



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 945 Newsy Stuff

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USA, CO, GRAND JUNCTION, MARCH 24 2013. CSP INVESTIGATING SEMI-TANKER FIRE, MULTI-CAR CRASH

 [Photo's Crash, Semi-Tanker Truck Fire Closes I-25](#)

 [Watch the Video Crash at I-25 near Johnson's Corner closes roads](#)



Traveling to Denver for the weekend? It might not be the best weekend to do so. Poor weather and driving conditions are being considered as the main reason for several crashes. The Colorado State Patrol is on scene at I-25 near mile marker 253 for multiple vehicle crashes, including a semi-tanker that was engulfed in flames. An estimated 20-50 vehicles have crashed or gone off the roadway in that area, which is heavily impacted by snow and weather. Northbound traffic is closed and not anticipated to open for at least 5-7 hours. Several parties have been transported to MCR with unknown injuries. No fatalities have been reported. The Red Cross is responding to the area to assist stranded motorists and on-scene personnel. The Colorado State Patrol recommends avoiding driving in inclement weather and conditions whenever possible.

<http://www.nbc11news.com/news/regionalnews/headlines/CSP-investigating-semi-fire-multi-car-crash-199696501.html>

USA, FLA, TALLAHASSEE, MARCH 24 2013. PETROLEUM TANKS BILL MOVING AMID CONCERNS ABOUT CLEANUP PROGRAM

bruce ritchie



SB 1416 would reopen the state's petroleum tank cleanup program to some site owners who have been ruled ineligible.

Florida has more than 7,000 contamination sites in its petroleum tanks cleanup program with a potential cost of \$2 billion to the state. Now, some House members are suggesting that the state consider reopening the program to other site owners who are not eligible because they missed deadlines to enroll or to prevent further contamination. "I have heard from individuals in my district; they can't afford to do the cleanup because it is very expensive," said Rep. Doug Broxson, R-Midway. "And they simply missed the deadline. So we need to open it back up." The Florida Department of Environmental Protection isn't asking for the program to be reopened, a DEP spokesman said. Department officials say they are focused on cleaning up contamination sites faster and cheaper. DEP has requested SB 1416, which allows DEP to seek competitive bidding among

contractors for site cleanups. The bill passed the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation on Thursday. The Legislature would have to decide whether it wants to change state law to reopen the cleanup program, DEP Deputy Secretary Jeff Littlejohn said. There are programs for some abandoned sites but other site owners are responsible for cleanups if they missed deadlines for installing new tanks to prevent pollution. In 1990, then-Gov. Bob Martinez and the Cabinet directed the DEP to require that petroleum tanks above ground and underground have secondary containment by 2010 to prevent leaks that could contaminate groundwater, according to a 2010 presentation by the department. Underground tanks installed prior to 1984 were required to have secondary containment by 1999. Tanks installed between 1984 and 1992 were required to have secondary containment by Dec. 31, 2010. Gov. Rick Scott has requested \$135 million for the cleanup program in fiscal year 2013-14, an increase of \$10 million over current fiscal year spending. Revenue for cleanups comes from a tax on petroleum when it is imported to the state. In the past two years, the department has used a cost-sharing program to conduct \$20 million worth of cleanups at a cost of about half that, Littlejohn said. Among the 25,000 contamination sites, 7,800 sites are not eligible and would have to be cleaned up by the parties responsible for causing the contamination, Littlejohn said. The cost of cleaning up those additional sites, if they were made eligible, would be \$2 billion in addition to the \$2 billion cost of cleaning up eligible sites. Rep. Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula and chairman of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, said he doesn't think the state can walk away from cleaning up contamination sites. He wants to develop a computer model to determine the cost of policy decisions related to the program. "I'm a believer in grace and accountability," he said. "The two can work together." DEP spokesman Patrick Gillespie said reopening the program



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to ineligible sites would be contrary to current law that has developed during the past two decades. SB 1416 could reduce the estimated \$2 billion cost for cleaning up eligible sites, Gillespie said. The bill would give the department authority to select site contractors and establish a competitive bidding process, Michael Bascom, an aide to Sen. Greg Evers, R-Baker and bill sponsor, told the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation on Thursday. Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, and Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, said they would vote for the bill but wanted to learn more before the next committee stop. Simpson said the extent of contamination at a lot of sites is unknown before work begins, and that creates uncertainty in the bidding process. "To say we are going to a hard bid -- you are going to a hard bid for something you don't know what it is," he said. Mike Huey, representing the Florida Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, said site owners also are concerned about being able to control who is doing work on their property. Littlejohn told the committee that the bill will result in improved protection of people and the environment. "We look forward to working with site owners and contractors in developing this new program model if the bill passes," he said. The bill passed 7-0. It has two more committee stops.

Related Links [2012 DEP briefing on petroleum tanks program](#)

<http://www.thefloridacurrent.com/article.cfm?id=32094214>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 24 2013. OFFICIALS HOPE TO FINISH DIESEL CLEANUP BEFORE BIRD MIGRATION

Photo's [Officials Hope to Finish Diesel Cleanup](#)



Crews continue their work to repair a Chevron pipeline leak between Willard Bay North Marina and Interstate 15, on Wednesday, March 20, 2013. The leak which was detected on Monday was on a pipe built in the 1950s that runs up to Idaho. Willard Bay State Park • Trucks and tankers filled the paved lot where tourists ordinarily park their cars for beach-side picnics. Men wearing hard hats and work boots gathered where bird-watchers normally ramble this time of year to glimpse migrating tundra swans, snow geese and pelicans. And the gate to park's north marina remained closed Wednesday, two days after Chevron Pipeline Co. discovered a leak in a 168-mile diesel transport line that connects its Salt Lake City refinery to Idaho. At the company's West Valley City offices, Chevron gave a brief status report on the spill, the company's third big one in less than three years. "We're trying to repair the line, to get to the root cause of the incident,"

said Chevron's Terry Duhon, declining to say if this line has had past problems and insisting this leak is "nonrelated" to the others. Crews have already removed 195 barrels, or 8,190 gallons, of diesel from a 7-acre area of concern. Although the pipeline has been shut down and officials say the leaking has stopped, it is unclear what caused diesel to escape the 8-inch pipe, how much fuel spilled and when it might be cleaned up. This section of the pipeline runs underground along Interstate 15, and the diesel backed up behind a beaver dam in a marshy ditch between the highway and the parking lot. A creek connects the ditch to the reservoir about 100 yards away, and workers vacuumed the floating petroleum off the contaminated water and into tanks that can be shipped back to the refinery for reprocessing. Yellow absorbent booms snake into the freshwater reservoir to sop diesel that might escape from the creek. And, while there's no sign of fuel reaching the reservoir so far, state and federal environmental scientists continue testing to make sure. The Environmental Protection Agency's on-scene coordinator, Curtis Kimbel, is focused on keeping the petroleum from the reservoir. Responders also want to finish cleaning up before bird migration heats up in the next two or three weeks.

Related Links

- [Diesel spill at Willard Bay much worse than previously thought](#)
- [Diesel spill closes portions of Willard Bay State Park](#)
- [Hero beavers of Willard Bay spill on mend at wildlife center](#)
- [Diesel spill at Willard Bay much worse than previously thought](#)

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/56035876-78/diesel-leak-bay-chevron.html.csp>



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MEXICO, TAMAULIPAS, REYNOSA, MARCH 24 2013. ANOTHER REFINERY EXPLOSION REPORTED IN CD. MADERO TAMAULIPAS



Explosion at a PEMEX refining facility in Cd. Madero Tamaulipas sent flames shooting more than 200 feet into the air according to witnesses. No injuries were reported.

