



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2013 – 928 Newsy Stuff

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

**February 9 2013**



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#### **BRAZIL, SANTA MARIA, JANUARY 29 2013. DEADLY SMOKE, LONE BLOCKED EXIT: 230 DIE IN BRAZIL >> PYROTECHNICS SHOW IGNITED FOAM SOUND INSULATING MATERIAL**



*Police investigators inspect the entrance of the Kiss nightclub in Santa Maria city, Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013. Flames raced through the crowded nightclub in southern Brazil early Sunday, killing more than 230 people as panicked partygoers gasped for breath in the smoke-filled air, stampeding toward a single exit partially blocked by those already dead.*

A fast-moving fire roared through a crowded, windowless nightclub in southern Brazil early Sunday, filling the air in seconds with flames and a thick, toxic smoke that killed more than 230 panicked partygoers, many of whom were caught in a

stampede to escape. Inspectors believe the blaze began when a band's small pyrotechnics show ignited foam sound insulating material on the ceiling, releasing a putrid haze that caused scores of university students to choke to death. Most victims died from smoke inhalation rather than burns in what appeared to be the world's deadliest nightclub fire in more than a decade. Survivors and the police inspector Marcelo Arigony said security guards briefly tried to block people from exiting the club. Brazilian bars routinely make patrons pay their entire tab at the end of the night before they are allowed to leave. But Arigony said the guards didn't appear to block fleeing patrons for long. "It was chaotic and it doesn't seem to have been done in bad faith because several security guards also died," he told The Associated Press. Later, firefighters responding to the blaze initially had trouble getting inside the Kiss nightclub because "there was a barrier of bodies blocking the entrance," Guido Pedroso Melo, commander of the city's fire department, told the O Globo newspaper. Authorities said band members who were on the stage when the fire broke out later talked with police and confirmed they used pyrotechnics during their show. Police inspector Sandro Meinerz, who coordinated the investigation at the nightclub, said one band member died after escaping because he returned inside the burning building to save his accordion. The other band members escaped alive because they were the first to notice the fire. "It was terrible inside, it was like one of those films of the Holocaust, bodies piled atop one another," said Meinerz. "We had to use trucks to remove them. It took about six hours to take the bodies away." Television images from Santa Maria, a university city of about 260,000 people, showed black smoke billowing out of the Kiss nightclub as shirtless young men who attended the university party joined firefighters using axes and sledgehammers to pound at the hot-pink exterior walls, trying to reach those trapped inside. Bodies of the dead and injured were strewn in the street and panicked screams filled the air as medics tried to help. There was little to be done; officials said most of those who died were suffocated by smoke within minutes. Within hours a community gym was a horror scene, with body after body lined up on the floor, partially covered with black plastic as family members identified kin. Outside the gym police held up personal objects, a black purse, a blue high-heeled shoe, as people seeking information on loved ones crowded around, hoping not to recognize anything being shown them. Teenagers sprinted from the scene after the fire began, desperately seeking help. Others carried injured and burned friends away in their arms. Many of the victims were under 20 years old, including some minors. About half of those killed were men, about half women. The party was organized by students from several academic departments from the Federal University of Santa Maria. Such organized university parties are common throughout Brazil. "There was so much smoke and fire, it was complete panic, and it took a long time for people to get out, there were so many dead," survivor Luana Santos Silva told the Globo TV network. The fire spread so fast inside the packed club that firefighters and ambulances could do little to stop it, Silva said. Another survivor, Michele Pereira, told the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper that she was near the stage when members of the band lit some sort of flare that started the conflagration. "The band that was onstage began to use flares and, suddenly, they stopped the show and pointed them upward," she said. "At that point, the ceiling caught fire. It was really weak, but in a matter of seconds it spread." Guitarist Rodrigo Martins told Radio Gaucha that the band, Gurizada Fandangueira, started playing at 2:15 a.m. "and we had played around five songs when I looked up and noticed the roof was burning." "It might have happened because of the Sputnik, the machine we use to create a luminous effect with sparks. It's harmless, we never had any trouble with it," he said. "When the fire started, a guard passed us a fire extinguisher, the singer tried to use it but it wasn't working." He confirmed that accordion player Danilo Jacques, 28, died, while the five other members made it out safely. Police Maj. Cleberson Braida Bastianello said by telephone that the toll had risen to 233 with the death of a hospitalized victim. He said earlier that the death toll was likely made worse because the nightclub appeared to have just one exit through which patrons could exit. Officials earlier counted 232 bodies that had been brought for identification to a gymnasium in Santa Maria, which is located at the southern tip of Brazil, near the borders with Argentina and Uruguay. Federal Health Minister Alexandre Padilha told a news conference that most of the 117 people treated in hospitals had been



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poisoned by gases they breathed during the fire. Only a few suffered serious burns, he said. Brazil President Dilma Rousseff arrived to visit the injured after cutting short her trip to a Latin American-European summit in Chile. "It is a tragedy for all of us," Rousseff said. Most of the dead apparently were asphyxiated, according to Dr. Paulo Afonso Beltrame, a professor at the medical school of the Federal University of Santa Maria who went to the city's Caridade Hospital to help victims. Beltrame said he was told the club had been filled far beyond its capacity. Survivors, police and firefighters gave the same account of a band member setting the ceiling's soundproofing ablaze, he said. "Large amounts of toxic smoke quickly filled the room, and I would say that at least 90 percent of the victims died of asphyxiation," Beltrame told the AP. "The toxic smoke made people lose their sense of direction so they were unable to find their way to the exit. At least 50 bodies were found inside a bathroom. Apparently they confused the bathroom door with the exit door." In the hospital, the doctor "saw desperate friends and relatives walking and running down the corridors looking for information," he said, calling it "one of the saddest scenes I have ever witnessed." Rodrigo Moura, identified by the newspaper Diario de Santa Maria as a security guard at the club, said it was at its maximum capacity of between 1,000 and 2,000, and partygoers were pushing and shoving to escape. Santa Maria Mayor Cezar Schirmer declared a 30-day mourning period, and Tarso Genro, the governor of the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, said officials were investigating the cause of the disaster. The blaze was the deadliest in Brazil since at least 1961, when a fire that swept through a circus killed 503 people in Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro. Sunday's fire also appeared to be the worst at a nightclub since December 2000, when a welding accident reportedly set off a fire at a club in Luoyang, China, killing 309. In 2004, at least 194 people died in a fire at an overcrowded nightclub in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Seven members of a band were sentenced to prison for starting the flames. A blaze at the Lame Horse nightclub in Perm, Russia, killed 152 people in December 2009 after an indoor fireworks display ignited a plastic ceiling decorated with branches. Similar circumstances led to a 2003 nightclub fire that killed 100 people in the United States. Pyrotechnics used as a stage prop by the 1980s rock band Great White set ablaze cheap soundproofing foam on the walls and ceiling of a Rhode Island music venue. The band performing in Santa Maria, Gurizada Fandangueira, plays a driving mixture of local Brazilian country music styles. Guitarist Martin told Radio Gaucha the musicians are already seeing hostile messages. "People on the social networks are saying we have to pay for what happened," he said. "I'm afraid there could be retaliation".

[http://www.philly.com/philly/news/nation\\_world/20130127\\_ap\\_deadlysmokeloneblockedexit230dieinbrazil.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/nation_world/20130127_ap_deadlysmokeloneblockedexit230dieinbrazil.html)

#### THE NETHERLANDS, THE HAGUE, JANUARY 29 2013. DUTCH COURT TO RULE IN NIGERIAN FARMERS' CASE AGAINST SHELL



A Dutch court will decide on Wednesday whether Shell should clean up oil damage that destroyed a group of Nigerian farmers' land, a case that could set a precedent for global environmental responsibility. Thousands of miles (kilometres) from their homes in the Niger delta, four Nigerian farmers and fishermen have dragged the Anglo-Dutch oil giant into court in a civil suit that could open the door for hundreds of similar cases. The plaintiffs are backed by environmental lobby group Friends of the Earth. Dutch judge Henk Wien will hand down a verdict at 10:00 am (0900 GMT) at a public hearing before The Hague district court in a case that was first filed in 2008. It is the first time a Dutch company is being sued in the Netherlands over damage in another country, in this case oil pollution in 2005. The farmers want Royal Dutch Shell to clean up the mess, repair and maintain defective pipelines to prevent further damage, and pay out compensation.

