



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2013 – 952 Newsy Stuff

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

**April 24 2013**



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#### CHINA, SHANGHAI, APRIL 15 2013. MAJOR COURIER FIRMS ON PUNISHMENT LIST

Major courier and logistics firms including UPS, DHL Shanghai and local YTO Express were on a list of companies that were punished by China's civil aviation operator released over the weekend. The companies were cited for transporting dangerous goods without reporting them between February and December of 2012. YTO was warned and fined 60,000 yuan (US\$9,690) in December for mixing dangerous goods with normal cargo and failing to train workers properly to handle dangerous goods, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said in a statement. The Shanghai Qihao Shipping Agency received the same punishment with the YTO. The UPS Shanghai branch was warned and fined 29,000 yuan twice, in April and November of last year, for transporting dangerous cargo listed as normal goods, while DHL Shanghai was fined 29,000 yuan, the administration said. Hainan Airlines and Yan'an Airport in northwest China's Shaanxi Province were warned for failing to transport dangerous cargo according to regulations. Thirteen other domestic logistics and delivery firms were also punished, according to the statement. "There have been an increasing number of violations involving dangerous cargo of the air-freight safety code in China because many parts and sections are involved in the transportation process," the administration said. In December, five courier firms, including four Shanghai firms, had their licenses for air-freight services suspended within three weeks for breaking the air-freight safety code. The Shanghai couriers - Yunda, YTO, Huixing and Qihang courier firms - had their licenses suspended for a year because they failed to report inflammable materials in their cargo, including in one case two lithium batteries that caused a small fire on a China Southern flight after it landed. "All membership carriers of the association should refuse to transport cargo for the four couriers during the suspension," the China Air Transport Association, which represents China's airlines, has said.

<http://english.eastday.com/e/130415/u1a7324527.html>

#### CANADA, OTTAWA, APRIL 15 2013. WHY YOUR GARAGE COULD POSE A HEALTH THREAT

angela mulholland

 **Watch the Video** CTV News Channel: [New cancer threat?](#) [Deborah Schoen explains why a chemical that can be found in your garage is now being considered a cancerous risk.]



*If you have a garage attached to your house, you could be at higher risk of developing leukemia or other forms of cancer. Health Canada has expressed concern that benzene from car exhaust and other fumes could be entering homes. It's now working on guidelines to help homeowners prevent the toxic gas from seeping into their homes. Benzene is a volatile organic compound, or VOC, that's found naturally in crude oil and thus in gasoline and vehicle exhaust.*

There are already low levels of benzene in the air all around us due to air pollution from motor vehicle exhaust. But now Health Canada wants to make our homes safer. Most Canadians know about the risks of carbon monoxide in

their homes, but many aren't as familiar with the risk of benzene exposure. Deborah Schoen, the head of Health Canada's indoor air section, says the agency has conducted studies measuring levels of the gas in homes across Canada. Those studies found that the levels were generally low, whether the houses had attached garages or not. "On average, benzene levels in houses with attached garages are three times higher than of other houses," Schoen told CTV News Channel this week from Ottawa. Most drivers know not to run their vehicles after entering and closing the garage. What they may not know: after a car is turned off, the engine will continue to emit benzene into the air as it sits in the garage. As well, the paints and solvents that many homeowners store in their garage also emit benzene as they slowly evaporate. Schoen says that for the most part, the risk of long-term health effect is not high. "The cancer risk is extremely low. But Health Canada and the World Health Organization and the European Commission recommend people reduce their exposure to benzene as much as possible," she says. "So for this reason, Health Canada advises people to reduce benzene exposure as much as possible." Studies have shown that benzene can definitely cause problems if people are exposed to high levels over long periods of time. Workers in industrial settings exposed to high levels of benzene have been shown to have a much higher risk of leukemia. Benzene is dangerous because of the damage it can do to the blood. It causes bone marrow not to produce enough red blood cells, while also damaging the immune system by not creating enough white blood cells. Thanks to regulations brought in in the 1990s that reduced the amount of benzene in gasoline, Canadians' exposure to benzene has been dropping in recent decades. But Schoen says it's important to keep looking for ways to reduce our exposure to the gas even further, which is why



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Health Canada is focusing on the indoor air quality of homes with attached garages. The guidelines are expected to advise homeowners to never idle a vehicle inside a garage, but to let it warm up outside. "People might open the garage door and figure that's enough," Schoen said. But even with the door open, a range of pollutants from vehicle exhaust— not just benzene but carbon monoxide and other pollutants— accumulate when you idle your car in an attached garage." The next step should be to seal the walls and ceiling between the garage and home. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. provides a fact sheet on the risks of attached garages and offers these recommendations for minimizing the transfer of garage air to the home:

- Make sure the weather stripping around the door to the garage is continuous and in good shape.
- Have spray foam insulation installed to seal the wall between the house and garage. Then drywall can be installed over top to further reduce air leakage.
- A similar approach can be taken to seal the ceiling space between the garage and any rooms above. This will also help reduce energy costs and keep the floors warmer.
- Another approach involves installing an exhaust fan to vent garage air to the outside. The fan would also help depressurize the garage relative to the house, thereby preventing air movement from the garage to the house, even if leaks exist.

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/health/why-your-garage-could-pose-a-health-threat-1.1235704>

### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, FISKVILLE, APRIL 16 2013. SUBJECT TO CLEAN-UP AFTER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY PROBE

*stephen drill & ruth lamperd*



*CFA Fiskville Cancer Story. Main Entrance Sign With 'Hazchem' Warning.*

The Country Fire Authority's notorious Fiskville training base will be subject to a four-year clean-up following an Environment Protection Authority probe. The watchdog has raised concerns about hazardous materials kept on site, and the potential for water downstream from Lake Fiskville to be contaminated with toxic chemicals. It is the EPA's first crackdown on Fiskville, and the CFA could be fined \$600,000 if it does not comply with the clean-up notices. The burning and storage of toxic chemicals at Fiskville has been linked to the cancer-related deaths of more than 20 people. And concerns about the dams at Fiskville led to the CFA switching to mains water to put out training fires. The CFA said last night work on diverting a creek around Lake Fiskville was already under way, and added that the site was safe. But former CFA chief fire officer Brian Potter, who lifted the lid on the Fiskville scandal, questioned the CFA's claims of safety. "We

get these assurances from the CFA that Fiskville is safe and pristine, but the Environment Protection Authority is telling us it isn't," he said. One of the EPA notices, seen by the Herald Sun, orders the CFA to clean up, treat, remove or contain contaminated soil, sediment and waste on the site. It has set a 2017 deadline for this work to be completed. The second demands the CFA clean up contaminants that may have leached into the ground and into nearby Beremboke Creek. EPA authorised officer Tim Turnbull reported hazardous waste appeared to be on site. "I . . . am satisfied that industrial waste or a potentially hazardous substance appears to have been abandoned or dumped," he wrote. "I have formed the view that this non-compliance, or likely non-compliance, must be remedied." The EPA reports were on January 23. On March 5, replying to a question on notice in Parliament, then emergency services minister Peter Ryan wrote to Labor emergency services spokesman Jane Garrett, declaring the site safe. "To have made such a definitive statement . . . in light of the . . . report is deeply concerning," Ms Garrett said. United Firefighters Union secretary Peter Marshall said the CFA was exposing firefighters to unacceptable danger: "This is outrageous and reckless conduct, and they must be held to account." The CFA acknowledged in a blog entry on January 23 that the EPA had been investigating the site, but made no mention of the notices. CFA chief executive Mick Bourke did not say why the CFA did not release the EPA notices when it received them, but he said last night that Fiskville remained safe and that EPA oversight concerned matters related to historical training practices. Les White, a spokesman for Mr Ryan, said WorkSafe had advised again yesterday that it was comfortable with training at the site.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/the-country-fire-authoritys-fiskville-training-base-subject-to-clean-up-after-environment-protection-authority-probe/story-e6frf7jo-1226621120681>



