



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 979 Newsy Stuff

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

July 12 2013



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USA, ORE, BEAVERTON, JUNE 30 2013. TRUCK WITH HAZARDOUS LEAK BRINGS HWY. 26 TO A STANDSTILL

 **Watch the Video** [HWY 26 Reopened As Hazmat Responds To Truck Leaking Sulfuric Acid](#)



Several emergency responders, including hazardous materials personnel, responded to Highway 26 westbound at the Barnes off-ramp where at least one container inside a semi-truck was leaking sulfuric acid. The 69B exit and the right lane was blocked to through traffic for hours as crews tried to get the leaks sealed around 2 p.m. In addition, all Tri-Met MAX trains were halted through the area, and buses were used to move passengers in the area. For a short time police shut down all lanes of Highway 26 as hazmat crews investigated the leak at the truck. As a precaution, personnel on scene were advised to stay 150' away from the semi-truck. A spokesman with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue said responders from Beaverton police, Portland police and ODOT also worked on the

problem and directed traffic. Sulfuric acid is a highly corrosive substance that can cause harm upon contact or if inhaled, according to officials. The investigation is ongoing.

<http://www.kptv.com/story/22722830/sunset-highway-lanes-closed-for-sulfuric-acid-leak>

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, JUNE 30 2013. FUEL SPILL CLOSES MARINA BOAT LAUNCH RAMP >> U.S. COAST GUARD AND MARINE PATROL DEPUTIES ARE INVESTIGATING THE SOURCE OF THE SPILL.

rebecca whitnall

A fuel leak from a privately owned vessel today forced the closure of the Marina del Rey Boat launch ramp, a sheriff's deputy said. Authorities were notified of the leak at 13465 Fiji Way at 8:08 a.m., said Deputy Bryan White of the sheriff's Marina del Rey station's Marina Operations. The U.S. Coast Guard, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and a private contractor were conducting the clean up operation, which was expected to be completed at approximately 1 p.m., White said. The deputy said investigators from the U.S. Coast Guard and the Sheriff's Department were in the process of determining what caused the fuel to leak from the privately owned vessel. If it is negligence the owner of the vessel can possibly be cited, according to federal and county codes, he said. If it is not negligence, the owner of the vessel may have to pay for the cost of the clean up, White said, which could be "north of five thousand dollars."

 **Related Stories** [Marina Del Rey Boat Launch Ramp is Closed Due to a Fuel Spill](#)

<http://marinadelrey.patch.com/groups/police-and-fire/p/fuel-spill-closes-marina-boat-launch-ramp>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, JUNE 30 2013. FEDS URGE FIREWORKS SELLERS TO WATCH FOR SUSPICIOUS BUYERS

donna leinwand

A federal task force says that fireworks sellers should keep a close eye out for suspicious people buying fireworks.

 **Key Points:**

- As July 4th approaches, officials warn about potential terrorists buying fireworks
- Marathon bombing suspects used low-explosive powder bought at fireworks store
- All but four states allow the sales of fireworks



As the frenzy for fireworks peaks in the runup to Independence Day, a federal task force is warning fireworks retailers to keep watch for suspicious purchasers. The National Explosives Task Force issued an industry advisory Thursday warning that consumer fireworks are a "common component used in improvised explosive devices." It advised retailers to look for possible signs of suspicious activity, including customers who ask about how to take apart or modify the fireworks or who seek to purchase commercial-grade fireworks. The advisory comes in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing that killed three people and injured more than 250 on April 15. In an indictment made public Thursday, a grand jury charged Dzhokhar Tsarnaev with detonating bombs made from pressure cookers, low-explosive powder and shrapnel at the marathon. The indictment says his brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, purchased 48 mortars containing 8 pounds of low-explosive powder from Phantom Fireworks, a retail



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store in Seabrook, N.H., on Feb. 6. This is the second time in recent years that fireworks have been used in a terror plot. Pakistani-American Faisal Shahzad, who confessed to a failed attempt to bomb Times Square in 2010, purchased fireworks from a Phantom store in Matamoras, Pa. But the use of fireworks for nefarious acts has not dampened demand among consumers or prompted backlash from state or federal regulators. Last year, consumers purchased more than 185 million pounds of fireworks, according to data from the Commerce Department and the U.S. International Trade Commission. All but four states — Delaware, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey — allow the sale of some types of fireworks or sparklers. No state has tightened restrictions on fireworks since the bombing, says Julie Heckman, executive director of the American Pyrotechnics Association, a trade group based in Bethesda, Md. Now is peak fireworks season: 90% of everyday consumer pyrotechnics is sold between April 15 to July 15, Heckman says. "I think most Americans realize that bad things can be made out of many common materials," Heckman said. Consumer fireworks individually do not mass detonate because they contain low levels of explosive mixed with other chemicals to make the firework colorful, says Phantom CEO Bruce Zoldan. The Boston bombers, using a technique recommended by al-Qaeda, appear to have cut open the pyrotechnics to remove the powder and put it in the pressure cooker, Zoldan said. "It's possible to get enough powder together to do something, but there are easier ways to do that," Zoldan said. The industry, which is tightly regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and state authorities, is willing to work on ways to prevent products from being used improperly or assist law enforcement when needed, Zoldan said. Phantom Fireworks maintains a database of customers for marketing so the company was able to identify Tsarnaev's purchase, Zoldan said. "I think the industry will have to gather together and come up with something that will protect the industry's interests by working hand in hand with Homeland Security," he said. "If we're selling a product that's capable of being dissected, then we as an industry will have to get together to do what's right." The industry has taken such steps before, he said. Decades ago, the industry created and funded the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory to safety test products to prevent fireworks-related injuries, he said. "Now we need to make a proactive effort to help monitor individuals who might come in to buy fireworks for not honorable reasons," Zoldan said. "We help Americans celebrate America's birthday. We're not going to let criminals ruin that."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/06/29/fireworks-independence-day-terrorism/2474435/>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JUNE 30 2013. TRAIN DERAILMENT PROMPTS EVACUATIONS IN EAST HOUSTON

 **Watch the Video** [Train Derailment Prompts Evacuations](#)

Houston Fire Department officials evacuated homes Saturday night near a train derailment in east Houston. Firefighters were called to the railroad tracks at Sherman and 65th Street just before 8pm. According to authorities, two rail cars crashed into one another. That collision caused four cars to derail. Those cars were carrying a substance called vinyl acetate, which is a key ingredient in glue. That substance is not toxic, but can be dangerous, irritating the respiratory system as well as eyes and skin. HFD evacuated homes in the five-block area surrounding the incident as a precaution, but those residents were allowed to return to their homes around 9:30pm. Firefighters tell us it is safe for residents to be in the area. They say there was no leak and no danger to the public. No injuries were reported. The crash is under investigation. According to Union Pacific, the train crossing probably won't be cleared until Sunday afternoon.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=9156880>

USA, AZ, CHANDLER, JUNE 30 2013. 24 INJURED, 6 TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AFTER NITROGEN TRIFLOURIDE LEAK AT INTEL OCOTILLO

josh frigerio

 **Watch the Video** [Leak Secured at Chandler Intel Campus: 43 Patients Treated, 12 Taken to Hospital](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Chandler Intel Chemical Leak Sends 12 to Hospital](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Gas Leak at Intel Injures 24](#)

Multiple staffers are being treated after a chemical leak occurred at the Intel campus in Chandler Saturday morning.

