



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2013 – 932 Newsy Stuff

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

**February 21 2013**



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#### USA, PA, ALLENTOWN, FEBRUARY 10 2013. UGI UTILITIES MARKS SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF ALLENTOWN GAS EXPLOSION WITH COMPANYWIDE EVENT

*nick falsone*

 [Watch the Video Fatal Explosion & Fire](#)



*A fatal explosion and fire at 10:45 Wednesday night immediately destroyed two row homes and the blaze consumed six others in the 500 block of North 13th Street.*

UGI Utilities Inc., the Reading-based natural gas supplier blamed for causing the [2011 gas explosion](#) that killed five people in [Allentown](#), marked the second anniversary of the blast with a moment of silence and safety programs for its employees. The actual anniversary of the explosion is today. A cast-iron main installed in 1928 beneath Allen Street cracked, causing the explosion in the 500 block of North 13th Street. Killed were Ofelia Ben, 69, Katherine Cruz, 16, and Matthew E. Vega, 4 months, and William Hall, 79, and his 74-year-old wife, Beatrice Hall. The two families lived in neighboring homes at the center of the explosion. The companywide event was held Friday, according to a news release from UGI. Dubbed a "safety stand down," the event started with a moment of silence in memory of the victims and was followed by safety-related

presentations, the utility said in the news release. "Field employees also took the opportunity to conduct a check of personal safety equipment -- such as high-visibility vests, hardhats, and safety and detection equipment, among other items -- required while working at a job site," UGI said. UGI has faced heavy criticism for allegedly ignoring recommendations to replace the cast-iron main that cracked. The recommendations date back to 1979, according to the [Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission](#), which just last month [imposed a \\$500,000 fine against UGI](#) for alleged safety violations that contributed to the explosion. It is the maximum civil penalty allowed by law. UGI can challenge the fine. The PUC order also requires UGI to replace all cast-iron mains in its network in 14 years, a timeline Allentown officials have said doesn't adequately address the urgency of the matter. UGI has also [faced lawsuits from the victims' families](#). It has settled several of the cases out of court, but some are still pending. The terms of the settlements have not been disclosed. Christian Perrucci, the attorney who represents the family of Ben, Cruz and Vega, said Friday in an email that the family plans a prayer this evening at the explosion site and will then attend Mass. "At this time, my clients do not have a comment relative to the ongoing litigation with UGI as they would just like to reflect and remember their loved ones," he said.

[http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/allentown/index.ssf/2013/02/ugi\\_utilities\\_marks\\_second\\_ann.html](http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/allentown/index.ssf/2013/02/ugi_utilities_marks_second_ann.html)

#### USA, CA, SAN PABLO, FEBRUARY 10 2013. SAN PABLO HOME BADLY DAMAGED IN FIRE SPARKED BY GASOLINE ON BARBECUE



*San Pablo fire.*

A San Pablo home suffered extensive damage Saturday afternoon after a resident started a barbecue with gasoline and then left it unattended, sparking a fire in his garage, Contra Costa County fire officials said. The fire in a single-story home at 2911 15th St. was reported just after 4 p.m., according to Battalion Chief Brian Lowry. Firefighters responding to the scene found the garage already heavily involved in flames and smoke, and the occupant outside attempting to put out the flames with a garden hose, Lowry said. The occupant told firefighters no one was inside. Firefighters fought the fire, which had extended into the interior of the house, for around 20 minutes before it was

extinguished. Investigators later determined that the resident, a 33-year-old man, had started a barbecue just outside the open pedestrian door to his garage, using gasoline as a firestarter. He had then left the fire unattended, and returned to find flames spreading to the garage door, Lowry said. The resident tried unsuccessfully to put out the fire with a fire extinguisher and garden hose. A neighbor called 911, Lowry said. The fire caused an estimated \$90,000 in damage. There were no injuries, but two occupants were displaced.

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/news/local/san-pablo-home-badly-damaged-fire-sparked-gasoline/nWK9G/>



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#### USA, N.Y, STATEN ISLAND, FEBRUARY 11 2013. 40 YEARS AGO TODAY: STATEN ISLAND LNG EXPLOSION KILLED 40 WORKERS (PHOTO GALLERY)

ken paulsen

 [Slideshow \[7\] 40th Anniversary of Explosion at LNG Tank](#)



*Firefighters work to remove the bodies of the people killed during the LNG tank explosion in Bloomfield in 1973.*

The worst industrial disaster in Staten Island history took place 40 years ago Sunday when an explosion blew the concrete roof off a liquefied natural gas tank on the borough's northwest shore, killing 40 workers. The Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. tragedy drew a massive emergency response, but it was too late for those crushed when the roof fell down on them. Eyewitnesses told the Advance in 1973 that there was hissing sound and a loud noise -- followed by a ring of flame outside the 108-foot-high tank, located near the waterfront about a mile south of the Goethals Bridge. At least a half dozen federal, state and city agencies investigated, and ultimately determined that the explosion was caused by pockets of gas trapped in the tank's liner. It was part of the huge tract of land purchased by NASCAR in 2004 and now up for sale. The site is not accessible to the public. The tank site was formally demolished in 1993; an outline of it can

still be seen in aerial photographs. Outside of the lives of the 40 workers killed, the blast has a lasting legacy on Staten Island: It ultimately brought to a halt the construction of two larger LNG tanks in the Rossville section of Staten Island. The late Mayor Ed Koch was instrumental in accomplishing that. The tanks still stand off Arthur Kills road. They have been decommissioned and have been deteriorating for decades. Plans to develop the 66-acre property along Arthur Kill Road for commercial uses have yet to reach fruition.

[http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2013/02/40\\_years\\_ago\\_today\\_staten\\_isla.html](http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2013/02/40_years_ago_today_staten_isla.html)

#### AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, HAMILTON HILL, FEBRUARY 11 2013. CHARGES LAID OVER WOMAN BURNT AT UNITED PETROL STATION.

aleisha orr



A 54-year-old Hilton woman has been charged with grievous bodily harm over an incident which left a woman with burns to her body. Police were unable to provide full details other than there was a fire at a fuel station in Hamilton Hill after a woman spilt fuel on the ground. Channel Seven reporter Grant Taylor told Radio 6PR that the woman had been set alight by another party. "Something's happened, there's been an argument over the bowser, between her and another customer, we understand the other customer has grabbed the fuel pump, used that to spray petrol around the feet of the other woman and then using a cigarette lighter, they're alleged to have actually set her on fire," he said. People who had

been in the area at the time told him that they had seen a big puff of black smoke and recalled screams that were "absolutely horrific." The 56-year-old burnt woman was taken to Royal Perth Hospital where she is in a stable condition. The alleged offender will appear in the Fremantle Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

#### Related Links

- [Woman set on fire in attack at service station](#)

A 54-year-old woman will face court tomorrow accused of setting fire to another woman in Perth in what police say was a random attack. The incident happened at a Hamilton Hill service station this morning.

- [Police investigate woman burned at bowser](#)

Police in Perth are reportedly investigating whether a woman who suffered burns at a petrol station was set alight by another woman after a petrol bowser dispute.

<http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/charges-laid-over-woman-burnt-at-petrol-station-20130211-2e89p.html>



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#### USA, MS, BAY SPRINGS, FEBRUARY 12 2013. STORM HALTED OIL SPILL CLEANUP NEAR BAY SPRINGS



Workers from several environmental cleanup companies Complete Environmental and United States Environmental Services removed oil Thursday from Piney Branch Creek just east of Airport Road on N. Pine Avenue just outside Bay Springs.

