



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 925 Newsy Stuff

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January 29 2013



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ECUADOR, SANI ISLA, JANUARY 19 2013. ECUADORIAN TRIBE GETS REPRIEVE FROM OIL INTRUSION >> RESIDENTS OF SANI ISLA HAVE BUILT UP AN ARSENAL OF WEAPONS TO FEND OFF PETROAMAZONAS, IN A CONFRONTATION WHICH DID NOT TAKE PLACE AS EXPECTED

 **Watch the Video:** [Sani Isla Lodge - Yasuni - El Lago - The Lake](#)

jonathan watts



A Kichwa family by Napo River, Amazon rainforest, Ecuador.

An indigenous community in the Ecuadorian Amazon has won a reprieve after building up an arsenal of spears, blowpipes, machetes and guns to fend off an expected intrusion by the army and a state-run [oil](#) company. The residents of Sani Isla expressed relief that a confrontation with Petroamazonas did not take place on Tuesday [as anticipated](#), but said the firm is still trying to secure exploration rights in their area of pristine rainforest. "We have won a victory in our community. We're united," said the community president, Leonardo Tapuy. "But the government and the oil company won't leave us alone". The Kichwa tribe on Sani Isla, had said they were ready to fight to the death to protect their territory, which covers 70,000 hectares. More than a quarter of their land is in Yasuni

national park, [the most biodiverse place on earth](#). Petroamazonas had earlier told them it would begin prospecting on their land on 15 January, backed by public security forces. Before the expected confrontation, the shaman, Patricio Jipa said people were making blowpipes and spears, trying to borrow guns and preparing to use sticks stones and any other weapons they could lay their hands on. "Our intention was not to hurt or kill anyone, but to stop them from entering our land," he said. It is unclear why Petroamazonas hesitated. The company has yet to respond to the Guardian's request for a comment. Locals speculated that it was due to a reaffirmation of opposition to the oil company at a marathon community meeting on Sunday. "They've heard that we are united against the exploration so they have backed off," said Fredy Gualinga, manager of the [Sani Lodge](#). "We're happy they haven't come. Life is going on as normal." The relief may not last for long given the huge fossil fuel resources that are thought to lie below the forest. "It was a close thing, but we're not out of the water. The oil company has not given up. They will continue to hound us and to try to divide the community. But at least we have a few days respite," said Mari Muench, a British woman who is married to the village shaman. The elected leaders of Sani Isla have pledged to resist offers from Petroamazonas for the duration of their term. "This policy will remain in place during our period in office. We're committed to that and we will do what we can to make it more permanent," said Abdon Grefa, the speaker of the community. The battle has now moved to the judicial system and the court of public opinion. Their appeal for an injunction went before a judge on Wednesday and they are calling on supporters to help them build a long-term economic alternative to [fossil fuels](#). "We hope people will write protest letters to Petroamazonas, come and visit our lodge, promote Sani, donate money to our school and projects, volunteer as teachers or provide funds to students to travel overseas so they can learn what we need to survive in the future," said the community secretary, Klider Gualinga.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jan/17/indigenous-ecuadorian-tribe-oil-intrusion>

CHINA, HEBEI PROVINCE, XINGTANG CO, YANGCUN, JANUARY 19 2013. CHINA FIREWORKS BLAST KILLS 3, INJURES 11

A fireworks blast in northern [China](#)'s Hebei province today killed three people and injured 11, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing unidentified local-government officials.

The blast happened at about 10:20 a.m. local time in Yangcun village, Xingtang county, leading to the collapse of a two-story home, Xinhua reported. The exact number of casualties and reason for the blast are being investigated, it said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-18/north-china-fireworks-blast-kills-3-injures-11-xinhua-says.html>

USA, VA, WAYNESBORO, JANUARY 19 2013. WAYNESBORO CHEMICAL SPILL CAUSED BY LEAKING CHLORINE TANK

A fire official said Wednesday night's chemical spill at the Colony House Motel in Waynesboro was caused by a leaking chlorine tank. "I believe a valve got knocked off," said Capt. Greg Schacht of Augusta County Fire-Rescue. Schacht said the chlorine cylinder was in the process of being salvaged. Three people from the motel, located along U.S. 250 approaching the top of Afton Mountain, were treated at Augusta Health in Fishersville and released. The spill prompted a hazardous material



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team to be dispatched to the area around 5 p.m. Firefighters who first arrived described the smell as a mixture of chlorine and ammonia. The hazmat team secured the building until the source of the odor was located.

<http://www.newsleader.com/article/20130118/NEWS01/301180009/Waynesboro-chemical-spill-caused-by-leaking-chlorine-tank>

USA, N.H, CONCORD, JANUARY 19 2013. EXXONMOBIL ATTACKS DATA IN NEW HAMPSHIRE MTBE TRIAL

sarah earle & don jeffrey

[ExxonMobil Corp.](#), on trial in New Hampshire for allegedly contaminating residents' groundwater with a gasoline additive, confronted the state's first witness about his data and methods of analyzing it. The witness, Graham Fogg, a professor of hydrology, testified yesterday in the state court trial that about 2 percent of the state's private wells are polluted with hazardous levels of the additive, methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE. "You used the very methodology that you said was the wrong way to do it," David Lender, a lawyer for ExxonMobil, said during cross-examination of Fogg today in Concord. "You keep changing your numbers, right?" "You're mixing different contexts," Fogg replied. "These numbers were updated based on new data, new info and suggestions by experts." [New Hampshire](#) Superior Court Judge Peter Fauver yesterday agreed to excuse the other defendant in the \$816 million case, Citgo Petroleum Corp., while Citgo and the state work to complete a settlement. "The parties stipulate that Citgo Petroleum shall be severed from the above captioned case until such time as a consent agreement between Citgo and the state is filed with the court," the company and the state said in a Jan. 15 joint filing.

Citgo's Lawyers

Under the agreement, the parties have until Feb. 15 to complete an accord before Citgo is reinstated to the case, unless they agree to an extension. Citgo's lawyers didn't appear in court yesterday as the trial resumed. A settlement would leave ExxonMobil as the last defendant in the state's lawsuit alleging [oil companies](#) knew the chemical would contaminate groundwater. The trial began Jan. 14. New Hampshire's suit is one of scores of cases involving MTBE filed since 2000 against refiners, fuel distributors and chemical makers. The state is seeking damages from the companies based on their market share of gasoline sales in New Hampshire during the period covered by the lawsuit. New Hampshire said Citgo's market share during that time ranged from 3.1 percent to 8.7 percent. Based on the state's estimated cost of \$816 million to test for and clean up the contamination, it may be seeking \$25 million to \$71 million from Citgo. ExxonMobil's share was about 30 percent, the state said. Using that figure, New Hampshire would be seeking about \$245 million from the company.

2003 Lawsuit

In 2003, New Hampshire sued ExxonMobil and Citgo along with Shell Oil Co., Sunoco Inc., [ConocoPhillips](#), Irving Oil Ltd., Vitol SA and [Hess Corp](#). All had settled before this week's trial began, except Irving, Texas-based ExxonMobil and Citgo. Shell and Sunoco agreed to pay New Hampshire \$35 million in a settlement announced in November. The state contends that the oil companies knew MTBE presented a risk of groundwater contamination when they decided to use it. ExxonMobil and Citgo, the Houston-based unit of Petroleos de Venezuela SA, the country's state-owned oil company, have argued that they were complying with federal regulations that pre-empt state law. They said MTBE, added to make gasoline burn more thoroughly and thus reduce air pollution, never caused any New Hampshire resident to become ill. MTBE lawsuits also have been consolidated in federal court in [New York](#) for pretrial evidence-gathering and motions. In 2009, a federal jury ordered ExxonMobil to pay [New York City](#) \$104.7 million after finding it liable for polluting wells in the city. ExxonMobil has appealed.