Tom Dwigg of the Chandler Fire Department said multiple people are being treated after there was a nitrogen gas leak in Fab 32 at the Intel campus near Dobson and Queen Creek roads in Chandler, Ariz. Jason Bagley, spokesman for Intel, said the isolated leak happened in a utility space that managed gasses and exhaust systems. The leak was the gaseous byproduct of exhaust material used in manufacturing tools. He said those exposed were contractors servicing the area. He also said the security system is high-tech and worked properly in containing the chemicals being leaked. The area will continue to be



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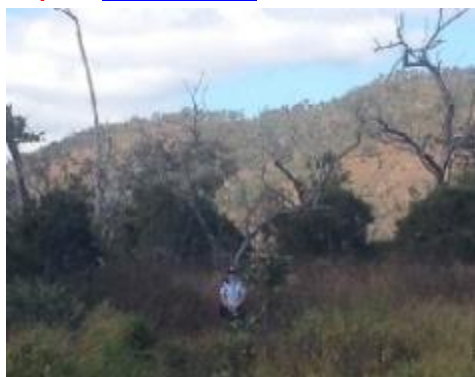
evacuated and isolated until the problem is fixed. Bagley said 43 patients were involved, while 12 people were transported. Officials said more people continue to come forward with symptoms. Dwiggins confirmed that the gas leak has been secured as of 8:15 a.m., and that there is no danger to the surrounding community. The cause of the leak is under investigation.

http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/local/cop_shop/article_9500edda-e0dc-11e2-800c-001a4bcf887a.html

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MAREEBA, JUNE 30 2013. gunpowder explosion leaves man dead and two injured

tony stickley & caitlin guilfoyle

Map: [Mareeba 4880](#)



At the scene: A policeman stands guard near the scene of an explosion in the tablelands today.

A man is dead and two others are seriously injured after a stockpile of gunpowder exploded on the Tableland last night.

Police are investigating the incident, which occurred near Walkamin about 9.40pm on Saturday, but said the death was not suspicious. Cairns.com.au understands a 58-year-old man was attempting to destroy expired gunpowder on a rural property just outside the town, west of Mareeba. It is believed the ammunition exploded, killing him and injuring two other men, aged 58 and 33. One suffered chest injuries and the other sustained serious lacerations to his arm. Police interviewed witnesses to the explosion. A police roadblock was set up at Kippen Drive west of Mareeba and police stood guard in bushland near the scene. Residents nearby said they were shocked that something like this could happen in a quiet area. Sophie Petersen said she heard the explosion. "We are

down the channel road in Walkamin (Mareeba end), we heard the mass explosion very clearly with the TV on and all doors and windows closed. "Myself, mum, my step dad and niece all went outside to see what it was or where it come from, checked all around our property to make sure everything was okay. Couldn't find anything but just from the sound of it knew it was bad. "Sounded like a plane crashed," she said. Acting Det Snr Sgt Kerry McQuilty said the 58-year-old man was pronounced dead five minutes after blast. He said staff from Mines and Energy were seizing gun powder believed to be used in incident. The building suffered only minor damage. Police believe the incident was result of gun powder only, despite earlier reports of possible military ordnance. It is understood other people at the address had been enjoying a barbecue at the time of the explosion. Police have confirmed the 58-year-old man who died is was from Cairns.

http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2013/06/30/244622_local-news.html

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 1 2013. FIRE CREWS PLAN TO DETONATE CHEMICALS AFTER SPILL AT SALT LAKE CITY BUSINESS

michael mcfall

 Watch the Video's:

- [Hazmat Crews Respond to Chemical Leak at Warehouse](#)
- [Area Evacuated Due to Chemical Spill: Crews on Scene](#)
- [Hazmat Team Plans to Detonate Leaked Chemicals at SLC Facility](#)

Firefighters have hatched a plan to move compromised hazardous chemicals away from a warehouse and blow them up, while still trying to figure out how to clean up the material that's already spilled and could be set on fire with a spark. About 9:33 a.m. Sunday, there was a small fire at Quality Distribution Inc., at 412 N. John Glenn Road (about 6000 West), which is about a mile and a half west of Salt Lake City International Airport. Firefighters extinguished the flames quickly. But an investigator checking on the source of the fire found a chemical called Trigonox, an organic peroxide, had leaked inside the building, said Salt Lake City Fire Department spokesman Jasen Asay. Five 5-gallon containers of the chemical broke open after they fell from a pallet, but it was unclear whether that caused the original fire or if the fire caused the fall, Asay said. Trigonox becomes unstable above 68 degrees and can no longer be returned to a stable state once it goes above 77 degrees. Investigators believed Sunday it had reached that point because the building's air conditioning wasn't working — it's unclear when it broke — and because of triple-digit temperatures throughout the day. If the peroxide bursts into flames, it could ignite several other highly flammable chemicals stored inside the business, Asay said. The fire department evacuated everyone within 2,000 feet



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of the building and sprayed water onto the roof of the building to help keep it cool. The heat was causing some of the remaining peroxide containers to expand. By 10 p.m., the emergency responders had devised a plan to move those containers — there's about 2,400 gallons of the chemical inside the building — into a giant ditch and detonate them, Asay said. Five haz-mat firefighters, three from Salt Lake City and two from Murray, were preparing late Sunday to go inside with forklifts to move the remaining peroxide. One forklift will move the chemicals to the dock and pass them off to a second forklift, which will carry the containers as far as the paved road goes toward the ditch — about 25 feet. Personnel will carry the containers with webbed nets to the ditch, where it will be detonated as firefighters wait nearby with hoses. Police were planning to dig the ditch, about 60 feet long and 4 feet deep, throughout the night. The detonation operation is expected to begin early Monday morning, Asay said. The five haz-mat firefighters will also take pictures of the spill inside the building with thermal imaging cameras to send to the chemical's manufacturer, which could then give advice on how to safely clean it up. A spark of static electricity could set it off.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/56535660-78/fire-building-lake-salt.html.csp>

NIGERIA, AKURE, JULY 1 2013. ONDO TO DEMOLISH PETROL STATIONS

yinka oladoyinbo

Hundreds of petrol stations built contrary to regulations and specifications in Ondo State may soon be demolished, as the state government has set up a commission of enquiry into the siting of petroleum outlets in the state. The body, known as the State Regulations Commission of Enquiry into Matters Relating to the Development of Petrol Retail Outlets in Ondo State, was said to have been set up as a result of various complaints lodged by the people of the state and government agencies over location of petrol stations in various towns across the state. The commission, headed by a Permanent Secretary, Mr. Dare Aragbaye, had gone round the major towns of the state to assess the level of compliance with such regulations while it had also been meeting with the owners of petrol stations in the state. Briefing newsmen at the end of the meeting in Akure, recently, Aragbaye said about 747 filling stations were registered with the government, while only 342 of them had submitted their files with the commission. According to him, the commission, upon its visit to the locations of the filling stations, discovered that many of them flouted the regulations and specifications given to them before they sited their filling stations. The commission noted that many of the petrol stations were located within residential areas against the regulations given to them by the state Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, while many failed to comply with space specification.

<http://tribune.com.ng/news2013/en/news/item/15556-ondo-to-demolish-petrol-stations.html>

SCOTLAND, DALGETY BAY, JULY 1 2013. CONTAMINATION OF DALGETY BAY

eric simpson,

As usual the Ministry of Defence is in denial anent its responsibility for the radiation on a section of the beach at Dalgety Bay ("Brown calls on MoD to meet cost of Dalgety Bay clean-up", The Herald, June 29). It is perhaps not generally known that, during the Second World War, this was a busy area for aviation with thousands of aircraft passing through the Royal Naval Air Service station at Donibristle where Dalgety Bay now stands. There were two components to Donibristle: HMS Merlin, a support and training base for naval aircraft flying off the fleet's aircraft carriers; and a Royal Naval Aircraft Yard which repaired and serviced naval aircraft — 7000 between 1939 and 1945. This was a big operation with around 2000 on the payroll. Not surprisingly, there were a lot of write-offs during and after the war with crashed aircraft brought to Donibristle for repair or disposal. A large number of planes were destroyed after the war as surplus to requirements. In addition to the 7000 planes that successfully returned to service from Donibristle, there was a large number that had to be scrapped, one consequence being the radiation from aircraft dials on part of the Dalgety Bay shore.