In a landmark ruling, the Dutch judiciary in 2009 declared itself competent to try the case despite protests from Shell that its Nigerian subsidiary was solely legally responsible for any damage. Oil pollution has ravaged large swathes of the Niger Delta, situated in the southeast of the world's eighth-largest oil producer, which exports nearly two million barrels a day. Shell, the biggest producer in the west African nation where it has been drilling for the last half-a-century, denied responsibility. The company pinned oil spills between 2004 and 2007 on illegal theft and sabotage. "Oil is being stolen daily and illegally refined in Nigeria," a Shell official who asked not to be named told AFP. "These illegal activities are the biggest contributor to pollution." "We say there was a spill, it wasn't our fault, we cleaned up nevertheless and that's what happened," Shell's Vice President Environment Allard Castelein told AFP last year. Friends of the Earth however said the scale of Nigeria's oil pollution was twice that of the five million barrels dumped in the Gulf of Mexico after the explosion on BP's Deepwater Horizon rig in 2010, in the biggest ever marine spill. Shell disputes the Nigerian figure and puts it much lower. The UN's environmental agency in 2011 released a landmark report, saying decades of oil pollution in the Niger Delta's Ogoniland region may require the world's



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biggest ever clean-up and could take up to 30 years. Environmental groups accuse Shell of double standards and treating spills in Nigeria differently from pollution in Europe or North America, a claim Shell strongly denies. Legal experts said that should the farmers win, the case would set a precedent as it would be an important step towards holding multinationals answerable for damage done in developing countries. Environmentalists want the Netherlands, and other Western nations, to pass laws forcing companies to enforce the same environmental responsibility standards abroad as at home. "The claim is based on European law, which means that a victory here could give the green light for other actions in other countries, for instance against Total in France," said Geert Ritsema, spokesman for Milieudefensie (Defence of the Environment), the Dutch branch of Friends of the Earth. "We are ready to fight this case as long as need be," he told AFP.

<http://pmnewsnigeria.com/2013/01/28/dutch-court-to-rule-in-nigerian-farmers-case-against-shell/>

#### USA, AKA, COOK INLET, JANUARY 29 2013. PUBLIC INPUT REQUESTED FOR COOK INLET OIL SPILL RISK PLAN

The Cook Inlet Risk Assessment Advisory Team is asking for public comments and ideas on ways to reduce the chances of accidental oil spills or to reduce spills' impact on the area's waters. The U.S. Coast Guard, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation created the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment to look into spill risk reduction measures, like policies, rules, equipment, systems and services, among others, according to a press release. "It can be something fairly obvious or traditional such as a vessel traffic system that monitors and controls the movement of vessels transiting Cook Inlet. Or, it may be something less obvious, such as a sub-sea pipeline that would take the place of tankers moving oil across Cook Inlet," CIRCAC officials wrote in a release. The risk assessment project is guided by a management team of the aforementioned agencies, a 14-member advisory panel including mariners, marine pilots, port directors, fishermen, subsistence users and others. The project previously completed three technical studies analyzing vessel traffic, accident frequencies and potential consequences from spills according to a release. A list of risk reduction measures set to be considered can be found at [www.cookinletriskassessment.com](http://www.cookinletriskassessment.com). All public suggestions will be considered by the advisory team at a late February meeting and comments on existing ideas are welcomed as well. Comments may be submitted by Feb. 4 to [ciracommments@nukaresearch.com](mailto:ciracommments@nukaresearch.com), by mail to CIRA Comments, Nuka Research, PO Box 175, Seldovia, AK 99663, or by fax to (240) 394-4855.

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/public-input-requested-cook-inlet-oil-spill-risk-plan>

#### ISRAEL, ASHDOD, JANUARY 29 2013. FAMILY OF REFINERY ACCIDENT VICTIM CHARGES NEGLIGENCE WORKERS WHO DIED SATURDAY WERE TOLD TO ENTER TOXIC AREA WITHOUT MASKS, FAMILY SAYS; FIREFIGHTERS CLAIM SPECIAL UNIT DENIED ENTRANCE TO PLANT

*Michal Shmulovich & Gabe Fisher*



*The entrance to the Paz Refinery in the Port city of Ashdod, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013.*

Accusations of negligence arose Sunday, a day after two Ashdod refinery workers died after being exposed to a lethal dose of highly toxic gas. A family member of one of the workers alleged that the victims were told to enter a contaminated area without adequate protection, and firefighters complained that they were not allowed access to the facility for "a long time" after responding to an emergency call for help. The victims, Michael Bilakhov, 35, and Moshe Tal, 38, had worked the Friday night shift at the Paz refinery and had gone missing after investigating a malfunction at around 5 a.m. They were found later Saturday

morning lying on the ground. Initial investigations indicate the employees inhaled poisonous gas after trying to fix a leak. According to Bilakhov's family, the workers weren't wearing oxygen masks as they should have been. "It is insolvency, they [the refinery management] don't care about their employees and don't provide enough training," one family member told Channel 10 on Sunday. Another family member alleged that when she asked a company manager why the men entered a dangerous area without masks, he said, "I also enter without a mask." Yigal Zohar, head of the Ashkelon firefighters who arrived at the scene, said the victims may have been unprotected when they were exposed to the hazardous material for a minute or two. The Paz Israel refinery's spokesperson said safety regulations were precisely followed. According to Ashdod Firefighting Services, a hazardous materials team that arrived at the scene was initially denied entry to the plant — despite being the best equipped to deal with the situation — and only gained access to the building after the Ashdod police chief intervened,



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threatening to make arrests. Magen David Adom paramedics, who were allowed to enter the facility, tried to resuscitate the victims for 30 minutes, but pronounced them dead on the spot. The refinery's spokesperson said it allowed only the MDA teams to enter because it wanted to make sure the hazardous material was not a threat. The refinery claimed it was cooperating with inspections by the police and the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Labor.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/family-of-refinery-accident-victim-points-to-negligence/>

### USA, N.J, PORT READING, JANUARY 29 2013. CLOSURE OF HESS' PORT READING REFINERY MEANS LAYOFFS FOR 170 EMPLOYEES

*alexi friedman*



*The Hess refinery in the Port Reading section of Woodbridge now employs 217 people. It will close at the end of February, company officials announced today, but its corporate office there will remain open.*

Fallout from today's announcement that Hess will permanently close its Woodbridge petroleum refinery by the end of next month was swift: Gas prices rose to their highest levels since October and Hess said it will lay off 170 of 217 employees, exit the refinery business and seek a buyer for its 19 storage terminals. It will focus on exploration and production, the company said. The news was a surprise to local officials but industry analysts saw it coming. The 55-year-old refinery in the Port Reading section had lost money in two of the past three years and Hess had cited a weak outlook for gasoline refining margins. The

