



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 975 Newsy Stuff

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

June 30 2013



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USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, JUNE 18 2013. CARSON WANTS SHELL TO HURRY CLEANUP OF CAROUSEL TRACT CONTAMINATION

sandy mazza

The City Council Tuesday night will discuss issuing a letter opposing Shell Oil's initial cleanup plans for the Carousel tract neighborhood, which was contaminated by a former oil tank farm that occupied the 50-acre area until the 1960s. Shell has been preparing a plan, under the supervision of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, for about five years. A specific plan, now in its final stages, calls for digging up contaminated soil, cleaning it, and replacing it with fresh soil in the 285-home development. But council members said Shell Oil is not working quickly enough considering residents face health concerns. "This process has taken much longer than originally anticipated," the proposed letter states. "This delay is unacceptable." The letter goes on to demand that Shell and the water board present a better plan than they have thus far proposed so that there is "zero risk to public health and welfare."

http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_23479530/carson-wants-shell-hurry-cleanup-carousel-tract-contamination

USA, IA, POSTVILLE, JUNE 18 2013, THREE INJURED IN POSTVILLE PLANT EXPLOSION

 **Watch the Video** [Postville Explosion Injures 3 & Shocks Iowa; Cause Unknown](#)

Three people were injured, one critically, in an overnight explosion at a Postville manufacturing plant, officials said. Rescue crews responded to the Norplex-Micarta laminate manufacturing plant around 1:20 a.m. after an explosion was reported. Firefighters found blue smoke rolling out of one side of the building with lighter black smoke on the roof. One person was critically injured in the blast and taken by helicopter to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics' Burn Unit in Iowa City. Another person with minor injuries was taken by ambulance to a local hospital, treated and released. A third person refused treatment at the scene, officials said. The explosion activated the plant's sprinklers which helped suppress the fire and keep it from spreading. Firefighters entered the building to put out smaller fires and shut down gas valves, boilers and valves that transfer flammable materials used in the plant's manufacturing process, officials said. The damage is estimated at \$5-\$7 million. In a statement, plant manager Alan Johnson said the company is waiting for further updates on their employees and about what happened. "Our prayers are with our employees and their families," he said.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130617/NEWS/130617003/Three-injured-Postville-plant-explosion>

USA, ALA, MOBILE, JUNE 18 2013. COAST GUARD CONTINUES INVESTIGATION OF BARGE EXPLOSION

 **Watch the Video** [Details in Barge Explosion Released](#)

 **Slideshow [20 pictures]** [Mobile River Barge Explosion April 24, 2013](#)



The Coast Guard has released new information about the April 24 barge explosions that injured three workers. The Coast Guard launched an investigation into the cause of the April 24, 2013 explosions and fire on board two Kirby tank barges while moored at the Oil Recovery Company Marine Terminal in Mobile. While the investigation is still ongoing, Coast Guard Sector Mobile investigators have made the following preliminary findings:

On the evening of April 24, Oil Recovery Company personnel were conducting tank-cleaning operations on both tank barges. The barges previously held natural gasoline, a flammable liquid and a first distillation of crude oil. The tank-cleaning processes involved pumping as much cargo residue as possible from the cargo tanks and using mechanical blowers to ventilate and dry the tanks of remaining oil and flammable vapors. During this process, Oil Recovery

Company personnel discovered a malfunctioning mechanical blower, which required them to shut down all the blowers to effect repairs. In shutting down the blowers, flammable vapor from the cargo tanks accumulated around the tank barges and settled on the water's surface next to the barges. At this time, the towing vessel Safety Runner pulled into the same pier at the Oil Recovery Company facility. As the towing vessel approached in close proximity to the tank barges and the cleaning operation, the flammable vapor traveled through the engine room's ventilation and into its main engines and engine space. Flammable vapors accumulated in the engine room, ignited, and caused a brief fire. The resulting fire spread across the accumulated flammable vapors from the towing vessel and back to the adjacent tank barges. This chain of events caused the flammable vapors within the tank barge's cargo tanks to explode and engulf the barges in fire. The City of Mobile Fire



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Department, local harbor tugs fitted with fire monitors, and the Coast Guard responded to the scene. The fire department contained the fire to the tank barges and later extinguished the fire by early the next morning. The resulting explosions and fire critically injured three persons (an Oil Recovery Company worker, and two persons aboard the towing vessel), created a 30-gallon oil spill in the Mobile River, caused fire damage to the tug and destroyed the two tank barges.

The purpose of the Coast Guard's investigation is to identify contributing factors that led to the incident and take appropriate measures to assist in preventing future marine accidents. On behalf of the National Transportation Safety Board, the Coast Guard is leading the marine casualty investigation. Using Coast Guard factual material and evidence gathered in this major marine casualty, the NTSB will develop an accident report establishing probable cause. The NTSB will post the report on its public web site. For more information, please contact Cmdr. Scott Muller, Sector Mobile, chief, Prevention Department, at 251-441-5284 or by email at Scott.W.Muller@uscg.mil.

 **Related Story** [Coast Guard: Spark From Cleaning Caused Explosion](#)

<http://www.local15tv.com/news/local/story/Coast-Guard-Continues-Investigation-of-Barge/rjWx-G7g9EGKqc-EeodY5w.csp>

USA, MD, HAVRE DE GRACE, JUNE 18 2013. PETROLEUM SUBSTANCE SPILLS INTO HAVRE DE GRACE STREAM MONDAY



Map [800 John Smith Street, Havre de Grace, MD 21078, USA](#)

Fire and hazmat crews were called to [Havre de Grace](#) Monday morning for a report of a "petroleum product in a stream." The call came in around 11:15 a.m. from the 800 block of John Smith Street, according to monitored Harford County emergency radio broadcasts. Chief Scott Hurst, of the Susquehanna Hose Company of Havre de Grace, said around 1:30 p.m. that the substance is petroleum, but they still don't know the amount or the source. Hurst confirmed that the substance got into the stream, which flows into the Susquehanna River around the city's north side McHinnery Park.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/harford/aberdeen-havre-de-grace/ph-ag-hdg-hazmat-spill-0619-20130617,0,1796013.story>

USA, HI, HONOLULU, JUNE 18 2013. TESORO HAWAII BEING SOLD TO PAR PETROLEUM CORP. FOR NEARLY \$400M

duane shimogawa

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Tesoro's Kapolei Refinery Sold to Houston-based Company](#)
- [Tesoro Corp. Announces Sale of Kapolei Refinery, Local Operations](#)



Tesoro Corp. is selling its Hawaii operations, including the Kapolei refinery seen in this file photo, to a subsidiary of Par Petroleum Corp.

[Tesoro Corp.](#) said Monday that it has signed an agreement to sell Tesoro Hawaii, LLC, which operates the 94,000 barrel-per-day Kapolei refinery as well as dozens of retail gas stations to a subsidiary of Texas-based Par Petroleum Corp. called Hawaii Pacific Energy LLC for close to \$400 million. Tesoro said the sales price of the Hawaii operations is \$75 million, plus the market value of net working capital, which is expected to be approximately \$225 million to \$275 million. Also included is an earn-out arrangement payable over three years up to \$40 million based on consolidated gross margins, Tesoro said. The sale is expected to close during the third quarter. Following the closing, the retail gas stations will remain under the Tesoro brand, Par Petroleum said. As

part of the agreement, Houston-based Par Petroleum intends to operate the refinery, which sent layoff notices to some 165 employees [two weeks ago](#), as well as the retail gas stations and other logistics systems, Tesoro Corp. (NYSE: TSO) said in a statement. "We are pleased to have reached this positive outcome for the company," Tesoro President [Greg Goff](#) said in a statement. "While the Hawaii operations do not align with our strategic focus, we believe they offer a great opportunity for Par Petroleum." [Lance Tanaka](#), spokesman for Tesoro Hawaii, told PBN that it is the company's understanding that there would be no layoffs and that the process of laying off workers, which was to begin on Friday, has been stopped. The company, which



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[announced plans to end refining operations in January](#), said two weeks ago that it was still in discussions with potential buyers and that it had "mothballed" its refinery in case a buyer was to emerge from discussions. "The new company intends to pick up the workers," Tanaka said. For Tesoro, the Kapolei refinery became a misaligned aspect of its business. "We felt that there was somebody out there with the right business plan to make it work and that's what we found," Tanaka said. "Personally, I think this is the best possible outcome [because] here we have online refining that will be preserved and we have found someone willing to invest in our employees and the state of Hawaii will have refining and energy security, as well as Tesoro now being able to focus on its Mainland assets." He said that Par Petroleum officials made the sales announcement Monday morning at Tesoro's Kapolei operation, with the transition starting immediately. "We are now in restart mode and we have to do a maintenance turnaround," Tanaka said. "Tesoro will be responsible to restarting the refinery and at that point, Par will take over." First off is ordering crude oil, getting it shipped in and getting all of its units fired up, he said. "We expect to start producing product in September," Tanaka said. "There are some regulatory clearances [we have to go through] such as the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the state attorney general, but we're expecting a non-eventful process." U.S. Sen. [Brian Schatz](#), D-Hawaii, said the purchase will save jobs in Hawaii. "We have been in constant contact with Tesoro Corp. about maintaining fuel security in our state and working hard to ensure that the workers at the refinery keep their jobs," Schatz said in a statement. "We thank Par Corp. for being willing to invest in a refining operation as a critical component to Hawaii's economy. This will help with the availability of jet fuel, diesel fuel and other refined products." [Publicly-traded Par Petroleum](#), formerly known as Delta Petroleum Corp., manages and maintains interests in a host of energy-related assets, including natural gas, according to its website. Its primary asset is a 33 percent minority ownership interest in a joint venture called Piceance Energy LLC, which was formed last August. Par Petroleum also has interest in the Point Arguello offshore unit in California, its website said. Aegis Energy Advisors Corp. and Norton Rose Fulbright advised Tesoro in Monday's transaction.

