



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 1,024 Newsy Stuff

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December 06 2013



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USA, ARK, MAYFLOWER, NOVEMBER 26 2013. A NEIGHBORHOOD SHATTERED: FAMILIES EMPTYING OUT OF OIL-HIT ARKANSAS TOWN

sam eiffing & zahra hirji

 **Watch the Video** [shattered by Oil: Exxon Arkansas Spill and the People Left Behind, Pt. 1](#)

 **Slideshow** [6 Things Exxon Likely Knew About Its Pegasus Pipeline Before It Ruptured](#)



The Northwoods neighborhood in Mayflower is filled with "For Sale" signs eight months after a pipeline burst and flooded backyards, driveways and streets with oil and tarry residue.

Half the families in the 62-home subdivision that bore the brunt of Exxon's spill are leaving their homes in search of a fresh start they never wanted. American property owners battling to stop energy companies from snaking oil pipelines across their lands need only look to [Mayflower, Ark.](#) for a window into what can go wrong when pipelines burst in backyards. Eight months after an ExxonMobil pipeline leaked Canadian oil across an Arkansas subdivision, a cloud of uncertainty looms large over the young families, singles and retirees who chose the affordable, decade-old Northwoods neighborhood to establish roots. Nearly half of them have put their houses up for sale in search of a fresh start they never wanted. "The area is blanketed with 'For Sale' signs," said April Lane, a community health advocate who has worked with the spill

victims. Twenty-nine of the development's 62 homes have either been sold to Exxon under its buy-out program or are on the open market. Some people were forced to sell because oil settled in their homes' foundations, where removing it is nearly impossible. Others chose to leave because of fears about potential health effects and the marketability of their properties. Those who are staying aren't necessarily doing so by choice: Many don't have enough equity to afford a down payment on a new home in another suburb, according to local real estate brokers. The upheaval has torn at the fabric of the once tight-knit central Arkansas neighborhood, where barbecues were regularly held and neighbors watched after each other's kids, who played in Northwoods' three cul-de-sacs and five streets. Ryan Senia, a 30-year-old bachelor who bought his Northwoods home in 2009, said it was either sell to Exxon now or risk "holding onto that thing forever." "It's like selling a salvaged car—nobody wants to buy it." Indeed, only Exxon is buying in Mayflower, casting a pall over real estate prospects across the town of 2,200. The company has purchased 20 of the 29 homes for sale in Northwoods—three of which Exxon demolished after a soil assessment revealed oil in the foundations. As far as the remaining nine, "it's going to be really, really difficult to sell those houses," said Jerry Hill, a broker with [ERA Henley Real Estate](#) in nearby Conway, who has been trying to sell one of the Northwoods homes for three months. "Selling them is almost impossible at this point in time," she said. "We're in an ambiguous situation that's never happened before," said Glen Rega, an agent at the real estate company Crye-Leike who represents two sellers in Northwoods. But that is no reason for pessimism, he said. "I'm sure once the first buyer goes in there and doesn't have any issues, then more will see the value that's there."

Before & After

The subdivision was thrust into this position on March 29, when 5,000 barrels of oil spewed out of Exxon's 65-year-old Pegasus pipeline. Twenty-two homes were evacuated, almost one-third of the Northwoods development. The leaked oil was from Alberta's tar sands region, similar to [the diluted bitumen \(dilbit\)](#) that would flow through the [controversial Keystone XL project](#), if it's built. Dilbit has been shown to be more difficult to clean up than conventional oil—but it wasn't on the radar of most Northwoods residents. Few if any even knew that an oil pipeline was buried under their lawns. Before the accident, Northwoods was a typical pleasant middle-class subdivision—two-story brick homes, quarter-acre lots, big garages, wooden fences and crew-cut grass. The first home in the neighborhood was built in 2003. In real estate terms, homeowners got more house for considerably less money than in a suburb closer to Little Rock, 20 miles away. And since most people weren't planning on moving for many years, they also got the hope of rising home values and resale values, and financial security. Northwoods "had beautiful resale value before [the oil spill]—one of the only areas in Mayflower with nice, new homes like that," said Kim Burks, a Crye-Leike agent who represents a Northwoods seller. While most people came to Northwoods with plans to stay for life, seven homes were put back on the market in the last few years before the spill. They all sold within three months for prices ranging from \$115,000 to \$189,000. ExxonMobil bought the 20 houses for their pre-spill values of between \$140,000 and \$195,000. The nine houses on the market are within \$10,000 of those amounts. Whether and when those will