announcement also came a week after billionaire Paul Singer's Elliott Associates fund said it may buy more than \$800 million in Hess shares and seek board seats. Perhaps the strongest indicator of potential trouble came last April, after Hess agreed to a [settlement with federal and state regulators](#) to spend \$45 million on pollution controls at the plant over hazardous emissions. It paid a civil penalty of \$850,000 at the time of the settlement. By closing down, Hess avoids having to pay for the controls. "People in the industry were saying the plant was the walking dead after that," said Beth Heinsohn, senior news editor at Oil Price Information Service in Wall, referring to the agreement. With a capacity of about 70,000-barrels of gasoline a day, Port Reading "isn't a great refinery because it's kind of small and has no crude oil unit," she said. The closure shook an already volatile oil market, sending gasoline prices inching up, according to AAA Mid-Atlantic. Prices at the pump could continue to rise into the spring and summer "when there is a noticeable supply disruption," said AAA spokeswoman Tracy Noble. The news also surprised Woodbridge Mayor John McCormac, who got the news at 8:30 a.m. today. The mayor said he was disappointed with the layoffs but glad Hess' corporate office there will remain. The company recently invested millions into that office, he said. Hess said the refinery's remaining 47 employees will work at the facility's oil storage terminal. The refinery will eventually be converted to a terminal to store and distribute gasoline, biofuels and fuel oil. A spokesman, Jon Pepper, said the company was "making every effort to provide as much support as possible for all involved." New York-based Hess said it will retain its gas station business, which includes more than 1,350 sites in 16 states along the East Coast. With the closure, Hess lawfully accepted a provision in last year's agreement with state and federal regulators to permanently close the refinery and avoid the \$45 million in upgrades, the federal Environmental Protection Agency said. But Jeff Tittel, executive director of the New Jersey chapter of the Sierra Club, said the delayed environmental enforcement "benefited Hess at the expense of cleaner air in New Jersey. We see a lot of that happening through the country, where older facilities are closing because they are not as effective, and they don't have to pay for their pollution."

[http://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2013/01/closure\\_of\\_hess\\_port\\_reading\\_r.html](http://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2013/01/closure_of_hess_port_reading_r.html)

### USA, WI, WASHINGTON CO, WEST BEND, JANUARY 29 2013. PIPELINE ATTORNEYS SAY RESIDENTS UNHARMED BY SPILL CAN'T SUE

*don behm*

No harm, no compensation, say attorneys for the owner and operator of a pipeline that spilled gasoline last July in a farm pasture in the Town of Jackson. Defense attorneys for the companies are asking Washington County Circuit Judge James Muehlbauer to dismiss emotional distress and medical monitoring claims of 150 property owners because none of them have alleged physical injury or exposure to contamination resulting from the spill. Worries of loss of property values or risk of ill health in the future don't measure up to the legal standard required to claim severe emotional distress in Wisconsin courts,



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according to Milwaukee attorneys Trevor Will and David Lucey. Will and Lucey, of Foley & Lardner LLP, are defending West Shore Pipe Line Co. of Arlington Heights, Ill., and Buckeye Partners L.P. of Pennsylvania and Texas, in a lawsuit filed by the families in December. In the mass tort lawsuit, the families seek compensation for reduced property values, costs of providing a new safe water supply, lost profits and interference with local businesses, as well as mental anguish and loss of use of properties and reduced quality of life. A requested medical monitoring fund would screen area residents for cancer. Habush, Habush & Rottier S.C. in Milwaukee and the Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos in Baltimore are representing the property owners. Dan Rottier, a lawyer and president of Habush, Habush & Rottier, could not be reached for comment on the claims of defense attorneys. The lawsuit also asks the court to award punitive damages against the companies for failing to prevent the spill and to act as a deterrent against similar conduct in the future. Will and Lucey are asking the judge to dismiss the two claims of emotional distress and medical monitoring, according to a brief filed this month in Washington County Circuit Court. None of the property owners and their families participating in the lawsuit allege they "ingested any gasoline-contaminated water, air or food, or actually experienced any physical discomfort or illness as a result of having done so," the Will and Lucey brief says. And none of them allege they have received any medical care or incurred any medical expense because of the spill, according to the brief. For those reasons, Will and Lucey argue the families have no claim for medical monitoring. West Shore owns a 650-mile fuel distribution system within Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana. A section of 10-inch pipe in the company's Milwaukee to Green Bay line ruptured along a welded seam July 17 in the 1800 block of Western Ave. in the town. The pipeline was built in 1961. An estimated 54,600 gallons of gasoline spilled within a few minutes. Tests have detected contaminants in 27 residential drinking water wells and two nonresidential wells since the spill. Those wells are within a revised drinking-water advisory area designated by the state Department of Natural Resources. Contaminant levels fluctuate in the wells. As of Jan. 2, West Shore reported recent tests detected benzene in 13 of the 29 wells. In an answer to the lawsuit filed in circuit court this month, the defense attorneys describe the spill as "an unavoidable accident that occurred without any intent, recklessness or negligence." The DNR is requiring West Shore to clean up groundwater contaminated by the gasoline spill and to provide a new water supply for around 36 families within the advisory area. A West Shore consultant, Arcadis U.S. Inc., has recommended the families be connected to the Village of Jackson municipal water system by the end of this year.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/ozwash/pipeline-attorneys-say-residents-who-werent-harmed-by-spill-cant-sue-for-distress-308grtv-188603251.html>

### CHINA, BEIJING, JANUARY 29 2013. 17% OF FIREWORKS SUBSTANDARD: AUTHORITIES

wang xiaodong

About 17 percent of the fireworks and firecrackers being sold ahead of the Lunar New Year failed to meet quality standards, the quality watchdog said on Monday. The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said in a news conference that it sampled 300 batches of products made by 201 companies in 10 provinces and autonomous regions recently. About 50 batches made by 43 companies failed to meet quality standards. Problems with igniter fuses, labels and body thickness were found in the substandard products, it said. Fireworks and firecrackers are hot sellers during the holidays around China's Spring Festival, which falls on Feb 10 this year. The administration urged consumers to buy fireworks and firecrackers from certified stores to avoid substandard products. An illegal warehouse for fireworks in Xingtang county, Hebei province, exploded on Jan 18, killing three people, Xinhua News Agency reported.

#### Related Links

- [Police crack down on substandard fireworks](#)
- [Fireworks blast kills 3, injures 11 in N China](#)
- [Fireworks workshop blast kills 7, injures 6](#)
- [1 dead in S China fireworks factory blast](#)
- [Fireworks a family affair](#)

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-01/28/content\\_16182244.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-01/28/content_16182244.htm)

### PAKISTAN, QUETTA, JANUARY 29 2013. PAKISTAN OFFICIAL SAYS METHANE GAS EXPLOSION IN COAL MINE KILLS 8 MINERS IN SOUTHWEST PAKISTAN

abdul sattar

A Pakistani mining official says a methane gas explosion in a private coal mine in the southwest has killed eight miners. Senior mining inspector Iftikhar Ahmed said two miners were found unconscious after Monday's blast, in Duki village. He said two



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miners were still missing and rescue workers were trying to reach them. Ahmed said dozens of miners angered over the incident rallied there Monday, demanding action against the owner. He said the miners accused the owner of ignoring safety measures and that authorities have opened an investigation to determine what caused the blast. Such incidents are common in Pakistan, and miners usually blame owners for deaths. The mine where the latest incident took place is 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of Quetta, the provincial capital of Baluchistan province.