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#### USA, ORE, KLAMATH FALLS, APRIL 16 2013. OIL CONTAMINATION



Four workers were laid off from the local branch of a Portland-based oil refining company after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered the disposal of 150,000 gallons of contaminated oil. The layoffs at Industrial Oil on Laverne Avenue were part of a company-wide reduction in staff at Oil Re-refining Company (ORRCO) due to the cost of disposing of the oil contaminated with PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, which emanated from two collection facilities in Eugene and Tooele, Utah. In a lawsuit against the two facilities, ORRCO owner Bill Briggs is claiming proper inspection standards to identify PCBs in oil were not carried out, which resulted in contamination of the trucks carrying the tainted oil. That was in 2010. It took three weeks to discover the original 9,000-gallon shipments were contaminated, and by then, the tainted oil had touched collection facilities in Klamath Falls, Portland and Utah. By the time the trucks were cleaned, 650,000 gallons of oil were rendered useless and in violation of

the Toxic Substances Control Act, which prohibits diluting, blending or mixing PCBs with other liquids. PCBs are carcinogenic chemicals that were banned in the U.S. in 1979, but they're still found in the environment and old electrical equipment, used oil and hydraulic systems. The chemicals don't easily break down and can remain for decades in air, water and soil. They also can accumulate in plants and food, as well as small organisms and fish. Those exposed to PCBs face high risks of cancer and other health effects. The substance looks and smells like oil, and is only revealed with a lab test, according to Briggs. Incineration of the oil costs \$4.26 per gallon. Overall, Briggs had to lay off 43 workers and lost about \$8 million. The EPA negotiated a settlement with the company that requires all 150,000 gallons to be incinerated by October 2016 or face a \$450,000 penalty. The plant in Klamath Falls was reduced by about a third, and, even if the lawsuit is successful, those jobs likely won't be back, Briggs said. Briggs said he had plans to introduce wood processing at the plant in the next two or three months, which could add up to three jobs to the facility. ORRCO collects used hydraulic and motor oil from businesses throughout the Northwest and turns it into new oil products.

[http://www.heraldandnews.com/members/news/frontpage/article\\_cb58822e-a4c5-11e2-bf51-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.heraldandnews.com/members/news/frontpage/article_cb58822e-a4c5-11e2-bf51-001a4bcf887a.html)

#### USA, CALIFORNIA, RICHMOND, APRIL 16, 2013— CSB DRAFT INTERIM REPORT ON 2012 CHEVRON FIRE NOTES COMPANY FAILED TO APPLY INHERENTLY SAFER DESIGN THAT COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE ACCIDENT

 [Document Chevron Draft Interim Report for Public Comment](#)



Missed opportunities to apply inherently safer design, failure to identify and evaluate damage mechanism hazards, and the lack of effective safeguards culminated in the vapor cloud release and massive fire that occurred

at the Chevron refinery on August 6, 2012, [a draft report by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board](#) (CSB) has found. The investigation team concluded that enhanced regulatory oversight with greater worker involvement and public participation are needed to improve oil refinery safety. The report, subject to a Board vote at a CSB public meeting in Richmond on Friday, April 19, notes that Chevron repeatedly over a ten-year period failed to effectively apply inherently safer design principles and upgrade piping in its crude oil processing unit that was extremely corroded and ultimately ruptured on August 6, 2012. The ensuing release of hydrocarbons endangered 19 workers who narrowly escaped from a vapor cloud before it ignited, causing a fire that sent a plume across the area. 15,000 people sought medical treatment in the weeks following the accident. The [public meeting](#) to consider the draft report is scheduled for Friday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium and Convention Center, 403 Civil Center Plaza, Richmond. The meeting will include a detailed presentation by CSB investigators, a computer-animated video recreation of the incident, a stakeholder panel discussion, and a public comment period. The CSB investigation team proposed to the Board urgent recommendations, including that at all its refineries, Chevron perform damage mechanism hazard reviews and ensure safeguards are in place to control identified hazards. Reporting of process safety indicators to enable more effective oversight by federal, state, and local regulatory agencies is also urgently recommended. The refinery is located in the city of Richmond; a Contra Costa County community located about ten miles northeast of San Francisco. A series of recommendations are proposed to the mayor and city council of Richmond,



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and the Contra Costa County supervisors, aimed at strengthening the local Industrial Safety Ordinance and driving the risk of major accidents as low as reasonably practicable. The report recommends the governor and legislature of the State of California create a multi-agency program for all California oil refineries to improve the public accountability, transparency and performance of process safety programs. And the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was urged to assist the state to monitor the effective implementation of programs designed to improve oil refinery safety and disclosure requirements the CSB is recommending to the state and local agencies. CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "Improved worker involvement, company transparency, and public participation are needed to prevent these major industrial accidents. Our findings and recommendations are directed immediately at the accident in the Bay Area, but we believe they apply to all refineries, chemical plants and general industry. There is a national need to base safety principles on inherently safer designs and applying effective safeguards to control damage mechanisms such as sulfidation corrosion. And we find that to prevent chemical accidents, regulatory agencies must maintain sufficient professional expertise to effectively oversee these highly technical industries." The CSB investigation team determined that although Chevron policy calls for the use of inherently safer technology in design and upgrades, the company has been implementing changes – such as the critical metallurgy of piping – without any documented, thorough analysis of the proposed inherently safer solutions. The investigators wrote, "Without such a review, the material selected cannot be analyzed to determine if it is the best inherently safer solution for the process in order to minimize risk." The report continues, "Chevron has repeatedly failed to implement the proposed inherently safer recommendations." Had this been done, the investigation team concluded, the accident could have been prevented. The CSB investigation team determined that had Chevron followed its own internal recommendations, or been required by local, state or federal regulation to implement inherently safer systems during repairs, it would have years ago upgraded critical crude unit sidecut piping from carbon steel to metallurgy more resistant to sulfidation corrosion – metal deterioration caused by the presence of sulfur compounds at high temperatures in the crude unit. Such a material upgrade could have prevented the accident. Even when rebuilding the crude oil unit after the August 2012 release and fire, the CSB report notes, Chevron did not install what the CSB considers inherently safer stainless steel piping in the destroyed distillation tower, choosing instead, with no documented inherently safer technology review, an alloy called 9-Chrome that is more corrosion-resistant than carbon steel but less resistant than stainless steel. The report notes this was despite the fact that the company did install stainless steel piping in the 4-sidecut section of the distillation tower in a nearly identical refinery unit in El Segundo, California in 2001, considering it to be the safest material. CSB Chairperson Dr. Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "Although the sulfidation corrosion hazard is well known throughout the industry and at Chevron, the company unfortunately overlooked multiple warnings including other accidents and its own internal recommendations to replace the pipe with an inherently safer alloy that could endure the corrosive process conditions. Among other recommendations, we will be voting Friday to urge regulators to require the application of inherently safer design principles at multiple points during the process life cycle, which will drive major accident risk to as low as reasonably practicable." Industrial safety ordinances in both Richmond and Contra Costa County jurisdictions, the report found, have language addressing the desirability of using inherently safer processes, material, and other technology, but do not require it. Furthermore, the report states, the existing regulations do not require documentation supporting the adequacy of existing "inherently safer" claims, so Chevron did not have to document its evaluation and decision to not upgrade the 4-sidecut pipe section that ultimately failed. At a higher regulatory level, the report notes that neither the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), nor federal OSHA, which delegates employee safety regulation to the state, requires inherently safer processes to be utilized in any standard or regulation. Nor does either agency require damage mechanism reviews – such as corrosion – as part of formal efforts to identify and control hazards. Such reviews have been recommended by overseas regulators in the United Kingdom, the report notes. After reviewing local, state, and federal rules and regulations, and examining the capabilities of regulators, the CSB investigation team determined that Cal/OSHA is under-resourced to adequately oversee the refinery industry in California. The report notes that between 2006 and the date of the August 2012 Chevron accident, Cal/OSHA conducted three planned inspections of the Richmond refinery, totaling only 150 inspector hours of effort. The report contrasted those inspections with federal OSHA refinery National Emphasis Program inspections between 2007 and 2011 that lasted roughly 1,000 inspector hours. When federal OSHA established its Process Safety Management or PSM standard in 1992, even more intensive Program Quality Verification facility audits were planned, but these were rarely done due to inadequate resources. The investigation team will report further on this and other related regulatory issues in its final report scheduled for later in 2013. The CSB report emphasizes the importance of open communications between facilities and local communities concerning chemical safety and chemical risks. The report discusses the requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986, and