Wells Contaminated

Fogg, a professor at the [University of California](#), Davis, testified yesterday about how he calculated MTBE groundwater contamination in New Hampshire. He estimated that about 40,000 wells are contaminated with MTBE in the state, and that about 2 percent of all wells, or 5,590, are contaminated at levels determined to be unfit for drinking. "We had a lot of input from experts on data analyses," Fogg said. In addition to analyzing random samplings of New Hampshire wells, Fogg said he consulted U.S. Geological Survey data. He said that his numbers are more conservative than those cited in other studies. ExxonMobil's lawyer, Lender, asked Fogg yesterday how many New Hampshire wells he had sampled.

'Existing Data'

"I didn't make any field trips in connection with the case," Fogg replied. "I'm relying on the existing data others have collected." Earlier today, defense lawyers argued for a mistrial because Fogg referred yesterday to the state's cleanup fund, which had been ruled off-limits in the trial because jurors might think the money came from taxpayers. The fund is available for owners of petroleum-storage facilities. Asked by the defense lawyers why some sites that still may contain MTBE have been closed,



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Fogg said, "There's probably not enough money in the cleanup fund." Fauver denied the request for a mistrial and told the defense lawyers, "It was pretty clear to me that you people unlocked the door and you started pushing."

Cross-Examination

Fogg's cross-examination is set to continue on Jan. 22.

Regarding Citgo, the New Hampshire attorney general's office declined to comment on specific terms of any proposed settlement. [Fernando Garay](#), a spokesman for Citgo, declined to comment on the matter. Asked about a possible settlement of its case, ExxonMobil spokeswoman Claire Hassett said, "Nothing has happened that would change our approach to this litigation." The case is State of New Hampshire v. Hess Corp., 03- C-0550, New Hampshire Superior Court, Merrimack County

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-17/citgo-to-settle-new-hampshire-gas-additive-lawsuit.html>

USA, R.I, PROVIDENCE, JANUARY 18 2013. COST-EFFECTIVE LEAK INSPECTION FOR UNDERGROUND TANKS

On Line Library: [Reducing Drinking Water Supply Chemical Contamination: Risks from Underground Storage Tanks](#)

Rhode Island has found a more cost-effective way to prevent underground petroleum storage tanks threatening water supplies, according to a study conducted by the state's Department of Environmental Management. The study, "[Reducing Drinking Water Supply Chemical Contamination: Risks from Underground Storage Tanks](#)," was funded by the EPA's National Center for State Innovation through a three-year grant. The US Energy Policy Act of 2005 mandates that state environmental agencies inspect all underground storage tank (UST) facilities once every three years. Many states struggle to meet the requirement, often stretching existing resources or complying at significant expense, the study said. As of September 2008, more than 470,000 UST releases had been recorded in the United States. The EPA reported 7,300 new leaks in 2008 and nearly 103,000 old leaks remained to be cleaned up. The EPA-funded study evaluated a new regulatory model that aims to decrease agencies' frequency of inspections among low-risk facilities, without sacrificing compliance performance or increasing public health risks. The study applied a model comprised of four components: regulatory assistance, compliance certification using standardized checklists, independent agency inspections and statistically-based performance measurement. The model was adapted from an Environmental Results Program (ERP) effort developed in Massachusetts. Researchers applied statistical analysis to data from randomly selected facilities that underwent field inspections at baseline and after certification, to assess whether compliance improved throughout the sector. Some 96 facilities were inspected at baseline and 93 post-ERP intervention. The study found that the ERP model produced positive, measurable results that improved compliance for tank corrosion protection, piping leak detection, spill prevention and overfill protection as well as groundwater monitoring wells and tank pad observation wells. An economic analysis comparing the costs of Rhode Island's tradition UST inspection program with the ERP approach found the alternative to have lower costs than the labor-intensive approach mandated by the Energy Policy Act.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2013/01/18/cost-effective-leak-inspection-for-underground-tanks/>

USA, N.D, WILLISTON, JANUARY 19 2013. TWO MEN WERE INJURED FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN AN EXPLOSION AT AN OIL WELL SITE NORTHWEST OF HERE.

Two men were injured Friday afternoon in an explosion at an oil well site northwest of here. The Grenora Rural Fire Department responded to a tank battery explosion that occurred after 12:30 p.m. Friday northwest of Blacktail Dam, said Nathan Andorff, a member of the fire department and Grenora's director of public works. The explosion occurred while the men were working on a tank battery at the site, Andorff said. One man suffered burns all over his body, and the other man had a broken leg, Andorff said. The men were taken by ambulance to Mercy Medical Center in Williston. Information on their conditions or if they were transferred to another facility was not available Friday.

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/386993/>

USA, N.C, CAMP LEJEUNE, JANUARY 19 2013. SCIENTISTS FIND CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION WENT BACK TO 1953

franco ordonez

Federal health officials have determined that water contamination at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune exceeded safe levels as far back as August 1953, four years earlier than previous findings. The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry also found that water had been contaminated at two additional water distribution systems on the base. "This a big deal," said Jerry Enslinger, a retired Marine master sergeant who was stationed at Lejeune and whose daughter died of a



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rare form of leukemia in 1985 at age 9. "You're talking tens of thousands of more people being exposed." Confirming the presence of human carcinogens on the base as far back as 1953 will expand the eligibility of veterans and family members who can receive health benefits under the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, said Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., who introduced the legislation. "There are veterans out there, some of them in dire straits, who have been waiting a long time for these findings," Burr said in a statement. "Until now, (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) has been unable to help them.... we owe them the care they need without delay." President Barack Obama signed the Camp Lejeune law in August. It provides health care for people who lived or worked at the base from 1957 to 1987 and have a condition listed within the bill that is linked to exposure to dangerous chemicals. Now, those who lived or worked on the base starting in 1953 should also be eligible. At the time of the signing, it was estimated that 750,000 Marine veterans and family members may have been exposed to drinking water that was poisoned with trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, benzene and vinyl chloride. Some medical experts have linked the contamination to birth defects, childhood leukemia and a variety of other cancers. Despite its previous contention that there was insufficient evidence to prove the illnesses were related to service at Camp Lejeune, the Marine Corps has pledged its support of the new law. On Friday, the corps said it supports the federal disease registry findings and that the Marines are continuing to seek those who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune during that time. Burr, along with Sen. Kay Hagan and former Rep. Brad Miller, both North Carolina Democrats, has advocated strongly for the government to help the sick Marines and their families. The toxic substances and disease registry is planning to release additional findings regarding its investigation at the base. In a letter to Veterans Affairs, registry director Christopher Portier said the agency plans to release two studies this spring: on mortality, and on birth defects and childhood cancers.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/01/18/3189547/scientists-find-camp-lejeune-water.html>

USA, LA, BATON ROUGE, JANUARY 19 2013. CONTROLLED BURN PLANNED FOR BAYOU SORREL OIL LEAK

A contracted cleanup crew will conduct a controlled burn starting at 10 a.m. Saturday to clean up part of an oil leak from a ruptured pipeline at the Frog Lake Bayou Sorrel facility in Iberville Parish, according to U.S. Coast Guard spokeswoman Lt. Victoria Saxon. Coast Guard, federal, state and local officials will be on hand to monitor the burn, she said, adding that the Coast Guard along with members from the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office are supervising oil cleanup operations. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit in Baton Rouge received a tip on Jan. 9 about a ruptured pipeline near the Bayou Sorrel facility that leaked about 5,000 gallons of oil product before facility officials halted the leak, Saxon said. To date, about 1,750 gallons have been cleaned up and recovered, she said. The controlled burn of the oil in the water will be conducted by American Pollution Control, the contracted cleanup crew of ORB Exploration, owners of the Bayou Sorrel facility, Saxon said. Saxon said the primary burn should last no more than a few hours and any additional burns, if necessary, will be conducted only in daylight hours. Residents of Bayou Sorrel are asked to stay at least half a mile away and anyone who has general questions or questions about smoke inhalation is asked to contact the Poison Control Center at (800) 222-1222, Saxon said.

