



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 976 Newsy Stuff

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

July 3 2013



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USA, TX, LA OPORTE, JUNE 20 2013. LA PORTE INTERCHANGE REOPENS AFTER 24-HOUR TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Tanker Truck Crash Shuts Down Highway 225](#)

 **Photo's [15]** [La Porte Interchange Reopens](#)



A 24-hour traffic nightmare finally ended in La Porte Wednesday when a propane tanker crash scene was cleared. The tanker fell off the Highway 146 southbound ramp to Highway 225 West around 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, and [crashed some 25 feet to the ground](#). The interchange was closed while crews burned off the liquid propane inside the tanker. The burnoff created a huge flame near the scene of the crash. Many commuters on Tuesday had to wait several hours before they could detour around the closure. At a nearby chemical business, DB Western, employees had to leave their cars parked overnight because they had no way out. The wreckage was a grim sight, especially for another trucker like Zerling Williams. "No wheels on the tractor or trailer. Give you chills to see something like that," Williams said. Williams later learned he apparently knew the two men in the cab who were taken to Memorial Hermann Hospital by Life Flight. One man was reported in critical condition Wednesday. The other is stable. "They are deep in my prayers. I prayed for them already," he said. Williams has 35 years behind the wheel. He works for the same company as the victims - Safeway Transportation out of Louisiana. There was no early word on what caused the crash, but officials said the person behind the wheel of the truck was actually a trainee. The passenger was said to be a veteran trucker who was instructing the driver.

<http://www.khou.com/video/featured-videos/Officials-burning-fuel-from-overturned-big-rig-in-La-Porte-212093381.html>

INDIA, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, JUNE 20 2013. OIL-TANKER LORRY CAPSIZES NEAR GANESHA POINT



The oil-carrying tanker which overturned after the driver lost control while taking a sharp bend at Ganesha point.

A tanker lorry transporting palm oil capsized near the Ganesha Point traffic island along the Tiruchi-Thanjavur Highway at the entrance of BHEL industrial complex in the early hours of Tuesday, causing hardship to road users. The spot, which has been witness to accidents involving tankers, turned slippery due to oil spillage for several hours. There was no casualty and the driver escaped unhurt. The oil that spilled on the road had to be cleaned and diverted into the storm-water drain along the highway. A fortnight ago, a lorry transporting electronic appliances skidded and fell on its side. Last October, a lorry laden with bamboo poles ploughed into the iron railings of the traffic island as the vehicle lost control, and the front two wheels broke off in the impact. According to the police, the place was prone to accidents due to the large size of the traffic island. The obstruction created in the middle of the national highway to reduce the speed of vehicles was not serving the intended purpose. Rather, heavy vehicles moved at breakneck speed with the confidence to manoeuvre the lengthy curve, but forced to apply brakes when their judgment fails, a police official of BHEL station said. Police said they have been emphasising to the BHEL management the need to reduce the size of the traffic island to prevent accidents. According to BHEL sources, mechanisms to prevent accidents would be discussed at a joint meeting planned with officials of National Highways Authority of India and police department. As a first step, the scope for reducing speed by installing barricades with inscriptions of warning messages and reflectors on both sides of the traffic island would be explored, police officials said. The police say they face a disadvantage while regulating vehicles around the traffic island since speed-breakers are not permitted along national highways. A BHEL official said the problem of over-speeding has indeed arisen after the conversion of the highway into a four-lane one by the NHAI. The official acknowledged that a relook at the size of the traffic island has become necessary. BHEL officials say a permanent solution could be found only if the height of the highway is raised for construction of underpasses at Ganesha Point and Training Centre. The NHAI's stand is that the project could be taken up only on a cost-sharing basis, and that the onus was on the BHEL to bring it to fruition.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirappalli/oilcarrying-tanker-lorry-capsizes-near-ganesha-point/article4827414.ece>



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INDIA, ANDHRA PRADESH, HYDERABAD, JUNE 20 2013. UNAUTHORISED GAS KITS TO BE A STRICT NO-NO

s. sandeep kumar



A Motor Vehicle Inspector checking the gas kit of a vehicle in Hyderabad.

Once LPG and CNG details are included in the registration certificate book, authorities can check valve and tank numbers in the database and take action in case of mismatch or tampering. The Transport Department is planning to include LPG and CNG kit details, including valve and tank numbers, in the registration certificate book to curb the use of unauthorised gas kits in vehicles. At present, only the type of gas kit – LPG or CNG – is included in the certificate book. Once the additional details are included in the registration certificate book, the authorities can check valve and tank numbers in the database and take action in case of mismatch or tampering, says a senior Transport Department official. Further, there are efforts to introduce mandatory inspection of all non-transport vehicles once in a year. Though there is no such provision in the A.P. Motor

Vehicles Act, it can be helpful if the government approves such moves, he adds. Of late, fire mishaps in cars on the move have been reported, the latest incident being a businessman getting burnt alive after fire erupted in his car on the P.V.N. Expressway on Friday. There are nearly 60,000 autorickshaws that use LPG and CNG kits and about 10,000 cars that run on LPG or CNG kits in the city. Many prefer unauthorised or spurious LPG and CNG gas kits and spares in their vehicles, unmindful of the dangers involved. Authorised dealers charge nearly Rs. 18,000 for a branded LPG or CNG kit, and the price varies marginally depending on the car and its model. On the other hand, unauthorised kits come at Rs. 12,000. Vehicle owners are expected to inform the Transport Department about the installation of gas kits and obtain a certificate, but except for autorickshaws, not many personal vehicle owners follow the procedure thanks to poor monitoring by the department. A gas kit comprises three key components including tank, vaporiser and valve. Majority of unauthorised dealers bring these components from other States and assemble them here, without issuing necessary documents to vehicle owners. This is where price differs, says an auto union member. On the other hand, the Transport Department authorities claim there are about 50 approved dealers in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts, and the possibility of using spurious kit is minimal. Each gas kit comes with unique numbers for valve, tank and vaporiser, and a vehicle inspector checks them before they are certified, says the official. Also, they are verified while issuing fitness certificates for vehicles such as autorickshaws even as the procedure is not applicable for personal vehicles as they do not need fitness certificates, he explains.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/unauthorised-gas-kits-to-be-a-strict-nono/article4820626.ece>

USA, MD, HAGERSTOWN, JUNE 20 2013. BALTIMORE TRAIN DERAILMENT LEADS TO LAWSUIT AGAINST TRUCK DRIVER JOHN ALBAN Jr.

david dishneau

 **Photo's [17]** [Baltimore Train Explosion](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Baltimore Train Explosion](#)



A fire burns at the site of a CSX freight train derailment, Tuesday, May 28, 2013, in Rosedale, Md., where fire officials say the train crashed into a trash truck, causing an explosion that rattled homes at least a half-mile away and collapsed nearby buildings, setting them on fire.

A trash truck driver caused the explosive derailment of a CSX freight train near Baltimore last month by failing to stop at a railroad crossing, the company contends in a federal lawsuit. The complaint filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Baltimore alleges negligence by John J. Alban Jr. and his company, Alban Waste LLC. The Associated Press was unable to reach either of them by telephone Thursday. Suitland lawyer John F.X. Costello, named in a court document as the defense attorney, said he hasn't been hired to represent either

defendant. He declined to comment on the case. CSX Transportation Inc. of Jacksonville, Fla., filed the complaint Tuesday. It seeks at least \$225,000 in damages. The National Transportation Safety Board has said the May 28 derailment caused an estimated \$625,000 worth of damage to the train and tracks. The train derailed after striking the truck driven by Alban, leading



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to an explosion and fire that a preliminary investigative report from the NTSB last week said damaged buildings as far as a mile away. The NTSB said in its report last week that Alban did not stop before crossing the tracks. The agency said the crossing was marked with X-shaped crossbucks and yellow stop signs that were faded and displaced. One of the stop signs was hanging upside down and facing away from the road, the NTSB said. CSX contends that Alban and his company were familiar with the crossing because the business is located near the tracks. "Alban was under a statutory and common law duty to slow and stop the truck and exercise due care, including by looking and listening, to ensure the tracks were clear of approaching trains and that the crossing could be traversed safely," the lawsuit says.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/19/baltimore-train-derailment-lawsuit_n_3466747.html

NETHERLANDS, FRIESE MAKKINGA AREA, JUNE 20 2013. THREE DIE IN DUTCH LIQUID MANURE TANK



Rescue crews rush to a farm near Amsterdam after four people are overcome while inside a tall manure tank.

An emergency dive team was sent to help with the silo rescue

Three men have died after becoming trapped in a manure tank in a rural part of The Netherlands. A fourth man was taken to hospital in a critical condition. De Telegraaf said that one victim was the 26-year-old youngest son of the farm owner. The detail was attributed to a neighbour involved in the rescue, who added that a 29-year-old man from Joure and a 42-year old man from Nijland also died. The identities of the dead are yet to be confirmed by officials. The neighbour said the youngest man was involved in cleaning the 10-metre high silo with three other people. A witness said he apparently fell into the storage

facility, which was only partially filled. It is still unclear how the others became trapped inside. It is suspected that they were all overcome by noxious fumes. Rescuers were forced to cut a hole in the side of the metal tank. Emergency crews at the scene included ambulance, fire and a rescue dive team. The incident happened in the Friese Makkinga area of the country, some 80 miles north east of Amsterdam.

