



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 958 Newsy Stuff

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May 08 2013



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CANADA, N.L, FOGO ISLAND, APRIL 28 2013. COAST GUARD PINPOINTING OIL SPILL NEAR FOGO ISLAND >> INVESTIGATORS HAVE NARROWED DOWN AREA, EXTENT OF SPILLAGE

The Canadian Coast Guard is taking recent reports of oil spillage near Fogo Island seriously. There have been hundreds of reports about oiled sea birds since the end of March. Since then, the coast guard has been inspecting the land and sea from the air and on the ground, in an effort to pinpoint the source of the fuel. Spokesperson Bob Grant said so far, investigators have been able to narrow down the area and the extent of the spill. "From the surveillance planes, we have seen a light sheen in the Blow Hard Rock area," said Grant. "They really started to show up around April 19, and they've been there on our surveillance flights since ... very light sheens that dissipate rather quickly. And surveillance of the general area ... this is the only area we're seeing them." Grant said that samples have been taken, and are now being analyzed at a laboratory in Moncton. Sonar and an underwater vehicle will also be used to inspect what's on the ocean floor. Grant added that he is aware of suspicions that a sunken paper carrier might be to blame, but refused to speculate until lab results come back. In the meantime, crews have been using special equipment to try and keep birds away from the area.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2013/04/27/nl-coast-guard-oiled-birds-2013-04-27.html>

INDIA, ODISHA, CHANDIPUR, APRIL 29 2013. FIRE TRIGGERS SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS AT DRDO'S CHANDIPUR COMPLEX

A fire broke out in an underground magazine store of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Chandipur, about 15 km from here this morning, triggering a string of explosions. "The fire triggered explosions as it erupted in the magazine store of the Proof and Experimental Establishment (PXE) where shells and ammunition of different capacities and sizes are stored for test," Officer In-Charge of Chandipur police station P K Acharya said. No casualty was reported so far and over a dozen fire tenders were pressed into service to control the blaze, he said, adding that the entire complex was sealed. Officials of PXE, which is located near the premier missile trial centre Integrated Test Range (ITR), were tight-lipped about the incident but said immediate steps were taken to contain the fire and prevent its spread. "The fire was restricted to the underground magazine store and no other facility inside the PXE complex was affected due to the incident," they said. Different shells and ammunition of various artillery systems, including the 155 mm Bofors field guns are brought to the PXE for test, the officials said, adding that Pinaka rockets are also test-fired from PXE complex. The cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained and further details were awaited.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/fire-triggers-series-of-explosions-at-drds-chandipur-complex/1109118/>

SWITZERLAND, GENEVA, APRIL 29 2013. UN CHEMICALS SUMMIT EXPECTED TO ADOPT NEW CONTROLS

john heilprin

At the start of a major conference to regulate chemical and hazardous waste safety, top officials voiced optimism Saturday that delegates will approve new international controls on several industrial compounds and agree to clamp down on some cross-border pollution. The three key international treaties that govern chemicals and hazardous waste, each headquartered in Geneva, are holding an unprecedented joint two-week convention of more than 1,500 delegates from 170 nations that is meant to consider new limits on some substances and look at ways the treaties can be better put to use together. The conference will culminate in a high-level meeting among about 80 ministers on May 9-10. Jim Willis, executive secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, said he expects delegates will likely agree to gradually ban one of the commonly used flame retardants, hexabromocyclododecane, or HBCD — which is put in building insulation, furniture, vehicles and electronics — while exempting some uses in buildings. Such a ban would come under the Stockholm Convention, which now regulates 22 toxic substances, such as DDT and PCBs, that travel long distances and don't break down easily, working their way up the food chain. Willis told reporters that delegates also are expected to accept stricter requirements for disclosing information about exports of several other substances including a powerful herbicide, Paraquat. The others are an insecticide, Azinphos-methyl; two flame retardants, PentaBDE and OctaBDE; a fabric protector, PFOS; and the construction material, Chrysotile asbestos. That action would come under the Rotterdam Convention, which regulates information about the export and import of 43 hazardous chemicals. Together, the three treaties aim to "help countries to take better control of the pesticides they agree to use," said Christine Fuell, a senior technical officer with the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization who helps oversee the Rotterdam Convention. Perhaps the most contentious proposals involve HBCD — which has been found in human breast milk and tissues and in wildlife and marine life around the world, raising health concerns — and Chrysotile asbestos, which is linked to respiratory disease and lung cancer, said Joe DiGangi, a science adviser with advocacy



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group IPEN, a global network of more than 700 public interest non-governmental organizations. In the case of asbestos, Canada — a major producer of the mineral — and several other nations blocked a similar measure two years ago. This time around, Willis said, Canada appears to be supportive of the proposal, and he is hopeful that Russia, which has large reserves of asbestos and is a newcomer to the treaty, won't block action. Swiss environment ambassador Franz Perrez, who will preside over talks on the Basel Convention, said he expects agreement on new ways of managing trade in hazardous waste, based on an Indonesian-Swiss initiative that includes technical guidelines on cross-border shipments of discarded electronic and electrical products. The Basel Convention regulates the exports and imports of hazardous waste. Perrez said Switzerland, a major hub and producer in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, proposed trying for new "synergies" among the three treaties it hosts in Geneva by holding a single conference that would seek more unified, global approaches. All three treaties take decisions based on consensus among all the nations' delegates, but officials and observers say it is difficult for a single country to block action in the face of pressure from most or all of the others.

http://www.necn.com/04/27/13/UN-chemicals-summit-expected-to-adopt-ne/landing_nation.html?&apID=88fdd3dac7224f55b081fbe4a1410840

USA, TX, GALVESTON, APRIL 29 2013. WORKER INJURED IN BEAUMONT REFINERY FIRE DIES

 **Watch the Video** [Victim of Beaumont's Exxon Mobil Fire Passes Away](#)



Dustin Creekmore

A contract worker critically hurt in a fire at a Southeast Texas refinery has died. An official with the [University of Texas Medical Branch](#) in Galveston on Sunday confirmed the death of [Dustin Creekmore](#). Spokeswoman [Kristen Hensley](#) says Creekmore died Saturday afternoon. Creekmore was among seven contract workers initially hospitalized with burn-related injuries after the April 17 fire at an [ExxonMobil](#) refinery in Beaumont. Five other workers were treated and released. Hensley says four workers remained hospitalized Sunday. She says two are in critical condition and the other two patients are listed as fair. ExxonMobil spokeswoman [Kathleen Jackson](#) has said officials believe the fire broke out when hydrocarbons released from a heat exchange ignited. The fire at a processing unit happened when the equipment was down for maintenance.

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/texas/article/Worker-injured-in-Beaumont-refinery-fire-dies-4470557.php>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MT WARREN PARK, APRIL 29 2013. COUPLE IN CAR WITH STOLEN NUMBER PLATES BUNGLA A GETAWAY FROM MT WARREN PARK PETROL STATION

 **Photo's [3]** [Petrol Station Bungled Getaway](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Couple Stealing Fuel Bungle a Getaway](#)



Surveillance photos from a bungled drive-off at mt warren park caltex.

Police are seeking public assistance after a woman was thrown in the air and petrol left gushing from a broken bowser in a daring drive-off at Mt Warren Park, southeast Queensland, last week. Police said drivers were so determined to steal petrol they were now risking the lives of their family and friends. Police said the incident occurred at the Mt Warren Park Caltex after an alert console operator approached the car to check the registration plates. They are still searching for both offenders and want anyone recognising the alleged offender to contact police.