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notes that "along with provisions of the EPA's Risk Management Program, the regulatory purpose and substantive provisions emphasize the importance of transparency, sharing of process safety data, and public participation to prevent chemical accidents." The CSB interim draft report comprehensively details the corrosion process that led to the pipe failure, and the sequence of events that transpired during the emergency response following the discovery of a leak on August 6, 2012. The investigation found Chevron should have shut down its crude oil unit as soon as a relatively small leak of "gas oil" was detected by workers, dripping from the 4-sidecut 8" pipe, rather than continuing to operate while troubleshooting the problem. Nineteen workers – including a Chevron firefighter -- narrowly escaped death or serious injury as they were engulfed in the highly flammable vapor cloud. The continued burning of the hydrocarbon process fluid resulted in a large plume of unknown particulates and vapor traveling across the area. In the weeks following the incident, approximately 15,000 people from the surrounding area sought medical treatment for ailments including breathing problems, chest pain, shortness of breath, sore throat and headaches. Approximately 20 people were admitted to hospitals for treatment. The CSB determined that Chevron's procedure for dealing with such leaks was to shut down the unit and then troubleshoot. But this was not done. Instead, a group of operations managers, engineers and technicians – attempted to find the source of the leak with the intent of placing a clamp device over the pipe to stop it. To find the leak, firefighters were instructed to pull off insulation which was tightly wound and banded around the pipe. A pike pole was used at first to stab at the insulation; this likely resulted in puncturing a hole in the pipe which was already so corroded, the CSB found, it was 40% thinner than the thickness of a dime. As they were then pulling off insulation with a hook, hydrocarbon vapor released from underneath the insulation and caught fire. Firefighters quickly put out the flames, and then turned high pressure water on the insulation in a further attempt to remove it. But as the insulation peeled away, hot hydrocarbon liquid began to spray out. A decision was made to shut the unit down, but it was too late. Suddenly the pipe ripped open. A vapor cloud formed and rapidly expanded, as the large amount of hydrocarbons in the distillation tower started to vent through the ruptured pipe. The vapor cloud immediately spread over hundreds of feet, engulfing all 19 people who had gathered nearby. The firefighters and operators struggled to escape through the dense hydrocarbon cloud, unable to see. They had to feel their way out, some on their hands and knees. Two minutes after the vapor cloud formed, it ignited. A firefighter in a fire engine was able to escape through the wall of fire in full protective gear. The CSB determined the carbon steel piping had been originally installed at Chevron in 1976. This type of piping is especially susceptible to corrosion from hydrocarbons containing sulfur. The CSB found this is especially true if the piping happens to low in the element silicon. The CSB draft report notes that in the ten years prior to the incident, Chevron personnel with knowledge and understanding of sulfidation corrosion made at least six recommendations to increase inspection or upgrade the metallurgy in the 4-sidecut piping. These were in 2002, 2006, 2007, 2009 and twice in 2011, including during the maintenance turnaround which immediately preceded the 2012 release. However, the recommendations made by these personnel were not implemented by Chevron management, the CSB found. For example, the CSB learned that sulfidation corrosion had caused a major failure at Chevron's refinery in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2002. Chevron then performed an enhanced inspection of the 4-sidecut pipe at the Richmond refinery. It revealed accelerated thinning on the piping section that would ultimately fail in 2012. Replacement was recommended, but this did not occur, and the section of piping was never inspected again. During the maintenance turnaround of the crude unit in 2011, Chevron inspectors examined some – but not all – locations along the 4-sidecut and found significant thinning. Some sections were replaced. However, the critical section of 4-sidecut piping was not. The report notes the turnaround management team decided the inspection data available for the piping – which was from piping elbows – did not support a material upgrade. The CSB found, however, that piping elbows are less susceptible to sulfidation corrosion, and that data should have gathered on potential corrosion from the straight sections of the 4-sidecut. Chairperson Moure-Eraso said, "These missed opportunities to upgrade the piping that ultimately failed shows the need for significant improvements in controlling hazards such as corrosion. The recommendations we are proposing in this report will, I feel, greatly add to the safe operation of all U.S. refineries in this key industrial sector." This interim report focuses on mechanical integrity issues and effective accident prevention safeguards, but this accident also implicates organizational and regulatory issues that are still under investigation. The CSB is working on a final report, anticipated later this year, that will present key additional findings and recommendations as well as addressing emergency planning and reporting, emergency response, and safety culture. The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

[www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov)



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### INDIA, GOA, MARGAO, APRIL 16 2013. NAPHTHA LEAK FROM TANKER TRIGGERS PANIC AT BALLI

Panic gripped residents of Balli village on Sunday morning after a tanker carrying naphthalene turned turtle at a sharp turn meters away from the Panchayat Ghar. Traffic on the NH-17 between Balli and Canacona was closed for for around six and half hours as a precautionary measure as the leaking tanker triggered panic in the locality. The incident occurred at around 8.30 am when the tanker carrying around 14 tons of highly inflammable naphthalene turned turtle after the driver lost control over the vehicle while negotiating a sharp turn. The tanker was heading to Vasco to deliver the consignment to Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, sources said. After receiving the information, Cuncolim police stopped traffic from plying on the highway and diverted the traffic to Canacona via the Balli four road junction. Fire services which rushed to the spot tried to control the leakage by spraying foam on the tanker as inflammable liquid was oozing out from the lids of the vehicle. Around 60 litres of foam were used by the fire services to contain the damage, before company officials came on the spot and plugged the leakage only at around 12 pm. Around half-a-ton to one ton of naphthalene is believed to have leaked from the tanker, but fortunately there was no water body or stream adjoining the highway, which could have made matters worse for the agencies, remarked Fire Officer Gill De Souza. It took much time for the authorities to tow the ill-fated tanker since the crane requisitioned for the salvage operation could not meet the requirements and an SOS was dispatched to requisitioned a heavy duty crane to tow the vehicle. It was only at around 3 pm that the tanker was removed from the site and taken to the Cuncolim police station premise and the highway was finally thrown up for traffic at around 3.30 pm. After ill-fated tanker was lifted, around three to four trucks of trucks of mud was dumped at the spot to cap the site as a precautionary measure.

<http://oheraldo.in/News/Main%20Page%20News/Naphtha-leak-from-tanker-triggers-panic-at-Balli/73231.html>

### INDIA, PIPILI, SRIKANTHAPUR, APRIL 16 2013. 1 KILLED, 10 HURT IN FIRECRACKER BLAST NEAR PIPILI

One person was killed, while 10 youths were injured, three of them seriously, in an explosion while making firecrackers at Srikanthapur village near Pipili on Sunday. The condition of the three, who were reported to have lost some of their vital body parts in the explosion, was critical. They were indentified as SatyaBehera, TukuBehera and FakiraBehera. The deceased was identified as SukantBehera. The mishap occurred when the victims were preparing high-intensity crackers for a festival of village goddess Maa Ankulei Thakurani, police said. "They were filling up hollow bamboo sticks with gunpowder when the explosion occurred," said Pipili police station inspector Ratnakar Mallick.