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Pakistan+official+says+methane+explosion+coal+mine+kills+miners/7881828/story.html>

### **SOUTH KOREA, GYEONGGI PROVINCE, HWASEONG, JANUARY 29 2013. HYDROFLUORIC ACID LEAK KILLS 1 INJURES 4 OTHERS AT SAMSUNG CHIP PLANT**



*Employees from Samsung investigate the site of a hydrofluoric gas leak at their factory in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi province on Jan. 28. One contract worker died and four were injured in the leak. The cause of the accident, which took place on the previous day, has not yet been determined. For seven hours, the leak was not reported to the local police.*

Poisonous hydrofluoric acid gas leaked at the main plant of the world's largest memory chipmaker Samsung Electronics Co., killing one worker and injuring four others, police said Monday. Up to 10 liters of hydrofluoric acid, an acute poison that can damage lungs and bones and affect the nervous system, leaked from one of the pipes at the Samsung plant in Hwaseong, 60 kilometers south of Seoul, on Sunday, they said. The victims were all subcontracted workers who were called in by Samsung Electronics to check and repair what appeared to be cracks in the pipe, police said. The leak occurred around 1:30 p.m. and workers from Samsung's subcontractor, named STI Service, began repair work at 11:00 p.m., police said, quoting Samsung officials. The repair work was finished at 4:46 a.m. Monday but all the five STI workers complained of pain in the neck and chest, they said. Samsung officials said the leaked chemical was diluted but it was still strong enough to overcome the workers who had been exposed to it for a long time. One worker collapsed at the scene and died later at a hospital in Seoul, police said, identifying him only by his surname, Park. The medical condition of the four workers injured was not serious, as they have already left hospital, police said. Police and fire officers said they were investigating the exact cause of the leak. Samsung Electronics said in a statement that there is no possibility of the gas leaking outside of the plant but it did not explain why it had reported the leak to the police more than a full day later. Nearly 30 hours after the leak, Samsung officials held a press briefing, during which they said they did not order some 50 workers at the plant to evacuate. The provincial government of Gyeonggi, in which the Samsung plant is located, held an emergency meeting on Monday to deal with the apparent accident. Gyeonggi officials said. In September, some eight tons of hydrofluoric acid leaked from chemical maker Hube Globe in Gumi, an industrial city some 260 kilometers southeast of Seoul, resulting in the deaths of five workers and injuries to 18 others. The leaked gas sickened more than 3,000 villagers and withering hundreds of hectares of farmlands and orchards. The government designated the city as a special disaster zone.

#### **Related Links**

- [Samsung Investigates Worker's Death Following Chemical Leak At Chip Plant](#)  
A chemical leak at a Samsung Electronics plant in South Korea has resulted in the death of a contract worker, while four others have been discharged from a hospital after treatment, the company said Monday.
- [Samsung Allegedly Delayed Reporting Fatal Gas Leak](#)  
Yonhap News Agency reports that Samsung is under investigation for allegedly covering up a gas leak that killed one employee and injured four others.
- [Samsung Employee Dies Following Chemical Leak](#)  
Electronics giant Samsung is under investigation by local authorities after a tank of hydrofluoric acid leaked at a facility in South Korea, killing one employee and hospitalising four others.
- [Samsung accused of covering up fatal gas leak that left one employee dead and ...](#)  
Korean news sources are reporting that Samsung "covered up" gas leaks that led to the death of a worker at its Semiconductor plant in Hwaseong, Korea.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2013/01/28/25/0302000000AEN20130128012552315F.HTML>



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### USA, WA, SEATTLE, JANUARY 29 2013. DAVY CROCKETT BARGE OWNER FINED \$405,000 >> REMOVAL OF VESSEL FROM COLUMBIA RIVER COST MORE THAN \$22 MILLION

eric florip



*The derelict vessel Davy Crockett, shown here in February 2011, was the center of a massive cleanup that ultimately cost more than \$22 million.*

The owner of a barge on the Columbia River at the center of a massive cleanup in 2011 has been fined \$405,000 by the Washington State Department of Ecology. Bret Simpson and his company Principle Metals LLC were hit with the penalty as a result of dozens of environmental violations and negligence in Simpson's botched salvage of the derelict barge Davy Crockett, officials said Monday. The 430-foot vessel continuously spilled oil into the river, but Simpson never notified authorities when the illegal in-water scrapping operation first went awry, according to the ecology department. "There was really no attempt by the

spiller to take appropriate response action," said Dave Byers, the department's spill response manager. Simpson purchased the converted World War II Liberty Ship in 2010 before attempting to scrap it in place with thousands of gallons of oil on board. The vessel buckled, releasing oil and debris into the water on the Washington side of the Columbia River near Camas. By the time an 850-foot cofferdam was built around the site, there were at least 40 days of oily discharge from the barge, according to the ecology department. The incident prompted a 10-month, multiagency response that ultimately cost taxpayers more than \$22 million. Crews led by the U.S. Coast Guard stabilized, contained and dismantled the vessel piece by piece in the water before cleaning up the site for good. The Davy Crockett saga also spurred the formation of a task force that identified more than 50 other "vessels of concern" on the lower Columbia and Willamette rivers. Simpson, of Ellensburg, later pleaded guilty to two criminal violations of the Clean Water Act. His sentencing is currently set for March in U.S. District Court in Tacoma. Prosecutors have asked for a sentence of 13 months — including six months of in-home detention — plus 100 hours of community service, according to court documents. The state's penalty does not preclude the Coast Guard or other agencies from taking additional action, Byers said. The state also plans to bill Simpson for the \$680,000 it spent on the cleanup, on top of the \$405,000 fine, according to Ecology spokeswoman Linda Kent. State officials and federal prosecutors have both highlighted Simpson's history of environmental violations. That includes a prior guilty plea for illegally disposing of hazardous waste in Central Washington, where he operated a scrap metal business. Prosecutors have pushed for community service as part of his Davy Crockett sentence in part due to Simpson's "limited financial resources," according to court documents. Simpson can appeal his state fine, though the ecology department has not received any indication as to whether he will do so, Kent said. An attorney for Simpson declined to comment Monday

#### Related Links

- [Davy Crockett owner indicted on two felony charges](#)
- [Owner of derelict barge Davy Crockett pleads guilty](#)
- [Davy Crockett owner pleads not guilty to environmental violations](#)
- [Final piece of derelict barge to be removed this week](#)
- [Crews remove last traces of Davy Crockett cleanup](#)

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2013/jan/28/davy-crockett-barge-owner-fined-405000/>

### USA, MI, MIDLAND CO, JANUARY 30 2013. LP TANKER CRASH AT SOUTH EIGHT MILE/STEWART ROADS CAUSES EVACUATIONS



*Workers from Beehr's Towing secure straps to an overturned liquid propane gas tanker truck on South Eight Mile near Stewart Road on Tuesday. The accident involved a Lincoln Navigator and the tanker caused the evacuation of residents within one-half mile of the crash. Residents could choose to stay in their home if they wished as the site was cleared. Gordon Swinson, whose yard the tanker crashed in, called 911 after hearing the crash. "It sounded like a roll of thunder," he said.*

A two-vehicle crash involving an overturned LP tanker truck led to the evacuation of the area at South Eight Mile and Stewart roads in Lee Township Tuesday. Midland County 911 reported the accident resulted in a propane leak. The crash happened at about



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8:50 a.m., and emergency personnel were called to the scene at 1232 S. Eight Mile Road. Midland County Sheriff Scott Stephenson said the truck and a Lincoln Navigator collided at the scene. The driver of the truck, which flipped on its side, was taken for evaluation of injuries sustained in the crash, the sheriff said. Two adults and two children who were in the Lincoln were not injured. Evacuation of residents within one-half mile of the crash began at 9:20 a.m., according to scanner traffic. People are being sent to Floyd Church of God, 1015 W. Chippewa River Road, according to a woman who answered the church phone this morning. Firefighters from Lee, Homer and Jerome townships are at the scene. Lee and Homer firefighters are watering down the LP truck to help dissipate the gas so it won't ignite. Officials do not know how much gas is left in the LP truck, but they plan to pump it into another truck and then right the tipped tanker.

[http://www.ourmidland.com/news/article\\_0fa1a158-6a3e-11e2-8c9c-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.ourmidland.com/news/article_0fa1a158-6a3e-11e2-8c9c-0019bb2963f4.html)

### USA, CT, NEW HAVEN, JANUARY 30 2013. TANKER RUNS AGROUND IN NEW HAVEN

Coast Guard officials say a 620-foot motor tanker carrying more than 160,000 barrels of gasoline that ran aground in New Haven Harbor has been re-floated by the incoming tide. Officials say the tanker ran aground during low tide shortly after 6 p.m. Monday. The tanker loaded with 168,000 barrels of gasoline was refloated and on its way nearly three hours later by a high tide. The Coast Guard says the tanker had no leak and did not sustain any damage. No injuries have been reported.

