



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 1,020 Newsy Stuff

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

**November 23 2013**



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### USA, TX, HUTCHINSON CO, BORGER, NOVEMBER 10 2013. BLAST DAMAGES OIL RIG IN HUTCHINSON COUNTY >> NO INJURIES REPORTED

jc cortez



*Grass and equipment burn after an oil rig exploded Friday afternoon on Turkey Track Ranch in Hutchinson County, east of Stinnett. No injuries were reported, authorities said.*

Authorities said no one was injured Friday after an oil rig exploded in Hutchinson County about 20 miles northeast of Stinnett. About five acres of land was scorched, while three trucks and other equipment were burned in the blaze at Turkey Track Ranch, according to Hutchinson County Fire Marshal Danny Richards. About 3:10 p.m., fluids being circulated in a pit got too close to an oil rig and ignited, causing an explosion that knocked workers clear of the resulting flames, Richards said. The men were able to evacuate on foot, and no injuries occurred, he said. Fire spread from the rig to nearby grass and three large tanker trucks, Richards said, adding the well was capped and did not ignite. Richards said crews from Borger, Stinnett, Spearman and Hutchinson County fire departments extinguished the fire by 6:30 p.m. Four companies suffered

equipment losses in the blaze: Palo Duro Equipment, Tom Coble Gas & Oil, Phil Dollar Rig Service and Turner Energy, Richards said.

<http://amarillo.com/news/latest-news/2013-11-08/dps-no-serious-injuries-hutchinson-county-explosion>

### USA, TX, GUN BARREL CITY, NOVEMBER 11 2013. CALLS GROW TO SHUT DOWN THE PEGASUS PIPELINE FOR GOOD

jim malewitz



*Jim Howell on his property in Gun Barrel City on Tuesday.*

For more than eight decades, Jim Howell was hardly one to cause a political ruckus. But this spring, he realized that a crude-oil superhighway ran through his backyard, just two feet below his patchy lawn and seven feet beyond a newly built porch. "At first I felt guilty and stupid," Mr. Howell said about discovering that the 20-inch-wide pipeline passed so close to his compact brick house. Guilt became alarm as he read more about it and as people from ExxonMobil, its operator, showed up to add a row of yellow-and-black-striped warning markers. The pipeline, Pegasus, was the same one that ruptured about 280 miles northeast in March, spewing at least 210,000 gallons of heavy Canadian crude into neighborhood streets in Mayflower, Ark. Now, at 83, Mr. Howell admits to having become an activist, even if he is not particularly fond of the label. Loosely organized by two local citizens' action groups, Mr. Howell and others in this small Henderson County town — whose official motto is "We Shoot Straight With You" — make up a small but growing pocket of East Texans who are asking federal regulators to shut down the pipeline permanently. The 65-year-old pipeline, which runs from Patoka, Ill., to Nederland, Tex., has been turned off since the spill while ExxonMobil complies with a corrective-action order from the United States Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Pegasus is not the only major pipeline to concern landowners and environmentalists in Texas, a state crisscrossed by close to 59,000 miles of hazardous liquids lines, according to the latest federal tally. That does not include the proposed [Keystone XL](#) expansion, which has roiled United States politics. Compared with train and truck traffic, pipelines are generally seen as the safest way to transport fuel. But the Pegasus accident was a vivid example of what could go wrong. Agency and ExxonMobil representatives say they have no timeline for reactivating the pipeline. "We will not restart it until we are satisfied it is safe to do so and have the approval of P.H.M.S.A.," said Aaron Stryk, an ExxonMobil spokesman. "We are committed to understanding the factors that led to the release in Mayflower and are working to ensure an incident like this does not happen again." But pipeline opponents received a boost Wednesday, when the pipeline agency sent ExxonMobil a "notice of probable violation," which alleged that the company had committed a number of violations in testing and analyzing the pipeline before the spill. The agency proposed a \$2.6 million fine. The notice laid out extra steps ExxonMobil was required to take, which would probably further delay



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reactivation. The pipeline's critics are particularly concerned about the line's age, which studies say leaves it vulnerable to cracking and corrosion if it is not maintained. "These pipelines were built under codes that were ancient," said Evan Vokes, an industry whistle-blower who worked for the pipeline builder TransCanada until 2012. ExxonMobil officials say they take necessary precautions and follow all federal maintenance rules. Opponents also worry about the type of crude that had been running through it, diluted bitumen — a black, tarlike substance mixed with benzene and other liquids propellants that if spilled is particularly difficult to clean up. "It gets your adrenaline going because you don't want that happening to you," said Mayor Paul Eaton of Gun Barrel City. The biggest fear, he said, is that Pegasus will rupture along a stretch below the Cedar Creek Reservoir, formed along the Trinity River, which Gun Barrel City and its neighbors depend on for drinking water and recreation. "A polluted lake would be devastating to this community," he said. "We're talking about people's lives."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/10/us/calls-grow-to-shut-down-the-pegasus-pipeline-for-good.html?ref=us>

### USA, CA, AVILA BEACH, NOVEMBER 11 2013. IN QUIANT AVILA BEACH, OIL FIRM PLANS RESORT WHERE 400,000 GALLONS OF CRUDE ONCE SPILLED

scott gold



The project is seen by many as inevitable — even, potentially, transformative. But bitterness from 'the trauma' lingers for some. Pretty regularly, the clouds cartwheel in from the sea and sock everybody in around here, except tiny Avila Beach. It'll be dreary up in Morro Bay and dreadful down in Pismo, but here, the hills cut through the fog and leave a little circle of sunshine. It's a microclimate, technically. But locals like to think of it as a halo. Things often seem to just happen here, whether it's a feeding frenzy of humpback whales in the bay or a nude volleyball game over at Pirate's Cove. It had been a charmed Central Coast existence, with one disastrous exception: a massive leak from an oil tank farm that sent 400,000 gallons of petrochemicals oozing under the town. This was not just any oil spill — it was an underground lake of muck that built up over decades, polluting Avila Beach so severely before it was discovered in 1989

that the town had to be destroyed, effectively, to be saved. Much of Avila Beach, including its entire business district, had to be torn down and reconstructed, its iconoclastic, working-class character, many believe, lost in a thicket of bulldozers, lawyers and regulators. Today, a final chapter to that saga is underway: An oil company wants to build a resort on the very piece of land where the spill originated. The development is viewed by many area officials as an inevitability — even, potentially, a transformative addition, one that would mark the opening of a spectacular seaside property to the public for the first time in a century. But among some of the salty old guard in Avila Beach, word of the resort proposal has been sobering — as if the bitterness associated with "the trauma," as one official called it, was always just a shovelful away, like the crude oil that once permeated the dirt. "Whoever's got the billions and the trillions always gets the last laugh, right?" said Michael Reichman, who was born here in 1962. Reichman sipped his coffee with a friend the other morning at Avila Grocery & Deli, a Front Street pillar. "It's a joke." In 1906, Union Oil Co. built the oil tank farm on 95 acres just south of San Luis Obispo. By World War II, 2 million gallons of crude oil a day was being pumped from huge storage vats into tankers in the bay. The pipes went right under Front Street. In 1989, a man was working on his basement when he struck oil. Diesel fuel, gasoline and crude, it turned out, had been saturating the soil under the town and its quaint beach for years. Public health advocates and the state accused Unocal of spilling toxic substances into a source of drinking water. Unocal signed one of largest environmental settlements in California history: an agreement to cleanse Avila Beach that cost the company as much as \$200 million, the equivalent of half a million dollars for each of the town's 400 residents. It was a terrible slog. Bulldozers removed about 300,000 cubic yards of earth, sometimes digging 15 feet deep in the heart of town to excise the last of the pollutants. Commerce ground to a halt. Many residents were displaced; some were given a check for their pain and inconvenience and never came back. "We kind of miss the old town," said Mike Cullen, 65, who lived and owned businesses here for more than three decades, and now visits from his home in Oahu with his dog, Buddy Blue VI. "The whole thing just got erased." The town was rebuilt as something different — more tourist-friendly, a little less dive bar, a little more wine and cheese. Many see it as a nicer, more welcoming place. "It was, quite frankly, an eyesore," said Rick Cohen, executive director of the Avila Beach Community Foundation. The agency dispenses at least \$60,000 each year in community-building grants financed, still, through the Unocal settlement. "Now it's beautiful." "But there is an acceptance that it is a different kind of town," said San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Adam



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Hill, whose district includes Avila Beach. "You can't reconstruct funky." [Chevron Corp.](#) bought Unocal in 2005, acquiring both the legacy of the oil tank farm and the majesty of the bluff, which is now wiped clean of the massive storage containers. Talk of redevelopment has been percolating for years, but it is suddenly getting serious; Chevron was recently granted permission from the county to take the first substantive step, changing the zoning of the land. Many people in town want the fenced-off property essentially opened up but undeveloped — a notion summarized nicely by Reichman, who said he'd like to see "a bitchin' park for the people, for the public." Chevron, officials said, is well aware of the sensitivity of its new mission. Its early plans call for an "intimate resort retreat," including a 100-room hotel and 95 cottages, along with a spa, restaurants and a seaside amphitheater. But they call, too, for 60% of the property to be set aside for open space and natural habitat — for scenic overlooks, a coastal trail. Chevron has pledged low-slung construction, no more than two stories, to avoid disrupting the coastal vista. "We are committed to restoring the Avila Point property to be a healthy and safe place for future generations," the company said in a statement. Chevron declined to discuss the proposal in detail. Chevron could benefit, too, from the passage of time. Many of the old guard who were displaced with the reconstruction of the town have passed away or moved on, Cohen said. "With that goes the memories and the hard feelings," Cohen said. "The only thing that is constant is change." At the same time, Cohen said, there remains enough fierce protectionism of the town to block any sort of development that would be out of character with this stretch of the California coast — "enough noise among locals to discourage anything that would be out of line," he said. "There is enough resistance," he said. "And what we've seen so far looks pretty good. It's going to be a crown jewel when it's all done." Chevron expects to conduct environmental assessments throughout 2014, hold public hearings and pursue county and state governmental approval in 2015 and 2016, and then choose a developer in 2017. "I don't have any issue with private development scenarios as long as we get as much public benefit as possible," said Hill, the county supervisor. "I don't want to see window dressing. I want to see major windows." Locals, stung once in a way that brought a little beach town to its knees, will be watching carefully throughout, Hill said. "They've gone through stuff that most people don't go through," Hill said. "Their concerns are valid, and they are not easily mollified. This is a big deal, and there are a lot of people paying attention. There is no way you could just slip anything in here."