<http://theadvocate.com/home/4955678-125/controlled-burn-planned-for-bayou>

CANADA, B.C, WILLIAMS LAKE, JANUARY 19 2013. HOMES EVACUATED AFTER HAZARDOUS SPILL



Emergency workers are shown at the scene of a tractor trailer that rolled into a ditch just north of Williams Lake, B.C., dumping its load of a potentially hazardous substance, on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013.

Dozens of homes in British Columbia's Cariboo region were evacuated Friday and an elementary school was closed as hazmat crews worked to clean up ammonium nitrate which spilled from the wreckage of a tractor-trailer crash. RCMP Insp. Warren Brown said crews were expected to be on the scene for most of the day after the truck left the road and rolled Thursday evening, leaving the driver with serious injuries. The crash ruptured the truck and caused ammonium nitrate, a material that's used as a fertilizer and in explosives, to leak out. Officials determined the blast radius if the ammonium nitrate ignited would be about 400 metres, prompting an evacuation order covering that distance,

said Brown. Brown said the order affected about 70 homes, which the regional district said would likely be under an evacuation order until at least 6 p.m. Wildwood Elementary School was also closed for the day. "You don't have an ideal situation because of the way it's laying right now, it's very precarious," he said in an interview. "They wouldn't be able to unload



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it by a conventional means." "There's some ingenuity here. My understanding is they take a hose, attach it to the tank, run it downslope to where the new tanker will be and somehow that's sucked out or pumped out." Brown said it appeared the ammonium nitrate was intended to be used for blasting at a nearby mine. Al Richmond, the chair of the Cariboo Regional District, said the homes weren't evacuated overnight because there wasn't a serious risk until the clean-up began. "It's in a gel form, so they felt it was stable enough last night," Richmond said in an interview. "But because they're actively pumping this material into another tanker today, which means they're going to handle it, it could become unstable. It's just a remote possibility, but we don't want to take any chances," An emergency centre was set up at a local Salvation Army building to assist people displaced by the evacuation order, the regional district said in a news release. Aside from the explosive risk, short-term exposure to ammonium nitrate can also cause nausea, vomiting, headaches or dizziness. The driver was airlifted to a Vancouver-area hospital with serious injuries. Police said it was too early to speculate about what caused the crash.

<http://www.castanet.net/news/BC/86090/Homes-evacuated-after-hazardous-spill>

USA, N.Y, BATTENKILL, JANUARY 19 2013. BATTEN KILL OIL SPILL

don lehman

So there apparently was some sort of oil spill in the Batten Kill last weekend. The state Department of Environmental Conservation hasn't done anything to let the public know about it as far as we've seen, but we got a tip from a concerned Greenwich resident that it occurred. Cambridge-Greenwich Police Chief George Bell said it was his understanding two 55-gallon drums of some sort of oil product went through the hydroelectric plant in Greenwich. He said there was a strong oil smell and "quite a bit" of material in the river, and a DEC spill response team and conservation officer were on the scene. So what is the impact on the river's fish, or those who might want to consume them? Good question, even a week after the spill. We've asked the DEC but not heard back. In fact, communication with the DEC's personnel has reached an all-time low from my perspective. I have been trying for over a week to talk to a DEC fisheries biologist in Ray Brook about an innocuous fish stocking issue. Apparently the biologists are now off-limits for media interviews unless approved by the "press office." Nine days after my initial request, I'm still awaiting the assistance of the "press office." This seems to be a recent policy change and it is hindering the flow of information to the public.

http://poststar.com/blogs/adirondack_outdoors/batten-kill-oil-spill/article_f37e916a-61ab-11e2-9191-001a4bcf887a.html

USA, S.C, ELLOREE, JANUARY 20 2013. POLICE: THREE STOLE 100S OF GALLONS OF GASOLINE

richard walker



Elloree police say they watched Friday morning as three people pumped 350 gallons of gasoline into aluminum tanks at the Shell Station. The Richland County men were arrested. A surveillance team apprehended three Richland County men in the act of stealing hundreds of gallons of fuel from a gas station, police say. Elloree Police Chief Preston Avinger said a surveillance operation had been in effect for much of the week when three men in two trucks drove into sight. "They were just about finished pumping when we moved in on them," he said. William D. Adams, Jr. 38, and Kenyetta Smith, 32, both of Columbia; and Cedric Tucker, 24, of Hopkins, were each charged with breaking into a fuel pump, possession of criminal tools and larceny. Avinger said officers waited as more than 350 gallons were pumped at the Elloree Shell Station. They then made the arrests. The estimated value of that fuel is more than \$1,200. Investigators determined by comparing daily fuel levels the business had been

hit before -- twice. They're still trying to tally the exact amount lost, but a conservative estimate is triple the amount pumped Friday morning. Avinger said the suspects were illegally bypassing the pump's shutoff system to fill large tanks in the back of their trucks. The aluminum tanks were then covered with a tarp. The Santee Police Department assisted in the operation Friday. Investigators say that earlier this week, employees at the business noticed a sudden drop in the level of fuel. They initial thought a tank had developed a leak. However, further testing showed that may not have been the case. Surveillance cameras were set up by the Old Number Six business and captured evidence that the leak may not have been in the tank. "They called us and said, 'I think we have a problem,'" Avinger said. Teams were set up to monitor the station after closing.



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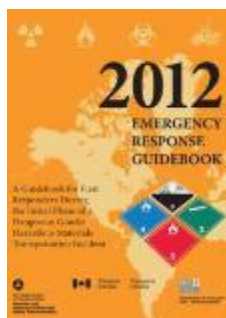
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For the first two nights, nothing happened. Then around 1:15 a.m. Friday, police officers hidden around the business spotted two trucks pull into the station on either side of the pumps.

http://thetandd.com/news/local/police-three-stole-s-of-gallons-of-gasoline/article_531306c4-61f7-11e2-80b9-0019bb2963f4.html

USA - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, JANUARY 20 2013. ERG 2012 FOR IPHONE



National Library of Medicine

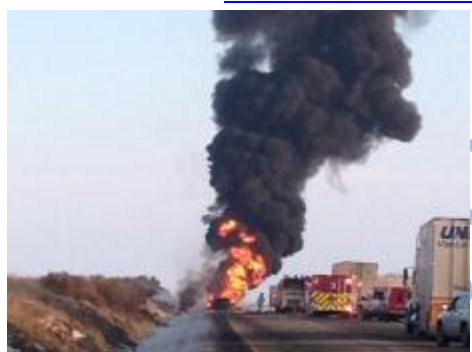
Description

PHMSA (U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration)'s 2012 Emergency Response Guidebook provides first responders with a go-to resource to help deal with hazmat accidents during the critical first 30 minutes.