Sunday storms temporarily halted cleanup of a large oil spill outside Bay Springs but didn't cause further damage, officials said on Monday. Crews ceased operations late afternoon Sunday while severe weather moved into the area, according to a spokesman for Plains All-American Pipeline. Plains owns the 8-inch pipeline that leaked dozens – if not hundreds – of barrels of crude oil into Piney Branch Creek on Tuesday. Since then, crews have worked around the

clock to contain and clean the spill. Operations resumed early this morning and will continue until all the oil is wicked from the creek and surrounding area. At its peak, the cleanup effort included some 250 workers. That number was reduced to about 135 people this week. Before it had been noticed, the slick had spread for nearly 2 miles, crossing ditches and wetlands and flowing into the Piney Branch Creek, a tributary of Tallahoma Creek which ultimately snakes its way to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Officials eventually stopped the leak, which was along a pipeline about one mile east of Bay Springs in Jasper County. They then deployed multiple booms to block the slick from spreading farther downstream. The company's "priorities are to clean up the release, while ensuring the safety of response personnel and minimizing the impact to the public and the environment," Plains said in a press release.

[http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20130211/NEWS/302110041/Storm-halted-oil-spill-cleanup-near-Bay-Springs?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20130211/NEWS/302110041/Storm-halted-oil-spill-cleanup-near-Bay-Springs?nclick_check=1)

#### RUSSIA, MOSCOW, FEBRUARY 22 2013. METHANE BLAST KILLS 18 AT RUSSIA COAL MINE



An underground methane gas explosion killed up to 18 miners at a [coal](#) pit in northern [Russia](#) on Monday and President Vladimir Putin dispatched his disasters minister to the scene to oversee rescue efforts. Rescue workers said they had brought 10 bodies to the surface at the Vorkutinskaya mine, owned by large Russian [steel company](#) Severstal, in the icy Komi region and were trying to recover eight other corpses. About 250 people had been at the pit at the time of the blast, about 800 meters (2,600 feet) below the surface but most had escaped or been rescued, government officials said. Although mine safety has improved

since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, fatal accidents are frequent in Russia's ageing pits. Most accidents have been attributed to methane blasts, negligence or a failure to follow safety regulations. "We need a clear and understandable picture of what happened," Emergencies Minister Vladimir Puchkov told local officials and rescue workers via a video link-up soon after the explosion. Putin sent his condolences and ordered Puchkov to travel in person to Komi, about 1,200 km (750 miles) northeast of Moscow, to oversee the rescue, cleanup and help the victims' families. The Emergencies Ministry and Severstal said 16 miners had been killed and the fate of two others was unknown. Three people were taken to hospital after the blast, the company said. "I need a clear report on the injured, the condition of their health and what kind of necessary specialized medical help they need. We are sending the appropriate experts from Moscow," Puchkov told officials. Itar-Tass quoted him as saying each victim's family would be paid 2 million roubles (\$66,400) in compensation. Russia's federal Investigative Committee opened an investigation to check whether there had been safety violations at the Vorkutinskaya mine, which began production in 1973. A major mine blast killed 110 people in the coal-mining region of Kemerovo in 2007 and another explosion in the same region in 2010 killed more than 60. The Vorkutinskaya explosion caused the shares of mine owner Severstal to fall 2.2 per cent in Moscow, though the blast, which affected only one of the mine's walls, is not expected to greatly affect output of approximately 1 million tonnes a year. Putin's decision to dispatch a minister to the region, which was part of the Gulag network of prison camps under Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, appeared aimed at critics who say he failed to respond quickly enough to previous disasters. The Kremlin chief, who first rose to power 13 years ago, has seen his ratings fall following major street protests against his rule and his opponents say that Russia faces economic and political stagnation under Putin's continued rule.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/11/us-russia-mine-idUSBRE91A05G20130211>



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### USA, OH, COLUMBUS, FEBRUARY 12 2013. WEST COLUMBUS GAS STATION INVESTIGATED FOR FUEL LEAK



Neighbors say operators of a West Side gas station should be fined after environmental protection agents found that 10 to 100 gallons of diesel fuel leaked into the business's storm drain and into Dry Run Creek. Several city crews responded to the Pilot Flying J at Wilson and Interchange Roads Monday to determine if Columbus drains were affected by the leak last week. Workers placed a camera in the city drains and concluded they were not affected, but they say the incident could still breach an agreement the company made several years ago. According to city officials, Pilot Flying J agreed to clean their catch basins regularly and remove fuel at least once a week. Any violations of that agreement could lead to fines. An EPA agent showed ABC 6/FOX 28 Friday that regular maintenance at one catch basin was not being conducted properly, which may have led to the leak. The station's management kicked a news crew

off the property on the same day. Neighbor Don Douglas was disturbed by the managers' response. "You're not even supposed to breath that stuff when you're filling your tanks," Douglas said. "I think they should be fined." According to EPA Ohio, the latest incident is the 4th fuel leak at Pilot Flying J over the last 2 years. In 2010, 25 Pilot stations around Ohio, including the location on Wilson Road, made an agreement with the attorney general's office after repeated spills and other environmental infractions were discovered. The company was fined \$100,000 at the time, and agreed to pay \$500 a day for any reoccurring violation. EPA Ohio will contact the attorney general's office to report the findings of its investigation, and to determine if a reoccurring violation occurred. City officials will determine by the end of the week what punitive action, if any, will be taken. Pilot Flying J issued a statement saying its representatives are monitoring the situation closely, and will follow all procedures to make sure the public, as well as their customers and employees, are safe.

[http://www.abc6onyourside.com/shared/news/features/top-stories/stories/wsyx\\_west-columbus-gas-station-investigated-fuel-leak-22272.shtml](http://www.abc6onyourside.com/shared/news/features/top-stories/stories/wsyx_west-columbus-gas-station-investigated-fuel-leak-22272.shtml)

### USA, N.Y, NIAGARA FALLS, FEBRUARY 12 2013. CHLORINE GAS LEAK CAUSES EVACUATION OF GASKILL PREP



*Firefighters respond Monday to Gaskill Preparatory School after workers mixing pool chemicals created a chlorine gas cloud.*

Staff and students were evacuated at about 9:30 a.m. Monday from Gaskill Preparatory School after two school employees mixing chemicals in the basement pool area set off a noxious reaction, according to the Fire Department. The two maintenance workers, who were not named, were taken to Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center for evaluation, fire officials said. Students in classrooms were not exposed to the leak, according to fire and school officials. The children were taken to Hyde Park Elementary School as firefighters addressed the situation. Fire Chief Thomas Colangelo said a maintenance worker accidentally poured a one-gallon container of muriatic acid into 20 gallons of liquid chlorine in a 50-gallon drum that feeds the pool

chlorination system at the school at 910 Hyde Park Blvd. The mixture created a cloud of chlorine gas in the basement area of the school. In addition to city firefighters, mutual aid was given by the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station Fire Department's HazMat unit to help contain the leak, which appeared to be confined to the basement. Colangelo said crews in full turnout gear assessed the chemical levels in the basement and set up smoke ejectors to ventilate the affected area. Meters were used to assess air-safety levels. Chiefs on the scene made a decision to route the mixture from the 50-gallon drum through the filter and into the pool to be diluted. Colangelo said that in order to speed up the process, they bypassed the filter and pumped the mixture into five-gallon containers which were then dumped into the pool, diluting the mixture to safe levels. After air levels in the basement were determined to be safe, the school was turned over to the Board of Education at 1:30 p.m., Colangelo said. Children remained out of Gaskill the entire school day, district spokeswoman Judie Gregory-Glaser said. School is scheduled to resume at Gaskill today.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130211/CITYANDREGION/130219859/1010>



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#### INDIA, KOLAR, NARASIMHATHEERTHA, FEBRUARY 12 2013. 4 KILLED IN DREADFUL GAS TANKER ACCIDENT