<http://connecticut.cbslocal.com/2013/01/29/tanker-runs-aground-in-new-haven/>

### USA, N.Y, YONKERS, JANUARY 30 2013. OIL DRIVER AIMS TANKER FOR TREES, AVERTS DISASTER IN YONKERS

*matt bultman*



*A Valley Oil Co. truck slammed into trees in the front yard of a home at 8 Byrd Place in Yonkers on Monday evening.*

A quick-thinking oil delivery driver averted disaster by guiding his out-of-control tanker into a tree instead of likely barreling into a home, Yonkers fire officials said Monday. The Valley Oil Co. tanker was carrying 3,500 gallons of home heating oil when it skidded off an icy road and into the front yard of 8 Byrd Place shortly after 5 p.m., officials said. The driver decided to guide the truck into a tree instead of continuing down the steep hill where he likely would have crashed through a home at the bottom, Assistant Fire Chief David Dronzek said. "It was a great decision on his part," Dronzek said. As temperatures dropped Monday evening, roads iced over and turned Byrd Place, near Central Park Avenue, into a sheet of ice. The driver, who was not immediately identified, was

making deliveries in the neighborhood when he turned a corner and the truck began veering out of control, Dronzek said. The driver told firefighters he aimed for the tree hoping it would prevent a more serious accident, he said. "It was quick thinking," Dronzek said. "Just look at that hill. If he had kept going it would have been bad." The 3,500-gallon tank was not pierced when the truck hit the tree, Dronzek said. As it was, about 50 gallons of home heating oil leaked out a hole underneath the truck. The smell of fuel filled the hilly street shortly after the accident as crews from the Yonkers Fire Department and Emergency Services Unit blocked off the area with yellow police tape. Jessica Janeira, who lives in the 8 Byrd Place home and was in the house with her parents and sister when the truck hit the tree, said she heard a "thunderous bang." She said she ran out of the house and saw red fuel leaking from the truck and pouring into their front yard. "We started freaking out," she said. "We didn't know if it had hit the house. We panicked and grabbed the dog and called 911." By 7 p.m. the truck had been secured. Crews were unloading the tanker before cutting down the tree and towing the truck from the yard. The driver was a "little banged up" from the crash but would be all right, Dronzek said.

<http://yonkers.dailyvoice.com/police-fire/oil-driver-aims-tanker-trees-averts-disaster-yonkers>

### USA, ID, AMERICAN FALLS, JANUARY 30 2013. TANKER TRUCK CRASHES ON INTERSTATE 86 NEAR AMERICAN FALLS, PARTIALLY BLOCKING HIGHWAY

A gasoline tanker truck crashed Monday on Interstate 86 east of American Falls and reports indicate the driver could be trapped inside the vehicle. Eastbound travel on the interstate has been reduced to one lane as emergency crews respond to the 5 p.m. wreck. I-86's westbound lanes are both open. The tanker was empty when the crash occurred about three miles east of American Falls. For unknown reasons the eastbound tanker traveled into the interstate's median and then careened



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down into an underpass and impacted a frontage road that runs beneath the interstate. As of 5:30 p.m. part of the heavily damaged truck was in the median and part was on the frontage road, according to a Journal correspondent at the scene. The correspondent was not allowed by Power County deputies to get close to the wreckage but he said it appeared the truck's driver was trapped inside the vehicle's cab.

[http://www.idahostatejournal.com/news/local/article\\_730e8086-69b1-11e2-a868-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.idahostatejournal.com/news/local/article_730e8086-69b1-11e2-a868-001a4bcf887a.html)

### USA, TX, VAN ZANDT COUNTY, JANUARY 30 2013. 2 INJURED IN OIL FACILITY EXPLOSION NORTH OF VAN >> 2 WERE SMOKING ON TOP OF OIL STORAGE TANK

marcus moore

 **Watch the Video's:**


[Aerial Video: Trespassers Injured in Van Zandt Oil Storage Facility Explosion](#)

[2 Injured in Explosion at Oil Storage Facility in Van Zandt Co](#)

[2 Injured in Oil Facility Explosion North of Van](#)

[Van Zandt Fire Marshal Chuck Allen Discusses the Explosion and Fire at an Oil Facility near Van, TX.](#)

 **Photo's [5]** [2 Injured in Oil Facility Explosion North of Van](#)

 **Map:** [Van Zandt County](#)



A man and a woman were injured Tuesday morning in Van Zandt County when an oil storage tank exploded while the pair were smoking on top of it. The explosion occurred just before 3 a.m. at an oil storage facility on State Highway 110 north of Van.

A man and a woman were injured Tuesday morning in Van Zandt County when an oil storage tank exploded while the pair were smoking on top of it. The explosion occurred just before 3 a.m. at an oil storage facility on State Highway 110 north of Van. The victims, who are both 24, have been moved to Parkland Hospital in Dallas. The female is on life support and the male has burns to the face, arms, and chest. "It sounded like a big bomb went off, it was pretty loud,"

said James Oliver, who was woken up by the explosion. There are five major storage tanks on the property, two of which exploded. Firefighters were using a foam blanket to prevent the other tanks from catching fire and exploding. Van Zandt County Fire Marshal said he thought the victims may have smoked a cigarette nearby. "I don't think they had any idea of what they were actually exposing themselves to when they decided to climb up there and light a cigarette," Allen said. Because of the intense flames, crews allowed much of the fire to burn itself out. It's unclear which company owns the storage facility. The victims, who have not been identified, are not believed to be employees, however. It will likely take several days to clean up the area. Allen said the work would include trying to ensure that the area is environmentally safe. There is no threat of contaminating the drinking water.

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/2-injured-in-oil-facility-explosion-north-of-Van-188823731.html>

### USA, CA, PALM DESERT, JANUARY 30 2013. : BLAZING ACID TANKER BRIEFLY CLOSED I-10

richard brooks

A tanker truck loaded with acid caught fire, destroying the tractor and impeding eastbound traffic along Interstate 10 for about two hours during the morning commute in Palm Desert, say California Highway Patrol and Riverside County Fire Department officials. The blaze was reported at 6:25 a.m. Monday, Jan. 28, in the cab of the big rig that was parked on the right shoulder of the freeway's eastbound lanes, just east of Cook Street. The driver fought the flames with the truck's fire extinguisher, but the cab was fully ablaze when the fire department arrived. Because of the fire – and the trailer load of phosphoric acid – officials closed all eastbound lanes. Phosphoric acid is a corrosive chemical that can irritate and burn the eyes, irritate the nose, throat and lungs, and cause coughing and wheezing, according to the New Jersey Department of Health's website. The acid is a colorless, odorless solid or a thick, clear liquid that is used in rust-proofing metals, fertilizers, detergents, food, beverages, and water treatment. "The trailer was carrying 5,000 gallons of ... acid," Officer Joe Zagorski said in a written statement. "The fire was quickly extinguished and, once emergency personnel determined the ... acid had not leaked from the trailer and the trailer was still intact, (two) lanes were reopened. "The eastbound lanes were closed for 19 minutes, ... during



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which time all eastbound traffic was diverted off the freeway onto Cook Street." All eastbound lanes reopened at 8:16 a.m. All westbound lanes remained open throughout the incident.

