



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 915 Newsy Stuff

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

**December 27 2012**



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#### USA, N.Y., STATEN ISLAND, DECEMBER 12 2012. SIX WEEKS AFTER SANDY, OIL TANKER REMOVED FROM STATEN ISLAND'S SHORE

deborah young

 **Photo Gallery [16]** [Tanker Washed Ashore Staten Island by Hurricane Sandy Removed](#)



*The Coast Guard's Hurricane Sandy Pollution Response Unified Command lifts and transports the tank vessel John B. Caddell early Tuesday morning from its location on the Stapleton waterfront.*

In the days after Hurricane Sandy, the giant tanker ship thrust ashore in the tidal surge became something of a calling card for the storm's rage on Staten Island: It was the first image seen worldwide of the devastation in the borough, before the spotlight shifted to the wrath exacted on the beach areas on our South and East Shores. Until the pre-dawn hours Tuesday, when the John B. Caddell was tenderly nudged into the water by the largest derrick barge on the Eastern Seaboard - a feat which took hundreds of hours of preparation by the U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies -- the 185-foot oil tanker had been lodged for six weeks on a pebbly and debris-strewn slope alongside the former Staten Island Homeport, her stern dipped glumly into the water. Spray-painted graffiti marred her exposed hull. Even as the neighboring communities of Stapleton and Clifton cleared giant pilings flung by the storm into their streets, pumped out flood waters and got business back to something resembling usual, the ship remained in place. The Coast Guard and contractors had roughly 50 workers, on call every day for the past six weeks to make sure she was free of oil that could spill into the harbor. Divers patched up rips in her underbelly to get her sufficiently seaworthy for towing, and city agencies searched for the current owner of the ship. "It was a huge undertaking from start to finish," said Matthew Schofield, Coast Guard Petty Officer First Class, as the derrick barge towed the John B. Caddell slowly out of sight. The removal had been scheduled for Monday afternoon's high tide, but was postponed due to thick fog until Tuesday morning's high tide of 4 a.m. Nearby, contractors in white [hazmat suits](#) hauled ashore the

booms which had encircled the ship in two rings as she was pushed into the water, to ensure not even a drop of oil would contaminate the sea. Two red storage tanks ashore contained the oil pumped during the past weeks from of the ship's engine room -- her tanks were not full, as she had been virtually abandoned for years, moored at the Sea Knights pier on the Rosebank waterfront, before Sandy forced her loose. "The Coast Guard has conducted an exhaustive search for the owner of the vessel. However no responsible party has been identified," said Sara Romero, Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class with the Hurricane Sandy Pollution Response. "The Federal On-Scene Coordinator has the authority to mitigate the pollution threat in the absence of the responsible party." The John B. Caddell was moved, for now, to a Rossville scrap yard -- a ship graveyard of sorts owned by the New Jersey-based Donjon Marine Company, Inc., which also owns the ship, the Chesepeke 1000, which moved her. "It was quite a bit of work," said Donjon Vice President Steven Newes. "We put a boost on the stern of that vessel early this morning and it's been demobilized." The company, which provides salvage, wreck removal, towing, barge charter and other services, was under contract with the U.S. Coast Guard for the job. After Sandy, Donjon also assisted the Army Corps of Engineers in pumping out the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel and other New York City underwater crossings as part of its contract as a U.S. Navy salvager, said Newes. The Caddell will stay in the Rossville yard for the foreseeable future, Newes said. "Donjon and the Coast Guard will have to decide what to do," he said about the ship's fate, noting the first order is determining who is responsible for her. The single-skin hull ship was built in 1941, named for John B. Caddell, the then-owner of an eponymous dry dock company which is still located on the West Brighton waterfront. "The founder of this company, John B. Caddell, who is the current owner's grandfather, loaned money or held a paper on that vessel for Poling Transportation, an oil transportation company," recounted Steve Kalil, president of Caddell Dry Dock and Repair Co. The dry dock firm features a picture on the wall of the boat's christening, with the owner of Poling Transportation, Chester Poling, and his wife, breaking a bottle of champagne on the tanker's side to celebrate. "In turn they named the vessel after him. All these years, it never



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changed." When that vessel was built, before it was used for Poling Transportation, World War II broke out, and the government took control of the John B. Caddell, said Gary Cutler, co-owner of Poling & Cutler Marine Transportation, in Freehold, N.J. "Immediately after her launching, she went to work on the war effort. She was an oiler fueling war ships," said Cutler, co-owner of the company started by Chester Poling's grandson, after the Mariners Harbor-based Poling Transportation folded in 1996. Poling received a letter of gratitude from the government for the ship's service, and the John B. Caddell was granted permission to paint, on her stack, five Chevrons - upside down "v's" denoting service to country, for her five years of service. "I think they're still there," said Cutler. After the war, until about 2009, the gasoline and heating oil tanker dutifully traversed the waterways of New York. It would fill up in oil terminal shore tanks, then deliver the product to smaller terminals in Brooklyn, Queens, Westchester and Nassau. But its antiquated, single skin design was being phased out in this country after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and in 2009, the ship was sold to a Nigerian company, said Cutler, recalling the price to be roughly \$175,000. "It was gradually becoming obsolete -- in anticipation of her phase-out we have been replacing single skins with double hulled vessels," said Cutler. The purchaser had intended to pilot the ship across the Atlantic to Nigeria and put her to use there, but his crew was stopped by the Coast Guard, concerned the vessel would not successfully make the trans-Atlantic journey. It has been moored in Rosebank ever since. "I was told the owner of the company had died," said Cutler. There are rumors he may have been killed by pirates or in a gun fight. "It is a sad ending to what was a beautiful run," said Cutler. "She did a great amount of service and moved a whole lot of fuel in her day, and it's a shame this is the end of the road for her."

[http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/12/post\\_397.html](http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/12/post_397.html)

#### ENGLAND, WARWICKSHIRE, DECEMBER 12 2012. THE M6 TOXIC FIREBALL: MOTORWAY RE-OPENS 12 HOURS AFTER CHEMICAL TANKER EXPLODED AND TEN PEOPLE - INCLUDING EIGHT FIREFIGHTERS - WERE LEFT NEEDING TREATMENT

emma reynolds

- Motorists evacuated from their cars and warned to expect major delays
- Residents advised to stay indoors and close their windows
- Firefighters set up 800m exclusion zone between Junction 3 and Junction 4
- Lorry was carrying potentially harmful acid solution hydrochloride
- Accident follows Monday's nine-vehicle pile-up on the M6 in Cheshire

 **Watch the Video** [M6 Chemical Tanker Fire: 10 People Treated](#)

 **Photo's [7]** [M6 Toxic Lorry Blaze](#)

 **Photo's [10]** [Chemical Tanker Explodes](#)



*Dangerous: The chemical tanker burst into flames on the busy M6 this morning, causing huge tailbacks.*

The M6 has re-opened 12 hours after a chemical tanker exploded in a 50ft fireball, leaving eight firefighters and two drivers needing treatment for exposure to toxic fumes. Huge tailbacks built up throughout the day leaving scores of drivers stranded before the traffic chaos finally cleared at 10pm, the Highways Agency said this evening. Terrified drivers had fled their cars and the driver of the lorry, which was carrying hydrochloride and paper, was among those who received medical treatment. The HGV had a tyre blow-out on the northbound carriageway near Coventry, between Junction 3 for Nuneaton and Junction 3a for Coleshill South. The driver had apparently managed to pull over on to the hard shoulder but sparks started a fire, which ignited the hazardous chemicals on board. Emergency crews, including three ambulances, a rapid response vehicle and specialist hazardous area response teams rushed to the scene after

the tanker blew up at 9.40am. Police closed both lanes of the motorway between junctions 3 and 4 while the Highways Agency set up an 800m (2,600ft) exclusion zone and drivers were evacuated from their cars. Warwickshire Police said the vehicle was travelling north when the accident took place and warned drivers to expect 'massive tailbacks' of several hours. On Twitter,