[http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-avila-beach-oil-20131110\\_0.7228527.full.story](http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-avila-beach-oil-20131110_0.7228527.full.story)

### NIGERIA, LAGOS, NOVEMBER 11 2013. NIGERIA TO FINE OIL FIRMS FOR SPILLS



*File photo shows stolen petrol barrels at an illegal oil refinery along the Imo Rivers at Abia State in Yenagoa.*

The Nigerian government looks set to introduce a law fining oil firms for spills that cause mass environmental damage. Nigerian legislators are considering a law to impose new fines on operators responsible for Oil spills, a measure that could face major foreign companies with penalties running into tens of millions of dollars a year. There are hundreds of leaks every year from pipelines that pass through the creeks and swamplands of the Niger Delta, damaging the environment and the profits of Oil companies including Royal Dutch [Shell](#) and Italy's [eni](#). Many of these spills are caused by Oil theft and pipeline sabotage, a crime committed daily in the Niger Delta, where frustrations among millions of people in poverty run high. There have also been rarer cases of large Oil spills in deep offshore projects. Currently [Oil](#) companies are required to fund the clean-up of each spill and usually pay compensation to local communities affected, if it was the company's fault. The law being considered by the national assembly, seen by Reuters on Friday, would impose new fines on Oil firms when they are responsible for spills and strengthen the regulator's powers, including being able to force firms to shut operations. Every barrel of Oil spilled onshore or in coastal water would incur a fine of 200,000 naira (\$1,300), while shallow water spillages would be penalized 175,000 naira per barrel and deep offshore leaks would cost 150,000 naira a barrel. [Shell](#)'s website said that in 2008 more than 50,000 barrels were spilled due to operational issues. Under the new law, this could incur a fine of 10 billion naira (\$63 million). Environmental campaigners say this is an underestimate and the real figure could be several times that. In later years far less was spilled due to the company's error, it says. Oil companies would have to report Oil spills within 24 hours to the regulator or be fined 500,000 naira per day thereafter. They would also have to submit 0.05 percent of their operating budget to help fund the regulator. "Only if polluting the environment becomes more costly than cleaning it up will the situation change for the better," said Senator Bukola Saraki, head of the senate's environment board. Saraki's team said they hoped a vote on the bill would be held by the end of the year. A [Shell](#) spokesman declined to comment on the proposed law. Legislation is often



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difficult to enforce in Nigeria, where a patronage culture and widespread corruption create loopholes, according to watchdogs including Transparency International. Clauses in the new law say the new regulator would set the salaries and benefits for its members itself and it would be allowed to accept gifts, including property and cash. [Amnesty International](#) criticized [Shell](#) this week, saying it manipulated the results of Oil spill investigations to avoid paying fines or damaging its reputation. The company strongly denied the allegations. Amnesty also criticized the Nigerian government for not having a more well-equipped Oil spill regulator.

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=122483>

### **SOUTH KOREA, ULSAN, N OVBEMBER 11 2013. SEA OIL LINE RUPTURE CAUSES CONTAMINATION OFF ULSAN**

An oil line transferring crude from a tanker to shore ruptured Sunday causing contamination off the coast of Ulsan. The Ulsan Coast Guard said the rupture took place at 4:45 a.m. when the C. Eternity, a 160,000-ton Panama-registered tanker, was transferring oil to a pipeline buoy. "There was a small crack in the 200-meter-long, 61-centimeter-wide oil line between the ship and the pipeline buoy that caused some crude to leak into the sea," an officer on site said. He said maritime authorities in the industrial city, located 414 kilometers southeast of Seoul, were notified of the incident by the tanker crew, who reported oil in the water. The buoy is owned by SK Energy Co. and has pumps that can help send oil from a ship to the nearby Onsan Industrial Complex in the southern part of Ulsan. The company said that the oil line is very flexible and cannot be damaged by high waves. It added if a ship hit the line the resulting spill would be considerable. The buoy has a diameter of 12.5 meters, stands 4.3 meters tall and is located some four kilometers from shore. This system is needed because Ulsan does not have the port infrastructure to allow large tankers to come alongside a pier to transfer oil. The Coast Guard has called for nine water surface cleaning boats to deal with the spill and is currently mobilizing divers to figure out what exactly caused the accident. It said at the time of the spill there were 3-4 meter waves and a high-wave alert was issued off the country's southeastern coast. It is also trying to discover exactly how much oil has leaked into the sea, although preliminary estimates indicate a relatively small amount. A spill some 700 meters long, 30-40 centimeters thick has been detected a few kilometers away from the leak. Authorities, meanwhile, said that the tanker arrived at its station near the buoy at 10:20 p.m. Saturday and had been transferring oil. All operations have been halted to prevent further leaks, authorities said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2013/11/10/52/0302000000AEN20131110000451315F.html>

### **PHILIPPINES, LUZON CITY, NOVEMBER 11 2013. MOTOR TANKER RUNS AGROUND IN PALAWAN, OIL SPILL BOOM DEPLOYED**

An oil tanker loaded with diesel ran aground at Coron in Palawan but steps have been taken to prevent an oil spill, state-run [Philippine Information Agency \(PIA\)](#) reported Sunday evening. The PIA said the motor tanker "Alvin" was loaded with 256,000 liters of automotive diesel oil (ADO) when it ran aground 1km off Coron Pier. "Oil spill boom (was) laid out around vessel," it said, citing an initial report from the Coast Guard in Southern Luzon. <https://www.facebook.com/pia.palawan/posts/610935725619653> It added the ship's master is awaiting a tug hired by the company to free the vessel. So far, the PIA said there was no oil spill reported, and the crew is safe. It added the vessel has a "double bottom." On Saturday, Coron and Iloilo declared a state of calamity due to Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan). Yolanda exited the Philippines Saturday but not before barreling through parts of Visayas and Southern Luzon

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/334831/news/regions/motor-tanker-runs-aground-in-palawan-oil-spill-boom-deployed>

### **MALAYSIA, PENANG, GEORGE TOWN, NOVEMBER 11 2013. PENANG TO PROBE OIL SPILL**

The Penang state government will investigate the validity of petroleum pollution reports on the island. Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng said the government views pollution in the state very seriously. "This is shocking. However, we would want to check the report before we make any further comment," he told reporters at a press conference in Teluk Bahang today. He was referring to a recent published journal by the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), which mentioned the presence of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the waters of Penang, noting that such pollution could endanger the lives of people. Lim pointed out that Penang does not have any petroleum refineries in the state and questioned the source of the oil. "It could be ships at the Penang Port releasing oils, like reports of Singapore ships releasing



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oil in Johor waters. "Or storage tanks in Perai, but immediate action will be taken if there are such leakages," he said, adding that Penang Port was reported to deny any of its ships releasing oil into the waters here. Lim said that the state will look at the report and find the source as well as solve the problem. "Such pollution can kill the aquatic lives here in the state," he added.

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/877889>

### USA, N.Y, HICKSVILLE, NOVEMBER 11 2013. HICKSVILLE SITE NEARING TOXIC CLEANUP COMPLETION AFTER DECADES OF CONTAMINATION

Julie Skrobak

 **Watch the Video** [Site Nearing Toxic Cleanup Completion](#)

In 1984, the [Hooker Chemical and Ruco Polymer Corporation](#) site in Hicksville made the National Priorities List for contaminated groundwater and soil. Nearly 30 years later, the site is still undergoing treatment. According to the Environmental Protection Agency site record, from 1951 to 1975, the corporation used three onsite drainage sumps to dispose of wastewater from polymer and latex production containing almost 20 kinds of contaminants. The EPA issued three separate Records of Decision since their investigation of the site, outlining levels of contamination and treatment plans. The EPA issued the first Record of Decision in 1990, calling for the removal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), a cancer causing substance, from the soil, and vinyl chloride from the groundwater. In 2012, the EPA completed the construction of a groundwater treatment system, and computer models estimate that the groundwater and soil will be cleaned within the next ten years. Once the EPA confirms that the soil is cleaned to an acceptable level, they will issue a final close out report. "That is really a gross estimate," explained Thomas Taccone, EPA remedial project manager. "It could be several years or even twice as long. It all depends when the contamination occurs and how quickly it is caught. Once the contamination happens, it spreads. It's underground and you can't see it so it's difficult to clean up." Taccone says most sites take an average of twenty years to clean up. Less than a mile down the road from the site is a residential neighborhood, but Taccone assures that the contamination poses no direct risk to the community. The community receives their water from a water treatment facility and the contaminants reside underground. However, Long Island's limited fresh water supply is still threatened. "On a periodic basis we continue to test the groundwater," said Taccone. "If the results show an unsafe level of contaminants, we would not issue the close-out report and we would continue to run the system." According to Taccone, the property will be redeveloped and used for warehousing in the next couple years.

<http://longislandreport.org/news/hicksville-site-nearing-toxic-cleanup-completion-after-decades-of-contamination/18523>

### THAILAND, RAYONG, NOVEMBER 11 2013. LAWYERS BACK OIL SPILL VICTIMS

The Lawyers Council of Thailand has offered to assist about 400 small fishery operators and seafood vendors in this eastern province in suing PTT Global Chemical (PTTGC) for damages from the July oil spill. Jaturas Iamworaniran, president of the local fishers' association in Rayong, said on Saturday that the lawyers council had been invited to advise people affected by the spill on what they could do to pursue full financial compensation. The fishery operators and vendors have obtained some compensation from the company, but Mr Jaturas said they are still waiting on the rest of the money they are owed. An estimated 50,000 litres of crude oil leaked into the sea on July 27 when a pipeline owned by PTTGC broke near Map Ta Phut. Lawyers Council vice-president Suwit Choey-ubol, who is in charge of environmental cases, said the council had about 100 lawyers who would assist the affected people free of charge.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/379065/lawyers-back-oil-spill-victims-in-rayong>

### ECUADOR, QUITO, NOVEMBER 11 2013. AMERICAN OIL EXPERT TO VISIT CONTAMINATED AREAS IN THE ECUADORIAN RAINFOREST WHERE CHEVRON-TEXACO OPERATED

