijing] are caused by using electronic products," he said, although he did not have accurate statistics to hand. According to Li, Beijing has higher standards than other cities nationwide, and strict policies on the use of gas in restaurants, including storage of canisters and alarms to warn of leaks. Restaurants not meeting the standards could be fined or ordered to close, he said. Many restaurants said that they were unclear as to how to safely deal with gas canisters. "We've operated for many years and had no accidents. We have a pipe from each table's gas canister, and we don't need to check them," said an anonymous staff member from Xiangyuzhai, a hot pot restaurant in Xicheng district "If you're afraid, you just don't come here," he said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/746909.shtml>

#### USA, CA, RICHMOND, NOVEMBER 29 2012. NEW LAWSUIT ALLEGES NEGLIGENCE OVER CHEVRON REFINERY BLAZE >> 4,800 PLAINTIFFS WITH A NEW LAWSUIT

*robert rogers*

Two law firms announced Tuesday they have signed on 4,800 plaintiffs to a new lawsuit alleging that Chevron's Richmond refinery was negligent in maintenance practices and lax in alerting the community to an Aug. 6 fire at a refinery crude unit. The suit expands on the legal action filed by Oakland-based attorney John Burris less than two weeks after the blaze, which sent black smoke wafting over the East Bay and sent thousands to area hospitals seeking treatment. The plaintiffs, who range from infants to the elderly, suffered a wide range of health issues, including serious respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms since the fire, according to the lawsuit. The plaintiffs are represented by Tony Buzbee and Kyle Beckley of The Buzbee Law Firm, of Houston, Texas, and Burris and Adante Pointer, of the Law Offices of John L. Burris. In a news release, Burris said, "Chevron compounded this public health threat by delaying the issuance of a countywide warning until hours after discovering the leak ... As a result, thousands of area residents, workers and visitors were exposed to the toxic plume emanating from the refinery." Soon after the fire, Chevron opened 24-hour claims hot lines and took thousands of claims by phone and in person at offices it opened in community centers. The fire remains under investigation by federal, state and regional investigators, including the U.S. Chemical Safety Board. The fire was caused when a corroded pipe carrying high-temperature gas oil sprung a leak,



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releasing hydrocarbons that ignited soon after workers evacuated. Chevron spokesman Derek Jansen released a statement late Tuesday saying the lawsuit will be contested and that the energy giant is cooperating with investigators. "Because Chevron USA established a claims process to compensate community members for medical and property-loss claims following the Aug. 6 incident, we do not believe any lawsuits are necessary, and we will defend them vigorously," Jansen wrote via email. The lawsuit alleges the refinery has been the source of 19 fires, spills and explosions since 1989. It seeks unspecified damages, safety upgrades, attorneys' fees and court costs.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/business-headlines/ci\\_22077418/richmond-new-lawsuit-alleges-negligence-over-chevron-refinery](http://www.mercurynews.com/business-headlines/ci_22077418/richmond-new-lawsuit-alleges-negligence-over-chevron-refinery)

### **SOUTH AFRICA, PRETORIA, NOVEMBER 29 2012. DRIVING FORWARD**



A niche is a distinct segment of a market. Defining your niche will position you as an expert in your chosen field and enable you to achieve business success. This is exactly what Elegant Fuel has gone about and largely succeeded in doing. "Success is always easier when you have clarity around your business," says Elegant Fuel director Rocco Strydom. "We're

a wholesale distributor of all petroleum products at the best price and excellent service. We're focused on that." According to its website, the company was "born from the need that existed to look after smaller users of petroleum". It only delivers depot-certified product to its clients over a "vast area" that includes Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West province and the Free State. Due to its attention to detail and personal service, the company has seen month-on-month growth for a few years running and is the preferred non-refining wholesaler to diesel depots, mines, garages, the agricultural sector and even public transport operators, Strydom says. Elegant Fuel currently supplies 15 millions litres of fuel per month to the end user, with a turnover of approximately R2 billion per annum. "We have hands on management and are open 24/7," Mr Strydom says. "We are driving the business forward and recently launched our own retail brand. The demand has been incredible and several garages have been earmarked for re-branding this year." Elegant Fuel provides a "cost effective alternative" and is now focused on "expanding brand through the re-branding of garages", he adds. "We've learnt from hard-earned experience, have a never-say-die attitude and are fast becoming one of the leading suppliers of petroleum products in the northern provinces. "This year and for 2013 the main is to create more brand awareness around Sub Saharan Africa and grow the business." Now is about raising its profile. "Bringing your brand into people's homes is very important," Strydom says. "We've started rolling out our own brand of filling stations and basically what we're doing is taking stations that have been neglected by other oil companies and just pouring money into it and picking it up. It's been successful beyond our wildest imagination but we are eager for more and have a very ambitious five to ten year plan to be the first company in South Africa to import our own fuel privately because you're sitting amongst the big guys here, the large players that dominate the market, and we should be able to compete with them as we are almost standing on their shoulders. We're largely dependant on them – the likes of Sasol etc. - but the dream is in five to ten years to put up our own equipment and bring our own tankers into SA." We talked with Strydom during the second week of South Africa's recent truckers strike which ended on October 12 when employers and unions struck a deal that'll see wage increases of 10 percent from March 2013, eight percent the following year and nine percent for 2015. The three-week strike hit deliveries of fuel, cash and consumer goods across the country and was defined by acts of violence. Trucks were set on fire, drivers were attacked with petrol bombs and rocks, and at least one person has died. The South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA) warned people not to panic buy. Strydom called the situation "unfortunate". "It's political power play, that's my opinion. What we are doing at the moment is that we're employing security guards to escort the trucks to and from the depots. We just made a decision and said 'the show must go on, we can't stop delivering to our clients now' and we absolutely went out of our way to change our business model to enable us to deliver. We are using an armed escort service and we're still making our deliveries, which I think is great. It's a risk but I think our customers are seeing the benefit of it. "This is all a follow on effect coming from Marikana. That kind of violence is then seen as a way of offsetting negotiations. It is unfortunate." Elegant Fuel's response is just another example of the firm's never-say-die attitude. "We're a 365, 24/7 business," Strydom says. "It's a total commitment, knowing what is going on a day to day basis. The competitive advantage that we have is that we can make decisions faster compared to big oil companies. We've four directors and we can make a conference call right away and that puts us two or three days ahead of everyone else." Another differentiator is Elegant Fuel's focus on CSR. CSR plays an integral part of its operations, offering training to unskilled individuals in order to create a platform to kick-start a career. "That's essential to our business model. We also enjoy a Level 4 BEE rating and are



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certified by the Department of Energy, speaking volumes of our commitment to transformation within the petroleum industry "Elegant Fuel has succeeded in creating a strong retail brand that consumers can identify with. To learn more visit [www.elegantfuel.com](http://www.elegantfuel.com)  
<http://www.southafricamag.com/content/driving-forward>

### USA, LA, MINDEN, NOVEMBER 29 2012. LSP: EXPLOSIVES IMPROPERLY STORED AT CAMP MINDEN

**Watch the Video** [An Estimated 1 Million Pounds of Explosives Spread out Around the Site](#)



*In this photo released Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012 by the Louisiana State Police shows piles of explosive powder stored at the Camp Minden industrial site that officials say were improperly housed by a company. State police and Webster Parish sheriff's deputies were working to secure hundreds of thousands of pounds of the explosive powder, Tuesday at the facility. "I have been told that we're looking at possibly a million-plus pounds and above," said Webster Parish Sheriff Gary Sexton. He said containers of explosives were sitting outside in piles and in roofless buildings, exposed to the weather, at the northwest Louisiana site. Col. Mike Edmonson, head of the Louisiana State Police, said his investigators found the improperly stored explosives during an inspection of property leased by Explo Systems Inc., where an above-ground magazine storage facility exploded last month.*

State police and Webster Parish sheriff's deputies were working Tuesday to secure hundreds of thousands of pounds of explosives at the Camp Minden industrial site that officials say were improperly housed by a company. "We have a minimum of a million pounds. We believe it's more, but it's so difficult to count because it's spread out everywhere," said Col. [Mike Edmonson](#), head of the Louisiana State Police. Webster Parish Sheriff [Gary Sexton](#) said containers of explosives were sitting outside in piles and in roofless buildings, exposed to the weather, at the northwest Louisiana site, which is near a local high school, the parish prison and the 800-resident town of Doyle. Edmonson said local and state officials intend to move the explosives within the next few days, after determining the safest method and the needed evacuations. He said the explosives were in a stable environment and weren't an immediate threat to safety.