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Solihull Sixth Form's account said: 'Spare a thought for our English students who spent 9 hours on a minibus stuck in traffic on the closed M6 today. Hardy souls! Collapse.' Also speaking on Twitter Shanice Spencer said: 'I will never forget this day! Stuck on the M6 for 8 hours!' Rob Evans, from Cambridge, was travelling to see The xx in concert in Wolverhampton before being forced to turn back. He said: 'Sat in traffic for 4 hours due to M6 accident before turning round and giving up on seeing the xx #guttled.' And Matthew Tosh also said: 'I have arrived home. Can I find my house keys? No, just kidding! I have finally arrived. 120 miles in just over ten hours. #M6.' Some motorists got out of their cars and began walking up the slip road from Corley Services, which was also closed. But the Highways Agency told drivers to stay in their cars for their own safety, and warned nearby residents to keep their windows closed because of the fumes. Hydrochloride is a potentially harmful salt chemical that is formed from a reaction of hydrochloric acid with an organic base. It is used in many different industries, including as a preservative and even in medicine in small doses, since the solution is absorbed into the body in 15 to 30 minutes. A statement from the Strategic Co-ordinating Group, released through Warwickshire County Council, said all those who were admitted to hospital have now been released with no lasting ill-effects and there was no danger to the public following the blaze. The accident follows Monday's nine-vehicle pile-up on the M6 at Sandbach, Cheshire, which left one dead and ten injured. Drivers posted pictures of the devastating blast on Twitter showing the flames shooting 50ft into the air. Personal trainer Hannah Light was among those stuck in the traffic. She tweeted: 'Sat on M6 because lorry on fire. Gonna be here for two hours.' John Anton posted: 'Looks like the end of the world. Flames going at least 50 feet in the air.' Warwickshire cricketer Darren Maddy, who was caught up in the traffic, tweeted: 'I've come to a stand still on the M6, looks like there has been a serious accident. Hope the people involved are OK.' A spokesperson for West Midlands Ambulance Service said: 'We were called at around 9.40am to reports of a lorry on fire. We sent four ambulances, two officers and specialist hazardous area response team. The fire has closed both sides of the motorway and in total we have treated nine patients at the scene - four of which are firefighters and one is the driver of the HGV. The other casualties were drivers of other cars who had stopped as a result of the fire. All nine were complaining of breathing difficulties brought on by breathing in chemical fumes coming from the lorry. Due to the toxic nature of the fumes all patients were taken to hospital.' A statement from the Strategic Co-ordinating Group, released through Warwickshire County Council, said all those who were admitted to hospital have now been released with no lasting ill-effects and there was no danger to the public following the blaze. The Group said in the statement: 'The group is able to reiterate its assurances to the public that no risk is posed. Any smouldering from the scene is a result of the burning paper and is not connected to chemicals. Work is progressing to get the people displaced from their vehicles to Corley Services Station back on the road. Our priority will then be to get the M6 open again.' A spokeswoman for the Highways Agency said: 'Road users are advised that both carriageways of the M6 between junctions 2 and 4 near Coventry have re-opened to traffic. The M6 southbound fully re-opened between junctions 4 and 3 at around 7.45pm, with the M6 northbound between junctions 3 and 3a fully re-opening at 10pm. A small section (about 40 metres) of the hard shoulder on the M6 northbound, between junctions 3 and 3a, was damaged and will remain coned off until it can be resurfaced. This follows an incident at 9.45am, this morning (12 December) involving a HGV carrying chemicals along the northbound carriageway between junctions 3 and 3a that caught fire after a tyre blowout. Due to the severity of the incident, the M6 was closed in both directions and an exclusion zone was put in place for the safety of road users. Throughout the incident, the Highways Agency worked very closely with Warwickshire Police and Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service. The incident was police-led until around 6.20pm. Monday's crash caused chaos on the busy motorway when damaged vehicles were thrown across its carriageways. Alan Bullock, 54, from the Blackpool area, died at the scene from his injuries on a busy morning and two others were airlifted to hospital. One section of the motorway was closed for more than ten hours after two vans, two HGVs and five cars collided, causing huge delays for other motorists.

#### Related Links

- [Chemical fire causes M6 chaos](#)
- [10 treated after M-way tanker blaze](#)
- [Firefighters hurt in tanker blaze](#)
- [Firefighters hurt in tanker blaze](#)
- [Police name man killed in nine-vehicle M6 crash as two people involved remain in serious condition in hospital](#)
- [M6 carnage: 1 dead and 10 injured in horror motorway pile-up on southbound carriage](#)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2246926/The-M6-toxic-fireball-Motorway-opens-12-hours-chemical-tanker-exploded-people--including-firefighters--left-needing-treatment.html>



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#### USA, N.J, PAULSBORO, DECEMBER 12 2012. BREACHED TANKER CAR REMOVED FROM NJ CREEK

 **Photo's [7]** [Breached Tanker Car Removed](#)



Workers secure lines around a train tank car as they prepare to pull it up with a crane from a crash site on a small bridge on the Mantua Creek, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012, in Paulsboro, N.J. The tank car was the first to be removed as officials continued to clean up after the accident. Hazardous gas spewed from a ruptured freight train car during the accident, which occurred Nov. 30, 2012. Precautionary evacuations were ordered late after readings showed higher levels of vinyl chloride in the air.

A ruptured tanker car that released a hazardous chemical in southern New Jersey last month has been removed from a creek where it fell. The [U.S. Coast Guard](#) used a 150-ton crane to move the car Tuesday. The car leaked vinyl chloride after it derailed on a bridge in Paulsboro on Nov. 30. No one was seriously sickened, though dozens of people were checked out at a hospital. More than 200 homes were evacuated because of the leak. By Tuesday, only

about 30 residents were still being kept away from their homes. Also Tuesday, Paulsboro's schools opened for the first time after six days of cancelled classes. Officials say they're now working on removing three more tankers that contain vinyl chloride. Those three cars did not leak.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Breached-tanker-car-removed-from-NJ-creek-4109649.php>

#### SWITZERLAND, BASEL, DECEMBER 12 2012. POLICE: 6 HOSPITALIZED >> CHEMICAL LEAK AT NOVARTIS PLANT

Swiss police said Tuesday six people were hospitalized following the leak of a corrosive liquid at a Novartis AG (NVS) pharmaceutical manufacturing site in Schweizerhalle, near Basel, Switzerland. The chemical leak affected a total of 13 people, police in Basel said in a statement. Six of them had complained of severe cough and were taken to hospital, while seven other people were treated on site. Police said tests showed no danger was posed to people or the immediate environment and the leak was confined to the Novartis premises. Novartis said it currently has no additional information on the accident.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/12/11/swiss-police-6-hospitalized-in-chemical-leak-at-novartis-plant/>

#### USA, UT, CEDAR CITY, DECEMBER 13 2012. TANKER SPILLS APPROXIMATELY 4,000 GALLONS OF FUEL >> SEMI ACCIDENTS SHUT DOWN PARTS OF I-15

 **Slideshow [7]** [I-15 Opens After Crashes, Fuel Spill Cleared](#)



A Maverik store fuel tanker truck rolled onto its side near milepost 41 on I-15 southbound early this morning.