This afternoon a major explosion was reported in a refinery belonging to the Mexican national oil company PEMEX in Cd. Madero Tamaulipas. Cd. Madero is in southern Tamaulipas state close to Tampico on the Gulf of Mexico. The explosion occurred around 14:30 this afternoon causing a major mobilization of emergency rescue personnel, firefighters and Army units which had the facility evacuated within half an hour of the explosion and the grass fires in the perimeter pastures extinguished shortly thereafter. No injuries have been reported so far by officials on the scene despite the large concentration of ambulances still waiting. Workers from the plant via social networks are reporting that temperatures in Tank #3 in the coke processing area of the plant got above 400c causing the explosion but again, officials are not talking. More on this breaking story as it becomes available and if it contains anything of special interest.

<http://mexicotrucker.com/another-refinery-explosion-reported-in-cd-madero-tamaulipas>

USA, CA, SANTA ROSA, MARCH 24 2013. COAL TAR FOUND IN ABANDONED SANTA ROSA AVENUE TANK THOUGHT SAFE

kevin mccallum

When workers dug up two rusting steel underground storage tanks from beneath the parking lot of 111 Santa Rosa Avenue in 2006, Joan Fleck noticed something curious. Fleck, an experienced regulator for the North Coast Water Quality Control Board, observed that the tanks appeared to have been "tucked in" with a bed of gravel and covered by a layer of sand. It was as if someone had uncovered the tanks and piping while grading the site, covered them back up and built a parking lot on top of them. "They were exposed at one point," Fleck said. "Someone had to have seen them to drape this gravel blanket over the top of them." Whether anyone knew about those two tanks at the time of the development of the office building in the 1989 may never be known. Hal Musco, the managing partner of the group that developed the property, died in 1993. Richard Colombini, a partner in the group and local commercial builder who built the four-story office building, said he never knew about the tanks back then. "Had we known they were there, we would have dealt with it," Colombini said this week. "We had no idea in hell that all these tanks were in the ground." But he and other did know about a third tank, one that regulators believe wasn't dealt with properly and continues to contribute to the contamination on the property. Colombini recalls that during the excavation work for the parking lot, workers reported running into a long steel tank on the southern portion of the site, very close to a high-pressure gas line. Records show that in February of 1989, David Lampi, a son-in-law of Musco, requested a hazardous waste permit from the Santa Rosa Fire Department to allow the tank to be abandoned in place. Such requests are made when removal is not feasible and today are rarely granted, said Scott Moon, Santa Rosa's Fire Marshal. The section of the permit asking about the amount and nature of material in the tank reads "unknown." Fire inspectors granted the permit with one condition: "abandon and fill with inert material (concrete/sand slurry)." Colombini, a Santa Rosa native who at 81 still works in the dark-paneled Healdsburg Avenue office his firm Colombini Construction has occupied since the early 1960s, said he recalls that holes were cut into the tank and he believes the material inside was tested. The work was likely done by Musco's company, Musco Petroleum, he said. He understood the material had been determined to be sand, Colombini said. "I didn't personally test it," he said. Seeing no need to remove the existing material, a mixture of sand and slurry was pumped in to fill the rest of the tank and the parking lot was built as planned, Colombini said. He insisted that all work was done "by the book" and approved of by city officials. "Whatever the regulations were, we met them," he said. Musco long maintained the tank had been properly abandoned in place, something Fleck called "a story told repeatedly in the environmental documents prepared for the site," she said. There's just one problem. Years later the 11,000-gallon tank has been found to be "filled with coal tar," a toxic residue of the coal gas manufacturing process, according to a study by Terra Pacific, PG&E's environmental engineering firm. Shown the 2010 report, Colombini said he had never seen it and couldn't explain how coal tar came to be in a tank that was supposed to have been filled with inert material. PG&E officials said they



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don't know either. The removal of the tank and surrounding contaminated soils remains one of the biggest challenges for PG&E as it pursues the cleanup of the property. Hans Herb, an attorney who has worked on underground tank issues in Sonoma County for 25 years, said Musco was very knowledgeable about toxic properties, but that he often spoke of stricter environmental regulations at the time as "a bunch of hooley." "He was the kind of guy who probably looked at that site and said 'This is not a big deal,'" Herb said.

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20130323/ARTICLES/130329762/1036/business?Title=Coal-tar-found-in-abandoned-Santa-Rosa-Avenue-tank-thought-safe>

USA, CT, WESTON, MARCH 24 2013. DANGEROUS WATER: WELL CONTAMINATION 'A STATEWIDE PROBLEM'

kate king



Jessica Penna holds a pitcher of water in her Weston home on Thursday, January 31, 2013. Penna's home has well-water which is contaminated with arsenic and Penna believes the arsenic has caused her health problems.

The Westport-Weston health department will hold a public meeting with state health officials on well water contamination at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 11 at the Weston Public Library. [Jessica Penna](#) and [Elle Wilson](#) spent three years undergoing a battery of medical tests, searching for answers they now believe were floating in their well water all along. The Weston mothers suffered similar symptoms: hair loss, stomach and joint pain, body numbness and skin rashes. After shelling out thousands of dollars on blood tests, CAT scans, skin biopsies, ultrasounds and even a brain scan, they decided to test their well water. It turned out arsenic, in levels more than twice the federal Environmental Protection Agency's recommended health limit of 0.01 milligrams per liter, had been flowing from the two women's taps -- and they're not alone. The [Connecticut Department of Public Health](#) has received numerous reports in recent years of pesticide and heavy metal contamination in residential drinking water across the state. But the state has done little research on the source or location of well water contaminants such as arsenic, and requires the testing of private drinking water only once -- when a new well is installed. "I have been sick for three years; I've been searching for answers," said Penna, a Stamford native. "Most people associate well water with natural springs. It's the best water, it's so clean. It's so healthy. You think that you're fine."

'A Statewide Problem'

Penna and Wilson's test results convinced them their health problems are linked to years of drinking and bathing in arsenic-laced water. "To finally have an answer that was in my well water all along -- I never thought that all my symptoms were connected to the same thing," Penna said. "I just thought I was falling apart." Penna and Wilson live in the same wooded neighborhood of rural Weston, where the majority of the town's 10,000 residents use private well water. The [Weston Field Club](#), about four miles away, also recently tested positive for elevated arsenic levels, said General Manager [Jeff Champion](#). Weston residents rushed to test their own well water after hearing of Penna and Wilson's findings, and 104 homeowners have reported their results to the Westport-Weston Health Department, Director [Mark Cooper](#) said. About 30 percent of the wells tested positive for arsenic in levels above the acceptable health limit. Arsenic contamination is not confined to Weston's borders. Stamford's health department detected arsenic in 24 of 227 well water tests performed since 2010. The state DPH has also found the heavy metal in drinking wells across Connecticut, most recently in Pomfret and Somers, said state epidemiologist [Brian Toal](#). "We've seen enough of it and it's been in enough different places that we do think -- it's an isolated, it's a sporadic problem -- but it is a statewide problem," Toal said. The state has not investigated the scope or severity of arsenic contamination, however, even though the heavy metal has been linked to serious health problems. There are an estimated 400,000 private wells in Connecticut serving approximately 526,700 people, but it's not known how prevalent arsenic is in residential well water. "We don't have a statewide database and we have not done a statewide survey," Toal said. "The testing that occurs is usually just citizen-initiated." Skin, stomach, immune and neurological problems are common symptoms of arsenic exposure. These health issues are usually associated with very high levels of arsenic contamination and hair loss is not a common side effect, Toal said. The main health concern stemming from long-term arsenic exposure is an elevated risk of lung, bladder or skin cancer. The [state public health department](#) recommends homeowners with high levels of arsenic in their well water stop drinking from the tap until they've installed remediation systems on their homes. Metal oxide filters or reverse osmosis procedures are typically used to treat arsenic contamination, but homeowners should consult a water service professional to determine which method would work best for their house, Toal said.



