



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 961 Newsy Stuff

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May 17 2013



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CANADA, N.S, HALIFAX, MAY 9 2013. NAVY FUEL SPILL IN HALIFAX HARBOUR TOPS 8,000 LITRES >> WEDNESDAY'S LEAK HAPPENED DURING ROUTINE PROCEDURE ONBOARD HMCS ST. JOHN'S

 **Watch the Video** [Navy Warship Fuel Spill into Halifax Harbour Described as "Significant"](#)



Environment Canada says the spill should have minimal impact.

A spokesperson for the Royal Canadian Navy says a cleanup of thousands of litres of diesel spilled in Halifax harbour should be complete Friday afternoon. The fuel leaked off of HMCS St. John's Wednesday morning while it was being transferred between two tanks, said Lt.-Cmdr. Bruno Tremblay. He called it a routine procedure that is done often to stabilize vessels in preparation of refueling later in the day. Fuel is consolidated to minimize the number of tanks that need to be refuelled. But Wednesday, something went wrong, and between 8 – 10,000 litres of fuel poured into Halifax harbour. Tremblay said the Navy will now try to determine exactly what happened. Investigators will also make suggestions to prevent future spills.

Clean Up Ongoing

Tremblay said they hope to finish cleanup efforts by Friday afternoon, but crews were stalled Thursday by heavy fog. The frigate is anchored near Dartmouth Cove, directly across from downtown Halifax. He said some of the diesel evaporated naturally, creating a powerful smell in the area. Crews will use equipment to absorb the rest. Twenty people were involved in the cleanup Thursday on four boats, using various techniques to remove the fuel from the water. Environment Canada has crews monitoring their efforts. It said in a statement that the incident "should have a minimum environmental impact." There's no timeline for Navy investigators to complete their report.

 **Related Stories** [Navy frigate spills fuel into Halifax harbour](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/story/2013/05/09/ns-fuel-spill-update.html>

USA, KY, LAKE BARKLEY, MAY 9 2013. RISING WATER CAUSES FUEL SPILL AT BARKLEY MARINA

franklin clark



Officials say flood waters that came over the top of fuel tanks at Lake Barkley Marina (above) caused a gasoline and diesel fuel spill last week. However, they also said that the spill was contained.

As much as 100 gallons of diesel and gasoline were released last Wednesday evening from fuel tanks at Lake Barkley Marina. Larry J. Tichenor, environmental inspector for the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection, said that's a "very rough estimate," and that the spill/leak happened because the tanks were underwater on account of the previous weekend's heavy rains. "The flood had come over the tank, and there was some gasoline and some diesel fuel that leaked," Trigg County Sheriff Ray Burnam said on Thursday morning. "We think we have it contained with minimal amounts of fuel going out." However, Tichenor went on to say that the spill was contained with

the help of absorbent booms. Burnam said the booms were put around the receptacles from which the fuel was leaking. Tichenor couldn't comment on the amount of damage caused because of the flooding, and marina representatives did not want to comment on the record. John Jordan, administrator for Lake Barkley State Resort Park, said that while tanks have been submerged by floodwater before, this was the first time he had heard of fuel leaking back out of a tank.

http://www.cadizrecord.com/view/full_story/22495918/article-Rising-water-causes-fuel-spill-at-Barkley-Marina?instance=home_headlines

INDIA, TALWANDI SABO, MAY 10 9 2013. PPCB TO SHOWCAUSE BATHINDA REFINERY

raakhi jagga

The Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) is set to issue showcause notice to Guru Gobind Singh Refinery in Talwandi Sabo for emitting poisonous gases like carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide. Residents of Kanakwal village in Talwandi Sabo have started scouting for new place to shift as poisonous and foul-smelling fumes keep



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billowing out from the multi-crore Bathinda refinery, known as Guru Gobind Singh Refinery. "The poisonous fumes makes it difficult for us to breath. We gave in writing to the administration that we want to shift and it too has realised our problem," a villager said. The area adjoining Kanakwal, including Phullokhar village, also faces the same problem. When contacted, PPCB Superintending Engineer Nazar Singh said: "Though these gases have been found within permissible limits, but their continuous inhalation can be harmful for the residents. The most dangerous is hydrogen sulphide, which is spreading a bad odour and thus, causing discomfort among locals." He added that asthma patients can develop problems because of the odour of hydrogen sulphide. "While the sensors of the refinery can detect this gas at 1 ppm, it starts spreading a foul odour even if the leakage is only 0.003 ppm. So, this is a serious issue and we have asked the refinery management to control this flaw. Continuous inhalation can affect the health of asthma patients and the ones with low immunity," said Singh. Following instructions from PPCB, the refinery management has called a team from New Zealand to take care of these issues. Besides Kanakwal and Phullokhar villagers in Bhatinda, the others facing similar problems included Assu and Dessu villages. Though they are located next to Kanakwal, these villages fall in Sirsa district of Haryana.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/ppcb-to-showcause-bathinda-refinery/1113914/>

USA, CA, RICHMOND, MAY 9 2013. RICHMOND TAKING HARD LINE ON CHEVRON IN AFTERMATH OF FIRE

robert rogers



Firefighting crews continue to pour water onto a unit after a fire at a Chevron refinery on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012 in Richmond, Calif.

City officials made it clear Tuesday night: While the investigation into last summer's fire at the Chevron refinery here is near an end, the legal and policy implications will reach far into the future. Though it postponed making a formal decision Tuesday, the City Council is poised to contract with a high-profile San Francisco law firm to secure damages from Chevron stemming from the massive Aug. 6 fire, which sent more than 15,000 residents to area hospitals. On Tuesday, the council also passed two agenda items related to the petroleum giant. One directed staff to strengthen the city's Industrial Safety Ordinance to align with U.S. Chemical Safety Board recommendations calling on the city to join a multiagency regulatory body. The other aimed at divesting public

employee pensions of funds from companies that profit from fossil fuel production. The trio of moves sends a clear signal that the city is taking an aggressive stance toward its biggest taxpayer. "Chevron isn't happy," said Councilman Tom Butt, adding that months of closed-door meetings among city officials preceded Tuesday's announcement that the city would seek legal counsel. "But we have an obligation to get fair compensation; if that ultimately involves litigation, then it does." City Manager Bill Lindsay released a document Tuesday announcing the city's intent to hire San Francisco-based law firm Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, which represented victims of the 2010 San Bruno disaster caused by a Pacific Gas & Electric gas line rupture. The firm remains in litigation stemming from the San Bruno fire and has handled more than 200 cases for clients seeking damages. The agenda item asked the council to approve legal services agreements with the firm for an unspecified fee, but the council adjourned at about 1:30 a.m. Wednesday without voting on the item, which was held over until the May 21 meeting. Frank Pitre, a partner in the firm, declined to comment by telephone Wednesday. But passage appears imminent. Councilman Corky Boozé, who, along with Councilman Nat Bates, tends to be most conciliatory toward the refinery, said his foremost concern is to "make the city whole" by getting compensation from Chevron, but he is not convinced the city needs legal help to get adequate compensation. "Chevron created a problem, and they have to pay," Boozé said. "When we lawyer up, everybody's defenses go up. They have big-time lawyers, too. I will vote for (contracting with the firm), but I hope the city can sit down and come to an agreement before it comes to that." The refinery has dramatically increased its local philanthropic spending in recent years, especially on education programs in local schools, to more than \$4 million annually. In the days after the fire, the company accepted thousands of claims filed by residents seeking damages but hasn't divulged how much it paid out. The city voted 5-2 Tuesday to direct staff to shift pension fund investments from fossil fuel firms to more renewable energy companies over the next five years. But the city has no direct influence over California Public Employees Retirement System, or CalPERS, investments, staff said. It also has no money in Public Agency Retirement Services, or PARS, having not made any investments into the program covering retiree medical benefits in years as it opted to pay benefits for current retirees with annual revenues rather than putting away money for future retirees. But if and when the city does put money into PARS -- it