**Photo's [5] 5 Dead, 1 Hurt as Gas Tanker Explodes**



At least 4 people were killed and 4 others injured when a gas tanker exploded after colliding with a lorry in Kolar district on Monday in between Chennai-Bangalore national highway 4. The incident occurred around 7p.m. in Mulabagilu which comes under the Kolar district. DYSP Mr. Siddaramayya said that the blast occurred due to the collision between the lorry and tanker triggering explosion due to the gas leaking at high pressure. The resulting blast was so huge that a bus was tossed on its side like a toy meanwhile 2 cars, several bikes, 2 lorries and a tata sumo were burnt or destroyed in the explosion. The

bodies are difficult to be identified as the remains are pieces of limbs and mangled bodies. The blast disabled electricity in the area and the street lights were also destroyed. Although T.V news channels are reporting 6 confirmed dead, DYSP Mr. Siddaramayya has maintained that there have been 4 casualties. 2 of the bodies have been identified as of Satish and Keshav drivers of the ill-fated LPG tanker and the Carbon di Oxide carrying lorry respectively. The mishap resulted in vehicular traffic grinding to a halt on either side of the busy highway for about 2 hours and the explosion was so massive that it was heard about 2km away from the spot. The Fire Brigade rushed to the spot and doused the fire, the Police were forced to resort to Lathi Charge to disperse the huge crowd which had gathered at the spot. Fortunately a nearby petrol bunk was left unaffected by the explosion. It was also fortunate that there was no town nearby which could have resulted in more casualties.

#### Related Links

- [Gas tanker explodes near Mulbagal, leaves 4 dead](#)  
Four persons died when a gas tanker exploded near Mulbagal on the Bangalore-Chennai National Highway on Monday evening. The impact was so enormous that five passing vehicles caught fire and three trucks exploded.
- [Four killed in gas tanker-lorry collision in Karnataka](#)  
Four persons were killed and another injured in a collision between a gas tanker and lorry at Narasimhatheertha, 35 km from Kolar on Monday, a top police official said.
- [Four killed in Karnataka gas tanker explosion](#)  
At least four people were killed Monday when a gas tanker exploded after colliding with a bus in Karnataka, police said.

<http://www.sahilonline.org/english/newsDetails.php?cid=1&nid=16686>

#### USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 12 2013. SHIP PILOT BLAMED FOR 2007 OIL SPILL IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY SUES COAST GUARD TO GET HIS MARINER'S LICENSE BACK



*The Cosco Busan pilot and crew struggled in the fog moments before the crash.*

The pilot who crashed the Cosco Busan cargo ship into the Bay Bridge in 2007, causing the worst oil spill in the bay in two decades, has sued the U.S. Coast Guard in an effort to regain his mariner's license so he can sail again. Capt. John Cota pleaded guilty to water-pollution violations and served 10 months in prison after investigators concluded he was traveling too fast in heavy fog, was impaired by prescription drugs and ignored safety precautions while working as the ship's pilot during the Nov. 7, 2007, crash. The bunker fuel that poured from the ship's hull oiled 69 miles of shore, closed fisheries and killed more than 6,800 birds. "He wants to get his license back and go back to work. He's healthy

as can be," Cota's attorney, John Meadows, of Berkeley, said Monday. In a lawsuit filed Friday afternoon in federal district court in Oakland, Cota, 65, of Petaluma, alleged that his "due process rights" were denied because the Coast Guard has refused to renew his license. Shortly after the accident, the state Board of Pilot Commissioners began steps to revoke Cota's pilot's license. Instead, he voluntarily retired as a pilot on Oct. 1, 2008, and now draws a pension of \$228,864 a year, funded through fees on the shipping industry. But Cota's other key sailing credential -- his merchant marine license, issued by the Coast Guard -- remained valid. The Coast Guard took it a month after the spill, and it expired in 2010. When Cota attempted to renew it, Coast Guard officials refused. If Cota were to recover his mariner's license, he could return to work sailing



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professionally in the bay or other places as a captain, first mate or other position on commercial ships, although not as a pilot helping other captains guide ships. Environmentalists said they support the Coast Guard's decision. "He's shown that he didn't have the medical fitness or sound judgment to be sailing ships," said Deb Self, executive director of Baykeeper, a San Francisco nonprofit. "I don't think the bay can afford second chances." Added David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay: "The public should be concerned that anyone with such a bad record might be put in charge of commercial ships." For a while after the spill, Cota held an administrative job at a Bay Area tug boat company. A year ago, Meadows said he might be interested in working as a tug boat captain, although Meadows said Monday that Cota is now unemployed. Cota's lawsuit alleges that when he surrendered his mariner's license to the Coast Guard in December, 2007, he signed an agreement that said it would be returned if he was found to be physically fit and met other pilot qualifications. After his family doctor examined him and provided a letter, the Coast Guard rejected it, saying he needed an independent doctor. After he was examined by another doctor and provided a letter from the head of a sleep disorder clinic, the Coast Guard still refused renewal, the suit says, and cited concerns over Cota's taking Provigil, a medicine for sleep apnea. The Coast Guard issued a final denial Feb. 13, 2012. The Coast Guard found Cota "did not meet the medical standards and the professional qualifications requirements for renewal." Coast Guard officials also cited his criminal conviction in the Cosco Busan spill and his role in the grounding of another ship, the Pioneer, near Antioch in 2006. Coast Guard spokesman Dan Dewell said the agency had no comment. The head of the main shipping industry association in the Bay Area said he supports the outcome. "I have faith in the Coast Guard, that they are doing their due diligence," said John McLaurin, president of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association. Last month, another ship, the oil tanker Overseas Reymar, hit a tower of the Bay Bridge. That ship had unloaded millions of gallons of oil the night before at the Shell refinery in Martinez. No oil spilled in the water. Both accidents occurred in heavy fog, and officials of the bay's Harbor Safety Committee are expected Thursday to ban large ships from sailing near the Bay Bridge when there is less than half a mile visibility. In 2008, the National Transportation Safety Board found that Cota had a drunken driving conviction, a history of alcohol abuse and prescriptions for at least nine medications, including Valium; Vicodin; Zoloft for depression; Ativan, an anti-anxiety drug; Provigil for sleep disorders; Imitrex for migraines; and Darvon for pain. The NTSB concluded the Cosco Busan accident was caused by Cota's "degraded cognitive performance from his use of impairing prescription medications." Other causes included a lack of communication between Cota and the ship's Chinese captain; inadequate crew training; and a failure by the Coast Guard to warn Cota by radio that he was heading for the bridge. Last year, the Cosco Busan's owner, Regal Stone Ltd., and its operator, Fleet Management Ltd., both of Hong Kong, agreed to pay \$44 million to settle the civil case.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci\\_22564886/ship-pilot-blamed-2007-oil-spill-san-francisco](http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_22564886/ship-pilot-blamed-2007-oil-spill-san-francisco)

### USA, KS, WICHITA, FEBRUARY 12 2013. STATE SEEKS INPUT ON CHEMICAL SPILL CLEANUP IN WICHITA

State officials want public input on their plans to clean up a 1989 chemical spill at the former Unocal Chemical Distribution facility in Wichita. The company, at 2100 E. 37th Street North, has tried to clean up the soil at the site for years, but the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has a new plan to deal with the contamination. Learn more about the site and the plan to clean it up at [http://www.kdheks.gov/remedial/site\\_restoration/unocal.html](http://www.kdheks.gov/remedial/site_restoration/unocal.html). It can also be viewed at the city's office of environmental health at 1900 E. Ninth Street. State officials will be available to discuss the cleanup at 7 p.m. March 5 at the office of environmental health. People can share their views on the plan through March 12. Send written comments to the KDHE Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Attention: Holly Burke, 1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 410, Topeka, KS 66612. E-mail comments to [hburke@kdheks.gov](mailto:hburke@kdheks.gov)

<http://www.kansas.com/2013/02/11/2671856/state-seeks-input-on-chemical.html>

### USA, TX, ABILENE, FEBRUARY 12 2013. AFD HAZMAT, CITY CREWS RESPOND AFTER 100 GALLONS OF DIESEL SPILLS

The Abilene Fire Department's Hazmat unit was called in after a hundred gallons of diesel fuel spilled early Sunday morning. A tanker truck leaked the fuel into the parking lot of the Best Western on Ridgemont Dr. overnight, according to AFD's Public Information Officer, Greg Goettsch. The driver was hauling drums from South Dakota to Austin and stopped in Abilene for the night. Early Sunday morning, officials noticed one of the barrels was leaking and had spilled approximately 100 gallons of diesel. City crews were called in to use peat moss and sand to soak up the spill. Goettsch said the incident did not pose an extreme hazard and no one was evacuated or injured.