Antonia Juhasz, an oil industry expert and author, will visit Ecuador to see the contamination that Texaco, now Chevron, left behind in the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest, and to meet with members of the local communities that were affected by the [massive environmental contamination](#). Juhasz is visiting the South American nation in response to an invitation made by the National Secretariat of Communications of Ecuador to join the international [campaign](#) launched by President Rafael Correa in September to raise international awareness about the environmental disaster caused by the oil giant when it operated in the country between 1964 and 1990. Antonia Juhasz is a [leading oil and energy expert](#), author and investigative journalist. She is the author of three books related to the oil industry and the influence of multinational oil companies in international politics. Juhasz is a well-known critic of Chevron, having conducted years of [extensive investigations into its operations](#), and writing



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about Chevron in each of her three books and in dozens of articles. In one of her earlier books, "The Bush Agenda: Invading the World, One Economy at a Time", Juhasz exposed the use of corporate globalization policy as a weapon of war during the Bush administration, and the role that major corporations, like Chevron, played in the creation of this agenda. She is a regular guest commentator on issues related to the energy industry, appearing on major U.S. TV networks and national radio. Her writings have appeared in many publications, including The Atlantic, Harper's Magazine, The New York Times, Washington Post, The Huffington Post, International Herald Tribune, Rolling Stone Magazine and others. Juhasz will visit one of the contaminated areas in the province of Sucumbios, where actor Danny Glover, visiting last week said that "[Chevron must be held accountable](#)" for the damages. Many of these oil pits were operated [exclusively by Chevron-Texaco](#). Juhasz will be able to confirm first-hand a fact that Chevron fails to admit in its [press releases](#), that during its operations in Ecuador, Chevron's predecessor, Texaco, [used substandard and outdated methods](#) to handle the toxic wastes, and systematically dumped over 18 billion gallons of wastewater and oil by-products into unlined pits, that subsequently caused the contamination of the soil, rivers, streams and groundwater in the areas where the company operated. In February of 2011, Ecuador's Superior Court of Nueva Loja [issued a judgment](#) (Aguinda v. Chevron No. 2003-0002), ordering Chevron to pay \$18.3 billion for damages to the environment and the health of the local communities. Chevron refuses to pay the award claiming that [the ruling is illegitimate](#), and instead has filed a [lawsuit](#) in a federal court in New York against the Ecuadorians and their lawyers based on the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. The trial began on October 15 in New York. The judge overseeing the trial, Lewis Kaplan, has been accused by the plaintiffs of bias in favor of Chevron through a petition for [Writ of Mandamus](#), which was filed at the U.S. Court of Appeals. (11-2259) The case is Chevron Corp. v. Donziger et al., case number 2:11-cv-00691, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

[http://www.csrwire.com/press\\_releases/36387-American-Oil-Expert-To-Visit-Contaminated-Areas-in-the-Ecuadorian-Rainforest-Where-Chevron-Texaco-Operated](http://www.csrwire.com/press_releases/36387-American-Oil-Expert-To-Visit-Contaminated-Areas-in-the-Ecuadorian-Rainforest-Where-Chevron-Texaco-Operated)

### VENEZUELA, CARACS, NOVEMBER 11 2013. FIRE AT VENEZUELA REFINERY, GOVERNMENT SAYS UNDER

A fire broke out at Venezuela's 146,000 barrel-per-day El Palito refinery on Sunday, but it was being brought under control and has not harmed operations, the oil minister said. "Our teams are putting out the fire. There is no danger to operations nor to people living near the plant," Rafael Ramirez told state TV, adding the cause was still being investigated. State oil company PDVSA has suffered a string of accidents, outages and unplanned stoppages for maintenance across its refinery network in recent years, hurting the South American OPEC member's fuel export capacity. Ramirez said Sunday's fire was in one of the refinery's storage pits. Twitter users posted photos of black smoke billowing over the plant on Venezuela's north coast.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-venezuela-refinery-20131110,0,127767.story>

### KAZAKHSTAN, ALMATY, NOVEMBER 11 2013. FUEL TRUCK EXPLOSION EXPERTISE GIVES UP ON CAUSES - NO ONE IS RESPONSIBLE

 **Photo's [4]** [Fuel Truck Explosion](#)



*The burning fuel truck.*

All the criminal charges have been dropped in the case of the fuel tank truck explosion in Almaty, [Tengrinews](#) reports citing the Almaty Interior Affairs Department representative Saltanat Azirbek. According to Ms. Azirbek both criminal cases initiated after the deadly accident in Almaty involving a fuel truck of Helios company - poor quality repair of a vehicle resulting in death of a person and violation of traffic rules resulting in death of a person - were dropped because of insufficiency of criminal evidence and absence of the event of a crime. "Vehicle forensics, fire and forensic medical inspections were made; independent experts filed their reports. But no explicit cause of the accident

could be identified," Ms. Azirbek said. This official conclusion came as a surprise after the preliminary statements made by the authorities. The preliminary inspection results released by the Almaty Interior Affairs Department in August said that the vehicle had a faulty steering control and had no driving shaft on its secondary breaking system. However the new conclusion of the expert committee and the dismissal of the criminal cases will put a period to the unhappy story of the fuel truck accident and protect the company from any further claims. The petrol tank lorry [flared up near Rixos Hotel in Almaty](#) at the crossing of Seifullin and Kabanbay Batyr streets after crashing into an offroader on June 27. The truck's driver died at the accident site



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because his door got jammed and he could not get out of the truck before the petrol inflamed. The fire moved over to the RealSport sports shop, and #138 Kabanbay Batyr residential building. According to the rescuers, 40 people were evacuated from the building. The 27-y.o. truck driver died on the spot. Helios restored the damaged building and paid compensations to the owners of the burned cars, apartments and shops. Akhmetzhan Yessimov, Akim (Mayor) of Almaty, sent a petition to the Presidential Administration to honor Goryunov with a posthumous award.

<http://en.tengrinews.kz/emergencies/Fuel-truck-explosion-expertise-gives-up-on-causes---no-one-is-responsible-23919/>

### ENGLAND, CHESHIRE, CHESTER, NOVEMBER 12 2013. HOTEL EMPLOYEES INJURED AFTER CHLORINE GAS LEAK

Spa facilities at Carden Park Hotel closed for day following chemical spill at swimming pool. Two employees of the Carden Park Hotel, Golf Resort and Spa suffered minor health issues after it is believed they inhaled chlorine gas relating to a chemical spill. Police, fire and ambulance crews attended the hotel at Clutton after being called just after 7am today (Tuesday November 12). Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service said a gentleman was suffering from breathing difficulties following a chemical spill connected with routine maintenance work on the swimming pool. He had been mixing two chemicals together when a leak of chlorine gas occurred. The man exited the plant room and closed the door behind him which contained the gas within that area. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entered the room and used a powerful fan to ventilate the space. Once the area had been deemed safe, specialist pool cleaning engineers finished off the clean-up process. North West Ambulance Service spokeswoman Emily Dalton said one patient self-presented at Wrexham Maelor Hospital and another patient made themselves known to paramedic crews complaining of a sore throat. This second employee was assessed on scene but is not believed to have gone to hospital. It is understood the staff member had gone to check on their colleague when they may have breathed in some gas. Ms Dalton said two ambulances, a rapid response vehicle and a Hazardous Area Response Team had been dispatched. Carden Park Hotel spokeswoman Rebecca McCarten said in a statement: "The spa facilities at Carden Park Hotel, Golf Resort and Spa will be closed on 12th November, 2013. "This is due to an incident that has happened in the early hours and for which we are working closely with all the emergency services to resolve. As always the health and safety of our guests and employees is of paramount importance and the situation will be reviewed before re-opening the spa facilities to guests."

<http://www.chesterchronicle.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/carden-park-hotel-employees-injured-6297535>

### CANADA, B.C, SURREY, NOVEMBER 12 2013. 'MOBILE MOLOTOV COCKTAILS': ANOTHER VAN FULL OF STOLEN GAS BURSTS INTO FLAMES AFTER MINOR COLLISION IN VANCOUVER

*tristin hopper*

 **Watch the Video** [RCMP Seek Suspect in Fiery 'Gas Van' Crash](#)

In what is becoming a regular occurrence on the streets of Metro Vancouver, an unmarked van packed to the gunwales with black market gasoline burst into flames soon after a minor collision on Sunday. The surprise inferno came slightly more than one month after a similar black market gas van exploded in a residential area of Vancouver, badly burning the van's 19 and 25-year-old occupants. "There's a reason that people aren't allowed to transport large quantities of gasoline without special training or proper containers," Vancouver police Const. Brian Montague said on Monday. Among Vancouver officials, the gas-toting vans have earned the moniker of "mobile molotov cocktails." Last month, Vancouver deputy fire chief Steve Laleune told CTV News that the vans were akin to "a bomb that's ready to go off."

#### A bomb that's ready to Go Off

Although it is difficult to estimate the size and scope of Vancouver's gasoline black market, the process itself is pretty simple: Thieves gather up large collections of stolen or illegally manufactured credit cards and then use the cards at Vancouver-area gas stations to pump up to seven bathtubs' worth of fuel into panel vans jury-rigged with plastic containers meant to serve as makeshift gas tanks. Then, it is simply a matter of delivering the cut-rate fuel to a network of unscrupulous drivers and business owners. On Sunday, it was just after sunset at a Surrey, B.C., intersection when a mysterious white panel van collided with a pickup truck before quickly speeding off. The van made it only four blocks, however, before flames believed to have been ignited by the crash forced the driver to abandon the vehicle and flee on foot into the surrounding industrial area. On Oct. 7, a van driving through a quiet south Vancouver neighbourhood suddenly became completely engulfed by fire. The flaming van crashed into an SUV before slamming into a concrete wall. The two men operating the van slipped away as firefighters moved in to evacuate the surrounding area and extinguish the blazing vehicle, which emitted several explosions



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before it was finally brought under control. Nevertheless, the pair were quickly discovered when they checked into Eagle Ridge Hospital with "life-altering burns." Under the right conditions, it is commonly said that the vapour from one U.S. gallon (3.78 litres) of gasoline is commonly said to have the explosive power of more than 10 sticks of dynamite. And, with black market gas carriers carting around up to 1,800 litres at a time in poorly ventilated vehicles, a single spark could conceivably scorch entire blocks worth of unsuspecting houses. More alarming still: they could be anywhere. "It's fairly easy to disguise; most of these vans are modified in a way that, by looking at them from the outside you'd never know that it's been modified to carry large quantities of gasoline," said Const. Montague. In late October, the spectre of exploding vans made Vancouverites extra-suspicious to the sight of men filling their vans with inordinate amounts of gasoline. Twice in one week, vigilant bystanders tipped off police to men at Vancouver-area gas stations who were found to be holding collections of credit cards and driving vans stacked with plastic fuel tanks. While the incidents have seemingly outed Vancouver as a Canadian centre for the stolen gas racket, panel vans filled with recklessly large quantities of black market gasoline can be found in almost any major North American urban centre. Parts of Florida have witnessed a similar scheme since at least the 1990s and last year, police officers in the Bronx, New York, pulled over a van smelling strongly of gasoline and discovered it was carrying nearly 2,000 litres of fuel in makeshift plastic drums. "There's a market for gasoline; everybody needs it, everybody uses it and everybody desires it," said Const. Montague. "So if there's a way to make money from that, then thieves will find a way."