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-04-15/bhubaneswar/38555148\\_1\\_ratnakar-mallick-pipili-crackers](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-04-15/bhubaneswar/38555148_1_ratnakar-mallick-pipili-crackers)

### USA, N.Y. ALBANY, APRIL 16 2013. LEAK SENDS THREE TO HOSPITAL .. COLLEGE SAYS HYDROGEN PEROXIDE WAS MISTAKENLY LOADED IN MACHINE BY THE JAPANESE MANUFACTURER

*larry rulison*

 **Watch the Video** [3 Taken to Hospital after Hydrogen Peroxide Leak](#)



*Albany Fire Department and Five Quad ambulance check out possible victims at the Albany Nano Tech center at the University at Albany Monday morning April 15, 2013, in Albany, N.Y. where a hydrogen sulfide leak occurred.*

Three people moving a large computer chip manufacturing machine into a new building at the [College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering](#) were sent to the hospital Monday morning after hydrogen peroxide leaked from the equipment. The workers, employees of [Arnoff Moving & Storage](#), were rigging the machine on a loading dock at the NanoFab X building when the leak was discovered. A mistake by the machine's manufacturer in Japan was to blame for the incident, according to NanoCollege spokesman [Steve Janack](#). He said the machine,

which is about the size of a small pickup truck, was shipped loaded with a solution of 30 percent hydrogen peroxide, which can cause severe burns to the skin and lung irritation in high concentrations. The household version, which is commonly used to disinfect cuts, contains just 3 percent of the chemical. The machine, which is called a "tool" in the semiconductor industry, cleans silicon wafers as they move through the chip-making process, which includes hundreds of steps using different metals, chemicals, gases and ultra-pure water. However, tools are typically loaded only with purified water when they are shipped and there were no warning labels on the packaging indicating otherwise, Janack said. Albany Fire Chief [Robert Forezzi](#) said five people were exposed to the chemical solution, but only three needed medical evaluation for minor injuries. Four were Arnoff employees. The fifth was an IBM employee. IBM is part of what is known as the Global 450 Consortium, a group of the world's



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largest chip companies that are working with the college to set up a pilot chip manufacturing line in the 50,000-square-foot clean room inside NanoFab X. Arnoff, which has experience in moving semiconductor equipment, is one of the subcontractors on the project. Janack said the equipment was not damaged and will be installed as planned. However, he added that a review will take place with the manufacturer, DNS Electronics, "so such a mistake never happens again." The G450C, as it is called, is dedicated to a next generation of computer chip manufacturing using silicon wafers that are larger than today's wafers. The larger wafers, which are 18 inches in diameter versus the 12-inch wafers used in today's chip factories, require larger tools and larger clean rooms. New York state set up the consortium, which has dedicated \$4.8 billion over the next five years to the project.

<http://www.timesunion.com/business/article/3-treated-after-spill-at-Nanotech-4435001.php>

#### **PHILIPPINES, CEBU CITY, APRIL 16 2013. OIL SPILL HALTED; CAPSIZED VESSEL TO BE SALVAGED**

With the capsized MV Maria Angelica Grace scheduled to be salvaged this week, the Philippine Coast Guard-Cebu station said any threat of an oil spill posed by the vessel had been contained. "There's no threat anymore to the waters since the oil leaking from the vessel had been siphoned already," Coast Guard-Cebu chief Winiel Azcuna said yesterday. Azcuna said they siphoned 4,000 out of 8,000 liters of fuel from the capsized vessel. He said the other half of the fuel may have been consumed prior to the incident nearly two months ago. The spillboom placed within the vicinity of the vessel was removed by the salvor company Uni Orient Pearl Venture Inc. after the oil was siphoned off. The ship's windows, doors and ramps were also sealed off ahead of the salvage operation. Uni Orient Pearl Inc. then placed air inside the sealed vessel to float it before it will be towed towards the PKS shipyard located 800 meters away. The salvor company tried to tow the MV Maria Angelica Grace to the shipyard but their metal chain broke during the operation. The vessel will be turned upright once it reaches the shipyard. Azcuna said operations in the Cabahug wharf suffered due to the capsized vessel. Azcuna said clearing the area where the vessel overturned will ensure the wharf's safety. Reporter Jucell Marie P. Cuyos

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/391575/oil-spill-halted-capsized-vessel-to-be-salvaged>

#### **CANADA, SK, BUFFALO POUND, APRIL 16 2013. OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP CONTINUES AT BUFFALO POUND; HWY 2 OPEN TO ONE-LANE TRAFFIC >> ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY ESTIMATES 10,000 LITRES OF OIL SPILLED**

*lisa schick*

An oil spill from Thursday by Buffalo Pound Lake is still being cleaned up as crews try to take the inclement weather into account. The Ministry of Environment can't pinpoint how long the full cleanup is going to take at the site along the cause-way by Highway 2. "It all is weather dependent. Some work we may be able to do while the snow is still on the ground, and moving snow," said Wes Kotyk, the Executive Director of the environmental protection branch of the Ministry of the Environment, noting that they are still assessing the situation. The truck and trailer has been cleared away and the oil on the roadway has been cleaned up, but there is still oil on the north embankment of the cause-way. Kotyk said the snow is the problem on the embankment because they have to find the oil and figure out how to get rid of it. In the meantime crews have put in some precautions around the affected area. "We've put in some trenches and some containment booms to help absorb (the oil). And any residual oil that is there will be contained and prevented from moving further." Now the ministry is making plans on how to go forward with the clean-up, and that includes what to do about traffic. Highway 2 North of Moose Jaw was closed for most of the weekend, but now that the roadway is clean. The road reopened to one-lane traffic Monday afternoon, and will remain open as much as possible. "We're leaning towards plans to be able to keep one lane open. So there will be access for people getting through there, but it will be down to one lane when workers are on site," said Kotyk. Estimates peg the spill at about 10,000 litres of oil. Kotyk said they clear up about 700 spills a year, but not many that are this big. "This magnitude is a unique situation. We would maybe get half a dozen similar situations throughout the year whether it's a train derailment, or a large highway incident like this."

<http://cjme.com/story/oil-spill-clean-continues-buffalo-pound-hwy-2-open-one-lane-traffic/105295>

#### **AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MT ISA, APRIL 16 2013. CHEMICAL TANK EXPLODES AT MT ISA PLANT**

**Map:** [Mount Isa](#)

There has been an explosion at an acid plant in the north-west Queensland city of Mount Isa. Police say no-one was injured in the explosion at the Incitec Pivot plant, but authorities are concerned about a smoke plume generated by the blast. Company spokeswoman Sandi Harwood says just after 5:00pm (AEST) a chemical reaction caused an explosion and a plume of smoke



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at the plant. "Basically there was a chemical reaction in a water treatment cooling area," she said. "It's a routine procedure but there was a chemical reaction which created a plume. Our people did the right thing and called emergency services - police and fire were on the scene. "There were no injuries and no loss of production." Police have placed a 100-metre exclusion zone around the site. The acid plant is alongside the Mt Isa mine, which has been evacuated. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service is currently conducting air quality tests.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-04-16/chemical-tank-explodes-at-mt-isa/4633542>

### USA, AKA, FAIRBANKS, APRIL 17 2013. TANKER OVERTURNS ON RICHARDSON HIGHWAY, SPILLING FUEL

*sam friedman*

A diesel double tanker overturned in a ditch and spilled some 4,000 gallons of diesel Friday morning on the Richardson Highway after the driver reportedly had a sneezing fit, according to Alaska State Troopers. The wreck was reported at 8:29 a.m. at 235.5 Mile of the Richardson Highway, north of the Black Rapids Glacier, according to trooper spokeswoman Beth Ipsen. The 2007 Peterbilt truck was headed north when it drifted into the north-side ditch and overturned, she said. The second trailer was punctured, but the damage was limited to one subsection of the tank, she said. An initial trooper estimate had the oil spill at less than 1,000 gallons, but the Department of Environmental Conservation put in at between 4,000 and 5,000 gallons, in a subsequent estimate Friday afternoon Department of Transportation spokeswoman Meadow Bailey said. The fuel was pooled as high as four inches in the ditch and the frozen ground made it easier to clean up the oil, she said. The truck was owned by Fairbanks trucking firm Big State Logistics. Staff from Big State Logistics and from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation responded, according to Ipsen with the state troopers. The driver was Robert Reid, 34, of Wasilla. Troopers found no indication drugs or alcohol were a factor, she said.