A series of accidents on Interstate 15 involving two semi trucks, one loaded with fuel the other with cucumbers, caused all north and southbound lanes of traffic to close between Cedar City and St. George early Wednesday morning. All lanes are now back open. The first accident occurred at 2:13 a.m. A Maverik store fuel tanker truck rolled onto its side near milepost 41 on I-15 southbound. The crash caused approximately 4,000 gallons of fuel to spill from the tanker onto I-15 southbound, according to Cpl. Todd Johnson, public information officer for the Utah Highway Patrol. I-15 was closed at Exit 40 southbound, approximately 20 miles south of Cedar City, and later at Exit 27 northbound due to a secondary crash. The accident caused the freeway in both directions to shut down as emergency responders were forced to use the northbound lanes to approach the accident, according to Kevin Kitchen, public information officer for the Utah

Department of Transportation. Fuel had to be transferred to a second truck dispatched from Cedar City before crews could remove the wreckage from the freeway. The northbound lane was closed until about 8:15 a.m. when emergency workers were able to remove the tanker from one lane of traffic resulting in one-lane travel on northbound I-15 until from milepost 39 to milepost 41. According to the Johnson, the driver of the Maverik tanker sustained minor injuries and was transported to Dixie



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Regional Medical Center. Johnson said impaired driving is the suspected cause of this accident. The second crash occurred at about 4:30 a.m. when two southbound semi trucks collided as traffic slowed near milepost 39 due to the primary crash. The first semi stopped for traffic when the second semi failed to slow and ran into the first semi's trailer spilling a load of refrigerated cucumbers, according to the UHP. The driver of the first semi was uninjured while the driver of the second semi received minor injuries. As of 11:40 a.m., the I-15 southbound was re-opened. Traffic was being diverted through Enterprise.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/article/20121212/NEWS01/121212001/Semi-accidents-shut-down-parts-15?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

### USA, MA, LOWELL, DECEMBER 13 2012. MAN BURNED IN FIREWORKS ACCIDENT

A 52-year-old man suffered reportedly serious burns to his face and arms after a fireworks accident at his home late Tuesday night, according to public-safety radio broadcasts. A medical helicopter flew the unidentified victim from Regatta Field to a trauma center for treatment. The injuries stem from an explosion of firecrackers inside his residence according to Fox News 25 and police-radio broadcasts. The specific address was not known, but one officer could be heard on the police scanner saying an M-80, a very powerful firework, caused the man's burns. Lowell Fire Department Engine 3 has dispatched rescue crew. Neither officials at the Lowell police or fire departments were immediately available to comment at press-time. All fireworks are illegal to possess in Massachusetts.

[http://www.lowellsun.com/local/ci\\_22175243/man-burned-fireworks-accident](http://www.lowellsun.com/local/ci_22175243/man-burned-fireworks-accident)

### CANADA, ALB, EDMONTON, DECEMBER 13 2012. NORTHEAST EDMONTON ACID SPILL NEARLY CLEANED UP

**Photo's [7]** [Edmonton Acid Spill Nearly Cleaned Up](#)



*Emergency crews blocked off a large area of northeast Edmonton Sunday morning after hydrochloric acid leaked from a containment tank in an industrial area north of Yellowhead Trail near 120th Avenue and 32nd Street NE.*

About 152,000 litres of hydrochloric acid that leaked from a large holding tank in northeast Edmonton is expected to be completely cleaned up by Thursday, and the potential environmental impact will be monitored. Most of the acid was contained to the Panther Industries site at 2061 32nd Street N.E., but the company says about 5,000 litres entered a nearby creek through a City of Edmonton stormwater sewer drain. The leak into the creek was discovered at about 4 p.m. on Sunday, and was contained with a dam made of earth, the company says. The leak into the creek was discovered several hours after the initial leak was discovered at about 10:30 a.m. on Sunday by an employee

arriving to work. The employee called the fire department, police, the City of Edmonton, Alberta Environment and Panther Industries' emergency response team. According to the company, the leak occurred after cold temperatures caused a sealed window on the side of a large holding tank to pop loose. Panther Industries president Jack Schneider travelled to Edmonton from the company's Saskatchewan headquarters to supervise the cleanup, the company said. Spokesman Godfrey Huybrechts said 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the acid that leaked from the tank had been cleaned up by Tuesday morning. The rest is expected to be cleaned up by Thursday. Huybrechts said the cleanup has gone smoothly, with "a lot of late hours put in by everybody involved." Huybrechts said the company will continue to work closely with agencies like Alberta Environment, Environment Canada and the City of Edmonton, and will continue to monitor the impact on plants and water in the area. "Panther is very interested in making sure we continue to track what's going on, and do what's necessary to make sure there are no long-term effects on plants and water," he said. The company says about one kilometre of the creek bed may be monitored and tested for up to a year, and that Stantec Engineering has been hired to help oversee the cleanup. The site is in an industrial area north of Sherwood Park, north of the Yellowhead Highway. Businesses within two blocks were evacuated after the leak, and no one was injured. According to the Panther Industries website, the company has served the oil and gas industry in North America and overseas for more than 30 years. Panther Industries was named one of Saskatchewan's top 100 companies in 2007, with gross sales of \$23,600,000. Hydrochloric acid has many industrial uses, including being used in the production of fertilizer, dyes and chlorides, and in the photographic, textile, and rubber industries.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/edmonton/Acid%20spill%20nearly%20cleaned/7682403/story.html>



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### USA VT, BARRE, DECEMBER 13 2012. PIPE FAILURE CAUSES GASOLINE LEAK IN BARRE, VT.

 [Watch the Video Barre Deal with Major Underground Gasoline Leak](#)



A failure in a hose at a gas station allowed as much as 3,000 gallons of gasoline to leak into the ground, with some finding its way into the sewer system, environmental and emergency responders said Wednesday. With the leak at the North End Deli on North Main Street fixed, state officials were trying to determine the extent of the spill, where the gasoline is going, how to keep it out of the sewer system and remove it from the soil. The leak was at least the third from Wesco in Vermont since 1998, including one last year in Essex. It's not unusual for gas stations to inadvertently spill gasoline, but this case was unusual because the gas ended up in the sewage system. Some residents had detected gasoline fumes in their homes as long as three weeks ago after the gasoline migrated into the sewer system. No gasoline has been detected in the drinking water.

#### **The Leak was Traced on Tuesday to the Gas Station.**

"We are confident that the source of the leak has been found and secured," said Joseph Aldsworth, deputy Barre City fire chief. On Wednesday the city removed manhole covers and installed fans to ventilate the sewage system until a contractor could set up a ventilation system. Most of the gasoline in the system

was expected to evaporate. The gasoline vapors never reached explosive levels, said Christopher Herrick, head of Vermont's hazardous response team. Nor did the gasoline reach levels that would harm human health, officials said. Residents who smell gas in their homes were asked to call the fire department. Anyone who experience symptoms that they believe were related to the gasoline exposure, such as dizziness and nausea, were asked to call 911. "I want to apologize to anyone who has been impacted by this. We are truly sorry for this incident," said David Simendinger, Wesco's president. He said a worst-case scenario is that "we could be missing up to 3,000 gallons of gasoline." "I think within a few days we'll have this mitigated," said Simendinger, who said he did not know what the cost of the cleanup might be.