[http://bigcountryhomepage.com/fulltext?nxd\\_id=570132](http://bigcountryhomepage.com/fulltext?nxd_id=570132)



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### USA, KS, DODGE CITY, FEBRUARY 13 2013. COUNTY RESPONDS TO FUEL TANK FIRE

*abigail wilson*

Ford County Fire/EMS were dispatched to a fire about a mile northeast of town Monday morning. Jay Taylor, chief of Ford County Fire/EMS, said the fire was reported at 11:30 a.m. and began when a resident used a cutting torch to cut an empty fuel storage tank up for pieces. But apparently, the tank was not empty. Multiple callers reported seeing thick black smoke near the Dodge City Airport. Taylor said there were no injuries and the incident took place on private property. Crews were able to extinguish the fire pretty quickly, according to Taylor.

<http://www.dodgeglobe.com/article/20130211/NEWS/130219879/-1/News>

### CANADA, SASKATCHEWAN, FEBRUARY 13 2013. REGINA CO-OP REFINERY FIRE

*barb pacholik*



*An overnight fire at Regina's Co-op Refinery and upgrader on Monday was extinguished within half an hour. No one was injured.*

After two decades without a serious fire, three significant blazes at the Co-op Refinery Complex in 16 months — the most recent one overnight Monday — is cause for concern, says a Federated Co-operatives Ltd. official. "One fire is too many," Vic Huard, vice-president of corporate affairs, told a news conference Monday. "Are we disappointed? Absolutely we're disappointed ... And are we working very hard to fix it? Yes." Huard said fortunately no one was injured when the fire broke out at 12:20 a.m. in a coker unit pump house, used in processing asphalt. The blaze resulted in what appeared to be an explosion that sent flames at least 24 metres skyward, the height of some equipment that showed signs of scorching. A small number of workers were sent to "standby points" — work trailers — but not evacuated off site. Leslie Albert was driving down the Ring Road when she noticed the glow from the refinery was brighter than usual. She quickly realized, "Oh my gawd, it's on fire." "The flames were going straight up in the air," she said, adding that they were shooting up higher than the buildings. Pulling over to capture the scene in pictures, Albert — thinking back to a major blaze there in October 2011 — thought, "Another fire!" Truck driver Gord Thomson also saw the sight from the Ring Road. "It was just a black cloud, and it just burst into a big ball of flame," he said, adding that there was a sound like the low rumble of a freight train. "It was like a flare-up ... And then it finally caught a flame and turned into a fireball," he added. "It was pretty scary." He noted that police had roads leading into the site shut down. The refinery's team of firefighters extinguished the blaze within half an hour, and an "all clear" was given just after 2 a.m. Although Regina Fire and Protective Services was called and put on standby, its firefighters weren't sent in since the refinery's team had the fire under control. The refinery is now co-operating with a fire investigation to try to pinpoint the cause of the blaze and extent of damage. It was too early Monday to attach a dollar figure to the damage. Huard said there was never any risk to the public from any of the three fires. "This complex is built in such a way that the kind of catastrophic failures in the Hollywood scenario just can't happen," he said. The October 2011 fire and another, also in a pump house unit, in May last year were eventually attributed to mechanical problems. The unit affected Monday was upgraded in 1988. Huard said this fire was worse than the one in May, which caused \$5 million in damage, but nowhere near the scope of the blaze in 2011. It resulted in injuries to 52 people, 13 of which required treatment in hospital, and \$100-million property damage and production loss. Until 16 months ago, there hadn't been a serious fire at the facility since 1988. "We had one of the best safety records, in regard to fires like this, in the industry," said Huard, adding that it's believed the recent incidents — all of which are unrelated — are "an anomaly." "This is not the norm — for us or for anyone else," he added. With each incident, procedures, maintenance schedules, and the complex's equipment integrity program are reviewed. "We'll continue to try to get better," said Huard. Regina fire Chief Gerard Kay said the fact of three fires in a relatively short time is not a concern for his department. "This is a highly-regulated industry, and they use a lot of the information that we provide them as far as previous investigations in order to better their product," he said. Huard said the latest fire will have only a minimal, short-term impact on crude oil processing. "This is one processing unit out of 33 in the complex," he explained. Instead of putting out 55,000 barrels of crude a day in the affected area, production is down by about 10,000 barrels. A secondary production area was put on standby Monday while the investigation is underway. "We're not anticipating any impact on supply," said Huard, adding that inventories of diesel and gasoline are high. A fire investigation report released in August last year blamed the October 2011 fire, which occurred in a diesel processing area, on



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a corroded pipe that ruptured and triggered a series of four explosions. They spawned a massive fireball and plumes of thick black smoke. The area where that fire occurred was rebuilt, but hasn't yet come on line. Implementation of the 19 recommendations from that investigation is ongoing, Huard said Monday. The fire in May last year occurred when an oil pump overheated and ignited crude oil. Huard said the location of that fire is quite a distance from the area involved in Monday's blaze. An investigation attributed that fire to a mechanical failure in a crude pump due to a bearing.

<http://www.leaderpost.com/news/Overnight+fire+Regina+refinery/7948133/story.html>

#### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, TARNEIT, FEBRUARY 13 2013. MAN FINED OVER FIREWORKS THAT KILLED BROTHER

*steve butcher*



*Andrew Rodriguez (left), his brother Carlos Rodriguez (centre) and the explosive material in the incident.*

The Rodriguez family fireworks show kept getting bigger with each New Year's Eve and lit the midnight darkness as the happy faces turned skywards. But the backyard fun farewelling 2011 turned fatal in Tarneit when the worst outcome occurred from seemingly inoffensive but illegal and dangerous fireworks. Married father of two Carlos Rodriguez, 34, died from head injuries hours after a mortar shell he ignited detonated in a tube. The Melbourne Magistrates Court heard on Monday that his brother, Andrew Rodriguez, moments before had suffered burns to his arms, upper

body and face when a mortar he lit also exploded. Crown prosecutor Ray Elston, SC, said the mortars were a "high-powered commercial explosive" usually licensed for pyrotechnic celebratory displays. An arson chemist reported they could travel at 200km/h and climb 100 metres while Mr Elston told magistrate Charlie Rozenchwajg their "unlawful possession needed to be highlighted". He said Andrew Rodriguez earlier bought three mortars and smaller fireworks at a grocery store in St Albans and later at a family dinner agreed to ignite them at his brother's home. "As [Andrew Rodriguez] left his parents' house, his mother told him to be careful because 'they are illegal for a reason'," Mr Elston said of the fireworks. After lighting smaller fireworks, he was burnt in the backyard and poured water on his wounds before his brother, with a number of adults and children present, lit the mortar. Rodriguez, 27, pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing an explosive substance. Mr Rozenchwajg said the woman who sold the fireworks, and who admitted the same charge, was more culpable than Andrew Rodriguez. She was dealt with at a diversion hearing that included a \$5000 donation to a hospital burns unit. Defence lawyer Sam Norton said his client, supported in court by his "devastated" family, was of excellent character and "racked by remorse". Mr Norton agreed that deterring others was important, but argued "the informed public would understand a level of forgiveness to a person in this circumstance". Mr Elston, who did not seek a jail sentence, argued unsuccessfully for the case to be heard by a judge but said Rodriguez could not be punished for the consequences. Mr Rozenchwajg found it "astounding", despite warnings and "frequent evidence in emergency wards", that people handled illegal and dangerous fireworks. He fined Rodriguez \$4000 with conviction.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/man-fined-over-fireworks-that-killed-brother-20130211-2e8vo.html>