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Searching for Answers

Wilson's family has lived in their 19th-century farmhouse for three years. They stopped drinking the water about a year ago, after several family members began experiencing stomach pain. A water sample taken from Wilson's kitchen and analyzed by [Aqua Environmental Laboratory](#) in Newtown contained 0.021 milligrams of arsenic per liter, which is twice the recommended health limit. Wilson then sent samples of her family's hair out for analysis -- her five-year-old daughter's hair tested positive for high arsenic levels, she said. "It's one thing if you know as an adult that you could possibly get cancer or be sick," Wilson said. "But for your children to possibly get cancer is what I'm not sleeping over." Health officials believe arsenic enters private well water from the surrounding bedrock. State [Geologist Margaret Thomas](#) said naturally-occurring arsenic is found in rocks that contain iron sulfites, which are prevalent in New England. "It's actually a quite beautiful mineral to see, it's sparkly and silver, but that is one of the primary carriers of arsenic in the bedrock," Thomas said. The state has not studied the location or extent of arsenic-containing bedrock, although it would be possible to do a geographic analysis based on geologic mapping, Thomas said. Arsenic was also historically used as a pesticide, mainly in apple orchards. "The issue with arsenic is always that lingering question of whether or not it has to do with historic pesticide application or whether it's naturally occurring in the rock," Thomas said. "It is worth investigating, but regardless of the source it's still not a constituent you would want to be drinking." Penna, a mother of three young children whose home was built in the 1960s, moved to Weston eight years ago. Her once-thick hair has since fallen out in clumps -- she was able to fill a plastic sandwich bag with brown strands collected from the drain after one shower. She decided to test her well water after other Weston mothers reported similar hair loss. "I think the hair was the first thing that linked us all together because it was such a traumatizing thing," Penna said. "Then as we started talking together and comparing our symptoms; we were just checking all the same things off the list." The water sampled from Penna's kitchen sink and analyzed by Aqua Environmental contained arsenic in amounts equal to 0.022 milligrams per liter, more than twice the acceptable health limit. Another raw water test performed a month later by Stratford-based Complete Environmental Testing Inc. found similar arsenic levels -- 0.024 milligrams per liter. Penna installed a water filtration system, but wanted to know if the metal was present in her body after years of drinking her well water. She consulted several doctors and toxicologists but had a hard time finding someone who could test her for arsenic poisoning. "I spoke to six different toxicologists across the state," Penna said. "It was mind-boggling to me that the medical treatment and research wasn't there to help me." She eventually visited a Westport natural pathologist, who sent a sample of her hair to a [Georgia laboratory](#) for analysis. The results revealed high arsenic levels, with her hair sample testing positive for 1.16 micrograms per gram -- well above the recommended limit of 0.15 micrograms per gram. "This might sound strange but when I read it I was jumping for joy at the fact that it said I have arsenic poisoning," Penna said. "This has been a mystery for me for three years ... now I know what the problem is and I can move forward to treat it." A fact sheet published on the state health department's website said urine and hair arsenic tests are "difficult to interpret and, according to the [American Medical Association](#), are unreliable." The best way to investigate arsenic exposure is to test drinking water, according to the publication.

Spreading the Word

But homeowners won't know to test their wells for arsenic if public health officials don't alert them, Penna and Wilson said. The state DPH does not require private well owners to test their water for arsenic and other known toxins, such as pesticides, copper and radon. The department didn't even recommend statewide arsenic testing until last week, when it issued a news release recommending all homeowners test their well water every five years for arsenic and uranium. "If levels are found to be higher than state or federal criteria, homeowners have a number of effective treatment options to lower levels of the metals to less concerning levels," Toal wrote in the March 18 release. "The cost for testing for both metals can range between \$65-\$100." Penna said she doubts homeowners will really be aware of the issue unless the state requires periodic testing. "If I hadn't gotten sick and done the research and learned to test for these contaminants I never would have known that they exist," Penna said. "Unless the state made private well owners aware of the contaminants -- aware of what can be in their well and let them know to test for it -- no one would know to test for it." The state requires tests of private drinking water only once -- when the well is installed -- and arsenic is not on the list of contaminants laboratories are mandated to test for under the state Public Health Code. The code requires new wells to be tested for total coliform, nitrate, nitrite, sodium, chloride, iron, manganese, hardness, turbidity, pH, sulfate, apparent color and odor. Requiring homeowners to test their wells more frequently or changing the health code to encompass a wider range of contaminants would require legislative approval. "That would be a long process and something we can think about, but that's not something we could do unilaterally," Toal said. The General Assembly's Environmental Committee chairman said he is open to exploring the issue. State Sen. [Ed Meyer](#), D-Guilford, said he would support expanding the list of contaminants that laboratories are required to test for when new wells are installed.



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Mandating more frequent testing of private drinking water would be a tougher bill to pass, however. "There would be some controversy about expanding the (frequency of) testing on the grounds that there's an expense involved and that's sort of a private right because it's a private source of water," Meyer said. "But I can't see any controversy with respect to expanding the list of contaminants." State health officials are looking to boost the public's awareness of arsenic contamination, Toal said. Earlier this year the public health department updated its fact sheet, "Arsenic in Private Drinking Water Wells," which it sent to local health officials and posted online. "Hopefully we'll get out and do some publicity in the near future," Toal said. "We changed the fact sheet a month ago and we're stepping up our efforts." Penna and Wilson said they think health officials should be doing more. "I just have a feeling nobody knows about this," Wilson said. "You buy a house, you're excited about the house. You don't even think about the water. I would never know to test for arsenic -- never in a million years." Mark Cooper, the health director for Weston and Westport, said the department recommends private homeowners test their wells every year. He is creating a map with the test results homeowners have reported, which will be made public, and plans to hold a joint meeting with state health officials on arsenic contamination next month. "The private testing, it's blown me away by how many people have gone out and done it by themselves and have been willing to share the results," Cooper said. "It's been wonderful. We now have more test results than we know what to do with." Weston First Selectwoman Gayle Weinstein, a Democrat, warned the town will not be footing the bill for private well water testing or filtration systems. "It is the homeowner's responsibility to test the well water and then remediate it," she said. Penna and Wilson said they don't expect the government to pay for their well water testing or hook their homes up to city water -- they just want more public education about water contamination. "We're taking care of ourselves," Penna said. "I think for both of us it was just important to reach out to the rest of the community and let them know that this is a problem. We just didn't want anyone else getting sick." Penna is using Facebook to urge other Weston mothers to test their well water. Some residents have responded with fear that a contamination finding could hurt their property values, she said. "I think that our health should come first and I don't think it should affect property values because it's a problem that can be fixed so long as you know it exists," Penna said. "My fight is to let other families and all the towns that have well water -- not just Weston -- become aware of these contaminants that are in their wells."