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/LSP-Explosives-improperly-stored-at-Camp-Minden-4070204.php>

### USA, TX, HOUSTON, NOVEMBER 29 2012. U.S. BARGE OPERATOR KIRBY TO BUY PENN MARITIME FOR \$295M



*Pen operates 18 tank barges and 16 tugboats.*

Houston, Texas based barge operator Kirby Corporation [said Tuesday it has agreed](#) to buy Penn Maritime Inc. and Maritime Investments LLC [collectively Penn], which operate tank barges and tugboats for transportation of black oil products in the U.S. for \$295 million in cash, stock, and retirement of the companies' debt. The announcement comes less than a month after Kirby completed the [\\$116 million acquisition](#) of Allied Transportation Company's fleet of barges and tugboats. Penn operates 18 heated, double-hulled tank barges with a capacity of 1.9 million barrels and a product mix consisting mostly of refinery feedstocks, asphalt, and crude oil, along with and 16 tugboats. Its customers include major oil companies and refiners, most of them current Kirby customers for inland tank barge services. "Penn is a well-respected U.S. Jones

Act coastal tank barge operator with a well-maintained fleet, and earns the majority of its revenue from term contracts with blue chip domestic and international oil and refining customers," said Kirby Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Joe Pyne. "Penn's fleet will extend our coastal product capabilities, particularly transporting asphalt, which we expect to benefit from the need to repair and upgrade aging highway infrastructure throughout the United States. "Penn also has vessels operating in the Gulf Coast crude oil trade which is benefiting from the production and transport of shale-based crude, particularly out of the Eagle Ford shale formation." The deal is expected to close next month.

<http://shipandbunker.com/news/am/351568-us-barge-operator-kirby-to-buy-penn-maritime-for-295m>



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#### INDIA, PUNE, NOVEMBER 29 2012. TANKER FLLS OFF BRIDGE AFTER DRIVER MISJUDGES TURN

An empty liquefied petroleum gas tanker, which first hit the railing of a bridge, landed on an open land along Pavana river near Ravet on Tuesday. Subhash Jadhav, police sub-inspector, Wakad police chowkey under Hinjewadi police station said, "The driver misjudged a turn while on the bridge." The tanker was going to Mumbai after offloading LPG in Pune. It fell from a height of 30 ft. The mishap took place at 11 am on the road linking Punavale and Ravet. The driver Balu Rane, and the cleaner have been admitted to Lokmanya hospital in Nigdi. Traffic on the road was affected after the mishap. PCMC fire officer Kiran Gawde said, "The tanker was empty so a major accident was averted. It fell on the open ground near Pavana river so there was no water contamination. A fire engine each from Rahatni and Pradhikaran sub-offices rushed to the spot. The fire brigade employees checked whether there was any major damage to the LPG tanker."

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-11-28/pune/35409828\\_1\\_lpg-tanker-pavana-river-ravet](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-11-28/pune/35409828_1_lpg-tanker-pavana-river-ravet)

#### USA, WI, MILTON, NOVEMBER 29 2012. TIPPED TANKER CLOSSES HIGHWAY 59 IN MILTON

neil johnson

 **Watch the Video** [Ethanol Truck in Milton Rolls Over. Spills Cargo on Hwy](#)



*A tanker truck lies on its side on the far western roundabout on the Highway 59 bypass near Milton. The truck was carrying ethanol, so officials created a safety zone of 500 feet around the incident and allowed the ethanol to leak from the truck into a nearby retention pond.*

Ethanol and roundabouts—two things that have drawn the ire of Milton residents—collided Tuesday with less than favorable results. Authorities were still trying to learn Tuesday how an ethanol tanker truck tipped over on one of the Highway 59 roundabouts at about 9:45 a.m. The accident caused thousands of gallons of ethanol to spill into a nearby retention pond and led to the closure

of Highway 59 for hours as emergency and investigative crews dealt with the aftermath. According to a news release from Milton police Lt. John Conger, state and local emergency crews determined it would be safer to let the ethanol continue to spill from the truck than to bring in equipment to stem the spill. "Officials on scene have determined the safest course of action is to allow the ethanol to leak out naturally, rather than introducing any apparatus that could potentially cause a fire hazard. Ethanol is draining into a retention pond, which is adjacent to where the incident took place," Conger wrote. Traffic was shut down along Highway 59 from Highway 26 to Vickerman Road on Tuesday while state and local emergency and environmental crews investigated and dealt with the accident, according to officials. The truck still was draining early Tuesday evening, and officials kept Highway 59 closed through the night. Milton Police Chief Dan Layber said authorities believed the bulk of the spilled ethanol was being contained to the retention pond, which it reached through a storm sewer. "I think it's just getting captured into that retention pond, so we should be OK as far as that's concerned," Layber said. Layber said the tanker truck was leaving the United Ethanol plant at 1050 Chicago St., Milton, and was making a turn around the westernmost of three roundabouts on Highway 59 when it tipped. Layber said the leaking ethanol created an immediate explosion hazard. A Milton firefighter and a Milton Department of Public Works told a Gazette reporter Tuesday morning that the accident area was dangerous, and authorities were considering a 500-foot area around the accident to be a "hot zone." Police evacuated nearby businesses and homes in the wake of the spill, but authorities allowed people to return to those locations after crews determined there was no danger to anyone farther than 500 feet from the spill. Officials cut off train traffic along the Highway 59 corridor, but trains were allowed to pass through by late afternoon Tuesday, officials said. The Wisconsin State Patrol assisted in the investigation, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources assisted with an environmental impact assessment. Details were not available Tuesday. Layber said initial investigations showed the tank truck's driver was not speeding or driving recklessly at the roundabout. It's not clear if the driver of the truck had trouble negotiating the roundabout, although authorities indicated the driver had gone through the two other roundabouts on the same stretch of Highway 59 before the truck tipped. Layber said the driver apparently was uninjured. The Milton roundabouts see a large volume of large truck traffic daily for local industries along Highway 59, including United Ethanol, Freedom Graphics and Ott Schweitzer Distributing. City Administrator Jerry Schuetz said the roundabouts have posed "some operational challenges for both the private sector and the public sector," including emergency and snowplow vehicles. Last year, a semitrailer truck had an axle snap off in one of the roundabouts when its driver couldn't make the turn. The breakdown shut down traffic for hours, he said. In a Gazette report in February 2012, one



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local trucking company owner said the Milton roundabouts are a nuisance for semitrailer trucks because drivers must slow to 10 miles per hour or slower to safely negotiate them. The trucking company owner said drivers can wind up with scrubbed-up tires and other vehicle damage because of the narrowness of the lanes and the tight turn radius of the roundabouts. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has said that its roundabouts meet federal regulations for lane width and turn radius for large vehicles. Still, the DOT agreed last year to a city request to modify Milton's roundabouts. According to DOT officials, the changes would shrink the size of the roundabouts' center islands and expand the size of "truck apron" inside lanes in roundabouts that semitrailer trucks and emergency vehicles can drive on. Schuetz said he believes the upgrades could come next year when the DOT is paving the Highway 26 bypass.