Related Stories

- [Tesoro set to bid aloha](#)
- [Tesoro to shutter refinery](#)
- [Tesoro gets bids for Hawaii facilities](#)
- [Tesoro Hawaii for sale](#)
- [Potential buyer would keep Tesoro facility a refinery, official says](#)
- [Tesoro still pursuing buyers for Kapolei refinery](#)

<http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2013/06/17/tesoro-hawaii-being-sold-to-par.html?page=all>

INDONESIA, JAKARTA, JUNE 18 2013. 270 GAS STATIONS IN JAKARTA TIGHTLY GUARDED



Prior to the increase of oil fuel (BBM) price, tight security is implemented at gas stations (SPBU). In Jakarta, as many as 270 gas stations are tightly guarded by the police. This effort is done to anticipate the possibility of citizens lashing out their anger at gas stations. Head of Jakarta Police Public Relations Head, Police Great Commissioner Rikwanto, said each gas station will be guarded by 2-5 police personnel. The number of personnel deployed at each gas station is adjusted to the local situation and condition. "270 gas stations will be tightly guarded," he uttered, Monday (6/17). Furthermore, police personnel are also tasked to regulate rushing vehicles, so refueling could be conducted in orderly fashion. This is also to anticipate the possibility of citizens piling up on gasoline just before the price increased. "Citizens are urged to hold their temper and also not to lash out their anger to gas stations if the gasoline ran out," urged Rikwanto. According to Rikwanto, the personnel will be deployed at least on D-2

of the day the government officially announces the price hike on oil fuel. "In doing so, we will be ready by then," he told. As known, 9 out of 6 fractions at the Parliament have agreed to the plan. Thus, the official announcement must not be too far along. National Development Planning Minister (PPN)/Head of National Planning Board (Bappenas), Armida Alisjahbana, has stated the price hike on oil fuel price will be implemented this week. This is because there is a lot more to go before the 2013 Amended National Budget is issued as Statute. "Administration process will be prepared hastily. This is because Finance Minister, Chatib Basri, would like for the issue of the 2013 Amended National Budget as Statute to only take seven days after the actual Amended National Budget is agreed upon by the Parliament in Plenary Session," he explained. For information, the



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price of premium type oil fuel will increase by Rp 2,000 from Rp 4,500 to Rp 6,500 per liter, and diesel by Rp 1,000 from Rp 4,500 to Rp 5,500 per liter.

<http://www.beritajakarta.com/2008/en/newsview.aspx?idwil=0&id=28379>

USA. LA, NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 18 2013. SUPPORT VESSEL COLLIDES INTO OFFSHORE PLATFORM IN GOM

robin dupre

 **Photo's [4]** [Celeste Ann Sinks into Gulf after Striking Rig on Friday](#)



The supply ship Celeste Ann sinks to the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico after colliding with an oil platform.

M/V Celeste Ann, an offshore support vessel, sank Friday morning in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. The vessel, which had 4 crew members and 19 people on board, collided with an offshore oil production platform, the Coast Guard reported. The 112-foot supply vessel struck a platform located about 15 miles west of Southwest Pass at around 9 a.m. All people on board were rescued and transferred to another ship before the vessel sank. "There were no injuries. Everyone was rescued," Coast Guard spokesman Carlos Vega said in a released statement. A Coast Guard aircraft that flew over the scene reported that a half-mile by 150 foot sheen of oil was spotted on the ocean surface. The Coast Guard deployed a boom to contain the spill and reported that the platform was not damaged. B&J Martin owned Celeste Ann and plans to hire a company to recover its vessel, Vega said. All passengers aboard the vessel were offshore

workers, company spokesman Jimmie Martin said, as reported by The Associated Press. Martin declined to identify the operator of the platform. If the boat isn't recovered and remains at the bottom of the Gulf, it would have to be reported as a waterway hazard because of the fuel it contains, Vega said.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/127108/Support_Vessel_Collides_into_Offshore_Platform_in_GOM

MALAYSIA, KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 18 2013. 7-ELEVEN TO OPEN OUTLETS IN CALTEX STATIONS



7-Eleven Malaysia Sdn Bhd has teamed up with Chevron Malaysia Ltd – operator of the Caltex service stations, which will see more 7-Eleven convenience stores opening at the latter's petrol stations in the country over the next five years. 7-Eleven Malaysia on Thursday signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Chevron Malaysia for the purpose. Chevron Malaysia also signed a similar alliance with Cosmo Restaurants Sdn Bhd – the Burger King franchise holder for Malaysia. "Our alliance with 7-Eleven and Burger King is part of a regional strategy geared towards giving our local Caltex investors greater flexibility in customising their station's non-fuel offerings to meet their customers' needs and drive potential profits," Chevron Malaysia country chairman Jeremy Oh Beng Chuan said in a statement issued in conjunction with the launch of a flagship

station featuring both a 7-Eleven store and Burger King drive-thru in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. To celebrate the station's opening, motorists can expect special treats from now until Aug 31. "The respective agreements with 7-Eleven and Burger King are expected to contribute towards Chevron Malaysia's targeted network expansion of 100 new Caltex stations by 2015 (in addition to its current 420)," he added. Chevron vice-president for Asia-Pacific products, Peng Xiaofei and 7-Eleven Malaysia CEO Chan Kien Sing witnessed the signing of the MOAs. Through the tie-ups, customers can expect to see more 7-Eleven convenience stores and Burger King fast food outlets incorporated in Caltex petrol stations by 2018. "Our reputable and international partners boast market leadership and a proven track record in their trade operations, which helps our Caltex retailers focus on the delivery of quality fuel products and services. For our motoring customers, this translates to enhanced convenience, from good fuel to easy access to necessities and family meals from brands they trust," said Oh. Echoing Oh's sentiments, 7-Eleven Malaysia managing director Ho Meng said the alliance will enable more Caltex stations to provide enhanced convenience for their motoring customers with the opening of more 7-Eleven stores, which is in line with 7-Eleven's accelerated growth plan. "We will also be increasing our 7-Eleven stores through our franchise network," he added. For Burger



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King, Cosmo Restaurants COO Ahmad Fariz Hassan said the alliance is aligned with its focus on creating long-term value and increasing customer consideration for the brand in their neighborhoods. The single largest convenience store chain with over 1,450 stores nationwide, 7-Eleven Malaysia serves 900,000 customers a day.

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/743747>

CANADA, ALBA, EDMONTON, JUNE 18 2013. JET FUEL SPILL AT EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Staff at the Edmonton International Airport are working to clean up a jet fuel spill. According to an airport official, a tanker truck carrying the fuel flipped on its side Monday afternoon, leaking jet fuel. As a precaution, the truck's driver was taken to hospital. The spill is not on the runway, but is close to some aircraft gates. A airport spokesperson told CBC News that the spill has now been contained. Officials are telling passengers there is no reason to be concerned as there is no fuel on the runway and flights will not be impacted.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/story/2013/06/17/edmonton-airport-fuel-spill.html>

INDIA, MUMBAI, JUNE 18 2013. OIL TANKER ADRIFT, MAY RUN AGROUND

A merchant tanker, which drifted after its anchor failed to hold, was spotted near Madh, Malad (West), on Sunday morning. The BMC has given instructions to Coast Guard, Directorate General of Shipping and Mumbai Port Trust authorities to work together and tow the vessel away. Maritime agencies are monitoring the vessel as there are concerns that it may run aground or hit a bridge. The vessel, Pratibha Tapi, is a 24,000-tonne oil tanker and belongs to Pratibha Shipping Company. It was anchored 12 nautical miles off Mumbai for two months, along with another vessel, Pratibha Indrayani. The Tapi is in ballast condition. It has a crew of four on board and minimal fuel. "Due to rough weather and swell (surface gravity waves), the anchor started dragging, which caused the vessel to drift. It has reached 2.4 nautical miles from Madh. But it has stabilized and the crew are safe," said an official.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-06-17/mumbai/40026970_1_vessel-tanker-mumbai-port-trust

USA, MO, JOPLIN, JUNE 18 2013. CONTRACTOR INDICTED FOR DUMPING GASOLINE IN DUENWEG'S SEWER SYSTEM - THE 1ST COUNT CARRIES UP TO 5 YEARS IN PRISON AND THE 2ND COUNT UP TO 3 YEARS, WITH CONVICTIONS ON EITHER COUNT SUBJECT TO FINES FROM \$5,000 TO \$50,000.

jeff lehr

A federal grand jury has charged a hazardous materials handling company and two of its employees with dumping gasoline-contaminated water into Duenweg's sewer system. A two count indictment was handed up this past week in U.S. District Court in Springfield against Seneca Companies Inc., of Des Moines, Iowa, and employees Robert Morrison, 31, and Greg Gill, 50. The indictment charges the defendants with unlawful disposal of a hazardous substance and knowing introduction of a hazardous substance into a sewer system. The first count carries up to five years in prison and the second count up to three years, with convictions on either count subject to fines from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The violations of federal laws governing water pollution and solid waste disposal allegedly took place in December 2010 while Seneca Companies was repairing a gasoline line failure for Casey's General Store at 8084 E. Seventh St. in Duenweg. The line failure had resulted in gasoline accumulating in a containment sump on Casey's property, according to the indictment. The document does not state how much gasoline was involved. Morrison, a maintenance technician, and Gill, a maintenance technician supervisor, were responsible for repairing the line failure and disposing of any hazardous material in conformity with state and federal regulations, the indictment states. On Dec. 16, 2010, they knowingly disposed of the gasoline-contaminated water in the containment sump by pumping it into the city's sewer system, according to the indictment. They also allegedly did so without a permit for disposal of hazardous substances. Commercial-sale gasoline is deemed a hazardous substance under federal laws because of its flammability and the toxicity of the ingredient benzene.