### Related Stories:

- [Thieves reselling stolen gasoline in Metro Vancouver](#)
- [Fiery van crash in Vancouver hospitalizes 2 men](#)

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/11/11/mobile-molotov-cocktails-another-van-full-of-stolen-gas-bursts-into-flames-after-minor-collision-in-vancouver/>

### USA, CO, LOVELAND, NOVEMBER 12 2013. TWO MEN INJURED IN LOVELAND FUEL TANK EXPLOSION

 **Watch the Video** [Fire official: Workers were Cutting or Welding Tank](#)



Two men were injured Monday afternoon when a fuel tank they were attempting to cut with a welding torch exploded, Loveland firefighters said. Two men were working on a 200-gallon metal tank in a workshop near Kauffman gravel pit, 808 S. County Road 9E, officials said. Shortly after 1 p.m., the tank exploded. It was not immediately clear whether there was fuel remaining in the tank, or if another cause was to blame. A fire started, but was quickly extinguished before firefighters arrived. One victim was driven to the hospital in a civilian vehicle. His condition was unknown. The other man, conscious but suffering from facial injuries, was taken to the hospital in an ambulance. An investigation was under way.

<http://kdvr.com/2013/11/11/two-men-injured-in-loveland-fuel-tank-explosion/>

### GHANA, TEMA, NOVEMBER 12 2013. TANKER DRIVERS CAUTIONED TO STOP SIPHONING FUEL FOR DISCHARGE AT FUEL STATIONS

The Tema Regional Officer of the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union, ICU, Eleazer Nyaunu has asked tanker drivers to stop siphoning fuel assigned to them for discharge at fuel stations. He said although there could be challenges, siphoning fuel is not the best way to address the situation. Citing the recent fire outbreak that occurred at the Tanker Bay around the Tema Heavy Industrial Area due to fuel siphoning, Mr Nyaunu said such practices only tend to destroy life and property. He was speaking at the inauguration and induction of an eight member union executive of the National Union of Tanker Drivers, an affiliate of the ICU. He urged tanker drivers to respect road signs and be cautious on the road to avoid accidents at all times. He noted that Unionism is about sacrifice, therefore they should always be prepared to sacrifice to address the concerns of members. The Chairman of the Association, Victor Agyimanku thanked members for the confidence reposed in them and promised to give off their best.

<http://www.gbcghana.com/index.php?id=1.1601737>



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### INDIA, UTTAR PRADESH, SADABAD, NOVEMBER 12 2013. COUPLE RUN OVER BY TANKER; LOCALS HOLD PROTEST

A couple was crushed to death by a tanker here leading to protests by locals in the Sadabad area, police said today. Ramveer (30) and his wife Laxmi Devi were returning on a cycle from a visit to the doctor yesterday when they were hit by the tanker. While Ramveer was killed on the spot his wife died during treatment, police added. Agitated by the incident, locals blocked the Sadabad-Agra road and even damaged some vehicles as they demanded compensation for the kin of the victims. The blockade was lifted after officials assured the protesters that they would look into the demand.

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/couple-run-over-by-tanker-locals-hold-protest-113111200681\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/couple-run-over-by-tanker-locals-hold-protest-113111200681_1.html)

### USA, GA, NORTH AUGUSTA, NOVEMBER 12 2013. FUEL TANKER SPILL CLOSURES PORTIONS OF U.S. HIGHWAY 25 IN NORTH AUGUSTA

meg mirshak

**Watch the Video's:**

- [Thousands of Gallons of Fuel Spilled, Highway Closed](#)
- [Overturned Tanker Truck Causes Mess in North Augusta](#)

**Photo's [4] Overturned Tanker Truck in North Augusta Leaking Fuel**



A portion of U.S. Highway 25 in North Augusta was closed Tuesday as crews continued to clean up an overturned fuel tanker. U.S. 25 between Edna Street and Ascauga Lake Road was closed about 11:30 a.m., said North Augusta Public Safety Sgt. Maurice Ransom. The exit 22 ramp on Interstate 520 was also closed. About 11:04 a.m., a fuel tanker truck overturned when the driver was turning left onto the Interstate 520 ramp near U.S. 25, Ransom said. An undetermined amount of fuel spilled from the overturned tanker, which had an 8,200-gallon capacity. Cleanup took several hours as crews transferred fuel remaining in the overturned tanker into an empty tanker, Ransom said. The driver was taken to Georgia Regents Medical Center with injuries that were not life-threatening.

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2013-11-12/fuel-tanker-spill-closes->

[portions-us-highway-25-north-augusta](#)

### USA, GA, LOGANVILLE, NOVEMBER 12 2013. GIRL POURS GASOLINE ON SLIDE TO MAKE IT MORE SLIPPERY FOR 2-YEAR-OLD SISTER

kiri blakeley

- Static Electricity Spark Ignited Gasoline



Horrific news out of Georgia. A 2-year-old girl lies in a medically induced coma with burns to 30 percent of her body thanks to [playing on a slide with her sister](#). It wasn't a slide that caused the burns, but what her 4-year-old sister poured on it -- gasoline. Reportedly, the little girl decided to put gasoline on the plastic slide to make it more slippery, and then static electricity sparked a fire, igniting the 2-year-old. Apparently the girls' 26-year-old father, Christopher Calhoun, was outside with them when he stepped inside for a moment and then heard screams. Reports say he grabbed his burning daughter and ran inside to stick her in the shower and then dialed 911. Pictures of the scene show the pink gasoline container. It's unclear where it was stored or how the little girl got it so fast and got it into her head to pour it on the slide. But kids will do all kinds of crazy things. For a parent, you are constantly aware that your kid could do something he or she has no idea is dangerous and in a moment everything could change. It's just constant worry. Think about all those kids we read about

who manage to start the family car and [drive it into homes or siblings](#). [3-Year-Old Killed in Fold-Out Couch While Playing With](#)



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**Sisters** You try to kid-proof and put things out of reach that they might get into -- but, honestly, which one of us would suspect that a toddler might take gasoline and pour it onto a slide? This would most likely have never crossed my mind. Police are reportedly treating the incident as an accident and not filing any charges. I imagine the dad must feel horrible enough already. There's only so much parents can do. You do the best you can. That's all you can do.

### Related Stories

- [More surgery planned for girl burned on slide](#)
- [Georgia child burned after gasoline poured on slide ignites](#)
- [Two children burned in separate gasoline-related accidents](#)
- [Toddler burned when gasoline on slide ignites](#)
- [2-Year-Old Catches Fire Going Down Slide Doused In Gasoline](#)
- [Walton County girl seriously burned in bizarre swing set accident](#)
- [2-year-old girl in coma after sliding board fire](#)

[http://thestir.cafemom.com/toddler/164022/girl\\_pours\\_gasoline\\_on\\_slide](http://thestir.cafemom.com/toddler/164022/girl_pours_gasoline_on_slide)

### USA, ALA, MOBILE COUNTY, NOVEMBER 13 2013. TANKER TRUCK SPILLS DIESEL FUEL ON I-10

 **Watch the Video** [Tanker Truck Spills Diesel Fuel on I-10](#)

About 6,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled after a tanker truck flipped in Mobile County. It happened around noon on Interstate 10 westbound at the McDonalds Road exit. No injuries were reported, but Hazmat was called to the scene.

[http://www.local15tv.com/shared/news/features/top-stories/stories/wpmi\\_tanker-truck-spills-diesel-fuel-i10-5696.shtml](http://www.local15tv.com/shared/news/features/top-stories/stories/wpmi_tanker-truck-spills-diesel-fuel-i10-5696.shtml)

### CANADA, B.C, LANGFORD, NOVEMBER 13 2013. CHUM SALMON 'WIPE OUT' BY 2011 GOLDSTREAM FUEL SPILL, FAIL TO RETURN TO SPAWN

rob shaw



*A fuel tanker is removed from Goldstream Provincial Park in this 2011 file photo. The spill has "wiped out" the chum salmon population, which failed to return to spawn this year.*

An entire batch of chum salmon hit by a 2011 fuel spill in Goldstream Provincial Park have been "wiped out" and failed to return to spawn this year, a local hatchery says. Three-year-old chum, which were directly affected as juveniles by the tanker truck crash and spill into Goldstream River, have not returned to the park this year to spawn because they likely died when the spill occurred, said Peter McCully of the Goldstream Hatchery. "We were hoping that a number of them had escaped the effects of it, but its not looking like that's the case," McCully said. "It looks like that cohort was pretty much wiped out." About

43,000 litres of gasoline and 700 litres of diesel was spilled into Goldstream park and the river in April 2011 when a Columbia Fuels tanker truck crashed into a rock wall and flipped on its side. "The three-year-olds would have been the ones most affected by the spill," McCully said. "Their brood would have come into the river in 2010, laid their eggs, and then when the little ones came up out of the gravel in 2011 just at the same time as the fuel spill, that's when they got whacked." After the spill, thousands of young chum were found dead in the river, foreshadowing the low numbers hatchery staff are now seeing return, he said. "Those of us who spent time in the river knew it was a really serious event at the time," McCully said. "It killed a lot of micro-organisms, the plankton, the algae, the whole food web was whacked." Despite the setback, the overall number of salmon spawning at Goldstream park this year is encouraging, he said. Chum salmon spend three to five years in the ocean before returning to spawn, and there are encouraging returns this year for four- and five-year-old chum salmon. There are also good numbers of coho in Goldstream and other South Island watersheds, McCully said. Coho salmon showed the effects of the fuel spill last year, when most of the tagged fish released before the spill didn't return, McCully said. The hatchery delayed the release of other juvenile cohos for two months after the spill, and those fish did fairly well. Last year was one of the best coho returns in a decade at the park. Columbia Fuels has spent more than \$2 million in cleanup efforts at Goldstream Park. The truck driver pleaded guilty in 2012 to dangerous driving and violating the Fisheries Act and received a three-month conditional sentence, with 200 hours of community service in fish conservation. The B.C. government continues to monitor remediation efforts at the park. Generally, there's little to no contamination in surface water, said Graham Knox, manager of



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the Ministry of Environment's environmental emergency program. However, the concentration in groundwater occasionally exceeds provincial standards, and there remains fuel north of the spill site, he said. "We don't think there's any impact on the fish or the critters," he said. "This is something in the soil."