<http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/2012/12/12/barre-deals-with-gasoline-leak/QfRGSnKVqMUqMWGnUQqvUN/story.html>

### USA, TX, PORT ARTHUR, DECEMBER 13 2012. TROUBLED MOTIVA REFINERY CRUDE UNIT SHUT BY SMALL FIRE >> REPAIRS TO FRACTURED PIPE COULD TAKE SEVERAL DAYS, SOURCES SAY

- 325,000 barrel per day crude unit was in process of restarting
- New crude unit had previously been shut due to corrosion issue
- Gasoline prices jump on fire, pare gains after damage report

Motiva Enterprises aborted the restart of a major new crude oil unit at its Port Arthur, Texas, plant after a fractured pipe caused a small fire late on Tuesday, the latest glitch to bedevil the country's biggest refinery. The fracture on a line that feeds pre-heated crude into the 325,000 barrel per day (bpd) unit should not take more than "several days" to repair, a source familiar with operations at the plant told Reuters. No formal timeline has been set and investigation crews are expected to start work on Wednesday. Motiva was in the process of restarting the crude unit and had expected it to be fully operational by early 2013. Kimberly Windon, a spokesman for Motiva, a joint venture of Saudi Aramco and Royal Dutch Shell, said the unit remains on track to fully restart by early 2013 despite the shutdown. Windon confirmed that a "very small" pipeline leak and fire had occurred around 10 p.m. CST on Tuesday. She said that it was quickly extinguished and that the unit was safely shut down without suffering any damage. "We anticipate making the necessary adjustments/repairs and returning the unit to normal operations in an expeditious manner," she said in an email. The fire isn't believed to have caused significant damage, the sources told Reuters, but it spooked traders fearing that another prolonged disruption could impact fuel production and supplies along the Gulf Coast, the U.S. refining hub. The disruption in operations at Port Arthur was first reported by industry monitor Genscape, which said it had detected "significantly decreased" activity at the plant's crude and vacuum distillation units. The fire was first reported by industry publication Energy News Today. The aborted restart could compound woes for the plant's owners, who have spent around \$10 billion over five years to expand Motiva into the nation's biggest plant. The VPS-5 crude distillation unit - a key component of the expanded 600,000 bpd refinery - has suffered several setbacks since it first



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began processing crude in April. "The reason this start-up is given such importance is that it's really the largest refinery start-up in U.S. history," said John Auers, senior vice president and refining specialist at Turner, Mason & Co. in Dallas. He said preliminary reports suggested that the incident wouldn't affect his forecast for the plant to fully resume operations in the first quarter. And while it's not uncommon for a refinery to experience operational hiccups, he said oil traders may "start to wonder whether it is a trend". The unit was initially shut down in early June to investigate a small leak. In the process of restarting it after brief repairs, caustic sodium hydroxide that had leaked into the system was vaporized, cracking and pitting some of its piping. Tuesday night's fire occurred on the same feeder pipeline that was the original source of June's trouble, the sources said. The unit is designed to do the initial refining of crude oil coming into the refinery and to provide feedstock to other units. In addition to boosting plant capacity, VPS-5 is intended to allow Motiva to process a wider variety of crude oils. The sodium hydroxide - normally mixed with heavy, sour crude oil to prevent fouling equipment - caused widespread corrosion after being vaporized as the unit was being restarted. It required six months of repairs using stainless [steel](#) components that would resist a similar leak.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/12/us-refinery-motiva-operations-idUSL1E8NC45S20121212>

### USA CA, SIMI VALLEY, DECEMBER 13 2012. EPA: 'SOME CONCERN' OVER POSSIBLE TRANSPORT OF SOIL FROM SANTA SUSANA >> FEDERAL REGULATORS FIND RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION AT FORMER ROCKET TEST

 **Document** [Full Results of the EPA Radiological Characterization Study.](#)



*Workers conducting subsurface soil sampling in Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Site with a direct push drill rig.*

Federal regulators will hold a community meeting Wednesday to discuss the findings of a radiological investigation at a polluted testing site near Simi Valley. KNX 1070's Brian Ping reports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a community meeting to discuss the final results of its radiological investigation at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). In 2009, EPA received \$41.5 million to investigate low-level radioactive contamination at the 470-acre site in the hills between Simi Valley and Chatsworth. The Superfund investigation of the area collected approximately 3,500 soil and sediment samples and 215 groundwater and surface water samples from the site that has been the home of rocket engine and nuclear testing for more than 50 years. About 500 samples showed traces of cesium-137 and strontium-90 that exceeded background levels for the area, according to EPA Coordinator Mary Aycock.

Aycock said the radiation levels are not enough to pose a health risk to the nearby population, but that could change depending on how the cleanup is eventually carried out. "Once the cleanup starts, if soils are being transported from the site, that certainly would be of some concern if some soils are being transported through your neighborhood," Aycock said. [A federal judge in April 2011](#) ruled that a California law that laid out strict cleanup standards for Santa Susana is unconstitutional. The ruling was considered a legal victory for the site's current owner, Boeing, which argued the cleanup rules were unreasonable. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Vista Hotel and is open to the public.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2012/12/12/epa-some-concern-over-possible-transport-of-soil-from-santa-susana/>

### NIGERIA, EDO STATE, DECEMBER 14 2012. CRUDE OIL THEFT: OSHIOMHOLE DESTROYS 11 OIL TANKERS

*Adams Oshiomhole: all is not well in Nigeria.*



To send a strong warning to pipeline vandals and to discourage crude oil thefts and illegal oil bunkering in the state, Governor Comrade Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State yesterday ordered the destruction of 11 oil tankers seized by men of the Operation Thunder Storm of the Nigerian Army in various parts of the state. Governor Oshiomhole who appealed to the people to be vigilant, expressed displeasure at the rate at which vandals steal crude oil and other petroleum products from the pipelines regardless of the risks involved. "It is a shame that we still have criminal elements in our midst who inspite of the fact that it has claimed so many lives, involve in pipeline vandalism," he said. He commended the security



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agencies for apprehending people involved in pipeline vandalism and theft of crude oil and petroleum products. He appealed to the public to contribute by complementing the efforts of the security agents and ensure that government properties are protected. According to him, the arrest of the criminals and the trucks being used to commit the heinous crimes will serve as a deterrent to other criminals. "This is to make the point that anybody who wants to use their vehicles for criminal activities should know that when they are apprehended they will be destroyed," he added. Also present at the destruction of the seized oil tankers was the Commander of 4th Brigade, Brigadier-General Abel Umahi.

<http://pmnewsnigeria.com/2012/12/13/crude-oil-theft-oshiomhole-destroys-11-oil-tankers/>

#### USA, N.Y, MASTIC BEACH, DECEMBER 14 2012, MAN CRITICALLY BURNED IN FUEL TANK EXPLOSION

A worker cutting up a fuel tank with a gas-powered demolition saw was critically burned in a [Mastic Beach](#) explosion Tuesday when the fumes or fuel remnants ignited, [Suffolk](#) police said. Patrick Rooney, 21, was taken to [Stony Brook University](#) Hospital, where he underwent surgery at night and was in critical condition, police said. The explosion happened at the East End Environmental Services, located at 123 Whittier Drive, where Rooney was in the rear yard disposing of an old, oil tank that was larger than ones used for homes, police said. Several 911 calls about 1:15 p.m. alerted officers to the fire and explosion, police said. Seventh Precinct detectives are investigating. Officials notified the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#), part of the U.S. [Labor Department](#).