<http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/x479813075/Contractor-indicted-for-dumping-gasoline-in-Duenweg-s-sewer-system>

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, THANE, JUNE 18 2013. TANKER TURNS TURTLE, CATCHES FIRE

Traffic on Ghodbunder Road came to a standstill for nearly four hours after a tanker carrying phosphoric acid turned turtle and caught fire Saturday evening. According to traffic police, the driver of the tanker lost control after its brake failed. While no casualty was reported, it took nearly three hours for the fire to be controlled. "A water tanker and a fire engine were dispatched



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from Balkum fire station. Additional support was also provided from Mira-Bhayander fire station. Rain and heavy traffic delayed access to the area," said V Dalvi at Balkum fire station. Chief fire officer Arvind Mandke supervised the operation.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/tanker-turns-turtle-catches-fire/1129589/>

USA, CO, DENVER, JUNE 18 2013. STATE OIL SPILL PUBLIC DATABASE BUT CAN BE MISLEADING

bobby magill

If you want to learn about oil and gas spills in your area, your best source of information is the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's website. There, you can search through the commission's database, which lists oil and gas spills and releases from wells and tanks, specifying which ones had impacts to groundwater and surface water. But state regulators caution that their go-to source of oil and gas spill information may be inconclusive or contradictory because the data and accompanying spill reports that appear during a search might not have been updated or could be incomplete. For example, the most polluting and publicized oil and gas accident in Colorado this year, a Williams Production gas plant leak into Parachute Creek in Garfield County, is listed in state spill data search results as having no impact to groundwater and surface water. But when information changed, the database search results and the incident's spill and release report were not updated to reflect that. Since the incident, surface and groundwater in and around Parachute Creek were found to be heavily contaminated with benzene from the leak, findings confirmed by technical documents found deeper in the database and by COGCC staff. Likewise, even if a spill is reported to have contaminated groundwater, it doesn't mean it actually happened. A leak at PDC Energy's "J&L Farms 23-21" well east of Windsor is listed in the database as having impacted ground water. But despite that excavators hit groundwater when cleaning up the leak, no groundwater was contaminated, according to the spill report found deeper inside the database. "Operators, in an excess of caution, report a groundwater impact when subsequent investigation reveals no such impact," COGCC spokesman Todd Hartman said. He said the COGCC's online database was created in the interest of transparency as a way for the public to locate all the documents associated with oil and gas wells and incidents. But the database has its limits, he said. "Our system was not set up for the kind of data mining I recognize can be important for journalists and activists," he said. Oil and gas attorney Matt Sura, who often represents residents concerned about how they'll be affected by a new oil and gas well that may be drilled nearby, said he looks at the COGCC's online database as a cursory way to learn how reputable an oil and gas company is. "Most people can't determine from what they read online what actually happened and what took place and who's to blame," he said.

Related Stories [Spilled and released: Oil accidents no rarity in Northern Colorado](#)

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20130617/NEWS01/306170007/State-oil-spill-public-database-can-misleading>

USA, TX, AUSTIN, JUNE 18 2013. AFTER WEST EXPLOSION, TEXAS MAY COMPILE PUBLIC DATABASE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SITES

james drew



Fifteen people, including 12 volunteer firefighters and other first responders, died when about 60,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate exploded at the plant on the outskirts of West.

The state plans to compile a registry of businesses with dangerous chemicals so citizens can learn about hazards like the fertilizer plant in West, where a fire triggered a massive blast of ammonium nitrate. The online database is among a handful of proposals, aired at a hearing Monday, that legislators said would not involve new laws or regulations, or increases in state spending. "Wouldn't you want to know if there's a chemical facility in your neighborhood with hazardous material, ammonium nitrate, or other types of chemicals? And the answer is yes," Steve McCraw, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, told the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee. The registry would be on the state fire marshal's website, but state officials have not decided which chemicals would be included. Media outlets, including The Dallas Morning

News, have published databases of facilities with ammonium nitrate and related chemicals based on information filed with the state health department. Rep. Joe Pickett, the El Paso Democrat who is the committee's chairman, said he expects residents will use the state website to pose questions about safety to their county judge, city council or fire chief. "We're looking for



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something that is visual, quick, so that they can find it by maybe entering a ZIP code," he said. Monday's hearing was the second that the committee has held in response to the April 17 explosion at West Fertilizer Co. Fifteen people, including 12 volunteer firefighters and other first responders, died when about 60,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate exploded at the plant on the outskirts of West. The blast injured more than 200 people and destroyed nearby apartments, houses and a nursing home.

Best Practices

State Fire Marshal Chris Connealy told lawmakers that his office would collect information on best practices to properly handle and store ammonium nitrate, and then give that information to companies similar to West Fertilizer that aren't covered by a fire code. The potentially volatile chemical was stored at West in wooden bins in a building that lacked fire sprinklers. McLennan County doesn't have a fire code. Pickett also suggested that the state ask the companies that are in counties without fire codes if they want to be inspected, and if they would put up signs saying they handle dangerous chemicals. But Rep. Dan Flynn, R-Van, questioned how many tasks the committee should give state agencies in the aftermath of the West explosion. "You can paperwork a company to death. List after list and signs, and all this kind of stuff. I think we need to kind of keep it in perspective. It was a major problem and it was an accident, and it was a disaster," he said. Flynn said rural residents have told him they're worried the state will put additional regulations on chemical fertilizers or even try to ban them. "I want to be sure as we go forward — recognizing these are dangerous and we've had some problems — but it's also very important to the agricultural industry, and I don't want us to forget that," he said. "And the petrochemical community is important to our economy," said McCraw, the DPS director. A federal law requires businesses to report their inventory of certain toxic and hazardous chemicals to state and local officials. Rep. Ron Simmons, R-Carrollton, asked if firms also are required to disclose when dangerous chemicals are being transported. "We do not have real-time access to that information," replied McCraw, who said the state is working with railroads to try to get it. "It puts first responders in the situation of picking up the phone and calling after the accident." The committee approved a motion to send a letter asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reconsider its decision to deny major disaster aid for West. FEMA officials last week said the request was denied because Texas couldn't justify why the state cannot afford \$17 million toward emergency response and cleanup.

More Meetings

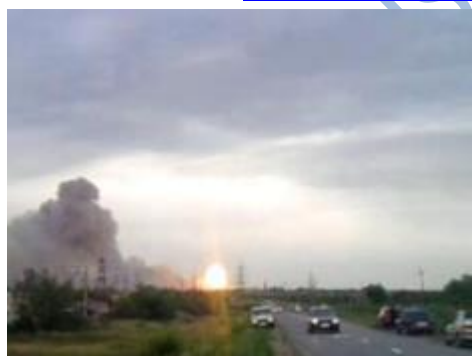
Pickett said he expects to call more committee meetings this year and in 2014 to take testimony from state agencies. Speaking to reporters after Monday's hearing, he said he's not concerned that any potential new laws or regulations will have to wait for the next legislative session in 18 months. "I'm a big believer in doing things right. We could have done some things this last session, and we may have sent people off on the wrong trail, and then it's harder to fix," Pickett said.

 **Related Stories** [Some say West blast 'rushed' nursing home patients' deaths](#)

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/west-explosion/headlines/20130617-after-west-explosion-texas-may-compile-public-database-of-hazardous-chemical-sites.ece>

RUSSIA, SAMARA, CHAPAEVSK, JUNE 19 2013. BLASTS AT RUSSIAN AMMO DEPOT INJURE 5; THOUSANDS FLEE

 **Watch the Video** [Blasts at Russian Ammo Depot Injure 5](#)



An estimated 6,000 artillery shells are stored at the site, about 700 miles from Moscow.

Heavy blasts from exploding shells rocked an ammunition depot that caught fire late Tuesday in central Russia, sending shrapnel more than a half-mile, injuring at least five people and forcing the evacuation of 6,000 nearby residents, RIA Novosti [reported](#). Each blast appeared to trigger additional explosions at the Volga Federal Ammunition Testing Site, which stores 6,000 [122-mm artillery shells](#) near the city of Chapaevsk, in Samara, an unidentified spokesman for the Emergencies Ministry said. A police spokesman said initially that up to 13 million shells were stored at the depot. The ministry official said it possible explosions could continue for two or three days. Five people were hospitalized with shrapnel wounds, and 34 others were treated at the scene for minor injuries. Firefighters, blocked by widespread debris from the exploding shells, were hampered in reaching fires set off by the blasts, the police spokesman told RIA Novosti. "It is still not possible to halt the self-destruction, or to enter the firing grounds," the spokesman said. Police cordoned off the area and evacuated a nearby village. Chapaevsk, with a population of 74,000 people, is located about 700 miles southeast of Moscow.



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<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/06/18/blast-russia-samara-ammunition/2434579/>

ENGLAND, BERKSHIRE, HOLYPORT, JUNE 18 2013. FIREFIGHTERS RACE TO STOP FLAME THREAT TO FUEL TANK IN HOLYPORT

A car fire threatened to engulf a 1,000 litre fuel tank filled with oil sat yards from a home. Firefighters were called out at 11.30pm last night to put out the blaze which began in a car parked on a driveway outside the home in Drift Road, Holyport. The blaze spread to two other cars as well coming close to a tank used for storing oil close to the home, but firefighters from the Maidenhead, Windsor and Reading stations put out the blaze in the nick of time using hose reels and foam. Crew manager Marcus Lewis of the Maidenhead fire station said: "The main concern was the threat to the house caused by the tank. Luckily we managed to stop the fire in time." Two cars were completely destroyed in the fire, a third had superficial damage while the home itself was slightly scorched. The cause of the fire is being investigated by the police and fire service.

<http://www.windsorobserver.co.uk/news/roundup/articles/2013/06/18/90442-firefighters-race-to-stop-flame-threat-to-fuel-tank-in-holyport/>

INDIA, MUMBAI, JUNE 19 2013. ONE CHARRED TO DEATH AS TANKER CATCHES FIRE

One person was charred to death as a gas-tanker caught fire after it rammed into a truck near Kasara on Mumbai-Agra national highway this morning, police said. The tanker, which was transporting LPG, was heading to Nashik from Mumbai, when it hit the truck in the Kasara ghat section, they said. "As soon as the tanker ran into the truck, there was a gas leakage and both the vehicles caught fire, in which one person was killed," police said adding that the victim was yet to be identified. The incident led to a traffic jam for a few hours on the busy stretch, police said.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/one-charred-to-death-as-tanker-catches-fire-113061800590_1.html

USA, LA, BOSSIER PARISH, JUNE 19 2013. 200 GALLONS OF GAS SPILLED IN BOSSIER PARISH; ROADS BLOCKED



Bossier Sheriff's Officers are on the scene of a gas spill. It happened just before noon at the Exxon gas station on Highway 3 at Highway 162. KTBS 3 News has learned that a motorist hit a hose attached to a fuel truck and gas began to spew. Approximately 200 gallons of gas was spilled. Bossier Sheriff's deputies have part of the roadway blocked off on Highway 3, south of Stenson Road and North at the Benton overpass for about a half mile in both directions. The intersection of Highway 162 is also being blocked off at this time. Lt. Bill Davis with the Bossier Parish Sheriff Office says sand trucks are on the way to the scene and hazmat crews have been called to clean up the mess. There are no injuries to reported.