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declined to make the recommended \$4 million down payment last year on future benefits owed to employees -- it will steer investments away from companies that profit from fossil fuel production, according to the staff report. Boozé called the plan "stupid," and Bates said it would have "no impact" on fossil fuel consumption or renewable energy technologies. But other council members noted that more than 10 other cities have taken similar steps in recent years, including Berkeley, San Francisco and Seattle. The item approving CSB's recommendations included a provision directing staff to send letters to local, county and state governments announcing Richmond's readiness to participate in a multiagency regulatory régime to oversee refineries. Chevron spokeswoman Melissa Ritchie wrote in an email Thursday that Chevron has already begun the process of improving damage review and pipe screening programs. "We look forward to continuing our collaboration with oversight agencies to create more effective and efficient regulation across the entire industry," Ritchie wrote. Ritchie declined to comment on potential litigation.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/west-county-times/ci_23201475/richmond-taking-hard-line-chevron-aftermath-fire

USA, NV, HAWTHORNE ARMY DEPOT, MAY 10 2013. HEAD OF MARINE BATTALION RELIEVED OF DUTY IN WAKE OF DEADLY TRAINING ACCIDENT

 **Watch the Video** [7 Marines Killed During Training Exercise](#)

Key Points:

- Commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment will be reassigned
- Seven Marines were killed in a mortar range accident in March
- Marines statement says system appeared to work properly

Three Marines, including the commanding officer of an infantry battalion, have been relieved of their duties in the wake of the death of seven service members killed during a mortar exercise accident in March, according to a statement from the Marines. Lt. Col. Andrew McNulty, the officer in charge of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, was replaced temporarily by Maj. Thomas M. Siverts, the unit's second in command. Brig. Gen. James Lukeman said he replaced McNulty because he "lost confidence in him as the commander of this battalion." Capt. Kelby S. Breivogel, who commanded Company A, and Chief Warrant Officer-3 Douglas H. Derring, the battalion Marine infantry weapons officer, were also relieved of their duties. They will be reassigned, the Marines said. The Marines were killed by an explosion during a mortar training exercise at [Hawthorne Army Depot in western Nevada on the night of March 18](#). Eight other people were injured. After the accident, the Marines discontinued use of the 60mm rounds and mortar tubes, but the Marines statement said a preliminary investigation determined the mortar system "functioned properly" at the site of the explosion. "We have no reason to question the safety of the system when it is employed as designed and as Marines are trained to employ it," the press release said. The full investigation into the cause of the accident is ongoing. The Hawthorne Army Depot, about 140 miles southeast of Reno, Nevada, is used for storing ammunition and weapon stocks awaiting demilitarization. The facility also provides high desert training facilities for military units.

Related Stories

- [3 Marine Officers Fired after Fatal Training Accident](#)
- [Marines killed in training explosion were all 25 or younger](#)

http://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/08/us/marines-relieved-of-duty/?hpt=hp_t2

USA, TX, LUBBOCK, MAY 10 2013. CAUSE OF LEAK STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION

adam d. young

 **Watch the Video** [Bayer Crop Science Looking for who's Responsible for Acid Leak in Lubbock](#)

Officials announced AirGas had removed all of the liquid in the leaking container at Bayer CropScience by 6 p.m. Thursday, May 9. The pressure that remained in the leaking tank had been reduced to the point where the leak had stopped, according to a Lubbock city news release. But officials with the Lubbock Fire Marshal's Office, Bayer CropScience, its chemical supplier and the state's environmental agency were still looking at what prompted the leak and steps needed to secure the area. Hydrogen chloride leaked from a faulty cylinder at the Bayer CropScience facility, 103 Erskine St., three blocks from Interstate 27 in Lubbock. A crew from Dallas working for AirGas, a company that owns specialized cleanup equipment, slowed the leak and began transferring about 3,000 pounds of the chemical to a safe container Thursday morning. "The good thing about it though is we don't need have to wait until it's all out because the less material that's in those containers, the lower the



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pressure, the less the leak and of course, the most critical portion of that was getting it all connected up before an event happening, and we've crossed that," Lubbock Deputy Fire Marshal Robert Loveless said. State environmental inspectors remained on the scene Thursday evening. An evacuation zone that stretched more than a mile south and west was reduced to an area bounded by Ash Avenue to the east, Erskine Street to the north, Interstate 27 to the west and Massengale Drive to the south, Loveless said.

The Leak

The spill was discovered about 7:40 p.m. Wednesday night by employees at the facility, said Victor Hernandez, Lubbock city councilman. An alarm sounded and workers contacted local authorities. Both Loveless and Monty Christian, vice president of U.S. Cotton Operations for Bayer CropScience, said it was unclear what started the leak. Loveless said crews were expected to have all of the chemical drained from the faulty cylinder within two days, but said the most critical time had passed. He said the Lubbock Fire Department has equipment and procedures that could have contained the chemical leak in an emergency situation, but opted to bring in the AirGas crew because of their expertise with their equipment and the chemical. "If the tank had been ruptured or if there was an immediate danger like a fire around it, we have the capacity to take care of this. But it was a matter of monitoring the situation and determining what the safest course of action was to protect our crews, city employees and other people," he said. The mandatory evacuation affected up to 20 homes near Erskine Street and an additional 150 were given an optional evacuation notice. Officials decided a cold front expected to arrive in the area by 1 a.m. Thursday would bring winds from the north. They issued a map with a red triangle labeling their "area of concern." Residents within the red triangle were urged to evacuate to the south past Marsha Sharp Freeway or to the west past Avenue Q. Emergency procedures included using reverse 911 calls to warn residents. The Lubbock Police Department assisted and blocked streets to the evacuated area. Police did not allow traffic to go north on Buddy Holly Avenue where it passes under the Marsha Sharp Freeway. Traffic was not stopped on Interstate 27. Just before 8 a.m., Loveless asked media to move three blocks back from the scene. Emergency response officials were concerned about the possibility the wind would pick up, he said. A truck from AirGas, which offers on-site safety services, arrived just before 9 a.m. Thursday and by noon had gained access to the leaking tank of hydrogen chloride. By 2 p.m., the crew was transferring an unknown amount of remaining hydrogen chloride from the compromised cylinder to an empty cylinder on the same trailer. By 4:15 p.m., Loveless said the crew was successful in connecting equipment to the faulty cylinder, draining it to another cylinder on the same trailer. Loveless said the tank continued to produce a slow leak from its valve, though he did not know the rate of the leak. "It was described to me as a hiss," he said. Christian said he expects portions of the Bayer plant could reopen Monday. Hydrogen chloride and the environment Hydrogen chloride could react with moisture in the air to form hydrochloric acid, a substance Loveless described as corrosive and "not compatible with human beings." Christian said the chemical is used in the de-linting process to get fiber off cottonseed. "It's not explosive, but it's corrosive to skin or if you inhale it," he said. Christian said the Bayer plant was nearly complete with its seasonal work de-linting cottonseed using a mixture of hydrogen chloride and other chemicals. He said the process removes fibers from cottonseed, making for smooth seeds more easily used by planting equipment. Because the process was nearly complete, Christian said he did not anticipate the interruption would affect the area agriculture industry. The Lubbock plant is responsible for about 20 percent of Bayer's seed de-linting operation. "But at this point our goal has been to make sure the area is secure and to take care of the situation," he said. Loveless, Christian and city spokesman Jeff McKito said there were no reports of contamination to area water supplies or long-term hazards to the environment. Loveless said his department notified the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality about the leak. In a statement Thursday afternoon, commission spokeswoman Andrea Morrow said Lubbock's fire chief contacted the TCEQ regional office and region staffers arrived to the scene about 8:30 a.m. Thursday. "The company has not yet contacted the TCEQ, responsible parties have 24 hours to notify TCEQ," the statement reads. "The reportable quantity for anhydrous hydrogen chloride is 5,000 pounds and the tank from which the material was leaking had a capacity of only 3,500 pounds." Christian said Bayer planned to contact and be fully cooperative with all necessary agencies, adding officials from the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration were working with the company to assess the situation.