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/erg-2012-for-iphone/id592158838?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D2&goback=%2Egde_2474343_member_206020141

USA, ID, BOISE, JANUARY 20 2013. TANKER TRUCK BURSTS INTO FLAMES ON I-84

[Watch the Video Tanker Truck Bursts into Flames](#)



All lanes of Interstate 84 opened to eastbound vehicles just after 10:30 p.m. Friday after a tanker truck burst into flames causing the freeway to close earlier that night. The tanker truck was carrying thousands of gallons of gasoline and diesel. Instead of attacking the fire, Boise Fire Battalion Chief John Peugh said they used a different strategy. "If we put the fire out, then we have a lot of raw fuel that we have to deal with. That becomes a hazmat, so on this particular situation, we elected to just let it burn off," said Peugh. Idaho State Police Sergeant Sam Ketchum says flames were 60 to 80 feet high. Idaho State Police helped with traffic control. They had to shut down the freeway because of how hot the fire was, while Boise fire handled the flames. "Obviously because it's considered a hazardous material, the size of the flame, the temperature of the flames, we shut the freeway down at that time. Boise fire responded. They've done a great job of assisting as far as the fire, putting it out, giving us good

direction as far as keeping the safety of the citizens obviously traveling on the highway," said Ketchum. Idaho State Police are investigating what exactly caused the fire, although troopers said that will be difficult because of the condition of the tanker truck.

<http://www.nwcn.com/news/idaho/187564371.html>

USA, N.Y, ALBANY, JANUARY 20 2013. EVENTS ACROSS NY GENERATE FRACKING COMMENTS

mary esch

State regulations make for pretty dull reading, but you'd never know it from the mountains of cardboard boxes of public comments generated by the latest gas-drilling guidelines proposed by New York's environmental agency. Many of the 204,000 letters anti-drilling groups say they submitted are the result of social media outreach and meetings at libraries, community centers and churches where organizers would hand out form letters and stamped envelopes. Environmental groups say the volume of comments demonstrates the intensity of sentiment against natural gas development, but the industry dismisses it as a misrepresentation of actual sentiment and a tactic to stall development by drowning regulators in an ocean of paper. If



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nothing else, it demonstrates the grass-roots organizing power of the anti-gas drilling movement in New York, where high-volume hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, hasn't even begun. A statewide network of hundreds of anti-drilling groups revved up the effort shortly after the [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) posted updated regulations online at the end of November. When the public comment period ended Jan. 11, a coalition of groups called New Yorkers Against Fracking announced it had presented 204,000 comments to the agency. Gov. [Andrew Cuomo](#) and DEC are expected to decide soon whether to lift a 4½-year-old moratorium on fracking, which has made vast quantities of natural gas accessible to drillers who use the technology to crack gas-rich rock about a mile underground in the Marcellus Shale, which underlies southern New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. Thousands of wells have been drilled and fracked in the other Marcellus states and around the country. DEC has a Feb. 27 deadline to finalize new regulations or start new rules from scratch. Before then, regulators have to read all the public comments and respond to substantive issues raised. They have their work cut out for them. The agency received what it termed an "unprecedented" 66,000 comments on the earlier version of the regulations and the 1,500-page environmental impact study they were based on, and took most of 2012 to read, categorize and respond to them. DEC spokeswoman [Emily DeSantis](#) said the department has 30 to 40 employees at its downtown Albany offices going through the comments, the majority of which are form letters. DEC is still counting the comments and as of Thursday had nearly 120,000. Drilling companies, industry groups and pro-gas landowner coalitions have also submitted comments, some of them criticizing certain requirements as far too restrictive. "I would categorize this as another stall tactic stunt," [Brad Gill](#), executive director of the [Independent Oil and Gas Association of New York](#), said of the anti-fracking comment effort. "It's nothing more than a reminder of how passionate and well-organized the opposition groups are to this industry." "While anti-fracking groups produce hundreds of thousands of valueless comments, the gas industry has produced hundreds of thousands of high-paying jobs," added [Karen Moreau](#), executive director of the [New York State Petroleum Council](#). [Sandra Steingraber](#), a biologist and leader of New Yorkers Against Fracking, set out to translate regulations into understandable language for people so they could respond. She spoke at several community meetings held to generate comments, and put up a website where she dissected one section of the regulations each day of the comment period. "My little website project alone generated more than 20,000 comments," Steingraber said. "I don't tell people what to write, I just give the facts and say, 'Knock yourself out.'" A new group called Students Against Fracking, a coalition of campus-based anti-fracking groups, organized an online campaign to get college students home on holiday break to write comments on the regulations. Younger students were also recruited to comment. "A number of school classrooms took time to go through the regulations and have students write comments," said [John Armstrong](#) of Frack Action. The industry-funded group Energy in Depth denounced a fourth-grade classroom comment-writing exercise in Middletown as "student indoctrination." [Logan Adsit](#) of South Otselic in Chenango County went to one of six letter-writing events held in the Southern Tier — the counties near the Pennsylvania line where shale development is most likely to begin if it's approved. The meeting was organized by the Chenango Delaware Otsego Gas Drilling Opposition Group. "They had stamped envelopes and sample letters that you could just sign and mail," Adsit said. "But most people wrote their own." [Jill Weiner](#), a member of Catskill Citizens for [Safe Energy](#), said her group generated 23,924 comments. "We did a ton of research and put together 13 letters our members could take and expand on, or sign and send in as comments," she said. [Alex Beauchamp](#), a professional organizer for New York City-based Food and Water Watch, said the generation of 204,000 comments was an impressive achievement. "Generating petitions for decision-makers is a tactic used in all kinds of campaigns," Beauchamp said. "Often, it's like pulling teeth even to get people to sign a petition. It was good to see people really delve into this."

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Events-across-NY-generate-fracking-comments-4205555.php>

SOUTH KOREA, TAEAN COUNTY, JANUARY 20 2013. VICTIMS TO GET \$694 MILLION IN S. KOREA OIL PAYOUT



People try to remove oil as crude oil spills over the Mallipo swimming beach after a Hong-Kong-registered oil tanker accident, in Taean, about 170km south-west of Seoul, December 8, 2007.

A South Korean court has ordered a \$694 million payout to victims of the country's worst oil spill, which fouled miles of coastland in 2007 and decimated local fishing and tourism industries. "This is the first estimate of the damage officially made by the court," court spokesman Choi Noo-Lim said on Thursday. "It is the first big step towards compensating those affected by the oil leak." The spill occurred when a Samsung Heavy Industries barge carrying a construction crane broke free and



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rammed an anchored Hong Kong-registered super tanker, which subsequently leaked 10,900 tons of crude oil. Miles of beaches, notably in Taean county about 110 kilometres south west of Seoul, were smothered by the spillage. The accident devastated the region's once-vibrant fishing and tourism industries, leading to a number of suicides by local residents as a legal wrangle over who qualified for compensation dragged on for years. The court in the city of Daejeon set the total damage to area residents and businesses at 734.1 billion won (\$694 million). It ordered Hebei Spirit Shipping, the owner of the super tanker, to shell out 145.8 billion won and Samsung Heavy Industries 5.6 billion won. The London-based International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC) and the South Korean government are to cover 178.4 billion won and 404.3 billion won, respectively. The payout is a record for environmental accidents in South Korea, but less than 20 per cent of the 4.2 trillion won originally sought by some 120,000 affected residents and businesses. They have two weeks to file objections to the court's estimate. "I'm afraid there will be objections by many, many residents whose compensation bids were either reduced or rejected... which will further delay actual payout to victims," Mr Choi said. The IOPC may also challenge the figure, which is far higher than its own assessment.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-01-17/an-sth-korea-sets-24694mil-oil-payout/4469898>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JANUARY 20 2013. PORT BOTANY MERCURY FEARS

natalie o'brien



Toxic? ... the foreshore sediment around Port Botany and in a nearby estuary is said to be contaminated by mercury.