<http://www.pe.com/local-news/local-news-headlines/20130128-palm-desert-blazing-acid-tanker-briefly-closed-i-10.ece>

#### USA, N.H, CONCORD, JANUARY 30 2013. WITNESS: EXXON FAILED TO WARN NH OF MTBE RISKS

*sarah earle & don jeffrey*

If it had, New Hampshire may have spurned the gasoline additive, which tainted groundwater. New Hampshire shouldn't have had to trade water quality for cleaner air, a former state official told a jury in a trial over whether ExxonMobil contaminated the state's groundwater with a gasoline additive. Kent Colburn, former director of the air resources division of New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services, testified Monday in state court in Concord that it wouldn't have participated in a federal clean-air program called Reformulated Gasoline, or RFG, if Exxon had warned of the risks of the additive, methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE. The trial began Jan. 14. "DES was not in the business of transferring pollution from one medium to another," said Colburn, who served from 1995 to 2002. Although the RFG program "created numerous health benefits," MTBE wasn't the reason for the air quality improvement, he said. Former DES commissioner Robert Varney testified last week that he was "shocked" to learn Exxon was aware of MTBE's risks before adding it to gasoline sold in the state. New Hampshire could be seeking more than \$200 million from ExxonMobil, the last defendant on trial in the \$816 million lawsuit filed in 2003. This is one of scores of cases involving MTBE filed since 2000 against refiners, fuel distributors and chemical makers. Robert Larkins, a former vice president of marketing for Exxon in the 1980s, said in taped testimony played in court last week that he approved the use of MTBE despite a colleague's recommendation in a mid-1980s memo against using it because of its risk to groundwater. The colleague had been asked by ExxonMobil to conduct a study of MTBE. "She did not say that you cannot or should not put it in there," Larkins said, referring to the memo. "She said there were some concerns and she recommended against it." ExxonMobil has argued that it was complying with federal regulations that pre-empt state law. They said MTBE was added to gasoline to make it burn more thoroughly and thus reduce air pollution, as required under the 1990 Clean Air Act. James Quinn, a lawyer for the company, said the state was aware of the risks of MTBE when it opted into the RFG program in 1991 because there had been documents and data about the additive for several years. New Hampshire decided to re-enter the clean-air program in 1997. Cross-examining Colburn, Quinn referred to a report from Maine that Colburn received in 1995 that said MTBE had been detected in groundwater for more than 10 years and that "increased surveillance" of the chemical in water was required. Maine was petitioning the Environmental Protection Agency to get out of the RFG program in 1999. New Hampshire has said that about 40,000 wells are contaminated with MTBE, including about 5,590 at levels determined to be unfit for drinking. The number of contaminated wells is a factor in deciding monetary damages if ExxonMobil is found liable. The state is also seeking damages based on market share of gasoline sales in New Hampshire during the period covered by the lawsuit.

[http://www.pressherald.com/news/witness-exxon-failed-to-warn-of-mtbe-risks\\_2013-01-29.html](http://www.pressherald.com/news/witness-exxon-failed-to-warn-of-mtbe-risks_2013-01-29.html)

#### USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 30 2013. CHEVRON'S FIRE BILL: \$10M AND COUNTING

*jaxon van derbeek*

Chevron has paid \$10 million in medical-compensation claims arising from last year's Richmond refinery blaze, company officials said Monday. The money has gone to "valid claims" among the 23,900 requests for money that Chevron has received since the Aug. 6 fire sent a cloud of hydrocarbons and black smoke drifting over Richmond and surrounding cities, company officials said in a letter to [Randy Sawyer](#), hazardous materials director for Contra Costa County. Most of the money has gone to hospitals to pay for medical exams and treatment that resulted from the fire, said [Sean Comey](#), a Chevron spokesman. An estimated 15,000 people sought treatment at hospitals in the days after the fire for respiratory and other problems. Comey said the "vast majority" had not suffered significant problems. Chevron set up a claims center after the fire and kept it open six days a week, saying it would pay up for documentable injuries or damage. The claims payments haven't prevented 10,000 plaintiffs from joining a lawsuit against Chevron over the blaze. The suit claims that Chevron failed to ensure that its refinery was operating safely before the fire. Attorneys for the plaintiffs, led by [John Burris](#), cite 19 fires, spills and explosions at the refinery dating to 1989. The suit also accuses Chevron of failing to alert residents for hours after workers found a 20-drip-per-minute leak on a corroded oil pipe that later ruptured and sparked the August fire. Burris says no one who receives a Chevron claims payment is precluded from suing, because the money is compensation only for medical bills, not for other losses or for pain and suffering. In addition to the claims and lawsuit, Chevron is facing the potential for millions of dollars in state fines for



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allegedly willful violations of worker safety laws at the refinery. Results of a Cal/OSHA investigation are expected to be released this week. In their letter Monday, Chevron officials promised safety upgrades and a "competency building" program for its refinery managers, inspectors and engineers to prevent a repetition of the disaster. Chevron officials have conceded they knew about corrosion in other parts of the crude-oil-unit pipeline that sprang a leak, but opted not to replace it during a maintenance operation in November 2011. "We also are making certain that we have the appropriate technical resources to assist in any evaluation of the fitness of equipment for service," [Steve Wildman](#), Chevron's manager of process safety at the plant, said in the letter to county hazardous materials safety officials. The goal, he said, is to account for all risks to the refinery's pipes - not just the danger posed by high-temperature, sulfur-laden oil that is believed to have caused the corrosion that led to the August fire. After the blaze, Chevron was faulted by the [U.S. Chemical Safety Board](#) for not heeding its own standards and protocols governing when to replace corroded pipes. Chevron officials have admitted that although the danger from sulfur-related corrosion was known to their scientists, the hazard was not "effectively communicated" throughout the company. Company officials also said Monday that they would reinforce "the authority that everyone has to shut down equipment" if danger is detected. The federal safety board and worker health advocates have questioned why Chevron kept the crude-oil unit in operation for more than two hours while workers assessed the leak. Federal investigators say the leak got worse while workers debated with managers over what to do.

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Chevron-s-fire-bill-10M-and-counting-4230414.php>

### USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, JANUARY 30 2013. FORMER ECUADOR JUDGE ON CHEVRON CASE SAYS PLAINTIFFS BRIBED COURT

*nate raymond & braden reddall*



A former Ecuadorean judge has claimed that after stepping down from the bench, he illegally ghostwrote a judgment in which Chevron was ordered to pay \$18.2 billion (11.5 billion pounds) for polluting the rain forest, and that the plaintiffs paid a \$500,000 bribe to the judge who issued the ruling. Alberto Guerra, who presided over the case from 2003 to 2004, made the allegations in a sworn statement filed by Chevron on Monday in support of a lawsuit in Manhattan federal district court accusing the Ecuadorean plaintiffs and their lawyers of fraud. "Another participant in the fraud has now come forward rather than wait to be exposed by others," Hewitt Pate, Chevron vice president and general counsel, said in a statement. Karen Hinton, a spokeswoman for the plaintiffs, in a statement called Guerra a "disgraced former Ecuadorean judge who is being paid hundreds of thousands of dollars by Chevron to make false

allegations about the Ecuador trial court judgment." Guerra was not available to comment. The filing is the latest in an ever-escalating two-decade battle between Chevron and residents of Ecuador's Lago Agrio over oil extraction in the region. Residents claimed that Texaco, which Chevron acquired in 2001, polluted the rainforest and water supplies with hundreds of unlined waste pits from 1964 to 1992, damaging crops and public health including deaths from cancer. Chevron claimed that its share of the waste pits had been cleaned up and that its activities were not responsible for environmental and public health damage. An Ecuadorean court entered the \$18.2 billion judgment in 2011. The award was upped to \$19 billion in July. The National Court of Justice, Ecuador's highest court, last month appointed three judges to hear Chevron's final appeal in that country of the court decision. One of them, Oscar Bermudez, told Reuters that they are not allowed to consider new evidence. "Our job is to make sure the sentence issued by the previous court complies with legal and constitutional precepts ... they can provide new evidence but the court cannot take it into account," he said, adding that Chevron may consider presenting Guerra's statement to Ecuador's attorney general for his consideration. Chevron, with no assets in Ecuador now, has fought a global campaign against the enforcement of the \$19 billion award. In February 2011, it filed the New York federal lawsuit against the plaintiffs and their lawyers, including Steven Donziger and Pablo Fajardo, contending the judgment was obtained via fraud. The declaration Monday by Guerra was filed by Chevron in support of that lawsuit. According to the document, the Chevron case had been assigned to Judge Nicolas Zambrano in 2009. Guerra said Zambrano at times ask him to ghostwrite civil rulings for him for \$1,000 a month, which he says was illegal. The case was then given to another judge, Juan Nunez, who later had to recuse himself due to allegations of bribery brought by Chevron after Nunez was caught on tape discussing the case. Zambrano then took charge again. In his sworn declaration, Guerra wrote: "Zambrano told me he was in direct