Hydrogen Chloride 101: Explaining the Danger

It was around 8 p.m. Wednesday night when a container filled with hydrogen chloride began to leak into the atmosphere, forcing evacuations in the neighborhood surrounding Bayer CropScience. But what is it that makes the chemical so dangerous? We did the research and found out why authorities had to act so quickly. Hydrogen chloride is the gas form of hydrochloric acid. It can be very dangerous if inhaled. Exposure can lead to coughing, choking, nose inflammation, circulatory system failure and even death. Bayer CropScience keeps the chemical in liquid form by holding it in highly pressurized



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containers, but yesterday when that pressure was released, it shot into the atmosphere as a gas. The gas mixed with moisture in the atmosphere and turned into hydrochloric acid. "Hydrochloric acid is certainly corrosive to the skin. It's something you don't want to inhale at all but it is not explosive," said Monty Christian, Vice President of U.S. commercial cotton operations for Bayer CropScience. Christian explained why the company uses hydrochloric acid in this area. "We de-lint cotton seed at this site and it's part of our de-linting process to use the hydrochloric acid. Cotton seed in its raw state has a lot of fuzz and when you remove the fuzz, that's what you use the hydrochloric acid for," Christian said. He said with the new farm equipment cotton growers can't plant the seeds unless all of the fuzz is removed, so it is very important to cotton growers in this area. We did some research on Bayer CropScience to see if they are in compliance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. According to their records, Bayer CropScience has had no violations between Sept. 1 of 2001 and May 9 of this year.

<http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2013-05-09/cause-leak-still-under-investigation#.UYx-ELX-GM4>

USA, WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 10 2013. VIDEO FILMED DURING VISIT OF CSB CHAIR RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO TO WEST, TX

Watch the Video [During visit of CSB chair Rafael Moure-Eraso to West, TX, block after block of devastated homes, schools, and care facilities at West, TX.](#)



Video shows block after block of devastated homes, schools, and care facilities. Today the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) released a new three-minute compilation of video footage showing the extensive community damage from the ammonium nitrate fertilizer explosion on April 17 in West, Texas. The explosion led to at least 14 deaths and injured around 200 others. The narrated video collected by CSB investigators at the site illustrates the extent of destruction to schools, residences, and other nearby facilities such as the West Haven Rest nursing home and a nearby apartment block and playground. The video can also be viewed on the [CSB's Facebook page](#) for the West accident investigation.

Related Stories:

- [Senate Environment Committee Chairman Calls for Comprehensive CSB Investigation of West Fertilizer Accident](#)
- [Follow Updates and Share info on CSB's Investigation of West, Texas, Fertilizer Explosion and Fire](#)

<http://www.csb.gov/>

RUSSIA, ROSTOV, BELAYA KALITVA, MAY 10 2013. HUGE BLAZE AS RUSSIAN FUEL TANKS DERAIL, THOUSANDS FLEE

Watch the Video's [2]:

- [Huge Blaze as Russian Fuel Tanks Derail](#)
- [Dozens Hurt, Thousands Flee after Train Carrying Chemicals Derails](#)

Photo's [3] Huge Blaze as Russian Fuel Tanks Derail



Rescue workers approach debris left after a freight train derailed and cars burst into flames Thursday in Russia's Rostov region.

At least 44 people have been injured after a cargo train derailed in Russia's south with over 50 fuel tanks running off the tracks. One person has been reported missing. Almost 3,000 were evacuated from the nearby area. Over 50 rail cars of a 71-car-long cargo train derailed at the Belaya Kalitva station in Russia's Rostov region at around 2 am local time. Up to 10 cars have caught fire as a result of the accident, and heavy smoke is reported at the scene. The fire had been localized at around 6 am local time. "As a result of the accident, one of the cars with diesel fuel tank started the fire, engulfing an area of 1.5 thousand square meters," Interfax quoted the local Emergencies Ministry representative. At least 44 people were admitted to the hospital with injuries and burns. Seventeen of them including the locomotive driver have been hospitalized, one in critical condition. The official representative of the North Caucasian railway Evgeny Boevets told Interfax



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that during the derailment one of the cars released propane gas, enabling the flames spread to the locomotive. "According to preliminary information, there was no explosion, instead, the tank caught fire," said the source. Despite the leakage of toxic methylene chloride, the concentration of toxic chemicals is not life-threatening, RIA Novosti quoted local authorities as saying. At least 2,700 people have been evacuated from the area around the crash site and moved to temporary shelter in the local community center. Nearby houses were severely damaged in the blast, with most windows in the area shattered by the shockwave. Over 190 emergency workers and 48 pieces of equipment were at the scene battling the fire. It will take at least two days to clean up the area after the incident, local authorities reported.

Related Stories

- [Dozens hurt, thousands flee after train carrying chemicals derailed in Russia](#)
- [Russian Freight Train Explosion Throws Railcar Into Apartment](#)
- [Train carrying propane, fuel derailed, 27 injured](#)
- [Russian train derailment sets off massive fire](#)

<http://rt.com/news/oil-tanks-derail-russia-030/>

USA, PA, HARRISBURG, MAY 10 2013. 'HORRIFIC' TANKER FIRE IN SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP: WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

janet pickel

Watch the Video's:

- [Raw: Massive Fire after PA. Truck Explodes](#)
- [Tanker Fire, Susquehanna Township](#)

Watch the Video [4]:

- [Dramatic Videos of Truck Crash, Fire that Closed I-81 near Harrisburg](#)

Photo's [4] Diesel Truck Explosion Closes Busy PA. Interstate



The remains of a tanker truck after a fire on Routes 22/322 in Susquehanna Township May 9, 2013. At about 6:10 a.m. May 9, 2013, a tanker truck that was fully loaded with diesel fuel overturned on the I-81 northbound ramp to Route 322 west, state police said. After overturning, the tanker truck caught fire and exploded.