[http://www.newsminer.com/news/local\\_news/tanker-overturms-on-richardson-highway-spilling-fuel/article\\_cac9b512-8db9-11e2-88b3-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/tanker-overturms-on-richardson-highway-spilling-fuel/article_cac9b512-8db9-11e2-88b3-0019bb30f31a.html)

### USA, OH, SPRINGFIELD, APRIL 17 2013. EPA TO TEST HAZARDOUS BARREL SITE >> RESIDENTS CONCERNED BY SAMPLING, UNSURE WHAT IT MEANS FOR SITE WITH 1.5M GALLONS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE.

*michael cooper*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will conduct tests at a Tremont City site containing buried barrels filled with 1.5 million gallons of hazardous waste. The U.S. EPA Region 5 office will sample surface water, soil and sediment in and around the Tremont City Barrel Fill Superfund Alternative Site this month. The decision has a local water protection group worried the site's status could change after local officials and [health](#) groups have fought for decades to have it cleaned up. People for Safe Water, a new group determined to fight the U.S. EPA's plans to remediate the barrel fill, began meeting last May after a previous group, Citizens for Wise Action Toward Environmental Resources, known as CF/WATER, decided to disband. "We can't figure out what this sampling means and this delay," said Marilyn Welker, the group's president. The U.S. EPA didn't return multiple phone calls from the Springfield News-Sun seeking comment. According to an e-mail obtained by the News-Sun, Region 5 told the group's members they are "sampling to evaluate current conditions" at the site and may use the data "to assess" whether the site will be considered for the National Priorities List, which is commonly referred to as the Superfund program. The U.S. EPA's website describes the NPL as "a list of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States and its territories." The list guides the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation. Clark County [Health](#) Commissioner Charles Patterson is also unclear on what the new testing means for the site, but knows the battle must continue to preserve water for future generations. "We're trying to prevent a problem 50 to 100 years from now," Patterson said. Area politicians and [health](#) leaders have been fighting for years to have the barrel fill — an 8.5-acre section of a closed landfill for industrial waste barrels that sits near the area's drinking water aquifer — remediated. Last June, the U.S. EPA announced it was preparing a negotiation package for the U.S. Department of Justice, which serves as the representative for potentially responsible parties that might have contributed to the barrel fill. The U.S. EPA will send notice to potentially responsible parties on the cleanup plans and why it believes they're liable. According to most recent update to the U.S. EPA's barrel fill website, the negotiating process is still ongoing. People for Safe Water and community leaders believe that if left in its current state, the site could be a hazard to public [health](#). Rainwater draining through the unlined barrel fill and containment pools could eventually contaminate the area's sole source aquifer, which serves 85,000 customers in Clark and Montgomery counties, according to U.S. EPA reports. In September 2011, the U.S. EPA released its plan to dig up the barrels and then rebury them on site in a lined landfill, rather



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than removing all of the waste as recommended by the Ohio EPA and civic leaders. The U.S. EPA plan's estimated cost is \$28 million; the estimated cost of the more extensive clean-up plan, Alternative 4a, is \$56 million. Local leaders and environmental groups have been fighting to have the more extensive plan restored. "The plan has been proposed, it was acceptable," Welker said. "We want that plan." Welker said EPA officials told her in an e-mail that the upcoming sampling is part of the initial Hazardous Ranking System scoring for the site, but it wouldn't release the rankings of sites being assessed for proposal as a Superfund site. "Our first thought was, OK, more delays, which is OK," Welker said. "But the second one is 'What's going on behind the scenes that they won't tell us. Who's challenging this plan?' ... Our concern is that the sampling that is to be done this month still does not reach into the (sand and gravel or carbonate) aquifer. It's still a superficial sampling." Extremely low levels of contaminants have been found in aquifers underneath the site, according to U.S. EPA records, but can't be traced back to the barrels and aren't considered harmful to public [health](#). Safe Water members, however, believe the barrels are dangerous to the aquifers underneath the site. The group has asked for letters of support from both Speaker of the House John Boehner and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown. Ohio Rep. Bob Hackett and Ohio Sen. Chris Widener both have said they'd sign a letter of support. They also plan to send questions to the U.S. EPA in Washington, D.C. "We need to shake the tree higher up," Welker said. Area political and [health](#) leaders delivered a letter to President Barack Obama's aides during his stop here Nov. 2 in an attempt to reverse the decision on how to clean up the site. It states area leaders are concerned about the "lack of due process in the ongoing Superfund proceedings" and implores the president's help and guidance. They are still waiting for a response, and plan to meet to discuss the next steps this week. The environmental group also plans to attend Springfield City Commission meetings, beginning today. "We want to support the city and raise the importance of this issue," Welker said. CFWATER, which at one time had as many as 500 members, helped stop the construction of another landfill in the same area in 1999, raising \$800,000 for the cause. However Chairman Jeff Briner said membership has waned in recent years, and they plan to disband the group later this year. Briner said he's "disgusted" with the clean up process. "It was settled in 2010," Briner said. "They need to finish it and do what needs to be done." Patterson credited CFWATER for its efforts, and said it's important another group like PFSW to continue the fight. "Citizens groups carry a lot of weight (with the U.S. EPA)," Patterson said. Anyone interested in joining People for Safe Water can e-mail [PFSwater@gmail.com](mailto:PFSwater@gmail.com)

<http://www.springfieldnewssun.com/news/news/local/epa-to-test-hazardous-barrel-site/nXMpC/>

### USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 17 2013. SEMI TANKER OVERTURNS IN SALT LAKE CITY, NO ONE HURT

*bob mims*

A semi-trailer rig accident restricted the flow of traffic at the height of the Tuesday morning commute near an Interstate 15 off-ramp in Salt Lake City. Salt Lake City police Sgt. Shawn Josephson said the rig reportedly lost its load, a fuel tanker trailer that then overturned and blocked some lanes at 600 North and 400 West, near the 600 North off-ramp from I-15. No injuries were reported, and initial fears of fuel leaking from the tanker proved unfounded, Josephson said. The cause of the one-vehicle, 8:05 a.m. accident was under investigation.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/56166191-78/lake-salt-tanker-600.html.csp>

### USA, WA, OLYMPIA, APRIL 17 2013. THIEVES SIPHONING FUEL OUT OF GAS STATION TANKS



*Van seen on surveillance video at gas station.*

Police are on the trail of thieves seen stealing hundreds of gallons of gas out of tanks at an Olympia gas station. Thieves sprayed something on the surveillance camera at Gull Harbor Mercantile, then while the camera was blinded, parked a car right over the underground gas storage tanks, broke the lock on the tank and started stealing gas. "There's a hose that goes to a pump and the pump obviously feeds into a barrel," said store owner Dick Kistler. But the liquid sprayed on the camera started to run off, and the suspects' gold van could be seen parked over the tank. They sprayed the camera again, drove off and then came back and tossed a T-shirt over the lens while they finished stealing about

500 gallons of fuel. "It's several thousands of dollars we are never going to recoup," said Kistler. But there was a big break in the case Tuesday when there was SWAT team raid at a house near Olympia and officers discovered four, 55-gallon drums filled with fuel. Thurston County authorities believe Andrew Ice, who lives at the property, is involved in the gas thefts. "We



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think Andrew Ice has people working for him going out and stealing the gas from the gas stations and then bringing it back to his place," said Lt. Greg Elwin with the Thurston County Sheriff's Office. Detectives believe they have identified two more suspects connected to the gas thefts and are hunting for them and the van used in the thefts. "Hopefully, they have them and I can sleep at night now," said Kistler. Detectives said the same thieves that struck Gull Harbor Mercantile also targeted a gas station near Lacey where nearly 500 gallons of fuel were stolen.