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contact with Mr. Fajardo and that the Plaintiffs' representatives had agreed to pay him USD \$500,000 from whatever money they were to collect from the judgment, in exchange for allowing them to write the judgment in the Plaintiffs' favor." Guerra in his declaration said he received \$38,000 from the company for the costs of providing the evidence. Kent Robertson, a spokesman for Chevron, confirmed Chevron has agreed to pay Guerra's family \$10,000 for monthly living expenses and \$2,000 for housing. "He's a scoundrel," Fajardo told Reuters on Monday. "I've never met Mr. Guerra, but I know who he is and how he's being paid by Chevron." In a statement from the Ecuador plaintiffs last week, Fajardo said Guerra had at one point offered to provide testimony to the rainforest communities if they would pay him, though they had refused. Zambrano could also not be contacted on Monday. He has been out of the public eye since his dismissal last February for releasing a drug trafficker in an act described by the judicial watchdog as "obvious negligence." The New York case is Chevron Corporation v. Donziger, et al., U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, 11-00691.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/29/us-chevron-ecuador-judge-idUSBRE90R17A20130129>

### USA, AZ, PHOENIX, JANUARY 30 2013. HAZMAT CREW CALLED TO SOUTH PHOENIX FIRE AFTER CYANIDE SCARE

*jennifer thomas*

A hazmat crew responded to a fire in South Phoenix Tuesday morning after cyanide was found inside a building. The Phoenix Fire Department responded to a fire near Central Avenue and Baseline Road just before 3 a.m. after someone reported seeing smoke coming out of what appeared to be a home that had been turned into some sort of meeting hall. When firefighters got there, they saw a sign on the door that the empty building was being treated with cyanide because of a rat problem. That's when the hazmat crew was called. "It's very dangerous for our guys to go in there without their masks and without air because it's a hazardous situation," said Larry Nunez with the Phoenix Fire Department. Firefighters put out a small fire, which damaged the roof. None of the nearby homes or businesses was in any threat and no one was hurt. Firefighters believe this was started by some homeless people. Baseline Road was closed for a couple of hours during the incident.

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/Hazmat-crew-called-to-South-Phoenix-fire-after-cyanide-scare-188851701.html>

### USA, N.C, LEWISVILLE, JANUARY 31 2013. OVERTURNED GAS TANKER CLOSES U.S. 421 NEAR LEWISVILLE

*john hinton*

**Watch the Video's:**

- [Tanker Overturns on Highway 421 South in Forsyth County](#)
- [Overturned Tanker Truck Closes US-421, Highway Still Closed](#)

**Photo's [5] Overturned Gas Tanker**

**Photo's [7] Overturned Tanker Truck Closes US-421, Highway Still Closed**



*An oil tanker operated by Associated Petroleum Carriers from Spartanburg, SC, overturned while travelling westbound on U.S. 421 near Lewisville, NC, Wed., Jan. 30, 2013. Both lanes of the highway were shut down while the petroleum was offloaded onto other tankers and the scene cleared.*

A tractor-trailer carrying gas overturned Wednesday on U.S. 421 near the highway's exit to Lewisville-Clemmons Road, closing the highway in both directions, authorities said. The driver was injured and taken to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. The wreck happened around noon when the driver of the gas tanker went off the road, struck a guard rail and overturned in the median, according to FOX8/WGHP, the Journal's newsgathering partner. The incident

occurred near the highway's mile marker 243. The tank ruptured and leaked an undetermined amount of fuel onto the highway, the television station reported.. A Forsyth County hazardous cleanup crew is working to remove the spilled gas from the highway, the television station reported. The N.C. Highway Patrol is investigating the wreck. Northbound U.S. 421 traffic is being diverted at Lewisville-Clemmons Road and southbound traffic is being stopped at Williams Road, state transportation officials say. Traffic was expected to be cleared by 7 p.m.

[http://www.journalnow.com/news/local/article\\_12621fba-6b0d-11e2-8d28-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.journalnow.com/news/local/article_12621fba-6b0d-11e2-8d28-001a4bcf6878.html)



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

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### USA, FLA, MANTEE CO, JANUARY 31 2013. SEMI TANKER CATCHES FIRE ON I-75 IN MANATEE COUNTY



Traffic on I-75 was at a standstill after a tanker caught fire. It happened Wednesday morning in the southbound lanes near Mile Marker 231. According to the Florida Highway Patrol, the semi tanker caught fire shortly after 7 am. The driver was able to get out of the truck, and no one was hurt. Troopers had to close southbound lanes for about a half hour, backing up traffic for miles. The fire was quickly extinguished, but traffic was slow moving for hours after. No word yet on what caused the tanker to catch fire.

[http://www.mysuncoast.com/news/local/semi-tanker-catches-fire-on-i-in-manatee-county/article\\_f1dfde36-6ae8-11e2-a3cc-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.mysuncoast.com/news/local/semi-tanker-catches-fire-on-i-in-manatee-county/article_f1dfde36-6ae8-11e2-a3cc-001a4bcf6878.html)

### THE NETHERLANDS, THE HAGUE, JANUARY 2=31 2013. DUTCH COURT SAYS SHELL RESPONSIBLE FOR NIGERIA SPILLS

*ivana sekularac & anthony deutsch*



*Oil from a leaking pipeline burns in Goi-Bodo, a swamp area of the Niger Delta in Nigeria October 12, 2004.*

A Dutch court ruled on Wednesday that Royal Dutch Shell's Nigerian subsidiary was responsible for a case of oil pollution in the Niger Delta and ordered it to pay damages in a decision that could open the door to further litigation. The district court in The Hague said Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd. (SPDC), a wholly-owned subsidiary, must compensate one farmer, but dismissed four other claims filed against the Dutch parent company. Four Nigerians and campaign group Friends of the Earth filed suits in 2008 in The Hague, where Shell has its global headquarters, seeking reparations for lost income from contaminated land and waterways in the Niger Delta region, the heart of the Nigerian oil industry. The case was seen by environmental activists as a test for holding multinationals responsible for offences at foreign

subsidiaries, and legal experts said other Nigerians affected by pollution might now be able to sue in the Netherlands. Shell said the case would not set a precedent because its parent company was not held responsible. The farmer who won compensation, 52-year-old father of 12 Friday Akpan, said he was very happy with the judgment because it would allow him to repay his debts. "I am not surprised at the decision because there was divine intervention in the court. The spill damaged 47 [fishing](#) ponds, killed all the fish and rendered the ponds useless," he told Reuters in the Niger Delta city of Port Harcourt. "Since then I have been living by God's grace and on the help of good Samaritans. I think this will be a lesson for Shell and they will know not to damage people's livelihoods."