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/letters/contamination-of-dalgety-bay.21484299>

UGANDA, KAMPALA, JULY 1 2013. OIL HUNT IN UGANDAN NATIONAL PARK TESTS AFRICA'S ECO DEFENSES

elias biryabarema & ed stoddard

Uganda's Murchison Falls National Park is bisected by the majestic Nile river and boasts some of Africa's wildlife treasures - elephants, lions and a rare giraffe sub-species. Beneath it lies another natural prize: oil. Now French energy giant Total has begun surveys to prepare for seismic tests in the national park, one of Uganda's last great wilderness areas, as a prelude to probable crude production. Total and the Ugandan government insist oil can be extracted from under the national park in a way that minimizes harm to its eco-system, starting with the seismic testing. This uses new technology that they say is less



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disruptive than traditional methods for pinpointing oil reserves. Environmentalists are watching what happens at the national park, which lies at the heart of a scramble by oil companies into east and central Africa for untapped hydrocarbon reserves. "This is one of the first cases of oil exploration and development in a national park in Africa. As such, Total should realize that the eyes of the world are on them," said Alistair McNeilage, Uganda Country Director for the U.S.-based Wildlife Conservation Society. "There's a real opportunity that Total will be able to show that they can get oil out from Murchison, while at the same time ensuring the park and its wildlife survives and thrives." Uganda has known crude oil reserves of more than 2 billion barrels, including under the national park which is named after the spectacular waterfalls within its boundaries where a section of the Nile squeezes through a narrow gorge. Tullow Oil Plc estimated in May that the east African state could earn \$50 billion from exploiting the crude, equivalent to three years' worth of its total economic output. According to U.N. data, more than half the 34.5 million Ugandans are "economically vulnerable" or poor, but striking a balance between protecting the environment and the need for petrodollars may not be easy. The government says it is aware of what is at stake. "We know the importance of Murchison and we're taking every possible care to guarantee safe exploration and future oil production," said junior energy minister Peter Lokeris.

Less Disruptive Technology?

Total told Reuters in an e-mailed response that surveys for the seismic testing began in March and operations would last a year. Typically, seismic tests involve clearing bush in a straight line - perhaps a few meters (yards) wide and as much as 3 km (two miles) long or more - and blasting explosives. Echo patterns along the grid are then analyzed to detect oil pockets beneath the surface. Blasting and seismic vibrations disturb wild animals; clearing the bush can fragment ecosystems and trap some animals in small pockets of habitat. Total said it was using in Murchison "one of the latest cableless technologies available in the industry". Because cables will not be used to record the seismic signals, the technology, provided by Texas-based FairfieldNodal, does not require the removal of vegetation along the grid line. Instead, cylinder-shaped and lightweight nodes are buried and used for recording. From the industry's perspective this is also better than cables above ground, which can be chewed and damaged by wild animals. But the impact on wildlife of the blasting noise and seismic activity is still a concern. Peter Wrege, Director of the Elephant Listening Project at Cornell University in the United States, studied the effect of seismic testing in the Loango National Park in Gabon. Wrege and his colleagues found that elephants did not flee an area where there was seismic blasting but became more nocturnal. This may have been due as much to increased human activity as by the blasts, according to their paper published in the journal Conservation Biology in 2010. Spending more of their waking hours at night can be stressful for elephants because the largest land mammals on earth are essentially eating machines - and usually consume most of their calories by daylight. "My assumption is that they were hunkering down during the day when the activity and blasting were going on and going about their business at night," Wrege told Reuters. "It could have reduced their energy intake." Total's environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the seismic testing in the Murchison Falls park places some limits on the proximity of testing to important wildlife habitats, according to a copy seen by Reuters. Ugandan authorities have signed off on the assessment, which does not call for independent monitors. However, Lokeris said: "Even if the EIA doesn't talk about it we have a company doing independent monitoring for us there, plus our own people."

Not Reinventing the Wheel

If drilling and extraction follow the testing, conservationists fear that any oil spill would damage the Nile and its surrounding wetlands. The Ugandan government says any such risk is minimal. "Offshore drilling is done all over the world and we're not reinventing the wheel," said Lokeris. "Technologies for drilling in sensitive areas like in water bodies or close to water bodies exist and they've been used in Europe, South America and elsewhere," he said. But there are negative precedents in Africa. The Niger Delta in the continent's top crude producer, Nigeria, is a befouled mess and the scene of frequent spills. Murchison Falls Park is designated an "internationally important wetland" under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which was signed in 1971 and has 167 member countries. But this is not a U.N. convention and lacks the stronger international protections and scrutiny that come with World Heritage status granted by the United Nations. Across the border in Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa's oldest national park Virunga is home to rare mountain gorillas and is a World Heritage site. Total has promised it will not explore for oil within Virunga's boundaries. But some people living in Congo's eastern borderlands, which have been racked by years of violence among rebels, militias and government soldiers, wish a major oil company would move in. "We've been living in misery for a long time," Jean Claude Bambanze, the president of a civil society group in Rutshuru, on the edge of the Virunga park, told Reuters. "You look at tourism. It's done nothing to help the population. If we do have oil, that would be a real chance, it could provide work."

<http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/69087>



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USA, W.VA, WHEELING, JULY 1 2013. STUDY EXAMINES POLLUTANTS AT W.VA. DRILLING SITES



A recent study found benzene and other pollutants in the air at seven natural gas drilling sites in three counties. But the study by [West Virginia University Public School of Health](#) chairman [Michael McCawley](#) found only one site where there was concern, the Maury pad in Wetzel County where high levels of benzene were found. Benzene levels at the Maury pad were 85 parts per billion, compared to a normal range between one and 30 parts per billion. There was more diesel truck activity at the Maury and the trucks could have produced most of the benzene detected, said McCawley. McCawley released the findings Friday during a public health conference at Ogelbay Park, [The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register](#) reported. He said benzene levels at the other drilling sites in Wetzel, Marion and Brooke counties were more like the exposure one would experience living in a city. "Benzene is a carcinogen and causes leukemia," McCawley said. "There is no level at which there is no risk. However, the lower the level, the lower the risk is likely to be. ... In the debates to follow this, people will be talking about this at their own level of subjectivity." The study, which was conducted for the state [Department of Environmental Protection](#), also examined light emissions, dust and noise levels, and airborne radiation levels at the drilling sites in Wetzel, Brooke and Marion counties. The DEP said in a report submitted Friday to legislative leaders that no new rules regarding air quality near horizontal drilling pads are needed at this time, according to [The State Journal](#) (<http://bit.ly/11SbaJn>). McCawley said a similar study is expected in other Northern Panhandle counties. It will also include diesel emissions and long-term health data from local hospitals. "The concern I have with noise and populations is that studies have shown that interfering with sleep, as noise can do, can cause a rise in hypertension," McCawley said. "We have problems with hypertension already here in West Virginia. The levels that can interfere with sleep are above 55 decibels. ... The noise on the pad when they are fracking runs about 120-130 decibels. That's enough to cause serious damage and enough to be painful if not wearing protection." The study was one of three mandated by the Legislature during a special session in December 2011.