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/thieves-siphoning-fuel-out-gas-station-tanks/nXMbR/>

#### **USA, AKA, FAIRBANKS, APRIL 17 2013. THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF FUEL SPILLS NEAR THE YUKON RIVER WHEN TANKER TRAILER OVERTURNS**

Thousands of gallons of diesel fuel spilled near the Yukon River when a tanker trailer overturned. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reports that about 2,800 gallons of diesel fuel spilled last week within 150 yards of the river near the village of Rampart, about 80 miles northwest of Fairbanks. The fuel was spilled when a bulldozer pulling a tanker trailer lost control on a road west of the airport. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation officials say the trailer rolled into a ditch where its aluminum tank ruptured. A report issued Tuesday says 1,120 gallons were pumped from the trailer, which is not leaking. Cleanup of the contaminated snow has not begun.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/b52559fa868c40a5b55fe3f1460fe5a6/AK--Fuel-Spill>

#### **USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 17 2013. EXXONMOBIL CHALMETTE REFINING CONFIRMS SMALL AMOUNTS OF SULFUR, HYDROGEN SULFIDE & BENZENE WERE SOURCE OF APRIL 3 ODORS**



*ExxonMobil Chalmette Refining LLC on St. Bernard Highway in Chalmette.*

The release of comparatively small amounts of sulfur, hydrogen sulfide and benzene during an April 3 pipeline leak at the ExxonMobil Chalmette Refining LLC facility is the likely source of chemical odors that prompted complaints throughout the New Orleans area, according to a report sent by company officials to the state Department of Environmental Quality. The report said 4.23 pounds of hydrogen sulfide, 0.21 pound of benzene and 31.7 pounds of sulfur were released during the accident. The refinery is required under state law to send DEQ an initial report outlining releases that violate state permit regulations within seven days. In this case, the amounts reported do not violate the plant's permits. "After further evaluation, we have determined that no reportable quantities were exceeded during this event," said a letter from J. Derek Reese,

an ExxonMobil supervisor. Refinery officials had initially notified state officials and the Coast Guard's National Response Center that the leak could have resulted in the release of 100 pounds of hydrogen sulfide and 10 pounds of benzene, the amounts that would trigger reporting requirements. After the leak was identified, further investigation determined that much smaller amounts of the chemicals were released. According to the report, the release estimates are based on the 1:45 a.m. initial report of odors and the six hours it took to identify and halt the leak, the 1/4-inch hole in the pipe that allowed water contaminated with the chemicals to be released, and the 3.43 gallons per minute flow rate of liquids through the four-inch-wide pipe. According to the report, an operator at the refinery first noticed the odor at 1:45 a.m. around the facility's wastewater treatment plant, but was unable to find the source of the odor. At 2:25 a.m., the refinery was notified by the St. Bernard Sheriff's Office that a complaint about the odor had been received from the neighboring community. Plant officials then conducted an odor survey, but didn't detect odors offsite. Measurements for volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, and "lower explosive limit," a test for gases that could cause flash fires, were below detection limits at the northern and western fencelines of the refinery site. At 6 a.m., employees again reported odors, even as a line of thunderstorms began moving over the area, accompanied by 25 mph winds that the report said disguised the originating point of the odor. The leak was finally found at 7:08 a.m., in a discharge pipe from a drum used to store water collected from a flare operating at the plant. The report said moderate to heavy rainwater and insulation covering the pipe made it difficult to identify the source of the odor, which turned out to be water containing a trace of sulfur and hydrocarbon compounds leaking from the pipe. Once the leak was stopped, several vacuum trucks were used to clean up the spilled material, and firefighting foam and suppressants were applied to the area covered with the leaking fluid. "All contaminated soil was promptly remediated," the report said. Refinery officials also conducted offsite monitoring, but tests for those compounds were below detection limits.



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"After visiting the area of the now-contained leak at (4 p.m.), LDEQ, USCG and (Chalmette Refining) determined that the leak, which contained trace concentrations of sulfur compounds, was likely source of the odor detected offsite," the report said. "While there was no impact to ambient air quality standards set by the LDEQ and EPA to protect health and the environment, the leak was malodorous, given the 245 parts per million mercaptan levels of the sulfur compounds." Mercaptan is the chemical used to add a sulfur odor to natural gas.

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2013/04/small\\_amounts\\_of\\_sulfur\\_hydrog.html](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2013/04/small_amounts_of_sulfur_hydrog.html)

### FRANCE, ROUEN, APRIL 17 2013. FRANCE'S PETROPLUS REFINERY TO BE LIQUIDATED >> COURT REJECTS THE LAST TWO OFFERS SUBMITTED

France's Rouen commercial court rejected on Tuesday two takeover offers for France's Petroplus refinery, a decision that ended a 16-month hunt for a buyer and that will lead to the liquidation of the plant. The court turned down offers by low-profile Dubai-based Netoil and by Libyan firm Murzuq Oil, which will result in the loss of around 470 jobs at a time the government is struggling to combat unemployment running at near 15-year highs. "Clearly buyers were not up to the task. Workers went as far as they could possibly go," said Jean-Marie Valentin, a lawyer for the plant's trade union association, which drove a relentless search for a buyer for the 120,000 barrel per day refinery, the oldest in the country. [Royal Dutch Shell](#), which operated the refinery since it was opened in 1929, sold it in 2008 to Swiss refiner Petroplus, which filed for [bankruptcy](#) in January last year. The refinery has been on sale since then, and the court has pushed back its deadline to submit offers eight times. Under a reprocessing deal, it continued to produce refined oil products until the end of 2012. Union representatives say the longer the refinery is shut, the harder is it to sell it. French refiners have been struggling for years due to poor margins, weak demand and a surplus of gasoline capacity, while the traditional market for their gasoline exports, the United States, has dried up. France's eight remaining refineries in operation - down from 23 in the 1970s - are mainly geared towards gasoline production. Jean-Louis Schilansky, head of petroleum industry body UFIP, said he did not expect other French refineries to close in the foreseeable future. "France was hit very hard during this phase of consolidation. It has paid its due share, and if more closures were to take place, it would not be in France," Schilansky said, citing [Italy](#) as a country with overcapacity. He said the French refining sector had lost 1.2 billion euros (\$1.6 billion) between 2009 and 2011. (\$1 = 0.7643 euros)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/16/france-petroplus-refinery-idUSL5N0D320820130416>

### USA, TX, TEXAS CITY, APRIL 17 2013. BP SOLD TEXAS OIL REFINERY AFTER MAKING HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE SICK, VICTIMS CLAIM



After releasing toxic chemicals that left hundreds sick, BP sold its Texas City, Texas oil refinery for \$2.4 billion. Now the oil and gas company is facing a \$1 billion lawsuit for "violating the rights and endangering the health" of 474 plaintiffs. The victims in the case claim that BP's oil refinery released highly toxic chemicals for 15 consecutive days in November 2011 and inflicted permanent environmental and health damages upon the local community. BP allegedly knew about the potential harm these chemicals could do, but "failed to take proper action to stop or control the release," the lawsuit states. Additionally, years of unsafe practices at the refinery have polluted the city, most notably the series of explosions and fires that killed 15 workers and injured 1,000 in March 2005. And

after polluting Texas City from 1998 until earlier this year, BP sold its refinery, reaping lucrative profits while abandoning the now-contaminated region. "BP made a tremendous amount of money while doing business in Texas City, sold the refinery at a large profit and then left Texas City and the people of Galveston County holding the bag for its mess," reads the complaint, filed by lead plaintiff Samuel Charles Boyd Jr. "To be sure, the mess is enormous - so large that Texas City and Galveston County may very well never recover from the harm done to the area environment." The lawsuit also alleges that because of BP's violations of air pollution laws and guidelines, Galveston County now has the worst air quality in the US - a side-effect of the crude refinery that residents must now bear the consequences of. BP sold its Texas City oil refinery to Marathon Petroleum Corporation for \$2.4 billion on Feb. 1, the company announced on its website. But although the lawsuit cites numerous instances in which BP's refinery polluted the environment, killed workers or sickened residents, the complaint focuses on the impact of the 15-day period that released toxic chemicals into the air. "From November 10, 2011 through possibly early December 2011, BP reportedly released Sulfur Dioxide, Methyl Carapaptan, Dimethyl Disulfide and other toxic