<http://gazettextra.com/news/2012/nov/28/tipped-tanker-closes-highway-59-milton/>

### USA, MI, INDEPENDENCE TWP, NOVEMBER 29 2012. OVERTURNED TANKER CREATES HAZMAT SITUATION ON I-75

One lane of I-75 remains closed several hours after a tanker truck flipped on it's side at Sashabaw Road in Independence Township. Michigan State Police say the cause of the early morning accident is still under investigation but there are reports the driver may have fallen asleep at the wheel. The Oakland Press reports the tanker was carrying 4,100 pounds of industrial glue and leaked diesel fuel. A second truck was on the scene to transfer the contents of the tanker involved in the incident. According to Troopers clean-up of the spill was slowed because a Hazmat team had to travel from Midland.

<http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/story/20207756/overtuned-tanker-creates-hazmat-situation-on-i-75>

### USA, WASHINGTON DC, NOVEMBER 29 2012. API SUES EPA OVER ITS 2013 BIOMASS-BASED DIESEL MINIMUM

*nick snow*

The American Petroleum Institute sued the US Environmental Protection Agency on Nov. 26 over its final rule raising the biomass-based diesel fuel minimum for 2013 to 1.28 billion gal. EPA increased the requirement by 28% from 2012's 1 billion gal minimum on Sept. 14. The 2013 biodiesel mandate is unworkable, API Group Downstream Director Bob Greco said. "In its final rule, EPA admitted the costs of increasing the biodiesel volume requirement for 2013 outweighed the benefits by as much as \$425 million," he said. "Furthermore, fraudulent biofuel credits that have plagued the system since last year and have yet to be resolved could inhibit industry's ability to meet EPA's higher biodiesel mandate." API also formally petitioned EPA to reconsider its decision. The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers filed a similar petition on Nov. 20. Greco said EPA has uncovered more than 140 million invalid renewable identification number fuel credits generated by three biodiesel companies, representing 5-12% percent of the US biodiesel market. "The fraudulent RIN problem is having, and will continue to have, significant impacts on the biodiesel marketplace that make it more difficult for companies to comply with EPA's mandate," he maintained. In a Nov. 27 teleconference with reporters, Greco said the federal Renewable Fuels Standard, which includes the biodiesel requirements, should be eliminated because it is working badly and could force higher ethanol concentrations in gasoline which could hurt motor vehicles. "Despite repeated and ongoing efforts to address the program's shortcomings—through regulatory petitions, legal actions, and suggested solutions to implementation concerns—little has been done to make the program workable, and sometimes actions have been taken that make matters worse," he declared. "There is a fundamental flaw in the enabling statute [the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act] so the only way to fix it is to scrap the law and start over if Congress believes such a program is necessary," Greco said.

<http://www.ogj.com/articles/2012/11/api-sues-epa-over-its-2013-biomass-based-diesel-minimum.html>

### INDIA, AURANGABAD, NOVEMBER 29 2012. RELOCATE THREE HIGH-RISK PETROL PUMPS, SAYS AURANGABAD POLICE CHIEF

*niraj chinchkhede*

Police commissioner Sanjay Kumar has said that three petrol pumps in the city were in a high-risk area and should be shifted at the earliest. He was speaking at the inaugural session of a training programme on fire and safety at retail outlets and LPG godowns on Monday. The training programme was jointly conducted by Aurangabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) in the city. It was in the wake of the recent fire that engulfed a petrol pump at Old Mondha area. Kumar said the three petrol pumps were located in overcrowded localities in the city area where maintaining security measures was a big challenge for the oil companies. "These outlets are quite old and there is no option but to shift them in the interest of the citizens," he felt. The three petrol pumps include a Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) near



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Aurangabad railway station and one outlet each of BPCL and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in Shahaganj area. Addressing the gathering of AMC officials, fire fighters representing various organisations, school principals and police officers, Kumar urged the participants to create awareness among the people. He said regular security audits of petrol pumps and other public places should be done with great care as it was not possible to prevent any recurrence. "We are making use of various instruments and gadgets but people tend to ignore the security aspects of these instruments. This invites accidents and we have to pay huge price for it," he said. Recalling his six-month stay in Bosnia, where he had been for a United Nation's project, the city's top cop said, "I have seen uneducated employees of that country follow basic safety rules. They did not adopt short cuts while doing their routine work which assured safety of everyone associated with the project. But this is not the case in India where a large number of educated people give secondary importance to security parameters," he said. According to him, education and character-building did not go simultaneously. "If it would have been incorrect, all educated people would follow traffic and other simple rules made for their well-being. Unfortunately, there is a big chunk of modern population that takes security parameters for granted," he added. Meanwhile, senior divisional manager of IOC Vikas Bahel said oil companies were conducting security audits with great caution wherein every aspect related to human safety was given due importance. He also praised the efforts of IOC officials who had averted casualties during the recent fire at IOC petrol pump in last month.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/aurangabad/Relocate-three-high-risk-petrol-pumps-says-Aurangabad-police-chief/articleshow/17400304.cms>

## USA, WASHINGTON DC, NOVEMBER 29 2012. EPA BANS BP FROM NEW FEDERAL CONTRACTS >> THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION CITES THE OIL GIANT'S 'LACK OF BUSINESS INTEGRITY' IN THE 2010 GULF OF MEXICO DISASTER.

neela banerjee



The Obama administration has temporarily banned the energy giant [BP](#) from new federal contracts, citing the company's "lack of business integrity as demonstrated" by the April 2010 [Gulf of Mexico](#) disaster. The [Environmental Protection Agency's](#) decision Wednesday comes two weeks after BP entered into a wide-ranging settlement agreement with the [Justice Department](#) over criminal charges in connection with the Deepwater Horizon disaster, which killed 11 men, spewed nearly 200 million gallons of oil into the ocean and turned into the country's worst offshore environmental catastrophe. The effects on BP's financial health would depend on how long the ban lasts and whether it keeps the company from bidding on lucrative federal leases to tap oil and gas in places like the Gulf of [Mexico](#), said Phil Weiss, senior energy analyst for Argus Research. Hours after the ban was issued, the [Interior Department](#) announced a lease sale on more than 20 million offshore acres in the western gulf. BP did not participate. "If it happens once, it's inconvenient for BP, but not that big of a deal," Weiss said. "If it happens twice, three times, then the impact starts to escalate. The best way to do deep

water is to get the acreage before it has been explored, when it is cheapest. Deep-water drilling is very important to BP, and that would have a big impact." The EPA said such suspensions were "a standard practice when a responsibility question is raised by action in a criminal case." It said the suspension would be lifted when "the company can provide sufficient evidence to EPA demonstrating that it meets federal business standards." In separate statements, the EPA and BP underscored that the temporary suspension would affect only future contracts, not existing leases to develop oil and gas in the United States, where BP's holdings are vast. The company issued a statement that suggested it was working with the EPA to get the ban lifted soon. "The EPA's action is pursuant to administrative procedures providing for discretionary suspension until a company can demonstrate 'present responsibility' to conduct business with the U.S. government," BP said. "BP has been in regular dialogue with the EPA and has already provided both a present responsibility statement of more than 100 pages and supplemental answers to the EPA's questions based on that submission." A separate federal civil lawsuit over possible violations of the Clean Water Act, set to proceed in February, could bring penalties in the billions of dollars against BP. The idea of a temporary suspension of BP's access to federal contracts emerged during the early days of the [oil spill](#). BP has probably been in talks with the EPA since 2010 about the penalties it could face, said David Uhlmann, a former chief of the Justice Department's environmental crimes section and a law professor at the University of Michigan. Uhlmann said the EPA suspension could not occur until criminal charges were filed. On Nov. 15, BP agreed to a settlement with the Justice Department under which it