A tanker fire in Susquehanna Township this morning turned central Pennsylvania into a traffic nightmare, has seriously damaged the road, closed a college and delayed schools -- but didn't kill anyone. At about 6:10 a.m. Thursday, [a tanker truck that was fully loaded with diesel fuel overturned on the I-81 northbound ramp to Route 322 west](#), state police said. After overturning, the tanker truck caught fire and exploded, according to state police. The explosions sent thick plumes of black smoke into the sky. The fire is out, but fire departments and Hazmat crews remain on the scene. The truck driver, a 52-year-old man from Dover, escaped the truck with "minor burns," state police said. He was taken to Harrisburg Hospital. The truck was coming from Carlisle, state police said. No other vehicles were involved. State police say they aren't releasing the driver's name yet. A witness to the crash, Patty Wachter of Dauphin, emailed PennLive about what she saw: "I was traveling Route 322

east taking the ramp to merge onto 81 and I heard a metallic sound. I looked to my left and the truck was sliding on its side and burst into flames. The fireball was huge and creating a cloud of dark black smoke. "I saw a car that was following the tanker and hoped he got stopped. When I came around the bend I looked in my rearview mirror and there was a wall of fire and smoke from the road/ground up. "I was just praying that everyone would get stopped before they hit it and that the driver got out alive. It was horrific." HACC in Harrisburg and neighboring Wildwood Park are closed. Schoolchildren were late in Central Dauphin, Susquehanna Township and other school districts because buses got stuck in traffic. At noontime, [traffic jam](#) are easing, but the roads affected will likely be closed through the afternoon rush hour. [The bridge and road under it are being](#)



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[inspected](#). PennDOT is keeping traffic away from the area "until further notice." Also, parts of central Pennsylvania are under a [flash-flood watch this afternoon](#).

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2013/05/horrific_tanker_fire_in_susque.html

MEXICO, MEXICO CITY, MAY 10 2013. 24 DEAD IN MEXICO GAS TANKER TRUCK BLAST: OFFICIAL



A gas tanker's container came loose and exploded on a highway north of Mexico City on Tuesday, landing between homes and setting fires that killed at least 24 people and injured dozens. The blast rocked the suburb of Ecatepec before dawn, injuring at least 36 people and damaging some 15 cars and 40 homes, officials said. Ten children were among the dead and eight more were wounded. Nearby buildings, cars and trucks caught fire after the tanker exploded at around 5:30 am in the poor community of San Pedro Xalostoc, which is part of the municipality of Ecatepec. Several sheep, rabbits and dogs belonging to residents lay dead around the neighborhood. One of the truck's two containers cut loose and fell on the community below, said Transport Minister Gerardo Ruiz Esparza. An AFP reporter saw the tanker on a patio between two homes, surrounded by the charred remains of a handful of cars. The first tanker was still

attached to the cab of the truck on the road, and authorities pumped gas out of it to prevent another disaster. Officials were investigating the cause of the accident. A couple and their two children, aged six and 12, were killed when the loose tanker landed near their home, according to the father's cousin. "I ran out and took refuge on nearby roads after I heard the thunderclap," 45-year-old Humberto Zedillo told AFP. "I saw the house of my relatives in flames and when I returned the forensic experts were removing the bodies of my relatives." Firefighters sifted through the rubble for any more victims after the blast left behind the charred remains of vehicles, flung road cement barriers off the highway and sent smoke billowing from buildings. The death toll rose throughout the day and a spokeswoman for the federal highway department said there were 24 people dead late Tuesday. Officials said 13 of the injured were in serious condition. The driver survived the accident and was "detained in a hospital where he is receiving medical treatment," Mexico state public safety secretary Salvador Neme wrote on Twitter. Transport Minister Gerardo Ruiz Esparza said the truck's and the driver's paperwork were in order. The truck belonged to a company named Termogas. The highway, which links the capital to the central city of Pachuca, gradually reopened hours after the accident. President Enrique Pena Nieto expressed his condolences to the families of the victims and ordered his government to take measures to improve safety around the highway. More than 24,000 people die in road accidents in Mexico each year, according to official figures, and experts have warned of the dangers posed by trucks carrying hazardous materials. Trucks carrying dangerous substances were involved in almost 1,200 collisions between 2006 and 2009, killing 196 people and injuring 838 others, according to a study by the state-affiliated Mexican Transport Institute. The transport minister said the government would study the need for more restrictive circulation rules for cargo trucks, noting that Mexico has less stringent weight and size restrictions than developed nations. In April last year, 43 people died in the eastern state of Veracruz when a double-trailer truck lost its rear trailer and slammed into a bus packed with farmers.

<http://www.nst.com.my/latest/24-dead-in-mexico-gas-tanker-truck-blast-official-1.274220?cache=03%2F7.198169%3Fpage%3D0%2F7.238623%2F7.259443>

CANADA, B.C., VANCOUVER, MAY 10 2013. INVESTIGATION REPORT INTO SAWMILL EXPLOSION PROVIDES FIRST DETAILS >> DEADLY 2012 INCIDENT IN NORTHERN B.C. SPARKED BY FAILURE TO MANAGE WOOD DUST

gordon hoekstra

The root cause of a deadly explosion at Babine Forest Products was a failure to recognize and manage the explosive risks of wood dust, concluded a B.C. Safety Authority investigation report obtained by The Vancouver Sun. The report completed four months ago provides the first details of investigations into the explosion and fire Jan. 20, 2012 at the mill near Burns Lake in northern B.C., which killed two workers and injured 20 others. The investigation identified the possible ignition of the explosion as an electrical control panel, a high-watt bulb or an earlier fire. An area below the band saw in the basement was identified as the possible area of the explosion, but the safety authority noted WorkSafeBC had identified a possible area of origin near a waste conveyor. The safety authority investigation also found electrical equipment in the basement was not approved or configured for safe operation in a combustible dust environment. "Therefore the normal operation of this electrical equipment



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presented possible ignition sources for either a fire or the explosion and their possible contribution to the incident could not be ruled out," said the report. Neither the safety authority nor WorkSafeBC has released details of its investigations, saying they don't want to compromise any potential court action. WorkSafeBC has said it will refer its investigation to Crown counsel for potential charges under administrative law. The B.C. Safety Authority has released industry recommendations and ordered mills to check electrical equipment. On Tuesday, the safety authority said it also completed its investigation into a second explosion and fire at Lakeland sawmill in Prince George that killed two workers and injured 19 others. It is not releasing that report either, but issued an order for sawmills to reduce explosion risks from gas or electrical equipment in wood dust hazard areas. Frank Everitt, president of United Steelworkers local 1-424, said the information released so far is not adequate. A release of the full reports would provide mills and workers with all the information the experts have put together, which is necessary to ensure the best possible safety provisions are in place, he said. "If there is some reason (the reports should not be released), it does not override the safety or well-being of the people who work in the forest industry," Everitt said. Phil Gothe, B.C. Safety Authority vice-president of technical programs, said the agency has worked with industry and other agencies to promote safety and reduce the risk of similar incidents happening. The agency is confident "we are addressing the safety issues that were identified during our investigation," he said in an email. Among the other Babine investigation findings was that high-pressure air was used to clean machinery that could have added to dust dispersion in the area of the band saw. There was also an attempt to use pressurized air to keep the electrical control panel clear of dust following a dust fire in a control panel in 2011, but it didn't work. Two propane cylinders in the basement area likely vented and fuelled the fire. Heating fluid that was not shut off could also have fed the fire. With a provincial election just a week away, the NDP have also said the investigation reports should be released and claim the B.C. Liberals held them back. "Whether it's electrical components, possible accelerants or the identification of risk in hazardous spaces in sawmills, these are the tools needed to prevent this from happening again," said Prince George-Mackenzie NDP candidate Bobby Deepak. The NDP released a safety authority email that showed the decision to withhold the full Babine report came after a teleconference between the safety agency, three Liberal cabinet ministers and a subsequent discussion with Crown counsel. Prince George-Valemount Liberal incumbent Shirley Bond, the justice minister, was on the conference call, according to the email. Bond could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/Investigation+report+into+sawmill+explosion+provides+first+details/8359115/story.html>

USA, UT, DUCHESNE COUNTY, MYTON, MAY 10 2013. BLAST, FIRE AT EASTERN UTAH OIL WELL SITE KILLS 1, HURTS 2. INVESTIGATION » OSHA, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS BEGIN PROBE INTO TRAGEDY.

bob mims



Crews work Wednesday, May 8, 2013, to recover the body of a man killed Tuesday, May 7, 2013, when a storage tank at an oil well exploded in Uintah County. One other person was injured in the blast at the well site, which is owned by Newfield Production.