<http://news.sky.com/story/1105685/three-die-in-dutch-liquid-manure-tank>

USA, TX, AUSTIN, JUNE 20 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 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



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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>

USA, FLA, FORT MYERS, JUNE 21 2013. TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR GAS STATION OWNER WHERE HOSE INJURED CUSTOMER

julian glover

 **Watch the Video** [Tough Questions For Gas Station Owner](#)



Fox 4 is continuing to investigate the safety of gas stations all across Southwest Florida, after two gas pumps burst at two different stations in the last week. Four in Your Corner Investigator Julian Glover is finally getting one of those victims answers. "Gas just squirted me; in the face, in the nose, in the mouth...everywhere -- you name it," said Morsa Spidle. Spidle is still upset over what happened last Monday when she filled up her car at the CITGO gas station in Fort Myers Shores. She broke her foot and was covered with fuel, after a hose ruptured. After I shared Spidle's story Tuesday night, CITGO Corp. sent me an email claiming they have no control over the station. "This station is supplied CITGO branded gasoline by an independent marketer and operated by an

independent dealer. While CITGO does not have any control over the station's operations, we care about customer safety," CITGO Corp. said in a statement. So Four in Your Corner's Julian Glover went back to the station where the incident happened to speak with someone that was in charge.

Julian Glover: Hey, how are you? Julian Glover from Fox 4 news. How're you doing? Are you a manager here by chance?

Manager: Yes, I am. Md Halal Uddin told Fox 4 that he was working the day that dangerous gas leak happened. "She come inside and report to me and I go outside and I see it's leaking a little bit so I put the sign outside, 'out of order service,'" said



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Uddin. What happens next, according to Spidle is what troubled her. "They were actually using electrical tape to wrap of the hose," said Spidle, "Gas was spewing through the electrical tape." Four in Your Corner's Julian Glover showed the store manager the exact same photos that we showed you last night.

Julian Glover: You guys later tried to tape it up with electrical tape. Is that a proper response?


Manager: When she told me inside, then I saw that it was leaking I put an out of order sign right away. Spidle sent us pictures of that "Out of Order" sign torn down and she says people continued to use the pump.

Julian Glover: Is there a log here you use to tell me how often you all inspect the pump here?

Manager: Uhhhhhh... Uddin wasn't sure and was unable to produce any proof of his own inspections. Though, he was able to show Four in Your Corner's Julian Glover that the Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Service approved the station's condition as recently as March 2013. Now Spidle is wondering if the current inspections standards are tough enough, when lives are on the line. "Instead of doing this interview with you today, we could have been at my funeral," said Spidle.

<http://www.fox4now.com/news/local/212233821.html>

CANADA, QUE, COTEAU-DU-LAC, JUNE 21 2013. TWO WOMEN KILLED AFTER EXPLOSION LEVELS QUEBEC FIREWORKS FACTORY

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Montreal Fireworks Explosion Kills 2 People](#)
- [2 Confirmed Dead after Explosion ravages Montreal-area Fireworks Facility](#)
- [A Fireworks Warehouse Ignites in Coteau-Du-Lac, Quebec,](#)
- [2 Women Killed after Explosion Levels Quebec Fireworks Factory](#)

 **Photo's [8]** [2 Workers Killed in Massive Explosion at Canadian Firework Warehouse](#)

 **Photo's [13]** [2 Women Killed after Explosion Levels Quebec Fireworks Factory](#)

 **Click-2-Listen** [CBC Radio Noon Montreal Listeners Call in With their Eye-Witness Accounts of the Explosion.](#)



John Dawson of Vankleek Hill, Ontario, posted this photo to his Facebook page of the Coteau du Lac explosion on June 20, 2013.

Two women are dead after a powerful explosion at a Quebec fireworks factory Thursday morning. The explosion at B.E.M. Fireworks in Coteau du Lac happened at around 9 a.m. The community is located in a rural area about 60 kilometres west of Montreal, near Valleyfield, Que. The Surete du Quebec confirmed earlier Thursday that two bodies were found in the charred wreckage of the factory. The women, who have not yet been identified, were employees of the fireworks company. Coteau du Lac Mayor Robert Sauve expressed condolences over the loss. "Our thoughts are with the families of those killed," he told reporters. During a Thursday afternoon news conference, police provided few details about what may have caused the blast, which sent huge plumes of thick, dark smoke into the air. "The investigation is ongoing. We're not going to be able to give any more details concerning this information," said a police spokesperson, when asked about the possible cause. According to reports, one powerful initial blast was followed by a number of smaller explosions. Witnesses said the fire spread from a small building to a larger warehouse. "We got really, really, really scared," Ginette Liboiron, who runs a convenience store across the highway overpass, told The Canadian Press. "I thought my store was falling to the ground. It shook like you can't imagine... We all went outside to see and saw the big, incredible smoke. Several nearby residents were awakened by the sound of the blasts, and some ran outside to see what was happening. "I was in the bathroom when I heard a large 'boom.' It was like an earthquake," Nicole

LeCompte told CTV news. Police evacuated a one-kilometre radius around the fireworks factory and temporarily shut down the busy Highway 20, with a barricade established roughly seven kilometres from the factory. Motorists were being diverted away from the scene as a massive plume of thick, black smoke could be seen along the horizon, rising up from the ground.



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The highway, which is a major artery between Ontario and Quebec, has since reopened, as have rail lines that run alongside the highway. Hours after the initial blast, fireworks could still be heard exploding in the vicinity of the factory, reported CTV Montreal's Derek Conlon. The fireworks facility would likely have been well-stocked with fireworks in preparation for two upcoming statutory holidays: St. Jean Baptiste Day and Canada Day. Though the fire was believed to be under control hours later, efforts to extinguish the blaze were hampered due to a lack of water near the facility. The 40-year-old facility was not equipped with a sprinkler system and police said there is no municipal water in the area. More than 100 firefighters from different departments had to fill pumper trucks and drive to the facility to douse the flames. Officials were also on scene Thursday to conduct air quality tests. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

Related Stories

- [Fireworks Explosion in Coteau du Lac kills two](#)
- [Fireworks explosion: Quebec warehouse blast kills two in building](#)
- [Fireworks flatten factory near Montreal](#)
- [Quebec fireworks explosion: 2 killed in blast](#)

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/two-women-killed-after-explosion-levels-quebec-fireworks-factory-1.1333943>

USA, VA, LYNCHBURG, JUNE 21 2013. EXPLOSION INSIDE A TRUCK IN LYNCHBURG SENDS TWO TO HOSPITAL

james gherardi

 **Watch the Video** [Explosion Insid a Truck in Lynchburg](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Truck Explodes feet away from Gas Station](#)



Two men are in the hospital being treated for severe burns after a truck they were traveling in caught fire Wednesday. The truck caught fire at the Marathon gas station off of Lakeside Drive Wednesday afternoon around 1:45 p.m. Witnesses say the truck, carrying insulation products, pulled into the gas station parking lot. The men inside the truck got out and opened the rear hatch. Shortly after that, an explosion rocketed them away from the truck. A second explosion ultimately consumed the truck in fire. Witnesses say one of the men was on fire and had to roll around the parking lot to extinguish himself. Linwood Irving says he witnessed both explosions. "One of them came in the store went in the bathroom and I don't think he realized that he was burnt that bad but he

put some cold water on it and it just rolled all the skin off and then he started hollering," said Irving. Thanks to quick thinking by Marathon employees, the valves to the nearby gas tanks were turned off, preventing the fire from getting any worse.

<http://www.wset.com/story/22634904/explosion-inside-a-truck-in-lynchburg-sends-two-to-hospital>

USA, ILL, MADISON COUNTY, JUNE 21 2013. BENZENE SUIT FILED IN MADISON COUNTY OVER STATE OF WASHINGTON RESIDENT'S EXPOSURE

kelly holleran

A woman from the state of Washington claims her relative died after he developed cancer after being exposed to benzene during his career in that state. Collette Courtion filed a lawsuit June 14 in Madison County Circuit Court against 38 companies. The suit claims that venue is proper because one or more defendants have done or are doing business in Madison County and because part of the alleged acts and omissions underlying the plaintiff's claims occurred in Madison County. In her complaint, Collette Courtion claims her recently deceased relative, Donald Courtion, worked as a printer and engraver for NW Agency from 1966 until 1983. During his employment, Donald Courtion was exposed to benzene and benzene-containing products. Benzene is a highly toxic chemical classified as a human carcinogen, according to the complaint. Because of his exposure, Donald Courtion developed acute myelogenous leukemia, the complaint says. Before his death, Donald Courtion incurred medical costs, experienced pain and suffering and missed work, according to the complaint. Collette Courtion alleges negligence against the defendants, saying they included benzene in their products even though they knew of the dangers of the benzene, included benzene in their products when adequate substitutes were available, failed to sufficiently test the health effects of benzene and failed to provide instruction on safe methods to work with benzene, among other negligent acts. She also accuses the defendants of willful and wanton conduct and conspiracy. In her four-count suit, Collette Courtion seeks compensatory damages of more than \$200,000, plus costs and other relief the court deems just. Benjamin R. Schmickle, J.