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would plead guilty to 11 felony counts in connection with the deaths of the 11 rig workers and pay a record \$4.5-billion fine. Uhlmann said EPA suspensions were meant to give companies time to fix their problems, not punish them for past actions. Because the suspension comes almost three years after the incident, BP has already had time to fix many problems, he said, which could mean the ban will be short. "Although it's common for companies to face suspension or debarment when charged with environmental crimes, it is rare for major companies to be barred from government contracts for a significant length of time," Uhlmann said. "BP already has taken steps to address its problems. I would expect that sometime in 2013, the ban should be lifted."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-bp-contracts-20121129,0,6564074.story>

### USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, NOVEMBER 29 2012. 2 BP RIG SUPERVISORS AND FORMER EXECUTIVE PLEAD NOT GUILTY TO CHARGES IN GULF OIL SPILL PROBE



Two BP rig supervisors and a former BP executive pleaded not guilty Wednesday to criminal charges stemming from the deadly Deepwater Horizon rig explosion and the company's response to the massive 2010 spill in the Gulf of Mexico. BP well site leaders Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine, along with former BP vice-president of exploration for the Gulf David Rainey, remained free on bond following their arraignments in federal court. Kaluza and Vidrine are charged with manslaughter in the deaths of 11 rig workers. They are accused of disregarding abnormally high pressure readings that should have been glaring indications of trouble just before the blowout of BP's Macondo well. Rainey was charged separately with concealing information from Congress about the amount of oil that was leaking from the well. Millions of gallons of crude oil spewed from BP's well for months. Kaluza professed his innocence on his way

into court, making his first public comments since the April 2010 explosion that killed his co-workers. "I think about the tragedy of the Deepwater Horizon every day," Kaluza told reporters. "But I did not cause this tragedy. I am innocent and I put my trust, reputation and future in the hands of the judge and the jury." Kaluza and Vidrine's lawyers both accused the Justice Department of using their clients as scapegoats. They noted that other government investigations have spread out the blame for the disaster and concluded it was the product of a complex series of mistakes, made both onshore and on the rig. "Bob and Don did their jobs," said Shaun Clarke, one of Kaluza's attorneys. "They did them correctly and they did them in accordance with their training." Robert Habans, one of Vidrine's lawyers, said his client diligently followed instructions he received from engineers and others onshore. "He's not the architect or the engineer. He didn't design the well, and he didn't make the critical decisions in this case," Habans said. The case against Kaluza and Vidrine centres on their roles in supervising "negative testing," which is designed to assess whether a cement barrier is effectively preventing oil or gas from flowing up the well. The indictment says they had "multiple indications" from the negative testing that the well wasn't secure. Yet they allegedly failed to alert onshore engineers about the problems during the testing, accepted a "nonsensical explanation" for abnormal pressure readings and eventually decided to stop investigating. Habans, however, said court records related to civil litigation over the spill indicate Vidrine did discuss the test results with an onshore engineer less than an hour before the blast. A Justice Department attorney questioned a BP expert about the phone conversation between Vidrine and the engineer, Mark Hafle. "It's almost inconceivable to me that the government in the indictment makes a contrary allegation," Habans said. But the indictment appears to fault Kaluza and Vidrine for failing to phone engineers on shore earlier that day while the tests were being performed. Lawyers for Rainey declined to comment. A Justice Department spokeswoman also declined to comment. A trial for Kaluza and Vidrine is scheduled to start on Feb. 4, while Rainey has a Jan. 28 trial date. Both dates could be postponed given the complexity of the cases. BP announced earlier this month that it will plead guilty to manslaughter, obstruction of Congress and other charges and pay a record \$4.5 billion in penalties to resolve a Justice Department probe of the disaster. Attorneys for BP and the Justice Department are scheduled to meet Dec. 11 with a federal judge to discuss a date for the company to plead guilty. The Deepwater Horizon oil rig, owned by Transocean Ltd. but operated on behalf of BP, was drilling in the Gulf of Mexico off the Louisiana coast on April 20, 2010, when it was rocked by an explosion. The bodies of 11 workers were never recovered.

<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/article/108321--2-bp-rig-supervisors-and-former-executive-plead-not-guilty-to-charges-in-gulf-oil-spill-probe>



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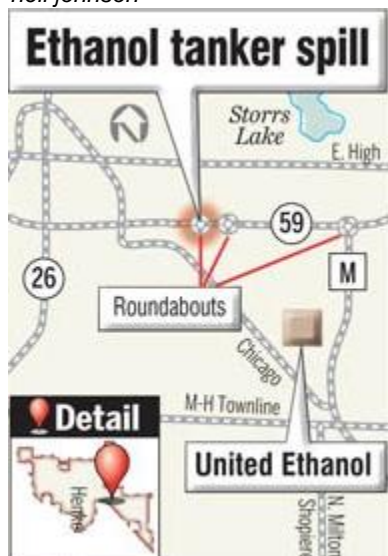
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#### USA, WI, JANESVILLE, NOVEMBER 30 2012. ETHANOL SPILL ISN'T DANGEROUS, OFFICIALS SAY

neil johnson



It could be a few days before police learn what caused an ethanol tanker truck to overturn and spill ethanol at one of the Highway 59 roundabouts Tuesday, but authorities say the spill poses no lingering hazards. Local police and the Wisconsin State Patrol on Wednesday still were trying to piece together how a semitrailer truck that was leaving United Ethanol with a load of ethanol made it through two of three roundabouts on Highway 59 before it flipped on its side while going through the third roundabout. The accident Tuesday morning led to the spill of 8,000 gallons of ethanol into a nearby retention pond, and prompted officials to evacuate the area for hours and shut down Highway 59 east of Milton until well after midnight Wednesday morning. A full report and results of an accident reconstruction were incomplete Wednesday, but Milton Police Chief Dan Layber said he doubted any citations would be issued. The truck driver was not injured. Layber said the driver could only say that his truck suddenly tipped. Witnesses reported the driver did not appear to be speeding and he didn't appear to have gotten off course in the roundabout where the truck tipped, Layber said. "The main suspicion is the load shifting and tipping over. We're still trying to confirm it," Layber said. Layber said he was told by Milton Fire Department officials that the Department of Natural Resources on Tuesday had suggested allowing the overturned truck to drain its load of unblended ethanol into a storm sewer linked to a nearby retention pond. That move was viewed as safer than bringing in equipment to deal with the spill, which officials said was potentially explosive. Layber said the pond

is lined with clay at the bottom, and he said DNR officials expected the ethanol to evaporate from the water. He said officials indicated the spill wouldn't be a threat to groundwater or drinking water. One local trucking company has complained about Milton's roundabouts being difficult to negotiate. City officials say the Highway 59 roundabouts are challenging for large trucks and emergency vehicles because of a tight turn radius and narrow driving lane. The city had asked the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to shrink the center island in the roundabouts and expand the "truck apron," a paved inner ring that large vehicles can drive on. That work is scheduled in 2013, DOT spokesman Michael Bie wrote in an email to The Gazette. Bie wrote that it's too early to tell what caused the rollover Tuesday, which appeared to have happened mid-way through the roundabout. "Unfortunately, rollovers are regular occurrences on roadways and can be caused by numerous factors. We won't speculate on the cause until the (accident) investigation is complete," Bie wrote. DOT officials say Milton's roundabouts meet federal regulations for lane width and turn radius, and Bie wrote that they were designed and built "to ensure they could safely accommodate the freight traffic associated with the (United Ethanol) ethanol plant." "The roundabouts were completed in 2009 and have been serving the freight movement to and from the ethanol plant since then without incident related to their design," he wrote.