A multi-agency investigation began at dawn Wednesday into what caused an explosion that killed one man and injured two others at an eastern Utah oil well site. The Uintah County Sheriff's Office identified the deceased victim as Tyson Boren, 28, of Neola. Boren was a contracted welder at the site. A tank near the bore hole of Newfield Exploration Co.'s Odekirk 436-817 oil well exploded during routine maintenance operations about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. Newfield employee, identified as 32-year-old Rusty Harris, suffered non-life threatening injuries and remained hospitalized Wednesday at the Uintah Basin Medical Center in Roosevelt; and a third unidentified contract employee was treated for

minor injuries at the scene. "Our thoughts are with their families. This is a tragedy," Newfield spokesman Keith Schmidt said Wednesday. "We'll be conducting a full investigation into this. The fire was put out last night and the scene is cleared. We were out there at sun-up." Sheriff's Cpl. Brian Fletcher said that Boren's remains were removed late Wednesday morning from the well site, 16 miles south of Roosevelt, and turned over to the State Medical Examiner's Office. Along with Newfield investigators, the explosion will be probed by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Utah State Fire Marshal's Office and the Uintah County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff's deputies, firefighters and paramedics from both Uintah and neighboring Duchesne counties rushed to the scene of the explosion Tuesday night. The fire ignited by the blast did not



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burn the well drilling equipment itself, but was contained to the nearby 400-gallon holding tank containing crude oil and other, unspecified equipment, Schmidt said. The Woodlands, Texas-based Newfield Exploration is the leading player in eastern Utah's petroleum development industry. As of late 2012, the company had invested more than \$1.7 billion in its Utah holdings. The company has more than 230,000 acres with either operating wells or under development. In 2012, Newfield reportedly was producing about 30 percent of all Utah crude oil — twice the amount of the second- and third-ranking companies. The company also operates well sites in The Midwest, Texas, Malaysia and China.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/56279151-78/utah-oil-newfield-site.html.csp>

USA, AL, EUFAULA, MAY 10 2013. EUFAULA PLANT OWNER SAYS EXPLOSION WASN'T FROM PROPANE TANK

jerry fink



A sandblasting plant on Wednesday where an explosion critically injured two workers on Tuesday.

The owner of the sandblasting plant where an explosion critically injured two workers Tuesday says the blast was not from propane tanks, as reported by officials. Mike Ford, who opened the plant 19 years ago, said the tragedy was caused by a "flash explosion." He declined to elaborate during an interview Wednesday morning. "I'm going to be meeting with my attorney and he will tell me what I can say," Ford said. "I have nothing to hide. I just want to clarify a lot of misinformation that is going around." Ford, 42, said if a propane tank had exploded, there wouldn't have been anything left of the building, which was extensively damaged but still standing. "If a tank had exploded, those two men would not have survived," Ford said. Mike Cox and Don Hamilton were flown by helicopter to Hillcrest Medical Center with burns over 50 percent of their bodies

following the explosion, which occurred shortly after noon. They remained listed in critical condition on Wednesday. Ford said Wednesday his main concern right now is the condition of the two men. "We are just like a family here," he said. "Everyone works hard and we all play hard — we go fishing and play golf. "Put a prayer in for Don Hamilton and Mike Cox." The plant employs five people, he said. Three were at the site of the explosion, two of them in the building. While Ford said he couldn't say much right now, he commented that if a propane tank had exploded there would have been shrapnel, and there was none. Initial reports stated that one and possibly two propane tanks blew up. "A lot of stuff is going around right now that isn't true," said Ford, who lives in Henryetta, about 40 miles west of Eufaula. He said he isn't sure at this point whether he will re-open the plant.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/article.aspx/Eufaula_plant_owner_says_explosion_wasnt_from_propane/20130508_12_eufau_329_09?subj=298

USA, UT, WEST JORDAN, MAY 10 2013. FLAMES ERUPT FROM UTAH GAS STATION, BUT WOMAN WALKS AWAY OK >> QUICK-THINKING EMPLOYEES SHUT OFF GAS BEFORE FIRE SPREAD, POLICE SAY.

michael mcfall



Photo's [4] [Woman Escapes from Burning Car after Crashing into Gas Pump](#)



A woman walked away uninjured after her car crashed into a gas pump in West Jordan and erupted into flames. About 5:50 a.m., the woman was driving east on 7800 South when her grey Mazda was struck by a westbound Ford Excursion turning south at 4000 West, said West Jordan police Lt. Dean Waters. The Mazda veered into a Maverick gas station on the corner and crashed into a sign, a tree and then a pump, knocking it over and igniting a fire. "It was a fairly good-sized fire. There were 10- to 12-foot flames going up," Waters said. "Luckily [the 24-year-old woman] was not hurt. She was able to exit the car and get away from the fire." Waters also praised the "fast-thinking" Maverick employees who shut off the gas pumps right away and prevented the fire from spreading. The fire department is only about two blocks from the gas station, so firefighters had the flames out in a matter of minutes, Waters said. Besides the destroyed Mazda



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and gas pump, the flames only caused some smoke damage to the overhead awning. The 63-year-old driver of the Excursion also wasn't hurt. From the on-scene investigation, it appeared the lights were green for both vehicles and the Excursion failed to yield, Waters said.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/56282674-78/gas-fire-waters-flames.html.csp>

NIGERIA, KADUNA, MAY 10 2013. ARMY PARADES PIPELINE VANDALS, CONFISCATE FOUR FUEL TANKERS

isaiah benjamin

Officers and men of the Internal Security Force of 1 Division, Nigerian Army, yesterday paraded two suspected petroleum pipeline vandals in Kaduna. This is just as four petroleum tankers and 51,800 litres of diesel was also confiscated. Parading the suspects at 1 Division Strike Force base, Gonin Gora, Kaduna, the Commander, 41 Division Engineers and 1 Division Internal Security Force, Brig. Gen. Tagbo C. Ude, said the suspects were arrested at Sabon Gida Village, 6 kilometres away from Kaduna-Abuja road on 21st of March 2013. According to Gen. Ude, "On Thursday 21st March, 2013, at about 0215hrs (2:15am), our troops were alerted on the activities of some suspected oil pipeline vandals and illegal oil bunkerers at Sabon Gida Village (which is about 6 kilometres off former Kaduna-Abuja road tollgate), Kaduna South Local Government Area of Kaduna State. On getting there, the suspects took to their heels. However, 2 of them; Usman Umar and Aliyu Musa were apprehended. "The troop also discovered four petroleum tankers with registration numbers: Gombe, XF 786 GME, Nasarawa, NSW 05 FA, Plateau, AA 413 AKW and Sokoto, XA 445 GDA. "Also recovered were: 3 generating sets, 5 large hoses, 2 punching bars, 1 drilling machine, 1 sledge hammer, 1 digger and handle, 3 assorted tanker keys, 1 short hose and welding appliances", he said. While handing over the suspects and the recovered items to the police, the Army General said, 2 other suspects; Mr. Chris alleged to be residing in Abuja and Mr. Musa Inuwa were still at large, assuring that efforts were ongoing to track and apprehend them. "The economic saboteurs had loaded 51,800 litres of Automated Gas Oil (AGO), popularly known as diesel in 2 of the vehicles with 12,300 and 39,500 litres respectively. A preliminary investigation was conducted by the Military Intelligent and Military Police units and today, we are handing over the suspects and the impounded items to the Kaduna State Command of the Nigeria Police Force," he said.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201305090027.html>