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chemicals into the atmosphere," the complaint reads. "Despite that the leak had been reported, BP denied the dangerousness of the leak, or that any harm could be caused from it." While some refinery employees sought medical treatment, air monitors picked up on increased levels of toxins and residents described smelling an unpleasant odor, BP repeatedly denied that the chemicals were in any way harmful. The 474 plaintiffs named in the lawsuit now seek compensation for their repeated exposure to the dangerous chemicals produced by the refinery. "Plaintiffs seek remedy for the repeated exposures that have occurred as a result of the release of chemicals from the refinery, and also to send a message to BP, its officers and its Board of Directors – that the wanton poisoning of an entire community is not an acceptable business practice," the complaint reads. "In this effort, plaintiffs seek punitive damages against BP in excess of \$1 billion." Meanwhile, BP is already defending itself in a trial over the environmental impacts of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which is considered the largest accidental marine oil spill in history. With the latest lawsuit against BP, the oil and gas company could be facing even greater penalties for its calamitous effect on the environment.

#### Related Links

- [BP Faces \\$1B Lawsuit for Texas Refinery Gas Leak](#)
- [BP sued again for gas release](#)

<http://rt.com/usa/oil-texas-refinery-bp-961/>

### USA, WASHINGTON, APRIL 17 2013. USW STUDY WARNS PUBLIC ABOUT DANGERS OF HYDROFLUORIC ACID USE IN REFINERY ALKYLATION PROCESS TO PRODUCE CLEAN-BURNING GASOLINE

**PDF Document** [The HF report can be obtained at: http://assets.usw.org/resources/hse/pdf/A-Risk-Too-Great.pdf](http://assets.usw.org/resources/hse/pdf/A-Risk-Too-Great.pdf)



*The Citgo refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas. [U.S. Chemical Safety Board].*

A United Steelworkers (USW) study released today--"A Risk Too Great, Hydrofluoric Acid in U.S. Refineries"--warns that refiners that use hydrofluoric acid (HF) in their alkylation process to make clean-burning gasoline do not have adequate safety systems in place and are not prepared to handle a release. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulate HF as a highly toxic chemical. Exposure to HF can cause deep severe burns and damage the eyes, skin, nose, throat and respiratory system. The fluoride ion enters the body through a burn or by the lungs and can cause internal damage throughout the body. At high enough exposures, HF can kill. If released into the atmosphere, HF rapidly forms a dense vapor cloud that hovers near land and can travel long distances. HF releases from U.S. refineries range from three to 25 miles, depending on

the amount stored. More than 26 million people live within this range, many in urban areas such as Philadelphia, Memphis, Salt Lake City and Houston that are impossible to evacuate quickly should there be a major HF release. No other chemical process puts as many people at risk. Fifty U.S. oil refineries use HF alkylation and on average each stores 212,000 pounds of highly concentrated HF. The USW represents workers in 28 of these refineries, and local unions in 23 of them formed site survey teams and completed the USW's standardized questionnaire on HF. These 23 refineries put about 12,000 workers and 13 million community members at risk of exposure from an HF release. Safety experts from inside and outside the USW examined the safety of USW-represented refineries using HF alkylation by reviewing the survey results and data from OSHA, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board and the industry. Their aim was to see how well these refineries were managing the risk of an HF release. At three-quarters of the refineries surveyed, a total of 131 HF-related incidents or near misses had occurred the previous three years. Sixteen sites that reported their most serious or potentially serious HF-related events said workers either were or could have been injured, and half said these events could have caused injuries to people in the community. More than half of the site survey teams reported that 26 out of 32 safety systems were less than very effective in maintaining the integrity of HF alkylation processes and related processes such as storage and transfer, and in handling an HF emergency. A majority of the survey teams rated the six remaining safety systems as being very effective. Almost two-thirds of the survey teams said their site was less than very prepared in providing emergency personal protective equipment for on-site workers who might need it during a release. More than half of the survey teams rated on-site and off-site emergency responders and medical personnel as being less than very prepared for an on-site emergency. Sites were assessed to be even less prepared for a release spreading into the local community. A number of site survey teams commented that staffing levels were too low to



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### Release 2013 – 952 Newsy Stuff

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**April 24 2013**



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ensure the safe operation of alkylation units. The USW study cites alternatives to using HF and suggests ways existing alkylation units can be made safer. It also says the government could help the process by doing intensive inspections of HF alkylation units. "The industry has the technology and expertise and money to eliminate HF alkylation entirely," said USW International Vice President Gary Beevers, who heads the union's oil sector. "It lacks only the will, and if it cannot find the will voluntarily, it must be forced by government action." The HF report can be obtained at: <http://assets.usw.org/resources/hse/pdf/A-Risk-Too-Great.pdf> The USW is the largest industrial union in North America and has 850,000 members in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean. The union represents workers employed in metals, rubber, chemicals, paper, oil refining, atomic energy and the service sector. The following locations are at risk of an HF release: California-- Wilmington, Torrance, Illinois-- Robinson, Lemont, Channahon, Indiana-- Mt. Vernon, Kansas-- El Dorado, Coffeyville, McPherson, Kentucky-- Catlettsburg, Minnesota-- St. Paul Park, Montana-- Billings, Laurel, Great Falls, New Jersey-- Paulsboro, New Mexico-- Artesia, Jamestown, North Dakota-- Mandan, Ohio-- Canton, Oklahoma-- Ardmore, Ponca City, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania-- Trainer, Philadelphia, Tennessee-- Memphis, Texas-- Port Arthur, Texas City, Corpus Christi, Three Rivers, Borger, Sweeny, Pasadena, Big Spring, Utah-- Salt Lake City, North Salt Lake, Woods Cross, Washington-- Ferndale, Wisconsin-- Superior, Wyoming-- Cheyenne, Newcastle

**Related Link** [Report urges phaseout of deadly acid](http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130416-912204.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

[http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130416-912204.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130416-912204.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

#### **BAHAMAS, NASSAU, APRIL 18 2013. ROBINSON ROAD LEAK SPARKS PUSH FOR 'RIGID' PETROLEUM REGULATION**

*natario mckenzie*

The Minister for the Environment said yesterday that within the next few weeks he hoped to know how bad fuel leak-related contamination was at the Robinson Road-based Texaco service station, adding that the issue highlighted the need for a "rigid" regulatory environment for the petroleum industry. The Government has hired a Canadian firm to investigate the leak and submit a report. Speaking outside Cabinet yesterday, Kenred Dorsett said: "The Government has determined that it has to engage its own consultants on this matter to advise us. We have been in contact with RUBIS' environmental advisors. They have prepared and submitted some reports. Additional information is coming in, and so I'm hoping that in the next few weeks I would be able to wrap my mind around the true impact." "It is unclear how much fuel from the Texaco-branded station - now owned by RUBIS - has leaked into the ground. However, the situation has raised serious environmental concerns, enough to prompt Cable Bahamas to relocate its staff from its Robinson Road customer care offices. RUBIS, whose subsidiary Vitogaz bought Chevron's fuels marketing and aviation business in the Bahamas last May, now controls 20 fuel stations in the Bahamas. The company has significant upgrades which they plan to implement this third quarter following a "clean-up year". Mr Dorsett added: "I must admit that all parties are working assiduously. This is a matter which, from what I can see, may have been going on for a longer period of time than was initially anticipated, but it has only strengthened my resolve to push for a rigid regulatory environment for the entire sector - that's retail, petroleum dealers and refineries in Grand Bahama because, as it stands, the industry's have been self-regulated. "I think the Government has to take the lead and advance a regulatory environment, which would ensure that they do adhere to international best practices, not because they are good citizens and want to do it on their own volition but because they are mandated to do it by Bahamian law.