The chemical company Orica, responsible for a string of toxic leaks across the state, is being accused of covering up the extent of mercury contamination around its Port Botany site, potentially risking the health of thousands of residents. An investigation by Fairfax Media has discovered mercury was found in very high concentrations in the sediment within a nearby estuary and in low levels along the shoreline near the port's container facilities. There are also suspicions that tonnes of highly toxic mercury-contaminated sludge may have been dumped, decades ago, on land near Orica's former Chlor Alkali plant in

Matraville. Reports commissioned by Orica on potential health risks have ignored off-site soil contamination, which could affect more than 1500 homes. Angry resident Sharon Price, a mother of two, said she only became aware of the potential risks because of other residents. "When you start taking an interest, it is frightening what you find," Ms Price said. The revelations come as an Australian expert in mercury recovery, Andrew Helps, warned that tonnes of accumulated toxic waste from the plant, as well as gas emissions into the atmosphere over its 57-year life, remain unaccounted for and ignored in Orica's reports. "Despite 10 years and millions of dollars of consultant reports totally focused on the issues with this plant site, Orica has never investigated or quantified the mercury vapour and mercury absorbed on to particulates that have travelled offsite into surrounding residential properties or those that have directly entered Botany Bay," Mr Helps said. Orica made headlines in August 2011 when its chemical plant at Kooragang Island released a cloud of cancer-causing chemicals over a Newcastle suburb. There have also been numerous leaks at its Port Kembla plant and at the Botany site. Orica has been told by the Environmental Protection Authority to clean up the mercury contamination at Port Botany but reports, which Orica has been allowed to commission itself, are confined only to the site and the groundwater underneath it. Orica has never done any offsite soil testing in the adjoining residential areas, some of which are just 100 metres away. Resident Sherry Butt said a review of Orica's official Human Health and Environmental Risk Assessment Report and a proposal for testing that residents requested from Mr Helps were met with derision by Orica officials at a community meeting last month. Mr Helps, whose company Hg Recoveries specialises in remediating mercury contaminated sites, and who is a member of the United Nations Environmental Program Global Mercury Partnership, said that soil samples and air quality surrounding about 1590 houses and apartments in a 1.25-kilometre radius of the site should be tested. Mercury readily bioaccumulates throughout the food chain including in plants, fish and crustaceans. It can be taken up by vegetable gardens and fruit trees and people who eat this produce can then be at risk. In a letter to Mr Helps dated January 11, Orica's executive global head of corporate affairs and social responsibility, Gavin Jackman, said Orica "is satisfied with the results of these investigations and there is no unacceptable risk to community health". The Greens MP Cate Faehrmann said if Orica was reluctant to fund an investigation into its offsite mercury pollution the Environmental Protection Authority or the state Environment Minister, Robyn Parker, must force it. "The last time Orica didn't respond swiftly to a pollution crisis, it was a PR disaster for the company and the minister. If there is mercury



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contamination in the neighbourhood it has potential to be more serious than the Kooragang Island debacle." An Orica spokesman said on Friday it was not opposed to further testing and would consider requests if it was supported by all stakeholders, conducted using internationally accepted standards and was the subject of a robust tender and evaluation process. The spokesman said the company had found a document trail back to the 1990s that showed that sludge from the site was disposed of in licensed landfill sites approved by the EPA. A spokesman for the Minister for Roads and Ports, Duncan Gay, has confirmed that low levels of mercury have been found on the Port Botany shoreline. However, a report prepared for the ports in 2003 in anticipation of an expansion warned that there were exceptionally high levels of mercury found in the Penrhyon estuary sediment, which have most likely accumulated from water and effluent flowing from the Chlor Alkali site into Botany Bay.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/water-issues/port-botany-mercury-fears-20130119-2d00r.html>

INDONESIA, JAKARTA, JANUARY 20 2013. Palyja CUTS WATER SUPPLY TO 250,000 JAKARTA CUSTOMERS AFTER OIL CONTAMINATION

lenny tristia tambun

Water operator PAM Lyonnaise Jaya has cut its clean water supply to 250,000 customers in Jakarta, after its reservoir was contaminated by oil as a result of the floods. The private company, known as Palyja, said the supply had been cut since Friday evening after they discovered that engine oil had contaminated its reservoir in Bekasi. "To protect the health of our customers and production facilities, Palyja decided yesterday night to temporarily halt operations of the water installation facility in Pejompongan [in West Jakarta]," Palyja spokeswoman Meyritha Maryanie said in a press statement on Saturday. "As an impact of this disruption, approximately 62 percent or 250,000 of our customers are not receiving their normal clean water supplies," she added. Palyja, which manages the western half of Jakarta, said supplies were also cut in Slipi, Petamburan, Tomang and Grogol in West Jakarta; Bendungan Hilir, Menteng, Manggarai and Kebon Sirih in Central Jakarta; and in Ancol, Penjaringan, Pluit and Muara Angke in North Jakarta. Palyja also reported reduced water supplies for areas such as Kalideres and West Cengkareng in West Jakarta and Kapuk Muara and Pejagalan in North Jakarta. State-owned water operator PDAM Jaya, which is responsible for Jakarta's piped water system, admitted that the Bekasi reservoir had been contaminated by oil after a generator in a shopping mall in the West Java town was inundated by water. "The management of Mega Bekasi Mall dumped the floodwater into the Bekasi dam, which supplies unprocessed water for Palyja and Aetra, two clean water operators working with PDAM Jaya," PDAM Jaya president director Sri Widayanto Kaderi said on Saturday. He added that the mall was forced to channel the water into the dam because drainage systems nearby had over flooded and had failed to function. As of Saturday, the drainage system was in use again. "But the water remains contaminated. We're waiting for Perum Jasa Tirta II to clean it," Sri said, referring to a state-owned firm in charge of the reservoir. Aetra, a private-owned water firm managing the eastern half of the capital, has yet to issue a statement concerning the situation.

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/palyja-cuts-water-supply-to-250000-jakarta-customers-after-reservoir-contaminated-by-oil/566419>

ENGLAND, GUERNSEY, JANUARY 20 2013. GUERNSEY AIRPORT SPILL BY LAGAN 'COULD LEAD TO LEGAL ACTION'



Mr Redhead said tests had shown the spillage posed no risk to supplies.

Lagan Construction could face legal action over a small chemical spill in November at one of its site compounds for the £80m Guernsey Airport project. The company said at the time that 10 litres of chemical bitumen had split at its southern compound. Guernsey Water is investigating whether or not pollution laws have been breached because of the potential risk to the island's water supplies. Police confirmed they have been conducting interviews with Lagan staff. Andrew Redhead, director of water services, said: "People can be totally assured that all of the samples we've taken pose no risk whatsoever to drinking water supplies throughout the island." Under the island's pollution laws had the

spill actually caused harmful pollution to the water supply then there would have been a case for legal action, but there is also legislation covering cases where an incident might have potentially caused harmful pollution, even if it actually did not.



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'Never Entirely Eradicated'

Guernsey Water has to decide whether or not there was the potential for this incident to be more serious and therefore whether they should be taking further action. The company has been working closely with Val Cameron, the island's shadow water regulator and director of environmental health and pollution, to put together the case. They are due to meet shortly to decide whether or not to pass the case on to the law officers, who in turn would decide whether it would be taken to court. Lagan Construction said it was cooperating fully with investigations and had taken steps to ensure similar incidents would not happen again. Steve Turner, senior contracts manager, said: "All equipment involved with the airport project is checked regularly by qualified professionals. However, the risk of an incident on a construction site of this size and complexity can never be entirely eradicated."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-21099729>

USA, N.H, PEIRCE ISLAND, JANUARY 20 2013. FUEL SPILL REPORTED ON PEIRCE ISLAND >> U.S. COAST GUARD, NH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES OFFICIALS AND PORTSMOUTH FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDED TO AREA NEAR PORTSMOUTH COMMERCIAL FISH PIER.

marc fortier & robert cook



Updated, 11:54 a.m.: A fuel spill near Peirce Island was reported Saturday morning near the Portsmouth Commercial Fishing Pier, but quickly dissipated as the Piscataqua River's strong currents picked up and high tide arrived. Portsmouth Fire Capt. Mike Hogan said firefighters responded to the area around 8:30 a.m. and learned that some diesel fuel had leaked out of one of the commercial fishing vessels at the fish pier. Hogan said city firefighters turned the matter over the Coast Guard and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services officials. Hogan said the fuel spill "was spotty," but traces of it "could be seen in different areas on the water." Hogan said the Coast Guard and NH DES officials were expected to do an assessment to determine how many gallons of

diesel fuel spilled into the river and whether any further action was required. He said the Piscataqua River's strong current and high tide scattered the spilled fuel very quickly. Coast Guard Machinery Specialist First Class Daniel Bell said the Coast Guard's environmental response team was dispatched to the scene from the New Castle Coast Guard Station, but he could not say what action, if any, they ended up taking. Hogan said the exact cause of the fuel spill is still being investigated. Earlier story: The U.S. Coast Guard and the state Department of Environmental Services are responding to a fuel spill in the Piscataqua River this morning. The initial call came in around 9:25 a.m. for a large fuel spill on Marcy Street at Peirce Island in Portsmouth, according to emergency radio broadcasts. The spill was reportedly in the area of the pier.