<http://gazettextra.com/news/2012/nov/29/ethanol-spill-isnt-dangerous-officials-say/>

#### PAKISTAN, KARACHI, NOVEMBER 30 2012. PROTECTION AGAINST CNG EXPLOSIONS

dr alfred charles

Recently a CNG cylinder had burst at a filling station. The cylinder was fitted in a minibus. As a result of the blast, two people lost their lives and many others were injured on the spot. The early morning bang was loud and disturbing, spreading panic in the residential area. The CNG station is located in a thickly-populated area. Fear gripped the whole area after the blast. This once again brings forth the debate about the use of substandard cylinders. Many, including commercial users, use these poor quality cylinders. There is no mechanism at hand to check and control this ongoing practice. Thus, the lives of many people are at risk. Investigators have also highlighted the fact that the kit was substandard. In Karachi, the Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan is responsible for issuing a certificate to this end. Thus after testing, it issues a certificate and a sticker to be displayed on all vehicles. Further, owners using cylinders are responsible for having the kits checked after every five years. Special seamless cylinders are only subject to use of high pressure gas such as CNG. But many people are using other cylinders meant for other uses like oxygen, nitrogen, acetylene, etc. This is against the law and enforced rules and regulations specified by the Ogra and petroleum ministry. Other kinds of cylinders cannot bear a 200-bar pressure of the CNG. It is the



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duty of CNG filling stations to ensure that the cylinder they are filling possesses the required quality. They should ask for the sticker issued by the HDIP. They have the right to refuse to fill gas in cylinders that have not been passed by the HDIP. By doing this, we may save many lives. CNG station owners can do this easily by deputing staff to check cylinder stickers. Long lines of vehicles are seen these days at CNG stations. They should take the maximum advantage of the situation and check for the stickers. While waiting for their turn, car owners will fully cooperate with them. Besides poor quality and unapproved cylinders, another dangerous factor may cause an accident in future: the use of mobile phones near CNG dispensers. Their use should be avoided as it is dangerous. While the CNG filling process continues, a powerful electro-magnetic field may generate sparking, ending up with an explosion. It should be avoided and the staff should stop anybody trying to use one. All these instructions are displayed at all CNG stations and they should be strictly followed. Station owners and their staff should fulfil their duties most efficiently.

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/30/protection-against-cng-explosions/>

### USA, CA, VENTURA, NOVEMBER 30 2012. EPA INVESTIGATES REPORTS OF POSSIBLE TOXIC WASTE AT OLD REFINERY NEAR WEST VENTURA

*cheri carlson*

Decades after a USA Petrochem refinery just north of Ventura shut down, federal authorities searched the site Thursday for evidence of toxic waste believed to have been left for years in leaking tanks and pipes. The Environmental Protection Agency released little information about the search, saying it involves an ongoing investigation. Spokeswoman Nahal Mogharabi did confirm that the EPA's criminal investigation division, along with local and state agencies, executed a search warrant at the former refinery on Crooked Palm Road, north of west Ventura. "As this is an ongoing investigation, the EPA is unable to share additional information at this time," she wrote in an email. Company officials could not be reached for comment Thursday. A court affidavit connected to the search warrant describes an investigation into whether the company illegally stored toxic and flammable petroleum waste on the site. The waste may have been there since the mid-1980s, when the refinery closed because of air quality issues, according to the affidavit filed in federal court and provided to The Star by the U.S. Attorney's Office. County environmental health officials told the EPA in August that they were having problems with an abandoned oil refinery, the affidavit says. The EPA has the authority to order a company to comply with regulations. The refinery registered for the county's voluntary cleanup program in 2005 but has done little to clean up the site, officials said. The company apparently said it had no money and no buyer for the site. In an unannounced visit in 2011, an inspector reported seeing a petroleum-like liquid leaking onto the ground from cut pipes. He also reported seeing about 46,872 gallons of sludge in tanks. While spills found over the years were cleaned up, the larger issue of getting rid of waste believed to be stored on-site was not adequately addressed, officials said. The most immediate concern was safety when an inspector visited the site in August, the affidavit says. While the site was fenced in and had an 80-year-old caretaker, it was not secure, the document says. People appeared to be living at the facility, which also had a lot of graffiti. The inspector also was concerned about open concrete tanks that had liquid inside and about possible contamination draining into the Ventura River, the affidavit says.

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2012/nov/29/epa-investigates-reports-of-possible-toxic-waste/>

### BRAZIL, RIO DE JANEIRO, NOVEMBER 30 2012. PETROBRAS TO SELL ALL REFINERIES OUTSIDE BRAZIL TO ENABLE MASSIVE EXPANSION PLAN

*leila coimbra*

Brazil's state-controlled oil company Petrobras plans to sell all its refineries outside of Brazil as part of an asset-sale plan aimed at helping finance expansion at home, a company source told Reuters on Thursday. Petrobras hopes to sell \$14.8-billion (U.S.) of assets this year as soaring costs, falling production and rising fuel imports have crimped its ability to pay for a \$237-billion five-year expansion plan, the world's largest corporate investment program. Previously Petrobras had only expressed interest in selling its U.S. refinery, which it plans to sell along with all or part of its nearby oil exploration and production blocks in the Gulf of Mexico. It also owns refineries in Argentina and Japan. "The objective is to concentrate refining near our main consumer centre and that's in Brazil," said the source, who declined to be named because it is against company policy to provide specifics of asset sale plans. "To have refining units without the rest of the (production, refining and consumer) chain is not that profitable." Petrobras owns a 100-per-cent stake in three refineries outside Brazil: the 100,000-barrel-per-day plant in Pasadena, Tex.; the 100,000-bpd Nansei Sekiyu unit on the Japanese island of Okinawa; and a 31,500-bpd refinery in Bahia Blanca, Argentina. Rio de Janeiro-based Petrobras also owns a 28.5-per-cent stake in another



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Argentine refinery in Salta Province. The 32,000-bpd refinery is also 50-per-cent owned by Repsol YPF and 21.5-per-cent by Pluspetrol, according to Petrobras' Argentine website. The decision to only make refining investments in Brazil is a reversal of previous company strategy, said Adriano Pires, head of the Brazilian Infrastructure Institute, an energy-policy think-tank in Rio de Janeiro. "Several years ago, the government wanted to transform Petrobras into a giant global player, and because of this, assets were bought abroad," he said. "The company didn't just buy refineries, but it bought exploration blocks in the United States, the biggest world consumer of oil and its derivatives." Brazil lacks refining capacity, however, and has to import gasoline and diesel fuel to feed a growing market.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/international-business/latin-american-business/petrobras-to-sell-all-refineries-outside-brazil-to-enable-massive-expansion-plan/article5822034/?cmpid=rss1>

#### EGYPT, CAIRO, NOVEMBER 30 2012. TOTAL TO OPEN FOUR NEW PETROL STATIONS IN EGYPT

With the demand for fuel as high as ever, four new stations are to open in Egypt by next year. Total Corporation will open four new petrol stations in Egypt to fulfill local needs, the state-run daily newspaper Al-Ahram reported on Thursday; to be completed by next year, the project should inject some LE65 million (\$10.6 million) into the economy per year. Total will then own 78 petrol stations in all. The company believes Egypt remains an attractive country to invest in, according to Momar Nguer, the senior vice president, Africa/Middle East at Total Supply & Marketing. Total, one of France's largest corporations and the world's fifth largest publicly-traded integrated international oil and gas company, added that it will take part in establishing a new factory for oil production worth LE120 million (\$19.6 million). Total reported that the Egyptian oil market ranks top among African and Middle Eastern countries in terms of volume, with a huge turnover resulting from the sale of 35 million tonnes of oil products in 2010 and an annual market growth rate of four-seven percent.