[Surveillance video shows the woman launched into the air before landing hard on the ground, narrowly missing being covered in fuel pouring from the damaged bowser when the driver of the car bearing stolen plates sped away as she filled](#)

[up.](#)

Logan District Inspector Darren Harland said drive-offs were still a huge problem across the city with stolen plates attached to most cars involved. He said on other occasions there were no plates at all or the car was stolen. Caltex service station owner Shane Jacobson said last week's incident was the first time he had seen a hose ripped from the bowser in a drive off. He said people were stealing up to \$90 in fuel each time, money he could never re-coup. "It does cost us a hell of a lot of money." Mr



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Jacobson said he believed a pre-paid policy, forcing drivers to pay before filling up, may not be far off. Phone Crime Stoppers on 1800 333000 if you have information about the drive-off.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/couple-in-car-with-stolen-number-plates-bungle-a-getaway-from-mt-warren-park-petrol-station/story-e6frf7jo-1226631449412>

USA,, CA, RICHMOND, APRIL 29 2013. CHEVRON RESUMES OPERATIONS IN UNIT AT BAY AREA REFINERY SHUT DOWN AFTER FIRE LAST YEAR

Chevron has resumed operations in a unit at its Bay Area refinery that was shut down after a massive fire last year. Company officials said during a conference call with analysts Friday that crews had begun feeding crude oil through the unit knocked out by the Aug. 6 fire. Chevron's chief financial officer, Patricia Yarrington, says the unit at Richmond is expected to be fully operational during the second quarter. Both Chevron and government investigations have determined that corrosion in a pipe caused a leak that sparked the fire, sending a plume of black smoke over nearby areas. Since the fire, the refinery had been operating at about 60 per cent capacity until very recently. The factory wasn't processing crude oil and instead was being used to blend gasoline.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/Chevron+resumes+operations+unit+Area+refinery+shut+down+after/8305716/story.html>

USA, TX, WEST, APRIL 29 2013. COULD REGULATORS HAVE PREVENTED THE TEXAS FERTILIZER PLANT EXPLOSION?

theodoric meyer



The remains of a fertilizer plant burn after an explosion at the plant in the town of West, near Waco, Texas early April 18, 2013.

Prior to the blast that killed at least 15 people, the West, Tx., plant had gone nearly 20 years without inspection. A week after a blast at a Texas fertilizer plant [killed at least 15 people](#) and hurt more than 200, authorities still don't know exactly why the West Chemical and Fertilizer Company plant exploded. Here's what we do know: The fertilizer plant hadn't been inspected by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [since 1985](#). Its owners [do not seem to have told](#) the Department of Homeland Security that they were storing large quantities of potentially explosive fertilizer, as regulations require. And the most recent partial [safety inspection](#) of the facility in 2011 [led to \\$5,250 in fines](#). We've laid out which agencies were in

charge of regulating the plant and who's investigating the explosion now.

What Happened, Exactly?

Around 7:30 p.m. on April 17, a fire broke out at the West Chemical and Fertilizer Company plant in West, Texas, a small town of about 2,800 people 75 miles south of Dallas. Twenty minutes later, it blew up. The explosion [shook houses](#) 50 miles away and was so powerful that the United States Geological Survey registered it as a 2.1-magnitude earthquake. It flattened homes within a [five-block radius](#) and destroyed a nursing home, an apartment complex, and a nearby middle school. According to the New York Times, the blast [left a crater](#) 93 feet wide and 10 feet deep, and the fire "burned with such intensity that [railroad tracks were fused](#)." The blast killed at least 15 people, [most of them](#) firefighters and other first responders.

Have Fertilizer Plants ever Exploded Before?

Yes. A plant in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, that manufactured ammonium nitrate fertilizer — the same explosive chemical stored in West — [exploded](#) on Dec. 13, 1994, killing four people and injuring 18. But fertilizer plants are safer now, said Stephen Slater, the Iowa administrator of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. "All kinds of technologies have had huge improvements," he [told the Des Moines Register](#). "And we haven't had any bad experiences at the plants in the 20 years since [the accident]. I'm knocking on wood." (Slater didn't respond to our requests for comment.)

Who Regulates these Fertilizer Plants?

At least seven different state and federal agencies can regulate Texas fertilizer plants like the one in West: OSHA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service. Some of the agencies don't appear to have shared information before the blast.



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Fertilizer plants that hold more than 400 pounds of ammonium nitrate, for instance, are required to notify the Department of Homeland Security. (Ammonium nitrate can be used to make bombs. It's what Timothy McVeigh used to blow up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995.) The West plant held 270 tons — yes, tons — of the chemical last year, according to a report it filed with the Texas Department of State Health Services, but the plant [didn't tell](#) Homeland Security. Carrie Williams, a Department of State Health Services spokeswoman, told ProPublica that the agency isn't required to pass that information — which is also sent to local authorities — on to Homeland Security. While the exact cause of the explosion is unknown, a federal official [told the New York Times](#) that investigators believed it was caused by the ammonium nitrate. The blast crater is in the area of the plant where the chemical was stored. The plant [also filed](#) a "worst-case release scenario" [report](#) with the EPA and local officials stating there was no risk of a fire or an explosion. The scenario described an anhydrous ammonia leak that wouldn't hurt anyone.

Did any of these Agencies Fail to Inspect the Plant when they Should Have?

It's unclear. OSHA [conducted](#) the last full safety inspection of the plant in 1985. "Since then," the Huffington Post [reported](#), "regulators from other agencies have been inside the plant, but they looked only at certain aspects of plant operations, such as whether the facility was abiding by labeling rules when packaging its fertilizer for sale." You can view the full OSHA report [here](#). Since 2011, OSHA has carried out inspections based in part on the level of risk that plants like the one in West reported to the EPA. Since the West plant had told the EPA there was no risk of a fire or an explosion, it wasn't a priority. The plant also may have been [exempt from some inspections](#) as a small employer. An OSHA spokesman told ProPublica that the agency would be investigating whether the plant had such an exemption. As the Huffington Post also noted, the most recent federal safety inspection of the plant, in 2011, resulted in a \$5,250 fine for failing to draft a safety plan for pressured canisters of anhydrous ammonia, among other infractions. (There's no evidence that anhydrous ammonia played any role in the explosion.)

Why was a Plant that Stored Explosive Chemicals Allowed to be Located so Close to a School?

The EPA and other federal agencies actually don't regulate how close such plants can be to schools, nursing homes and population centers. In Texas, the decision is [left up to the local zoning authorities](#). A Dallas Morning News [investigation](#) in 2008 found that Dallas County residents were "at risk of a toxic disaster because outdated and haphazard zoning has allowed homes, apartments and schools to be built within blocks — in some cases even across the street — from sites that use dangerous chemicals." Ed Sykora, who owns a Ford dealership in West and spent a dozen years on the school board and the city council, [told the Huffington Post](#) he couldn't recall the town discussing whether it was a good idea to build houses and the school so close to the plant, which has been there since 1962. "The land was available out there that way; they could get sewer and other stuff that way without building a bunch of new lines," Sykora said. "There never was any thought about it. Maybe that was wrong."

Who's Investigating What Happened?