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Chum+salmon+wiped+2011+Goldstream+fuel+spill+fail+return+spawn/9160644/story.html>

### USA, MA, HOPKINTON, NOVEMBER 13 2013. HOPKINTON FACILITY FINED FOR 2011 FUEL SPILL

State environmental regulators fined the New England Laborers' Training Academy \$7,250 for failing to report or quickly clean up 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel that spilled in 2011 at the East Street facility, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection announced Wednesday. MassDEP learned of the fuel spill on Sept. 21, 2011, after local firefighters told the state fuel had surfaced in the basement sump pump, causing fuel odors inside the training facility. Employees at the New England Laborers' Training Academy estimated 1,000 gallons of fuel were lost in April 2011 during an incident that was never reported to the state or cleaned up, according to a press release Wednesday from MassDEP. The academy's failure to notify officials and clean up the oil contaminated soil, groundwater and left an odor in the building five months later, DEP said. The academy has revised its policy for spills and for managing its materials, DEP said. It paid \$3,750 of the penalty the state. The remaining \$3,500 will go to the Hopkinton Fire Department to help buy emergency equipment, the release said. "New England Laborers' Training Academy has improved its business practices to prevent a recurrence of this chain of events, which cost the Academy significantly more than it would have to address the spill appropriately in the first place," said Lee Dillard Adams, the director of MassDEP's Worcester office, in the press release.

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x1783716916/Hopkinton-facility-fined-for-2011-fuel-spill>

### NEW ZEALAND, COROMANDEL, NOVEMBER 13 2013. REGIONAL COUNCIL RESPONDS TO PLEASURE BOAT SINKING >> STOPS FURTHER FUEL SPILLAGE

Waikato Regional Council emergency response staff are dealing with fuel coming from an 11-metre private pleasure vessel that sunk in Wyuna Bay on the Coromandel late yesterday afternoon. The response is aimed at stopping further spillage and minimising environmental impacts. Coromandel regional on-scene commander Brendan Morris said the spill did not appear to be major at this stage but staff are taking action to contain the spill, monitoring the situation closely and advising interested parties. "The local harbourmaster has deployed sorbent booms to soak up the sheen of fuel we can see on the water near the vessel," said Mr Morris. A rapid deployment boom is being sent to the scene to assist with containing the spill. "We are looking at ways of stopping the leak at the source and working with the owner to look at options for removing the fuel from the sunken vessel. "We are hoping this spill will be relatively minor and that it can be contained as much as possible within a small area," said Mr Morris.

<http://business.scoop.co.nz/2013/11/14/waikato-regional-council-responds-to-pleasure-boat-sinking/>

### USA, UT, COALVILLE, NOVEMBER 13 2013. TANKER FIRE SHUTS DOWN FREEWAY

*whitney evans,*

 **Watch the Video** [I-80 Shut Down after Tanker Fire](#)

A tanker fire near Echo Dam shut down all lanes on I-80 while crews extinguished the blaze Wednesday morning. At 6:09 a.m., the Utah Highway Patrol received a call of a tanker on fire near Echo Dam in Summit County. The fire began near the brakes on the first of two trailers the semi was towing, Utah Highway Patrol Cpl. Todd Johnson said. Crews were able to extinguish the fire before it reached the fuel. The tanker fuel did not leak. No other vehicles were involved in the fire, and there were no reported injuries. The fire initially shut down the freeway entirely. Eastbound lanes opened just before 7 a.m. Traffic headed west was originally rerouted to the Echo Canyon Highway. All lanes on the freeway were reopened by 9:50 a.m.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865590477/Tanker-fire-shuts-down-freeway.html>

### USA, ILL, BRIDGEVIEW, NOVEMBER 13, 2013. GAS TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS ON TRI-STATE TOLLWAY IN BRIDGEVIEW

A crash Wednesday morning in south suburban Bridgeview had hazmat crews responding. A tanker truck filled with gas toppled over near the on-ramp for the Tristate Tollway. It happened around 9 a.m. Traffic was detoured around the area while crews cleaned everything up and up-righted the truck.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=9324624>



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### USA, PA, TREVOSE, NOVEMBER 13 2013. FIRE CREWS WERE ON THE SCENE OF A TANKER CAUGHT ON FIRE IN TREVOSE, PA.

 **Watch the Video** [Tanker on Fire in Trevose](#)



The front cab of the tanker caught on fire on Wednesday at around 9:30am on Old Lincoln Highway & Rt. 1. Fire crews were dispatched to northbound route 1 near Street Road in Bensalem Township where a tanker truck on fire was carrying 7500 gallons of diesel fuel. The truck was pulled off the side of the road after the driver noticed smoke coming from the engine compartment. Firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire. Some flames did impinge upon the tanker but did not rupture the tanker. Two stores and a used car lot had been evacuated during the incident. Chief Battalion Ron Sponheimer said the fire was determined

to be accidental. No injuries were reported from this accident.

<http://www.myfoxphilly.com/story/23956311/tanker-on-fire-in-trevose1>

### SPAIN, MADRID, NOVEMBER 13 2013. CREW, OFFICIAL ACQUITTED OF CAUSING 2002 SPANISH OIL SPILL DISASTE

 **Watch the Video** [Captain Cleared of all Criminal Charges](#)



*Tens of thousands of people volunteered to help clean the beaches of the black mess.*

A judge yesterday acquitted crew members and a top maritime official of causing a massive oil spill from a tanker off Spain in 2002, one of Europe's worst environmental disasters. However, the Spanish court sentenced the 78-year-old Greek captain of the Prestige oil tanker to nine months in prison for resisting attempts to tow the wreck away from shore before it spilled its load, killing tens of thousands of seabirds. Eleven years to the day after the Prestige made its first distress call, the court ruled that neither Captain Apostolos Mangouras nor the Spanish maritime chief who ordered it out to sea were to blame for the vast oil slick that followed. When it broke in two after six days damaged and adrift, the Prestige spilled 63,000 tonnes of fuel oil into the sea, coating beaches in Spain, France and Portugal with black gunk. The disaster prompted 300,000 volunteers to come out to clean the

beaches. Yesterday's ruling cited new estimates for the scale of the damage: 1137 beaches and 2980 kilometres of shoreline polluted and between 115,000 and 230,000 seabirds killed. It put the cost of the disaster at more than 368 million euros (\$494 million) to the Spanish state, 145 million euros to the Spanish region of Galicia and 68 million euros to neighbouring France. Judge Juan Luis Pia of the Galicia high court said Mangouras and Greek chief engineer Nikolaos Argyropoulos were not responsible for the sinking of the Prestige, which had been declared seaworthy despite having structural damage. Despite being cleared of causing the wreck, Mangouras was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment on a charge of refusing an order to be towed out to sea as Spanish officials tried to lessen the potential environmental damage. Due to his age Mangouras will not go behind bars. He and "the crew of the Prestige should be absolved" of the charges of environmental crimes since they did not act intentionally nor with serious negligence, Pia said in his ruling. A fourth defendant, the ship's second officer Ireneo Maloto from the Philippines, is on the run. The court also absolved Jose Luis Lopez-Sors, the head of the Spanish merchant navy at the time, saying his initial decision to order the ship away from Spanish shores had been correct. The judge ruled that Lopez-Sors, "faced with an emergency and after a rigorous and capable technical assessment, made a decision that was debatable but partially effective, entirely logical and clearly prudent". The ship listed to starboard in the storm due to a "structural fault" that was unknown to the crew, the ruling said. "The structural fault originated solely in deficient maintenance and upkeep checks." During his trial Mangouras blamed the spill on the order to tow the ship out to sea after it sent a distress call due to a crack in its hull. Along with lawyers representing Mare Shipping, the company that ran the Prestige, the captain said that order caused it to break up and spill its load. "The ship was cracked and they sent it out into the ocean," Mangouras told the court in November 2012. "They sent us in a floating coffin ... to drown." The court heard months of testimony from more than 200 experts and witnesses in the trial that opened in October 2012. Spain's current conservative Prime Minister



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Mariano Rajoy was deputy premier at the time of the spill and initially downplayed the gravity of the accident. He repeatedly described the black spots that appeared in the sea where the tanker went down as "small threads of clay". Environmental groups and victims of the oil spill voiced anger at the outcome of the trial. "The sentence shows that in Spain we are not ready to judge an environmental catastrophe, neither to condemn it nor to defend the environment," said Greenpeace's campaigns director in Spain, Maria Jose Caballero, in a statement. The ruling "is truly disappointing", said a spokesman for Nunc Mais, a grouping of victims of the disaster, Xaquin Rubido. "It does not do justice to the conduct of Galician society and the thousands of volunteers who came out here to clean up our coast."

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/crew-official-acquitted-of-causing-spain-oil-disaster/story-e6frg6so-1226759642014>

### USA, ORE, TROUTDALE, NOVEMBER 13 2014. HAZMAT SCARE ON COLUMBIA RIVER HWY >> JACKKNIFED TRUCK CREATES HAZMAT SCARE ON HIGHWAY



A tanker truck jackknifed making a right turn onto the Historic Columbia River bridge Tuesday night, spilling chemicals that threatened the Sandy River near Troutdale, Ore. A tanker truck jackknifed making a right turn onto the Historic Columbia River bridge Tuesday night, spilling chemicals onto the roadway near Troutdale, Ore. The rear trailer caught the jersey barrier and knocked over when turning from nearby Jordon Road, said Sgt. Carey Kaer with the Troutdale Police Department. Both Jordon Road, or Crown Point Highway, and the E. Historic Columbia River Highway at the scene are being closed for crash response.