<http://www.ktbs.com/story/22622524/gas-spill-in-bossier-parish-slows-down-traffic>

USA, WI, TOWN OF JACKSON, JUNE 19 2013. NUMBER OF TOWN OF JACKSON POLLUTED WELLS HITS 39

Wisconsin environmental officials say the number of wells contaminated by a 2012 gasoline pipeline spill continues to grow in the Town of Jackson. Recent tests detected benzene in two additional private wells, pushing the number of contaminated wells to 39. Town officials have decided to ask the Village of Jackson to extend municipal water service to residents in a state-designated drinking water advisory area. According to the DNR, if any property owners in the advisory area consider drilling new private wells instead of connecting to the village supply, they will have to abide by a new set of drilling requirements. The Journal Sentinel (<http://bit.ly/12TxkO9>) reports those requirements could boost the cost of a new well to an estimated \$120,000. Last July's pipeline rupture spilled an estimated 54,600 gallons of gasoline.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Number-of-Town-of-Jackson-polluted-wells-hits-39-4607905.php>



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ENGLAND, HAMPSHIRE, JUNE 10 2013. PETROL PUMP SPRAYS FUEL OVER DRIVER AT OWER

chris yandell

 **Watch the Video** [Petrol Pump Sprays Fuel over Driver](#)



The Texaco garage in Ower after it was cordoned off.

A woman has been sprayed with [petrol](#) as she refuelled her car at a Hampshire garage. The motorist was filling up at the Texaco petrol station in [Romsey Road](#), Ower, when the nozzle came off the pump she was using. Police say the woman was not injured but was taken to [Southampton](#) General Hospital for a check-up. Between ten and 12 litres of fuel gushed out of the pump, but it is not known how much ended up on the motorist. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service were called to the garage and covered part of the forecourt with sand to absorb the fuel as well as shutting off the pump. The car, a white Citroen C1, was washed down by garage staff and moved to one side of the forecourt to await collection.

The garage has now been closed until engineers can inspect all the other pumps. Police have sealed off the forecourt and the pump where the drama happened.

http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/10491780.Petrol_pump_sprays_fuel_over_driver/?ref=nt

USA, N.Y, BROOKLYN, JUNE 19 2013. WHAT SICKENS PEOPLE IN OIL SPILLS, AND HOW BADLY, IS ANYBODY'S GUESS

lisa song

 **Slideshow** [The Exxon Oil Spill in Mayflower, Ark](#)



A worker conducts air monitoring at the site of ExxonMobil's oil spill in a residential neighborhood of Mayflower, Ark. After the spill, people complained of headaches, nausea and respiratory problems—short-term symptoms that health experts say are common. But health experts don't know whether the fumes could also trigger long-term health problems that become evident only years or decades later.

There are no clear federal guidelines for chemical exposure at oil spills, and no studies to understand the long term dangers to human health. Since 2010, at least three ruptured pipelines have spilled oil into U.S. neighborhoods, forcing officials to decide quickly whether local residents would be harmed if they breathed the foul air. But because there are no clear federal guidelines saying if or when the public should be evacuated during an oil spill, health officials had to use a patchwork of scientific and regulatory data designed for other situations.

As a result, residents of the three communities received different levels of

protection. No houses were evacuated in Salt Lake City, Utah, where a ruptured pipeline leaked 33,000 gallons of medium grade crude oil before it was discovered on the morning of June 12, 2010. The oil ran down Red Butte Creek, past neighborhoods where windows were left open in the summer heat. The fumes, which are known to cause drowsiness, left some people so lethargic that they didn't wake up until after noon. In Marshall, Mich. officials called for a voluntary evacuation after more than a million gallons of heavy Canadian crude spilled into the Kalamazoo River on July 25, 2010. But they agonized over the decision for four days before making that recommendation. In Mayflower, Ark. authorities quickly evacuated 22 families after a broken pipeline leaked about 200,000 gallons of heavy crude on March 29, 2013. But people living in the same subdivision, just a few blocks away, were not asked to leave. Neither were the residents of the lakeside community where the oil eventually pooled and where the cleanup continues today. After each of these spills, people complained of headaches, nausea and respiratory problems—short-term symptoms that health experts say are common after any chemical spill and usually disappear as the air clears. What health experts don't know, however, is whether the fumes could also trigger long-term health problems that become evident only years or decades later. That gap will be increasingly important, because over the next few years the [industry plans to build or expand](#) more than 10,000 miles of oil pipelines—including the Keystone XL. Many of these pipelines will go through or near populated areas. For instance, the Michigan pipeline that ruptured in 2010—Enbridge Inc.'s line 6B—is being replaced with a larger line that will pass so close to some



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homes that [one family is losing part of its back deck](#). But despite the pipeline boom, there are no plans to conduct long-term health studies in Mayflower, Marshall or Salt Lake City. There also doesn't appear to be any momentum to set federal guidelines for chemical exposures at oil spills, so health officials will be better equipped for future emergencies. "The key question that people have—"Will I be affected 20 years later given my two-week exposure"—is something no one can answer," said Judi Krzyzanowski, an environmental consultant in Ontario, Canada who studies air pollution from oil and gas development. "If people in Mayflower develop cancer five years from now, it will be nearly impossible to point a finger at the oil spill." Crude oil typically contains more than 1,000 chemicals, many of them hazardous to humans. Of particular concern is benzene. Small amounts of benzene from car exhaust and cigarette smoke are commonly found in the air. But increased exposure is known to cause leukemia and neurological problems. Despite decades of research, it's difficult to determine exactly how much benzene is too much. Although the federal government offers [dozens of guidelines](#) for benzene concentrations in air and water, each comes with different caveats and none is designed for oil spills in residential neighborhoods. The federal [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry](#) (ATSDR), for instance, estimates that people can be exposed to air containing [9 parts per billion](#) (ppb) of benzene for up to two weeks, or 6 ppb for up to a year, without a "likely" increase in harmful health effects. But those guidelines don't cover the risk of cancer, and they are "not intended to define clean up or action levels for ATSDR or other Agencies," according to [ATSDR's website](#). Other federal guidelines limit the amount of benzene that manufacturing plants can emit, or set standards for transporting benzene on the nation's highways. Standards have also been created for people who handle benzene on a daily basis in a workplace setting. But those guidelines are for healthy adults wearing respirators—not for children, pregnant women and other vulnerable members of the general public. "It's a mess," said Aaron Bernstein, a pediatrician and associate director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard School of Public Health. "I know from experience that this kind of thing is a regulatory morass." Without specific rules to help them, health authorities confronted with oil spills usually turn to these disparate guidelines and scientific studies to decide whether an evacuation is needed. They also take into account the unique characteristics of each spill, including the proximity of the oil to homes and weather conditions that can affect how quickly the fumes dissipate. [During the Michigan spill](#), that burden fell to Calhoun County public health director Jim Rutherford, who had more experience coordinating food inspections and school nurse programs than handling chemical disasters. His department didn't even have the proper air monitoring equipment, so he turned to state and federal regulators for help. Their instruments measured benzene readings in the nearby community that ranged from less than 50 ppb to 200 ppb. Data gathered far from homes but directly over patches of spilled oil showed benzene concentrations of more than 6,000 ppb. But none of the regulators could give Rutherford a definitive answer on whether to evacuate, because none of the existing guidelines applied to their specific situation. Finally, [Rutherford called for a voluntary evacuation](#) based on benzene readings that spiked above 200 ppb. He lifted the recommendation about three weeks later, after benzene readings were consistently below 6 ppb. In Arkansas, health officials decided that Mayflower residents could return to their subdivision when benzene levels in and around their homes dropped to below 50 ppb. (Most of the 22 evacuated homes have been cleared for re-entry, although none of the families have returned.) But people nearby complained of headaches, nausea and other health problems even after [officials announced online](#) that contaminants in the air were "below levels likely to cause health effects for the general population." Dr. William Mason, chief of emergency response at the Arkansas Department of Health, told InsideClimate News that people outside the evacuation area could have left their homes if they had wanted to. In many cases, ExxonMobil—the company responsible for the spill—was willing to pay their hotel bills. Enbridge Inc., the company responsible for the Michigan spill, made a similar offer. Robin Carbaugh, an ombudswoman appointed by Salt Lake City's mayor to help residents after the Utah spill, said voluntary evacuations can be problematic because people are reluctant to trust their own judgment. Many people complained to Carbaugh about headaches, fainting spells and even episodes of temporary blindness. But when she advised them to evacuate or seek medical attention, she said they often backtracked, saying, "Well, I could just be making this up." The problem, Carbaugh said, is that people are afraid to look weak and they don't want to make a fuss if regulators say the air is safe. Carbaugh said she sympathizes with public officials who must base their evacuation decisions on the patchwork of available science, but she also believes the experiences of individual residents should be respected and somehow incorporated into policy recommendations. "We have a situation in Utah, Arkansas and Michigan where groups of people who don't know each other are having the same problems," Carbaugh said. "The question is, what are public officials learning from these experiences?"