<http://www.sfgate.com/business/energy/article/Study-examines-pollutants-at-W-Va-drilling-sites-4639019.php>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, JULY 1 2013. AMMONIUM NITRATE STORAGE IN A REGULATORY BLACK HOLE

david perera



Regulations governing the safety of ammonium nitrate fertilizer storage fall under an inadequate patchwork of regulation, the head of the Chemical Safety Board told a June 27 Senate panel--whose chair, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), demanded immediate action by the Environmental Protection Agency. Boxer called the hearing the wake of the April 17 explosion at a West, Texas fertilizer distribution center that killed 15 and flattened most of the town. Currently, the Homeland Security Department [doesn't regulate](#) the safety of ammonium nitrate; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives regulates its use as an explosive, but those rules don't apply to its use as a fertilizer, noted Rafael Moure-Eraso, the board chairman, in a prepared [statement](#) (.pdf). He testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The Occupational Safety and Health

Administration does have [regulations](#) that pertain to ammonium nitrate fertilizer--but they don't prohibit storing the fertilizer in wooden bins or in wooden construction, and a requirement for automatic sprinkling system doesn't kick in until after 2,500 tons are on-site. All of that means that the West Fertilizer Plant--which had no automatic sprinkler or fire suppression features, which stored fertilizer in wood-framed bins with wooden walls in a building constructed of wood, and which stored only



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approximately 30 tons on site--may have not violated those regulations. OSHA has another set of [regulations](#) governing safety processes for handling dangerous chemicals, but it [doesn't list](#) ammonium nitrate as a trigger chemical, Moure-Eraso's statement noted. The Environmental Protection Agency has a [rule](#) meant to prevent environmental damage from extremely hazardous substances--but, again, ammonium nitrate [isn't](#) a trigger chemical. The EPA's Risk Management Program Rule did apply to the West Fertilizer Plant, but only because the plant stored ammonia and the EPA regulations required plant owners to plan for the possibility of an ammonia leak, "not an explosion of ammonium nitrate," the statement added. During the hearing, an Environmental Protection Agency official also noted that the EPA has regulations requiring it to publish a list of chemical substances that could cause irreversible health effects from accidental release--but the list of covered chemicals ([here](#) and [here](#)) also don't cover ammonium nitrate. "That was the most vague testimony I've ever heard," Boxer said after the official, Barry Breen, principal deputy assistant administrator in the office of solid waste and emergency response, finished his initial testimony. The Chemical Safety Board chair's statement also said that Texas has not adopted a statewide fire code, and that state law "actually prohibits most smaller rural counties from adopting a fire code." McLennan County, the jurisdiction of the fertilizer plant, technically had the authority to adopt a fire code because of its proximity to a more populous county, but didn't do so. Even if it had, the National Fire Protection Association, a trade association that's the source of many locally adopted fire codes, publishes a hazardous material [code](#) that allows ammonium nitrate to be stored in wooden bins and wooden buildings and also doesn't require automatic sprinkler systems below the threshold of 2,500 tons. In addition, no federal, state or local regulations restrict "the storage of large amounts of ammonium nitrate near homes, schools and hospitals," Moure-Eraso told the committee. The EPA is "looking at a number of potential policy options" to address chemical safety, Breen said, including one suggested by a July 2012 [petition](#) (.pdf) from labor and environmental groups that the EPA use Clean Air Act authority to require the use of inherently safer technologies in chemical facilities when feasible. "EPA can strengthen safety at facilities that handle dangerous chemicals under existing law," said Boxer. "They have the power, the authority, and indeed, I would argue, the responsibility to do it," she added.

For more: [go to](#) the hearing webpage (prepared testimony and archived webcast available)

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/ammonium-nitrate-storage-regulatory-black-hole/2013-06-30>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, JULY 1 2013. CHILD DIES AFTER SWALLOWING LITHIUM BATTERY AT NOOSA

Map: [Noosa Heads 4567](#)

A child has died after swallowing a lithium battery on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. The four-year-old was taken to Noosa Hospital early yesterday with stomach bleeding. She was transferred to Royal Brisbane Hospital but could not be saved. Susan Teerds from Kidsafe Queensland says the button-shaped batteries are found in many common household items, and parents must be vigilant. "When a child swallows a battery it often gets caught in the oesophagus, around the voice box. Once it's been lodged, within an hour, it will start to burn a hole," she said. "The saliva actually starts a chemical reaction and burns a hole through the oesophagus and can keep burning a hole into the aorta, through to the spine and whatever else is there." Kidsafe Queensland says several children present to emergency departments with symptoms each week.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-01/child-dies-after-swallowing-lithium-battery/4792316>

USA, MT, BILLINGS, JULY 1 2013. RALLIERS ASK EXXON TO PAY OIL SPILL FINE



There's a rally today in Billings to demand that Exxon pay the fine levied for the Yellowstone River oil spill two years ago.

It's been two years, so it's time for Exxon to pay up. That demand will be made at a rally today in Billings on the anniversary of the Exxon crude oil spill into the Yellowstone River. The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Safety Administration levied a \$1.7 million fine based on known safety issues that weren't addressed. Exxon is challenging the penalty. Eileen Morris with the Yellowstone Valley Citizens Council is organizing the rally, where those attending will also ask the state's congressional delegation to support the fine. "Exxon certainly deserves the fine," Morris declared. "They should be good citizens and just own up to the fact that they have it coming." About 63,000

gallons of oil spilled into the Yellowstone River. The rally is at noon in Coulson Park. Debra Bonogofsky will be at the rally, to



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be held at noon in Coulson Park. Her property was affected by the spill, and even though Exxon promised to make things right, her family is still waiting. "They plowed up our grass pasture by the river, and now it's sitting there just dirt and weeds, because they tried to replant it last year, but that's when we had the drought and nothing came up, and so nothing's been done since," as Bonogofsky described the restitution effort. There's a hearing scheduled later this month (July 17) in Washington, where the DOT and Exxon will discuss the fine.

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/33223-1>

KAZAKHSTAN, JULY 1 2013. FIRE-FIGHTERS WERE EFFICIENT IN QUENCHING PETROL TRUCK FIRE: ALMATY EMERGENCY SITUATIONS DEPARTMENT

vladimir prokopenko



Deputy head of the Fire-Fighting Service of Almaty Emergency Situations Department has evaluated the fire-fighting operation at the petrol tank truck explosion site in Almaty, Tengrinews.kz reports. "The fire-fighting services worked every bit effective when responding to the emergency. Quenching of such a huge fire in such a short time and under a threat of explosion threatening to cause more human victims was an outstanding operation. The personnel showed bravery and heroism. They rescued 6 people, including 2 children from the building on fire. The total of 40 people were evacuated from the apartment building. They prevented the overturned petrol truck from exploding and stopped the fire from spread to other areas," Sharypov said. Many witnesses of the

accident said that the fire-fighters did a poor job quenching the fire, though. They say firefighters allegedly lacked sufficient amounts of foam to quench the fire and had to resort to water. The official said that fire-fighting teams started arriving to the site 7 minutes after the accident and started quenching the fire using foam. At the same time the personnel of the Emergency Situations Department was flushing the burning truck with water. According to Sharypov, this was done to cool down the petrol tank and prevent it from deforming and cracking because of the high temperature. "If it had cracked the remaining fuel would have exploded. And the consequences would have been much graver," the fire-fighting chief said. What made the situation less complicated was that the burning petrol from the tank was flowing along roadside ditches and not the sidewalk or the road. The fire-fighters just had to pump the foam into the ditches. With petrol flowing down roads the consequences could have been more serious, he said. The fire-fighting services of Almaty fully eliminated the fire in 1 hour 48 minutes. Two foam generators and two foam cannons were used in the operation that required 1,100 liters of foam generating agent. 8 water cannons and 2 carriage hoses were used to cool the petrol tank. 12 major, 4 specialized and 10 auxiliary vehicles, as well as 80 rescuers were involved in the operation. The fire received the highest complexity rating: Level 3. The petrol tank lorry [flared up near Rixos hotel in Almaty](http://en.tengrinews.kz/emergencies/Fire-fighters-were-efficient-in-quenching-petrol-truck-fire-Almaty-Emergency-20643/) at the crossing of Seifullin and Kabanbay Batyr streets after crashing into an offroad on June 27. The truck's driver died at the accident site because his door got jammed and he could not get out of the truck before the petrol inflamed. The fire moved on to the RealSport sports shop, and #138 Kabanbay Batyr residential building. According to the rescuers, 40 people were evacuated from the building. No casualties were reported.