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sell—and for how much—is anyone's guess. There's no historical data about how pipeline spills affect home values and housing markets, because most crude oil pipelines run through rural or undeveloped areas. Angela Hill, the assessor of Faulkner County, where Mayflower is located, said the county hasn't reduced its assessed values of Northwoods properties. "It's a tough one because there's not a whole lot for us to look at where it's happened before," Hill said. "There are lots of spills out there, but not in residential neighborhoods." The closest example is the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in July 2010. The spill didn't foul properties, but it did soil thousands of miles of coastline and affect beachfront property values and occupancy rates in Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida. According to Alicia Hollis, a condo realtor in Okaloosa Island, Fla., nearly three-quarters of her properties lay empty immediately following the oil disaster. "People canceled in droves," she said. Those who rented were paying 20 percent less than before. It took about three years for most rental prices to rebound, she said, and some properties values never recovered in part due to the economic downturn. Hill in Faulkner County said it's too early to predict how Mayflower's real estate market will pay out. Yet there are reasons for concern. Home mortgage lenders would be reluctant to issue loans for Northwoods properties, due both to the uncertainty from the oil contamination and the lawsuits filed by homeowners against Exxon, according to Doris Watkins, a loan originator at First Security Bank in Conway. The owners of 19 Northwoods properties are involved in about a half-dozen "joinder" suits seeking compensation for damages from Exxon and its contractors. Properties with that much baggage typically don't appeal to investors in secondary markets who buy up mortgages. If you want to buy in Mayflower, Watkins cautioned, bring cash—though any home tied up in a lawsuit would have to be sold without "clear title." Meaning, the home wouldn't be recognized as debt-free, a big turn-off for buyers. "If I had [a house] there, I'd probably take the Exxon deal and get out," Watkins said. Under Exxon's deal, called the [Property Purchase and Price Protection Program](#), the company offered to buy any home in Northwoods at its pre-spill value. If a home was among the 22 that were evacuated and its owners wanted to sell, then Exxon would immediately buy it. If a home was among the 40 outside the zone, the owner would have to put it on the market for 120 days before seeking a deal with Exxon. For anyone wanting to remain in the neighborhood, Exxon would provide "a one-time payment for potential loss of property value," according to the documents the company sent to residents in May. The program also provides closing costs and moving allowances, aid to tenants and help marketing homes. The offer expires in May 2016. So far, Exxon has purchased 14 of the evacuated homes and six other Northwoods homes. "ExxonMobil will maintain and market the properties it purchases in a manner that will be considerate of the value of the neighboring properties and the rest of the subdivision," said Exxon spokesman Aaron Stryk. Some residents who were forced out have moved back in. Lane, the community advocate, believes they and others may soon join the exodus. "I don't think necessarily that those people are intending on staying long-term. ... They are probably waiting to see what their neighbors homes who are listed sell for." Ryan Senia, whose home was evacuated and is now living in a suburb of Washington D.C., felt he didn't have much of a choice but to sell to Exxon. After the spill, he would visit his home and watch workers wearing masks and gloves dig up his oil-filled lawn, cart away contaminated soil, backfill it and test for oil. Senia's property was approved for re-entry in May. "Oil isn't observable when driving past in your car," he said. "The soil still has small amounts of oil which can sometimes be seen after rain storms. ... I would not want to live there." County records show that Exxon paid him \$165,000 for his 1,800 square-foot house, with its 500-square-foot garage. "If there's not a severe discount on any of these properties, why buy it?" Senia asked. "People who live on the pipeline ... can they sell their house? Only time's going to tell. In my mind, a lot of people are going to say, 'There's no way in hell I'd touch that.' But I could be wrong."