#### USA, DE, ST GEORGES, FEBRUARY 13 2013. 1,600 GALLONS SPILL INTO POND FROM DELDOT FACILITY

*melissa nann burke*



*Workers from Guardian Environmental Services work near St. Georges Monday to recover diesel fuel that spilled from a nearby DeIDOT facility over the weekend.*

About 1,600 gallons of diesel fuel flowed into a retention pond near St. Georges after leaking from a DeIDOT facility over the weekend, officials said Monday. "There are no indications that any of the fuel reached a nearby stream," said Geoff Sundstrom, a spokesman for the state Department of Transportation. "It came from a fuel-storage tank. They were using it to fuel vehicles for the storm over the weekend." He said his agency would work with the environmental crimes unit of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to determine the cause of the spill. After discovering the leak Monday morning, DeIDOT personnel reported it to DNREC, officials said. Crews specializing in



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environmental cleanup also responded to the facility on Lorewood Grove Road south of the Roth Bridge. A contractor, Guardian Environmental Services, was expected to recover most of the spilled fuel by Monday evening, Sundstrom said. DelDOT estimated the cleanup would cost roughly \$50,000. In similar situations, cleanup includes performing the required remediation to ensure, for instance, the fuel didn't leach too far into the ground, said Michael Globetti, a spokesman for DNREC.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20130212/NEWS08/302120047/Diesel-fuel-leaks-from-DelDOT-facility>

### CHINA, HAINAN PROVINCE, HAIKOU, FEBRUARY 13 2013. HAINAN BLAST KILLS FOUR ILLEGAL EXPLOSIVES MAKERS

An explosion killed four people and injured another on Monday in south China's Hainan Province in what seems to have been an attempt to strip fireworks to make explosives for use in fishing. Han Jinghua, deputy head of the provincial public security bureau, arrived in Baisha, a Li ethnic autonomous county, to oversee the investigation of the accident on Monday afternoon. He urged local authorities to make door-to-door checks in order to confiscate such illegal explosives made from powder contained in fireworks, as the method has become catching on in the region. Chen Liqiang, a publicity official in Baisha, said among the dead was a villager surnamed Fu and his four-year-old daughter. Fu is thought to have hired three others to make the explosives. The police chief has asked local authorities to erect warning signs near rivers and reservoirs forbidding the use of explosives for fishing, and to prevent illegally homemade explosives from entering the market.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-02/12/content\\_16220868.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-02/12/content_16220868.htm)

### USA, GA, AUGUSTA, FEBRUARY 13 2013. WEEKEND DIESEL SPILL REPORTED AT NORTH AUGUSTA TRUCKSTOP

*rob pavey*

A weekend accident in Aiken County caused about 400 gallons of diesel fuel to spill from a transport tanker, but there were no injuries and contractors were able to clean up and recover most of the material. According to an incident report filed Monday with the National Response Center's emergency management database, the accident occurred about 8 p.m. Saturday at a truck stop in the 200 block of Laurel Lakes Drive off Interstate 20 in North Augusta. The single-vehicle accident involved a tanker truck owned by Kenan Transportation of North Canton, Ohio, the report said, and the total amount of diesel released was estimated at 400 gallons, of which about 50 gallons spilled into a storm drain. The cleanup was completed at 3 p.m. Sunday by contractors from Augusta Industrial Service, the report said, adding that the S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control and other agencies were notified of the mishap.

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2013-02-12/weekend-diesel-spill-reported-north-augusta-truckstop?v=1360667333>

### USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, FEBRUARY 13 2013. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUES ATP OVER ALLEGED OIL, CHEMICAL DISCHARGES IN GULF

The U.S. Department of Justice brought a suit against an oil producer in the Gulf of Mexico, alleging the company illegally allowed discharges of oil and chemicals from a floating oil-and-gas-production platform. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement discovered violations during an inspection of the ATP Oil & Gas Corp. (ATPAQ) platform, located in the Mississippi Canyon block of the Gulf, last March and referred the matter to the Justice Department. According to the Justice Department's complaint, filed Monday in the District Court for Louisiana's Eastern District, ATP discharged more oil than it was allowed to into the ocean, and masked this with a chemical "dispersant" added to the wastewater through a concealed metal tube. The dispersant acted to break apart oil molecules into smaller, dispersed droplets. On board the platform, it was referred to as the "soap" or the "sheen-buster," according to the government's complaint. Though the complaint states that the dispersant had been used from at least October 2010 to March 2012, the tube was connected in such a way that the additional chemical was added after the point where compliance testing samples were taken, so the additive wasn't detected. The government is seeking civil penalties under the Clean Water Act and injunctive relief for violations of the Clean Water Act and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. ATP Oil & Gas is engaged in the development and production of oil and natural gas in the Mediterranean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and the North Sea, according to its website. A spokesman didn't immediately respond to request for comment. The company filed a petition for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in August, according to the website. ATP owned the platform from at least 2006 to March 6, 2009, according to the complaint. ATP Infrastructure Partners LP, which is also named in the suit, is a limited partnership company formed in March 2009 by ATP Oil & Gas and GE Energy Financial Services to own and operate the platform. The Justice Department is



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asking for ATP Oil & Gas to pay up to \$32,500 per day for each violation through Jan. 12, 2009, and up to \$37,500 per day for each violation after that date. The department also is seeking to assess penalties of up to \$37,500 per day against ATP Infrastructure Partners for each violation on and after March 6, 2009.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/02/11/justice-department-sues-atp-over-alleged-oil-chemical-discharges-in-gulf/>

### USA, TX, GALVESTON, FEBRUARY 13 2013. TEXAS CITY SCHOOLS, OTHERS OWE VALERO MILLIONS

*harvey rice*

The Texas City school district is among four taxpayer-funded entities in Galveston County that will have to repay Valero almost \$5 million after a jury agreed that the oil company's Texas City refinery was overvalued on the tax rolls. Texas City, Galveston County and the College of the Mainland will also have to pay back the giant San Antonio-based refiner. The Texas City school district has to pay \$2.45 million, the largest share. The refund is the second the school district has made – \$2.38 million in 2009 – to the oil company and may not be the last. Valero has at least two other lawsuits pending aimed at clawing back property taxes it alleges are unfair. "It definitely impacts education in Texas City ISD," school district spokeswoman Melissa Tortorici said.