<http://en.tengrinews.kz/emergencies/Fire-fighters-were-efficient-in-quenching-petrol-truck-fire-Almaty-Emergency-20643/>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, JULY 2 2013. GULF OIL PLATFORM WRECKED IN 2004 STILL LEAKING OIL, ACTIVISTS SAY

An oil platform at the mouth of the Mississippi River, destroyed in a 2004 hurricane, is still leaking oil, environmental activists say. A 32-mile-long oil slick stretches in the Gulf of Mexico east from the former site of Taylor Energy's oil platform, which was 12 miles south of the mouth of the Mississippi River, the (New Orleans) Times-Picayune reported Monday. The platform, which towered 550 feet above 28 oil and gas wells drilled in water 479 feet deep, was destroyed by a landslide which caused pressure on the gulf floor during Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Oil has been spotted at the site, although U.S. Coast Guard and Taylor Energy officials have insisted a multimillion-dollar effort to plug the wells and remove the wreckage have slowed the pollution to a trickle. The Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Waterkeepers Alliance and the Appalachicola Waterkeeper are proceeding with a federal lawsuit that attempts to enforce provisions of the Clean Water Act against Taylor Energy, the newspaper said. Daily aerial inspections by Taylor Energy typically report an oil sheen on the water, but its June 18 report said the sheen was larger than normal, 10.1 miles long and 200 feet wide. A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



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satellite view that day showed the oil slick to be 30.5 miles long and 2.5 miles wide. Skytruth, an environmental group, said in a report last year its estimate of oil slicks "suggests the leakage rate is possibly in the range of 100-4000 gallons per day." "Here we have a domestic energy company that has crude oil leaking continuously from their wells for nine years, and with no apparent consequences from the government," said Marylee Orr, executive director of the Louisiana Environmental Network. "Oil and gas has caused a tremendous amount of damage to Louisiana, particularly coastal Louisiana, and they face virtually no consequences for it."

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2013/07/01/Gulf-oil-platform-wrecked-in-2004-still-leaking-oil-activists-say/UPI-39341372705973/

CANADA, VANCOUVER, JULY 2 2013. FUEL SPILL AT VANCOUVER GAS STATION KEEPS HAZMAT TEAM BUSY

liza yuzda



Vancouver's hazmat team was busy this afternoon after a fuel spill at a gas station on Marine Drive at Granville. Battalion Chief Terry Nikolai says the call came in at about 12:30 that a fuel delivery truck spilled 100 litres after a mechanical malfunction. He says there was a sump on site that they believe captured all or nearly all of the gas. Nikolai says today's hot weather actually worked in their favour. "Well there is always some danger of a spark, possibly a discarded cigarette but the spill area was fairly small, and on a day like this, the fuel does evaporate very quickly." Nikolai says a pump truck has since removed all the spilled fuel from the sight. He adds a representative from Chevron and another from the transport company were at the scene.

<http://www.cknw.com/news/vancouver/story.aspx/story.aspx?ID=1996594>

USA, KS, TOPEKA, JULY 2 2013. CAR HITS GAS PUMP, IGNITES FIRE FOLLOWING POLICE PURSUIT

 **Watch the Video** [Car Hits Gas Pump, Ignites Fire Following Police Pursuit](#)



No one was injured Monday morning after a car slammed into a gas pump at a Topeka gas station, setting it on fire. Authorities tell 13 News in Topeka that around 2:15 a.m. Monday, a Shawnee County Sheriff Deputy reported two cars traveling side by side at a high rate of speed near the 3600 block of Croco Road. The deputy turned in pursuit and attempted to catch up with the cars. Authorities say a 2002 Honda Civic, driven by Michelle S. Hubbard, 18, of Topeka left the road in the 3000 block of Croco. Hubbard lost control of her car, struck a utility box, ran over a gas pump and struck a Ford F-150 parked in front of the BP Gas Station. First responders from the Topeka Fire Department quickly turned off the emergency shutoff to the pumps and extinguished the fire about five minutes later, luckily, no injuries were reported. The driver refused treatment and was

arrested, and a passenger in the vehicle fled the scene. Police say they are investigating the possibility that the two cars may have been racing before the accident. The case is still under investigation, and charges are pending.

<http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/Car-Hits-Gas-Pump-Ignites-Fire-Following-Police-Pursuit-213833761.html?ref=761>

USA, VA, DINWIDDIE CO, JULY 2 2013. EXPLOSION KILLS 1 MAN IN COUNTY

Authorities have identified the man killed while manufacturing fireworks in Dinwiddie County as Kelly Leplante. He leaves behind a wife and teenage daughter. Deputy county fire marshal Nick Sheffield tells media outlets that the man was making fireworks in a trailer when the explosion occurred Sunday morning. The man was taken to VCU Medical Center, where he died later Sunday. His name hasn't been released. No other injuries were reported. Dinwiddie County Fire and EMS chief Dennis Hale says there was a large quantity of fireworks-making material in the trailer. It's illegal in Dinwiddie County to manufacture, possess or sell fireworks. According to Dinwiddie County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chief Dennis Hale, around 10:14 a.m. units were dispatched to the 19000 block of Shippings Road for an explosion of a trailer with injuries. When units arrived, they found a single-wide construction trailer with heavy damage and a man with severe injuries from the blast. Hale said that there were other people in the area where the explosion occurred at the time of the incident, but no one else was



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injured. The injured man was flown to Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond by LifeEvac helicopter with life-threatening injuries. He later died, according to Hale. Hale said that the man was apparently mixing powdered chemicals together to manufacture fireworks. "He did not have a permit from Dinwiddie County," Hale said, adding that no state permit appeared to be on file either. Dinwiddie County Fire and EMS, the Dinwiddie Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police are working to find a cause for the explosion and to ensure that the scene is safe and secure. The trailer was located near a residence that was evacuated as a precaution following the explosion. As of 6 p.m. Sunday, the residents of the nearby home had not been allowed to return as the Virginia State Police Bomb Squad continued to make the area safe. The dead man's identity has not been released pending notification of family members.

<http://progress-index.com/news/explosion-kills-1-man-in-county-1.1513652>

USA, MN, DULUTH, JULY 2 2013. OIL TANKER TIPS ON SUPERIOR DETOUR, CLOSING STREETS BUT AVOIDING SPILL

An accident involving a tanker carrying motor oil additive closed sections of Banks Avenue and North Sixth Streets in Superior this morning. None of the additive spilled, and the tanker was righted without having to be emptied. The 6,000-gallon tanker was on its way to Amsoil when its load shifted as the driver took a corner on the detour around the road construction on Tower Avenue. While the truck did not roll over, "all its wheels were not on the ground," Superior Fire Battalion Chief Scott Gordon said. The driver called 911 shortly before 7 p.m.; responding were the Superior Fire Department, police and tow trucks. Amsoil and the Fire Department's hazardous materials unit were informed of the situation. Plans were made to transfer the tanker's load if necessary, but two tow trucks working together were able to right the tanker without incident. Emergency workers were on the scene about 1½ hours.

<http://www.duluthnewtribune.com/event/article/id/271395/group/homepage/>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, MIRANDA, JULY 2 2013. RESIDENTS EVACUATED AFTER FUEL LEAK AT MIRANDA

sheree mutton

A fuel leak at a Miranda service station has caused the evacuation of several neighbouring unit blocks this afternoon. Fire and Rescue NSW hazmat crews are on the scene assessing the fuel leak at the Parraweena Road service station. Fire and Rescue NSW Georges River duty commander, Dave Polson, said crews did not know where the leak was coming from. "Engineers are assessing the leak and crews have evacuated a couple of units as a precaution," he said. A tanker is on route to decant the fuel.