Fear Factor

Assuaging property value fears and changing the way local and state health officials approach water contamination will not happen overnight, said Stamford resident [Karen DeFalco](#). DeFalco, president of the North Stamford Concerned Citizens for the Environment nonprofit, was an early advocate for municipal and state intervention in 2009 after the carcinogenic pesticides chlordane and dieldrin were discovered in North Stamford drinking wells. Stamford's public testing program, which has tested more than 1,000 of the city's estimated 5,000 private drinking wells over the last year, has helped local and state officials learn more about pesticide contamination and inspired other testing across Connecticut. "When we started the fear was insurmountable; it was huge," DeFalco said. "People didn't know what to do with it. They were fearful. The city wasn't giving any answers; the state wasn't giving any answers. But now as we have started to keep the dialogue going, all of the sudden the fear factor has subsided." In the meantime, Penna said she plans to test her water quarterly. There's a whole list of other contaminants Penna has yet to check her well for. Her sister, who lives in Newtown, has already tested her home's water and discovered her radon levels are 18,000 picocuries per liter -- more than three times the state-recommended limit of 5,000 picocuries per liter. "I personally think there's probably more than just arsenic in our water," Penna said. "But until I have money to test ... I won't know what's in it."

<http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/Dangerous-water-Well-contamination-a-statewide-4379731.php>

SOUTH KOREA, GUMI, MARCH 24 2013. MIXED ACID LEAKED FROM LG SILTRON PLANT IN GUMI

Mixed acid has leaked from the LG Siltron plant in Gumi, raising concerns that the agents may have polluted the nearby area, local government authorities said Saturday. The leak of hydrofluoric, nitric and acetic acids that took place late Friday marks the second time this month that the wafer company reported such an incident. The first incident took place on March 2. Investigators at the industrial city located 261 kilometers southeast of Seoul said that event occurred when a pipe used to ship waste water from a semiconductor wafer production line experienced a minor rupture, causing the mixed acids to leak. A company employee who reported the leak said he smelled something strange and found a very small crack in the pipe. There were a total of nine people near the ruptured pipe but no one was hurt. He said that the total amount of acid leaked could fill a paper cup and caused a 30-centimeter-wide discoloration on the plant floor. LG Siltron, meanwhile, said that it reported the



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incident immediately to the fire department, with authorities checking to see if there was any environmental damage, and to and determine why the leak occurred in the first place.

Related Links

- [Acid Leak Reported at S. Korean Plant](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/yonhap-news-agency/130323/lg-siltron-acid-leak)

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/yonhap-news-agency/130323/lg-siltron-acid-leak>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, TUTICORIN, MARCH 24 2013. PANIC AFTER GAS LEAK IN TUTICORIN

Tension prevailed in Tuticorin city and surrounding villages as an unspecified gas allegedly leaked from some factories here, causing mild suffocation, sore throat and irritation to several people on Saturday morning. Around 6 am, some gas started spreading and the air was heavy with it till 8 am. Residents in Shanmugapuram, Damodaran Nagar, P & T Colony, Teachers Colony, Doovi Nagar and KVK Nagar in the city and surrounding villages like Meelavittan, Korampallam, Madathur, Anthoniarpuram and Veerapandiapuram felt uncomfortable with something in the air and soon developed cough and suffocation. As the news spread, panic-struck people covered their faces with hand kerchiefs. In areas like Shanmugapuram and Damodaran Nagar, it was alleged that the leaves of the plants and trees started withering away due to the leakage. "I could feel that the air was somewhat acidic. I also felt irritation while breathing when I went for the walk and many of my friends also complained the same," commented S Pechimuthu, a resident. Upon hearing the news, district administration swung into action deploying medical teams in the affected areas. Teams led by RDO and DRO and the officials from the [Pollution Control Board](#) carried out inspection in the factories in Tuticorin. The team collected the environmental parameters at the units during the duration of the gas leak. Initially, it was speculated that the gas leaked from Sterlite Copper and there were protests against the industry. However, the factory sources said that they had closed the plant for maintenance for the last two days and the production started only by 10 am on Saturday. District administration sources stated that it was minor incident and the gas had not caused any major discomfort. It caused some itching and sore throat but no one has been hospitalised with serious ailments due to the leak. The medical teams inspected the affected areas, official sources said. Addressing the media, district collector, Ashish Kumar confirmed that some gas leaked causing discomfort. "Officials are inspecting the source of the leak and the type of gas that escaped into atmosphere. Strict action will be taken against the parties involved once the inspection reports are in hand," he said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/Panic-after-gas-leak-in-Tuticorin/articleshow/19159428.cms>

USA, WI, HUDSON, MARCH 25 2013. HUDSON GOLF COURSE WORKER DIES AFTER DRUM EXPLOSION

Hudson police say a golf course worker may have been lying on the floor in a pool of his own blood for several hours before he was found Friday afternoon. 35 year old Chad Wang was hurt when the sealed 55-gallon drum he was working on exploded at the Hudson Golf Course. Wang was using an acetylene torch at the time. The explosion caused the lid on that drum to shoot up and hit him in the head, causing severe injuries. A UPS driver found the worker from Spring Valley, Minnesota, semi-conscious.

<http://wtaq.com/news/articles/2013/mar/24/hudson-golf-course-worker-found-dead-after-explosion/>

USA, N.C, GREENSBORO, MARCH 28 2013. TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS >> I-85 BUSINESS SOUTH TO REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL 8 P.M.



Fire and emergency personnel work to get the driver out of a tanker truck that overturned Wednesday morning.

All lanes of I-85 business south will remain closed near Vickery Chapel Road until 8 p.m., following a Wilco tanker truck that overturned around 10:45 a.m. today. The crash is still being cleaned up and troopers with the N.C. Highway Patrol are investigating the crash. The tanker truck was carrying 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel. The driver of the truck was taken to a hospital about 11:30 a.m. Traffic is being detoured to the Vickery Chapel Road exit to bypass the scene and rejoin I-85 Business South via the on-ramp from Vickery Chapel Road.

<http://www.news-record.com/home/970475-63/update-i-85-business-south-to>



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USA, MI, SPRING LAKE, MARCH 25 2013. NORTH SHORE MARINA BOAT OWNER: IT WAS AGAINST THE RULES TO WORK ON BOATS INDOORS >> MARINA EXPLODES; CATCHES FIRE

stephen kloosterman

 **Watch the Video** [Grand Haven Marina Explodes; Catches Fire](#)

 **Photo's [10]** [North Shore Marina fire in Spring Lake March](#)



A man seriously burned when the boat he was working on exploded at North Shore Marina on Saturday likely wasn't following the facility's safety rules, according to a fellow boat owner.

The fire, which spread to three boats and took hours for firefighters to control, ignited just before 11 a.m. March 23 at North Shore Marina in Spring Lake. North Shore Marina customer Ken Kuzma, who has boats stored elsewhere on the property, said it's against marina rules to work on boats indoors. "That's a rule for the marina," he said. "You can clean and that sort of thing, but not repairs. It's just too dangerous, because of things like this." Kuzma, who lives nearby to the marina, had walked over to see who had been hurt in the fire and if the building on fire was the one that contained his two boats. He was relieved to discover the boats were safe, but said his main concern was the person who had been hurt. After using the marina for 25 years, "you get to know a lot of the people," he

said. Concerned boat owners were joined by a few curious onlookers who assembled at the scene. Among the first to arrive was Ferrysburg's Devin Miles, who arrived at the scene before several of the emergency responders. "Everyone got on the scene pretty quickly," said Miles, who admitted to being a bit of a "thrill seeker."