<http://www.newsday.com/news/cops-man-critically-burned-in-fuel-tank-explosion-1.4319325>

#### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, BERRY, DECEMBER 15 2012. HIGHWAY CLOSED AFTER DEADLY PETROL TANKER CRASH

 **Photo's [12]** [Princes Highway Closed after Tanker Crash](#)

**Map:** [Berry 2535](#)



Police are investigating a crash on the New South Wales south coast that has left two men dead and thousands of litres of petrol all over the road. A petrol tanker hit a ute near the intersection of the Princes Highway and Jaspers Brush Road, south of Berry, overnight. The driver of the ute died at the scene while the 59-year-old driving the tanker died in hospital. Inspector Chris Sedgwick from the NSW Fire Brigade says the highway is closed in both directions as crews clean up the petrol. "We've managed to build a bund around the tanker to contain it," he said. "We've done environmental checks and there's no spillage or very, very minor spillage into Jasper's Creek. We're still monitoring that of course."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-12-15/2-dead2c-thousands-of-litres-of-petrol-spilt-in-crash/4429614>

#### MALAYSIA, KUALA LUMPUR, GEORGE TOWN, DECEMBER 15 2012. MOTORCYCLIST KILLED AFTER BEING RAMMED BY OIL TANKER

*phuah ken lin*

A 35-year-old motorcyclist was killed in a road accident when an oil tanker rammed into him from behind. Loh Kong Aik died on the spot when he was thrown off from his machine and flung into the rear of a car. It is believed the tanker drove off immediately following the collision without bothering to stop. The noon accident happened in front of the Chung Ling High School in Kampung Baru near Air Itam. Traffic was reduced to a crawl as onlookers gathered at the scene during the lunch rush hour. Loh's body was sent to the mortuary for a post mortem.

<http://www.nst.com.my/latest/motorcyclist-killed-after-being-rammed-by-oil-tanker-1.186048>

#### NEW ZEALAND, HASTINGS, DECEMBER 15 2012. FIREWORKS STUNT GOES AWRY ON TE MATA PEAK

*sam boyer*

Fire crews were called into action and a man arrested in Havelock North after a fireworks stunt caused a fire on top of Te Mata peak. A fire service spokeswoman said several fire crews had attended the 30-by-40 metre fire, just after 2am this morning. She said a male had been seen throwing fireworks into the grass from the top of the hill prior to the blaze. Hastings police



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Senior Sergeant Dan Foley said an 18-year-old man was arrested and charged with reckless arson, and a youth with him has been referred to child services. "There were kids lighting off fire crackers from the top and set fire to the Havelock North side of the hill." Two pumps, a tanker and two rural fire units attended the fire, using high-pressure hoses and foam to extinguish the blaze. It was the second incident on the peak in less than a month, after a man rolled his car near the lookout on November 28. He was thrown free from his car and found 50 metres below the cliff on Te Mata Peak Rd and treated in Hawke's Bay Regional Hospital.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/8085027/Fireworks-stunt-goes-awry-on-Te-Mata-peak>

### USA, MN, LITCHFIELD, DECEMBER 15 2012. FIREWORKS EXPLODE AT LITCHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

A teacher preparing for morning classes found a package of fireworks in a school storage shed outside the high school in Litchfield on Thursday morning, before the school day. KLFD reports the teacher, not noticing the fireworks at first, moved a bench which knocked several of the items to the floor where they exploded on impact. Superintendent Dr. Daniel Frazier says school administration called the police department to investigate. The police proceeded to call a bomb squad to the school to further investigate the fireworks and ensure the items were not a threat to the school or its occupants. Principal Adam Holm says they immediately investigated and brought in authorities because they wanted to ensure the safety of all students and staff in the school. He says they were fairly certain the fireworks were not a danger, but they chose to err on the side of extreme caution. Authorities confirmed the items were a type of firework called power pops or mega-snaps, small firecrackers that detonate on impact with the ground or a surface against which they are thrown. They can be very loud but are generally not destructive. The fireworks were not found in the school, so the school was not evacuated. The school day proceeded as normal.

<http://www.kduz.com/2012/12/14/fireworks-explode-at-litchfield-high-school/>

### ZIMBABWE, KWEKWE, DECEMBER 15 2012. KWEKWE MINER DROWNS IN CYANIDE TANK

blessed mhlanga

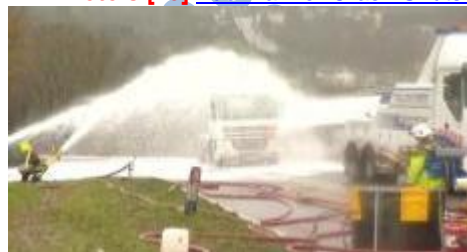
{Thanks to Jetty in the Netherlands...}

Police in Kwekwe have launched investigations into the death of a 37-year-old Kwekwe miner George Mambambare who allegedly drowned in a cyanide tank at Ivan Hoe Mine last month. The mine is owned by businessman Mark Mathew Burden. According to police documents shown to NewsDay, Mambambare was found lying on his back in a cyanide tank. A Form 231 completed by a Sergeant Nguwo (0479183), reads: "Deceased was found lying dead on his back in a tank with cyanide . . ." A post-mortem compiled at Kwekwe General Hospital showed that Mambambare died of inhalation burns and drowning in the cyanide tank. A doctor, who declined to be named, said inhalation burns occurred if someone breathed dangerous gases, saying they could have caused Mambambare to lose consciousness and eventually slip into the tank. Mine workers who spoke to NewsDay said they were being forced to work without adequate protective clothing claiming Mambambare's death could have been avoided if he was wearing a respirator. "The only reason he inhaled the dangerous gas was because he was not wearing a respirator. "The mine is responsible for his death and we call upon the courts to conduct an inquest into this death," said a worker. Attempts to get comment from the mine were fruitless as Burden was reported to be in South Africa.

<http://www.newsday.co.zw/2012/12/11/kwekwe-miner-drowns-in-cyanide-tank/>

### ENGLAND, TIDEFORD, DECEMBER 15 2012. CORNWALL PETROL TANKER CRASH: 'ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER AVERTED'

 **Photo's [23]** [Fuel Tanker Crash Shuts Down A38](#)



The tanker had to be doused in foam before it could be removed from the road. A river containing spawning salmon was left under threat of a "major environmental disaster" after a petrol tanker overturned in Cornwall. The Environment Agency used booms and absorbent pads to prevent fuel from leaking into the River Tiddy after the crash on the A38 near Tideford. There were fears about 4,000 litres of petrol could leak into the river as a result of Thursday evening's accident. But the agency said checks had revealed "no significant pollution". It said there was "little evidence" of petrol in the river.



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#### 'Fuel Pouring Out'

Spokesman Steve Marks said: "If the petrol had got into the water it would have been a major environmental disaster." The agency said it was a "vulnerable time of year" because fish would be coming into the river to spawn and lay eggs. As a precaution the booms will remain in place over the weekend, but the agency said it was "very pleased a serious incident had been averted". Darren Maynard of Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service said: "The fuel was pouring out last night. "If someone had come round the corner and collided with the tanker it could have been a lot worse." The tanker overturned as it was being towed at about 19:00 GMT on Thursday. Firefighters doused the tanker in foam to make it safe before it was removed from the scene. The Highways Agency is examining the road surface for damage. Gary Parsons of the agency said about 600m of road had to be resurfaced. The road between Trerulefoot roundabout and Carkeel roundabout in Saltash was closed for 20 hours and re-opened at about 15:00 GMT on Friday. Devon and Cornwall Police said the road could be closed again or traffic lights put in place from 20:00 on Friday for it to be resurfaced.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-20723552>

#### AUSTRIA, EISENSTADT, DECEMBER 15 2012. TANKER FRAUD GANG TO APPEAR IN COURT

A gang of tanker drivers that managed to siphon off more than 1,000,000 euros of fuel and heating oil to sell on the black market to go on trial in Eisenstadt. Prosecutors say that the five men aged between 29 and 59 had developed a system whereby they filtered off expensive contents due to be delivered usually to petrol stations or companies and then used a high pressure air hose to air into the tank instead of liquid. The con was discovered when one petrol tank owner realised it was a substantial difference between what he should have had in his tanks and what he had been paid for when doing his bookkeeping. Those affected were firms in Burgenland, Lower Austria and Styria. Police say that they are also considering prosecuting those who purchased the oil and fuel from the men at knockdown prices. They believe the gang operating since 2003, even though they were only discovered in June of this year. The accused have until now indicated that they intend to plead guilty according to local media.