USA, IN, INDIANAPOLIS, MAY 5 2013. 9,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL LEAKED FROM MARATHON OIL PIPELINE NEAR 56TH STREET ON NORTHWEST SIDE >> CLEANUP COULD TAKE WEEKS, CREW SAY

 **Watch the Video** [Fuel Line Leak Closes 3900 Block of West 56th Street](#)



West 56th Street on the city's northwest side remained blocked off to traffic Friday morning as crews worked to clean up 9,000 gallons of diesel fuel that leaked from a Marathon oil pipeline Thursday. Marion County Health Department officials were called the 5600 block of Guion Road late Wednesday on reports of a strong odor in the area. Just before 2 a.m. Thursday, health officials were called back to the area after receiving complaints about a smell. Pike Township Fire Department crews were called to the scene for assistance. Citizens Energy Spokesman Dan Considine said the incident was initially reported as a gas spill, but it was later determined to be an oil pipeline leak. Crews determined the source of the leak coming from a Marathon pipeline. Cleanup is expected to take several weeks, officials said. Investigators said the fuel was found on the ground near the railroad tracks east of the Pike Township Transportation building. Two pipelines in the area were shut down and Considine said crews were working to prevent the oil from leaking into sewers.

The oil spread down to 54th Street and crews used at least four vacuums trucks to suck up the spill. A spokesman for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management said the spill has been contained. "We're pulling some off of the pond... we've got booms up to keep it from going to the tributary that's there that would lead eventually to the White River," IDEM spokesman Barry Sneed said. "We've got everything blocked off, it's not going to travel any further." Sneed said crews are preparing for the possibility of weather affecting the cleanup. "Marathon and BP are bringing in teams to plan on if we get a heavy rain tonight to handle that extra flow that they would have," he said. Police blocked traffic near 56th Street and Guion Road. Drivers were advised to plan for detours and to expect delays through the afternoon. Health officials said there are no



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known health threats for residents because the air quality is still good and nearby homeowners are on city water. The United States Department of Transportation is responsible for inspecting most hazardous liquid pipelines in Indiana, and a spokesperson from the agency told RTV6 on Thursday that the lines are inspected annually. Indiana has almost 4,000 miles of hazardous liquid pipeline, including 88 miles in Marion County. In the past 10 years, the state has had 69 incidents with the lines, plus four so far in 2013. The 69 incidents over the past decade have caused \$19 million in damage. Nobody has died as a result of the pipeline incidents in Indiana, but two people were injured in 2010. According to national data, the most common causes of pipeline incidents are welding or equipment failure, incorrect operation and corrosion.

Related Stories

- [View a map of national pipelines](#)
- [More information on Indiana pipeline incidents](#)

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/indianapolis-fire-department-gas-spill-reported-near-56th-street-on-northwest-side>

USA, WA, SEATTLE, MAY 10 2013. CAR SLAMS INTO GAS PUMP AFTER ACCIDENT, IGNITES BLAZE

 [Watch the Video](#) [Smoke Continues to Rise from the Wreckage after the Flames were Extinguished.](#)

 [Photo's \[10\]](#) [Car Slams into Gas Pump](#)



A car burst into flames Thursday morning after it was struck by another vehicle and crashed into a fuel pump at a Seattle gas station, officials said. Police said the car was at the Union 76 gas station at the corner of James Street and Terry Avenue when it was struck by another vehicle, described as a black Monte Carlo, that then sped away from the scene. The impact of the crash pushed the car into the fuel pumps, shearing them off from their base and sparking flames that quickly engulfed the car and shot up into the superstructure above the gas pumps. "All of a sudden I hear a thump, and I turn around, and there's a car coming straight at me," said Lindsay Aust, who was filling up at the adjacent pump. "I legit thought this car was going to blow up." The occupant of the car that was struck by the Monte Carlo escaped the blaze by quickly exiting through the passenger door. He was uninjured. Several people called 911 to report the fire. The flames were eight feet high and heavy smoke was pouring from the blaze when Capitol Hill's Engine Company 25 arrived on the scene soon

afterward. "The fire was intense enough to burn a nearby Volkswagen car that was fueling up next to it. So we have two cars - one completely destroyed and the other damaged," said Seattle Fire Department spokesman Kyle Moore. He said the clerk at the station fortunately had the presence of mind to hit the emergency fuel shutoff switch, which cut the supply of gasoline to the pump. Firefighters quickly doused the flames. Police are now seeking the black Monte Carlo that started the chain reaction and fled the scene.

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Car-slams-into-Seattle-gas-station-pump-ignites-blaze-206786681.html>

USA, TX, WICHITA FALLS, MAY 10 2013. TWO DIE IN FIERY CRASH INVOLVING TANKER TRUCK >> SECOND TRUCK, PICKUP ALSO INVOLVED

alyssa johnston

 [Watch the Video](#) [2 Die in Fiery Crash involving Tanker Truck](#)

 [Photo's \[4\]](#) [2 Die in Fiery Crash involving Tanker Truck](#)



Firefighters douse flames from an overturned fuel tanker involved in a major accident Thursday afternoon on U.S. Highway 277 in Baylor County. Two men were killed in the head-on crash.

At least two people were killed in a fiery three-vehicle collision in Baylor County. The collision, involving two trucks and a pickup hauling a flatbed, sparked a fire and hazardous material spill on U.S. 277 near Bomarton in Baylor County. The incident happened about 1:15 p.m. Thursday. Texas Department of Public Safety



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Trooper Brody Moore said no one was transported to the hospital following the wreck in which at least two vehicles burned in the middle of U.S. 277. Moore said there was an initial explosion from the tanker truck filled with what was believed to be fuel. The truck was jackknifed, leaking the hazardous material onto the road. A small grass fire started because of the truck's blaze. Firefighters doused the tanker with foam after letting excess fuel burn off for about three hours. Witnesses said another vehicle, possibly a minivan, may have been involved in the accident. Randy West, a trucker from Tennessee who was hauling pipe on his rig, said a one-ton pickup driving north on U.S. 277 swerved into the southbound lanes, struck his rig, then hit an oncoming tanker truck head on. He said the tanker was just behind him. The Wichita Falls Fire Department sent several units to the scene to assist. A large portion of U.S. 277 was closed due to the wreck and traffic was rerouted onto a farm to market road that led back to U.S. 277.