 **Related Links** [Man seriously burned in boat explosion, fire at North Shore Marina in Spring Lake](#)

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2013/03/north_shore_marina_boat_owner.html

NIGERIA, KANO, MARCH 28 2013. NIGERIA: TANKER FIRE KILLS TWO IN KANO

lawan danjuma adamu

Two tankers laden with petroleum products collided yesterday morning near Kabuga Housing Estate along Gwarzo Road in Kano metropolis, killing two people. The vehicles were driving into the state in a convoy when the incident happened at the area popularly known as Janbulo, police and fire service officials said. Operations Officer of Kano State Fire Service Kasim Musa said the fire had started when the tanker at the rear collided into the other. The officer also said the driver and one other person were trapped and burnt to death inside one of the vehicles. "The flames would have engulfed nearby buildings, but for the doggedness of our men who put it out," he said, explaining however that "roofing of the houses were affected." Daily Trust learnt that huge flames and dark smoke rose skywards from the burning tankers and were spotted faraway, as the vehicles burnt to ashes. Residents in the area told our correspondent that intense heat emanating from the fire forced many people to abandon their homes, fearing they could be gutted. Contacted, Kano State Police Command spokesperson, ASP Musa Magaji Majia, said there was no casualty in the incident, adding that all the occupants of the two tankers had fled the scene before they went off in flames.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201303270253.html>

USA, KS, SALINA, MARCH 28 2013. FEDS OK KANSAS AIR FORCE BASE CLEANUP SETTLEMENT

The federal government has agreed to pay 90 percent of the cost of developing a plan to clean up toxic groundwater pollution at a former [U.S. Air Force](#) base in central Kansas, according to court documents filed Tuesday. The [Department of Justice](#) has signed a settlement agreement that requires the government to pay \$8.4 million toward developing the plan to clean up the industrial solvent TCE at the former [Schilling Air Force Base](#) in Salina, according to the documents. Payment for implementing the cleanup plan hasn't yet been negotiated. Salina officials previously had signed off on the first phase of the settlement agreement, which still requires U.S. District Judge [Carlos Murguía](#)'s approval before it becomes final. "It's been a long time coming and another step in a long journey, a definite milestone," [Tim Rogers](#), executive director of the [Salina Airport Authority](#), said Tuesday. TCE, now a known carcinogen, had been used to clean weapons at military bases like Schilling, which Salina acquired when the base closed in the mid-1960s. Salina officials, the Salina Airport Authority, the [Salina school district and](#)



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Kansas State University-Salina filed a federal lawsuit in Kansas City, Kan., in 2010 to recoup the cost of cleaning up the pollution. The cleanup previously had been the federal government's jurisdiction. Salina officials said in the lawsuit that the TCE and other compounds have "migrated into the soils" under residential areas near the former base. The steps in the first phase include a remedial investigation, a feasibility study and a cleanup remedy, which are estimated to be about \$9.3 million all together. The Salina public entities in the case will pay about \$936,300. The [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) is expected to oversee the cleanup process and approve the remediation plan. Salina City Manager [Jason Gage](#) said the settlement arrangement is unusual and perhaps among the first times the federal government has agreed to pay for cleaning up pollution at a former defense site. The money, which will be given to the state in a lump sum, will ensure that the cleanup gets done rather than having it "languish somewhere in the purgatory of environmental cleanups," he said. The Department of Justice declined to comment on the case Tuesday. The Salina Airport Authority said on its website that the cleanup project will have its own website so area residents can monitor its progress.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Feds-OK-Kansas-Air-Force-base-cleanup-settlement-4385648.php>

USA, ILL, RANDOLPH CO, MARCH 28 2013. FATAL PROPANE TANKER CRASH, EXPLOSION

 Watch the Video [Fatal Propane Tanker Crash, Explosion](#)

 Photo's [10] [Fatal Propane Tanker Crash, Explosion](#)



State police have now identified both drivers involved in the crash. Mickey E. Clayton, 55, of Franklin, Illinois, was the driver of propane tanker that crashed into a coal truck driven by Randy Edwards, 48, of Pinckneyville. Police say Clayton died in the crash, but Edwards was able to escape without injury. An explosion happened about an hour after the accident. "Flames were shooting up about thirty feet in the air, and the roar sounded like a jet engine from the propane burning off," said Larry Willis with Randolph County Emergency Management. He says more than 40 firefighters battled the initial fire from the crash, but the fuel caught fire again. "The propane reignited and you could see the propane trailing into a drainage ditch," said Willis. "Thank God the firemen

knew that because they took cover, and it wasn't thirty seconds later that the propane tank exploded." The fire shut down County Line Road to traffic and knocked out power to nearby Knight Hawk Coal forcing the mine to send workers home.

<http://www.wsilvtv.com/news/local/Fatal-Propane-Tanker-Crash-Explosion-200109141.html>

INDIA, KARNATAKA, CHANNARAYAPATTANA, MARCH 28 2013. 6 KILLED AS TANKER COLLIDES WITH AMBULANCE



Six people, including a patient, were killed and two injured when an ambulance they were travelling by collided with a bitumen-laden tanker at Kattarighatta Gate on National Highway 48 in the taluk on Tuesday morning. It was a tragic end for 40-year-old Jessi from Kanjiganad village in Kottayam district in Kerala and her husband, ajikumar (50). Sajikumar had decided to shift his wife Jessi, who was undergoing treatment for an ailment in Sri Satya Saibaba Hospital in Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh, to Mangalore as it would be nearer home. They hired the services of Kumar Ambulance from Bangalore. Both vehicles were clipping at high speed and it was evident as the ambulance was dragged for 40 metres after the impact and was badly damaged. While the ambulance was perched on the road median, the tanker fell into a ditch, injuring its driver badly. The other deceased have been identified as ambulance driver Shekhar (22) from

Sakleshpur in Hassan district, Sumanth (28) and Ravi (24) of Margodanahall village in KR Nagar taluk of Mysore district and Eldos Mathews (24) of Chalakudy in Kerala. The tanker driver, whose name is not known, and Hariprasad from Anandashrama in Kasargod, who was in the ambulance, are undergoing treatment in Hassan district hospital. Police rushed to the spot and helped in rescue operations. Superintendent of Police Amit Singh visited the spot.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/321960/six-killed-tanker-collides-ambulance.html>



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USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 28 2013. OIL PLATFORM OWNER SUED OVER NOV. 16 EXPLOSION



Two workers were killed, another is still missing and three more are still hospitalized with severe burns following an explosion and fire Nov. 16, 2012, on this oil platform, located about 35 miles southeast of Grand Isle, owned by Houston-based Black Elk Energy.

Relatives of two victims of [a deadly explosion](#) on an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico are suing the platform's owner and operator. A federal lawsuit filed Monday by Ellroy Corporal's widow accuses Houston-based Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations LLC of negligently exposing workers to dangerous conditions. The bodies of Corporal and another worker, Jerome Malagapo, were recovered from the Gulf after the Nov. 16 explosion. A third worker, Avelino Tajonera, was critically burned and died at a hospital a week after the blast. The suit claims oil vapors ignited when workers cut into a pipe connected

to tanks that should have been depressurized and purged before any construction work on the lines. Lawyers for Corporal's widow also sued Black Elk Energy last month on behalf of Tajonera's widow.