[http://austrianindependent.com/news/General\\_News/2012-12-14/12856/Tanker\\_fraud\\_gang\\_to\\_appear\\_in\\_court](http://austrianindependent.com/news/General_News/2012-12-14/12856/Tanker_fraud_gang_to_appear_in_court)

#### USA, WA, ANACORTES, DECEMBER 15 2012. REPORTS PIPE LEAK IN WASHINGTON REFINERY'S SULFUR UNIT

Royal Dutch Shell's Puget Sound refinery in Anacortes, Washington had a pipe leak in its sulfur recovery unit this week, the company told the Northwest Clean Air Agency this week. In an email dated Dec. 11, the company said it would have to shut down a sulfur recovery unit to repair the leaking pipe, according to a filing. A spokesman for Shell was not immediately available for comment.

<http://www.4-traders.com/ROYAL-DUTCH-SHELLA-6273/news/ROYAL-DUTCH-SHELLA-Shell-Reports-Pipe-Leak-in-Washington-Refinery-s-Sulfur-Unit-15596164/>

#### CANADA, ALTA, MEDICINE HAT, DECEMBER 15 2012. SONIC OILFIELD SERVICE LTD.: ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGES LAID AGAINST OILFIELD COMPANY AFTER LEAK BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT

 **Photo's [21]** [Alberta Oil Spills](#)

The Alberta government has laid charges against a Medicine Hat oilfield service company under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. The charges stem from a joint investigation with the City of Medicine Hat's Fire Department, Public Services Division and Environmental Utilities into a release of a volatile and highly flammable petroleum product in June 2011. The Alberta government did not say what the petroleum product was or how and where it was released. Sonic Oilfield Service Ltd. is charged with three counts of releasing or permitting the release of a substance into the environment that may cause a significant adverse effect. Other charges include failing to report the release of a substance into the environment that may cause an adverse effect and improper disposal of waste. The company's first court appearance is set for Jan. 15 in Medicine Hat. The Alberta government did not say what the petroleum product was and how it was released.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/12/14/sonic-oilfield-service-ltd-leak\\_n\\_2304274.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/12/14/sonic-oilfield-service-ltd-leak_n_2304274.html)

#### PHILIPPINES, MANILA, DECEMBER 16 2012. FIREWORKS BAN STILL IN EFFECT IN 3 MAKATI VILLAGES

A fireworks ban remains in effect over three villages in Makati City that were affected by an oil leak in 2010, residents were reminded Saturday. Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay Jr. asked residents in Barangays Bangkal, Pio del Pilar and



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Magallanes to observe the ban to avoid any untoward incident. "Since the problem of the oil leak has not been resolved with finality, the ban on firecrackers, pyrotechnics and similar explosive materials will continue to be strictly implemented in the three affected barangays," Binay said in a news release [posted](#) on the city's web portal Saturday. He voiced concern the firecrackers may trigger fires in these adjacent barangays traversed by the pipeline of the Lopez-owned First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC). Instead, he advised residents in those areas to use pots and pans or blow their horns to make noise in celebrating Christmas and the New Year. "I hope the concerned residents will continue to obey the law and observe the ban for the sake of their own families and neighborhood," he said. The city council passed City Ordinance No. 2010-A-020 in December 2010, banning the use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic materials in the three areas.

#### Soil Tests has indicated Presence of Oil Plumes.

Under Ordinance No. 2010-A-020, violators face a fine of P5,000 or six months imprisonment. If the violation is committed by a business establishment, the president of general manager of any other person acting in behalf of either the president or General Manager shall be held liable. In July 2010, a mixture of oil and water was detected at the basement of West Tower condominium building along Osmeña Highway in Barangay Bangkal. This prompted the city government to order an evacuation and shut down the 22-story building. The leak was later traced to the nearby pipeline of Lopez-owned FPIC, which transports fuel products from Batangas province to the Pandacan oil depots in Manila.

#### Prohibited by Ordinance

Among the fireworks prohibited by the ordinance are baby rocket, bawang, small triangulo, pulling of strings, paper caps, el Diablo, watusi, Judah's belt, sky rocket (kwitis). Banned as well are pyrotechnic devices such as sparklers, luces, fountain, jumbo regular and special, mabuhay, roman candle, trompillo, airwolf, whistle, butterfly, and all kinds of pyrotechnic devices (pailaw).

#### Citywide Ban on Firecracker Selling

Binay also reiterated the citywide ban on the sale of firecrackers to very young children, who are the most likely to get hurt in firecracker-related accidents. He ordered village officials and the city police to implement the 1994 ordinance prohibiting the sale of any kind of firecracker to minors aged 15 and below. Violators face a fine of P1,000 and/or imprisonment for 15 days, or both at the discretion of the court.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/286606/news/metromanila/fireworks-ban-still-in-effect-in-3-makati-villages>

## AFGHANISTAN, BAGHLAN PROVINCE, DECEMBER 16 2012. OIL TANKER GOES UP IN FLAMES AFTER TALIBAN AMBUSH... LOCALS GRAB MANY PETROL CANS AND SIPHON OFF FUEL

hugo gye

 **Photo's [ 7 ]** [Locals Grab Many Petrol Cans & Siphon Off Fuel](#)



Scavengers didn't wait till the fire died down before collecting their fuel bonanza. These extraordinary pictures show the continuing Taliban threat in Afghanistan - and the opportunistic spirit residents must show if they are to survive in the war-torn land. They depict the aftermath of an attack on an oil tanker today, apparently targeted by Taliban fighters while on its way to deliver fuel to NATO soldiers. While the vessel was still burning, locals lined up with buckets and jerrycans to siphon off oil and take it home. The tanker was ambushed on Saturday as it passed through Doshi district in Baghlan province, in the north of the country. A group of gunmen opened fire on the vehicle until it burst into flame and had to be abandoned. Although the attackers have not been formally

identified, locals apparently said that they were Taliban militants who had targeted the tanker in an effort to disrupt NATO's ongoing efforts to reconstruct the country's infrastructure while cracking down on terrorist attacks. 'Unidentified armed men targeted an oil tanker with assault rifle in Dushi district today morning, burning the oil tanker,' police spokesman Sayed Zaman Hussaini told Xinhua. He added that an investigation into the incident is currently under way. Police were pictured guarding the damaged tanker and looking on as locals took fuel away from it. While the residents may have been taking advantage of the Taliban attack, it would be a mistake to conclude that they are necessarily anti-Western or pro-jihadist. Instead, like most Afghans, they are simply taking advantage of whatever situation prevails to help themselves and their family - often the only way to sustain a livelihood in the violent nation whose economy has been destroyed by decades of war. Despite the West's



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promise to withdraw all troops from the country by the end of 2014, the 11-year war has recently shown little sign of slowing down. A Pentagon report revealed this week that 2,700 civilians were killed during the 2012 fighting season - 93 per cent of them dead at the hands of the Taliban.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2248591/Afghans-line-siphon-fuel-oil-tanker-blown-Taliban-ambush-way-supply-NATO-troops.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

#### USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, DECEMBER 16 2012. ILLEGAL DUMPING IN ELYSIAN VALLEY BRINGS OUT HAZMAT



Three men dumping about 20 barrels of an unknown substance from a large pick up truck in Elysian Valley last night fled after being confronted by residents. However, the mess they left behind at an empty lot at the corner of [Blake and Knox avenues](#) is now being investigated and cleaned up, reports resident and neighborhood council member Allen W. Anderson. Said Anderson in an email: Eyewitnesses said that they heard the boom of the drums being pushed out of the truck and that when confronted the three men doing the dumping closed the van up and sped away... leaving a trail of liquid up Knox then turning right onto Ripple. The empty lot is fenced normally, so the men dumping the material had to open the gate and back the truck onto the property. The truck sideswiped the gate as it sped away, tearing the gate off its hinges. Police and a Los Angeles Fire Department hazardous material clean up crew showed up to investigate the dumping of the 55-gallon drums, Anderson said. Anyone who has any information about the dumping, which took place at about 10 p.m., is asked to

call the [LAPD Northeast Division](#).