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Joseph Kusmierczak and Matthew C. Morris of SWMK Law in St. Louis and Richard L. Saville Jr. of St. Louis will be representing her. Madison County Circuit Court case number: 13-L-995

<http://madisonrecord.com/issues/304-benzene/256774-benzene-suit-filed-in-madison-county-over-state-of-washington-residents-exposure>

USA, ARK, FAYETTEVILLE, JUNE 21 2013. CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT SPILLS FUEL, ALARMS NEIGHBORS AT VUE APARTMENTS

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Construction Accident Spills Fuel, Alarms Neighbors at Vue Apartments](#)
- [Fuel Spill at Construction Site where men earlier Died](#)



Police say hundreds of gallons of fuel spilled at the Vue Apartments in Fayetteville Thursday morning after a forklift operator ran into a diesel tank. The driver told police he swerved to avoid another vehicle and punctured the tank. Battalion Chief Mauro Campos of the Fayetteville Fire Department says 500-700 gallons of fuel spilled down a hillside into a creek bed below. "The fuel was already out when we got here, there was no fuel actually actively leaking," Campos says. "The creek bed was dry, there was no water flowing in or any drainage in it so they were able to contain the leak." Firefighters used absorbent pads to soak up the diesel, and Campos believes the environmental impact will be minor. "We don't actually do cleanup, it's a private company so the total effects to the environment remains to be seen," he says. The news is alarming to neighbor Alisa Blankenship. Two construction workers have been killed in separate accidents since early May, and Blankenship says it can't be coincidence. "They have other student housing places here and I don't think anybody died doing that," she says. "Where's the safety people? My friend Brannon Rhine was the first person that was killed out here, and they never stopped working for one minute. I just wanna know how many more people have to die before OSHA does something about it." Investigations into both fatal accidents are ongoing, but Blankenship wants work to stop until they are complete. "They're doing something wrong," she says. "I'm not sure what it is, it's probably many factors going into that, because people are dying." Campos says the accidents aren't easily connected. "We've had quite a bit of incidents down here, and you can't attribute it to anything, really," he says. "It's just a big operation." The project's general contractor, Parkcrest Builders did not respond to a request for comment.

http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=673162

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, JUNE 21 2013. MONTARA OIL WELL RESUMES PRODUCTION >> 4 YEARS AFTER IT SPEWED 30,000 BARRELS OF CRUDE INTO THE TIMOR SEA



The Montara oil field has resumed production almost four years after it spewed an estimated 30,000 barrels of crude into the Timor Sea off Australia's northwest coast. The incident has been described as one of Australia's worst-ever oil spills, even reaching Indonesian waters. Oil and condensate started leaking from the well on August 21, 2009, and during attempts to plug it more than two months later, there was an explosion, which caused a fire that burned for two days. On Thursday, the Thai-owned operator PTTEP Australasia (PTTEP AA) said oil production had resumed, later than planned due to cyclone-related delays and equipment availability issues. "It is the culmination of hard work and attention to detail by our project team to deliver safe and clean production," chief executive Ken Fitzpatrick said. Since the spill, the company had transformed its management culture, operational capabilities, and safety processes and environmental systems, which had been validated by five independent reviews commissioned by the Australian government



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over more than two years, Mr Fitzpatrick said. "Our working mantra is that safety is paramount for PTTEP AA - not cost, not schedule and not production," he said. "No-one should be injured at PTTEP AA. This is reinforced with all our contractors." The company was in August 2012 fined \$510,000 for its actions in relation to the disaster.

<http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-national/montara-oil-well-resumes-production-20130621-2omfe.html>

ENGLAND, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, JUNE 21 2013. STAPLEFORD EVACUATION AFTER CHEMICAL SPILL

 **Watch the Video** [Roads Closed after Chemical Spill in Stapleford](#)



Two firefighters were taken to hospital and two members of the public were treated because of fumes.

A chemical spill forced the evacuation of a school and a garage outlet in Nottinghamshire. About 500 litres of hydrochloric acid were spilled shortly after 10:00 BST near the Autotechz garage on Pasture Road, Stapleford. Nearly 50 people, mostly children, had to be evacuated from Jubilee House Christian School and nearby buildings. Two firefighters were taken to hospital and two passersby were treated at the scene, but nobody was seriously hurt. The county council emergency planning team said pupils from the school were either collected by parents or accommodated at a nearby academy. Police closed the B6003 Pasture Road in both directions between the B6004 Hickings Lane junction and the Moorbridge

Lane junction during the clean-up operation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-22987253>

USA, CO, GREELEY, JUNE 21 2013. BRINE WATER SPILL REPORTED NEAR ISLAND GROVE ON MAY 29 IN GREELEY

An oil and natural gas company reported this month a brine water spill that occurred May 29 near the Poudre River at its location just northeast of Island Grove Regional Park in Greeley. Mineral Resources, Inc., reported to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission that a faulty valve on a tank failed, releasing 100 barrels of brine water. Brine is naturally occurring, highly concentrated salt water produced during the extraction of oil and gas. According to the company's report, no ground or surface water was affected, and about 70 cubic yards of soil was excavated and removed. Six other spills in Weld County were reported to the state agency since then, though none occurred within Greeley city limits. Those range from historic petroleum hydrocarbon leaks -- instances where the leak been ongoing for some time -- from tanks and vaults to a drill rig tipping over and releasing nine barrels of water-based drill mud. --Whiting Oil and Gas Corp.: A natural well surge at a site in the Pawnee National Grassland caused a water tank to overflow. No groundwater or surface water was affected.

- Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Onshore LP: Historical petroleum hydrocarbon was detected in soil where a tank battery had been stored north of Hudson. No groundwater or surface water was affected.
- PDC Energy Inc.: Historical petroleum hydrocarbon was detected in the soil where a tank battery had been stored south of Greeley. Groundwater was affected, but surface water was not.
- PDC Energy Inc.: Historical petroleum hydrocarbon was detected in the soil where a tank battery had been stored north of Greeley. Groundwater was affected, but surface water was not.
- Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Onshore LP: A spud drill rig tipped over and caused nine barrels of water-based drilling mud to release. Groundwater and surface water were not affected.
- Noble Energy Inc.: A water vault on a tank battery northeast of Greeley overfilled after an oil dump malfunction. Groundwater and surface water were not affected. The company contacted nearby farmers to schedule clean up.

<http://www.menafn.com/436dfc7a-c967-472c-919a-4d343fca521f/Brine-water-spill-reported-near-Island-Grove-on-May-29-Greeley?src=main>

USA, ILL, DANVILLE, JUNE 21 2013. CHEMICAL LEAK FORCES EVACUATIONS

brian l. huchel

Homes and a church have been evacuated as a result of a chemical leak found this morning. Danville Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Unit was called in to ChemCast, 1009 Lynch Road, around mid-morning today regarding an epoxy



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material. Smoke was reported as a result, but no flames, according to radio traffic. Danville Director of Public Safety Larry Thomason said because of the situation homes to the north of the business were being evacuated as a precaution. The Vermilion County Sheriff's Department was handling the evacuations. In addition, the sheriff's department has evacuated the Second Church of Christ, which operates a daycare on the location. Executive Pastor Dale DeNeal of the Second Church of Christ said officials contacted the church after 10:30 a.m. and indicated city buses would be brought in to evacuate children from the church. DeNeal said parents are being asked to pick up their children this morning at the New Life Church, located at North Bowman Avenue and Winter Avenue. DeNeal said he did not expect the Second Church of Christ to re-open today. Sheriff's Department Capt. Dennis Wood said the county was contacted just after 10:30 a.m. regarding the evacuation. Three city buses were made available within 20 minutes of the call and the 98 children and 30 staff were moved by 11:15 a.m. to the New Life Church. The church used its resources to then contact parents and guardians to come pick up the children. Wood said deputies were providing security for the church until all children had been picked up. Wood said deputies also went door to door to inform nearby residents about the incident. He said, to his knowledge, those who were home evacuated willingly. According to Thomason, members of the haz mat team were entering the ChemCast building around 11:45 a.m. to examine the leak. Members would determine the rate of flow of the material as well as the possibility of either damming the leak or containing the chemical in another manner. After that examination, Thomason said the unit would make a determination on its course of action.