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2013/03/oil_platform_owner_sued_over_n.html

USA, CA, SAN BERNADINO CO, MARCH 28 2013. GOODRICH CORP. TO HELP CLEAN UP PERCHLORATE IN RIALTO GROUNDWATER

phil willon

Total cost to all entities to clean up a giant plume in San Bernardino County could exceed \$100 million. The contamination is left over from various manufacturing operations starting in the 1940s. The Goodrich Corp. has agreed to pay at least \$21.5 million to help clean up a giant perchlorate plume contaminating groundwater in the Rialto and Colton areas of San Bernardino County caused by Cold War-era munitions plants, federal authorities said Tuesday. The total cleanup cost of the 160-acre Superfund site could exceed \$100 million, with Goodrich, the [U.S. Department of Defense](#) and other firms responsible for the contamination picking up the tab, according to the [Environmental Protection Agency](#). The perchlorate and other hazardous substances leached into the groundwater on a site where firms had manufactured munitions, rocket propellant and, later, fireworks starting in the 1940s. The contamination forced the small, blue-collar city of Rialto to shut down some of the city wells and import clean water. Arrowhead Regional Medical Center — a major trauma hospital in the region — also shut down one of its wells because of the pollutants. "It's good for Rialto, obviously. We will have cleanup orders in place and therefore the contamination will be removed from the water," said Rialto City Atty. Jimmy Gutierrez. "It's not the endpoint. There's money in the pot, but the cleanup has yet to start." Perchlorate is known to cause ailments including thyroid problems and, potentially, cancer, and is particularly dangerous to pregnant women, according to federal environmental authorities. A study by the California Department of Public Health in 2012 found that drinking water supplied to Rialto residents between 1979 and 1997 may have contained perchlorate in high enough levels to affect thyroid glands. It also found that drinking water supplied between 1981 and 1988 to some customers of the West Valley Water District, which provides water in Rialto, Colton and Fontana, may have contained perchlorate and other contaminants but could not determine if it was in high enough levels to be harmful. Under the agreement announced Tuesday, Goodrich must install monitoring wells and continue groundwater and soils testing at the Superfund site. Once the results of that testing are in and the degree of contamination is known, the EPA will develop a comprehensive cleanup plan for the company. Cleaning up the site is expected to take 30 years or more, said EPA project manager Wayne Praskins. Praskins said another firm found responsible for the contamination, Emhart Industries, already has agreed to cleanse the groundwater of the hazardous pollutants — a process expected to cost about \$40 million. The water, once treated and determined to meet all federal drinking water standards, will be piped into the Rialto city water supply, he said. Under the consent decree, the EPA agreed to propose changing the name of B.F. Goodrich Superfund Site to the "Locust Avenue Superfund Site." Officials from Goodrich, which combined with another firm and is now known as [United Technologies Corp.](#), could not be reached for comment. Federal officials also have entered into settlement agreements with other companies found responsible for the contamination, including Emhart, Pyro Spectaculars Inc. and KTI Inc. From 1957 to 1962, Goodrich Corp. operated on the site north of Rialto where it researched and made military ordnance, including solid rocket propellants. Perchlorate was used in those manufacturing operations. Goodrich and other firms operating on the site



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also contaminated the soil and groundwater with the solvent trichloroethylene, which could cause damage to the nervous system, liver and lungs.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-rialto-perchlorate-20130327.0.6270898.story>

USA, MT, BILLINGS, MARCH 28 2013. EXXON FINED \$1.7M FOR YELLOWSTONE OIL SPILL

The US Department of Transportation has fined Exxon Mobil Corp \$1.7 million over pipeline safety violations relating to a 2011 oil spill in the Yellowstone River, regulators have said. Exxon's Silvertip pipeline, which carries 40,000 barrels per day of crude in Montana, leaked about 1,500 barrels of oil into the river in July 2011 after heavy flooding in the area. Exxon has previously said the accident cost the company about \$135 million. "The risk of flooding on Yellowstone River was a known threat that could cause the pipe in the river to lose physical support and potentially rupture," the US Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration said in a report on Monday. In January, it said the spill would have been about two-thirds smaller had company workers responded quickly. Exxon has 30 days to contest the violations in the notice. Exxon could not be reached immediately for comment by Reuters.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/770897.shtml#UVNklxz-GM4>

USA, N.H, CONCORD, MARCH 28 2013. JURORS TAKE PHOTOS AS MARATHON NH TRIAL NEARS END

lynne tuohy

Testimony has ended in the longest trial in New Hampshire's history, and the jurors who've been together since Jan. 14 bolted not for the doors but for their cameras. They wanted to mark the occasion with a group photograph. The jurors will begin deliberating next week over whether Exxon Mobil Corp. should pay the state of New Hampshire hundreds of millions of dollars to monitor and treat private wells and public drinking supplies contaminated by the gasoline additive MTBE. Clearly with advance permission from [Superior Court](#) Judge [Peter Fauver](#), they returned to their usual seats in the jury box after handing cameras and iPads to lawyers from both sides who reveled in the role of paparazzi. Final arguments in the case are scheduled for next week.

<http://www.chron.com/news/science/article/Testimony-ends-in-marathon-NH-gas-additive-trial-4388692.php>

USA, MO, PORTAGEVILLE, MARCH 28 2013. GASOLINE SPILL CLEANUP CONTINUES

Work continued Tuesday to clean up a gasoline spill. At 7:15 a.m. Monday, a transport was filling up tanks at Johnson 66, at the corner of Huffman and Main streets, when a valve came loose on a tanker. According to assistant fire chief George DeLisle, the gasoline spilled on the pavement and along the streets. Officials with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources were alerted about the spill and the streets were closed to traffic. The gas station is owned by Chrisman Oil Co., DeLisle said. Pertinent address: Huffman Street and Main Street, Portageville, Mo.

<http://www.semissourian.com/story/1953482.html>

RUSSIA, ST. PETERSBURG, MARCH 28 2012. SHELL UNIT TO BUILD DEPOT, SUPPLY FUEL TO ST. PETERSBURG AIRPORT

anatoly temkin

Royal Dutch Shell 's venture with Russia's OOO Aerofuels Group will invest \$5 million in a fuel storage depot at St. Petersburg's Pulkovo Airport as it begins supplying jet fuel to Russia's third-biggest airport. ZAO Shell will build the kerosene depot with a capacity of 40,000 tons in the third quarter of this year, said Paul Cluett, the venture's general director, at a briefing in Russia's second-biggest city today. The venture would cut into the fuel-supply monopoly of ZAO Sovex, a joint venture of OAO Lukoil (LKOH) and OAO Gazprom Neft (GAZ), by supplying as much as 10 percent of the airport's fuel needs, said Sergei Emdin, the general director for Pulkovo operator OOO Northern Capital Gateway. Sovex sold about 420,000 tons of fuel to the airport in 2012, Emdin said. Pulkovo is "attractive with high-speed development," said Cluett. "The company expects to enter other regional airports in Russia." Russian airports handled 166.8 million passengers in 2012, 17 percent more than a year earlier, according to the Transportation Ministry. Pulkovo handled about 11 million passengers, 16 percent more than in 2011.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-03-27/shell-unit-to-build-depot-supply-fuel-to-st-dot-petersburg-airport>



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USA, FLA, ST. PETERSBURG, MARCH 29 2013. MAN FALLS TO HIS DEATH INSIDE AN EMPTY TANK AT NORTHWEST WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

alison morrow

Watch the Video's:

- [Man Falls to His Death Inside an Empty Tank](#)
- [Sky 9 video from the scene: Man dies at water treatment plant](#)

Photo's [5]:

- [Man Falls to His Death Inside an Empty Tank](#)



St. Petersburg Fire Rescue is investigating a deadly fall at the Northwest Water Treatment Facility. According to SPFR, a 52-year-old man fell about 30 feet into an empty tank at the facility located on 26th Ave. N and 75th Street around 11:15 a.m. The victim died as a result of the fall. SPFR Lt. Joel Granata told ABC Action News that the man was a subcontractor performing maintenance work on the walls of the tank, which can hold five million gallons of water. "Some of the workers with him realized that he actually fell off the scissors jack platform," explained Lt. Granata. "When we got here, the victim was at the bottom of the tank. He'd fallen about 30 feet." A handful of other crew members were standing on the base of the tank when he fell. They tried to revive him using CPR. "But due to the severity of his injuries, it was trauma that was unsurvivable," Lt. Granata said. Officials say the man, who worked for Spectrum Contracting in Naples, was not wearing a safety harness. The incident is now

under an OSHA investigation

Related Links

- [Man dies at St. Petersburg water facility](#)
- [Man dies after falling 30 feet at St. Petersburg water treatment facility](#)
- [Worker falls to his death at St. Petersburg water plant](#)

http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region_pinellas/man-falls-to-his-death-inside-an-empty-tank-at-northwest-water-treatment-facility