Gresham Fire is working to figure out what chemical is leaking. Kaer is describing it as "a small leak" -- but it's from a truck that he said does haul hazardous materials. "It's a mixture of chemicals," Kaer told KOIN 6 News. "[We] don't know what it is at this point." Shortly before 10 p.m. emergencies crews were called to a reported fire and hazardous materials incident in the 1200 block of E. Historic Columbia River Highway near Troutdale. The scene is described by dispatch as a Level 2 Hazmat incident. Crews from Gresham Fire, Troutdale Police, Corbett Fire and the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office are responding to the scene, according to the Bureau of Emergency Communications. The Oregon Department of Transportation also is involved for the road closures. ODOT is sending its hazmat unit as well, said Lt. Steve Alexander with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. Don Hamilton with ODOT said crews are concerned about a potential chemical spread to the nearby Sandy River. However, as of 10:30 p.m. Kaer said the spill had not yet reached the river. The incident began shortly before 9 p.m., with the report of a hazardous condition at that same location. At least 11 emergency vehicles were dispatched to this spot of the Columbia River Highway as of around 10 p.m.

<http://www.koin.com/news/oregon/hazmat-responds-to-columbia-river-hwy>

### USA, WA, HANFORD, NOVEMBER 14 2013. DOE LOOKS AT FLAMMABLE GAS ISSUE IN TANKS



*Workers are shown here at Hanford's C Tank Farm, where radioactive waste is being emptied from leak-prone underground tanks.*

The Department of Energy could know this spring whether a potential flammable gas issue will delay emptying the last two tanks required to meet a court-enforced consent decree deadline. DOE is required to have all 16 underground, single-shell tanks in the group called C Tank Farm emptied of radioactive waste before October 2014. However, in June, DOE notified the state of Washington that emptying the final two of the 16 tanks by that deadline was at serious risk because of the potential flammable gas issue. Six of the tanks still hold some radioactive waste from the past production of weapons plutonium at Hanford. The two tanks at issue have more waste to be removed than other remaining C Farm Tanks. Plans call for pumping it into two sturdier double-shell tanks where the waste will be stored until it can be treated for disposal. Pumping to remove

316,000 gallons of waste from Tank C-102 had been expected to begin about a year ago. But a Washington River Protection Solutions engineer raised the question of whether there might be a flammable gas issue that had not been previously considered, based on an incident in Denmark, said Tom Fletcher, DOE assistant manager of the Hanford tank farms. If the



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sludge gets too deep in one of the double-shell Hanford tanks, flammable gases might not gradually make their way to the head space of the tank and be cleared, as expected. Instead, gases could build up deep in the sludge and then rise in a single large bubble that would increase flammable gas to higher levels than considered safe, under the potential scenario. To empty all the C Tank Farm waste, the two double-shells being used would need to hold close to 300 inches of sludge. Initially, Hanford officials determined that they could only defend the safety of storing up to about 172 inches of sludge in a double-shell tank, a level that has since been raised to about 190 inches of sludge, depending on the tank. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is studying the issue and should determine this spring if piling sludge too deep poses a credible threat of an accident, Fletcher said. If it does not, Washington River Protection Solutions could move forward with emptying Tank C-102 and Tank C-105, which holds 132,000 gallons of waste. However, if it's determined that deep sludge poses the risk of a sudden release of flammable gas within the tank, DOE will prepare to empty the waste in the last of the C Farm tanks into a third double-shell tank. Preparing for the transfer of waste to a third tank would take too long to allow DOE to meet the consent decree deadline for emptying all C Farm tanks, Fletcher said. DOE also would seek an engineering fix to the problem, such as putting a mixing system into tanks that would have 300 inches of sludge to prevent a large bubble of flammable gas from forming.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/11/12/2888414/doe-looks-at-gas-issue.html>

### USA, AKA, UNALASKA, NOVEMBER 13 2013. ARCTIC HUNTER MAY HAVE LEAKED 6,000 GALLONS OF FUEL



Two weeks after the Arctic Hunter ran aground outside Unalaska, state officials are estimating that the boat has released up to 6,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the water. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is basing the estimate on reports from the crew of the crab boat. The crew reported that were carrying five loaded fuel tanks. Salvagers have inspected four of them. Some tanks only contained water, or traces of fuel. Jade Gamble, with the ADEC, says some were empty, like one that should have contained 3,500 gallons of diesel. "There's a hole in the tank, and ... they could hear water surging in with the waves," she says. Gamble says any lost fuel probably spilled in the first few

hours after the accident, and once it was released, the diesel dissipated quickly in rough seas. "It is harder to see than, like, a crude oil or engine oil or something like that. It doesn't make as thick a layer," she says. "And when it's real silty and real windy and you have waves crashing, it is really hard to identify what's a sheen and what might just be the surface of the water." While it is a pollutant, the diesel couldn't form a slick like the kind that can coat and harm wildlife. Gamble says the ADEC may never know exactly how much fuel was lost. But some was recovered: Resolve-Magone Marine Services separated 5,000 gallons of diesel out of a fuel-water mix they pumped out of the crab boat in the days after the accident. Salvage crews will be looking for fuel in the remaining tank when they return to the wreck late this week. They'll start trying to get the vessel off the rocks once fuel recovery is complete.

<http://kucb.org/news/article/arctic-hunter-may-have-leaked-6000-gallons-of-fuel/>

### USA, W.VA, DODDRIDGE CO, NOVEMBER 13 2013. WEST VIRGINIANS AT FRACKING SITES AT RISK FOR INJURIES FROM EXPLOSIONS

Those West Virginia residents that are present at fracking sites are subject to the risk of injury. In the summer of 2013 on an early Sunday morning, a [gas explosion](#) and fire at a northern West Virginia natural gas well burned five workers, two of whom eventually died from their injuries at only 37 and 45 years of age. The Hinterer 1H well at the Ruddy Alt pad in Doddridge County was under construction by Antero Resources, which had engaged three subcontractors for the work. Those hurt were contractor employees. Shale Reporter interviewed a high company representative, who said that the workers had been almost done with the new well when methane gas ignited, but the source of the ignition was as yet unknown. Both federal and state officials immediately began investigating the incident. According to the article, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration or OSHA, the federal agency responsible for enforcing workplace safety laws and regulations, has six months to complete its investigation. Hydraulic fracturing or [fracking](#) is the gas extraction method for which this well is designed. Fracking is a newer, controversial method of drilling for gas in the shale layer of earth by forcing water containing sand and chemicals into the shale to release the gas from resulting cracks. West Virginia sits over the Marcellus Shale, a massive, ancient sediment mass that stretches under the surface of seven states. Obviously, the business of drilling for gas is inherently



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dangerous because of the risk of burns and other injuries from explosion and fire, but officials are also concerned about workers being exposed to dangerous chemicals. In addition, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or CDC is concerned about high levels of silica dust at fracking sites. Silica can cause silicosis, a potentially fatal lung disease, as well as other dangerous diseases. In August 2013, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, known as DEP, lifted its ban on Antero's work at the site that had been in place since the accident, according to MetroNews, which also reported that Antero told the agency in a revised report that the incident had been caused by open hatches on wastewater tanks that had allowed a concentration of gas. DEP lifted the ban only under a number of safety precautions and other actions that Antero must take.

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/1582982>

**USA, ILL, ROCKFORD, NOVEMBER 14 2013. CSB RELEASES SAFETY VIDEO ON 2009 FATAL BLAST AT NDK CRYSTAL - ANIMATION DEPICTS STRESS CORROSION CRACKING; VESSELS WERE NOT INSPECTED OR TESTED**



**Watch the Video "Falling Through the Cracks"**



The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today released "[Falling through the Cracks](#)," a safety video on the [2009 explosion at NDK Crystal in Belvidere, Illinois](#), which fatally injured a truck driver at a nearby gas station. The video contains an animation which depicts the stress corrosion cracking that accumulated over time in the walls of the vessel where synthetic quartz crystals were manufactured under extremely high pressures and temperatures. The video was released simultaneously with the [CSB investigation report on the accident](#), set for consideration at a public meeting of the board in Rockford, Illinois, today, several miles from the NDK facility. CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "The video dramatically describes the important findings of the CSB investigation – pressure vessels did not meet code requirements, but

were granted an exemption; internal corrosion inspections were recommended but never performed; and finally a specific warning was made to the company by its insurer. But at every level, the risk of catastrophic vessel failure was overlooked and public safety, literally and figuratively, fell through the cracks." The video details CSB key findings and recommendations made by the board to prevent future accidents at NDK and to improve national pressure vessel codes and standards. The accident occurred December 7, 2009, with a violent rupture in the Number 2 vessel. A combination of animation and surveillance video shows how one piece of steel from the building was blown 650 feet, striking a truck driver who was walking back to his vehicle. Another piece – a vessel fragment weighing over 8,000 pounds -- tore through a wall at the facility, skipped across a neighboring parking lot and struck the wall of an automotive supply company where 70 people were working; but only one was injured. The video displays text of a direct warning by a third-party safety auditor called in by the NDK insurance carrier following an uncontrolled leak of hot, caustic material in January 2007 from the lid of another similar pressure vessel. The consultant concluded the accident resulted from the vessel's improper design, fabrication and material selection, determined four vessels were experiencing stress corrosion cracking, and advised against returning any of the facility's eight vessels into service, saying "far more catastrophic scenarios are possible," specifically naming danger of public death or injury at the gas station where the truck driver would be killed in 2009. But NDK never established an internal vessel inspection program and did not perform testing on the vessels before returning them to service. CSB lead investigator Johnnie Banks said, "The video shows how cracking on and near the inner diameter of the vessel fragment reduced the vessel material toughness, which eventually led to large flaws resulting in the catastrophic failure." CSB investigator Lucy Sciallo-Tyler added, "We hope operators in the chemical industry take away the clear message that warnings and near misses must be acted on immediately to prevent major accidents." CSB Safety Videos typically feature detailed animation sequences to depict the chemical processes and sequence of events that led to explosions, fires and releases causing injuries, deaths, damage and destruction of production facilities. They have received accolades from safety professionals around the world, who have told the CSB they use the videos in training, seminars, board presentations and other venues as object lessons in the consequences of



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inadequate process safety management. The videos have received numerous awards, the latest in November 2012 from TIVA, an organized of Washington, DC –based video professionals: "[Experimenting with Danger.](#)" on an academic laboratory explosion in Lubbock, Texas and "[Hot Work: Hidden Hazards](#)" received bronze Peer awards, while "[Iron in the Fire](#)" received a silver Peer award. CSB videos may be streamed and downloaded at [www.CSB.gov](http://www.CSB.gov) from the [CSB video room](#). They are also available on [www.YouTube.com/uscsb](http://www.YouTube.com/uscsb).  
[www.CSB.gov](http://www.CSB.gov).