OSHA, the EPA and the U.S. Chemical Safety Board [are all investigating](#). But don't hold your breath waiting for the Chemical Safety Board's conclusions. The agency [is still investigating](#) a blast that killed seven workers at an oil refinery in Washington State three years ago, as well as the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion that killed 11 workers in 2010 and sent oil flowing into the Gulf of Mexico for months. A Center for Public Integrity investigation found that the number of accident reports completed by the Chemical Safety Board had declined dramatically since 2006. Daniel Horowitz, the agency's managing director, said that the agency was stretched thin and had been asking for more investigators for years. "Going forward, the owners and employees of Adair Grain and West Fertilizer Co. are working closely with investigating agencies," Donald Adair, the plant's owner and a West resident, said in a [statement](#) last Friday. "We are presenting all employees for interviews and will assist in the fact finding to whatever degree possible."

Has Congress Introduced any New Regulation Legislation?

Yes, but it would roll back regulations rather than strengthen them. Eleven representatives — one Democrat and 10 Republicans — [sponsored a bill](#) in February that would limit the EPA's regulatory authority over fertilizer plants. It has been endorsed by industry groups such as the Fertilizer Institute. Kathy Mathers, a spokeswoman for the Fertilizer Institute, told ProPublica that the group supports the bill because it would more clearly spell out how the EPA can regulate the industry.

Correction: An earlier version of this story mistakenly stated two different figures for the number of people killed in the blast. It is at least 15 people.

http://www.salon.com/2013/04/28/where_were_the_regulators_before_the_texas_fertilizer_plant_explosion_partner/singleton/



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NEW ZEALAND, STEWART ISLAND, APRIL 29 2013. BIG BILL LIKELY FOR FIRM AFTER FUEL SPILL

gwyneth hyndman



Damaged Tank: Sureste 700, which hit rocks and ruptured a fuel tank near The Neck at the entrance to Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island.

The cost of responding to a diesel spill near Stewart Island on Friday night is expected to be in the thousands of dollars. The spill response was launched early on Saturday morning after the 58-metre squid fishing vessel Sureste 700 struck rocks and ruptured its fuel tank in rough seas at The Neck, at Paterson Inlet. Diesel from the vessel's 23,000-litre tank spilled into the ocean, but the crew was able to transfer about 20,000 litres of fuel to another tank on board. An oil spill responder aircraft surveyed the area on Saturday morning but found no sign of diesel. Regional on-scene commander Dallas Bradley said that exactly how much diesel had spilled would be confirmed once the vessel had been inspected, but it was likely to be a comparatively small amount because of the size and location of the hole in the tank. The diesel that had spilled into the ocean was likely to have either blown further offshore or dispersed naturally in the heavy seas, he said. The spill sparked concern for wildlife on nearby Ulva Island. Department of Conservation Murihiku and Southern Islands area manager Andy Roberts said there was no evidence of an impact, but a full assessment could only be made once sea conditions had calmed. He was happy with the way the incident had been handled, he said. Environment Southland spokeswoman Michele Poole said while the cost of the response had not yet been determined, it would be "in the thousands" and would be paid by the spiller.

Jason Williamson, manager for South East Resources, which chartered the boat, said he was aware there would be costs and they would be paid. An internal investigation would begin this week to review the impact of the weather on the collision and the actions of the captain afterwards, and the process and procedures leading up to the spill. The vessel was out of Southland waters by mid-morning yesterday, heading to Lyttelton for inspection and repairs. Its catch would be unloaded in Timaru as planned. A Maritime New Zealand spokeswoman said the incident was being monitored but the organisation was not involved.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/8606931/Big-bill-likely-for-firm-after-fuel-spill>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, APRIL 29 2013. FUEL RETAILERS DEFRAUD NIGERIANS OF N20BN IN 3 MONTHS — INVESTIGATION

tunde dodondawa & medinat adenekan

There are strong indications that Nigerians may have lost over N200 billion to fuel under-dispensing in three months. Investigations by the Nigerian Tribune revealed that on every one litre of fuel bought at filling stations, Nigerians lose at least N5.82k on Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) otherwise called petrol. Statistics obtained from the Petroleum Product Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) put daily consumption of petrol at 38.298 million litres. When computed, a total of 3,446,820,000 litres of petrol are consumed in three months (90 days). Moreso, statistics from the Weight and Measures department of Trade and Investment Ministry revealed that most fuel-pumps have been adjusted to dispense between 18.8 and 19.2 litres of petrol in place of 20 litres to short-change unsuspecting consumers. On the average, 18.8 litres are dispensed as 20 litres. By implication, 0.94 litre of petrol is dispensed as 1 litre and this means Nigerians are paying N97 per litre of petrol for every N91.18k worth of petrol purchased. If we multiply the N5.82k (N97-N91.18k) excess payment on every litre purchased by 3,446,820,000 litres, then Nigerians would have lost a total sum of N20,060,492,400.00k to under-dispensing in three months. In a telephone chat, a staff of Weight and Measures department of Ministry of Trade and Investment who preferred anonymity because he was not authorised to speak on the matter told W on Saturday that each time the department embark on inspection, almost all filling stations visited were guilty of this act. "We use 20 litres as a standard measurement. Some dispense 19.2 litres as 20 litres to unsuspected motorists. Other pumps may be dispensing 18.4 litres, 18.8 litres, 19.0 litres as 20 litres. "We are only empowered to seal these pumps until they bring their engineers to re-adjust it. It does not mean if we go there the next day, the pumps will dispense correct measurement," he said. When asked what the government can do to arrest the situation, he opined that the government may resort to revocation of license as the last resort after several warning. The



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Nigerian Tribune later interviewed some fuel attendants, motorists and filling station dealers. "We are not the ones adjusting the pumps; it was the engineers appointed by the management to do so at night. At the close of business hours, the supervisor knows what he is expecting as 'profit' and there is no way we can change that," said a fuel attendant at MRS filling station situated along Lagos-Abeokuta expressway who pleaded anonymity. A motorist, Mike Chukwuka, blamed the society for the problem. "You need to ask these fuel attendants what they are earning as salary. Their salary ranges between N8000 and N12000 per month. I'm sure they cannot survive on such meager earning, may be that is why they are tampering with the fuel pumps to short-change us," he said. The Managing Director, NIPCo Plc, Mr. Venkataraman Venkatapathy, told Nigerian Tribune recently that his company has created a special task force team to conduct checks on all its pumps on regular basis. He warned that any dealer found wanting would have its license revoked. He said the company decided to do this to ensure its customers enjoy what they pay for and not cheated in anyways.

<http://tribune.com.ng/news2013/index.php/en/news/item/10646-fuel-retailers-defraud-nigerians-of-n20bn-in-3-months-investigation>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, SIVAKAS, NARAYANAPURAM, APRIL 29 2013. THREE KILLED IN BLAST AT SIVAKASI FIRECRACKER UNIT

j arockiaraj



Victims were workers of the unit at Narayanapuram village, 4 kms away from Sivakasi. Nearly 90 per cent of the country's fireworks are made in Sivakasi.