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Arkansas Sets Benzene Guideline of 50 ppb

After oil spills, public health decisions usually fall to county or state officials. In Mayflower, those decisions were made by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), which set a benzene threshold of 50 ppb. Lori Simmons, who heads the agency's environmental epidemiology section, said the ADH calculated that a member of the general public could be exposed to air with up to 50 ppb of benzene for up to six months without long-term health effects. InsideClimate News tried to compare that 50 ppb guideline with guidelines established by other agencies, but found that it was virtually impossible to make a direct comparison. Some guidelines were designed to protect people from certain health effects but not others. Many, like the ATSDR guidelines, come with disclaimers saying they aren't supposed to be used to define what's safe and not safe. The [EPA, for instance, estimates](#) that people continuously exposed to 4 to 13 ppb of benzene over a lifetime have no greater than a 1 in 10,000 increased chance of developing cancer. To avoid noncancerous blood disorders, the EPA recommends that people be exposed to less than 9 ppb per day over the course of a lifetime. But the agency's website notes that the 9 ppb reference dose is "not a direct estimator of risk, but rather a reference point to gauge the potential for effects." When it comes to worker safety, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health [recommends a maximum average exposure](#) of up to 100 ppb over an 8-hour workday. But because the standard applies to healthy adults who are often wearing respirators—and who are being paid for their occupational risks—health experts say members of the general public need stronger protections. Simmons, the ADH scientist, said the actual benzene levels in Mayflower were nowhere near 50 ppb most of the time after the spill. According to data from an Exxon contractor, benzene levels outside the immediate cleanup areas have generally been below 50 ppb since April 4, although readings hit 50 ppb on April 5 and April 8. (The EPA also tested the air in Mayflower, but it only released air monitoring results for volatile organic compounds—a class of chemicals that includes benzene—not the results for benzene alone.) The 50 ppb was set as the re-entry level for indoor and outdoor air quality and is "expected to be below any public health hazard," said ADH spokesman Ed Barham. Experts interviewed by InsideClimate News stressed the difficulty in comparing different guidelines—but they all said ADH's benzene levels are alarmingly high. Given that ATSDR finds 9 ppb over two weeks to be worrisome, ADH's assessment of 50 ppb over six months "doesn't make sense," said Bernstein, the Harvard public health expert. Compared to ATSDR's screening levels, the ADH allows for both a higher level of exposure and a longer exposure period, he said. "It should definitely be a cause for concern," said Wilma Subra, an environmental consultant and a MacArthur "genius" grant recipient who regularly works with communities impacted by oil spills. "Benzene is a known carcinogen. To establish a level that high over a six-month period is unbelievable." Brian Moench, president of Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, a nonprofit that promotes clean air initiatives, doesn't think even ATSDR's guidelines are strong enough. Not only do they exclude cancer, but they also don't account for the fact that some people are inherently more sensitive to environmental toxins, he said. Nor do they factor in the risks faced by pregnant women and developing fetuses. Studies show that pregnant women exposed to high levels of chemicals give birth to babies with decreased intellect and behavioral disorders, he said. "I can virtually guarantee you [the 9 ppb] has no relevance to what's safe for a pregnant mother." Barham, the Arkansas health department spokesman, said the agency's benzene standard accounted for the vulnerability of children but not for fetal exposure. In an email, he said ADH's levels are "site-specific dose equation[s]" that should not be compared with ATSDR's 9 ppb or 6 ppb guidelines, because those guidelines are "screening values only and are not indicators of health effects." ATSDR's website says its guidelines "are intended to serve as a screening tool to help public health professionals decide where to look more closely...Exposure to a level above the [guideline] does not mean that adverse health effects will occur." Nic Brescia, the EPA's federal on-scene-coordinator in Mayflower, declined to comment on Arkansas' benzene guideline. "I'm not tied into that," he said. "I'm just tied into giving ADH the [air monitoring] information, and they review it and they make the decision on if it's above or below a certain level."

Arkansas vs. Alberta Benzene Guidelines

Arkansas' benzene threshold is also considerably higher than the guidelines used in Alberta, Canada, where the heavy crude oil that spilled in Arkansas and Michigan was extracted. Alberta has a one-hour ambient [air quality objective](#) of no more than 9 ppb. But as with many of the U.S. guidelines, that standard wasn't designed for emergencies involving the general public. Instead, it's used to model air quality from industrial sources, said Bob Myrick, air policy manager of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, the provincial agency that manages natural resources. If a company designs a piece of equipment for a natural gas plant, for example, it would ensure that benzene levels don't exceed 9 ppb on average over the course of an hour. Myrick said Alberta's ambient air objective was derived from existing scientific studies and established with input from industry, environmental organizations and regulators. "Based on the literature, there has been an indicator of some kind of human health effect" when benzene levels exceed 9 ppb an hour, he said. Myrick declined to comment on whether the levels



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Arkansas set are too high. Barham, the Arkansas health department spokesman, said via email that Alberta's ambient air objective is a guideline, while his agency's number is "a site-specific emergency response incident level." He did not respond when asked for further explanation. In hopes of getting more clarification on the Arkansas levels, InsideClimate News contacted the Centers for Disease Control. Spokesman Jay Dempsey initially said the 50 ppb level Arkansas calculated is in line with ATSDR guidelines. (ATSDR is a division of the CDC.) InsideClimate then provided him with information about Alberta's standards, which he passed on to CDC toxicologists. Later, Dempsey said in an email that he could only comment on how ATSDR creates its own guidelines, and that InsideClimate would "need to discuss ADH's rationale for seemingly setting a larger concentration with a representative from ADH." When InsideClimate News asked ATSDR about the difference between its 9 ppb screening level and the 50 ppb benzene guideline used in Arkansas, an ATSDR spokeswoman said the agency had examined Arkansas' guideline and concurred with the state's decision.

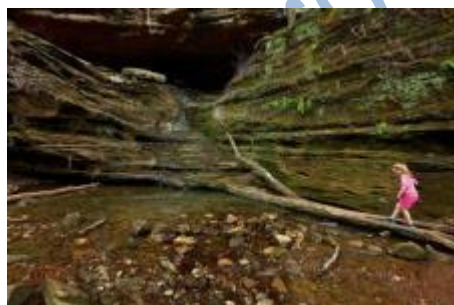
Need for a Long-Term Health Study

Some of the confusion over what's considered safe at a spill site can be attributed to the general challenge of studying toxic exposure. Krzyzanowski, the Ontario-based consultant, said the science is inherently imperfect because it is based primarily on rodent and tissue culture studies. That means rats that typically live only a few years are used to study what might happen to humans decades after a brief exposure. "You can't test on people...and people are not rats," she said. Scientists adjust for the uncertainty by being extra cautious, said Bernstein, the Harvard expert. ATSDR's screening levels, for example, are based on studies that found harmful health effects in rodents exposed to 10,000 ppb of benzene. The agency set a much lower concentration of 9 ppb for humans. "If we're going to use these in some ways arbitrary tests to discern what's safe and not safe, then ATSDR is going well beyond what's considered to be safe," Bernstein said. "That being said, benzene is nasty and you don't want anyone to be exposed to it if they don't have to." He pointed to an additional risk posed by oil spills: Most lab studies are conducted on one chemical at a time, but oil spills release hundreds of different volatile compounds. Residents in Mayflower, Marshall and Salt Lake City were exposed to all of them at once, and little is known about their combined health effects. In fact, the health effects of some of the chemicals found in crude oil haven't been studied at all. "Science knows very little about the long-term effects of these toxic substances," he said. "How much, how often, how long is a very difficult question." The confusion over the difference between Arkansas' benzene guideline and guidelines set by federal agencies "is not new. We need to learn from our mistakes." Both Bernstein and Moench, the Utah physician, say a full-scale follow up study should be launched in Mayflower, even though it would be costly and difficult to conduct. "Every person who has symptoms of short-term exposure deserves to be a subject of a [long-term] study," Moench said. "Those people need to be followed for 20 years for a variety of chronic diseases—heart, brain, kidneys, you name it." The science may be flawed, he said, but "what science we do have sends a very concerning message." After the Utah spill, Moench was part of a physicians' group that called for Chevron, the company responsible for the accident, to fund a [\\$2 million long-term health study](#). Another group [demanded a \\$15 million long-term study](#). Chevron and Salt Lake City reached a \$4.5 million settlement in Sept. 2011, but the agreement did not include a health study.

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130618/what-sickens-people-oil-spills-and-how-badly-anybodys-guess>

USA, ILL, CHICAGO, JUNE 19 2013. QUINN SIGNS INTO LAW TOUGH FRACKING REGULATIONS

don babwin



In this April, 8, 2013 photo, Lucy Childers, 6, plays on the rock formations at Ferne Clyffe State Park in Goreville, Ill. Southern Illinoisans have hopes and fears surrounding the high-volume oil and gas drilling called fracking that may be starting in the Shawnee National Forest. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn on Monday signed into law the nation's strictest regulations for high-volume oil and gas drilling.

Gov. [Pat Quinn](#) on Monday signed into law the nation's strictest regulations for high-volume oil and gas drilling. "This new law will unlock the potential for thousands of jobs in Southern Illinois and ensure that our environment is protected," Quinn said in a news release announcing his widely expected signature on the bill that he pushed for and that the Legislature passed

overwhelmingly a few weeks ago. The new law establishes rules that oil and gas companies must follow during hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which uses high-pressure mixtures of water, sand or gravel and chemicals to crack underground rock



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formations and release oil and natural gas. Companies will be required to disclose chemicals and to test water before and after drilling as well as hold the companies liable for contamination. Opponents of the legislation — who unsuccessfully pushed a 2-year moratorium to allow more time to study the environmental and health impact of fracking — said they are considering a legal challenge to the law. "We have already put together a legal team with attorneys from all over the country to look at various aspects of the bill," said [Annette McMichael](#), a property owner in Johnson County who belongs to a coalition that opposes fracking. "We are looking at what legal avenue to pursue." One of the sponsors of the bill, Sen. [Michael Frerichs](#), D-Champaign, said the fact that fracking is already happening in Illinois makes the law that much more important as the state moves to "protect the environment while allowing for job creation." Environmental groups that helped craft the legislation said they were hopeful the safeguards will address their continued concerns about the method's "environmental impact." "The environmental community looks forward to working with the governor and agencies to make sure that this bill is strongly enforced," [Jan Walling](#), executive director of the [Illinois Environmental Council](#), said in statement released by Quinn's office. According to Quinn's office, the law would make Illinois the first state in the nation to require hydraulic fracturing operators to submit chemical disclosures to the state both before and after fracking, as well as require the companies to conduct water testing before the fracking process and then again a number of times after it's completed. While state records indicate that hydraulic fracturing has begun on a limited basis in parts of Illinois, it will be a while before it begins in earnest because the state's [Department of Natural Resources](#) must hire dozens of new engineers, inspectors, attorneys and other experts.