\* Update: The fire department said a hazardous material squad and one fire engine was on the scene last night as part of a "chemical investigation." No word yet on what the substance was in those drums. Meanwhile, in Burbank, more drums containing "various substances consistent with roofing materials similar to tar and white paint" were dumped on a street near a storm drain, [reports L.A. Now](#).

<http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2012/12/illegal-dumping-in-elysian-valley-brings-out-the-hazmat-team/>

#### USA, N.J, PAULSBORO, DECEMBER 16 2012. OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO PAULSBORO CHEMICAL SPILL OUTRAGES SOME RESIDENTS >> LEGISLATORS PRESS FOR CHANGES IN LAW THAT ALLOWS RAILROAD COMPANIES TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN SAFETY INSPECTIONS



*City, state, federal, and Conrail officials are being blamed for a lack of clear communication -- if not outright miscommunication -- about a recent environmental disaster in Paulsboro. Adding to residents' anger is the belief that the incident got short shrift because New Jersey officials were more focused on the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.*

On November 30, a Conrail train jumped the tracks on a bridge over the Delaware River, breaching tanker cars that leaked dangerous vinyl chloride into the air and water. Fearful of the environmental consequences, residents are looking to the state Department of Environmental Protection and the federal EPA to provide guidance on whether to resume normal activities or seek ongoing medical attention. Official response to the chemical spill led State Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-West Deptford), whose district includes Paulsboro, to give the Unified Command response team an "F" for delaying scheduled public meetings and issuing conflicting and confusing orders following the derailment. (The response team comprises representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, New Jersey DEP, New

Jersey Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Paulsboro Fire Department and Conrail.) "The communication has been as poorly handled as possible," Sweeney said. "I don't think it's intentional. I think they just mismanaged it. Shelter [at home], don't shelter; close the schools, open the school; public hearing, no public hearing. That doesn't give the public any confidence," he told the South Jersey Times in an interview confirmed by his spokesperson, Chris Donnelly. Other lawmakers are seeking to change laws that enable railroad companies to conduct their own safety screenings without public oversight -- a loophole they say allows accidents like the one on Conrail's 150-year-old bridge to happen. Residents echoed those



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sentiments, calling on Unified Command to do a better job of answering questions, providing medical care, and being honest about the potential short- and long- term health risks they face from exposure to the gas used to manufacture PVC, which is used in plastic pipes and wire coatings. The Centers for Disease Control warns, "Breathing high levels of vinyl chloride for short periods of time can cause dizziness, sleepiness, unconsciousness, and at extremely high levels can cause death. Breathing vinyl chloride for long periods of time can result in permanent liver damage, immune reactions, nerve damage, and liver cancer." "My son complained that every time he breathed it felt like someone was stabbing him in the ribs. I could hear him crackling. What if we get cancer in ten years? I think they should have a doctor monitor us," worried Antonette Rodriguez, an uninsured mother of three young children. Like many of her neighbors, Rodriguez was directed to "shelter indoors" rather than evacuate for eight days, forcing her and her family to stay inside until crews determined the air was safe to breathe. Rodriguez kept her kids in breathing masks for a week, and marched the few blocks to the public assistance center as soon as officials said she could go outside. But instead of getting answers, she says she got turned away. "I asked, 'Is there anybody doing health screenings? What should I do?' The lady said I wasn't in the evacuation area so she wasn't going to tell me anything. I wasn't going down there so they could hand me a check. I just wanted some answers," she said.

#### Reassuring Residents

Unified Command reassured residents via its [dedicated website](#) that the highest detected concentrations of vinyl chloride were hundreds of times lower than "the concentrations that would produce symptoms from the short-term exposures that could occur here." A Conrail spokesperson told NJ Spotlight that the company has paid for 1,100 hotel nights, daycare, transportation, pet sheltering, groceries, laundry, and more for evacuated residents. It also set up a hotline staffed by trained personnel affiliated with the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health consulting firm to field questions from the public. "We appreciate that people may have questions and our claims center will remain open until after the last rail car is removed from the scene and until there's no longer a perceived need," said spokesperson Mike Hotra. But Mildred Yake, who sheltered at home with her husband, says her pregnant granddaughter called the hotline and got no reassurance about the possible effects to her unborn baby. "They said they don't know," fretted the 56-year-old renter who complains that she, her husband, and her son have been suffering from unrelenting headaches, nausea, breathing problems, diarrhea, and stomach pains since the incident, which occurred two blocks from her house. She doesn't just blame Conrail or Unified Command for a litany of perceived failures that includes allegations that the team lied in saying the accident occurred around 7 am when those who live next to the tracks heard it happen at 2:50 am; neglected to notify the community about the derailment and gas leak until many hours later, despite a town-wide public-alert speaker system; opened the schools until 9 am without telling parents their children would be walking or driving through contaminated air. Yake, along with other Paulsboro residents, also blame Gov. Chris Christie, who has not visited or issued a public statement of concern, choosing to send Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno in his stead. "He's more concerned about the people on the shore with Sandy . . . He shoulda came down here and seen how it affected everybody," Yake said. "He cares more about them because he takes his family down there and he's been down there his whole life. Paulsboro doesn't matter to nobody." Christie spokesperson Mike Drewniak calls the accusation a "bad rap," given the governor was intensely engaged in putting together a federal aid request for Hurricane Sandy cleanup and reconstruction. Paulsboro, he says, received "the deep and persistent attention of the key and relevant administration officials," most pressingly, DEP Commissioner Bob Martin, his staff, and the department of health. "While it's easy to understand people's frustrations in the middle of something like that. . . he was consumed with perhaps the most important issue to confront New Jersey in its modern history when this unfortunate incident occurred," Drewniak said. "Even so, Paulsboro certainly did not lack attention from state government in the slightest."

#### Monitoring Air Quality

One of four state agencies involved in Paulsboro response efforts, the DEP spearheaded Unified Command's air-monitoring plan, set up stationary air monitors throughout the city, and sent crews on foot around the affected neighborhoods to read levels on handheld devices. These efforts add to those of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which sent its Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer Bus, a mobile environmental lab, to take real-time air samples, and those of the health department, which tested inside several schools and a WIC center. On Friday, the health department began a week-long follow-up when it, with the help of the Centers for Disease Control, conducted its first in-person interviews with all first responders and a sample of community members and prepared to mail health surveys to every residential address in Paulsboro. The surveys aim to collect data on symptoms, care received, and how emergency information was obtained. For two weeks after the accident, the Office of Emergency Management had one to three employees onsite at all times, taking them out of the 40-strong rotation of personnel involved in Sandy relief. They stayed on site to "amplify messaging," said external affairs officer Mary Goepfert, and



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to provide a liaison between Unified Command and the state, though ultimately no such support was needed. Goepfert says the diversion of personnel didn't present so much of a drain on Sandy resources as a common challenge to the office. "It was an emergency," she said. "Every emergency presents challenges." The DOT also offered assistance, though a spokesperson says in the end, staff provided little more than road closures and traffic control around the affected area. Unified Command referred questions of cost to Conrail, which responded that it would not speculate in the middle of an ongoing incident. As to whether taxpayers will bear those costs, Hotra replied, "We recognize that the public sector response to this incident was significant and sustained. We welcome a conversation and will address public-sector costs on a case-by-case basis." The public may bear additional costs in the future, however, if anticipated legislation is introduced into Congress by Reps. Rob Andrews (D-1st), who represents Paulsboro, Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd), and others, who visited the site and expressed surprise and disappointment that neither federal, state, nor local law requires public oversight of the private safety-inspection process. "The basic problem is the bridge is really not routinely inspected by any public entity," Andrews said on Friday. "Conrail didn't do anything wrong here but the problem is we set up a system where the people who stand to benefit [from a declaration that a bridge is safe] make that determination."