<http://portsmouth-nh.patch.com/articles/fuel-spill-reported-in-piscataqua-river>

USA, CT, WINDSOR, JANUARY 20 2013. ALGAE-TAINTED FUEL TANKS STOP SCHOOL BUSES

christine dempsey

It wasn't snow that closed the Pathways to Technology magnet high school Friday. It was algae. Algae was found in school bus fuel tanks, prompting a school bus company to ground 150 buses. Algae clogs fuel filters, which can cause the buses to sputter and stop. The problem affected eight Hartford-area magnet schools and a "handful" of students who participate in the Open Choice program in suburban schools, said Aura Alvarado, spokeswoman for the Capitol Region Education Council. CREC was able to get 52 replacement buses, but some students were late for school and others didn't go at all. Only one school closed: Pathways to Technology, also known as Pathways Academy of Technology and Design. Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate said he decided to cancel classes because students were scheduled to take exams. The exams will be held Tuesday instead. A spokeswoman with the bus company, First Student, said algae was found clogging a bus' fuel filter Thursday. "Our maintenance team worked through the night, checking each bus at the [East Hartford](#) location," Jen Biddinger stated in an email. "Out of an abundance of caution, we decided to pull all 150 East Hartford lot buses from service today to ensure the safety of the students." Not every bus had algae, she said; she didn't have a number Friday afternoon. Alvarado, from CREC, said mechanics are "working feverishly to ensure that all the buses are repaired." It's not unusual for the microorganism to muck up the works for buses, trucks, or even home-heating systems, said Carl Lurix, office manager for Superior Environmental Corporation of [Cheshire](#). "It's a very common problem," Lurix said. Workers from his company are



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sent out to algae calls two or three times a week, he said. Anytime moisture gets into a diesel fuel storage tank, the fuel can become "almost a breeding ground for the algae," Lurix said. The fuel then gets goopy and clogs filters, stopping the flow of fuel. It happens with home-heating oil as well as diesel-powered vehicles, he said. Lurix noticed more algae problems in the last five or six years. Part of the problem might stem from the switch to a diesel fuel with a lower sulfur content, he said. Also, smaller businesses tend not to spend time or money on maintenance, he said, and the algae growth goes undetected until a vehicle stops running or the heat stops flowing at home. Cliff Gibson, chief operating officer of DAATCO, said the problem isn't new. The company, which has school buses and motorcoaches, occasionally checks its tanks for algae. "So, you have to have your tanks inspected and cleaned periodically," he said.

<http://www.ctnow.com/news/connecticut/hartford/hc-windsor-bus-problems-0119-20130118.0.851801.story>

ALGERIA, AIN AMENAS, JANUARY 21 2013. REFINERY HOSTAGES RECOUNT RUTHLESS KILLING ALL AROUND



Photo credited to the ANI Mauritanian news agency shows Abdul Rahman al-Nigeri, who reportedly led the hostage-taking attack at the Algerian oil facility. All 32 militants involved in the operation were killed over the four-day standoff.

It was a bloody ordeal with tick-tock drama and a watching world. The hostages at a gas refinery in the Sahara desert faced four harrowing days trapped between two dangers: Islamist militants, who forced some of them into wearing explosives belts, and the Algerian commandos, who showed no inclination to negotiate for their release. After the army carried out its "final assault" Saturday, Algerian officials said that at least 23 hostages and 32 militants had been killed since gunmen startled the world by storming the remote gas plant in the pre-dawn hours Wednesday. The horrors of the days that followed were described by survivors, many of them expatriates working at Ain Amenas in eastern Algeria. Ruben Andrada, 49, a Filipino engineer, said he and colleagues were used as human shields by the kidnappers but that did little to deter the Algerian military. On Thursday, he said, 15 militants loaded him and about 35 hostages into seven SUVs to move them in a convoy from the housing complex to the refinery. "An explosive cord" was placed around their necks and they were told it would detonate if they tried to run away. But as the convoy set off, Algerian military

helicopters opened fire with guns and missiles to stop what they thought was an escape attempt, resulting in many deaths. "When we left the compound, there was shooting all around," Andrada said. "I closed my eyes. We were going around in the desert. To me, I left it all to fate." Another survivor, an Algerian named Chabane, had an even grimmer tale of how the militants ruthlessly coerced a Briton into luring his compatriots out into the open. Chabane, who worked in food services, said he bolted out a window and was hiding when he heard the militants speaking among themselves. At one point, he said, they captured a Briton. "They threatened him until he called out in English to his friends, telling them, 'Come out, come out. They're not going to kill you. They're looking for the Americans,'" he said. "A few minutes later they blew him away." Algerian officials said the heavily armed militants had planted mines and threatened to blow up the refinery and kill hostages or use them as shields to escape across the desert into Libya. At one point, the militants reportedly offered to trade two American captives for two extremist figures jailed in the United States, including Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, the blind Egyptian cleric convicted in 1995 of plotting to bomb landmarks in New York. Saturday's army raid killed 11 militants but not before they executed their final seven hostages. By nightfall, troops had discovered 15 burned bodies and were securing the plant. However, an Algerian official said some of the bodies were charred beyond recognition, making it difficult to distinguish between the captors and the captured. Two were assumed to be hostages because they were handcuffed. Nearly 700 Algerians and 107 foreigners had been freed or had escaped over the past two days. A man identified as Brahim, an Algerian driver, told French media of his escape with a group including three foreigners. "As bullets rang out non-stop, we cut holes in the metal fence with large clippers, and once through, we all started running," he said. "There were about 50 of us plus the three foreigners. ... I didn't look back." However, when the final assault began Saturday at least 30 foreigners, including an estimated seven Americans, were still unaccounted for. They also included 14 Japanese, five Britons, two Malaysians and six employees of Statoil, a Norwegian company. A Canadian who was among the employees at the site when the attack was launched on Wednesday is safe. Some Western governments expressed frustration at not being informed of the Algerian authorities' plans to storm the



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complex. One Algerian official defended the military assault, saying the militants were about to set off explosions. He said the militants had already set fire to the plant's control tower Friday night, creating an "immense fire" which was only extinguished through an all-night effort by soldiers and workers. They then attempted to blow up a pipeline. "The authorities were afraid they were going to blow up the (natural gas) reserves," said the senior official, who believed the militants had planned all along to destroy the plant. French President François Hollande gave his backing to the tough tactics, saying that "there could be no negotiations (with terrorists)." The militants were connected to a group known as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which arose from the Algerian civil war in the 1990s. The attackers reportedly included Libyans, Egyptians and at least one commander from Niger. They said their assault on the compound was in retaliation for [recent French airstrikes on rebels fighting to forge an Islamic state in neighbouring Mali](#). A White House official discounted that theory, saying the attack was planned far in advance of the French intervention in Mali. Accounts by freed hostages and statements by Algerian officials indicated that the militants, some of whom wore fatigues and appeared to know their way around the compound, may have been assisted by contacts inside. The refinery sits on a border rife with militants, traffickers and weapons, many of them looted and flowing in from an unstable Libya. The suspected mastermind of the hostage crisis was Mokhtar Belmokhtar, a one-eyed Al Qaeda recruiter whose nicknames include Mr. Marlboro for his smuggling networks. He was believed to have been aiding the rebels in Mali. The commander of the actual raid was a fighter from Niger called Abdul Rahman al-Nigeri, according to Mauritanian news agencies. Belmokhtar appears not to have joined the raid. The natural gas refinery at In Amenas is operated by BP, Statoil and Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil company. Several of their employees are missing. "We feel a deep and growing unease ... We fear that over the next few days we will receive bad news," Statoil chief executive Helge Lund said "People have spoken to describe unbelievable, horrible experiences."