<http://commercial-news.com/local/x493356253/Chemical-problem-forces-evacuation>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JUNE 21 2013. AMMONIUM NITRATE STORAGE FACILITY APPROVED

Map: [Sandgate 2304](#)

The State Government's approved the expansion of an ammonium nitrate storage facility at Sandgate, despite community safety fears. New South Wales Planning and Infrastructure has approved the storage and distribution of more than 13,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate at the site, provided it meets the appropriate conditions. Crawford's Freightlines is licenced to store and distribute around 2,000 tonnes of the chemical at its Sandgate site but on occasions has been caught exceeding its limit. Local residents wanted the storage facility moved out of the suburb mainly due to concerns about a potential catastrophic explosion. The concerns have been heightened by the recent explosion at an ammonium nitrate storage facility in Texas that claimed 14 lives. A submission from Newcastle Council also raised the potential release of ammonium nitrate into the Hunter River during flood events that would impact downstream ecosystems. It says council officers have also observed fine dust being generated during heavy truck movements affecting air quality near the site. But the company says it will provide 65 full-time jobs and maintains the environmental impact will be negligible.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-06-21/ammonium-nitrate-storage-facility-approved/4770204>

USA, TX, ATHENS, JUNE 21 2013. INVESTIGATION INTO AMMONIUM NITRATE STOCKPILE SPURS LAWMAKER TO ACTION

brett shipp

 **Watch the Video** [Investigation into Ammonium Nitrate Stockpile](#)

The secret ammonium nitrate stockpile uncovered by News 8 is getting the attention of state lawmakers Thursday. Wednesday night, we showed you [in an exclusive report](#) how more than 20 tons of the explosive material is being stored in a delapidated, unmarked building in Athens, Texas. It turns out, the State Fire Marshal and State Health Department are totally reliant on hazardous chemical handlers to self-report, and that's why this week in Austin, House Public Safety Committee members were questioning state safety officials who say there are only 16 fertilizer plants like West's in Texas.

 **Related Stories** [Athens residents alarmed by ammonium nitrate near town square](#)

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/investigates/bVIDEOb-212430031.html>

USA, TN, MEMPHIS, JUNE 22 2013. MAN TRYING TO STEAL GAS PASSES OUT AND CAUSES FUEL SPILL

melissa moon

A suspected thief got creative trying to steal hundreds of gallons of fuel from a south Memphis gas station and ended up in the hospital. Police have charged 47-year-old Edmon Reed with theft of property for trying to siphon gasoline from an underground tank at the Mapco on East Mallory. Officers say they discovered the theft Thursday after firefighters were notified about a fuel spill there. Workers inside the Mapco called the fire department after they noticed fuel leaking from a truck in their parking lot



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and onto the street. When a Hazmat team arrived, they discovered a man unconscious inside the truck. They also discovered he had been siphoning gas from an underground tank into his truck. "As far as I know, he had drilled into the bottom of the truck and he stuck a hose down and he just pumped up the gas," said Curtis Ballard. Curtis Ballard and Josh Parker were working at Lamb's Machine Works next door when it happened. They snapped photos from their cell phones. In one picture, you can see three large containers. Police say Reed was filling them with gas before he passed out. "It just kept filling up until it ran across the road," said Parker. At the time, Parker and Ballard didn't know where all the fuel was coming from or that someone was trying to steal it. "He ought to be one of the dumbest criminals because it was a stupid thing to do," said Ballard. They are just glad no one was hurt. "He could have gotten a whole bunch of people killed if it blew up," said Ballard. Police say Reed tried to siphon more than 800 gallons of gasoline worth around \$2,100. Fire officials say Reed was driving a work truck, but it turns out he doesn't work for that company. Owners of the company say the truck was sold to a salvage yard a year ago. <http://wreg.com/2013/06/21/police-man-trying-to-steal-gas-passes-out-and-causes-fuel-spill/>

USA, MN, WHERE IS MINNEAPOLIS, JUNE 22 2013. CAR AND TANKER COLLIDE ON 35W IN MINNEAPOLIS

tim harlow

Flash flooding on southbound I-35W may have led to an accident in which a vehicle slid under a tanker truck. The vehicle became wedged under the tanker and poked a hole in the truck. Word is the truck was hauling thousands of gallons of diesel fuel and it is leaking, said Jason Atnry of the Regional Transportation Management Center. There is no word of injuries. The right two lanes are closed.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/blogs/212456971.html>

CANADA, ALBA, TURNER VALLEY, JUNE 21 2013. ALBERTA GAS LEAK CONTINUES AS EXTREME FLOODING PREVENTS SHUTDOWN

anna mehler paperny & leslie young



Several communities in Southern Alberta are under a state of emergency after recent rainfall, forcing evacuations over worries of flooding.

A gas pipeline ruptured by flood-driven debris continued to leak sour gas Thursday evening as a record-setting deluge in southern Alberta prevented workers from shutting it off. The Calgary and Canmore regions are undergoing the [worst flood in decades](#). With that in mind, crews from [Legacy Oil and Gas](#) were going to shut off a Turner Valley well site Thursday morning when they found the leak, says CFO Matt Janisch. A tree uprooted and carried by high waters hit the pipeline, Janisch said – "just sort of jammed it, and we don't know if it tore a hole or just pulled it off a connection." But the flooding's so bad – swift currents more than waist deep, Janisch said – it's impossible for staff to shut off the pipe until the water recedes. "There still is a small amount of flow

coming from the line – we don't have an exact number – and we will get somebody in there ... to shut off that well as soon as it's safe to do so," Janisch said. "There's still a lot of water and it's moving very quickly and there's a lot of debris, so we're erring on the side of safety." Legacy doesn't yet know how much has leaked. "We don't have the exact number, but it's a very low rate," Janisch said. He thinks water has gotten inside the pipeline to slow the flow further. In a news release Thursday evening, the [Alberta Energy Regulator](#) said on site air monitoring has confirmed that, to this point, sour gas levels have not posed a threat to public safety; however, some odours may be present. This sour gas, about 1% hydrogen sulfide, is colourless, smells like rotten eggs and is highly toxic. [According to the Alberta government](#), sour gas makes up about a third of all the gas the province produces. Its sulphur is extracted and used for everything from fertilizer to pharmaceuticals. With dozens of Turner Valley residents already on evacuation orders because of the flooding, more were evacuated as a result of the sour gas spill. But Janisch insists no one's at risk, even as the pipeline continues to leak: There are no residents living within the site's 100-metre emergency zone, he said. "I hope people recognize that we were being very proactive ... and really put the residents in the safest position they could be." The Alberta Energy Regulator has staff on-site, said spokesperson Cara Tobin. She said there's no "easy answer" when it comes to what makes a sour gas spill dangerous. "It depends how close you are, it depends on wind, it depends on length of exposure," she said. "Any amount is dangerous. ... And that's why the town took precautionary measures to evacuate and shelter in place."



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Related Stories

- [What Is Sour Gas: Hydrogen Sulphide \(HS2\) Poisonous to Humans](#)
- Interactive investigation: [37 years of Alberta oil spills](#)
- In depth: [Alberta's flooded state of emergency](#)

<http://globalnews.ca/news/659165/alberta-gas-leak-continues-as-extreme-flooding-prevents-shutdown/>

USA, TN, CHATTANOOGA, JUNE 22 2013. CHATTANOOGA FIREFIGHTERS APPROACHED I-75 CHEMICAL SPILL WITH EXTREME CAUTION

matt barbour

 **Watch the Video** [Chattanooga Firefighters Approach I-75 Chemical Spill with Extreme Caution](#)



A tractor trailer crash on I-75 shut down all lanes of the southbound side near the East Brainerd Exit early Friday morning. Chattanooga Hazmat crews had to be called to the scene because of potentially hazardous materials on the truck, leaking. It happened just after 5:00 a.m. and it took a little more than four hours before the highway could be reopened. The truck was hauling chemical floor stripper and that is why police called a Hazmat crew. While it was a relatively small spill, emergency responders take the same precaution as a large one. "I've been on this road for 49 minutes now," says Kathy Hendricks, as she navigates her way off I-75. Friday morning's accident on 75 Southbound brought

traffic to a crawl and had a lot of people running late to work, like Les Gray. "I've been here an hour and a half, from 153 to this point, an hour and a half," he says. He made sure to pass along to his boss all lanes of the highway were shut down because a truck hauling dangerous chemicals had tipped on its side. "I let her know. And this is good proof too," he says, referencing his excuse being caught on camera. "Shortly after their arriving, they noticed a liquid leaking out of the trailer. They noticed it had a hazardous materials placard on it," says Chief Daniel Hague with the Chattanooga Fire Department. Chief Hague is over tactical services for Chattanooga fire. When the Hazmat team arrived, it saw the load was classified as dangerous. The driver told them he was carrying chemical floor stripper. "Fortunately we only had 25 gallons or less leak out," says Hague. "We are shipping things all the time and having accidents. Having things happen in transit is always an issue," says John Prater. John Prater is president of Praters Hardwood Flooring. While his company is not tied to this accident, he knows all too well the precautions that have to be taken when dealing with materials like floor stripper. "Each product, whatever it may be, is labeled to proper clean up techniques, so that the responders can handle the material in an appropriate way," says Prater. Chief Hague says while it may have inconvenienced commuters, his top priority is the safety of motorists, his firefighters and the environment. "Number one is always to ensure life safety to the public, to the motorists who drive on the interstate, but also our firefighters," says Hague. Chattanooga police say the truck tipped over because a van side-swiped the trailer. No one was hurt in the accident. Since it involved hazardous materials, a third party environmental company was brought in to clean up and dispose of it.