<http://www.timesrecordnews.com/news/2013/may/10/two-die-in-fiery-crash-involving-tanker-truck/>

ENGLAND, PETERBOROUGH, MAY 11 2013. PETERBOROUGH: CHEMICAL COMPANY FINED



A Peterborough company has been ordered to pay almost £100,000 fines and costs, after leaking chemicals polluted more than 30 miles of the River Nene. According to The Environment Agency, thousands of fish died and thousands more were damaged by agricultural chemicals that leaked into the River Nene in Peterborough and today (Friday) the company responsible was ordered to pay £92,000 by Peterborough Crown Court. Some of the fish were bleached by the chemicals and others leapt from the water and died along the affected 50km stretch of water. Chemical manufacturer and packaging company Safapac pleaded guilty at an earlier court hearing to causing the pollution on 18 June 2012 and claimed vandals damaged containers allowing 5,000 litres

of three chemicals to get into drains. Today the crown court fined the company £50,000 and ordered them to pay £42,000 costs. Mark Watson, prosecutor for the Environment Agency, told the court that the company reported the spill to them on a day when they had also taken 15 calls from people about distressed fish in the river. Investigators linked the two incidents. Drainage plans held by the company at their Orton Southgate site and initially shown to environment officers showed a drain on site led to a foul sewer. Further investigation by the company identified that it was, in fact, a surface water drain which discharged to the river. All three chemicals, an insecticide, a fungicide and a disinfectant, are known to be very toxic to aquatic organisms and can cause burns, drowsiness or dizziness to people. The effect on the River Nene was seen as far as Wisbech and cockle fishing in The Wash was quarantined and closed 19-21 June by the regulatory authority. Mr Watson said that a survey at this time showed a 'clear and substantial' impact on all living things in the Orton Brook and River Nene for at least 14.7km. The pollution had an impact along 46km of the brook and river. Peterborough and District Angling Association had to cancel fishing matches and members also cancelled because of the pollution, costing the club £928. Two cockle fishermen claimed they lost more than £10,000. The total cost to the members of the Greater Wash Fishing Industries Group was estimated to be £216,772 as a result of the pollution. Mr Watson said the pollution could have been prevented if the chemicals had been stored securely. He said: "Bulk containers containing the chemicals were stored in external bunkers near to the road. There was no bunding and no secondary containment in case of spills. There was an open drain in the storage area and another just outside." He told the court that Safapac's high level risk assessment had failed to identify vandalism as a risk but on the morning of the pollution staff had arrived at work to find taps on the storage containers had been opened and a ladder had been used to get in. Police records showed that the company had made five reports of criminal or anti-social behaviour directed at the company or in the immediate area since 2010 involving youths causing damage to or trespassing on Safapac's property or metal theft. A Safapac manager told investigating environment officers that staff had closed an emergency valve within 15 minutes of discovering shattered valve caps and police and the Environment Agency notified. He said CCTV at the site was not recording at the time and the ladder used to get in had been stored on top of a container at the site. Chemicals are now stored in locked shipping containers. Judge Madge said: "The environment is a precious heritage and we need to preserve it for the future. Companies need to keep premises safely." After the hearing Environment Agency officer Adam Shamma said: "This case should serve as a reminder to companies who handle chemicals to ensure their storage arrangements are adequate. Safapac would have prevented this incident if their chemicals had been stored in a secure, bunded area."

<http://www.heart.co.uk/peterborough/news/local/peterborough-chemical-company-fined/>



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USA, TX, LUBBOCK, MAY 11 2013. CLEANUP, INVESTIGATION EFFORTS UNDER WAY AT BAYER CROPSCIENCE

jennifer loesch



The trucks handling cleanup at the scene of a chemical spill are similar to this AirGas truck seen here prior to a chemical spill near Erskine Street.

After the discovery of a hydrogen chloride leak from an Airgas tank at Bayer CropScience on Wednesday, May 8, officials from Airgas sent in a team of specially trained emergency responders to begin cleanup efforts. Lubbock Assistant Fire Marshal Capt. Elliot Eldredge said the Fire Department's involvement with the leak has ended. He said firefighters and hazardous-material team members secured the scene until Airgas personnel could arrive. Different chemicals and different situations sometimes require specialized tools, Eldredge said. Local hazmat crews have the training and tools to deal with common chemicals like chlorine and gasoline. In this instance, it was more feasible for local crews to stabilize the situation and wait for Airgas' specialized team. "There's a difference between negation and total cleanup," Eldredge said.

The Fire Department's practices and policies are not unique, according to Eldredge. He said local policies match the standard across the country. Protecting life is the top concern for fire departments with hazmat teams, Eldredge said. Airgas Vice President of Communications Doug Sherman said incidents like the one Wednesday night occur "very infrequently." The faulty tank will be removed from the site when local authorities give the go-ahead, so Airgas personnel can examine it. Sherman said in the past year Airgas vehicles have undergone 1,440 roadside inspections and of those inspections, only 10 out-of-service violations were recorded. The national percentage for hazardous material violations is 4.5 percent, according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's website. Airgas investigators are not sure where the leak was in the tank, but that is something they hope to find through their investigation. Sherman did say the chemical in the tank dissipated almost immediately when it made contact with air. About noon Thursday, May 9, Lubbock Fire Marshal Robert Loveless said readings from 500 to 1,000 feet from the spill did not pick up any traces of hazardous fumes. Sherman said he agreed with local officials' decision to evacuate residents near the Erskine Street plant. "We applaud them for doing that," Sherman said. A Bayer CropScience spokesperson said it has a "stringent" safety review process for carriers and it makes every effort to use only those carriers and drivers that meet high safety performance standards. As part of this process, the spokesperson said Bayer CropScience checks the Department of Transportation's records to make sure its carriers have a satisfactory rating. Bayer CropScience Vice President of U.S. Cotton Operations Monty Christian said authorities and company representatives were able to safely enter the site Thursday night to begin the investigation into the leak. He confirmed that representatives from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration were on the scene and starting their review. The Avalanche-Journal was unable to reach OSHA for comment Friday, May 10, during evening hours.

<http://m.lubbockonline.com/local-news/2013-05-10/cleanup-investigation-efforts-under-way-bayer-cropsience>

USA, WYO, CHEYENNE, MAY 11 2013. NEW EPA FARM FUEL-TANK REGULATIONS START MAY 10

Those who store fuel, oil, crop oil, hydraulic oil, surfactant, adjuvant and other materials on farms or ranches must comply with EPA-mandated Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure plans by May 10. The EPA's new SPCC rule includes requirements for oil spill prevention, preparedness and response to prevent oil discharges to navigable waters and adjoining shorelines. "The SPCC regulations apply to any farm if an oil spill from your farm could reasonably be expected to reach water," said Sandra Frost, UW Extension educator. "Many farmers and ranchers will find it simple to comply with EPA regulations while others, with larger tanks on one parcel of land, will have to hire a certified engineer and build berms or dikes." Those who store more than 1,320 gallons in aboveground tanks (55 gallons or more each), or 42,000 gallons in buried tanks on one parcel of land, are subject to SPCC regulations. "Do not add together the storage capacity on different parcels you own or lease," said Frost. "A farm may have a plan for each parcel where storage exceeds 1,320 gallons." The plan includes requirements for measures such as security, employee training, overfill prevention (alarms), system inspection, emergency contacts and secondary containment (dikes, remote impoundments, or double-walled tanks) if required. "In many cases, farmers can write a simple plan by writing down what they already do and have in place," said Frost. Tier I farms and ranches are those with 10,000 gallons or less of aboveground storage capacity and in the three years before developing and certifying a plan had no oil spills to water larger than 1,000 gallons in a single spill or 42 gallons each from two spills within any 12-