#### New Avenues

A legal expert said the ruling could make it possible for other Nigerians who say they also suffered losses due to Shell's activities to file lawsuits in the Netherlands. "The fact that a subsidiary has been held responsible by a Dutch court is new and opens new avenues," said Menno Kamminga, professor of international law at Maastricht University. The court did not just examine the role of the parent company, but also looked "at abuses committed by Shell Nigeria, where the link with the Netherlands is extremely limited," he said. "That's a real breakthrough." Friends of the Earth spokesman Geert Ritsema said they would appeal against the acquittals "because there is still a lot of oil lying around. These sites need to be cleaned." Ritsema said hundreds of other Nigerians in the village of Icot Ada Udo, where farmer Friday Akpan lives, can now take similar legal action. The court backed Shell's argument that the spills were caused by sabotage and not poor maintenance of its facilities, as had been argued by the Nigerians. Ritsema said it was also new that an oil company was being held responsible for failing to prevent sabotage. There were 198 oil spills at Shell facilities in the Niger Delta last year, releasing around 26,000 barrels of oil, according to data from the company. The firm says 161 of these spills were caused by sabotage or theft, while



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37 incidents were caused by operational failure. Local communities say Shell under reports the amount of barrels spilled. People who live in the Niger Delta say their land, water and fisheries have been blighted for years by oil pollution and activists have called for oil companies in Nigeria to be held to the same standard as elsewhere in the world. Shell is facing ongoing legal action brought in a UK court on behalf of 11,000 members of the Niger Delta Bodo community, who say the company is responsible for spilling 500,000 barrels in 2008. Shell has admitted liability for two spills in the Bodo region but estimates the amount spilled is far lower. Bodo's case could be heard in the High Court in London next year. A [United Nations](#) report in 2011 on the Ogoniland region in the Niger Delta criticized Shell and other multinationals, and the Nigerian government, for 50 years of oil pollution. It said Ogoniland, where Shell no longer operates, needed the world's biggest-ever oil clean-up, which would take 25 years and cost an initial \$1 billion. A decade of militancy by armed groups in the Niger Delta, which had its origins in local anger over oil pollution, shut down nearly half of Nigeria's oil output until an amnesty in 2009. The Niger Delta is home to about 31 million people.

#### Compensation to be Negotiated

"We will pay compensation. We didn't lose the case. It was not operational failure. The leak was the consequence of sabotage," Royal Dutch Shell's vice president for environment, Allard Castelein, said in comments after the verdict was read. "Shell Nigeria should and could have prevented this sabotage in an easy way," the court ruling said. "This is why the district court has sentenced Shell Nigeria to pay damages to the Nigerian plaintiff." Castelein said Shell would negotiate the amount of damages with the farmer, but that an appeal could postpone the outcome of those talks. The Nigerians - fishermen and farmers - said they could no longer feed their families because the region had been polluted by oil from Shell's pipelines and production facilities. The pollution is a result of oil spills in 2004, 2005 and 2007, they said. It is the first time a Dutch-registered company has been sued in a domestic court for offences alleged to have been carried out by a foreign subsidiary. The suit targeted Shell's parent company in the Netherlands and its Nigerian subsidiary, which operates a joint venture between the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Shell, Total E&P Nigeria Limited and Nigerian Agip Oil Company Limited. Shell Nigeria is the largest oil and gas company in Nigeria, Africa's top energy producer, with an output of more than 1 million barrels of oil or equivalent per day. In October, Shell lawyers said the company has played its part in cleaning up the Delta, which accounts for more than 50 percent of Nigeria's oil exports.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/30/us-shell-nigeria-lawsuit-idUSBRE90S16X20130130>

#### USA, CA, RICHMOND, JANUARY 31 2013. CALOSHA SLAPS CHEVRON WITH LARGEST FINE IN AGENCY'S HISTORY

heather ishimaru

 [Watch the Video CalOSHA Slaps Chevron with Largest Fine in Agency's History](#)



*In this Aug. 6, 2012 file photo, smoke pours from a fire at the Chevron Richmond Refinery, seen behind Alcatraz Island in San Francisco. Chevron was fined nearly \$1 million by the state on Wednesday Jan. 30, 2013 in connection with a fire at the company's San Francisco Bay area refinery last year that sent a cloud of gas and black smoke over residential areas. Investigators found.*

Cal/OSHA has now finished its investigation into the massive fire at the Chevron refinery on Aug. 6, 2012 and that report is slamming the company with the largest penalty in the agency's history. Cal/OSHA says Chevron had repeated warnings over the period of a decade that it needed to replace the pipe, but ignored those

warnings. Then when it did rupture, it allowed workers to be inside the danger zone without the proper protective gear. Cal/OSHA says Chevron had every opportunity to prevent the August pipe rupture and fire, but ignored repeated warnings from its own inspectors putting workers and the community at risk of injury and death. "We certainly hope that the citations, the seriousness of them, the classification of them, is a wake-up call," said Ellen Widess, the Cal/OSHA chief. There are a total of 25 citations including 11 in the most serious category or "willful serious". Those include not following its own policies to replace the corroded pipe, not implementing its own emergency procedures, and pervasive violations in leak repair procedures. The fines total about \$1 million. The worst in Cal/OSHA history, but only pocket change to the oil giant. Still, attorney John Burris represents more than 10,000 people who say they were hurt by the fire is pleased with the severity of the Cal/OSHA citations. "That's terrific because the conduct that occurred here was outrageous, and it was conduct that was entirely preventable," said Burris. Burris set up an office in Richmond the day of the fire. Sherry Edwards is one of his clients. She lives in Point



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Richmond in the shadow of the refinery. Her pre-existing asthma is worse since the fire. She's been in the hospital seven times since, each time for a four-day stay. When asked what she thought Chevron should do for her, Edwards said, "I think Chevron should do, just not for me, but for the public in general. I think that they should accommodate them in some kind of way because it wasn't 24 hours before they made their money back!" Chevron issued a statement on Wednesday saying, "Although we acknowledge that we failed to live up to our own expectations in this incident, we do not agree with several of the Cal/OSHA findings and its characterization of some of the alleged violations as "willful." Chevron intends to appeal."

#### Here is Chevron's Full Response to us:

We are in the process of reviewing the citations issued by Cal/OSHA and are continuing to cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies investigating the August 6, 2012 incident at the Richmond refinery. Chevron takes our commitment to safe operations seriously. Although we acknowledge that we failed to live up to our own expectations in this incident, we do not agree with several of the Cal/OSHA findings and its characterization of some of the alleged violations as "willful." Chevron intends to appeal. Separately, on January 28, 2013, we submitted an update to our 30-Day Report to Contra Costa Health Services on the status of our ongoing internal investigation and the corrective actions we have begun to develop and implement. These corrective actions will strengthen process safety, mechanical integrity, and management oversight. Specifically, the company is:

- Enhancing inspections of piping components potentially susceptible to sulfidation corrosion since carbon steel components with low-silicon content can corrode at an accelerated rate. This inspection program is being applied throughout our refinery system worldwide.
- Strengthening reliability programs for piping and equipment, and enhancing competency requirements for leaders, inspectors and engineers.
- Strengthening leak response protocols and reinforcing the authority that everyone has to shut down equipment.
- Creating more management oversight and accountability for process safety and re-emphasizing focus on process safety.
- Chevron is committed to implementing these changes promptly and on a sustained basis at Richmond and across our manufacturing network as appropriate. You can find more details on these changes here at: [richmond.chevron.com](http://richmond.chevron.com)

**Related Links** [Chevron has paid out \\$10 million for refinery fire](http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/east_bay&id=8974763)

[http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/east\\_bay&id=8974763](http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/east_bay&id=8974763)

#### **MALAYSIA, SABAH, TAWAU, FEBRUARY 1 2013. RM20,000 [SA61.7K] PETROL SMUGGLING BID FOILED, FIVE NABBED**

alen kee



*The boat laden with the petrol at the MMEA Tawau jetty.*

Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) thwarted an attempt to smuggle RM20,000 worth of subsidized Ron 95 petrol into a neighbouring country at Semporna waters by five men including the skipper and a Jongkong boat on Saturday. District MMEA enforcement chief Captain Affandi Wan Ahmad said the boat was intercepted near Keindingan Island and was believed smuggling out petrol stored in 410 x 25 liter containers. He said failure after failure of smugglers' attempts in Semporna area did not make them give up and the regular MMEA patrols at the water area resulted in the capture of the latest attempt. He said during a check on the five men were without any identification documents, the boat did not display any licence and they also did not possess any permit or licence to transport the petrol. Affandi said the five men would be investigated

under the Immigration Act 1959/63 for not having any identification documents apart from being suspected of smuggling petrol under the Control Supply Act 1961 and Control Supply Regulation (Export Prohibition) 2011 and Customs Act. He urged the public with information on smuggling to contact MMEA Tawau hotline at 089-752115.

<http://www.theborneopost.com/2013/02/01/rm20000-petrol-smuggling-bid-foiled-five-nabbed/>



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