<http://www.sfgate.com/business/energy/article/Quinn-signs-into-law-tough-fracking-regulations-4605228.php>

INDIA, HYDERABAD, JUNE 19 2013. FUEL TANKER CATCHES FIRE

A fuel tanker, which suddenly caught fire on the Ghatkesar-Shamirpet road, brought traffic on the stretch to a halt for about two hours on Tuesday afternoon. At 12.30 pm, driver Somaraju took his fuel tanker to IOC's depot in Cherlapally and got it filled with petrol and diesel. The tanker was scheduled for Nizamabad. While he was driving the vehicle to Nizamabad via the Ghatkesar-Keesara road, locals alerted Somaraju about fire emanating from the rear section of the tank. He immediately stopped the vehicle near Thalaipally village and fled with the truck cleaner. Soon, the tanker got engulfed in flames. By the time police and fire department officials reached the spot, it was completely gutted. Shamirpet police have booked a fire accident case.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/Fuel-tanker-catches-fire/articleshow/20658011.cms>

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 19 2013. STATE BUDGET TRIPLES REFINERY INSPECTORS

jaxon van derbeken



A fire truck pours water on the No. 4 Crude Unit at the Chevron refinery in Richmond on Aug. 7, 2012, a day after an explosion and fire sent a giant plume of black smoke into the sky.

The state would nearly triple the number of oil refinery safety inspectors under a proposal on the governor's desk that backers say would help close regulatory gaps that federal investigators found played a role in the fire at Chevron's Richmond refinery last year. One of more than two dozen budget-related bills - all expected to be signed by Gov. [Jerry Brown](#) by the end of the month - would require Cal/OSHA, the state's main agency overseeing refinery safety, to make refineries in California pay for at least 15 new plant safety inspectors. Four more would be hired with existing funds. Currently, the state has just seven inspectors. The added help would bring the total to 26 under the new budget. Still, even a beefed-up staff would likely struggle, critics say, given the huge task of assuring safety at the state's 15 oil refineries and 1,600 other chemical processing plants. "Tripling their staffing means a slightly larger fraction is going toward what is needed for safety - but it's a step in the right direction," said [Greg Karras](#), staff scientist for the Communities for a Better Environment advocacy group. A spokesman for [Western States Petroleum Association](#) said the trade group representing California's major oil refineries "stands ready to work" with Cal/OSHA, the governor and the Legislature "to ensure that there continues to be



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a robust and well-trained" refinery safety effort. In an interim report in April, federal investigators blamed the Aug. 6 fire - caused by the rupture of a corroded pipe and which sent 15,000 people to seek treatment for breathing problems - on weak state oversight that left Chevron free to simply monitor rather than eliminate corrosion risks at its crude oil unit.

'A Wake-Up Call'

State Sen. [Loni Hancock](#), D-Berkeley, spearheaded the budgetary changes that require Cal/OSHA to hire 15 new inspectors for its Process Safety Management Unit out of new oil industry fees as well as to train and deploy four more refinery inspectors out of existing agency funds. "I think that the fire was a wake-up call for all of us. It certainly was for me," Hancock said of the Chevron blaze. She said there's more work ahead because even increasing the staff to 26 would give the agency just one quarter of the number of oil refinery inspectors that Great Britain has - 100 inspectors to oversee the same number of refineries as California. Earlier this year, the Chemical Safety Board faulted the state's efforts leading up to the fire as ineffective. [Rafael Moure-Eraso](#), chairman of the [U.S. Chemical Safety Board](#), said he hoped his agency's findings would help to boost safety in the state. "We need a change in how refineries do business in California and nationwide," Moure-Eraso said. "We hope California serves as a model for change for the rest of the country." However, Moure-Eraso has said that the state needs to do more than hire more inspectors. He said it needs to restructure its entire refinery safety effort.

Lax oversight Reported

[The Chronicle](#) reported last year that the agency conducted three planned inspections at the Richmond refinery in the six years before the fire, spending a total of 150 inspector hours. In at least one of the cases, the inspector did not actually visit the refinery. The level of state oversight was similar at the 14 other refineries in California. The Chronicle also reported that the state effort paled next to a recent inspection campaign of refineries in other states, led by the federal [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#), which averaged about 1,000 inspection hours per refinery. California did not take part in that effort. The safety board noted the state's lackluster efforts in its findings in April. The agency has acknowledged it has long been short-staffed. It relies on industry fees to pay for enforcement, but Cal/OSHA officials say they have been unable to fill vacant positions in light of statewide budget woes. At the time of the fire, the agency had only seven inspectors and one field manager. Federal safety board officials recently found that the inspection unit still lacks the technical competence for proper oversight. After the fire, the agency found more than two dozen violations at Chevron's Richmond refinery and sought to levy nearly \$1 million in fines against the company for failing to heed a decade of warnings about the crude oil unit's vulnerability to corrosion, for failing to follow its emergency shutdown procedures, and for not protecting workers at the leak site. [Mike Smith](#), the field representative for [United Steelworkers Union Local 5](#), which includes workers at the Chevron, Shell and Tesoro refineries in Martinez, said that adding inspectors is a welcome improvement for the industry and the public. "We hope that this gives Cal/OSHA the ability to more thoroughly protect our workers and the communities surrounding the refineries," Smith said. "It's a step in the right direction." Hancock agreed that hiring new inspectors is a "good first step."

'Extremely Reasonable'

"We wanted it to be extremely reasonable - this is reasonable and minimal, and I think it's going to be doable," she said. "This will amount to a 200 percent increase in the staff. Still, this is for a class of facilities that includes both oil and chemical plants, and there are 1,600" total plants in the state. She said the hope is to find highly qualified, properly compensated engineers to do the job. "This is sophisticated engineering work, going in and inspecting these refineries. We want to get 19 absolutely competent, mission-driven public safety inspectors that really care about getting the job done."

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/State-budget-triples-refinery-inspectors-4606087.php>

USA, UT, LEEDS, JUNE 19 2013. FIRE CAUSES FUEL TANK EXPLOSION IN LEEDS

samantha sadlier



A ruptured fuel tank that exploded during a brush fire in Leeds can be seen in the foreground as firefighters work to mop up hot spots from the blaze on Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Leeds Area Fire Department and assisting fire agencies responded to a small brush fire Tuesday in Leeds, which spread to a 500-gallon fuel tank, causing a small explosion and damaging some old vehicles and other debris. Adam Heyder, Washington County Fire Warden with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, said the official cause of the fire is unknown. The fire started near 422 W. Buckeye Reef at about 11 a.m. on the dry grass in an open space. After the wind



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caught the flame, it spread to a nearby pile of metal scraps and old vehicles, as well as the fuel tank. "There were mostly just older vehicles and junk piled up in an open field and it burned a lot of that," he said. "It reached the 500-gallon gas tank, which was full of old gas, and that blew up." A man living at the home had minor injuries, which were treated at the scene, Heyder said. The fire never reached the nearby home or structures. The amount of damage is difficult to determine because of the types of old scraps and debris that was burned by the flames, Heyder said. With dry weather conditions throughout the county, Heyder said he would like to encourage the public to use caution. "Things are extremely dry in Washington County right now," he said. "People need to be careful what they are doing."

http://www.thespectrum.com/article/20130618/NEWS01/306180006/Fire-causes-fuel-tank-explosion-Leeds?nclink_check=1

USA, ILL, HARTFORD, JUNE 20 2013. 'WALL OF FIRE' ERUPTS AFTER HARTFORD TRUCK CRASH

john badman

 **Watch the Video** [Southbound Route 3 Reopens after Fiery Crash](#)



A Hartford firefighter gets ready to move in on the flaming cab of a flatbed semi-truck from DISS, Dry Ice Sales and Service, Wednesday on Illinois Route 3 at Seventh Street in Hartford after the truck collided with another flatbed semi-truck in the intersection. The second truck, from BSL Express Inc., also was damaged extensively in the blaze.

Two big flatbed trucks collided Wednesday morning, starting a fire that sent a plume of black smoke and flame into the air and into a drainage gutter along Illinois Route 3 at Seventh Street. The collision just before 9 a.m. sparked a smoky fire in the cab of one of the big trucks, but leaking diesel fuel eventually burst into flame, and the escaping fuel mixed with the water being used to douse the truck fire caused a small river of fire that ran down a drainage gutter on the west side of the highway. "The fuel was on fire with the water running underneath it," a witness said. He said a firefighter working to put out the fire in the two tractor-trailer cabs almost got trapped between the fire in the gutter and the fire in the vehicles. A group of Marathon Pipeline employees, who happened to be conducting a drill nearby, contained the water and fuel mixture, using a "boom," a snakelike device normally used to contain oil and fuel spills on waterways. "It was fortunate. We happened to be conducting a boom drill at our dock facility, and then we were playing for real," said Bill Coulter, the foreman of the Marathon crew. Coulter said when he and his men arrived, they saw only smoke coming from one of the truck cabs. "There were a lot of diesel vapors in the air, and something electric in the truck touched it off," he said. Eventually, the Roxana and Wood River Fire Departments were called out. The Wood River department brought a foam truck, but the fire was under control by the time it arrived. Firefighters from Hartford initially were called out to a traffic crash with a fuel leak, but by the time they arrived, the fire had started. The flames destroyed the

cab of one truck and the engine compartment of another. "It was all flames when I got here," said Leo Tomerlin of Hartford. He said the flames were high enough to singe a utility wire stretching from east to west across Route 3 at Seventh Street. The fire started after a southbound flatbed truck operated by Diss Trucking Co. made a leftward swing from the right-hand lane of Route 3 into the passing lane in order to turn right, westward, at Seventh Street into a narrow road that leads from Route 3 through a floodgate to the river side of the Mississippi River levee. Diss is listed as a dry ice company and trucking company, both based in Paducah, Ky. The Diss truck was carrying big pipes, machinery and other equipment. Lt. John R. Grigg, ranking officer of the Hartford Police Department, said another flatbed truck, operated by BSL Express, was southbound behind the Diss truck in the right-hand lane. The empty BSL truck collided with the passenger side of the Diss truck. The Diss truck caught fire first, and the fire spread to the other truck operated by BSL Express. "He turned left, then right," said Vasile Foltea, the driver of the BSL truck. He said he put on the brakes, but too late to avoid the collision. The name of the Diss driver was not available. Foltea was issued a ticket for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Neither driver was injured. The big blaze attracted several spectators and diverted southbound traffic on Route 3 through residential streets in Hartford. The