'I Don't Think It's Safe'

By September, all but three of the 22 evacuated homes were labeled safe for return by the Unified Command, which responded to the spill and includes Exxon, the Arkansas Department of Health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Faulkner County and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Tests conducted by the state DEQ found oil deep in the foundation of those three houses. The owners sold them to Exxon, which the company demolished. It was "an effective and efficient way to ensure that all of the remaining oil has been removed," said Stryk, the Exxon spokesman. Lane said the demolitions have driven people out. "There have been some families who have flat-out said 'I am not coming back. I don't think it's safe. We are just going to find another place to live.'" While little is known about health risks to people who live near oil spill sites, crude oil contains small amounts of heavy metals that stay with the oil as it seeps into the ground. The compounds, which include mercury, manganese, nickel and chromium, are toxic at high doses. Some, like arsenic and lead, can damage the nervous system even at relatively low doses. Since September, the [state Department of Health has been offering free health consultations](#) anyone in the Mayflower area. Those results have not yet been released. The effects go beyond the physical. William Mason, a physician with the department, said there is concern that people who lived in Northwoods at the



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time of the spill could develop post-traumatic stress disorder. He said the free consultation includes a mental health screening. "When these people were evacuated, it was done rapidly," Mason said. "They had to leave everything behind, figure out where their children were going to go to school. 'Am I safe? Can I go back and get my belongings?' I think there will be some of that element that will occur." Wilma Subra, an environmental consultant who has spent decades working with communities hit by chemical accidents, said that no matter how thorough the physical cleanup may be, the affected residents often suffer psychologically, and many neighborly relationships are lost. Subra works extensively with people impacted by the BP Gulf spill. "Even if you're able to rebuild a community, some of those neighbors will never come back, and they may be the aunts and cousins who gave you a ride to the doctor or who watched your children," Subra said. "That support network is often ripped apart ... It's a tremendously stressful situation, and there is definitely a need for mental health counseling." Subra visited Mayflower in April. She said she is especially concerned for people who live outside the evacuated Northwoods section, and who have experienced respiratory problems, skin rashes, nausea or cardiovascular issues—classic symptoms of exposure to the chemicals found in crude oil, according to Subra. There is a fear that residents may not be compensated by Exxon if their health issues persist, because so little is known about how mixtures of heavy metals break down and change in the environment over time and affect people. "I think it's clear their problems have been caused by the spill," Subra said. "But I can't say their cases would be a slam dunk. I think Exxon would fight them." Bruce Selcraig contributed to this report. This story is part of a joint investigative project by InsideClimate News and the Arkansas Times. Funding for the project comes from readers who donated to an ioby.org crowdfunding campaign that raised nearly \$27,000 and from the Fund for Investigative Journalism.

Related Stories

- [Dilbit in Exxon's Pegasus May Have Contributed to Pipeline's Rupture](#)
- [Full Extent of Heavy Metal Contamination in Exxon Oil Spill Still Unknown](#)
- [Inside the Exxon Arkansas Spill, ICN's Expert Coverage From March 2013 - Present](#)

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20131125/neighborhood-shattered-families-emptying-out-oil-hit-arkansas-town>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, CLOVERLEA, NOVEMBER 27 2013. FATHER, SON AND WORKER KNOCKED OUT BY FARM TANK FUMES IN CLOVERLEA

mark buttler, anthony downsley

Watch the Video's:

- [Father, Son & Worker Knocked Out by Farm Tank Fumes in Cloverlea](#)
- [Father & Sons Fight for Life after Tank Accident at Dairy Farm near Warragul](#)



The horrific scene at the Coster family farm in Cloverlea.