Related Links

- [Death toll climbs past 80 at Saharan refinery](#)
- [Report: Numerous bodies found at Algeria gas refinery](#)
- [Militant group at centre of conflict](#)

<http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/1317372--algeria-7-hostages-11-militants-dead-after-raid>

INDIA, KERALA, MALUR, JANUARY 21 2013. 3 KILLED IN BLAST AT FIREWORKS UNIT



An unlicensed fireworks unit stood at this place at Malur, near Pathanapuram, in Kollam district, before it was destroyed in an explosion on Sunday. Three persons were killed and four seriously injured in the accident.

Three persons were killed and four were seriously injured in an explosion at a licensed fireworks unit at Malur, near Pathanapuram, in the district around 9.30 a.m. on Sunday. The explosion, the cause of which is as yet unknown, was so powerful that the bodies are beyond recognition. The police said the roofs of at least 10 houses some distance away from the unit were partially damaged in the blast. Keshavan Asan, 60, pyrotechnics expert, Adarsh, 19, son of the unit's licensee, Presennan, and Podiyan, 42, worker, are the dead. One of the injured is in a highly critical condition and has been admitted to the Government Medical

College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram. The other three are in a government hospital in Punalur. District Collector P.G. Thomas ordered an inquiry, headed by Sub-Divisional Magistrate R. Jayaprakash. Mr. Thomas sought the inquiry report in a week. Minister for Forests K.B. Ganesh Kumar, who is the Pathanapuram MLA; Revenue Minister Adoor Prakash; K.N. Balagopal, MP; district panchayat president S. Jayamohan; Mr. Thomas and City Police Commissioner Debesh Kumar Behera visited the scene. Mr. Prakash announced a relief of Rs. 10,000 each to the dependants of those killed. Initially, many people in Malur thought it was a mild earthquake that rocked the area, the police said. People ran out of their houses after feeling the tremor. The District Collector said compensation would be considered for the damaged houses. The fireworks unit in an isolated area within a rubber plantation had been functioning for several years. It had a good storage of explosives for the ongoing temple festivals. Mr. Thomas said the inquiry would look into whether the unit had stored explosives beyond the permitted level. Preliminary investigations showed that the shed had underground cells to store explosives. Hence the blast had simulated an earthquake. Workers from Tamil Nadu employed at the unit were staying in a nearby shed and had a miraculous escape. The Pathanapuram police have registered a case.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/kerala/three-killed-in-cracker-unit-fire-in-kerala/article4325911.ece>



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USA, MD, ANNE ARUNDEL CO, SEVERN, JANUARY 21 2013. MAN INJURED WHEN FIREWORKS START HOUSE FIRE

 **Watch the Video** [Illegal Fireworks Start Fire at Severn Home](#)

A 51-year-old man was injured after fireworks caused a house fire in Severn on Saturday morning, according to the Anne Arundel County Fire Department. Lt. Jack Beall said firefighters responded to a call at 604 Myers Court around 11:30 a.m. The first arriving units found heavy fire coming from the rear of a single-family home, Beall said. Beall said two adults were home at the time. A 37-year-old female was unharmed, while the man suffered injuries that were "serious" but not life-threatening. The man was not transported to a local hospital. Fire investigators determined the cause of the fire to be "illegal fireworks," Beall said. Beall said after the fire was extinguished, the dwelling was found to be not habitable and the Red Cross was called for assistance. It was not clear if charges would be pressed because of the illegal fireworks.

<http://www.fireengineering.com/news/2013/01/20/man-injured-when-fireworks-start-house-fire.html>

USA, N.Y, CHEEKTOWAGA, JANUARY 21 2013. BLOWN BY STRONG WINDS, AIRLINER HITS FUEL TANKER

 **Photo's [3]** [Airliner hits Fuel Tanker](#)



A United Airlines 737 got a rude awakening when strong winds turned the nose of the plane into a fuel truck on the tarmac of Buffalo Niagara International Airport Sunday morning. The airport experienced sustained wind speeds of 25 to 30 mph, and wind gusts reached as high as 61 mph. Thankfully, no passengers or airline staff were on board when the plane hit the fuel truck, and no injuries were reported. More photos of the plane's unlikely accident, sent to The Weather Channel by a pilot who witnessed it, are shown below.

<http://www.weather.com/news/plane-hits-fuel-tank-wind-20130120>

NEW ZEALAND, CAMBRIDGE, JANUARY 21 2013. CLEAN UP AFTER OIL TANKER LEAK

angela kenealy

A clean up is underway after an oil tanker broke down in Cambridge and leaked some of its cargo. The truck broke down on Victoria Street just after five this evening. Workers from the Waipa District Council are on the scene dealing with the spill, which is about five meters by five metres in size. Police Northern Communications says the spill is only minor and shouldn't take long to deal to.

<http://www.farmingshow.com/news/nbnat/5658047-clean-up-after-oil-tanker-leak>

SCOTLAND, GLASGOW, JANUARY 21 2013. PIONEERING WASTE PLANT FACES LEGAL ACTION AFTER POLLUTION LEAKS AND AN EXPLOSION



Scotgen's plant at Dargavel in Dumfries is being investigated by Government safety watchdogs.

Toxic pollution breaches and an explosion at a new Scottish waste incinerator have triggered tough legal action and an investigation by Government safety watchdogs, upsetting plans for a dozen more waste-burning plants. The Sunday Herald can reveal that the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) last week slapped an enforcement notice on Scotgen, a company trying to commission a pioneering "energy-from-waste" plant at Dargavel in Dumfries. This follows an admission that the plant breached safety limits by emitting more cancer-causing dioxins than permitted in October, and then failed to promptly inform Sepa. It has been ordered to restrict operations, and ensure that monitoring results are provided as soon as possible. Scotgen is also under

investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) following a "pipe burst" at the Dargavel plant in August. According to a