<http://www.theleader.com.au/story/1609205/residents-evacuated-after-fuel-leak-at-miranda/?cs=12>

USA, ARK, MAYFLOWER, JULY 2 2013. TWO MAJOR LAWSUITS FILED AGAINST EXXONMOBIL FOR ARKANSAS TAR SANDS SPILL

Two major lawsuits were recently filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas against ExxonMobil, the "private empire" behind the March 2013 [Pegasus tar sands pipeline spill](#) of over 1.1 million gallons of [diluted bitumen \("dilbit"\)](#) into the neighborhoods and waterways of Mayflower, AR, located in [Faulkner County](#). One is a [class-action lawsuit](#) filed by the Duncan Firm, Thrash Law Firm and Parker Waichman LLP on June 27. The other is a suit filed on June 13 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in concert with the Arkansas Attorney General's Office, led by AG Dustin McDaniel. Collectively, both lawsuits lay out the damning facts of the second biggest tar sands pipeline spill in U.S. history, caused by a [22-foot gash in the pipeline](#), second only to Enbridge's ["dilbit disaster"](#) in Kalamazoo, Mich. The cases also call for the spill's victims -- both people, government bodies and the ecosystem -- to receive reparations. Among other things, both suits clarify that ExxonMobil Pipeline Company dilbit has contaminated Lake Conway, the largest man-made lake in the United States, which serves as a tributary of the Arkansas River. The class-action tort lawsuit slaps ExxonMobil with willful negligence under Arkansas state law, alleging Exxon knew Pegasus -- built in the 1940s far before the age of ["extreme energy"](#) and designed to carry light crude -- would spill at some point. The suit also reveals for the first time that the spill was just the biggest of 13 other spills preceding it, meaning it was not just a spill out of the blue. The joint [EPA/Arkansas AG civil lawsuit](#) cites Exxon for violating the Clean Water Act, Arkansas' Hazardous Waste Management Act and Arkansas' Water and Air Pollution Control Act. Taken together, both suits keep the heat on ExxonMobil and on Alberta [tar sands](#) production at-large as the battle over



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the proposed northern half of TransCanada's [Keystone XL](#) tar sands pipeline heats up. U.S. President Barack Obama's State Department is [expected to make a decision](#) on that pipeline's fate in the next few months.

Class-Action Tort Lawsuit Lays Out Ecological Costs of Exxon's Negligence

Arkansas' class-action suit legally covers "all real property owners who have... property abutting Lake Conway... which has been physically contaminated and polluted by ExxonMobil's toxic and dangerous Tar Sands released from ExxonMobil's unsafe and deficient oil and gas pipeline." A major crux of the suit is that dilbit is more corrosive to pipelines than conventional crude, a fact ExxonMobil knew but allegedly disregarded for the sake of profit when proposing Pegasus' flow reversal. "Bitumen blends are more acidic, thick and sulfuric than conventional crude oil," explains the suit. "[B]itumen contains 15 to 20 times higher acid concentrations than conventional crudes and five to ten times as much sulfur. Bitumen blends are 70 times more viscous... than conventional crudes. Additional sulfur, acid and viscosity in the bitumen leads to weakening or embrittlement of pipelines." In 2006, Pegasus underwent a transformation from a 20-inch pipeline carrying conventional light crude from Texas up to the northern U.S. into a dilbit line carrying Alberta's tar sands from Patoka, Ill., to Nederland, Texas, for refining on the Gulf Coast. The pipe wasn't built to carry tar sands crude and was only meant to carry a maximum of 95,000 barrels of light crude per day, the suit explains, a fact Exxon allegedly knew but proceeded with the tar sands project anyway. Exhibit A: Enbridge attempted to team up with Exxon in a joint venture partnership that would entail replacing the pipeline. Exxon turned down the deal and instead increased tar sands carrying capacity through the antiquated line to a level surpassing the maximum limit for light crude, an example the class-action cites as willful negligence. "ExxonMobil discarded this joint plan for a new, safer and larger pipeline to replace the sixty-seven year old... Pegasus Pipeline," write the plaintiffs. "Instead, ExxonMobil, in order to increase its profits at the expense of public safety, made a deliberate corporate decision to increase...Pegasus Pipeline by 50 percent [in 2009], from 66,000 barrels per day to 99,000 barrels per day." Rather than responding to the spill honestly, ExxonMobil tried to cover the situation up through its "command center," also [running the Federal Aviation Administration's "no fly zone" on the FAA's behalf](#). Thus, the class-action lawsuit also sues Exxon for its response to the spill, in which deployment of crisis communications public relations tactics were favored over a legitimate all-out on-the-ground crisis spill response effort. "After the [spill], [ExxonMobil] gave false, inconsistent and misleading factual assurances to the media and public...Exxon's suppression, concealment and omission of material facts gave a false impression to the public that the Pipeline had only experienced a three inch gash...and there was no bitumen in the oil," the lawsuit filing explains. The ecological hazards of the spill, which the lawsuit says Exxon actively attempted to cover up in wholesale fashion, are nothing short of catastrophic. "The hazardous materials being transported through Arkansas and which Mayflower citizens were exposed to are known to pose serious health effects, including lung damage if aspirated, skin cancer, irritant to eyes, mucous membranes and lungs, nausea, unconsciousness, loss of coordination, central nervous system depression, narcosis and death," the suit states. The "Lake Conway Class" seeks absolute liability, nuisance, and negligence tort charges for ExxonMobil, demanding a jury trial. They seek tort repayment for damages suffered above \$75,000 for each category as individuals and tort repayment for damages suffered above \$5 million as a group.

EPA/Arkansas Attorney General Civil Lawsuit

By comparison, the EPA/Arkansas AG civil lawsuit is much more straightforward, though it could end up with ExxonMobil doling out much more money at the end of the day. The two respective bureaucracies have demanded ExxonMobil pay fines for gross violations of bread-and-butter environmental laws, just as a citizen who got a ticket for speeding would have to pay a fine. Main problem: ExxonMobil has yet to admit, as explained in the class-action case, that it's done anything wrong. Exxon's now caught in a bind, having to choose between settling out of court with the plaintiffs and claiming no wrong-doing, or duking it out in court and making its case that it did nothing wrong in Mayflower. EPA is holding ExxonMobil accountable for \$1,100 per barrel of dilbit spilled if not willful negligence and \$4,300 per barrel spilled if it was willful negligence. That equates to a steep fine ranging from between \$1.21 billion to \$4.73 billion. The state-level penalties could amount to another \$4.23 million owed by ExxonMobil, as of July 1, 2013. On the whole, ExxonMobil could owe the EPA and Arkansas AG between \$4.21 billion and \$4.73 billion if it loses the suit, about [one-tenth of its 2012 annual profit](#).

Environmental Refugees: A Teachable Moment for Keystone XL?

The "Lake Conway Class," put another way, are environmental refugees who may never be able to return to their homes again. "Exxon's Mayflower spill is a reminder of who bears the risks of fossil fuel development like the Keystone XL pipeline," [wrote Greenpeace USA's Jesse Coleman in a recent blog post](#), summing up the situation. "[T]he residents of Mayflower must now live in a contaminated environment and many families will never be able to go back to their homes." Keystone XL proponents claim because it is a newer pipeline, it is safe and sound and another Mayflower or Kalamazoo would never



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happen. The facts defy this logic, though. The southern half of Keystone XL -- [already over 75-percent complete](#) via an Obama Administration [March 2012 Executive Order](#)—has [been plagued by faulty welding and anomalies](#). Icing on the cake: the original Keystone pipeline [has already spilled 14 times](#). As the Mayflower lawsuits proceed and the Keystone XL northern half decision approaches, Mayflower can serve as a teachable moment as it applies to Keystone XL. Or it can serve as just yet another lesson not learned. Class begins now.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-horn/two-major-lawsuits-filed_b_3529957.html

SINGAPORE, TANAH MERAH FERRY TERMINAL, JULY 2 2013. 100 TONNES OF OIL SPILL FOLLOWING COLLISION BETWEEN TWO VESSELS



MPA's patrol craft MPA III spraying dispersant at the incident site with Oriental Pioneer in the background on the right.