USA, CO, PARACHUTE, MARCH 28 2013. BENZENE IN MONITORING WELLS AT PARACHUTE CREEK PLUME SITE >> TOXIC CHEMICAL FOUND AT LEVELS THOUSANDS OF TIMES HIGHER THAN STATE SAFETY MAXIMUMS

john colson

Officials late on Thursday reported detecting the toxic hydrocarbon chemical benzene — at levels that are thousands of times higher than state safety standards for exposure to the chemical — in water samples from monitoring wells near Parachute Creek. According to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), the test results are from three monitoring wells between Parachute Creek and a "recovery trench" dug by Williams Midstream, owner of a nearby gas processing plant and the lead company working to contain a suspected, but as yet undetected, leak. The creek itself, however, has not been contaminated, according to reports from Williams and from the COGCC. Water samples taken from the creek by both entities showed no signs of hydrocarbon contamination, as of reports issued on Thursday. The monitoring-well test results, as reported by Williams, showed benzene at a range of 5,800 parts per billion (ppb) to 18,000 ppb in the wells, according to a statement released at 6 p.m. Thursday by the COGCC. The maximum level of benzene considered safe for human exposure, according to the COGCC statement, is 5 ppb. Benzene is a known carcinogen, linked most commonly to leukemia and other types of cancer of the blood, according to the website, cancer.org. Benzene also is known as a Volatile Organic Compound that often is associated with oil and gas drilling activities. The monitoring wells were located between the creek and a recovery trench, which was dug by Williams to gather and remove leaking hydrocarbons and water from the plume. The wells were roughly 30 feet from the creek, according to the COGCC. On Thursday evening, Williams was reportedly drilling new monitoring wells at a distance of 10 feet from the creek, to provide a clearer image of the plume's impact on the groundwater. The COGCC and its consultants, according to its statement, believe Parachute Creek to be a "losing stream" in hydrological terms, meaning the creek recharges the groundwater in the area, rather than vice-versa, so water flows away from the creek.



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The COGCC statement also maintained that the act of pumping liquid hydrocarbons and water out of the recovery trench "is enhancing groundwater flow away from Parachute Creek." Officials in the nearest town to the plume, Parachute, have said they are not anticipating any negative effects from the plume on the town's drinking water, because the intake is on the Colorado River upstream from the confluence of the river and the creek. The plume of hydrocarbon-drenched soil was found on March 8 and Williams has reported the extraction of 143 barrels (or more than 6,000 gallons) of unspecified hydrocarbon compounds and at least 3,600 barrels (or more than 153,600 gallons) of contaminated water. The plume was discovered by Williams crews preparing the ground for an expansion of a nearby natural-gas processing plant, working in a 40-foot right of way crossing land owned by WPX Energy, a natural-gas drilling company. Both firms are offshoots of Williams Production RMT, which split in two last year. The size of the plume, estimated to be 200 feet long, 70 feet wide and perhaps 14 feet deep, has not changed since it was first discovered, according to Williams.

<http://www.postindependent.com/article/20130329/VALLEYNEWS/130329877/1083&ParentProfile=1074>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 28 2013, UTAH GOVERNOR SAYS CHEVRON LEAK IS UNACCEPTABLE



A series of spills from ruptured pipelines operated by Chevron Corp. has Utah's governor calling for more oversight. Gov. Gary Herbert left no doubt about his displeasure Thursday when asked about the latest spill at a monthly televised news conference. He said the federal agency responsible for interstate pipelines isn't doing its job and that Utah will step up its own efforts to ensure pipeline safety. The pipeline ruptured last week at Willard Bay State Park, spilling diesel fuel into marshes. It was Chevron's third pipeline leak in Utah in the last three years. Another pipeline leak sent crude oil rushing down into a Salt Lake City creek in 2010. Months later, the same pipeline ruptured again. Each pipeline leak involved a spill of 21,000 or more gallons of crude oil or fuel. "If anything's

been disappointing in the past couple of weeks, it's been this Chevron oil spill," Herbert said Thursday. "This is just not acceptable. We need to take a more proactive stance." Herbert said his state departments of commerce and environmental quality are looking to hold Chevron more accountable. "With interstate pipelines, that's a federal responsibility of the Pipeline Hazardous Material Public Safety Administration — which is a mouthful to say — but that's their responsibility, and obviously they've not done a very good job of overseeing the pipes that travel between our states," said Herbert, a Republican. "This is just not an acceptable situation. We will make sure that Chevron does what it needs to do to clean this mess up." State officials are crediting a beaver dam for helping contain the fuel spill at Willard Bay State Park, but it left a family of beavers with petroleum burns. The beavers were rescued and are being doused three times a day in hourlong baths with Dawn dish soap to remove diesel fuel from their fur. Chevron said Thursday that it had more than 130 people working in a round-the-clock cleanup operation. "Chevron Pipe Line Co. regrets this incident and we are committed to remediating the affected area and mitigating all impacts on the environment," company spokesman Gareth Johnstone said in a statement. "Safety and environmental protection are core values for Chevron, and throughout this incident we continue to work with state and federal authorities." The Pipeline Hazardous Material Public Safety Administration says it ordered Chevron to ensure safety before it restarts the pipeline. "We are investigating the cause of the failure and we will carefully monitor the activities of Chevron Pipe Line Co. as we move forward with our enforcement efforts," said Jeannie Layson, a spokeswoman for the Pipeline Hazardous Material Public Safety Administration. Chevron was fined more than \$400,000 for the two earlier pipeline spills. It also paid a \$4.5 million settlement to Utah and Salt Lake City and spent millions more cleaning up the first of three oil spills in 2010 that fouled Red Butte Creek, said Art Raymond, a spokesman for Mayor Ralph Becker. "Chevron remains on the hook for any further cleanup if somebody turns over a rock and finds oil residue," Raymond said.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/03/29/utah-governor-says-chevron-leak-is-unacceptable/>

USA, ORE, WOOD VILLAGE, MARCH 29 2013. GRESHAM NITRIC ACID SPILL PROMPTS HAZMAT CALLOUT

A nitric acid spill at a plating company Thursday morning forced the evacuation of an industrial complex in Wood Village. The hazardous spill occurred at about 11 a.m. at the [Advanced Precision Anodizing](#) in the Wood Village Business Park, located in the area of Northeast 244th Avenue and Halsey Street. According to Gresham Fire Department officials at the scene, nitric acid was being transferred from one tank to another when a chemical reaction occurred causing some sort of explosion. No one was exposed, and there were no injuries. One man was transported to a nearby hospital for stress. The entire business



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park, which consists of four buildings in a large lot, was evacuated. As of 12:30 p.m., a Gresham fire hazmat crew was still examining the scene.