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report, nearby pipework and a roof were damaged by a steam explosion. Environmental groups and local campaigners say that the plant is dangerous and are demanding that it be shut down. They are calling for plans for other waste incinerators in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, Lothian, Perth, Aberdeenshire and Invergordon to be halted. Scotgen has been trying to get the Dargavel plant to work since 2009, resulting in repeated pollution breaches and breakdowns. It is meant to gasify more than 20,000 tonnes of hazardous and municipal waste a year to produce electricity. But according to Sepa, emission limits have been broken more than 200 times and there have been 250 other breaches, complaints and issues, resulting in its pollution performance being declared "very poor". Last July, the Sunday Herald reported that parts of the plant were closed down after dioxin emissions exceeded permitted limits. Despite assurances that the problem was being dealt with, there was another dioxin breach on October 16, which the company failed to report immediately to Sepa. Sepa launched an investigation and on Monday issued an enforcement notice saying that two licence conditions had been breached and action was required. Dioxins are dangerous pollutants produced by combustion that are subject to strict limits. The World Health Organisation says they can trigger cancer, cause reproductive and developmental problems, and damage the immune system. "The terrible goings-on at Scotgen's Dargavel plant have reached a new level of farce," said Dr Richard Dixon, former head of WWF Scotland who this weekend becomes director of Friends of the Earth Scotland. "This new design can't meet its pollution limits, isn't producing meaningful amounts of electricity and hasn't dealt with much waste. Scotgen has had its chance: this plant should be shut down." Alis Ballance, chair of the Green Party in Dumfries and Galloway, campaigns against the Dargavel plant. "It has repeatedly malfunctioned from the start, exposing local residents to health hazards by releasing toxic emissions far above the permitted levels," she said. Scotgen, however, argued that calls to close the plant were "misplaced". It maintained that the local community was behind its operations, which supported up to 150 local businesses. "We are working closely with Sepa in order to address the points raised and actions required, and are confident these will be addressed in the timescales allocated," said the company's managing director in Manchester, Jim Hennessey. "In the interim, the facility is fully operational as designed in accordance with its permit and is continuing to process waste." Alternatives to landfill were needed, he argued, and Dargavel was "the natural progression". Hennessey confirmed a "pipe burst" in August had been reported to the Health and Safety Executive. He denied that this had prompted an investigation, saying "the facility is not under HSE investigation". But this was contradicted by the HSE. "We are aware of Sepa's actions and are involved in an ongoing investigation into pressure systems at the plant," stated an HSE spokeswoman. The incidents at the Dargavel plant were "clearly concerning", said a spokeswoman for the Scottish Government. She said: "Sepa applies a robust and stringent enforcement policy that minimises any risk to public health or the environment." This was shown by Sepa's rejection of Scotgen's plan for another incinerator in South Lanarkshire, she said. "Treating this waste to create energy helps Scotland in its journey toward securing a mix of renewable energy sources, while also creating much needed local jobs," the spokeswoman said. Sepa agreed that energy-from-waste facilities had a part to play in the management of Scotland's waste. It was reluctant to take the "extreme measure" of closing the plant. "As it is still commissioning, and the operator continues to make necessary improvements, closure is not Sepa's preferred enforcement option," said a Sepa spokesman. "However, the operator is being encouraged to finalise commissioning, demonstrate that the plant can comply with its environmental licence and generate power at the earliest opportunity."

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/environment/pioneering-waste-plant-faces-legal-action-after-pollution-leaks-and-an-explosion.19961348>

CANADA, ALTA, TILLEY, JANUARY 21 2013. CRUDE OIL TRUCK COLLIDES WITH TRAIN AND EXPLODES IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA

A 67-year old semi-truck driver walked away from a fiery crash between his crude oil truck and a Canadian Pacific train near Tilley, Alta. Saturday afternoon. Around 3:20 pm, a semi-trailer crude oil truck collided with the eastbound train at the crossing at the intersection of Old Highway 1 and Range Road 172, about eight kilometres east of Tilley, which is a village of 350 people 22 kilometres southeast of Brooks. The collision caused an explosion and the crude oil truck caught fire. "It turned the entire sky black," well-site geologist Steven Gould told the Calgary Herald. Gould was working on a drilling rig nearby. Thick black smoke from the fire billowed across the sky. "You could see it was a train," he said. "I'm wondering 'how the heck does a train catch on fire? It must've hit a tanker.'" The driver, from Foremost AB, escaped the crude oil truck with only minor injuries, according to the RCMP. He was treated by EMS and released. The personnel from the CP locomotive were also treated for minor injuries. The RCMP say the investigation into the crash is still underway.

<http://beaconnews.ca/blog/2013/01/crude-oil-truck-collides-with-train-and-explodes-in-southern-alberta/>



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AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SUDNEY, JANUARY 21 2013. BAD SMELL SHUTS DOWN ORICA WAREHOUSE

Chemical company Orica has temporarily shut down one of its warehouses in Sydney's southwest after several workers fell ill. Paramedics rushed to the Orica facility in Villawood following a report that fumes could be detected outside the building around 10.30am (AEDT) on Monday. A NSW Ambulance spokesman said a number of people were treated for symptoms including dizziness, vomiting and nausea, but all refused to be taken to hospital. Orica confirmed that seven employees were later referred for precautionary medical tests. The company temporarily suspended operations at the Villawood depot, which stores a number of chemicals, as it investigated the source of the odour. It will remain closed until the investigation is complete, a company spokesman told AAP. Orica said it had also notified the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), WorkCover and emergency services. "Orica is continuing to investigate potential sources of the odour and is also working with the EPA to investigate potential off-site sources," it said in a statement on Monday. The incident comes as NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker announced that the EPA will meet with Orica this week to address community concerns about mercury contamination at its Port Botany facility. The government is being urged to order independent testing of the land surrounding the former ChlorAlkali site. Ms Parker said it was up to the EPA to "keep Orica to task" and make sure the community is protected. "If there is a need for further independent testing, the EPA will take that on board," she told reporters in Sydney on Monday.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/bad-smell-shuts-down-orica-warehouse-20130121-2d2fo.html>

BAHAMAS, NASSAU, JANUARY 21 2013. SALVAGE COMPANY SAYS ROUGHLY 1,000 GALLONS OF OIL SPILLS INTO OCEAN IN NORTHERN BAHAMAS

Crews are trying to contain roughly 1,000 gallons (3,785 litres) of oil that spilled into the Atlantic off the northernmost island in the Bahamas, according to the owner of a salvage company in the archipelago. Raymond Darville of Overseas Marine Group Ltd. said the spill occurred early Sunday near an oil and gas storage facility in Freeport Harbor on Grand Bahama island. Darville said he does not know exactly how the spill occurred. But a ship was trying to refuel alongside a barge at the time an oily sheen began to spread near the mouth of the harbour, he said. Kenrid Dorsett, the country's environment minister, confirmed that there was an accident of some sort, but could not comment on its cause or estimate how much fuel spilled. "As far as we are aware it is controlled. Under control doesn't mean it is contained. We are waiting for an exact report," said Dorsett, adding that an official report was expected Monday.

Last month, roughly 3,000 gallons (11,355 litres) of oil spilled into the ocean from a cargo ship accident off Grand Bahama.

Related Links

- [Salvagers battle Bahamas oil spill](#)
Crews are trying to contain around 1,000 gallons of oil that spilled into the Atlantic off the northernmost island in the Bahamas, the owner of a salvage company in the archipelago says.
- [1000 gallon oil spill reported in Bahamas](#)
Efforts to contain an oil spill of about 1,000 gallons (3,785 litres) are currently in progress in the Atlantic, the northernmost island in the Bahamas, according to an owner of a salvage company in the archipelago.
- [1,000 gallons of oil spills into ocean in Bahamas](#)
Crews are trying to contain roughly 1,000 gallons (3,785 litres) of oil that spilled into the Atlantic off the northernmost island in the Bahamas, according to the owner of a salvage company in the archipelago.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/world/Salvage+company+says+roughly+1000+gallons+spills+into+ocean/7846721/story.html>

PAKISTAN, KARACHI, JANUARY 23 2013. 1 KILLED, 4 INJURED IN KARACHI CYLINDER EXPLOSION

At least one person was killed and four injured when a gas cylinder exploded in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal block 13-D area of Karachi on Tuesday. The blast took place in a dental clinic. Police said that the person killed worked in the laboratory and the ones injured are in critical condition. Rescue operation is under way at the site of the blast. There are no other details of the explosion yet.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/497424/explosion-heard-in-karachi-express-news-2/>



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