The incident occurred in Sri Rathna Fire Works factory when the workers were preparing 'Manimarunthu', a mixture of chemicals meant for some fancy firework items. Three workers were killed and eight others suffered serious injuries in an explosion in a fireworks unit in Naranapuram near Sivakasi, the fireworks hub in southern Tamil Nadu at 10am on Sunday morning. The incident occurred in Sri Rathna Fire Works factory when the workers were preparing 'Manimarunthu', a mixture of chemicals meant for some fancy firework items. Revenue officials said friction during mixing of the chemicals sparked a fire that resulted in the explosion. Those killed were identified as Chelliah, Kani and Marimuthu, all

middle aged men from various villages in and around Sivakasi. The injured have been rushed to Sivakasi Government Hospital. The condition of five of them is said to be critical, official sources said. Police at Sivakasi East station said they are still in the process of collecting information about the accident and investigation is on. The accident had taken place outside and no buildings were damaged in the accident, police said. Sivakasi Revenue Divisional Officer, S Rangan who was at the accident site carrying out investigation said all the fireworks units in the vicinity were closed since it was a Sunday. But these workers decided to work on Sunday and were rolling 'Manimarunthu' outside the rooms when the explosion occurred. "five of the injured men are critical," he said. The accident comes barely three days after a similar accident on April 25 at Konampatti village near Sivakasi that killed three people. Two others sustained injuries at a fireworks unit on April 20 at Kunthalapatti village and died on April 24. After a series of accidents in last ten days, officials decided to crackdown and inspect the factories. "We will start our inspections again to check violations. Four teams each headed by deputy tahsildars will carry out inspection in all the fireworks factories", Rangan said.

Related Links

- [Proposals to Overhaul Fireworks Industry yet to be Implemented](#)
- [Official Apathy, Irregularities keep on Claiming Lives in Sivakasi](#)
- [Cracker Unit Blast Kills 5 near Sivakasi](#)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Three-killed-in-blast-at-Sivakasi-firecracker-unit/articleshow/19766065.cms>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, KALMANDAPAM, APRIL 29 2013. TWO DRIVERS HELD FOR ILLEGAL TRANSFER OF FUEL FROM TANKERS

The food cell officials on Saturday seized 20,000 litres of diesel and petrol being illegally transferred from one tanker to another for diverting it to another destination. Food Cell Superintendent of Police, Arumugham, said the drivers of the tankers, Anand of Cuddalore and Saravanam of Villupuram, have been arrested. Acting on a tip-off, the food cell officials reached near Kalmandapam in Nettapakkam police station limits, when the petroleum product from a tanker of Indian Oil was being



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transferred to another tanker of Hindustan Petroleum. Following this, the officials seized the tankers as well as the pump used for transferring the petroleum products and arrested Anand and Saravanan. Saying that the value of the products seized was yet to be assessed, the food cell SP revealed that cases would be registered against the persons under the Essential Commodities Act. Sources say that the petroleum products, thus transferred, could have been used for diverting to another destination or it could be sold off after adulteration (adding other petroleum products like kerosene).

http://newindianexpress.com/states/tamil_nadu/Two-drivers-held-for-illegal-transfer-of-fuel-from-tankers/2013/04/28/article1565311.ece

USA, AKA, FAIRBANKS, APRIL 20 2013. SEMI TRUCK DRIVER STRIKES GAS PUMPS IN SOUTH FAIRBANKS

The driver of a semi pulling in to get gas dislodged a unit of fuel pumps at a gas station in south Fairbanks on Friday morning, but no fuel was spilled. The impact was enough to break the fuel pipes inside the gas pumps but the pumps were designed to be breakaway units and no gas was spilled, said Lt. Dan Welborn with the Fairbanks Police Department. The semi driver, who was not identified, told police he thought the right front end of his 2010 Kenworth was clear of the gas pumps when the truck struck the pumps. Damage was estimated at between \$26,000 and \$30,000, police said. An officer from the Department of Measurement Standards & Commercial Vehicle Enforcement responded to the accident, which occurred at 11:50 a.m.

http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/semi-truck-driver-strikes-gas-pumps-in-south-fairbanks/article_3410d658-afd0-11e2-8524-001a4bcf6878.html

INDIA, KARNATAKA, BHATKAL, APRIL 29 2013. CAR-TANKER COLLISION IN BIDAR; 10 KILLED



In a terrible road accident at the Humnabad National highway 9, 10 people of a same family lost their lives when a Tanker rammed into the car they were travelling on. According to sources, the family, which hailed from Kolapur on the outskirts of Shahpur in Maharashtra, was on its way to Tirupati temple. On the Humnabad NH 9, their car was struck by an incoming tanker. The impact of the collision was such that 7 people died on the spot while the remaining breathed their last in the hospital. The deceased has been identified as Lakhan (22), Mahipati (60), Shahaji (34), Archana (32), Vishwanath (42), Vijay (38), Kusuma (50), Shamrao (55), Abhishek (8) and Vaishnavi (10). The tanker driver and cleaner have also suffered injuries and are undergoing treatment at the local

government hospital. Bidar SP Tiya Rajan and DYSP Amarnath Shetty rush to the spot and examine the situation.

<http://www.sahilonline.org/english/newsDetails.php?cid=2&nid=17729>

USA, S.C, BERKELEY CO, APRIL 29 2013. MAN RUSHES TO HELP TRAPPED DRIVER OF OVERTURNED GAS TANKER

philip weiss & corey davis

 [Slideshow Tanker spills gas on I-26 following wreck](#)

 [Watch the Video Man Rushes to Help Trapped Driver of Overturned Gas Tanker](#)



The man pulled from his overturned, leaking gas tanker on Interstate 26 early Saturday is listed in "serious condition" at the hospital.

Medical University of South Carolina officials said 26-year-old William Wieters was listed in serious condition on Sunday afternoon. South Carolina Highway Patrol officials said he suffered non-life-threatening injuries during the wreck. Jason Washburn witnessed the accident and pulled the trapped Wieters from the truck, which was leaking many gallons of gasoline from its 87,000-gallon tank. Senior Trooper Bridget Wyant said Wieters' 18-wheeler carrying a double tank of diesel fuel and gasoline overturned, spilling gas everywhere, following a two-car collision near exit 191 eastbound around 2:52 a.m. Acting quickly, Washburn pulled Wieters away from the leaking truck, offering words of encouragement

along the way. Washburn said, "You got to work with me. You got to try to get out of this situation before this thing explodes, it's full of gas. He just kept calmly telling me, sir thank you." After taking a closer look, Washburn noticed Wieters' arm was



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

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badly injured and wrapped it. Wyant said the 19-year-old driver of the 1999 Pontiac involved in the accident was not taken to the hospital. Wieters will be charged with driving too fast for conditions. Washburn said he saw a car driving very slowly down the interstate when the truck slammed into the back of it. The collision caused the tanker to roll multiple times. While it was initially estimated as much as 4,000 gallons of fuel was spilled, officials now say they believe it to be considerably less. An audit of the tanker and the amount of fuel recovered will be made to determine how much was lost. Wyant says the fuel spilled along the side of the road, but not on the actual roadway. The collision did cause damage to the road. Officials closed the interstate at exit 187 eastbound while crews worked to clean up the spill and wreckage. The crews vacuumed the spill and will return Sunday to dig up contaminated soil. Wyant says the Department of Health and Environmental Control was notified. Berkeley County sheriff's deputies went door-to-door Saturday morning warning residents along Rudd Road to stay inside due to the harmful vapors.

<http://www.wistv.com/story/22095085/overtuned-gas-truck-closes-i-26>

ENGLAND, ESSEX, WEST THURROCK, APRIL 30 2013. FIRE CREWS SUCCESSFUL IN TACKLING FIRE AT VOPAK, WEST THURROCK



Fire crews, including one from Wennington, were called to help put out the blaze yesterday.

Date posted: 29-04-2013

Update 18:38hrs: Crews remain at the incident monitoring the situation and steady progress is being made.

Update: Crews dealt with the incident by 19:33hrs.