A father and son are fighting for life after becoming trapped in a farm tank in Victoria's east. The Herald Sun understands 48-year-old Simon Coster entered the tank to clean it with ammonia and was overcome by toxic fumes. His son then entered the tank to save him and was also overcome. A worker also attempted a rescue before he succumbed to the fumes, calling another son who, with other workers, cut a hole in the side of the silo. It is believed they pulled the father and brother from the silo and the fellow worker from the tank. Emergency crews raced to the Coster's dairy farm at Cloverlea, near Warragul in the LaTrobe Valley, on Wednesday afternoon. The three

emergency workers and further three farm workers were taken to Warragul Hospital. Although it has not been confirmed, there are examples of tanks filled with decaying molasses becoming death traps when exposed to moisture and heat, emitting deadly hydrogen sulfide. Ambulance Victoria says it has treated eight patients, with at least one person believed to be in a critical condition. Two people were flown to the Royal Melbourne hospital in a critical condition. Another man is in a critical condition in The Alfred hospital. The farm is owned by 78-year-old Robert Coster and his wife Joan, a neighbour said. They are overseas on holiday and son Simon and his wife Cheryl were running the farm in their absence. "It's rocked the community" the neighbour said. "We are all very close and for this to happen is just tragic. "We are praying everyone makes a full recovery. "We've seen the ambulance and helicopters flying over right through the afternoon." Cloverlea residents said the Coster family had owned the farm for generations. "We've grown up with this family and it's just a tragedy," a resident said. "There have been generations on this farm. "They're working with their dad. It's a very big tragedy for a community this small."

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- [Father and sons critical after tank rescue](#)
- [Three critical after breathing fumes while cleaning farm's water tank](#)
- [Three critical after Vic tank accident](#)
- [Three critical after falling sick in water tank](#)
- [Two fight for life after dairy accident](#)
- [Dairy farm accident leaves three critical](#)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/father-son-and-worker-knocked-out-by-farm-tank-fumes-in-cloverlea/story-fni0fit3-1226769657073>

SOUTH KOREA, YONHAP, NOVEMBER 27 2013. AUDI DEALER IN TIGHT SPOT OVER VEHICLE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP >> CLAIMS THAT BENZENE, TOLUENE AND XYLENE -- COULD BE RELEASED FROM THE WORKSHOP

Nov. 26 () - A dealer of Audi Korea is in a tight spot over its plan to build a large workshop in southern Seoul, officials said Tuesday, as residents pressed the company to drop the plan. Webon Motors, one of the official dealers of Audi Korea, announced a plan to build a vehicle maintenance workshop as well as a showroom in Naegok-dong on the southern edge of Seoul by next year. The plan prompted an angry reaction from residents near the site of the proposed workshop, citing possible health and environmental risks associated with the workshop. Residents claimed that carcinogenic chemicals -- benzene, toluene and xylene -- could be released from the workshop, which they claim could pose health risks to people. Still, a Webon Motors official insisted that the workshop would not pose health risks to residents. He asked not to be identified, citing policy. Human exposure to benzene has been associated with a range of acute and long-term adverse health effects and diseases, including cancer and aplastic anaemia, according to the World Health Organization. On Monday, about 100 people who plan to live in an apartment complex being built near the proposed site of the workshop pressed the local authorities to cancel their permit for the vehicle maintenance workshop. They threatened to stage a boycott of Audi cars by mobilizing every means they have unless the company halts its plan to build the vehicle maintenance workshop. Webon Motors said it will not drop the plan.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/business/2013/11/26/46/0501000000AEN20131126004200320F.html>

USA, IA, DES MOINES, NOVEMBER 27 2013. CLEANUP CONTINUES IN MISSISSIPPI SPILL

david pitt

 **Watch the Video**

- [Towboat Sinks in Mississippi River](#)
- [Towboat Carrying 89,000 Gallons of Fuel Sinks on Mississippi River](#)



Officials inspect the towboat Stephen L. Colby Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2013 which sank Monday on the Mississippi River waterfront in LeClaire, Iowa, after striking a submerged object.