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spectators said they were amazed at the wall of flames running down the edge of the highway and consuming all of the Diss truck cab and most of the BSL truck. One watcher said the accident could have been worse had the Marathon pipeline crew not been nearby and had the BSL truck been loaded. "Somebody used up one of their nine lives today," said Marsha Moore. "There are a lot of ways this could have been a lot worse."

http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/local/article_917ddb54-d8ea-11e2-87d1-001a4bcf6878.html

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JUNE 20 2013. NEW AUSTRALIAN STANDARD FOR UNDERGROUND UTILITIES [AS 5488-2013]

Standards Australia has today launched a new Australian Standard which will – for the first time – outline a consistent approach towards the classification of information relating to subsurface utilities. At present the existence and location of subsurface utilities can be difficult to establish and verify, which is the problem this standard seeks to address. AS 5488-2013 Classification of Subsurface Utility Information is intended to improve public safety, reduce costly property damage, and provide more accurate information on the location and type of subsurface utilities than in the past. Chief Executive Officer of Standards Australia, Colin Blair, said Australian utility owners, operators and locators have welcomed the Australian Standard which sets a new benchmark for subsurface utility information management. "The primary objective of this Australian Standard is to provide utility owners, operators and locators with a framework for the consistent classification of information concerning subsurface utilities," Mr Blair said. "The standard also provides guidance on how subsurface utility information may be obtained, and how that information should be conveyed to users," Mr Blair said. Mr Blair said knowledge of the precise details of subsurface utilities can protect the asset lifecycle and reduce interference to infrastructure. AS 5488-2013 Subsurface Utility Information was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT-036, Subsurface Utility Engineering. The following groups are represented on the committee. ANZLIC—The Spatial Information Council, AU Railway Association, AU Institute of Mine Surveyors, AU Local Government Association, AU Services Union, AU roads, Dial Before You Dig, Energy Networks Association, Engineers AU, Geospatial Information and Technology Assn', Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities, Institute of Public Works Engineering AU, National Broadband Network National Utility Locating Contractors Assn', NSW Streets Opening Conference, Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute, Telstra Corporation, University of NSW, Water Services Assn' of AU, WorkCover NSW.

<http://www.standards.org.au/OurOrganisation/News/Pages/New-Australian-Standard-for-Underground-Utilities.aspx>

CANADA, N.S, DARTMOUTH, JUNE 20 2013. JOBS GO WEST AS IMPERIAL OIL CONVERTS NOVA SCOTIA REFINERY TO TERMINAL OPERATION

michael tutton



The Imperial Oil refinery is seen in Dartmouth, N.S. on Thursday, May 17, 2012.

Imperial Oil refinery in Halifax is being closed and converted to a terminal, in a move that deals the latest blow to Nova Scotia's manufacturing sector. The company said Wednesday it expects 80 of the 200 workers — ranging from engineers to mechanics — to either retire or stay at the terminal, while 120 others will be offered jobs at Imperial refineries and oil sands operations in Ontario and the West or at ExxonMobil's operations off Nova Scotia's coast. The refinery's flaming smokestack has been a familiar part of the city's waterfront on the Dartmouth side of the harbour for 95 years. Last May, the NDP government said it remained hopeful the facility might survive under new ownership. The

province also extended a five-year, tax-break deal just months before Imperial launched its year-long search for a buyer. However, Gilles Courtemanche, vice-president of refining with Imperial (TSX:IMO), said the company decided to close the refinery because it couldn't find a buyer or see any realistic prospect of long-term profitability. He also described the factory as lacking the ability to process the heavier portions of crude oil into diesel and gasoline, and too small to compete against massive producers in Asia and elsewhere. "We have a great history. ... But with the kit that's there and the market conditions, it's no longer viable," said Courtemanche. He said the refinery finds itself at the edge of an ocean where up to two million barrels of gasoline are available at competitive rates each day. Meanwhile, refineries are being built in India that are capable of producing 1.2 million barrels daily, while the Dartmouth factory produces about 88,000 barrels, he said. "This is a very difficult decision for Imperial, our employees and the local community ... We will make every reasonable effort to minimize the



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impact on our employees," said the vice president. Courtemanche said the multinational company will continue to employ "some" of the roughly 200 contractors who work at the facility as the conversion and environmental cleanup takes place, but couldn't provide a precise figure on how many would keep their work. The company said the conversion is planned for the third or fourth quarter of this year, depending on the progress of the modifications. Once completed, the terminal operation will continue to supply existing terminals in Sydney, N.S., Corner Brook, N.L., Sept-Iles, Que. and Cap aux Meules in the Magdalen Islands, said Courtemanche. The closure is becoming a familiar story in the province's industrial sector, as small, aging factories close and skilled, well-paid workers head west. At one time, Nova Scotia had three refineries. Once the Dartmouth facility closes, it will have none. Other traditional industries are also exiting. In December last year, the Minas Basin Pulp and Power paper mill closed in Hantsport, N.S., affecting 135 people in the town of 1,160. That came after Montreal-based Resolute Forest Products (TSX:RFP) announced the closure of its paper mill formerly known as Bowater in Brooklyn, N.S., throwing 320 people out of work. Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie said the trend is worrying for the province. "This is a major blow to our province and my heart goes out to the families who rely on those jobs," he said in a statement. A non-recurring, after-tax charge of between \$260 million and \$280 million is expected to be included in Imperial Oil's second quarter reported financial results. Courtemanche said the majority of those charges are due to the writedown of the assets of the refinery.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/Imperial+converting+Nova+Scotia+refinery+terminal+operation/8547152/story.html>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, JUNE 20 2013. SHELL TO RESUME NIGER DELTA OIL SPILL COMPENSATION TALKS

john vida



Niger delta residents pass a burning Shell oil pipeline as they evacuate their homes by boat in December 2005.

The company has admitted liability for two spills but disputes the quantity of oil and damage done. Oil company Shell will resume talks next week in London with lawyers representing 15,000 of the poorest people in the world who are claiming millions of pounds' compensation for oil spills on the Niger delta. But Martyn Day, of Leigh Day law firm which is acting for the communities, said the case could still go to a full high court trial in London in 2014. The [Shell petroleum development company of Nigeria \(SPDC\)](#) [has admitted liability for two spills from a pipeline in the Niger delta](#) in 2008, but the company disputes the quantity of oil

that was spilled and the damage that was done to livelihoods and the environment near the coastal village of Bodo in Rivers State. Oil spill experts working for the communities estimate that nearly 500,000 barrels leaked from the company pipeline over several months, Shell claims it was far less. The legal action, represents the first time Shell or any oil company has faced claims in the UK from a community from the developing world for environmental damage. "We have agreed to negotiate over the next two to three weeks. Probably the talks will go on into the autumn when a deal will become more likely," said Day. The legal development came as [Netherlands National Contact Point \(NCP\)](#), which oversees the implementation of OECD guidelines on the human rights and environmental records of multinational companies, broadly backed claims by [Amnesty International](#) and [Friends of the Earth International](#) that Shell's repeated assertions that sabotage is responsible for most of the oil spilt in Nigeria is based on flawed investigations which rely on information provided by the company itself. The two organisations offered NCP video evidence of "serious flaws" in the system used by Shell for investigating oil spills. NCP accepted there were problems in the spill investigation system but criticised Shell. "Shell management should have had a more cautious attitude about the percentage of oil spills caused by the sabotage. The data they are based on is not absolute," it said. But Foel and Amnesty said today that NCP should have gone much further in its criticism of Shell. "Sabotage is a problem in Nigeria, but Shell exaggerates this issue to avoid criticism for its failure to prevent oil spills," said Audrey Gaughran of Amnesty International. "The oil companies are liable to pay compensation when spills are found to be their fault but not if the cause is attributed to sabotage – but it is effectively the company that investigates itself. This is clearly a system open to abuse." Shell replied that oil companies did not devise the investigation system and that they had acted within the Nigerian law. "Any spill is a serious concern, and SPDC staff and contractors are working hard to eliminate operational spills. Unfortunately the high incidence of oil theft and illegal refining in the Niger delta exacerbates the problem and has a devastating impact on the environment. This criminality is the real tragedy of the Niger delta. SPDC regrets that some NGOs continue to take a campaigning approach rather than focusing on on-the-ground solutions that bring societal benefits," said the



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Shell spokesman Jonathan French. Shell's 2012 [sustainability report](#) states that 95% of the 26,500 barrels of oil spilled from Shell facilities in Nigeria which were as a result of sabotage. Of the 173 oil spills over 1.5 barrels from SPDC facilities, the company said 80% were caused by illegal activity.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jun/19/shell-niger-delta-oil-spill-talks>

USA, LA, DONALDSONVILLE, JUNE 20 2013. FATAL BLAST TO CLOSE CF INDUSTRIES LA. PLANT LONGER THAN EXPECTED



Map: [Highway 3089, Donaldsonville, LA 70346, USA](#)

A fatal explosion at a CF Industries Holdings ammonia plant last week will keep the Donaldsonville, La., facility offline a few weeks longer than expected. Still the the manager of North America's largest nitrogen complex doesn't expect the extra downtime will hurt on nitrogen output or ability to supply customers. The accident occurred on Friday at around 6 p.m. in a section of the plant that had been shut for maintenance when a nitrogen vessel ruptured during off-loading. The blast killed one worker and sent seven others to hospital, where one worker remains in stable condition. The ammonia plant is one of five at the Donaldsonville site that produce the nitrogen-based fertilizer, said Lou Frey, vice-president and general manager of the complex. "This is a small part of our operation and it's a small part of the overall CF system because we have other facilities throughout the United States," Frey said on Wednesday. "We'll have to redistribute product from different places, but overall it won't have an impact." Farmers apply nitrogen, which is also produced as urea and UAN fertilizer, to boost yields of corn and other crops. CF, based in Deerfield, Ill., is the world's second-biggest nitrogen producer after Norway's Yara International ASA. CF's plan before the accident was to complete maintenance and restart the ammonia plant by mid- to late July. But it will remain closed until CF and health and safety investigators determine the cause of the blast. The complex, built in the 1960s, can produce 5 million tons of nitrogen products annually. CF is seeking permits to allow a \$2.1 billion expansion that would make it the world's largest nitrogen facility. Frey said he did not know if the accident would affect CF's expansion timeline. The last fatal incident, a fire and explosion at the complex, killed three workers in 2000.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/breaking/chi-cf-industries-plant-explosion-20130619.0.984255.story>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JUNE 20 2013. HOUSTON AREA SEES A COUPLE OF OIL SPILLS A DAY

jeannie kever



Michele Johnson of Wildlife Response Services demonstrates the cleaning of a duck as if it had been affected by oil, on Tuesday June 18, 2013. The Texas General Land Office held an Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program media day at their La Porte Office.