Vopak Terminals UK Issued the Following Statement:

Ian Cochrane, Managing Director of Vopak Terminals UK, said: "We have had a fire during maintenance work on what I have to stress was an empty tank. No oil products were on fire, the smouldering materials were extinguished promptly. "Safety is a high priority for us and our procedures worked smoothly. "I would like to thank local emergency for their fast and very reassuring response."

Update: 1745hrs Divisional Officer Neil Fenwick Reports:

"Crews wearing breathing apparatus and using a foam branch have been tackling the fire in the rim seal on the roof of the storage container. "The work of the fire crews and the deluge systems within the tank contained the fire and it has been contained to the one storage tank which did not contain any product and was empty, the tank has been under maintenance."

16:45 hrs: Assistant Divisional Officer Mark Turnbull reports that:

Crews are using a covering jet to extinguish the fire in the rim seal of the tank.

Time 1625 hrs The incident commander is currently assessing levels of resources. It is likely that appliances may be turned back. There are no reported casualties and no-one has been evacuated at this stage.

Time:15:32 hrs Twelve Fire Crews are tackling an incident involving a diesel storage tank in the Vopak terminal in Oliver Road, West Thurrock. The tank involved is empty but was used to store diesel. Firefighters have launched a major foam attack. Appliances from across the county have been sent to the scene. 12 pumps, some 60 firefighters, along with specialist appliances carrying foam and hose are part of the pre-determined attendance to this type of site. An aerial ladder, rescue tender and incident command unit have also been sent to the scene.

Related Links

- [Oil terminal fire: Crews tackle diesel storage tank fire](#)
- [Wennington firefighters among those called to diesel tank blaze at Vopak ...](#)
- [Brentwood firefighters are tackling diesel storage tank blaze in West Thurrock](#)
- [Huge fire at Vopak in West Thurrock](#)

http://www.thurrockgazette.co.uk/news/10386891.Huge_fire_at_Vopak_in_West_Thurrock/

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, INDAPUR, APRIL 30 2013. AMMONIA TANKER TURNS TURTLE ON PUNE-SOLAPUR ROAD; TWO DEAD

Two others in hospital, traffic held up for 7 hours. Two persons were killed when an ammonia tanker turned turtle on the Pune-Solapur Road in a freak accident at Indapur early on Sunday. As many as seven hours were required for the fire brigade



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personnel to control the gas leakage in the area, about 140 km from Pune. Two passers-by were affected by the gas. The police said tanker driver Pallusingh Babansingh Pardeshi (40) of Buldhana died in the accident. The identity of the other deceased is yet to be ascertained. They suffered severe injuries during the mishap and were also suffocated by the gas. The mishap occurred when the driver lost control over the vehicle and it turned turtle. The passers-by affected by the gas were identified as Arvind Dilip Jadhav (24) and Balaji Kashinath Ghadge (23), both residents of Vishrantwadi in Pune. According to Indapur police, the incident took place at 5 am opposite Mahalaxmi Automobiles near Tembhurni Phata on Sunday. The tanker (MH 46 F 2258) was carrying ammonia gas from Mumbai-based Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited to Hyderabad. The police suspect that the driver dozed off, which led to the accident. Soon, gas started leaking from the valve. A team led by police inspector Ashok Pawar of Indapur police station and assistant police inspector Rajendra Jadhav of the highway police reached the spot and diverted traffic to the bypass. The fire brigade was summoned from a nearby sugar factory and Kurkumbh MIDC, about 70 km from the spot. Sub-divisional police officer (Baramati) Namdev Mittewad supervised the operation, which lasted about seven hours. Pawar said, "After the gas leakage, people in the radius of 4 to 5 km complained of eyesores, dizziness and vomiting. The driver and the other person died due to injuries as well as suffocation. We have admitted the affected persons at a private hospital."

<http://www.dnaindia.com/pune/1828326/report-ammonia-tanker-turns-turtle-on-pune-solapur-road-two-dead>

GHANA, ASHANTI REGION, ADADIENTEM, APRIL 30 2103. GHANA POLICE COMMAND TAKES OVER INVESTIGATIONS OF SIPHONING FUEL FROM TANKER BY COPS



A team of police officers has been despatched from the Police Headquarters to take over investigations into the alleged siphoning of fuel from a tanker by policemen at Adadieniem, near Ejisu in the Ashanti Region. The Officer in charge of Public Relations at the Ashanti Regional Police Command, Assistant Superintendent of Police Mr Yusif Mohammed Tanko, said in an interview with the Daily Graphic yesterday that the team had already started work. Earlier, the Regional Police Command had issued a statement saying preliminary investigations into the matter indicated that the fuel had not been siphoned by the policemen. The statement, dated April 24, 2013 and signed by Mr Tanko, said the policemen had rather seized fuel from members of the public who were stealing it from the tanker. The fuel tanker was involved in an accident at Adadieniem on the Ejisu-Konongo road about 7.30 p.m. on April 19, 2013. A resident of the area was said to have used his mobile phone to photograph policemen who were allegedly siphoning the fuel from the tanker. Media reports later compelled the Ashanti

Regional Police Command to institute investigations into the allegation. According to the statement, the police went to the accident scene, where some members of the community were seen siphoning fuel leaking from the tanker. It said water from the fire tender that was sent to the scene was used to disperse the crowd after several attempts to do so had failed. "The crowd deserted the containers used in siphoning the fuel and run helter-skelter. The police then loaded the containers into a service vehicle and carried them to the Ejisu Police Station for necessary action," it said. The statement called on persons with contrary information to bring it forward to assist in investigations.

<http://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2013/04/29/ghana-police-command-takes-over-investigations-of-siphoning-fuel-from-tanker-by-cops/>

MALTA, VALLETTA, APRIL 30 2013. IMPLEMENT THE FIREWORKS SAFETY REPORT

The news that an elderly man was badly burnt while allegedly handling chemicals for ground fireworks at his residence in the centre of Mqabba brought home yet again the stark reality of the dangers of pyrotechnics, the amateur nature of quite a few of those who engage in this activity, the risks they are ready to take and the illegalities that are so often committed. Therefore it comes as a huge relief to know that the Government has finally taken the decision to implement the recommendations contained in a report by experts to improve fireworks safety. The report had been commissioned two and a half years ago and submitted to the previous Administration almost 18 months ago. This newspaper has long urged its implementation and has openly deplored the unconscionable time it has taken to do so. It therefore commends the new Administration for its decisive action so soon after taking office. All governments have a fundamental duty of care to the health and safety of their citizens,



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which should override any considerations of possible political unpopularity at the hands of particular interest groups, be they hunters or, as in this case, fireworks enthusiasts. The previous government failed this test on this fireworks report. It seems the new Administration is determined not to repeat this failure and the people now rightly expect it to deliver. The challenge will be how speedily, efficiently and effectively the recommendations in the report will be implemented. A new post, Director for Implementation of Reforms, has apparently been created at the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Security tasked with implementing changes in the prisons, fireworks factories, the Citizenship Department and the immigrants' detention centres. This will comprise a formidable package of reforms, dealing with a most demanding list of outstanding improvements in all these fields. Whoever the director chosen, he will need to be able to chase progress in some of the most neglected and knotty areas of government. Unless he is given adequate resources and, most importantly, has the full support of his minister behind him he is doomed to fail. As to the fireworks improvements arising from the report, a board, consisting of a representative of the pyrotechnics association, the newly appointed director of the Civil Protection Department, representatives of the Armed Forces of Malta and the ministry, will be tasked with ensuring that, in the words of a government spokesman, "this important report will finally see the light of day" and that "recommendations will start being implemented by the end of May". It is sincerely to be hoped that the expert commission's comprehensive set of proposals, and, specifically, its recommendations regarding the rigorous scientific testing of all chemical mixtures before their use in fireworks manufacture, will not be diluted in any way but will be rigorously followed. It is also hoped the safer practices recommended for the transport of fireworks on crowded roads are fully implemented. As one prominent member of the expert commission, commenting on the wide-ranging recommendations for regulating the industry, had put it when the report was first delivered: "We need to implement the recommendations immediately, as we are literally playing with fire". Little did he know when he said this that "the fatal fireworks accident within one or two years", which the commission had itself predicted, would tragically come to pass. There is no statistical guarantee that another will not occur. It is the duty of the Government to ensure, so far as humanly possible, that it does not.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20130429/editorial/Implement-the-fireworks-safety-report.467548>