[http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/02/12/valero-socks-texas-city-schools-for-2-45-million/?utm\\_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm\\_medium=FuelFix&utm\\_campaign=FuelFixNewsletter](http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/02/12/valero-socks-texas-city-schools-for-2-45-million/?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=FuelFix&utm_campaign=FuelFixNewsletter)

### USA, AK, ANCHORAGE, FEBRUARY 13 2013. SHELL WILL REPAIR RIGS IN ASIA, POSSIBLY DELAYING ARCTIC WORK

*jennifer a. dlohy*



Shell's Kulluk drilling rig, shown under tow in January after running aground in Alaska, must go to Asia for repairs. After dedicating nearly eight years and \$5 billion to the quest, Shell's plans to continue hunting for Arctic oil this summer are in jeopardy, as company officials on Monday confirmed they will tow two drilling units to Asian dry docks for repairs. Although Shell Oil said the firm has not ruled out drilling in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas north of Alaska this summer, it appears unlikely the vessels will be able to make the two-to-four-week treks to those Asian ports, undergo repairs, clear U.S. inspections and return to those Arctic waters in time for the drilling season that begins in July. The decision also could provide fresh fodder to federal regulators conducting a searching, high-level review of problems Shell encountered during the 2012 Arctic drilling season and embolden environmentalists who oppose oil

exploration in the remote, icy waters. Shell's Kulluk drilling rig ran aground on an Alaskan island on New Year's Eve and the drillship Noble Discoverer experienced propulsion problems pulling into Seward, Alaska last November. Inspections of the 29-year-old Kulluk conical drilling unit have revealed hull damage that warrants major repairs and further assessments, Shell said. The Discoverer is destined for a shipyard in Korea, and Shell is planning on sending the Kulluk to an undetermined Asian shipyard with a suitable dry dock, said spokesman Curtis Smith. The drilling rigs will be towed to the ports with massive oceangoing dry docks capable of holding aloft and hauling heavy vessels across the globe. Smith said the drilling rigs could begin their long journey in three to six weeks. "The outcome of further inspections for both rigs will determine the shipyard schedule and timing of their return to service," Smith said. "Dry towing is a time-efficient way to get both rigs to suitable shipyards to begin necessary work that will allow us to better assess our options." Smith said the company has "not made any final decisions on 2013 drilling," but is "exploring a range of options for exploration work offshore Alaska in 2013." Even if regulators approved the work, there may be no ready replacements for the specialized Arctic drilling vessels, which are both uniquely designed to weather ice. Shell used the Kulluk and Discoverer to drill the first half of two wells in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas last summer, seven years after buying drilling leases in the region for \$2.2 billion. Shell was forced to constrain its 2012 operations to such so-called "top-hole drilling" of only the initial 1,500 feet of its Arctic wells when its oil spill response system could not win approval and get to the area before ice started encroaching. The company experienced other high-profile blunders: The Noble Discoverer drifted out of control briefly near Dutch Harbor, Alaska, last July, and the Environmental Protection Agency cited the company for violating the terms of air pollution permits while hunting for Arctic oil. Critics say the problems should force Shell to rethink its Arctic aspirations. "It's time for Shell to re-evaluate whether it makes sense to



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continue pouring money into this complex and difficult drilling effort,” said Lois Epstein, Arctic Program Director for The Wilderness Society. “These serious transportation, logistics, and drilling failures – collectively – provide strong evidence of Shell’s inability to effectively undertake oil drilling in the harsh environment of the Arctic Ocean, and raise questions about any company’s capacity to do so.” Mike LeVine, Pacific senior counsel for Oceana, said Arctic oil exploration “should be suspended until and unless companies can prove they can operate safely and without risking the health of our oceans.” “Even if the company can somehow get its damaged vessels repaired, our government has no business allowing Shell back in the Arctic,” LeVine said. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced in January that the administration was launching a 60-day probe of Shell’s Arctic drilling operation. Salazar told reporters at the time that the possible damage to the Kulluk might preclude Shell from drilling in 2013, regardless of the outcome of that review. Shell officials have argued that the Kulluk grounding and Discoverer problems were maritime mishaps — not drilling problems — and have stressed that dozens of wells have been successfully bored into Arctic waters before. Both vessels have storied histories. The 29-year-old Kulluk hibernated in Canada for more than a dozen years before Shell bought it, and the Discoverer, a revamped 1960s-era drillship, spent a previous life as a log carrier before it was converted for the oil industry in 1976. Shell spent nearly half a billion dollars renovating the two drilling vessels before they set sail from a Seattle shipyard last year. The company also has built a broad infrastructure in Wainwright, Barrow and Deadhorse, Alaska to support its offshore exploration program, including installing crew camps and an airplane hanger along the state’s northern coast. And it poured more than a half billion dollars into building specialized emergency oil spill response systems and two ships designed for the Arctic environment.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/02/11/shell-will-repair-rigs-in-asia-possibly-delaying-arctic-work-2/>

#### USA, WI, COLFAX, FEBRUARY 13 2013. COLFAX-AREA MAN INJURED IN FIREWORKS ACCIDENT

A Colfax man was taken to a hospital by helicopter Monday after a large fireworks exploded in his hand. Michael Schmitt, 55, E7573 850th Ave was taken to Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire. No condition report is available. The Dunn County 911 center received a call at 6:23 p.m. Monday reporting a partial amputation when the firework exploded. The Colfax Ambulance Service and Menomonie Fire Department ambulance responded and Schmitt was taken to the intersection of Highways B and BB, where he was picked up by a helicopter and taken to the hospital.

[http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/daily\\_updates/article\\_51006dc6-751c-11e2-96d7-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/daily_updates/article_51006dc6-751c-11e2-96d7-001a4bcf887a.html)

#### USA, CO, FORT COLLINGS, FEBRUARY 13 2013. FORT COLLINS-AREA FRACKING FLUID LEAK STOPPED AFTER SPEWING FOR 30 HOURS >> THE COMPANY DRILLING AT THE SITE NORTH OF WINDSOR HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN 32 SPILLS IN COLORADO DURING THE PAST YEAR.

bobby magill



*A crew works Tuesday on a piece of equipment next to an oil well that had sprayed oil-laden fracking water for about 30 hours north of Windsor.*

Oil-laden fracking fluid gushed from an oil well near Fort Collins for nearly 30 hours before it was stopped Tuesday afternoon. A hydraulic failure around 9:30 a.m. Monday caused a piece of equipment to fall onto a valve and break it at the drilling site 4 miles east of Fort Collins. A horizontal stream of green-tinted fluid flowed from the valve for nearly a day and half before crews gained control of it. The workers had the flow stopped shortly after 4 p.m. Tuesday. The well operator, PDC Energy, planned to bring in a crew from Texas to stop the gushing liquid, which company officials say was contained by an earthen berm. There were no injuries and no threat of an explosion, state oil and gas regulators said. The well, called “Ochsner 50-441,” was initially drilled in December. It is

about a half mile south of what becomes Harmony Road in Fort Collins and 4 miles east of Interstate 25 in Weld County, southeast of the intersection of Weld County Roads 74 and 15. The nearest home is about 1,500 feet away from the drilling site. “This was not a blowout,” Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission spokesman Todd Hartman said Tuesday afternoon, adding that the incident occurred during the “flowback” stage of drilling. “The liquid is ‘frac’ water, with some residual oil, and there is an odor associated with the spill,” Hartman said. “Crews are taking air tests every half hour to ensure no explosive potential.” Flowback is oil-laden hydraulic fracturing fluid that returns to the surface after being injected into an oil well, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Bart Brookman, PDC Energy’s senior vice president of



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operations, said the liquid is contained and no environmental problems would result from the incident. The company dug trenches around the spill perimeter to collect the fluid, Hartman said. Another company was working to plug the well, and a vacuum truck was on scene Tuesday to clean up some of the liquid. Hartman said he has no estimate for the volume of fracking fluid spilled. PDC Energy has been involved in seven other oil and gas-related spills and incidents so far in 2013 in Colorado — two of them within the last week, state records show. Three of those incidents impacted groundwater. In 2012, the company was involved in 27 oil and gas spills and releases, 12 of which contaminated groundwater. Weld County Emergency Management Director Roy Rudisill said if the well had been drilled closer than 1,500 feet from homes, it would have been a greater hazard to people. "I don't think it's a high-hazard threat to residents or businesses because there's a far enough distance away from where this (well is) set," Rudisill said. The incident occurred the same day Colorado oil and gas commissioners approved a new oil well buffer zone beginning Aug. 1, requiring a minimum of 500 feet between oil wells and homes or other buildings. The buffer, called a "setback," was expanded from 150 feet in rural areas. Ken Hall, an engineer and hay farmer whose property abuts the drilling site and whose house is about 2,000 feet away, said he worried about the fumes he was breathing around his house. From his backyard on Tuesday morning, a strong odor of petroleum filled the air within 1,000 feet of the drilling site as the wind blew oil-laced mist toward houses along County Road 74. Hall said he isn't against fracking, and the region needs both the jobs and energy the oil and gas industry generates. But, he said, "we need the facts" about fracking. "This is the poster child for fracking gone wrong," he said.