<http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/22657174/chattanooga-firefighters-approached-i-75-chemical-spill-with-extreme-caution>

USA, N.Y, BROOKLYN, JUNE 22 2013. FIRM OWNER CHARGED WITH ABANDONING HAZARDOUS OIL TRUCKS ON BROOKLYN STREETS

New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens on Friday announced a felony indictment against Patrick McAteer of Morganville, N.J., and Roberto Iengo of Queens for their role in the abandoning five tanker trailers filled with thousands of gallons of waste oil substances. The men face up to 15 years in prison. "This crime was particularly insidious. To dodge the costs of doing business and gain a competitive advantage, the defendants deliberately circumvented environmental laws, endangering city residents and their homes," Attorney General Schneiderman said. According to the indictment, from January 2012 to March 2012, McAteer drove stolen tanker trailers from New Jersey to a business owned by Iengo, ABC Tank Repair & Lining Inc., at 280 East 88th St. in Canarsie. There, Iengo, 43, ordered his employees to fill the empty tankers with heavy, sludgy waste oil that had been collected and stored at the commercial facility for years. Iengo paid McAteer \$1,500 per tanker to drive the waste oil-laden vehicles to random locations in Brooklyn and abandon them on public streets in Canarsie, Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope and Kensington. By law, the disposal of hazardous substances is closely regulated by the Department of



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Environmental Conservation (DEC). Even small releases of petroleum and other hazardous substances have the potential to endanger the public health and contaminate groundwater, surface water and soil. Additionally, vapors from spilled materials can collect in houses and businesses, creating fire and explosion hazards. McAteer later admitted to investigators that between December 2011 and March 2012, he stole several empty tanker trailers, from truck lots in New Jersey. Iengo told McAteer that he had waste oil that he needed to dispose of, and he offered McAteer money to make the waste oil "disappear." McAteer also admitted that he abandoned the stolen waste-oil filled tankers in Brooklyn. Iengo told investigators that he was trying to save money by enlisting McAteer to dispose of old, thick waste oil that had been sitting in his business warehouse for several years. The grand jury charged both McAteer and Iengo with numerous felonies, including criminal possession of stolen property, unauthorized use of a vehicle, endangering public health and more.

<http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/firm-owner-charged-abandoning-hazardous-oil-trucks-brooklyn-streets-2013-06-21-163000>

USA, KY, SCOTT CO, JUNE 22 2013. TANKER OVERTURNS ON I-75 NEAR SCOTT COUNTY LINE

A tanker overturned on Interstate 75 Thursday afternoon. The accident happened on the southbound lane of I-75 on the Grant-Scott County Line near mile marker 143. The driver was conscious and taken to UK Hospital. No other vehicles or people were involved in the accident. Police say the truck simply went off road and overturned. I-75 is down to two lanes, but traffic is flowing fine. Crews are removing the chemical from truck so that it can be turn back over on its wheels. Police say there were no spills.

<http://www.lex18.com/news/tanker-overtURNS-on-i-75-near-scott-county-line>

ENGLAND, BERKSHIRE, JUNE 22 2013. RIVER THAMES OIL SPILL IN WINDSOR AFFECTS 150 SWANS



The swans were covered up to their necks in oil.

About 150 swans have been rescued from the scene of an oil spill at the River Thames in Windsor. Thames Water was called out at 22:30 BST on Friday to the site of the spill between Windsor bridge and Eton bridge. Wendy Hermon, of the charity Swan Lifeline, said it was "one of the worst oil spills" she had seen and that some swans were covered up to their necks. The Environment Agency is investigating the cause. About half of the swans are being treated on the water.

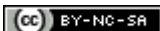
'Wash Every One'

Ms Hermon said: "It's a total disaster. We've got teams up there at the moment and we're just having boat-loads brought in every 15 minutes. "We have got to wash every single one of them. We are going to be busy for the next couple of days." She described the river as "jet black", and said she could "see the swans swimming through the oil that was up to their necks". A Thames Water spokeswoman said: "Our crews have been out since 10.30pm last night, but it is still not clear how this has happened." In February last year, in an oil spill in the same area of the river, 68 swans were rescued. Ms Hermon said: "The problem the other year was very minor compared to this. This is one of the worst oil spills I've seen." The swans are being cleaned in communal tubs with washing up liquid. They will also be fed charcoal powder to neutralise any oil chemicals they may have ingested, the charity said. There are about 200 swans in the Windsor area and about 400 on the River Thames in Berkshire, the charity added.

Related Stories

- [River Thames oil spill contained](#)
- [Oil slick catches 68 Thames swans](#)
- [Hundreds of swans die in the cold](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-23013456>



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AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, GLADSTONE, JUNE 22 2013. DIESEL SPILL IN GLADSTONE HARBOUR THIRD ISSUE IN A FORTNIGHT

mary bolling



A concerned local is outraged after finding oil in the water at the wharf directly in front of the Gladstone Ports Corporation on June 7.

The maritime safety watchdog is investigating another spill in Gladstone harbour - the third environmental issue for the busy port in just a fortnight. Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) was advised of a diesel spill about 11.30am on Thursday, at Passage Island Channel within the harbour construction zone. A spokesman for MSQ said officers found a very light sheen on the water, taking samples and inspecting nearby vessels. "Diesel is a light fuel oil which quickly evaporates in sunlight, posing a low environmental risk," he said. It follows a Gladstone Ports Corporation investigation into what was believed to be coal fines that appeared in the harbour. The GPC could not pinpoint what caused coal fines to be in the water last Friday. Also last week, Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) launched an investigation, after a bund wall leaked dirty water into the harbour, due to faulty equipment. "Independent environmental water quality monitoring for (the dredging) shows no visible or scientific signs of

any negative impact from changes in water quality to date," a GPC spokesman said. "MSQ requires anyone working on projects in the harbour to report all potential oil pollution incidents regardless of how minor they may appear," he said.

Related Stories [Black sludge found in Gladstone waterways to be investigated](http://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/diesel-spill-gladstone-harbour-issue-fortnight/1917225/)

<http://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/diesel-spill-gladstone-harbour-issue-fortnight/1917225/>

USA, TX, WEST, JUNE 22 2013. CITY OF WEST SUES OWNER, SUPPLIER OF FERTILIZER PLANT THAT EXPLODED

sarah mervosh



An aerial photograph shows the aftermath of the explosion at the fertilizer plant in West.

The city of West on Friday sued the owner and supplier of the fertilizer plant that exploded in April, killing 15 people and inflicting as much as \$100 million in property damage on the small town. The lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages, accuses the company that owned West Fertilizer Co. — Adair Grain Inc. — and the company that supplied ammonium nitrate — CF Industries — of negligence. Adair Grain is accused of being negligent in the way it stored ammonium nitrate, the volatile chemical used as a fertilizer that investigators say exploded after a fire broke out at the plant April 17. But the locally owned company had only \$1 million in liability insurance, which probably would cover only a fraction of the damage. The lawsuit focuses instead on CF Industries, the company that had been supplying ammonium nitrate to the plant for about two years. Daniel Keeney, a spokesman for Adair Grain, declined to comment because he said he hadn't yet carefully reviewed the lawsuit. CF Industries spokesman Dan Swenson also declined to comment. The city charges that CF Industries didn't properly inspect West Fertilizer to see whether the plant safely stored the chemical. Instead, the company "made no effort" to assess the risk and "blindly sold hundreds of tons of hazardous ammonium nitrate," the lawsuit

states. According to the suit, chemical companies that supply ammonium nitrate are required to provide a material safety data sheet to their customers with the shipments. When CF Industries delivered 100-ton ammonium nitrate shipments in March and April, it didn't provide this sheet and failed to warn the plant of the dangers associated with the chemical, the lawsuit says. The city also accuses CF Industries of failing to include an additive that would have prevented the ammonium nitrate from exploding. The lawsuit says that would have been an "affordable" alternative. All of that, the city argues, is evidence of negligence. "The city of West has suffered a lot of damage to its infrastructure, and if those who are accountable for that



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damage are not held responsible, then there will be generations of taxpayers in West who are," Stephen Harrison, one of the attorneys representing the city of West, told the Waco Tribune-Herald. The lawsuit filed Friday in McLennan County comes the week after the federal government denied additional disaster assistance that would have helped West rebuild after the explosion destroyed schools, homes and city infrastructure. West Mayor Tommy Muska could not be reached for comment Friday, but he has previously said the city faces about \$17 million in damage that is not covered by insurance. Millions of dollars more will be needed to rebuild schools after three of the district's four schools were damaged by the blast. The Insurance Council of Texas has said property damage alone in West could reach \$100 million. The city's lawsuit is separate from any filed by individuals who were injured or whose homes were destroyed. About 200 were injured — some with broken bones, others with burns, and at least one man lost an eye. More than 150 homes were damaged or destroyed in the blast.