About 100 tonnes of oil were spilled following a collision between a South Korean-registered bulk carrier, Oriental Pioneer, and a Bahamas-registered bulk carrier, Atlantic Hero, about 6.6 km south-west of the Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal. At about 5.30am (Singapore time) today, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) received a report on the collision. In a statement, MPA said one of the Oriental Pioneer's bunker tank was damaged and approximately 100 tonnes of fuel oil were spilled. Upon notification, MPA immediately dispatched its patrol craft to deal with the oil spill. Oil spill response companies were also notified, and 10 patrol and anti-pollution craft have been deployed to clean up the spilled oil. Work is currently continuing and MPA is coordinating the clean-up with other government agencies and the ship owners. The two vessels involved in the collision are currently anchored in the Eastern Bunkering Anchorages. MPA has issued navigational broadcasts to ships to navigate with caution when in the vicinity of the incident site. There is no report of injury and port operations remain unaffected. Traffic in the port and the Strait of Singapore is unaffected. MPA is investigating the cause of the collision.

<http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v7/ge/newsgeneral.php?id=960304>

NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, JULY 2 2013. DYE SPILL STAINS AUCKLAND HARBOUR

jay boreham

 **Photo's [3]** [Dyed Water at the Edge of the Manukau Harbour](#)



Stained: The banks and waters of the Oruarangi Stream after thousands of litres of violet dye enter the waterway.

Dead fish and eels are appearing in the Manukau Harbour after nearly 1000 litres of violet dye spilled into a waterway in the Auckland suburb of Mangere. The dye escaped from a bulk container in the industrial area beside Auckland Airport and flowed into the stormwater system yesterday. It then entered the Oruarangi Stream before flowing into the Manukau Harbour between Oruarangi Rd and Puketutu Island. Te Werena Taua, spokesman for the Makarau Marae and Tainui hapu Te Kawerau a Maki, said they first noticed the spill yesterday morning. "It's turned both sides of the whole creek, right out into the harbour, purple. It's horrific given that we have been part of the clean-up of the creek for a number of years," he said. Iwi were now concerned about the long-term effects the dye could have. "Our kids come down here and they play. They fish everyday and we don't know if the fish are going to be edible and how the discharge is going to effect the whole place," Taua said. Neighbouring vineyard Villa Maria Estate was quick to inform Auckland Council and their neighbours of the spill when they noticed the wine-coloured river. "And also let them know it wasn't us," executive director Fabian Yukich said. "But we were very concerned." Auckland Council said it was too early to say whether there would be any long-term effects from yesterday's spill. "We're working with the company responsible for the leak to determine what went wrong," a council spokeswoman said. The council wouldn't identify the company, but said the dye was used in the printing process to colour things such as food trays used in the agricultural industry for fruit. Council staff were now working to get tidal Oruarangi Stream back to its natural state and restore water quality. "The stream banks and bed might take a bit longer to completely restore as the dye has turned them purple, which makes the



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stream look more polluted than it actually is," the spokeswoman said. A spokeswoman said its pollution response team worked at containment and clean up at the site of the spill yesterday. "Due to the nature of the dye it has spread significantly and recovery of the dye is not a viable option due to its soluble properties." It was hoped the dye, which was thought to be a mild irritant, would be dispersed by the tide. The council was unsure of the safety of eating fish from the harbour or swimming in it and has referred the issue to Auckland Regional Public Health Service, which was now investigating. New Zealand Bird Rescue worker at the Manukau branch Hilary Stollery said the dye could have a disastrous effect on birds. The dye could leave birds unable to fly if it effects their feathers, she says. It could also leave them starving if it kills the worms, crabs and oysters they feed on in the area. More concerning was the proximity of the spill to Puketutu Island, she said, "That is one of the most densely populated areas of New Zealand native and shore birds. You have everything there, all the wading birds, dotterels and the royal spoonbill." It's now a waiting game to see what the effects will be, Stollery said. Anyone who sees any distraught or purple birds in the area should contact Stollery on (09) 262 2260.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/national/8868412/Dye-spill-stains-Auckland-harbour>

NIGERIA, DIEBU, JULY 2 2013. OIL THEFTS THREATEN NIGERIA'S ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT

jon gambrell



The first drops of crude float in the languid muddy currents of Nigeria's oil-rich southern delta, then slowly grow into the splatter of a massive crime scene. Oil thefts, long a problem in the Niger Delta, are growing at an ever-faster rate despite government officials and international companies offering increasingly dire warnings about the effect on Nigeria's crude production. Some 200,000 barrels a day — representing about 10 % of Nigeria's production are siphoned off pipelines crisscrossing the region. While drums end up leaking in villages and used to make crude kerosene and gasoline, the major thieves appear to belong to international criminal gangs that sell it into world markets, analysts and experts say. And the same Nigerian politicians and military leaders now targeting the small-scale local refineries that dot the delta likely are the ones benefiting from those massive thefts. "This oil that you are buying is bought is the same thing" as blood diamonds, said Patrick Dele Cole, a former Nigerian

ambassador now spearheading a group trying to call attention to the thefts. "It is bought at the expense of people's blood in the Niger Delta." Oil is the lifeblood of Nigeria's economy. Since the company that would become Royal Dutch Shell PLC discovered the first commercially viable well in 1956, oil earnings grew to account for some 80 percent of all government revenue in Nigeria, a nation of more than 160 million people. While corruption sees much of that money frittered away, it still provides needed funding for projects in the country. A government-sponsored amnesty program largely halted militant attacks in the delta in 2009, allowing production levels to return to more than 2 million barrels of oil a day. But while production grew amid the relative peace, the level of thefts grew quietly and quickly across the region of winding creeks and mangroves about the size of Portugal. Locals call the practices "bunkering," which sees thieves use hacksaws and blades to cut into the pipes. When the companies see the pressure drop on their lines, they dial back the pressure on the lines just long enough for thieves to attach spigots to the lines. As the pressure rises back up, the thieves simply divert some of the oil out of the line to their own uses. In Diebu, a village in Bayelsa state, the home of President Goodluck Jonathan, children ran and played around leaking drums of stolen crude oil. The crude likely came from lines run by Shell and Italian oil company Eni SpA, though residents there demanded money from visiting journalists to see the sites of the thefts. Many here view the thefts as their opportunity to have a taste of a commodity that built Nigeria's sterile central capital of Abuja, a city of gleaming towers and massive highways. In Diebu, the locals pointed out a large clinic of empty rooms without medicine and a local doctor's quarters that appeared to have squatters inside. The dilapidated schools had large holes where windows were supposed to be. Amid the neglect, locals rationalize the thefts with a simple question: If governors, politicians and everyone else stole the money, why shouldn't they steal a taste as well? "We are bleeding," said one man working at a nearby illegal oil refinery, who gave his first name as Prince. "We need this one to balance out our life." But that balance comes at an environmental cost as well. Operations at local refineries, which produce crude gasoline, kerosene and diesel fuel, see oil spilled everywhere, soaking the ground into a mix of mud and crude that can swallow a leg up to the knee. Large dug-in pits hold the crude until it passes through makeshift piping to create fuels sometimes so volatile they can explode at will. Massive fires that send plumes of



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smoke towering into the air fuel the process. "It is the only job we are doing," said an illegal refiner who gave his name as Ibeci. "There is no other job." Nigeria's military, which maintains a presence in the delta since the militant attacks, has begun targeting illegal refineries in the region. Local refiners like Ibeci say they now work only at night, as the smoke plumes draw soldiers to their operations during the day. The military claims to have dismantled dozens of such illegal refineries, though Associated Press journalists in the region in May came across multiple sites where the ground was still warm from refining the night before. Lt. Col. Onyema Nwachukwu, a military spokesman for the region, declined several interview requests regarding the military's efforts in the region. But as Nigeria's government focuses on illegal refineries, Cole said the vast majority of the thefts actually see the oil taken out of the country into eastern Europe, South America and Asia for sale. Cole's organization, which received initial seed money from Shell and later received support from the Dutch government, wants there to be stricter monitoring of oil entering international markets, as well as testing done to ensure that such stolen crude can't be slipped into the system. However, he acknowledges the true challenge facing the effort: Those supporting the thefts include Nigeria's military and the nation's political elite. "There must be some kind of collusion," Cole said. "The whole thing started really because of the political need to raise a lot of money during the elections. The whole idea of selling oil illegally was sponsored and maintained by our political leaders. There is no doubt about that."