### Crafting a New Law

Andrews expects to work with his colleagues in the House of Representatives to craft a bill that will require more oversight, at an added expense to taxpayers. According to a lawsuit filed against Conrail, a train not only derailed on the bridge in 2009, it generated 23 trouble tickets in the year leading up to the November 30 accident, including nine in October. It's believed the latest incident occurred because the train engineer and a dispatcher deemed it safe to run a red light that, although they didn't know it at the time, indicated that the swing bridge had not locked properly the last time it closed. The National Transportation Safety Board is still investigating. "The [private companies] pay for and own their own infrastructure," Andrews said. "I agree the right balance is that in exchange for more public oversight the public should bear some cost." Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) expressed similar concerns after visiting the accident scene and said he, too, might consider legislation once a final determination has been made about the cause. "This train was carrying at least four cars of a highly toxic, highly flammable chemical over a bridge that contains parts that date to 1873, just four years after the completion of the nation's first Transcontinental Railroad," he emailed. "These private rails are a necessity for the thousands of workers who are employed at businesses who rely on them to import raw materials. Once we learn the details of what happened, I believe that we must work to better maintain all railways and better protect the communities that they travel through." In the meantime, approximately 100 residents have filed a mass-action lawsuit against Conrail, alleging that the levels of vinyl chloride released by the derailment were unsafe and warrant ongoing medical supervision at Conrail's expense. "This was a completely avoidable accident," said Mark Cuker, one of two attorneys representing the plaintiffs. "There was really very extensive and almost mindboggling negligence given the number of problems and how recently they occurred. The train literally went through a red light and what's really perhaps the most disconcerting about this is that they weren't just transporting cattle or coal, they were transporting tremendous quantities of a very toxic and explosive substance." In an answer filed Thursday to the complaint, Conrail indicates both agreement and disagreement with the 99 alleged points. In response to a request for an explanation of its positions, Conrail released a statement that said, "Conrail regrets the disruption that this incident has caused Paulsboro residents. Conrail does not, however, comment on ongoing litigation."

<http://www.njspointlight.com/stories/12/12/17/official-response-to-paulsboro-chemical-spill-outrages-some-residents/>

### CURAÇAO, SERU LORAWEG DECEMBER 16 2012. 6 WOUNDED, 1 DEAD AFTER FIREWORK EXPLOSION



Residents at Seru Loraweg and surroundings were just startled shocked by a major explosion followed by a black cloud of smoke in the air. Police spokesman Reginald Huggins is on the scene at the industrial estate at Seru Loraweg where a powder warehouse exploded. Unofficial sources reports of seven wounded and after major explosion at firework warehouse. The storage magazine is located at Seru Loraweg which is near the Santa Rosa neighborhood. Local authorities have closed down the area and firemen are working hard to control the fire. There are major damages to buildings surrounding the warehouse. The son of a firework expert who was working at the scene and was critically wounded told the local officers that it was someone who set the place on fire. Police found one body carbonated in the storage magazine.

<http://www.curacaochronicle.com/main/breaking-news-five-wounded-after-major-explosion-firework-storage-magazine/>



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### USA, N.Y, STATEN ISLAND, DECEMBER 16 2012. LEAKING BARGE SPILLING FUEL OIL INTO NEW YORK WATERS



*Fuel oil discharged from a barge is seen in Kill Van Kull at Mariner's Harbor on Staten Island, New York, December 15, 2012. The barge reportedly carrying nearly one million gallons of fuel oil was leaking oil from a cargo tank into a New York City harbor on Saturday, officials said. The U.S. Coast Guard said the barge was reportedly carrying nearly one million gallons of No. 6 fuel oil, but it was not known how much was spilled.*

A barge with a leaking cargo tank spilled fuel oil into a New York City waterway on Saturday, officials said. The barge was carrying 112,000 gallons of No. 6 fuel oil, but it was unclear how much oil spilled into the water, the U.S. Coast Guard said in a statement. The spill came from a Boston Marine Transport Inc barge due to a leak from its cargo tank, it said. The leak occurred at Mays Ship Repair near Mariner's Harbor in the city's Staten Island borough, the Coast Guard said.

It was first reported shortly after 11 p.m. local time (2300 ET) on Friday, the Coast Guard said. Boston Marine Transport said fuel was being transferred from one barge to another when oil could be seen seeping into the water between them, the Coast Guard said. The first barge had the leak, it said. Boston Marine Transport workers put a containment boom around the two barges, the Coast Guard said. The Coast Guard said the fuel was leaking into Kill Van Kull, a waterway between Staten Island and New Jersey that connects to New York Bay and the Hudson River. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection were responding to help contain the spill, the Coast Guard said.

<http://news.yahoo.com/leaking-barge-spilling-fuel-oil-york-waters-coast-153443482.html>

### USA, MI, LAPEER, DECEMBER 16 2012. GAS SPILLS INTO FARMERS CREEK

 **Watch the Video** [Booms Placed in Flint River to Contain Gas Spill](#)



*Youngs Environmental employees carry absorbent pads to the mouth of a storm drain emptying into Farmers Creek, just east of Main Street. An unknown amount of fuel spilled into the creek Tuesday as the result of a mishap at a gas station two blocks away. Clean up efforts continue today.*

Firefighters still aren't sure what caused the mishap, but a "significant amount of gas" rose and spread onto the surface from an underground storage tank at the Sunoco station on the corner of DeMille Road and South Main Tuesday morning and made its way into a storm drain leading to Farmers Creek. DeMille was closed to eastbound traffic for hours as fire trucks and cleanup vehicles were staged as personnel worked to contain and mop up the spilled fuel. Crews from Youngs Environmental of Flint were quickly dispatched and have been on scene ever since working to recover the petroleum. Passing

motorists on Main Street (M-24), where it crosses over the creek at Cramton Park, this morning continue to observe several tanker trucks backed up the creek while crews work on the spill recovery. Lapeer Fire & Rescue Chief Terry Kluge said, "We have no idea what happened," other than a truck was delivering fuel to the station. Firefighters quickly set up a dam of absorbent material to keep fuel from spilling into a storm drain along DeMille, which leads to another on Main Street, which dumps directly into Farmers Creek at Cramton Park. A strong smell of gas was evident across the park and the neighborhood south of the creek. The fire department's Special Operations Unit spread booms across the creek, which flows into the Flint River, at several locations. Youngs Environmental crews were using absorbent pads and pumps to recover the escaped fuel. A spokesman for the city's waste water treatment plant, which is downstream from the spill, said the plant's equipment was not effected since it takes no water from the river.

[http://thecountypress.mihomepaper.com/news/2012-12-12/Front\\_Page/Gas\\_spills\\_into\\_Farmers\\_Creek.html](http://thecountypress.mihomepaper.com/news/2012-12-12/Front_Page/Gas_spills_into_Farmers_Creek.html)



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