### USA, LA, PLAQUEMINE, NOVEMBER 14 2013. BIODIESEL MAKER SENTENCED FOR SECOND POLLUTION VIOLATION

An Iberville biodiesel maker was sentenced Wednesday for dumping pollutants into a drainage canal behind his house. Tommy Francise, 58, was already on probation when he was arrested in September 2012 after investigators found places behind his home on Talbot Dr. where used cooking oil was discharged into the canal. The drainage canal was contaminated with grease and plants around the area were destroyed. Francise pled guilty to similar charges in March 2012, stemming from a 2010 incident. He was given three years of probation, \$5,200 in fines, and ordered to clean up the property in that case. In the most recent case, Francise was sentenced to two additional years of probation, ordered to reimburse the Department of Environmental Quality \$570, ordered to clean up the property and must cease storage and production of biodiesel at his home while on probation.

<http://www.bayoubuzz.com/louisiana-news/baton-rouge-news/item/551914-biodiesel-maker-sentenced-for-second-pollution-violation>

### USA, MI, DETROIT, NOVEMBER 15 2013. HAZMAT FIRE ON MT. ELLIOTT IN DETROIT FORCES EVACUATION

 **Watch the Video** [HAZMAT fire on Mt. Elliot in Detroit](#)

 **Photo's [15]** [HAZMAT fire on Mt. Elliot in Detroit](#)



A large commercial building caught on fire after an explosion around 1:30 p.m. on Thursday. The building had hazardous materials inside. Fox 2's Ron Savage spoke with investigators who were told by employees they were mixing two chemicals which caused a violent reaction that caused an explosion. All seven employees were able to get out of the building and no one was injured. The result of the fire was a potentially toxic plume of smoke that forced police and fire crews to evacuate a 300 meter radius around the fire. Fire officials called the fire a level 3 hazardous material situation at its peak. As of 4:30 p.m. the fire was downgraded to a level 1. The neighborhood is a mix of homes, small shops and warehouses. Savage reports at 6 p.m. some residents were allowed to return

home but some were still under evacuation. The building is located at 13271 Mt. Elliott in Detroit, which is south of McNichols, at the corner of Rupert Street. Video from SkyFox shows the name Chemical Technology on the side of the building. A Google search on that address returns the following business: Chemical Technology Adhesives and Coatings, <http://chemicaltechnologyinc.com/>

<http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/story/23971613/hazmat-fire-on-mt-elliott-in-detroit>

### USA, IA, DES MOINES, NOVEMBER 15 2013. EPA UNDERGROUND TANK OFFICIAL TO VISIT IOWA >> EPA UNDERGROUND TANK OFFICIAL TO VISIT IOWA

The EPA's director of underground storage tanks is coming to Iowa for the first time. Carolyn Hoskinson will speak Tuesday at the [Environmental Professionals of Iowa Fall Symposium](#). She will talk about the past 25 years of underground storage tank system regulation. Environmental and health issues caused by leaks from underground tanks storing petroleum and hazardous chemicals into groundwater prompted Congress to order the creation of the Office of Underground Storage Tanks in 1985. owners and operators of underground tanks containing petroleum products or hazardous chemicals are required to monitor tanks for leaks. The office works with states to prevent and clean up releases for underground tanks. The EPA plans to roll out new requirements for underground storage tanks soon, the first changes to the regulations in 25 years.

[http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/epa-underground-tank-official-to-visit-iowa/article\\_03d8b5c3-0d1f-50fc-8c13-95918cf8e804.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/epa-underground-tank-official-to-visit-iowa/article_03d8b5c3-0d1f-50fc-8c13-95918cf8e804.html)



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### **SOUTH AFRICA, NORTH CAPE, KIMBERLEY, NOVEMBER 15 2013. TWO HURT AS FUEL TANK EXPLODES**

Two men were seriously injured when a fuel tank they were working on exploded in Kimberley on Thursday, paramedics said. "The men were busy with some welding on a fuel tank when the heat caused it to explode," ER24 spokesman Christo Venter said in a statement. He said both men sustained second and third degree burns and one of them suffered a broken bone. They were taken to the Kimberley provincial hospital

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/northern-cape/two-hurt-as-fuel-tank-explodes-1.1607333>

### **USA, ILL, CHICAGO, NOVEMBER 15 2013. HUNDREDS OF UNDERGROUND TANKS LEAKING IN CHICAGO**

**On The Web** [The Leaking Underground Storage Tank Incident Tracking \("LIT"\) database](#)



*Leaking underground storage tanks that are scattered across Chicago and its suburbs may be leaving toxic patches of soil in neighborhoods around northern Illinois.*

Approximately 21,150 underground storage tanks (UST) are known to exist within city limits, according to data provided to NBC5 Investigates by the city of Chicago, and approximately 3,353 leaking tanks have been reported to Chicago's Department of Public Health as of last year. City officials estimate nearly 1,800 still require clean up. Cleanup is the responsibility of the property owner/operator and managed by the Illinois EPA. CDPH said it inspects sights following cleanup to ensure compliance. One known contaminated area sits on land designated for

a proposed school on Chicago's southeast side. The school would be used to [relieve overcrowding at Gallistel Academy](#) and Jane Addams Elementary. But the planned site at 104 and Indianapolis Avenue has been found to contain a small, but still significant reading of benzene, a known carcinogen, according to the Illinois EPA. "That will be a big question mark and a big concern for folks having their children come here and being exposed to that," said Jose Garza, the chair of the Local School Council for Gallistel Academy. A spokesperson for the Illinois EPA said the contamination at the proposed school site leaked from a 5,000 gallon gasoline tank. The city's Public Building Commission said, however, it is creating a comprehensive remediation plan to ensure the safety of everyone who uses the school. The plan will need to be approved by the Illinois EPA. The Chicago Department of Public Health permits and inspects all underground storage tanks under the supervision of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. "If it's a registered tank, it's got leak detection and leak prevention. So we will know about it," said Fred Schneller, the OSFM's division manager for petroleum and chemical safety. Leaking oil and gasoline can pollute water and streams. The OSFM said in some rare cases leaking tanks can cause explosions. The OSFM issues violation notices to owners of non-compliant USTs. A total of 7,448 violations were issued in the Chicago metropolitan area, excluding within Chicago city limits, since 2003. "Typically we get compliance in 60 days," Schneller said. But city and state statistics only include commercial underground storage tanks, similar to those under gas stations. It's not known how many residential tanks are buried under Chicago and its suburbs. Older heating oil tanks buried across the country do not require registration. "They were left behind by people who converted from heating oil to natural gas," said David Streich of Chicago Tank Removal. Streich said his business removes more than 400 storage tanks a year. He also collects soil for testing. "These tanks are 80 to a 100 years old and steel returns to its natural state, which is iron ore," Streich said. "They all corrode and so they will continue to leak." State law requires property owners to disclose their tanks before a potential sale. "They need to make it known because it does present the possibility for hazard and danger," said James Votaneck, president of the North Shore-Barrington Association of Realtors. The Illinois EPA keeps track of reported leaks in a database. Search by address to see a past or present violation and its status.

<http://www.csnchicago.com/article/hundreds-underground-tanks-leaking-chicago>

### **PHILIPPINES, ILOILO PROVINCE, ESTANCIA TOWN, NOVEMBER 15 2013. 150K LITERS OF BUNKER FUEL FROM YOLANDA-DAMAGED BARGE SPILLS OFF ILOILO COASTLINE**

Some 150,000 liters of bunker fuel leaked from a National Power Corp. barge damaged by Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) last week has contaminated the coastline of Estancia town in Iloilo province, the Philippine Coast Guard said Thursday. The Coast Guard said personnel of its Western Visayas unit are still trying to contain the spill. "About 200,000 liters of bunker fuel from NAPOCOR Power Barge 103 spilled at the shoreline of Barangay Botongon, Estancia, Iloilo, 150,000 liters of which have already washed ashore and contaminated about a kilometer stretch of Estancia's coastline and its infrastructures," it [said](#). It



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added the spill already reached barangays Paon and Tanza. Power barge manager Eutiquio Pagkalinawan confirmed some 200,000 liters of bunker oil spilled during a storm surge, and about 50,000 liters were still on the sea surface, the Coast Guard said. It said Power Barge 103 was said to be moored at the area when a storm surge hit and eroded Estancia Pier. The barge drifted to the rocky shoreline of Barangay Botongan and had its bottom hull damaged, leading to the spill. The barge's crew tried to contain the spill by deploying 100-meter spill booms and using a submersible pump, the Coast Guard said. Also, they sprayed oil dispersant along Botongan in Estancia. For its part, the Coast Guard Estancia Sub-Station set up oil spill booms as well after an ocular inspection showed oil seeping from the barge's bottom hull. A Coast Guard Western Visayas team went to Estancia with two dump trucks with 300-meter spill booms, a prime mover, two generator sets and one sprayer equipment set. <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/335533/news/regions/150k-liters-of-bunker-fuel-from-yolanda-damaged-barge-spills-off-iloilo-coastline>

### USA, TX, ELLIS COUNTY, MILFORD, NOVEMBER 15 2013. MILFORD PIPELINE FIRE MAY BURN FOR 36 HOURS >> ENTIRE TOWN EVACUATED AFTER EXPLOSION

frank heinz

 **Watch the Video's:**

-  [Natural Gas Pipeline Explodes in North Texas](#)
-  [Explosions on Pipeline Unnerve Texas Residents South of Dallas](#)
-  [Texas Gas Pipeline Fire Near Milford Sends Flames Shooting Above Field](#)
-  [Entire Texas Town Evacuated](#)

 **Photo's [8]** [Natural Gas Pipeline Explodes in North Texas](#)

 **Photo's [29]** [Pipeline Explodes in Texas](#)

 **Photo's [7]** [Entire Texas Town Evacuated](#)



*A drilling crew punctured a gas pipeline in Ellis County and triggered an explosion that led to the evacuation of the town of Milford on Thursday.*

The fire from an LPG pipeline explosion that triggered the evacuation of the town of Milford on Thursday is expected to burn well into Friday, Ellis County officials said. Officials said crews were excavating at the site at about 9:30 a.m. when a 10-inch liquid petroleum gas pipeline was punctured. Chevron, which owns the line, immediately evacuated its crew of five, who all escaped without injury. When the line exploded and caught fire, several vehicles and equipment parked at the site along Cosby Road were destroyed and burned. The explosion was so strong that students felt it rattle school buildings approximately one mile away.