NORWAY, OSLO, APRIL 30 2013. LEAK AT BP PLATFORM COULD HAVE CAUSED "MAJOR ACCIDENT"

nerijus adomaitis



Oil major BP must review the way it handles risk and maintenance at its offshore oil platforms in Norway following a leak at a North Sea platform that could have caused a major accident, Norway's oil safety watchdog said on Monday. Last September some 1,600 kilogram's of gas and 125 barrels of oil leaked from the production platform at the Ula field in the Norwegian section of the North Sea, a quantity considered significant by the Petroleum Safety Authority Norway. "The incident had the potential to become a major accident, with the risk that a number of lives might have been lost and substantial material damage caused," the agency said on Monday. The watchdog was concerned by the incident as BP had already been told to improve the way it handles maintenance at ageing platforms following a fire at the Valhall field in the North Sea in 2011. The leak at Ula was caused by the fracturing of the bolts holding together a valve in a separator outlet. Production was shut for 67 days. No one was injured. "The

investigation has identified a number of serious breaches of the regulations, related in part to BP's management system for activities (off Norway)," the PSA said. "Deficiencies still exist in the maintenance system." BP said it was addressing the issues raised by the watchdog. "The findings closely match BP's own investigation and work has already started to address the issues raised and to fully comply with the orders by the end of 2013," said Jan Erik Geirmo, a spokesman for BP Norway.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/29/us-bp-oilsafety-idUSBRE93S0IE20130429>

USA, PA, BRADFORD, APRIL 30 2013. GUSHING OIL CLOSES BRADFORD HIGHWAY

A northwestern Pennsylvania highway had to be closed for about five hours when crude oil mixed with natural gas spewed about 60 feet into the air when a valve broke on a pipeline. Crude oil often accompanies gas drawn from wells. Lafayette Township fire Chief Don Fowler tells the Bradford Era that the slick oil was being blown across U.S. Route 219 about noon Saturday in neighboring Bradford Township. That's about 130 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. The pipeline is owned by Atlas



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Energy, which has an office in Mayville, N.Y. where officials did not immediately return a call Monday. McKean County Emergency Management Director Jerry Rettger couldn't estimate how much oil or gas was lost. He says the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will hold Atlas responsible for the cleanup.

<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/oil-spill-closes-bradford-highway>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, M BRISBANE, LYTTON, MAY 1 2013. CALTEX REFINERY WORKERS RETURN AFTER GAS LEAK

kimberley vlasic

Workers at the Caltex oil refinery at Lytton, in Brisbane's east, have returned to the site after a fire caused by a gas leak prompted an evacuation earlier today. Police and fire crews were called to the refinery about 4am in response to a small fire in a petrol-making unit, which was extinguished before the all-clear alarm was sounded about 10am. Caltex spokesman Sam Collyer said no one was injured in the fire and there are no environmental concerns. "The unit is well within the refinery area and there was no (environmental) impact from the incident," he said. "We are currently carrying out the safe shutdown of some units. "Other units continue to operate at reduced rates." The cause of the leak is still being investigated and fire crews remain at the scene.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/caltex-refinery-workers-return-after-gas-leak/story-e6frf7jo-1226632745690>

NORTHERN IRELAND, ARMAGH, MAY 1 2013. TOXIC WASTE DUMPED 10 TIMES IN SAME ROAD IN SOUTH ARMAGH

Toxic waste from fuel laundering has been dumped along the same road in south Armagh ten times, Stormont's environment minister has revealed. Alex Attwood gave the details to the assembly when he was asked about cross-border co-operation on fuel smuggling. He said hauliers' representatives had told him they believed up to 50% of hauliers were now using illegal fuel. The roads minister, Danny Kennedy, said describing border fuel smuggling as an "epidemic" no longer did it justice. Mr Kennedy told MLAs he believed republican paramilitaries were gaining from the proceeds of fuel laundering in south Armagh and it was having a "sinister impact" on community relations in the area. The ministers made the remarks as they updated MLAs on the details of a recent north-south ministerial meeting, set up to promote greater co-operation between government departments in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

'Escalation'

The DUP asked Mr Attwood to outline the nature and extent of illegality detected in haulage and transport industries, as a result of such cross-border co-operation. The environment minister said the situation regarding the use of illegal fuel was "acute" and an escalation in the authorities' response to the problem was required. Mr Attwood told MLAs: "I have a map, for example, in my department where we have identified those parts of the north, in particular in south Armagh, where there has been multiple occasions where fuel sludge has been abandoned in essentially the same place, for that then to be collected by the relevant authorities. "There is a road in Northern Ireland where sludge has been dumped following fuel laundering on ten separate occasions, at about the same location."

'Savings'

Mr Attwood said he had met representatives of the Road Haulage Association on Monday and they had expressed concerns about the impact laundered fuel was having on those firms who obeyed the law. "It is their view, for example, that even in the last number of months, because of challenging economic circumstances, and given the benefit (and I use that word in a very neutral way) to hauliers who use illegal fuel, in terms of savings per gallon and benefit per mile, that it is having a hugely disproportionate impact on legitimate business," he said. "It is the view of legitimate business that up to, and maybe in excess, of 50% of hauliers are now using illegal fuel and that those multiple, small family businesses in particular in the north, who have served this part of the world very well over many years, that they are now facing the most immediate threat given the scale of illegal use." Mr Kennedy said many unionist constituents living in isolated rural areas close to the border had contacted him about fuel smuggling and abandoned toxic waste near their homes.

'Paramilitaries'

"It was put to me frankly, when I was told 'they're dumping the diesel where once they were dumping the bodies'," Mr Kennedy said. The roads minister added: "That has very sinister implications for what is called a shared future." He said that the law of the land had to extend to all areas, including south Armagh. "It is inescapable to me that monies generated from this black economy and this illegal activity ultimately will find their way back to republican paramilitaries," Mr Kennedy told the assembly.