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/12/59465/Business/Economy/Total-to-open-four-new-petrol-stations-in-Egypt-.aspx>

#### USA, ILL, WHEELING, NOVEMBER 30 2012. CICERO MAN DIES AFTER FALL INTO WHEELING CHEMICAL TANK >> FIRE CREWS COULD NOT SAVE A MAN WHO FELL TO THE BOTTOM OF A CHEMICAL TANK AT THE SUNNYSIDE CORPORATION

stan golovchuk

 **Watch the Video:** [Man Killed in Chemical Storage Tank](#)

 **Photo's [3]** [Man dies after fall in Wheeling chemical tank](#)



The man who fell into a Wheeling chemical tank on Thursday was Bernardo Martinez, 37, of Cicero, a foreman with the Bellwood-based Phoenix Industrial Cleaning company, the Journal & Topics reports. "He meant a lot to our company and was loved and respected," Phoenix General Manager Jeff MacNerland told the Journal & Topics. "He was one of our top producers and will be sorely missed."

##### Original Story

Fire crews recovered the dead body of a man from the bottom of a chemical storage tank at the Sunnyside Corporation in Wheeling on Thursday, according to Wheeling fire chief Keith MacIsaac. The man, whose identity has not been released, was cleaning the tank near an opening at the top before falling into the chemical "slime" at the bottom of the structure he died in, the fire chief said. The fire chief was unsure whether the unknown man fell accidentally or was overcome by fumes

emitted by the chemical contents of the tank. [The man was part of a two-person cleaning crew contracted by Sunnyside](#), and a second man was at the scene of the accident when fire fighters arrived, according to the Daily Herald. [The dead man was found lying face down in methylene chloride](#), the Daily Herald reports. The liquid chemical is used in industrial operations such as paint stripping, pharmaceutical manufacturing, metal cleaning and adhesives manufacturing. [The 6,000 gallon tank, measures 50 feet high by 28 feet wide](#), NBC Chicago reports. According to MacIsaac, it was clear to first responders that the man at the bottom of the tank could not be rescued. An oxygen meter used to measure conditions in the tank determined the



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bottom of the structure contained only 12 percent oxygen and the fire chief said the man could not have survived prolonged exposure to those conditions. "There was not much we could do to save this individual," MacIsaac said. "So our operation became making sure no one else got injured or killed." Hazardous material technicians and highly specialized firefighters trained to work in dangerous conditions then conducted a successful recovery operation to remove the man from the bottom of the tank, the fire chief said. "There were no injuries on the scene," MacIsaac said. Recovery personnel and the dead man had to go through a decontamination process after exiting the tank to remove possibly dangerous, residual chemicals, MacIsaac said. According to the fire chief, the investigation of the death was turned over to the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#), a federal agency designed to oversee the safe working conditions. Sunnyside makes wood care products, paint removers, thinners and solvents, [according to its website](#).

<http://northbrook.patch.com/articles/wheeling-fire-department-recovers-dead-man-from-chemical-tank>

#### CYPRUS, LARNACA, NOVEMBER 30 2012. MORE PETROL FOUND UNDERGROUND IN LARNACA



More motor fuel has been found underground in Larnaca, a short distance from a petrol station where a leakage was discovered last month. Workers from Larnaca's sewage board discovered the new leak while carrying out work to place a rainwater pipe in the area of Makarios Avenue in Larnaca. Local residents were unsettled by the smell of fuel according to the Cyprus News Agency, claiming that the problem has existed for over a decade. They had complained to the local authorities that they are suffering from health problems due to the strong smell of fuel and also when they would dig up their yards they would even find deposits of fuel there. The workers stopped as soon as they came across the fuel yesterday. Samples were taken of the earth and were sent for testing. "Our company believes that these are old deposits that have been found," said Vangelis Gregoriou on behalf of the petrol station in question. "Our

petrol stations undergo regular checks and this specific petrol station's underground storage pits were checked 15 days ago." he added. He continued to say that after this new occurrence that new checks would be arranged and if anything was detected then the company would be ready to co-operate with officials to resolve the problem.

#### Related Links

- [Last remaining petrol station will be checked for fuel leak](#)
- [Legal services delaying on petrol stations](#)

<http://www.cyprus-mail.com/cyprus/more-petrol-found-underground-larnaca/20121129>

#### USA, MI, INDEPENDENCE TWP, NOVEMBER 30 2012. OVERTURNED TANKER BACKS UP TRAFFIC ON I-75 IN CLARKSTON

dustin blitchok & doug bauman

[Watch the Video Overturned Tanker Ties-Up I-75](#)



A tanker ran off northbound I-75 and overturned at Sashabaw Road in Independence Township at about 5 a.m. Wednesday. The driver may have fallen asleep at the wheel, police said. "It appears the driver possibly fell asleep and went off the road, crashing into a guardrail (and) causing the vehicle to roll on its side," said Trooper Jacob Liss of the Michigan State Police Metro North Post in Oak Park. The driver was about eight feet away from hitting the cement bridge. He was transported to McLaren Oakland, and his condition is unknown. The tanker was carrying 4,100 pounds of industrial glue and leaked diesel fuel. After the accident, traffic was tied up on both northbound and southbound I-75 for several miles. Hazmat teams were on the scene and expected clean-up to take more than eight hours. As of about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, the right lane of northbound I-75 remained closed.

[http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/11/29/news/local\\_news/doc50b6048ce9334329722928.txt](http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/11/29/news/local_news/doc50b6048ce9334329722928.txt)



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### AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 30 2012. GIZ EXPLAINS: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STAND NEXT TO AN EXPLOSION

*andrew tarantola*



Sure, explosions in cinema are great — they propel cars over otherwise impassable chasms and give heroes something to resolutely walk away from. But in real life, explosions of any appreciable size are terrifyingly deadly. This is what really happens when you're too close to the blast. High explosives like pipe bombs and artillery shells operate on a vastly different energy scale than bullets or fireworks. The former detonate — that is, energy radiates out from the blast site, travelling above the speed of sound — while the latter simply deflagrate with a subsonic wave. This is why you always see movie heroes walking away from towering infernos. Those reactions are much less energetic than detonations, and they're more visually impressive. When a bomb detonates, the energy