[http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20130212/NEWS01/302120015/Fort-Collins-area-fracking-fluid-leak-stopped-after-spewing-for-30-hours?nclink\\_check=1](http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20130212/NEWS01/302120015/Fort-Collins-area-fracking-fluid-leak-stopped-after-spewing-for-30-hours?nclink_check=1)

### USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, FEBRUARY 13 2013. TRANSOCEAN SET TO PLEAD GUILTY TO MISDEMEANOR IN SPILL CASE

harry r. weber



*The Deepwater Horizon drilling rig burns in the Gulf of Mexico on April 21, 2010, the day after the blowout of BP's Macondo well.*

It's Transocean's turn in the penalty box. A lawyer for the Swiss drilling contractor is expected to enter a guilty plea on the company's behalf Thursday in a New Orleans federal courtroom to a single misdemeanor charge of violating the Clean Water Act through negligent discharge of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Transocean has agreed to pay a \$400 million criminal fine and serve five years on probation. The decision whether to approve the deal rests with U.S. District Judge Jane Triche Milazzo. The charge stems from a U.S. government criminal investigation of the 2010 Gulf oil spill that also has ensnared British oil giant BP and four of its current and former employees. The probe continues nearly three years later. Transocean owned the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig that exploded and sank about 50 miles off Louisiana after a well a mile beneath the sea blew out. Eleven rig workers, including nine of its own employees, were killed. BP owned the well and was leasing the rig from Transocean. The resulting oil spill was the worst U.S. offshore spill ever, with some 206 million gallons of oil being discharged by the well, according to government estimates that BP disputes. The hearing is expected to be relatively quick compared to BP's plea hearing two weeks ago, when it admitted to 14 criminal charges, including manslaughter and the court heard from a number of victims. By contrast, Milazzo granted Transocean's request to move the hearing up an hour so the company's lead attorney at the proceeding, Brad Brian, can make a 12:45 p.m. flight to Washington. Among the many victims of the disaster and their representatives, only three are scheduled to speak at the hearing — Buddy Trahan, who was on the rig at the time of the blast and suffered numerous injuries; Laura Regan, a Gulf Coast property owner; and Anh-Dao Nguyen, coordinator for the Southeast Asian Fisherfolk Association.

#### Executive may Appear

While Transocean's board authorized a member of its legal team to enter the formal guilty plea — Brian, Steven Roberts and Kerry Miller are listed as designees — it's possible a Transocean executive also will address the court, if the sequence of BP's plea hearing is any indication. A Transocean spokesman declined to comment on the possibility. If Milazzo accepts the plea agreement Transocean reached with the Justice Department, she will impose the negotiated sentence. If she rejects it, she will allow Transocean to withdraw its guilty plea and proceed to trial. Federal probation officials filed a revised pre-sentence investigation report and recommendation under seal on Monday. The company and federal prosecutors have urged Milazzo to



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accept the deal, arguing in a joint memo that the criminal plea deal and a \$1 billion civil settlement “serve to deter and prevent future misconduct and protect the public from future criminal conduct by Transocean and others.” Only three parties – BP and two environmental advocacy groups – submitted criticism of either deal. Transocean and the Justice Department agreed to tweak some wording in the civil settlement at BP’s request. As of Monday, no victims of the spill or rig explosion had filed statements regarding the criminal settlement, according to the court’s public docket. Pressure test is key Transocean’s culpability stems in part from a procedure called a negative pressure test that was conducted on board the Deepwater Horizon prior to the well blowout. The failure to correctly interpret the test has been a key finding in several government investigations of the disaster. A negative pressure test involves controlled reduction of pressure in a well to ensure that the casing and cement that separate the well from the oil and gas formation can hold without any leaks. Federal prosecutors say Transocean’s crew was negligent, but argues the crew carried out drilling operations and the test under BP’s instruction and supervision. Two BP well-site leaders face manslaughter charges stemming from the negative pressure test. A former BP executive and a former BP engineer face charges related to actions after the disaster. All four are preparing for trial. A trial of spill-related civil litigation over the oil spill, meanwhile, is set to begin Feb. 25 in New Orleans.

[http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/02/12/transocean-set-to-plead-guilty-to-misdemeanor-in-spill-case/?utm\\_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm\\_medium=FuelFix&utm\\_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter](http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/02/12/transocean-set-to-plead-guilty-to-misdemeanor-in-spill-case/?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=FuelFix&utm_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter)

#### ENGLAND, LONDON, FEBRUARY 13 2013. BP NAMES 4TH STAFF MEMBER KILLED IN ALGERIA SIEGE

BP has named Stephen Green as the fourth member of its staff who was killed during a terrorist assault on an Algerian gas plant last month. The company said Tuesday that 47-year-old Green was killed when terrorists took control of the Ain Amenas plant. Officials said his name could not be released until an inquest had been completed. BP had earlier named three other employees killed in the attack as Seb John, Carlos Estrada and Gordon Rowan. The Ain Amenas facility is jointly run by BP, Algeria’s Sonatrach and Norway’s Statoil. The Jan. 16 attack, which led to a four-day standoff between al-Qaida-affiliated militants and the Algerian army, left at least 37 foreign workers and 29 militants dead.

[http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/02/12/bp-names-4th-staff-member-killed-in-algeria-siege/?utm\\_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm\\_medium=FuelFix&utm\\_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter](http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/02/12/bp-names-4th-staff-member-killed-in-algeria-siege/?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=FuelFix&utm_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter)

#### INDIA, BANGALORE, FEBRUARY 13 2013. POST-MULBAGAL TANKER EXPLOSION, SAFETY ISSUES COME TO THE FORE >> GAS DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES IN CITY REVISIT THEIR SAFETY STANDARDS

harsha raj gatty



*The explosion of a gas tanker near Mulbagal in Kolar district that killed three people on Monday is a wake-up call to all those who are involved in the movement of fuel and gas tankers on Bangalore’s crowded roads. The fuel and gas distribution companies in the City are now revisiting their safety standards and control checks of the tankers. There are more than 100 fuel outlets and gas distributing agencies in the City.*

##### Regular Rounds

So it is inevitable for these tankers, some with 14,000-litre capacity to make frequent rounds in the City on a regular basis. “Since fuel is among the most essential commodities, the movement of such vehicles is not restricted, but are monitored. But, we don’t allow them to ply within the City and, most of them are permitted to operate only around outer ring road areas so that fire and

emergency services can immediately reach the spots to provide emergency relief if any eventuality occurs. “However, we have put certain restrictions on their movement since they cause traffic congestion during peak hours and, also since they carry hazardous material,” Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic) M A Saleem said. Commuters in the City, used to seeing fuel tankers even during peak hours, don’t find it reassuring enough. Murthy H, a resident of Hebbal, observed, “Nowadays, it is common practice among the gas agencies to let their delivery boys carry cylinders on two wheelers, some of them even on bicycles. It is very disturbing, since most of the riders not only wobble as they drive but also the consequence of those highly suppressed containers exploding due to a single fall is unimaginable. The government should immediately put restrictions on such dangerous practices.”