<http://www.tribune242.com/news/2013/apr/17/robinson-road-leak-sparks-push-rigid-petroleum-reg/>

#### **USA, N.H, CONCORD, APRIL 17 2013. NH JURY: EXXON MOBIL OWES \$236M OVER GAS CHEMICAL**

An order for Exxon Mobil to pay \$236 million in damages for groundwater contamination is by far the largest verdict in New Hampshire history, but an industry analyst says it represents only about two days' worth of profit for the energy company. Fadel Gheit is managing director of oil and gas research at Oppenheimer & Co. He says Tuesday's verdict won't put a dent in Exxon Mobil's bottom line because the company "will probably make close to a \$40 billion profit this year." Jurors awarded the state all \$236 million it was seeking from Exxon Mobil to monitor and remediate groundwater contaminated by a chemical called MTBE, which was added to gasoline to reduce smog. Exxon Mobil Corp. lawyers say the company used MTBE to meet federal Clean Air Act mandates to reduce air pollution. They say they'll appeal.

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2013/apr/17/us-pollution-trial/>



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#### USA, WASHINGTON DC, APRIL 18 2013. CSB DEPLOYS TO MASSIVE EXPLOSION AND FIRE AT FERTILIZER PLANT NEAR WACO, TX

##### Watch the Video:

- ['Like a Nuclear Bomb'](#)
- [Blast Witness: Worst Thing I've Seen in my Life](#)
- [Raw: 'Decimated' Homes Near Texas Explosion Scene](#)

##### Photo's [7] [Explosion Hits Texas Fertilizer Facility](#)

##### Photo's [16] [Up to 15 dead, at Least 160 Injured In Texas Plant Blast](#)



A large investigation team from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) is deploying to the scene of a massive fire and explosion at the West Fertilizer Plant located in West, Texas, north of Waco. Local emergency officials have told the CSB of a large number of injuries and destroyed buildings in the town. The investigative team will be led CSB Western Regional Office Director Don Holmstrom and is scheduled to arrive in Texas Thursday afternoon. The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

##### Related Links

- ['Like a Nuclear Bomb': Deadly Fertilizer Plant Blast Devastates Texas Town](#)
- [Up to 15 dead, over 100 injured in huge explosion at Texas fertiliser plant](#)
- [Texas plant explosion: Estimate of 15 killed, more than 160 injured](#)
- [Up to 15 dead and hundreds injured in massive explosion at Texas fertilizer plant](#)
- [Up to 15 dead after blast, fire at Texas fertilizer plant](#)
- [Texas Fertilizer Plant In Ruins After Explosion](#)
- [Huge Blast at Texas Fertilizer Plant Injures Over 100](#)
- [Many casualties in Texas Waco fertiliser plant blast](#)

[www.csb.com](http://www.csb.com)

#### USA, TX, WEST, APRIL 18 2013. TOXIC CLOUD THREATENS THOUSANDS: ENTIRE TOWN FACES EVACUATION OVER AMMONIUM NITRATE SUFFOCATION RISK

michael zennie & anna edwards

##### Watch the Video:

['Daddy, please get out of here:' Chilling footage captured by a father and his child who witnessed the West, Texas explosion](#)



**Unaccounted For:** Fatalities confirmed. Could include emergency services - Firefighters are struggling to battle the explosion that occurred in the fertilizer plant, which held ammonium nitrate.

A toxic cloud thrown out by the explosion at a fertiliser plant could harm thousands of people as it threatens to engulf their town. A southerly wind is blowing ammonium nitrates fumes - commonly used in fertiliser - across West, Texas, and authorities are considering making all residents leave their homes to escape it. A thunderstorm has been forecast, which could lead to stronger winds pushing the mist - which can cause significant irritation to eyes and skin, and cause breathing problems - around the area. Half of the town's residents have been evacuated and those north of the blast have been told to stay inside and



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keep their windows shut to stop the fumes creeping inside their homes. But the noxious fumes and a fear that another tank at the facility could explode is prompting authorities to consider evacuating the entire town, which has around 2,800 residents. The wind is blowing north of the explosion area, and because the chemicals are flammable and authorities are uncertain of the air quality, residents are being told to stay inside their properties, [MSNBC](#) reported. Although officials have turned off all the gas, they evacuated half the town because they were worried another tank at the facility might explode. Ben Stratmann, a spokesman for Texas State Sen. Brian Birdwell, said: 'What we are hearing is that there is one fertilizer tank that is still intact at the plant, and there are evacuations in place to make sure everyone gets away from the area safely in case of another explosion,' [CNN](#) reported. If the winds turn, the other half of the town will have to be evacuated as well. The fog of fumes is hindering firefighters' efforts to control the blaze at a fertiliser plant. Fire crews have abandoned attempts trying to put out the remaining flames because they can't get near the plant due to the intense concentration of fumes, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. Doctors at hospitals across the region report that dozens of patients are suffering from upper-respiratory problems as a result of the ammonium nitrate fumes. The fertilizer plant keeps up to 54,000 pounds of the chemical at the facility in the town, according to state records. At least 200 have been injured. The blast killed an unknown number of people, though several of the town's six volunteer firefighters, who were battling the blaze at the plant before the explosion, are. About 40 people are critically injured. Rescuers now are going house-to-house searching for casualties of the massive explosion Wednesday night. Ammonium nitrate is a white crystalline powder that is used in mixing fertilizer. However, it is also very explosive and was used as a key component in the bomb that killed 168 people at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. D.L Wilson, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety, compared the five-block radius of the blast to horrific 1995 bombing. 'It was just like Iraq. Just like the Murrah building,' he said. The fire at the plant has not been fully extinguished and firefighters can no longer even get close to the devastation because of the chemical cloud that has descended on the town. Hospital emergency rooms in Waco, Texas, are struggling to cope with 200 injured patients who are pouring in after the explosion at a fertilizer plant in the two of West 20 miles north. At least 130 patients were confirmed at hospitals across western Texas - including nine flown to burn units in 75 miles away in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Glenn Robinson, the CEO of Hillcrest Baptist Hospital - the region's primary trauma center - told CNN that 94 victims had already been taken to the emergency room. Hill Regional Hospital, 16 miles away in Hillsboro, has received 66 patients - including at least two in critical condition. They are expecting a bus load of additional patients to arrive at any moment. Doctors have received no information about how many additional patients are on the bus or the extend of their injuries. Nine burn patients were flown to burn centers an hour and a half away in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Robinson said. Two children were being taken to Scott and White Children's hospital in Temple, Texas. Nine medical evacuation helicopters were ferrying patients back and forth between West and Waco. Up to 300 additional nurses, doctors and other staffers had been called in to deal with the wounded. The exact number of dead and injured is unknown at this time, though conflicting reports have estimated up to 70 dead and hundreds injured in the town of 2,700 people.

### **Ammonium Nitrate is Toxic & Explosive**

The compound is regularly used as a high-nitrogen fertilizer. Humans rarely have contact with high concentrations of it, as it is used in early stages of agricultural process, and is not detectable once it comes into human contact, or the food chain. Anhydrous ammonium nitrate is classified as toxic and dangerous for the environment - and is extremely flammable and is capable of forming highly explosive mixtures. If ammonia is exposed to iodine, nitrogen triiodide is formed - which is described as a high explosive - capable of exploding out to nine kilometers out. High explosives are used in mining, demolition and by the military. The substance is irritating to the eyes, the skin and the respiratory tract. It can cause effects on the blood and cause breathing problems and shortness of breath. Exposure to high concentrations can cause methemoglobinemia, which in extreme cases can lead to death.

**Related Links** [Many dead as massive blast rips through Texas: Another 200 injured and scores of homes destroyed in fertilizer plant explosion](#)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2310874/Texas-explosion-Firefighters-battle-toxic-cloud-noxious-ammonium-nitrate.html>



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