Related Stories

- [Interactive map: Find ammonium nitrate sites near you](#)
- [Complete coverage of West explosion, recovery](#)

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/west-explosion/headlines/20130621-city-of-west-sues-owner-supplier-of-fertilizer-plant-that-exploded.ece>

USA, N.D, STANLEY, JUNE 22 2013. FIERY CRASH WITH OIL TANKER KILLS THREE, INJURES THREE ON U.S. 2 IN NORTH DAKOTA

 **Watch the Video** [Fiery Tanker Crash in Oil County Claims Lives of 3 Men](#)

Emergency personnel survey the scene of a fiery crash on U.S. Highway 2, Friday, June 21, 2013, three miles east of Stanley, N.D. The North Dakota Highway Patrol says three people were killed in the crash involving a tanker truck carrying crude oil and five other vehicles.



A five-vehicle crash that involved an oil tanker that exploded killed three people and injured three more east of here at 6:40 a.m. Friday, said the North Dakota Highway Patrol. A tanker loaded with crude oil driven by Vernon Wright, 49, of Hiram, Ga., was eastbound on U.S. Highway 2, the Highway Patrol said. The tanker was turning north on a gravel road three miles east of Stanley in heavy, dense fog. Ricky Hovland, 54, of Minot, who was heading west on Highway 2 in a Ford F-150 pickup, braked and turned right to attempt to avoid a collision with the oil tanker, authorities said. The tanker struck the left side of the pickup, which entered a ditch, overturned and came to rest on the driver's side. A Chevrolet

Silverado pickup driven by a 41-year-old Minot man then struck the right side of the tanker, and a Freightliner Vac truck driven by John Ofsthun, 55, of Granville, struck the rear of the Silverado pickup and the right side of the tanker trailer. A GMC Sierra pickup driven by a 26-year-old Wahpeton man then struck the rear of the vac truck and the right side of the oil tanker. The tanker trailer exploded, and all vehicles but the Ford F-150 caught fire. Wright, Hovland and Ofsthun moved to safety. The 41-year-old Minot man, the 26-year-old Wahpeton man and a 23-year-old passenger in the Wahpeton man's pickup died, the Highway Patrol said. The names were withheld pending notification of family. The crash closed down U.S. Highway 2 until late Friday afternoon.

<http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/270552/group/News/>

BANGLADESH, CHITTAGONG, JUNE 22 2013. TANKER WITH FURNACE OIL SEIZED IN CTG

A team of Bangladesh Coastguard yesterday seized an oil tanker carrying furnace oil worth about Tk 1.72 crore without valid documents from the river Karnaphuli in Chittagong yesterday. The tanker — New OT Samrat — was carrying 201,500 litres of furnace oil at around 11:00am, said Lt Commander Atiqur Rahman. On searching the oil tanker, the coastguard team did not find related documents for the furnace oil and thus seized the ship and the furnace oil, he said. The ship might have illegally procured the furnace oil from the merchant vessels anchored in the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port, he added. "We will keep the tanker in our custody for the time being," said Atiqur, adding that they will sit with customs officials today to settle the matter.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/tanker-with-furnace-oil-seized-in-ctg/>



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AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, DROUIN, JUNE 22 2013. DRIVER SURVIVES CRASH AFTER PETROL TANKER SWERVES ACROSS FREEWAY AT DROUIN

william kulich

The driver of a petrol tanker which swerved across all lanes of the Princes Freeway near Drouin just after 1.30pm yesterday has been released from hospital. A Warragul Police spokesperson told The Warragul Citizen the man was taken to hospital after his east-bound truck crossed the west-bound lanes of the freeway and climbed ten metres up an embankment before colliding with a tree. "The driver of the petrol tanker was travelling east on the Princes Freeway [at] Drouin, when after passing under the Princes Way overpass he lost all positive control of steering, possibly due to a mechanical failure," the spokesperson said. "When the driver realised he was unable to steer the tanker he applied brakes. "This application caused the tanker to swerve to the right, crossing the east-bound lanes, over and through the median strip [with] no rope wire barrier [in place], and across the west-bound lanes of the freeway. "The tanker travelled approximately 10 metres up an embankment on the south side of the freeway and collided into tree, [where the] prime mover and tanker then came to rest. "The driver was conveyed to Warragul Hospital and later released." One west-bound lane of the freeway was closed at Buln Buln Road after the incident. This article is an update of Collision closes Freeway lane at Drouin, published yesterday shortly before 4pm.

<http://www.warragulcitizen.com/local/driver-survives-crash-after-petrol-tanker-swerves-across-freeway-at-drouin599>

USA. PA, MALVERN, JUNE 23 2013. LEAK CAUSES LARGE GASOLINE SPILL OFF ROUTE 30

 **Watch the Video** [Leak Causes Large Gasoline Spill](#)

 **Photo's [7]** [Gasoline Spill Closes Lancaster Avenue in Frazer](#)



Crews worked for several hours Saturday to stop the leak and contain the spill. They will continue the cleanup Sunday.

Area roads have reopened but a major cleanup is underway after thousands of gallons of gasoline spilled from a leaking tank off Route 30 in Chester County. Around 3:30 p.m. Saturday, a gasket blew on a vapor recovery unit at the Exxon Mobil Pipeline terminal in Chester County. Thousands of gallons of gasoline spilled down Malin Road and into a storm sewer very close to Valley Creek. Authorities estimate between 10,000 and 20,000 gallons may have spilled. The leak shut down roads in the area and businesses for the night. "Saturday is one of the busiest nights of the week," said Dan Conner, McKenzie

Brew House. However, traffic on the normally busy Route 30 was closed for over a half mile because of the gasoline leak. "We had a large family reunion scheduled at six. We had a number of call aheads for the patio and the deck area and had to cancel all of them," said McKenzie. The fuel that spilled is the same kind that goes into most cars. "We feel like it is isolated. We don't feel like it's a threat to public safety and we're trying to mitigate the environmental," said David Boone, Buckeye Partners. Crews put down barriers to stop the oil. However the next step is to vacuum it up, clean up the storm sewer and check to make sure none of the gasoline got into the soil. Authorities say the gasoline leak did not impact the drinking water in the area. Business owners say the leak definitely impacted their business. "Now this is one of the worst days we've had in years," said McKenzie. The roads in the area reopened late Saturday night and crews plan to work around the clock to clean everything up.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=9148580>

JAPAN, OKINAWA, JUNE 23 2013. TAINTED SOIL DETECTED AT EX-U.S. LAND IN OKINAWA

More soil contamination from fossil fuel has been found on land formerly occupied by a U.S. military facility in Okinawa and there are fears the contaminants have spread via groundwater, according to an inspection report of the local defense bureau obtained Saturday. Contamination by what appeared to be jet fuel and gasoline was found in the northern part of Camp Kuwae, according to the Okinawa Defense Bureau's report for this year. Some of the land used by the base was handed back to Japan in 2003. Under the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, the United States has no obligation to clean up environmental contamination or provide compensation when returning base land. The report says groundwater caused the contaminants to spread over a "wide area," and the level of fumes exceeded the limit set by the bureau and a local government in 19 of 20 soil samples taken from the 38-hectare site. Of those samples, six contained more oil residues than



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allowed under local regulations. Such oils are believed to be nonvolatile gas oil and lubricant oil, the report says. The bureau said it plans to conduct a more detailed inspection.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/06/22/national/tainted-soil-detected-at-ex-u-s-land-in-okinawa/#.UceApfkweM4>

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, JUNE 23 2013. COAST GUARD PLACES OIL SPILL BOOM AT GAS LEAK SITE IN PASIG RIVER



Storage Tank Leak: A Coast Guard member checks the bunker fuel that spilled from a storage tank into Pasig River in Sta. Ana, Manila.

The Philippine Coast Guard on Sunday placed an oil spill boom near what they believe to be "ground zero" of a suspected oil spill that had alarmed residents in several areas along the Pasig River since Saturday night. Coast Guard teams said the placing of the boom across a warehouse of oil products in Sta. Ana district should prevent further damage to the environment, dzBB's Mao dela Cruz reported. Police investigators are verifying information that the oil spill from the warehouse all started from a joke where one of the workers accidentally opened the valve that released the oil. Several residents in Barangay 890 in Pandacan, United Nations, and even areas near Malacañang had complained of a foul smell since Saturday night. At least two residents were brought to a hospital for treatment but have been released early Sunday, the report added. Meanwhile, police questioned at least four workers of the warehouse over the oil spill. The Manila Police District cited initial information reaching it showing

some 100 liters of used oil had been released into the river – after one of the workers allegedly opened the valve as a joke.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/314155/news/metromanila/coast-guard-places-oil-spill-boom-at-gas-leak-site-in-pasig-river>

FALKLAND ISLANDS, STANLEY, JUNE 23 2013. OIL CONTAMINATION ON STANLEY COMMON INVESTIGATED

j. brock

Reports of an oily sheen developing on two small ponds on Stanley Common in the vicinity of the Mary Hill Quarry were immediately investigated by the Public Works Department (PWD) and Environmental Planning Department (EPD). Oil is not believed to have leached out from the quarry following the previously reported incident that occurred during the disposal of old oil drums, which is subject to an ongoing cleanup by PWD. It is most likely that the reported sheen was caused by a small amount of diesel leaking from the fuel tank of a scrapped vehicle that was parked immediately outside the quarry towards the end of last week. Normally scrapped vehicles would be left inside the quarry, but in this instance it is thought it was left outside because of the ongoing clean up before being moved. In consultation with Falklands Conservation, absorbent pads have been used to remove the surface sheen and minimize further spread onto the Common. Fencing is also being put up to keep horses away from the affected area. Any enquiries should be directed to Colin Summers, Deputy Director of Public Works on 27193.