"We were in the weight room, coming out, when we heard a big explosion," said Geraldo Yanez, an eighth-grader in the Milford Independent School District. "Then we started seeing smoke." "You could see the fire and then all the black smoke in the sky," senior Aryan Jordan said. "It was kind of close to the school -- very close." Chevron said in a statement at about 2:30 p.m. that the flow of product along that particular pipeline in the West Texas LPG system had been shut off, though the residual burn off continues. Officials said Thursday afternoon that it may take up to 36 hours for the line to burn out and to cap the line. By 4:30 p.m., seven hours after the explosion, the height of the flames coming from the pipeline was significantly reduced. But officials warn that a real threat exists and said they are watching a 14-inch pipeline near the pipeline that ruptured. There is concern that if the line gets too hot from the nearby fire, it may explode, too. Earlier in the day, firefighters from neighboring cities were called in to assist battling the fire, but officials decided it was safer to simply cut the supply of gas and let the contained fire burn out. There are no structures nearby that were either threatened or damaged by the explosion and fire. Within 15 minutes of the explosion, roughly 200 Milford ISD students were evacuated as a precaution and taken to the high school in nearby Italy, where they were released to their parents. "A lot of them were crying, asking questions, just wanting to know what was going on," said Konnecha Houston, a Milford ISD staff member. The school district has canceled classes for Friday, and a playoff game scheduled for Friday night for the school's [district champion, six-man football team](#) remains up in the air. Ellis County Sheriff's Lt. James Saulter said the town's 800 residents were also evacuated. He did not know as of Thursday afternoon how long the evacuation order would remain in effect. The Red Cross said it expects to house about 150 evacuees at Italy High School's Dome overnight. County officials said the area has been roadblocked and that law



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### Release 2013 – 1,020 Newsy Stuff

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**November 23 2013**



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enforcement would remain to keep the area secure. Residents will not be escorted to homes, even for medicine. The Texas Department of Transportation is detouring traffic to Interstate 35E and closing several roads in the area. Drivers are urged to find alternative routes and to plan for delays. The following roads are closed:

- Farm-to-Market Road 308 in Milford: Closed from state Highway 22 in Hill County to U.S. 77 in Ellis County.
- U.S. 77 in Milford: Closed in the immediate area of the explosion.
- Interstate 35E exit ramps to Milford are closed.
- Farm-to-Market Road Road 566: Closed from I-35E to U.S. 77 in Milford.

Shortly after the blast was reported, Chopper 5 was dispatched to the scene. Once airborne, a massive plume of smoke was visible stretching across the horizon from about 40 miles away. From 20 miles away, flames shooting into the air were clearly visible, according to Chopper 5 photojournalist Ames Meyer. The Texas Railroad Commission said an inspector has been dispatched to the area, but that the pipeline is a federally regulated interstate pipeline. It falls under the jurisdiction of the Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, which sent representatives to the scene. Emergency response personnel with the Environmental Protection Agency are assisting with the response efforts to determine environmental effects of the explosion and provide additional support as requested. Additionally, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is monitoring air quality. The Ellis County Fire Marshal's Office said it was not aware of any previous incidents at the site. Since 2006, the Chevron Pipeline Company has reported 55 hazardous liquid pipeline incidents to the PHMSA that resulted in more than \$108 million in property damage. However, they have had no reported injuries or deaths in that time period. According to the PHMSA, Chevron has 1,955 miles of pipeline across dozens of counties in Texas. Milford is a small town along Interstate 35E, northeast of Hillsboro in southern Ellis County. It is about 50 miles south of Dallas.

• **Related Stories** [Chevron Reported Dozens of Gas Line Ruptures since 2006](http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Pipeline-Explodes-in-Milford-Roads-Closed-231911591.html)

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Pipeline-Explodes-in-Milford-Roads-Closed-231911591.html>

## INDIA, JHARKAND, JAMSHEDPUR, NOVEMBER 15 2013. GAS CHAMBER EXPLODES AT TATA'S JAMSHEDPUR PLANT, 11 INJURED

- Lactic Ddehydrogenase (LD) Gas Tank Exploded
- At Least 12 Employees & Contractors Injured, 2 Seriously
- Fire Breaks Out in Adjoining Gas Pipeline



*One of the seriously injured employees has been shifted to the critical care unit of the Tata Main Hospital, company sources say.*

Eleven workers at Tata Steel's plant at Jamshedpur, West Singhbhum, were injured when a gas-holding chamber exploded on Thursday evening. District officials said the chamber was 55 meters in diameter and 70 meters in height and splinters from its metal roof caused the injuries. "The LD-2 chamber that had a mix of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen exploded and the loud sound caused a panic among workers. A fire broke out and was extinguished. Of 11 who were injured, 10 have splinter injuries and one worker may have inhaled the gases. I have ordered an inquiry," said West Singhbhum District Collector Amitabh Kaushal, who visited those undergoing treatment at Tata Memorial Hospital. The District Deputy Labour Commissioner and Deputy Chief Inspector

of Factories visited the factory site. "The explosion may have been caused by a short-circuit. We are still inquiring into the causes. There were no workers in the same area as the chamber but there were several working nearby," said A.K. Mishra, Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories. According to Mr. Mishra, there had been no accidents at the plant in recent years. "Everything is under control now and the area has been isolated. The plant is operational. Ten workers have minor injuries and one is critical and is under treatment," said Prabhat Sharma, Tata Steel Head, Corporate Affairs. Tata Steel's 10-million-tonne plant at Jamshedpur is one of the largest in the country. "Tata Steel has a better record at maintaining at its equipment and factories than most companies in the country. The company holds regular training sessions for its labourers as well. The holder caught fire and exploded. If this had been an instance of gas leak, this could have become a second gas tragedy like Bhopal. It needs to be looked into whether maintenance was as per requirements or not," said Samit Carr, an activist with the Occupational Safety and Health Association of Jharkhand.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/11-injured-in-tata-steel-factory-explosion/article5351439.ece>



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### USA, W.VA, FAYETTEVILLE, NOVEMBER 15 2013. DEP FILES SUIT AGAINST FAYETTE CO. COMPANY

An owner of an underground tank is being sued over claims of statutory violations. Scott G. Mandirola, director of Division of Water and Waste Management, and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection filed a lawsuit Nov. 1 in the Circuit Court of Fayette County against Walt's Betterway Ltd., citing statutory and legislative violations and public nuisance. The plaintiffs contend the defendant has underground storage tanks in Meadow Bridge. On Sept. 24, 2009, and Sept. 7, 2010, the West Virginia DEP issued a notice of violation to the defendant for failing to pay underground storage tank registration fees. The fees are currently outstanding in the amount of \$2,925, according to the complaint. The plaintiffs contend that on April 18, 2012, inspections of the storage tanks revealed code violations, including having underground tanks that were susceptible to leaking. The complaint states the defendant has failed to respond to any notices and has taken no action. The plaintiffs are seeking injunctive relief, payment for past due fees, civil penalties, proper treatment of the underground tanks and other damages the court deems appropriate. The plaintiffs are being represented in the case by Jason Wandling of the West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection Office of Legal Services in Charleston. Circuit Court of Fayette County Case No. 13-C-289  
<http://wvrecord.com/news/264025-dep-files-suit-against-fayette-co-company>

### USA, IN, WARSAW, NOVEMBER 15 2013. TANKER TRUCK ACCIDENT LEAKING FUEL

 **Watch the Video** [Tanker Truck Accident Leaking Fuel](#)

 **Photo's [5]** [Tanker Truck Accident Leaking Fuel](#)



*A tanker truck slammed into a pole just in front of Meijer just before 10:30 a.m. this morning.*

At 10:30 a.m. emergency personnel were called to respond to reports of a tanker truck that had crashed in the eastbound lanes of U.S. 30 in front of Meijer. According to Warsaw Police Department Public Information Officer Lt. Kip Shuter, the accident involved a tanker truck and a semi. Shuter stated that the accident occurred after the tanker truck, which was driven by Mark Burgess, 41, of Hebron, Ind., followed too closely to a semi truck in front of him. Burgess was unable to see the traffic light change to red due to his proximity, and swerved in an attempt to avoid a collision. Burgess struck the back of the trailer of the semi, driven by Sandy Brantley, 37, of Valdosta, Ga., and then collided head on into a nearby traffic light pole just in front of Meijer. Burgess was extricated by Warsaw-

Wayne Township Fire Territory firefighters and the collision caused fuel to leak from his vehicle. Kosciusko County Emergency Manager Director Ed Rock was called to the scene due to the hazardous material involved. Shuter stated Burgess was transported to Kosciusko Community Hospital in stable condition for non-life-threatening injuries. Warsaw Police Department, Indiana State Police, Warsaw-Wayne Fire Territory and the Winona Lake Fire Department responded to the scene. Traffic has reopened at this time, however, officials are expected to be on scene for some time due to clean up efforts involving the damaged traffic light. Damages are estimated to total over \$100,000.

<http://www.staceypageonline.com/2013/11/14/breaking-tanker-truck-accident-leaking-fuel/>

### USA, CA, HACIENDA HEIGHTS, NOVEMBER 15 2013. TRUCK FIRE I EXPECTED TO CLOSE EAST 60 FOR HOURS

 **Watch the Video** [Cylinders of Liquid Hydrogen involved in Truck Fire](#)

Fire and HazMat crews are on the scene of a fire involving a truck hauling cylinders of liquid hydrogen on the 60 Freeway. California Highway Patrol Officer Patrick Kimball said no injuries have been reported as a result of the fire on the eastbound Pomona Freeway, first reported at 2:48 p.m. Thursday. As of 6 p.m., CHP estimated both eastbound and westbound lanes would remain closed for another two-and-a-half to three hours. Los Angeles County Fire Department Inspector Scott Miller confirmed the truck was hauling compressed hydrogen. Fire crews are dousing the truck's tanks from a distance. Traffic has been diverted on both sides of the freeway. The westbound closure begins at Azusa Avenue. The eastbound lanes are being diverted to the 605 Freeway. CHP spokesperson Jeremy Entolen told CBS2's Amy Johnson the substance on the truck needed time to cool before traffic could move safely through. "We just want to make sure there's no potential explosion hazard," he said. "We don't release raw substance into the atmosphere." The truck driver told authorities she heard a loud sound, noticed the fire and called 911. The cause of the fire remains unknown.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2013/11/14/hazmat-crews-respond-to-big-rig-fire-on-sr-60/>



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