released from the explosion radiates outward in all directions at once at speeds between 3km and 9km per second. As this sphere of energy expands, it compresses and accelerates the surrounding air molecules into a supersonic blast wave. This overpressure only exists for a few milliseconds, but it is the primary cause of explosive injuries and property damage. The closer you are to the source of the blast, the more severe the compression. The initial concussive force of the blast wave is immediately followed by high-velocity shock waves that impart more energy into whatever they're passing through — be it a concrete wall or your vital organs. As a blast wave passes over an area, it leaves literally nothing behind. That supersonic wall of air leaves a near-perfect vacuum in its wake. So a split second after your body is severely compressed, it is subjected to an equally massive opposing depressurisation force. Unfortunately, the explosion isn't over yet. Air immediately rushes in to fill the atmospheric void left behind by the blast wave, pulling debris and objects back towards the source of the explosion. This blast wind is strong enough to hurl a human body several meters. Those caught by the blast wind while standing up are the most vulnerable to being carried away. But it isn't the wind itself that injures — it's the blunt-force trauma resulting from you face-planting into the side of a Buick at freeway speeds. This is why jumping behind a large, heavy object for protection from the blast wave only works in the movies. This barotrauma wreaks havoc on your innards, especially air-filled organs like your lungs, ears, and stomach, as well as at joints and ligaments where tissues of differing densities meet. This often causes haemorrhaging, and it may even result in organ rupture. The lungs are especially at risk of haemorrhage as well as edema (swelling brought on by fluid build-up). The brain is not much better off. Military doctors studying the effects of barotrauma on US Armed Forces have compared the effects of an explosive blast on the human body to the act of squeezing a tube of toothpaste — blood and bodily fluids are forced into your brain and skull, resulting in edema. There is also, of course, a lot of danger indirectly associated with the force of the explosion. You could be struck by projectiles — a deadly risk whether it's flying debris or fragments of shrapnel. You could be burned to a crisp by the fireball that comes with certain types of explosives. You could be crushed in a collapsing structure. But assuming an explosion goes as well as it can, the human body is quite resilient, able to withstand a surprising amount of force without instant death. For example, a relatively small explosion, like one from a homemade pipe-bomb, can produce an overpressure of about 1psi and blast winds of nearly 65km/h. That's enough to shatter glass, but it may only cause light injury. The blast from a car bomb can generate upwards of 2psi to 3psi (and wind speeds topping 160km/h), potentially causing major structural damage, severe injury, and enough damage to kill a few folks. A peak overpressure of 5psi, from say a 1MT nuclear warhead, guarantees widespread injuries and more than a few fatalities. The force alone is enough to annihilate full cities and knock down all but the most solidly-reinforced structures — not to mention bursting eardrums. Go up to an explosion with a peak overpressure of 10 psi, and the nearly 300 mph winds it produces, and not even reinforced concrete can withstand it. And at overpressures above 20psi, don't even bother. Even 15psi causes severe lung damage, but at 20psi, fatalities are common. Anything that wasn't destroyed by the initial blast will be blown away by the 800km/h blast winds. This is getting into the territory of pretty large nuclear weapons — in tests of some hydrogen bombs, scientists have recorded effects up to 100psi. The only thing that can protect you from these deadly shock waves is distance. While they are incredibly forceful at close range — and are actually amplified in confined spaces — these waves quickly dissipate as they travel. This is why car bombs demolish the storefront they're parked in front of but barely rattle the windows of homes a block away. So, if you're ever caught up in an explosion, don't just walk disaffectedly away like some cool guy. Drop what you're doing, put your hands over your ears and haul arse in the opposite direction.

<http://www.gizmodo.com.au/2012/11/giz-explains-what-happens-when-you-stand-next-to-an-explosion/>



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### Release 2012 – 911 Newsy Stuff

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#### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, FISKKEVILLE, NOVEMBER 30 2012. CFA BACKS INVESTIGATION INTO FISKVILLE FIREFIGHTERS

*alex white*


The CFA has backed a special investigation into rates of cancer and death among members trained at the Fiskville base in Victoria. The move comes after concerns about contaminated water and cancer-causing chemicals were raised. Worksafe health confirmed it was looking into a complaint about the facility, which has been linked to the cancer-related deaths of more than 20 people. CFA Cancer Incidence and Mortality Study by Monash School of Public Health announced today will investigate cancer incidence at Fiskville and will run alongside a nationwide review looking at sites across Australia. Results are expected late 2014. CFA chief executive Mick Bourke said the Monash study into Fiskville was serious commitment made to members. "Conducting this study is an important step in examining any link between chemicals used at Fiskville during the period identified by the Professor Joy Report and the incidence of cancer," Mr Bourke said. "We are fortunate to have such a world class research institution in Monash available to us." The CFA has contacted people who had high and medium risk of likely exposure to chemical products as outlined within the Professor Joy Report. The offer has already been taken up by 50 people and an additional 44 family members have been offered a one-off medical examination

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/cfa-backs-investigation-into-fiskville/story-e6frf7kx-1226527629794>

#### USA, N.J, PAULSBORO, DECEMBER 1 2012. TRAIN DERAILMENT CAUSES CHEMICAL SPILL OF VINYL CHLORIDE IN PAULSBORO

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Derailment Sends Chemical Tank Cars into N.J. Creek](#)
- [Bridge Collapse Derails Train in New Jersey, Spilling Toxic Chemicals](#)
- [18 Treated for Chemical Exposure after New Jersey Train Derails](#)

 **Photo's [10] Derailment in NJ Sends Chemical Tankers into Creek**

 **Photo's [8] New Jersey Train Derails, Toxic Spill Reported in Creek**

 **Slideshow Paulsboro Train Derailment, Nov. 30, 2012**



##### Story Highlights

- Freight train was derailed and four tankers fell into creek that flows into Delaware River
- Vinyl chloride leak appears to be stopped but cars will need to be moved
- Residents who breathed fumes had asthma-like symptoms, sore throats, no long-term problems

*Seven train cars derailed when the bridge over the Mantua Creek collapsed Friday morning. Four tank cars containing vinyl chloride were dumped into the creek. Nearby residents were evacuated and schools were locked down. Nearly 20 people complained of respiratory distress from the vinyl chloride vapor that leaked from the tank cars.*

Three railroad tank cars tumbled into the Mantua Creek and are leaking flammable vinyl chloride after the train bridge collapsed at about 7 a.m. At least 18 people at the Paulsboro Marine Terminal have complained of respiratory distress and ambulances have been dispatched for them. Residents in the immediate area are being evacuated. Rescue workers and others who have been exposed to the vapors are being sent to Underwood-Memorial Hospital in Woodbury for decontamination and treatment, if needed. Gloucester County officials said those who have been taken to Underwood-Memorial are reporting symptoms of sore throats. The county's health department has reached out to the hospital to offer assistance. A hospital official there said 11 people were brought in from the scene and treated, as well as 17 walk-ins, all with respiratory problems. At least one of the cars is carrying vinyl chloride — a colorless gas with a sweet odor that is easily ignited. The chemicals in two of the cars are unknown, according to Gloucester County Freeholder Director Robert Damming. [Three boxcars also derailed](#) and turned on their sides at the scene, near East Jefferson Street A local environmental cleanup company has been called out to help place booms in the creek, county officials said. The Gloucester



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County HazMat Team and HazMat team for the PRC Refinery are conducting metering and monitoring, county officials said. [This is the same bridge that collapsed in August 2009](#) as a 50-car coal train passed over it, spilling 16 cars into the water. "When you live between two oil refineries, you have a sense that these things can happen," said Assemblyman John Burzichelli, who lives in Paulsboro. "You plan for them. You hope they never happen. Today this happened. At this point, so far, so good. It has been a lot of inconvenience." Paulsboro schools are in a lockdown. Students who hadn't made it to school were advised to return home and a mass phone message went to all families with students in the school system advising them of the lockdown. "We locked down which means all the kids are in the gym there (at the high school)," Paulsboro Superintendent Frank Scambia said. "Nobody is allowed in or out." The "Shelter in Place" activation was issued by the county's Office of Emergency Management and is affecting Paulsboro, East Greenwich and West Deptford. "We very much regret the impact on the local community and fully appreciate the effort of emergency response officials. Conrail's first concern is public safety. Every effort will be made to assure this situation is resolved as safely and quickly as possible," said Conrail spokesman John Enright. "All aspects of the tracks and bridge and rail cars are part of the investigation." The Gloucester County Health Department also closed its Paulsboro WIC office for the day and sent staff to its main building in Washington Township. Gloucester County officials offered some facts about vinyl chloride:

- It's used to make PVC which is used in a variety of common plastic products such as pipes, cable coatings, packing materials etc.
- Heavier than air and can travel along the ground
- Burns easily is not stable at high temperatures
- Exposure may cause eye or throat irritation, headache, shortness of breath.
- Breathing high levels of Vinyl Chloride can cause dizziness and/or sleepiness
- Breathing very high levels can cause loss of consciousness
- Breathing extremely high levels can cause death

### Related Links

- [Paulsboro students sent home during 'window of air clarity' after toxic train derailment](#)
- [Train tumbles into creek; volatile chemicals spilled](#)
- [Residents worried about dangerous gas, chemicals](#)

[http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2012/11/train\\_derailment\\_prompts\\_evacu.html](http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2012/11/train_derailment_prompts_evacu.html)

### USA, GA, SAVANNAH, DECEMBER 1 2012. TANKER DRIVER CHARGED WITH GAS THEFT

lesley conn



Chris Talley has had tougher cases to crack. A day after the Savannah-Chatham property crimes detective arrested a teenager accused of using a stolen cellphone to unknowingly post his photo on the owner's Facebook page, Talley halted another felony in progress — by arresting the driver of a gas tanker who was pumping fuel into 5-gallon buckets, paint cans and anything else he had. Talley found the tanker at the corner of Hagood and Tuten about 8:40 a.m. Wednesday. The driver, identified as Michael Manigo, 32, is charged with theft by taking. Manigo drove for Justin Davis Enterprise Inc. of Madison, Fla., Executives there had already been alerted by a client that they thought they were being shorted on gas on Manigo's route, company president Justin Davis said. Company estimates, provided to police, put Wednesday's theft and some previous shortages at 1,200 gallons. With retail gas prices in Savannah in the \$3.35 a gallon range this week, that amounts to \$4,020. Theft from

drivers isn't as problematic as it was a couple years ago when gas was near \$5 a gallon, Davis said, but fuel distributions companies like his have to stay vigilant. The tanker held 9,000 gallons, Davis said, and while a loss of 500 gallons would have been immediately obvious, smaller losses take more time to detect. "That stuff's so valuable, we're absolutely tracking every dollar," he said. "...It was very obvious on this one there was a culprit, and they caught him red-handed."

[http://savannahnow.com/news/2012-11-30/tanker-driver-charged-with-gas-theft#.ULkZ\\_6xOSM4](http://savannahnow.com/news/2012-11-30/tanker-driver-charged-with-gas-theft#.ULkZ_6xOSM4)



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### USA, TX, HARRIS CO, DECEMBER 1 2012. TEXAS COUNTY WINS \$2 MILLION IN CONTAMINATION LAWSUIT - DRY-CLEANING SOLVENTS

Soil and groundwater contamination from a drycleaning operation that was first discovered in 1996 has led to a \$2.175 million settlement in a lawsuit filed by the Harris County, TX, district attorney's office. Harris County District Attorney Vince Ryan said the settlement is the largest sum ever in favor of a Texas county against owners and operators of a dry-cleaning business. Money from the settlement will be divided equally by the county and the state of Texas. The lawsuit accused Redonda Properties and Seven BC, doing business as San Felipe Joint Venture, SF Properties, and PMSV River Oaks, L.P. of allowing dry-cleaning solvents to contaminate the soil and groundwater under and near the former Hallmark Dry Cleaners on San Felipe Road in the River Oaks area in Houston. The defendants were identified as past or current owners of Hallmark Cleaners which operated on the site from about 1976 through 1997. "People who drop off their clothes for cleaning have a right to know if they are dealing with businesses that are contaminating the earth," said Ryan. "We will continue to work to ensure that polluted groundwaters are properly cleaned up." The judgment assessed a civil penalty of \$1.9 million against Redonda Properties; \$90,000 jointly against PMSV River Oaks, LP and SF Properties, LLC; and \$35,000 against Seven BC Co. In addition, the state will recover attorney's fees of \$10,000 against Redonda Properties; \$10,000 against PMSV River Oaks, LP and SF Properties, LLC; and \$5,000 against Seven BC Co. Contamination of the soil and groundwater was first confirmed in 1996, according to court filings. The site was accepted into the Texas Voluntary Cleanup program in 1997. Site investigation continued over the next several years. Groundwater testing at the site allegedly found levels of perchloroethylene; trichloroethene, vinyl chloride and 1,2-dichloroethene at levels "far above the cleanup standards," according to court records. Remediation work stopped in 2001 and did not begin again until the site entered the Texas Dry Cleaners Remediation program in 2005. Delays of 15 years in cleaning up the site after the discovery of contamination allowed the pollution to continue unabated, according to the district attorney's filing in September, 2011. The contaminants had migrated from the site onto property owned by Harris County. The county said it had to expend funds to ensure that the contamination did not affect storm sewer outfall and a county flood control project. The lawsuit was brought for violations of the water code and the Texas health and safety code.

<http://www.natclo.com/1212/southwest.htm>

### CANADA, B.C, FORT ST. JOHN, DECEMBER 1 2012. MAN CRUSHED BY DERAILED FUEL TANKER IN REMOTE BC

A 30-year-old man from the Peace Country is dead after being crushed by a derailed fuel tanker in a remote area north of Fort St. John on Wednesday. Fort St. John RCMP said they received a call from CN rail at 5:15 p.m. on Nov. 28 that a train car had derailed and rolled onto a CN rail employee. Five men were working on the line in the area of Gutah - 160 kilometres south of Fort Nelson and 193 kilometres north of Fort St. John - which is only accessible by the rail system, RCMP said. None of the other four workers were injured, Cpl. Jodi Shelkie said. "It wasn't a train moving along the tracks. The train was stopped and they were switching some cars out," she said. "They were putting some cars on the train and taking some off. One of the cars derailed while they were doing that." Fort St. John RCMP, Emergency Health Services and the coroner attended the scene. "This is a tragic occurrence and there will be a full investigation," said Warren Chandler, senior manager for public affairs with CN. No further details are available at this time, Chandler said. "Emergency officials and CN crews are on site," he said. "CN will not make public the name of the fatally injured employee until next of kin have been notified."

<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/canada/archives/2012/11/20121129-214022.html>

### USA, WI, DANE CO, DECEMBER 1 2012. OFFICIALS CHARGE MOTHER WHOSE KIDS DRANK GASOLINE

A Dane County woman is charged with two counts of felony child neglect after her two-year-old daughter died from drinking gasoline and her four-year-old son got sick from it. Sheriff's detectives were planning to arrest 35-year-old Connie Hartmann of Marshall on the charges Nov. 29 after a child-neglect warrant had been issued. Police arrested her just after midnight for a domestic incident at her home. Online records do not indicate when she'll appear in court. Authorities said Hartmann's daughter was found unconscious in a car last May with her brother ill. He told a doctor that he and the girl locked themselves in the vehicle and drank gasoline. The boy has been in foster care since the incident. Prosecutors quoted Hartmann as saying she would often pass out or need to take naps in the afternoons - and it forced the kids to be unattended for up to three hours at a time. She also faces possible charges of disorderly conduct and battery for the domestic incident.

<http://www.riverfallsjournal.com/event/article/id/103620/>



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