<http://www.falklandnews.com/public/story.cfm?get=6580&source=3>

TAIWAN, TAIPEI, JUNE 23 2013. TAIPEI PHOTO EXHIBIT PAINTS PICTURE OF VILLAGE DEVASTATED BY REFINERY POLLUTION

loa iok-sin

The stories of the residents of a Changhua County village who say they have been afflicted by pollution created by the Formosa Petrochemical Corp refineries operating 6km south of their homes are being told in a photography exhibition in Taipei that opened yesterday. Seventy-five black-and-white photographs of moments in the lives of the more than 400 residents of Changhua County's Taisi Village and Dacheng Township are being displayed at the exhibition, titled "Wind from the South". The photos depict villagers working in fields, laying down their fishing nets in the sea, or just sitting around, but others show villagers holding large funeral photographs of loved ones — most of whom died of lung cancer or other lung diseases. "In the summer, when the wind blows from the south, it carries with it the smoke from the chimneys of the petrochemical plants, filling our village with a disgusting smell day and night," said 70-year-old Hsu Lung-te a Taisi resident who appears in several of the photographs and attended the opening ceremony. "The government says that the density of toxic substances in the smoke is



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
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low and is not damaging our health, but the number of people dying of lung cancer has gone up significantly since the refineries began operating nearly 20 years ago," Hsu said. Wei Wen-kao, who used to be the best baby eel catcher in the village, said Taisi used to be a very good place to live, "because there is a lot of good, arable land in the village, and we're also on the coast, so we can make a living from farming or fishing." "Before the refineries were built, we had to worry about how we would bring our catch home because it was so big, but nowadays you rarely get anything," he said. Hsu Wan-shun, a farmer in his 60s, faces a similar dilemma. "Farming in Taisi is not easy anymore, because the farms are often covered by a layer of dust from the smoke produced by the refineries and carried over by the south wind after it rains," Hsu said. "Rice, watermelons and vegetables are not growing as well as they used to so we're earning less money and spending more." "But what are we going to do? The government says there is no problem," he added. Edd Jhong, one of the two photographers who shot the pictures at the exhibition and who is a journalist with the Public Broadcasting Systems, said he first learned about the issue when covering protests against a petrochemical plant that was originally planned to be built in Dacheng. "Although the plan was later canceled, I felt that I needed to record these people's suffering," Jhong said. "It's depressing to take these pictures and I worry if I am accurately recording and recounting what my subjects want to say." The exhibition will run through July 21 at Floor 8 Contemporary Art Space, No. 21, Lane 19, Shuangcheng St, Taipei.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2013/06/23/2003565469>

BOLIVIA, LA PAZ, JUNE 24 2013. 10 KILLED, 14 INJURED IN TANKER TRUCK BLAST

 **Watch the Video** [At Least 18 Killed when Truck Bursts into Flames on Bolivian Highway](#)

 **Click-2-Listen** [Police say Alcohol Spilling from Lorry Caught Fire following Accident, Burning 11 Vehicles on Highway near Peru Border.](#)



A tanker truck transporting alcohol exploded Friday on a Bolivian highway on its way to Peru killing at least 18 people. It was still unclear how many people were injured in the accident. The horrific multiple crash occurred on a highway linking the South American countries near the city of San Juan de Huancollo near the Peruvian border about 100 kilometers or 60 miles from La Paz.

At least 10 people were killed and 14 were injured when a tanker truck loaded with alcohol exploded in Bolivia. The tragedy occurred on the road linking the country with neighboring Peru. Authorities say the explosion damaged or destroyed 11 vehicles. Preliminary data from the investigation indicate that the driver of the truck lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a group of cars standing on the roadside. In the collision the alcohol spilled and caught fire, most of the victims died in the flames. The injured were taken to three hospitals

nearest to the accident site.

Related Stories

- [Several dead in fiery Bolivia tanker truck crash](#)
- [Deaths reported in Bolivia tanker collision](#)
- [Bolivia: 10 Killed, 14 Injured In Tanker Truck Blast](#)
- [Tanker truck crashes, burns in Bolivia, killing 8](#)
- [10 Killed, 14 Injured in Tanker Truck Blast in Bolivia](#)

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/23062013-bolivia-10-killed-14-injured-in-tanker-truck-blast/>

CHINA, SHANGHAI, GAOQIAO TOWN, JUNE 24 2013. PUDONG CHEMICAL PLANT SUFFERS EXPLOSION

jiang yabin

A chemical leak caused an explosion and fire Sunday morning at a chemical plant in Pudong New Area, local media reported. No one was hurt. The accident occurred at 11:04 am at Shanghai Huayi Acrylic Acid Co in Gaoqiao town, according to a report on Shanghai Television Station. "The first things I saw were small explosions with grey smoke," said a witness surnamed Shen, who lives about 100 meters from the plant. "Then I saw big explosions and thick yellow smoke that had an acrid smell." Shen said he got a sore throat and felt light-headed Sunday. He and many neighboring residents left their homes because they were afraid the smoke might be poisonous. Fifty fire engines were dispatched to the scene, the report said. So far, it is



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unknown what caused the leak. Another witness, surnamed Zhang, who lives several miles from the plant, said a haze appeared after the explosion. She said she was afraid to leave her home. Police wore masks at the scene, Zhang said. Acrylic acid is produced from propene, a byproduct of gasoline production. It can be made into synthetic resin, latex paint and other building materials. The acid's fumes are an irritant, but don't pose a health danger, said Guo Yanglong, a professor at the School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering at East China University of Science and Technology. Still, Guo doubted whether the smoke that appeared following the explosion came from burning acrylic acid. Acrylic acid does not give off grey and yellow smoke when it burns, he said. Instead, it releases black smoke. The smoke and odor disappeared around 3 pm, Shen told the Global Times. The plant is owned by the State-owned Shanghai Huayi Group Company.

http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/790974.shtml#.UceGy_kweM4

SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG, ALBERTON, JUNE 24 2013. MAN DIES IN TANKER FALL

A man died in Alberton, east of Johannesburg, after falling into a tanker on Saturday afternoon, said emergency workers. Netcare 911 spokesperson Santi Steinmann said the victim and another man were washing the tanker when they both fell inside. "[Paramedics] used high angle rescue equipment to free the two men but tragically one man lost his life during the incident," said Steinmann. The second man sustained critical injuries. He was rushed to a nearby hospital.

<http://news.iafrica.com/sa/866430.html>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, PORT OF SPAIN, JUNE 24 2013. DIESEL SOLD FOR GUNS >> COPS, NP UNCOVER \$4 BILLION FUEL RACKET IN SEA LOTS

mark bassant



Illegal Operation: An industrial marine hose attached to a truck pumps diesel fuel into a hidden tank on a beachfront compound in Sea Lots, Port of Spain yesterday. The drivers of the vehicle were later apprehended by police officers in a joint operation which also included Customs, National Petroleum police and soldiers.