<http://www.koinlocal6.com/news/local/story/Gresham-nitric-acid-spill-prompts-hazmat-callout/HpvQbaIGn0eVxn-BSHV22A.csp>

CANADA, ONTARIO, MARCH 28 2013. ONTARIO COURT REJECTS DAMAGE RECOVERY IN CONTAMINATION CLAIM, ADOPTING A STRICT ANALYSIS THAT MAY HINDER FUTURE CLAIMS

In *Midwest v. Thordarson* (Midwest) [2013 ONSC 775](#), the Ontario Superior Court of Justice dismissed a property owner's claim for damages for remediation costs stemming from the alleged migration of contaminants from a neighbouring property. Somewhat surprisingly, the Court adopted a restrictive damages analysis in the context of private nuisance, concluding it is not enough to establish that contaminants can pass or even have passed from one contaminated property to another. Nor is it enough for a plaintiff to establish that contaminants present on the property exceed Ministry of the Environment (MOE) criteria. According to the Court, if a party purchases contaminated land and claims damages against its neighbour, the purchaser must demonstrate that, during the tenure of its ownership, the level of contamination actually increased as a result of the neighbouring owner's actions. Whether the Court's more restrictive analysis of a plaintiff's burden of proof will be adopted in other decisions remains to be seen. In *Midwest*, the plaintiff Midwest Properties Ltd. (Midwest) brought a claim for damages for nuisance, negligence, punitive damages and for statutory compensation under section 99 of the Ontario Environmental Protection Act (EPA) against the owner of the adjacent property, Thorco Contracting Limited and its principal, John Thordarson (collectively, Thorco). Thorco had used its property as a storage site for petroleum hydrocarbon (PHC) waste since 1973. During testing on Midwest's property (which occurred after the purchase by Midwest had been completed), experts retained by Midwest discovered certain pockets of PHC contamination in exceedence of applicable MOE guidelines. The MOE ordered Thorco to investigate and remediate Midwest's property. However, despite the remediation order, Midwest also brought a claim for damages against Thorco for the cost of a proposed remediation that they developed in consultation with their experts. Midwest relied on – and the Court accepted – expert evidence concluding that groundwater flowed from Thorco's property to Midwest's property and that contamination on Thorco's property would necessarily migrate onto Midwest's property. However, Midwest could neither establish when the contamination occurred, nor, specifically, whether that contamination had occurred before or after Midwest had purchased the property in 2007. When Midwest bought the property, it conducted a Phase I environmental site assessment (ESA) but did not test the soil or the groundwater, so evidence establishing the condition of the property upon purchase was not available to the court. Midwest argued that proof of contamination on its property was sufficient to establish liability against Thorco, and that Midwest needed only to establish that its remediation plan was reasonable. Midwest also argued that it should not have to wait for Thorco to comply with a MOE cleanup order to be compensated for its damages, and that there was no guarantee Thorco would ever comply.

Statutory Claim for Damages

The Court first examined Midwest's claim for statutory compensation under section 99 of the EPA, holding that the presence of contamination, by itself, was not enough to establish "loss or damage." Rather, a plaintiff must introduce evidence of loss or damage "such as actual loss in property value or its inability to use its property or operate its business on its property, or business losses." No such evidence was adduced. Equally, the Court was reluctant to recognize that Midwest had suffered a loss given that the MOE had ordered Thorco to remediate Midwest's property; the Court reasoned that Midwest would receive a "double recovery" if it was awarded damages equivalent to its proposed remediation costs and then Thorco cleaned up the contamination pursuant to the MOE order. Midwest's concerns about delay or non-performance of the MOE order were not addressed by the court.

Private Nuisance & Negligence

In dismissing Midwest's claim in nuisance, the Court noted, "There is no evidence that Midwest acquired a property which was not already damaged (as there is no evidence of the environmental state of the property when it was acquired)." As a result, in the court's view, Midwest could not establish that "any chemical alteration in the soil and groundwater has occurred in its property." The Court found that "[i]f Midwest purchased a contaminated property it must prove that there has been an increase in the contamination level of property caused by the Defendants." According to the Court, Midwest could not prove that its property had actually been damaged. Of significance, Midwest had not taken any legal action against the vendor of the property or against the environmental company it had retained to conduct the Phase I ESA. Similarly, Midwest's failure to establish actual damage on its property proved to be fatal to its claim against Thorco in negligence.



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Discussion

This decision provides helpful insight into the evidentiary requirements that a court may impose when assessing claims for damages stemming from the migration of contaminants between neighbouring properties. It may not be enough to establish that contaminants can pass (or have actually passed) from a contaminated property to a neighbouring property. Rather, according to this decision, if a party purchases contaminated land and claims against its neighbour for damages, the purchaser must demonstrate that, during the tenure of its ownership, the level of contamination actually increased as a result of the neighbouring owner's actions. Furthermore, a plaintiff must lead evidence to establish an actual loss in property value, an inability to use its property or operate its business on its property, some business losses, or some other physical manifestation of harm. It is not enough to demonstrate the presence of contaminants in excess of MOE guidelines to successfully establish "loss or damage". The Court's restrictive damages analysis is somewhat surprising given the accepted expert evidence that contaminants had migrated from Thorco's property to Midwest's property and given the MOE's order against Thorco to remediate Midwest's property. Although not specifically expressed in the decision, perhaps the Court was concerned that Midwest did not investigate the actual condition of the property through a Phase II ESA before completing its purchase, and that, by failing to do so, Midwest was deemed to have accepted the condition of the property at the time of purchase. Essentially, Midwest got what it bargained for. Whether the court's strict application of the plaintiff's burden of proof will be adopted in other decisions remains to be seen.

<http://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=8b00e2d8-10d7-4429-92f0-4cd2c35dbe9a>

USA, MN, PARKERS PRAIRIE, MARCH 28 2013. TRAIN DERAILMENT SPILLS 15,000 GALLONS OF OIL IN MINNESOTA



Crews at the scene of a Canadian Pacific train derailment that spilled thousands of gallons of crude oil near Parkers Prairie in western Minnesota on Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

Crews were working Thursday to clean up 15,000 gallons of oil that spilled onto a Minnesota field after a mile-long train derailed. It was not immediately clear whether the Canadian Pacific train was transporting oil from the Alberta tar sands, but the spill will add fuel to the debate over the controversial Keystone XL pipeline. Frigid temperatures helped contain environmental damage after 14 train cars fell off the tracks and three began leaking oil on Wednesday. "The site is still frozen and covered with quite a lot of snow, which helped prevent any oil from moving down the ditch or soaking into the

soil," said Dan Olson of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. "The accident currently poses no threat to either surface or ground waters," he said, but warned the chill had also made it harder to collect the oil, which has thickened into a tar-like consistency mixed with snow. Crews are digging up the oily snow and piling it into a lined ditch until it can be hauled away, which will likely not happen for another day or two. It will take a few weeks to drain the oil from 11 of the derailed tanker cars because they need to be heated with steam before crude can be pumped out. The cause of the accident has not yet been determined but the line was reopened on Thursday after track repairs and a full inspection, Canadian Pacific said. The mixed-freight train, with a total of 94 cars, originated in Alberta and was bound for the Chicago area. A spokesman for Canadian Pacific told AFP he did not know if the oil came from the province's tar sands or from conventional drilling sites. The spill had initially been estimated at 20,000 to 30,000 gallons. No injuries were reported as a result of accident, which was in a rural area about a mile north of Parkers Prairie in west central Minnesota, the Otter Tail county sheriff's office said. Environmental activists are preparing to flood an April 18 public hearing in Nebraska to discuss the controversial \$5.3 billion Canada-to-Texas Keystone XL pipeline. The US State Department released a draft environmental impact statement on March 1 suggesting the rerouted pipeline, which would transport some 830,000 barrels a day, would have no major impact on the environment. Critics contend the heavy tar sand oil would be nearly impossible to clean up if it were to spill into one of the more than 1,000 waterways that will be traversed by the pipeline, because it sinks instead of floats.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h1NRn3RbZUJLXlcA5ANgiHtM9q1w?docId=CNG.729121c923c48bbdd05d82654ead12d4.31>



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