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month period and that have no aboveground oil storage containers with a capacity greater than 5,000 gallons. "You may use the short SPCC Plan template to create your SPCC Plan and self-certify," said Frost. Tier II farms and ranches are defined the same except they have aboveground tanks larger than 5,000 gallons requiring certification by a professional engineer. "Create a full SPCC Plan and self-certify," said Frost. "Tanks larger than 5,000 gallons will require emergency berms, dikes or other containment systems." For sample forms and blank templates for Tier I and Tier II farms and ranches, go to epa.gov and type SPCC for Agriculture in the Search field. Click on the SPCC for Agriculture link. "Sign and put the plan document in your office desk drawer," said Frost. "This written plan must be reviewed and updated when your farm fuel equipment changes. Employee training and inspections must be logged on it. It must be reviewed at least every five years." Contact Frost with questions at 307-754-8836 or email her at sfrost1@uwyo.edu

<http://www.hpij.com/archives/2013/may13/may13/0307NewEPAFarmFuelRegulationssr.cfm?t=New-EPA-farm-fuel-tank-regulations-start-May-10>

USA, WYO, SUBLETTE COUNTY, MAY 11 2013. POLLUTANTS DETECTED IN WATER WELLS IN SUBLETTE COUNTY'S GAS FIELDS

willow belden

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Pollutants including benzene and diesel-range organics have shown up in water wells like this one in the Pinedale Anticline for several years. Sublette County has been in the news a lot because of its air quality problems, which largely stem from natural gas production. But there's another issue too: Pollutants have been showing up in water wells. Wyoming Public Radio's Willow Belden reports.

Willow Belden: The pollutants in question are petroleum products like diesel-range organics and benzene. They first started showing up in water wells in the Pinedale Anticline gas field in 2006. That prompted the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Environmental Quality to call for extensive testing, and the following year, they detected hydrocarbons in 85 wells. Several were at concentrations exceeding the DEQ's limit for what's safe to drink. Since then, there have been dozens of detections each year, and each year, a handful exceed the legal limit. But nobody knows where the pollutants are coming from.

Merry Gamper is a scientist with the BLM. She says her agency is working with DEQ to try to find answers. But that's hard to do, because no testing was done before gas development started.

Merry Gamper: It's very difficult for us to come in after the fact and say, "It's this or it's this or it's this." We did a lot of investigative chemistry; there's a lot of geochemistry, a lot of analysis involved. ... It does become a little bit of forensic science.

Belden: Gamper says the hydrocarbons could have come from drilling mud, or from water or condensate that's comes up when you extract natural gas, or from any number of other sources. And the sources could be different for each well. Until there are answers, DEQ is trying to make sure that the pollution gets cleaned up. Jules Feck is a project manager for DEQ's Voluntary Remediation Program, or VRP. She says if a well shows hydrocarbons over the legal limit, they talk with the company that owns the well.

Jules Feck: We say to them that they can either join the VRP voluntarily, or clean up the contamination under an administrative order. ... That's where we say, "Well, you need to clean this up," because we have a non-degradation policy for groundwater in our state, and we have cleanup standards that must be met. Belden: Feck says companies have been very cooperative about joining the Voluntary Remediation Program.

Feck: I have issued five liability assurances, where they have cleaned up to our standards.

Belden: But in other wells, the contamination has not gone away. Feck says that means there's an ongoing source of pollution. The BLM and the DEQ both emphasize that most of the hydrocarbon detections have been in industrial wells, not drinking water wells. And most detections have been very low, under the legal limit. But some say that's not reassuring



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enough. Craig Thompson is a professor of engineering and earth science at Western Wyoming Community College, and he used to run the water quality lab there. He says Sublette County residents who get their drinking water from wells should be worried.

Craig Thompson: I'm bothered when someone passes off a groundwater source as, "Well this is just an industrial well" and, "This level of pollutant is below the action level." What they don't say in either one of those is, "This is pollution, and it could be a real problem. And we don't know what's going on. We don't know where it's coming from, and we don't know where it's going."

Belden: According to the BLM, industrial wells, stock wells, and domestic wells are all tapped into the same aquifer. The domestic wells are much shallower than the industrial wells, but Thompson says that doesn't necessarily mean they're safe.

Thompson: Benzene is a serious, serious pollutant. This is a carcinogenic compound that causes cancer. ... My concern is simply that none of these pollutant levels should be in any of this groundwater, whether they're using it for industrial purposes, for domestic purposes, or for stock watering.

Belden: Area activist Linda Baker with the Upper Green River Alliance has additional concerns. She points out that groundwater and surface water are connected in the area.

Linda Baker: We are at the headwaters of the Colorado River, and what we do to our water here affects seven million downstream users. So we have a responsibility to keep that water clean and to send it downstream clean.

Belden: So far, there's been no evidence that surface water has been affected. Still, Baker is concerned that regulatory agencies are not taking the issue seriously enough. She's frustrated that after six years of detections, DEQ and BLM still have no answers about the source of the contaminants. And she's upset that some wells haven't been cleaned up yet. But Deborah Harris, who deals with groundwater pollution control for DEQ, says to be patient.

Deborah Harris: We do take this very seriously. Just the fact that it has taken a long time does not mean that ... the agencies are not taking it seriously.

Belden: DEQ and BLM have drilled special monitoring wells, to help them determine the extent to which the aquifers are affected. They've been doing more rigorous hydrologic mapping, to figure out how groundwater moves through the region. And they expect to complete their low-level hydrocarbon report – which will specify the sources of the contaminants – in June. Once that's out, the BLM says they'll consider adopting new policies to prevent future pollution. For Wyoming Public Radio, I'm Willow Belden.

<http://wyomingpublicmedia.org/post/pollutants-detected-water-wells-sublette-county-s-gas-fields>

USA, ILL, EDWARDSVILLE, MADISON CO, MAY 11 2013. BETHALTO WOMAN CLAIMS BENZENE EXPOSURE CAUSED MULTIPLE MYELOMA

kelly holleran

A Bethalto woman claims she developed cancer after being exposed to benzene while living near a Shell Oil plant. Trudy Lehen filed a lawsuit May 1 in Madison County Circuit Court against Shell Oil Company and BP Products North America. In her complaint, Lehen claims she lived at 532 Seventh St. in Wood River from 1951 until 1974. Near Lehen's home lies the Wood River Refinery. At the refinery, Shell processed and stored benzene, a highly toxic chemical classified as a human carcinogen, according to the complaint. The chemical transferred from the facilities to the ground water and soil, where Lehen came into contact with it, the suit states. Because of her exposure, Lehen developed multiple myeloma, the complaint says. Lehen claims her disease has caused her to incur medical costs, to experience pain and suffering and to endure mental anguish. She also suffers from a shortened life expectancy, has missed work, has been unable to obtain employment and has experienced a permanently damaged ability to make a living, according to the complaint. Lehen alleges negligence against the defendants, saying they included benzene in their products even though they knew of the dangers of the benzene, included benzene in their products when adequate substitutes were available, failed to sufficiently test the health effects of benzene and failed to maintain records on residents living near the Wood River facilities, among other negligent acts. She also accuses the defendants of willful and wanton conduct, conspiracy and cover up. In her 15-count suit, Lehen seeks a judgment of more than \$100,000 and compensatory damages of more than \$50,000, plus costs and other relief the court deems just. Christopher W. Dysart of The Dysart Law Firm in St. Louis will be representing her. Madison County Circuit Court case number: 13-L-679.

<http://madisonrecord.com/issues/304-benzene/255627-bethalto-woman-claims-benzene-exposure-caused-multiple-myeloma>



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