A Diesel smuggling racket in which the subsidised fuel was exchanged for guns and drugs was uncovered yesterday when a joint team of law enforcement officials swooped down on a truck at a seafront compound in Pioneer Drive, Sea Lots, Port of Spain. Senior investigators told the Sunday Express they had been tracking the movements of the truck over the past week, and officers of the Besson Street Police Station caught the vehicle's occupants in the act yesterday morning when they were returning to offload their second diesel trip from a San Fernando gas station. Two suspects were arrested yesterday. They told police they had bought 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel at a gas station in San Fernando for only \$25,000. With diesel selling at National Petroleum (NP) stations at \$1.50 per litre, this quantity of fuel would have cost upwards of \$100,000 at pump prices. Sources close to the investigation said the truck would usually arrive on the seafront, via a compound that has a steel gate with a lone house on it, before driving onto the seafront and parking near a huge mound of dirt, approximately 20-25 feet in height. Authorities say they spotted the two men later attaching an industrial marine hose to the truck's tank and later making their way up the hill to place the hose into a hole in the ground. The men, who were caught in the act by a joint patrol of police, Customs, NP police and army officers, were later detained. Strewn just a stone's throw away from the dirt mound that had at least four metal holes on top were used intermediate bulk container (IBC) containers that are used for storing diesel. Smugglers usually run a line from the diesel tank to smaller boats with configured tanks that take the diesel to larger vessels out at sea. Law enforcement authorities combed the shoreline for at least an hour, looking for any evidence of existing fuel lines but could not find any. "What we know is that Caricom boats would come to purchase diesel, especially Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and smaller boats would come up to this Sea Lots seafront, collecting fuel from them and, in exchange, they would give them drugs and guns," explained a senior police investigator. The sources say the majority of guns they have discovered in the Laventille area in recent times came through this part of Sea Lots. Others who wished to buy the subsidised diesel, which usually costs \$1.50 per litre, would pay between US\$6-8 per litre. Senior sources inside NP and the Ministry of Energy say this operation was being tracked for over two years, and the mastermind behind the operation is a notorious gang leader (named called) who also has ties with officials in various law enforcement agencies, as well as NP and Unipet. NP chairman Neil Gosine later arrived on the scene



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yesterday and after being briefed about the situation spoke to the Sunday Express for a short while. "We have information that this operation has been costing the Government more than \$4 billion." NP officials were called in and tested the fuel in the configured tank on the truck, and after collecting a sample in a glass bottle, they were able to confirm after initial tests that the product in the tank was diesel fuel. The authorities' next task was to uncover the storage tanks, concealed under mounds of earth littered with grass and gravel. It took authorities three hours to dig through the dirt carefully to ensure the rusted diesel tanks underground were not damaged. "We found five storage tanks, each with a capacity of 5,000 gallons, and what I can tell you is that these storage tanks were from the NP compound in Sea Lots, and more than likely, they were stolen or the people had help moving them out," said an NP official, speaking on the condition of strict anonymity. Law enforcement authorities say this is not the end of the investigation, and they will continue to dig deeper to find out who are some of the other major players involved in this illegal trade. Commenting briefly yesterday on the racket, Energy Minister Kevin Ramnarine said, "Diesel is sold to the population at a subsidised price for a reason, and that reason is not for people to profit and to get large economic gains by illegal exportation of that diesel."

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/DIESEL--SOLD-FOR--GUNS-212643031.html>

INDIA, CHENNAI JUNE 24 2013. ANOTHER OIL LEAK IN NORTH CHENNAI, PIPELINE FIXED



There was a pressure dip in the pipeline which caused it to pump out bluish lube oil.

Sunday morning saw yet another oil leak in north Chennai, this time opposite the IOC bus terminus in Tondiarpet on Kathivakkam High Road. The leak in the pipeline belonging to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) was noticed by some local residents and a few policemen who then contacted the oil major. According to an IOC official, there was also a pressure dip in the pipeline which caused it to pump out the lube oil that was being sent from Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited to Chennai port. The leak was later plugged with a clamp and the bluish fuel that had leaked onto the road was collected in a few barrels. Maintenance personnel from IOC dug up a 10-feet-deep pit with an earth mover to facilitate the repairs. There was not much panic in the area after the oil leak as most residents and commuters simply walked past the pool of oil collected by the road. Saraswathi, who runs a tiffin centre near the spot, said beat policemen contacted the company as soon as the leak was noticed. The IOC official said the inspection report would be released by Tuesday after which a decision on further repairs would be taken. The official said that the movement of heavy vehicles could be affecting the pipelines. "Earlier, only small vehicles plied on this road. Now, heavy vehicles, carrying 30-40 tonnes, pass by every day. This could be having an impact on the pipelines," the official said. North Chennai has a maze of old pipelines and oil storage terminals. Fuel leaks are not uncommon in the area. A couple of months ago, Union minister of State for environment and forests, Jayanthi Natarajan, had asked oil companies to take steps to prevent leaks.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/another-oil-leak-in-north-chennai-pipeline-fixed/article4843847.ece>

USA, MA, WEST BRIDGEWATER, JUNE 24 2013. TRUCK DRIVER CHARGED AFTER WEST BRIDGEWATER CRASH KILLS EASTON MOTORCYCLIST

erin shannon and jennifer bray

A fuel truck that struck and killed a 57-year-old Easton motorcyclist on Saturday did not have an ignition breathalyzer required by state law when a driver has a history of drunk driving, police said. The motorcyclist, Robert F. Gallagher, 57, of North Easton, was pronounced dead at the scene of the 10:21 a.m. crash near 415 West St. that left him pinned under the truck. The driver of the truck, Matthew A. Beaucaire, 27, of East Bridgewater, was arrested and charged with driving without an interlock device, driving without a license and failure to yield. An ignition interlock device is required to be installed in any vehicle a driver owns, leases or operates when the driver has lost his or her license for driving drunk. The interlock device is installed in the dashboard of the vehicle, working like a breathalyzer to stop the vehicle from starting if the driver is intoxicated, said Regan. Police Sgt. Russell Regan declined to comment on Beaucaire's past driving record, stating the investigation is ongoing. Police said Gallagher was on his 2013 Honda CRF250 motorcycle, heading east on West Street. Beaucaire, who



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was driving a 2013 Kenworth truck owned by Noonan Waste Services, was heading south from the north lot of J.P. Noonan's to the south lot, having to cross West Street to get there. The street was shut down for several hours while West Bridgewater police and a state police accident reconstruction team and truck team worked to figure out what happened. When the original 9-1-1 call came in at 10:21 a.m., the caller said a motorcycle was pinned under a truck. The truck was identified as a J.P. Noonan truck on the 9-1-1 call. Paul Noonan, terminal manager at the J.P. Noonan facility, said in an email: "We are all very saddened by the loss. But the truck is not a J.P. Noonan truck." When The Enterprise called Noonan Waste Services, an unidentified man who answered said the company is part of the J.P. Noonan Transportation Co. Inc. He added no one would be available to comment until Monday. A relative of Gallagher said the family wasn't ready to comment on Saturday afternoon.

<http://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/x888791168/West-Street-closed-in-West-Bridgewater-after-motorcycle-crash?img=2#axzz2X6GqhiUQ>

USA, ILL, CHICAGO, JUNE 24 2013. IS LAKE MICHIGAN AN APPROPRIATE DUMPING GROUND FOR BP'S BRAIN POISON?



BP Refinery at Night.

The refinery Chicago loves to hate is in the news again as the Trib's excellent [award-winning environmental reporter Michael Hawthorne](#) digs [into water pollution permits floated for BP's nearby refinery](#) in Whiting, IN. Six years ago, the Chicagoans and Illinois politicians [went apeshit](#) upon seeing [permits that allowed the refinery to dump](#) large amounts of mercury and ammonia directly into Lake Michigan southeast of the city. In a scathing look at new permits, the Trib shows reports that the State of Indiana would allow BP to continue dumping mercury into the Lake at 20 times the federal limit. Stung by the previous [bad press](#), BP has been working with scientists from Argonne and Purdue to find new ways to scrub mercury out of their waste stream. But despite trumpeting advances, regulatory documents show that Indiana intends

to re-up permits that allow the refinery to continue dumping the powerful neurotoxin at high rates, as the [Trib notes](#): Under the terms of an earlier decision by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the BP refinery can legally discharge an annual average of 23.1 parts per trillion of mercury — nearly 20 times the federal water quality standard for Great Lakes polluters. The proposed new permit would allow that special exemption to continue indefinitely. Though the amount of mercury that BP's treatment plant puts into the lake is small compared with what falls into the water from air pollution, the federal limit of 1.3 parts per trillion reflects decades of research showing that even tiny drops of the brain-damaging metal can contaminate fish and threaten people. The Whiting refinery is among a handful of industrial polluters that still release mercury-laden wastewater into southern Lake Michigan, according to federal records. In a letter to Indiana regulators, BP said it plans to keep testing the mercury-removal technology and promised to report back by 2015. Area enviros who have long-battled the refinery are wary of slow-walking public protections aimed at keeping brain poisons out of the Great Lakes, especially with deadlines already missed: "If good intentions were enough to improve water quality, we wouldn't need the Clean Water Act and pollution permits," said Ann Alexander, a senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "We don't want a permit that allows BP to just study this technology to death. They need to be using it." Indiana gave BP until 2012 to meet the strict federal mercury limit but predicted the refinery would fail to meet the deadline. In late 2011, state regulators exempted the refinery from complying and set its mercury limit at 23.1 parts per trillion, allowing BP to continue legally violating the federal standard. BP is close to completing a [\\$4 billion "modernization" of the facility](#) to allow it to refine ever-more dirty and controversial tar sands oil from Canada. That fuel source was part of legal battles over the refinery's air pollution permits, which ended last year with the company [agreeing to add \\$400 million in additional emissions controls](#). To deal with the mercury issue in their water pollution, the Trib notes that researchers predict installing the new technology would fall somewhere between \$20 and 150 million for the oil giant, which made a \$4.2 billion, profit in the first quarter of this year. Given the previous kerfuffle, you can [expect to hear plenty more about this issue](#) in the coming months.

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