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#### Surprised

On the Mulbagal incident, B R Ravindranath, president, Bangalore Petroleum Dealers' Association, said: "Though the investigation is on to ascertain how the incident took place, it has surprised all of us. Most of the tankers, before being commissioned to carry fuels, undergo intensive checks and only then they are certified."

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/311772/post-mulbagal-tanker-explosion-safety.html>

#### USA, MD, ANNAPOLIS, FEBRUARY 13 2013. TANKER TRUCK BURNS IN EASTPORT

*john frenaye*

 **Watch the Video** [Tanker Truck Burns In Eastport](#)

 **Photo's [7]** [Crews Battle Fuel Truck Fire in Annapolis](#)

 **Photo's [31]** [Tanker Truck Burns In Eastport](#)

A large fuel truck caught fire this afternoon in the 7300 block of Edgewood Road in Annapolis. The fire was quickly contained by the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Fire Departments. Several vehicles belonging to Prestige Yacht Management were also severely damaged. According to fire department PIO, Dale Thompson, the call came in at 3:24pm as a hazardous materials call. 19 units responded including the hazardous materials units from Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. There was runoff of the fuel (believed to be gasoline) into Back Creek and fire department crews were erecting dykes and deploying absorbant booms to control the spill. The Maryland Department of the Environment was also responding to handle any environmental concerns.



#### Related Links

- [Edgewood Road Tanker Fire](#)

An Anne Arundel County Firefighters hoses down the charred remains of the fuel tanker that erupted in flames. The incident occurred Tuesday afternoon at 7364 Edgewood Road in Annapolis.

- [Tanker Carrying Fuel Ignites, Spewing Runoff In Back Creek](#)

A tanker truck delivering fuel to a marina in Annapolis caught fire Tuesday afternoon, creating a potential Hazmat situation.

- [Gas tanker catches fire at marina](#)

Several vehicles were damaged when a gasoline tanker truck caught on fire at a marina Tuesday afternoon.

- [Crews Battle Fuel Truck Fire in Annapolis](#)

Fire officials said a 3,000-gallon fuel truck caught fire on Edgewood Road in Annapolis Tuesday afternoon.

- [Tanker truck catches fire in Annapolis](#)

A tanker truck carrying gasoline caught fire Tuesday afternoon in Annapolis, a city fire department spokesman said.

<http://www.eyeonannapolis.net/2013/02/12/tanker-truck-burns-in-eastport/>

#### RWANDA, GATSATA, FEBRUARY 13 2013. PETROL TRUCK DESTROYS GATSATA ELECTRICITY GRID

*ivan r. mugisha*

A major electricity blackout hit thousands of homes, businesses and a handful of industries in Gatsata and Nyabugogo today after the main power supplying grid was damaged by a fuel truck in the wee hours of the morning. According to eye witnesses, the fuel truck belonging to SP Petroleum Transporters lost control and fell off a steep slope while it transported petroleum to the national oil reservoirs in Gatsata. Although the driver escaped with no injury, the overturned truck rammed into the major electricity pylon that provides 6.2MW of electricity per hour to the region -- instantly leading to a power blackout. "All business and homes in Gatsata and a large portion of Nyabugogo were affected; our technicians are working and we expect power to be back within the next four to six hours," Larry Vincent Mpaka, the Electricity Distribution Manager at EWSA said in the morning.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302121101.html>



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#### USA, VA, ALEXANDRIA, FEBRUARY 13 2013. ETHANOL SPILL CONTAINED AT NORFOLK



The Norfolk Southern transloading facility had a 100-gallon ethanol spill Tuesday evening, according to City of Alexandria officials. The railroad has a transloading facility near Van Dorn Metro station and its tracks run through Alexandria, among many other places. Norfolk Southern/RSI alerted the Alexandria emergency communications center to the spill around 5:10 p.m. The spill was entirely within the transloading facility's containment system and posed "no hazard or other impact on surrounding properties or the community," according to a statement from Tony Castrilli, director of the Office of Communications and Public Information for the City of Alexandria. A contractor specializing in cleaning up fuel spills was called and is expected to start work immediately. Norfolk Southern/RSI is looking into the cause of the spill, said Robin Chapman, director of public relations for Norfolk Southern. Chapman said spills of this nature are rare. In December, [Norfolk Southern officials](#)

[announced they would notify the Alexandria Fire Department immediately](#) as part of its emergency response plan rather than make other regulatory calls first.

<http://kingstowne.patch.com/articles/ethanol-spill-at-norfolk-southern-transloading-facility>

#### CHINA, BEIJING, FEBRUARY 14 2013. MANY CITIES FOGGED UP BY FIREWORKS

As China celebrates Spring Festival with exuberant displays of fireworks at night, the cost to pay is deteriorating air quality. In Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei, a province known for its severe air pollution, the monitoring index showed that during the weekend, on Lunar New Year's Eve and Spring Festival, the air quality index hit a hazardous 342. At midnight on Saturday, which also saw a peak for fireworks displays, the density of PM2.5, particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, jumped sharply to 701 micrograms per cubic meter, an increase of 470 percent over the average density the day before. Fireworks also fogged up other cities during Spring Festival, including Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan of Hubei province and Xi'an of Shaanxi province, reducing the air quality to severely polluted levels. It has been a time-honored tradition to set off fireworks during Spring Festival, but the joy of the celebration comes at increasingly high cost, both in terms of environmental damage and physical injury. The hazards have caused many to resist setting off firework in many cities. Liu Yang, a resident in Shijiazhuang, was one of them. The mother of a 10-month-old baby boy bought several strings of electronic fireworks this year and hung them in her house. "I can hear the sound and see the sparkling lights, which is enough for me to feel festive," she said. "The air was so bad that my parents and my son could not walk out the house." She bought several more strings to give to her relatives, but she says they all loved the gift but still bought fireworks and firecrackers. "It's a tradition that cannot be changed over a short time," she said. "But I hope we can do something to reduce the huge amount of fireworks burnt each year." Like her, many other residents are equally concerned, but in varying degrees. Li Xiao'ou, 25, a Beijing resident, compromised by cutting down the time and amount spent on fireworks. "I know we urgently need to protect the environment, but it's not appropriate to ban fireworks because they are so much a part of the festivities," he said. So Liu decided to spend only 100 yuan (\$16) on fireworks this year. Although many voiced their concern about the air pollution, many said they still support the traditional fireworks celebration during the festival. "Some may complain about the noise, but fireworks are one of the symbols of Spring Festival, and they remind us that it's a new year," said Wu Jinghui, a resident of Shijiazhuang. "A large part of pollutants comes from industrial pollution and vehicle emissions. Compared to these, the pollution from the fireworks is limited, and only for a short period," he said. "The government needs to strengthen efforts to deal with the main sources instead of banning fireworks." But almost everyone noticed that there has been fewer fireworks set off this year because of the higher awareness of damage to the environment. A cleaner, surnamed Liu, said she has had less work this year clearing up the firework debris in Shijiazhuang. "I used to work an hour earlier during the festival and spend the whole day clearing it up. I actually finished my work earlier on Sunday, because there was less waste on the streets." The 52-year-old cleaner was in charge of part of Jianshe Street, a main street in Shijiazhuang. In Beijing, more than 1,586 metric tons of fireworks waste was removed from midnight on the eve to 9 am Sunday, about 155 tons less than last year, according to the Beijing Municipal Commission of City Administration and Environment. Many regional governments imposed measures to restrict the time and location of letting off fireworks this year. The Hebei government shortened the time to three days, while the Beijing has encouraged residents to restrain themselves, in order to enjoy better air quality and blue skies.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-02/13/content\\_16221507.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-02/13/content_16221507.htm)



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