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The BBC asked Mr Attwood's department to identify the road on which the minister said toxic waste had been dumped on ten occasions. However, a spokeswoman said that "unfortunately the information held by Northern Ireland Environment Agency on the locations of dumped laundered fuel residues is used in the investigation of criminal offending and is passed to other authorities for further criminal investigation". "Therefore NIEA are not in a position to release this information," she added.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-22356202>

USA, N.M, GRANTS CO, MAY 1 2013. TRUCK DRIVER FACES DWI COUNT AFTER CRASH NEAR I-40

The driver of a propane tanker is facing a DWI charge after New Mexico State Police say he crashed his truck in McKinley County, leading to the brief closure of Interstate 40. Police say officers found empty containers of alcohol at the scene of Monday morning's crash. Authorities say 55-year-old Bobby Cleveland of Prewitt was driving on State Road 122 when he lost control of his truck, which was filled with propane. The tanker had a small leak and authorities shut down nearby I-40 for an hour while hazmat evaluated the scene. The accident also led to train tracks being closed.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/crime/article/Truck-driver-faces-DWI-count-after-crash-near-I-40-4475603.php>

USA, S.D, SIOUX FALLS, MAY 1 2013. SAFETY AT THE GAS PUMP

kelly bartnick

 **Watch the Video**

- [Five Year Old Safe after Truck Fire](#)
- [Safety at the Gas Pump](#)



Fire inspectors are talking about gas pump safety following a pump explosion in Canton over the weekend. The fire happened Saturday evening at the Shell gas station near Interstate 29. "Gasoline burns at almost any temperature and almost any conditions, so regardless of what conditions they had, the key issue is how much gasoline got out of the tank or how much was spilled on the ground," Sioux Falls Fire Marshal Dean Lanier said. Lanier said in some cases it only takes a static electricity spark to ignite gasoline vapors. Safety precautions against explosions begin at the pump and can transition into the store if a fire were to get bad enough he said. "Every now and then you'll see somebody trigger a static fire. And all that is just a discharge of static electricity off your clothes or if you got out of the car, that's more common in the winter months," Lanier said. Signs are posted on every gas pump warning of possible hazards. Gasoline vapors

can escape too and be just as hazardous. Fire officials say if a fire sparks let go of the nozzle to stop gasoline flows and then shut off the pump. Emergency shut off valves are located at each pump and some gas attendants also have shut off valves inside the store that cut power and gas to pumps. "It scares people, but the main think is to keep calm, stop the flow of gasoline, and you'll put the fire out by simply taking the fuel away," Lanier said. No one was hurt in the Canton fire. The cause has not been officially determined.

<http://www.keloland.com/newsdetail.cfm/safety-at-the-gas-pump/?id=147357>

CANADA, SASK, BALCARRES, MAY 1 2013. ANHYDROUS AMMONIA LEAKS FROM STORAGE TANK

Winds were blowing in the right direction Tuesday, reducing the danger associated with a leak of anhydrous ammonia from a storage tank east of Regina. Employees of a fertilizer company noticed the leak and notified authorities. That led to a temporary closure of Highway 10 about five kilometres east of Balcarres while the product was removed from the leaking tank. The wind was blowing away from populated areas. Anhydrous ammonia can be fatal when there is exposure to high concentrations of the product. It is used as a farm fertilizer, and is flammable and caustic. In addition to Highway 10, RCMP closed other roads in the area. All the closures have since been ended. The tank contained about 70 tonnes of anhydrous ammonia. Balcarres has a population of about 600 and is located about 100 kilometres northeast of Regina. RCMP Staff-Sgt. Earl Nini said there was a conversation about evacuating the community, but the wind was blowing the toxic gas away from it. Nini said it was believed a portion of the tank blew off due to wind and that led to the leak.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/story/2013/04/30/sk-anhydrous-ammonia-leak-balcarres-130430.html>



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INDIA, TAMIL NADU, SIVAKASI, MAY 1 2013. TOLL RISES AS SIVAKASI TAKES A FANCY TO FLASHY CRACKERS

j arockiaraj

The reason behind most of the recent accidents at firework units in Sivakasi is due to the handling of 'manimarunthu' - a mixture of chemicals used in fancy fireworks. After fancy fireworks started gaining popularity in the last decade, more units here began producing them, raising the risk and soon the number of accidents too spiralled. Industrial sources say the fancy items have been in vogue since 1975, with the Chinese excelling in them. Though some of the bigger players in Sivakasi started dealing with these items in the 1990s, they however, treaded cautiously, while the others were reluctant to deal with them due to the risks involved. It was during the millennium fever in 2000, the colourful fireworks gained the fancy of Indians and Sivakasi catered to this new demand. Now, nearly 25% of the manufacturers in Sivakasi deal with fancy crackers. "Accidents have always been occurring in the industry but the frequency and loss of lives increased after the fancy fireworks dominated other items," said P N Deva, a CPM worker in Sivakasi. Even during Sunday's incident, the chemical cocktail used in the making of fancy products triggered the blast, claiming five lives. The chemical mixture was being filled in pellets when the explosion occurred. The Mudalipatti accident in last September too, happened during the same process. Since 2000, more than 200 lives have been lost in fireworks' accidents.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-04-30/madurai/38929126_1_mudalipatti-sivakasi-fancy-fireworks

RUSSIA, PERM, MAY 1 2013. SEVEN JAILED FOR DEADLY NIGHTCLUB FIRE

Key Points:

- Investigators say blaze caused by fireworks that set the ceiling alight
- Nightclub fire in Perm killed 156 people and injured dozens of others.
- The Perm provincial government resigned and several officials in the regional fire-safety directorate dismissed



Russia has jailed seven people for up to nine years for their roles in a horrendous nightclub fire in 2009 in which 156 clubbers died after an indoor firework show sparked a blaze. The co-owner of The Lane Horse club in the Urals city of Perm, Anatoly Zak, received a jail sentence of nine years and 10 months for causing death through carelessness and by providing unsafe services, the Perm prosecution service said. He denied his guilt. More than 300 people attended a party in the upmarket nightclub that had only one narrow exit. An illegal firework show caused plastic and straw elements in the decor to melt and emit deadly fumes. Most of those who died suffocated from fumes, unable to find their way out. Eighty-three people were also injured in the fire, several of whom remain in a

serious state. Seven others were found guilty by the Perm court, including the club's executive director, the men who put on the firework show and three fire safety officials. Six received sentences of between four and six years, while the former head of the region's fire safety inspectors was fined. Last year the club's commercial director, Konstantin Mrykhin, was jailed for six and a half years. He had fled to Spain after the fire but was arrested there and extradited back to Russia in 2011. The judge ruled that the families of those who died would each receive 1.5 million roubles (\$A47,000).

Related Stories

- [Man held over Russia club blaze](#)
- [Day of mourning over Russia fire](#)
- [Blaze engulfs hospital near Moscow](#)

<http://www.skynews.com.au/world/article.aspx?id=868423>

USA, N.C, CAMP LEJEUNE, MAY 1 2013. CONTAMINATION CANCER CASES: DO RIGHT BY MARINES

Former Marine Tom Gervasi has shown that good things can come to those who wait and wait and wait. And push, push, push. Gervasi, of Sarasota, got a letter April 13, one for which he had waited too long: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs finally acknowledged that the cancer wracking his body was caused by his exposure to contaminated water as a young Marine at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. The years of worry, pain and frustration, the multiple requests for disability benefits denied, were now over, reported the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. The letter confirmed that Gervasi's cancer was service-related, so he's eligible for all the compensation and benefits accorded veterans harmed in service to their country. Gervasi credits the intercession of U.S. Sens. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Richard Burr, R-N.C. This is great news for Gervasi,



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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 958 Newsy Stuff

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who is 76, but it shouldn't have required a relentless letter-writing campaign, the efforts of three senators and news coverage for him to obtain his benefits. Dozens of other former Marines and men who also lived and worked at Camp Lejeune in the early to mid-1950s, along with family members, have been stricken by cancer, too, but have yet to be granted benefits. This cruel and shameful ordeal deserves more attention from Congress and the Obama administration.