Oil spills off the Texas coast have declined dramatically over the past decade, but the Texas General Land Office still responds to one or two a day in the Houston region, an area stretching from Galveston County to Matagorda Bay. "In the '90s, it wasn't anything to have three to eight spills a day," said Richard Arnhart, regional director for oil spill prevention and response for the Houston area. "Spills are down, which is a good thing." And while "oil spill" evokes images of BP's Macondo well, which spilled more than 4 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, or the Exxon Valdez, which sent 257,000

barrels of crude into Alaskan waters in 1989, most tracked by the General Land Office are small by comparison. Arnhart said anything that results in a sheen or discoloration in the water counts as a spill. He and other members of the agency hosted an open house for members of the media Tuesday to explain how they prepare for and respond to oil spills. Arnhart said the last two significant spills his office has dealt with were the Highland Bayou spill on March 22, 2012, which involved 130 barrels at the Dune Energy facility in Hitchcock, and the Texas City Dike spill on Aug. 19, 2011, when about 35 barrels spilled during an overfill at a Buffalo Marine tank at a Port of Texas City dock. He and other land office officials said the declining number of spills is probably due both to better safety measures — including such things as double-hulled cargo ships — and caution prompted in part by the high cost of a spill. "Everyone understands oil spills are expensive," said Greg Pollock, deputy commissioner of the land office. A spill will shut down the Houston Ship Channel, and the responsible party can be required to pay damages to shippers affected by the lost time. "The cost for a day of an oil spill is outrageous," Pollock said.



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Authority Granted in 1991

There were no clear lines of authority until 1991, when the Legislature gave the General Land Office authority over oil spills in tidal rivers and other waterways and for 10 miles out from shore. That was sparked by public attention from the Exxon Valdez and, in 1990, an explosion aboard the Mega Borg, a ship about 60 miles from Galveston. Five men were killed and 5.1 million gallons of oil spilled. Most of the oil burned so the spill had little impact on the coast, but Pollock said it was a reminder that no state agency was in charge of offshore oil spills. A month later, a barge and ship collided in Galveston Bay, spilling almost 700,000 gallons of fuel oil into the bay. The 1991 legislation designated the General Land Office to oversee spill response and funded the work through a surcharge on crude oil loaded and offloaded at Texas ports. Arnhart said the agency also is involved in spills farther from shore. He noted that land office employees were part of a task force in Galveston after the Macondo blowout in 2010. The Texas coast was spared the most serious damage from that disaster, which in addition to the spill killed 11 workers on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig. The land office can assess penalties based on the amount of oil involved, similar to federal penalties assessed under the Clean Water Act. Vessels also are required to maintain contingency plans and register with the General Land Office; if they do not, land office staff members can board the vessels to ensure that they comply. Pollock said the agency inspects more than 600 facilities, from bait stands to refineries, and more than 1,500 vessels every year. Patrolling the Ship Channel is a journey between tugboats and tankers, bird rookeries and refineries. "You have industry, and you have environmental concerns," Arnhart said as response officer Gray Powell idled a land office boat near the Exxon Mobil refinery, where two oil tankers sat at a dock and, at the other end of the plant, a chemical tanker sat at another. "The San Jacinto Monument is nearby. Marshland. Historical value we have to protect. "We know we have to be prepared."

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/06/19/houston-area-sees-a-couple-of-oil-spills-a-day/>

CANADA, ALBA, EDMONTON, JUNE 20 2013. OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING DIESEL FUEL LEAK IN LEDUC COUNTY CREEK

 **Watch the Video** [Officials keeping an eye on diesel fuel spill](#)



Efforts were underway to stop hundreds of thousands of litres of diesel spilling.

Alberta Environment officials have confirmed hundreds of litres of diesel fuel leaked into a creek south of Edmonton Tuesday, while crews work to clean up the mess. Officials said about 400 litres of diesel leaked out of a 500 litre storage tank in a Nisku industrial yard, making it into the Blackmud Creek near Nisku. The leak was discovered Tuesday morning, a short time later, crews were on the scene, and had set up booms and pads along the creek to contain the spill. "What we're doing is at different locations we're going to start here and do maybe a couple hundred metres of diking here, and a few along the way, just to ensure it doesn't hit the North Saskatchewan [River] and get into our waterway

system," Capt. Gary Lazor with Edmonton Fire Rescue said. As of early Tuesday morning, officials said the spill had been contained – and it's believed none of the diesel made it into the North Saskatchewan River. However, officials said there will be an extensive investigation to determine the full impact of the spill.

<http://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/officials-investigating-diesel-fuel-leak-in-leduc-county-creek-1.1331200>

INDIA, THANE, KASARA, JUNE 20 2013. TANKER RAMS INTO STRANDED TRUCK

A speeding LPG tanker rammed into a stranded container truck on the Mumbai-Nashik Highway and subsequently burst into flames, killing its driver and severely injuring a motorist in Kasara, Thane rural on Tuesday morning. The smooth flow of traffic was disrupted for at least seven hours. The Kasara police said at around 7.10 am, a container truck turned turtle on the Mumbai-Nashik Highway near Sai Baba Khind and 10 minutes later, the LPG tanker rammed into it. "The accident took place on a curve. The driver of the tanker was speeding while getting down the slope. He might not have seen the stranded container," said assistant inspector Vilas Shende. "Within 20 minutes after the collision, gas started leaking and the tanker caught fire and burst. Both the vehicles got charred and the tanker's driver, who sustained injuries in the collision, could not get out. We are probing whose negligence has led to the accident," added Mr Shende. Huge flames spread around a radius of 500 metres from the accident spot. A motorist, who was stuck in his Maruti Omni at a distance of 500 metres, suffered 60 per cent burn injuries. The victim, Vinod Valvante (25), is a resident of Kasara and a driver by profession. He was rushed to



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

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Vakratunda Hospital in Nashik at a distance of 45 kilometres. The driver of the tanker, Birendra Singh (27), is a native of Uttar Pradesh. The tanker had set off from Chembur and was on its way to Sinnar. Two lanes of the highway were shut down till 9.30 am, while the other two were shut till 2 pm.

<http://www.asianage.com/mumbai/tanker-rams-stranded-truck-265>

THAILAND, SAMUT SAKHON, JUNE 20 2013. FIRE, EXPLOSIONS AT PAINT FACTORY



A fire broke out at a small paint factory in Akechai Road of Muang district Thursday morning, causing several explosions but no reports of injury. The fire started at around 10am in a building belonging to K A Paint Limited Partnership in tambon Khok Krabue of Muang district. As the factory is situated on a small road, fire trucks had difficulties reaching the scene. A lot of inflammable material was stored in the factory's warehouse and the flames set off several explosions. The fire caused panic in a nearby community, where people rushed to evacuate their homes. It took around two hours to control the fire, according to Samut Sakhon governor Julaphat Saengchan. Police will investigate the cause of fire, he said.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/356066/adjacent-community-evacuated-as-fire-destroys-paint-factory-in-samut-sakhon>

ENGLAND, NORFOLK, THETFORD, JUNE 20 2013. CONCERN FOR OTTERS FOLLOWING DIESEL SPILL IN RIVER



A family of swans which were part of a group of birds rescued from the River Thet.

Otters may leave the Thetford area if pollutants - such as diesel and engine oil - continue to end up in the waterways, an animal welfare officer has warned. Craig Plumley, an animal welfare officer for the RSPCA, spoke of his concern for the area's otter population following a diesel spill just over a week ago which saw about 4,000 litres of fuel leak into the River Thet. As a result of the spill, which is thought to have happened when oil thieves were disturbed by security guards, about 25 river birds were rescued by RSPCA officers, with help from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), but three signets and a Canadian goose have died. Mr Plumley said this was the third case in the past year of oil contaminants entering the water at Thetford, with the previous two involving engine oil. While no dead or sick otters have been discovered following the diesel spill, he said if these incidents continued "we run the risk of losing them". "Otters don't stay around in polluted water. We have only just got them back; we don't want to lose them because of stupidity." Otter numbers in England and Wales declined dramatically from the mid 1950s to the late 1970s, but their return to most of

England is considered by environmentalists as one of the major conservation success stories of the last 30 years. Mr Plumley said photographers came to Thetford in the hope of capturing an otter. "It's down to other agencies to make sure these pollutants don't get into our waterways and we will work if necessary to try and help stop this in the future. Three [incidents] in a year is a bit worrying for the wildlife." He added: "I don't think people realise what they put into the drain ends up in the river, but it does." He said it was a "huge testament" to the quick work of the BTO, Environment Agency (EA), Anglian Water and the RSPCA that the damage to the birdlife following last week's spill was not "catastrophic". A spokesman for the EA said booms had contained the spill and absorbent booms have helped the river to improve. He added: "There's no evidence of distress or death to the fish, but we are still investigating that." The rescued birds were taken to the RSPCA's Norfolk Wildlife Hospital at East Winch, near King's Lynn. Mr Plumley, who said diesel clears quicker than a lot of other oils, believes the bird will be reintroduced into the wild in the next couple of weeks.

http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/thetford_concern_for_otters_following_diesel_spill_in_river_thet_1_2241630



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