On The Web

- Stop the Theft: www.stopthetheftng.com
- Nigerian Navy's website against oil theft: www.cot.navy.mil.ng

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/oil-thefts-threaten-nigerias-economy-environment-19540492#.UdLEkPkwdZ5>

USA, OH, COLUMBUS, JULY 2 2013. FRACKING WASTE KEEPS ROLLING INTO OHIO FROM OTHER STATES

The shale drilling boom that has helped create a huge supply of cheap natural gas continues to bring more and more fracking waste into Ohio. In 2012, 14.2 million barrels of fracking fluids and oil and gas waste were injected in Ohio disposal wells, according to data compiled by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. That's a 12 percent increase from 2011. That increase was driven by waste removed from Marcellus shale wells in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. State data show that Ohio disposal wells injected 8.16 million barrels of waste from other states, a 19 percent increase from 2011. Environmental-advocacy groups, which consider spent fracking fluids a pollution threat to groundwater and streams, said the new numbers heighten their fears. "I think we've been the sacrifice zone for the oil and gas industry long enough," said Teresa Mills, fracking coordinator for the Buckeye Forest Council. "How much can we take before there are more earthquakes and before (drinking water) wells are contaminated?" Oil and gas waste-disposal wells have operated in Ohio for decades. They drew public scrutiny last year after state officials linked a series of earthquakes in Youngstown in 2011 and 2012 to a nearby disposal well that is no longer operating. Tom Stewart, vice president of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, said he's concerned that the influx of waste will create disposal delays for companies drilling Utica shale in Ohio. Natural Resources officials said the wells are safe and that they have the capacity to handle these increases. Mark Bruce, an agency spokesman, shared records that showed a 5 percent decrease in waste injections during the first three months of this year compared to the same period in 2012. He attributed the decline to a decrease in shale drilling in Pennsylvania and increased recycling of fracking water. "I don't know if it will continue," Bruce said of the decrease. "I just know that's what we're seeing so far." Much of the waste comes from fracking, a process that pumps millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals deep below ground to shatter shale and free trapped oil and gas. Some of the fluids bubble back up with the gas. Oil and gas wells also produce saltwater contaminated with metals and radioactive materials trapped underground for millions of years. The flow of fracking waste into Ohio began in 2011 after Pennsylvania oil and gas regulators ordered businesses to stop dumping the salty wastes in that state's streams. Unlike Ohio, Pennsylvania doesn't have the authority to oversee and permit the drilling of its own disposal wells. Because companies have to apply for federal permits, approval of new wells can take months. There are seven active disposal wells in Pennsylvania, that state's Department of Environmental Protection says. There are 63 disposal wells in West Virginia. As more waste comes into Ohio, companies are drilling more disposal wells — 191 so far, Natural Resources says. In January 2012, there were 177. There also is little that state officials can do to keep out-of-state waste from Ohio wells. Federal commerce protections forbid one state from imposing tariffs or bans on legally shipped commodities from other states. "We need to be very honest and look at ourselves and understand we are becoming the preferred destination for this waste," said Jed Thorp, manager of the Sierra Club's Ohio chapter. "We need to figure out what we can do to keep that from happening."

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/07/01/fracking-waste-keeps-rolling-in.html>



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USA, N.J, JERSEY CITY, JULY 3 2013. 'TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION' INJURES 2, BLASTS BACK ON CAR IN JERSEY CITY >> MAN WAS LOADING TANK, POSSIBLY OF PROPANE, INTO CAR AT TIME OF BLAST

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [2 Hurt in Jersey City Car Explosion](#)
- [Explosion in Car Trunk Injures 2 in Jersey City](#)

 **Photo's [16] 2 injured when tank explodes in car on Jersey City street**



An explosion in a car left two people injured in Jersey City on Tuesday. As WCBS 880's Alex Silverman reported, buildings blocks away shook from the force. "So everyone started panicking and we ran up this way," a witness named Dion told Silverman. He said when he got to the scene of the explosion, he saw the silver Toyota sedan with its back end blown to bits. "It was actually a hard top car and then it looked like a convertible afterwards, it must have been a tremendous explosion," Dion told Silverman. A fire department spokeswoman said a man was working on a refrigeration unit at the corner liquor store. As the man was loading a tank possibly containing propane into his car, the tank suddenly blew, sending the worker flying. "Bleeding from his ears and nose and stuff like that," said another witness. "He looks better than the other guy. The other guy was laying on the floor and he looks really bad." That man said he helped pull the other victim, a passer-by, away from the burning car. Another

witness said the explosion was a close call for him. "My mom is coming around the corner three seconds, it just exploded. I had no words," Wayne, 9, told Silverman.

<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2013/07/02/tremendous-explosion-inju-on-car-res-2-blasts-back-off-car-in-jersey-city/>

USA, N.Y, BROOKLYN, JULY 3 2013. GREENWOOD HEIGHTS WATER MAIN BREAK LEADS TO OIL SPILL ON 23RD ST >> WATER BURNS UP CABLES, RELEASING COOLANT. RESIDENTS TOLD TO BUY BOTTLED WATER.

rachel bryson-brockmann & simone weichselbaum

 **Watch the Video Brooklyn is Getting Slimed.**



An oily discharged came through the sewers on 23rd St. in Brooklyn Tuesday, horrifying locals.

A water main break caused a huge oil spill on 23rd St. in Greenwood Heights, turning the quiet block into a smelly danger zone. The menacing substance bubbled up Tuesday morning after a water feeder pipe broke between Third and Fourth Aves. The subsequent gusher fried high-voltage underground electrical wires, releasing a sticky coolant that typically protects the energy infrastructure. The heat from the sizzling cords also melted the asphalt, causing the water and the oily coolant — officially called dielectric fluid — to flood the street, FDNY officials said. "It happened because of old infrastructure in the city," said FDNY Chief Kevin Woods as 75 emergency workers from the Fire Department, Con Edison, and the Department of Environmental Protection tended to the mess. But the slick substance is not expected to seep into the city's water system and

is not a long-term threat to Brooklyn's drinking water. "Our Hazmat team is taking samples for precautions," said city Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Mercedes Padilla. Con Ed spokesman Allan Drury said it's unclear whether the energy giant's overheated wires caused the street to melt. Residents said they heard a quick explosion at around 8:30 a.m. followed by a trickling stream of street water. "I heard a boom," said Zoraida Febles. "I looked out the window and saw there was a splash in the street." But by 2 p.m., the slimy flow was still out of control. Workers dropped kitty litter to soak up the mess. "It is pretty thick whatever it is, and it stinks," said Sela Lopez, 32, who lives on 23rd St. near the soggy hole. "They told us not to drink (tap) water."

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/oil-spill-slimes-greenwood-heights-article-1.1388361>



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