Requests Denied

Gervasi's previous requests were denied three times by the VA. The last denial came in March, after a federal study in January confirmed that the water at Camp Lejeune — water that Marines and their families drank, cooked with and bathed in — was laced with carcinogens when Gervasi was stationed there in 1956. The department said the study could not definitively link the water to Gervasi's rare form of breast and bone cancer. Gervasi is among at least 80 men who lived at the Marine base and later contracted breast cancer — a disease so rare in men that only 1 in 1,000 develop it in a lifetime. Other types of cancer — of the brain, lungs, liver and bladder — have been found in former Marines and family members who lived with them at the camp. Tests by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services confirmed the contamination of the camp's wells with carcinogens, mostly from dry-cleaning fluids and fuel leaks. The wells were closed in 1985. Congress and the White House should extend the Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act to all Marines, camp workers and family members whose cancer can be traced to their time at the camp. They, like Tom Gervasi, have waited long enough.

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20130501/EDIT01/130439949?Title=Contamination-Cancer-Cases-Do-Right-by-Marines>

MEXICO, MEXICO CITY, MAY 1 2013. MEXICO SUES BP OVER GULF DISASTER AS OIL GIANT FACES 2,200 NEW LAWSUITS IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS

emily gosden

The Mexican government has begun legal action against BP over the Gulf disaster, in one of 2,200 new lawsuits filed against the oil giant in less than two months.



The explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig on April 20, 2010, killed 11 men and unleashed the worst offshore oil spill in US history. In [first-quarter results on Tuesday](#), BP said that since March 6 it had been named as a defendant "in more than 2,200 additional civil lawsuits brought by individuals, corporations and government entities" and warned that "further actions are likely to be brought". It said the plaintiffs in these cases included "a foreign government", understood to be Mexico, which had threatened to sue BP soon after the 2010 accident. BP said it believed the onslaught of new lawsuits had been submitted ahead of the third anniversary of the disaster, after which the company could have tried to use a statute of limitations to dismiss their claims. BP has now made provisions of \$42.2bn for the costs of the spill but has warned that this does not include amounts for obligations it cannot reliably measure and the final bill remains

subject to "significant uncertainty". In its annual report on March 6, BP had disclosed it was still facing about 750 civil lawsuits over the disaster. BP said it would try to get the 2,200 new cases incorporated into the existing trial in New Orleans, which is considering most of the existing civil claims. The first phase of the trial concluded earlier this month. BP said most of the new claims were made under the Oil Pollution Act and it believed that claimants "may have sought to file these lawsuits in advance of the third anniversary of the incident on 20 April 2013, on which date certain OPA 90 claims may have been subject to time bar challenges by BP under OPA 90's three-year statute of limitations". It warned: "The magnitude and timing of all possible obligations in relation to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill continue to be subject to a very high degree of uncertainty. Furthermore, for those items where a provision has been recorded, significant uncertainty also exists in relation to the ultimate exposure and cost to BP." In March 2012 BP reached a settlement with thousands of Gulf coast residents over compensation for economic loss suffered as a result of the disaster. At the time it estimated the cost of the settlement to be \$7.8bn, but has repeatedly revised that total. The estimate reached as high as \$8.5bn by the end of 2012. However BP alleges that many of the claims are "fictitious" and the compensation awards made by the settlement administrator are unduly high, going against what was originally agreed. It has made several legal challenges attempting to halt payouts, so far unsuccessfully. In March it revised its estimate of the cost back down to \$7.7bn to cover only those claims that had been received and processed by the administrator, on the grounds it was not possible to reliably estimate any others. On Tuesday it put the estimate back up to \$8.2bn but reiterated warnings that, even if its legal challenges were successful, the total cost would be "significantly higher



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than the current estimate" because of the claims that had not yet been received or processed, and because average payments per claim were so far are higher than anticipated. If it loses the legal challenges, it will need to make "a further significant increase to the total estimated cost of the PSC settlement".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/oilandgas/10027271/Mexico-sues-BP-over-Gulf-disaster-as-oil-giant-faces-2200-new-lawsuits-in-less-than-two-months.html>

USA, ARK, MAYFLOWER, MAY 1 2013. STUDY FINDS 'SOUP OF TOXIC CHEMICALS' IN THE AIR NEAR ARKANSAS EXXONMOBIL SPILL SITE



Emergency crews work to clean up an oil spill in front of evacuated homes on Starlite Road in Mayflower, Arkansas March 31, 2013. (Reuters / Jacob Slaton)

While many questions remain following ExxonMobil's March 29 tar sands oil spill in Mayflower, Arkansas, a new independent study has revealed the existence of high levels of cancer-causing chemicals in the area. The new research, co-published by the Faulkner County Citizens Advisory Group and Global Community Monitor, indicates that the 500,000 gallons of heavy bitumen oil released by a gash in ExxonMobil's aging Pegasus pipeline has released hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) as defined by the 1990 US Clean Air Act.

According to a press release in conjunction with the new study, the total of 30

toxic chemicals include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, n-hexane and xylenes. Consequences of exposure to these chemicals include damage to the human nervous system, muscular weakness and blurred vision, while breathing ethylbenzene and benzene in particular can cause cancer and reproductive issues. According to April Lane of the Faulkner County Citizens Advisory Group, health reports collected from residents in the four weeks following the spill show they are demonstrating symptoms consistent with exposure to hazardous chemicals and independent air testing. *"Even four weeks later, residents are still feeling symptoms from the chemical exposure. People have consistently talked about gastrointestinal problems, headaches, respiratory problems, skin irritation including chemical burns, and extreme fatigue,"* says Lane. According to Dr. Neil Carman, a member of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and a former member of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, analysis of these HAPs could present any number of public health concerns. *"Thirty toxic hydrocarbons were measured above the detection limits. Each of the thirty hydrocarbons measured in the Mayflower release is a toxic chemical on its own and may pose a threat to human health depending on various exposure and individual factors,"* said Carman, who described the ambient air in the affected spill region as a *"soup of toxic chemicals."* The study comes only a week after another independent test performed by Opflex Solutions on nearby Lake Conway disputed ExxonMobil's claims that bitumen heavy crude oil had not reached the lake. While the oil giant's official statement read that *"the main body of Lake Conway and Palarm Creek remain oil free,"* the CEO of Opflex, a company specializing in oil spill cleanups, confirmed a different truth. *"Yes, there's oil in Lake Conway and there's oil downstream flowing into the Arkansas River,"* said Smith. *"I have found methylene chloride and barium in concentrations indicative of tar sands oil,"* he added. According to Inside Climate News, which has been closely following ExxonMobil's response during the Mayflower spill's cleanup, a number of discrepancies in its statements make it unclear when the Pegasus pipeline began leaking, how the company found out about the initial spill, or how quickly the company moved to contain the breach. As of yet, a definitive answer on how much oil spilled from the 22-foot-long pipeline gash remains in dispute. Three groups are currently looking into the spill: The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), US Representative Ed Markey (D-Mass) and Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniell. McDaniell recently received over 12,500 pages of documents from ExxonMobil following a subpoena. Last week, local news channel THV11 reported on a Mayflower town hall meeting hosted by the Faulkner County Citizens Advisory Group. At that meeting John Hammons, a local resident near a smaller body of water adjacent to Lake Conway, reported his concern of consequences from oil spill contamination: *"We can smell it. So I know it's there,"* Hammons said, who is concerned for his wife, who is seven months pregnant. *"She's broken out in hives, had nose bleeds, (and) respiratory problems,"* added Hammons.

<http://rt.com/usa/exxon-study-cancer-spill-596/>



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