Officials were assessing the environmental damage Tuesday after a towboat carrying 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel and oil sank in the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa, closing the river to barge traffic. Members of the U.S. Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other organizations do not yet know what the towboat struck before it began sinking around 4:30 p.m. Monday. Nine crew members escaped. The river cannot be reopened to traffic until the cause of the accident is determined and safe navigation is ensured, Lt. j.g. Colin Fogerty, a Coast Guard spokesman, said in a phone interview from LeClaire. The boat is still leaking diesel fuel and oil, and the smell of diesel fuel lingers, though air monitors show it's safe to



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breathe in the area, Fogerty said. "It's anyone's best guess how much oil has actually leaked into the water," he said, adding that booms appeared to be containing and collecting 90 percent of what's been spilled. "That being said, right now we're dealing with hundreds of gallons as opposed to thousands of gallons." Officials are developing a plan to raise the boat, named the Stephen L. Colby, which is stranded in about 14 feet of water and pushed up against the riverbank. The upper portion of the boat's superstructure is still visible. The boat was built in 1967 and is 154 feet long and 40 feet wide. It is owned by Paducah, Ky.-based Marquette Transportation Co. A spokeswoman declined to comment. Mississippi River barge traffic begins to slow this time of year once the bulk of the Midwest harvest is finished, but traffic continues to move, so opening the river is a priority. Three towboats with 40 barges are waiting to pass, Fogerty said, with one barge the equivalent of about 58 semitrucks worth of cargo. "We don't know when we'll find out what caused it. We could find out instantly or it may be a longer, drawn-out investigation," he said. "At this point we have to do a sonar survey to see exactly what caused this vessel to go down." Fogerty said the river flow at Le Claire is slow this time of year, helping to minimize the water forcing its way into the boat and pushing petroleum products out. Divers closed many of the vents and other openings Monday night to slow the leak, he said. About 3,000 feet of absorbent booms encircle the spilled fuel and oil, and will be replaced as soon as they soak up the petroleum products, he said. A civilian salvage contractor and an oil spill removal group were sending crews for the cleanup and to begin developing a strategy for raising the vessel, Fogerty said. No fish kill is evident, but representatives of the EPA and Fish and the Wildlife Service were en route Tuesday to assess the environmental impact. Capt. Byron Black, the Coast Guard sector commander for the Upper Mississippi River, which includes 11 states, was on his way from St. Louis on Tuesday to assess the situation and determine when it will be safe to reopen the river channel.

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/nation_world/20131127_Cleanup_continues_in_Mississippi_spill.html

USA, N.D, MINOT, NOVEMBER 27 2013. CLEANUP AT OIL SPILL TO INCLUDE WELL SITE

jill schramm

Cleanup is scheduled at a former oil-well pad and reserve pit encountered while containing the Tesoro oil spill near Tioga earlier this fall, according to the North Dakota Health Department. The old well site had been operated by Hess Corp. The company issued a statement noting that it has been investigating since learning of the discovery of an abandoned well site. The company reported it is working closely with state officials to take appropriate action. Kris Roberts, an environmental geologist with the North Dakota Health Department, said the well pad and reserve pit were discovered during the process of putting a containment wall around the oil spill. A pipeline rupture in September spilled more than 20,000 barrels of oil across several acres of farmland near Tioga. Roberts said the removal of residual contaminants from the old well site will take place once Tesoro begins active soil remediation. The old reserve pit contains oil and oil-field debris that was commonly generated during petroleum activity in the 1950s and 1960s, he said. Environmental rules for closure of sites were less stringent at that time. Roberts said there are more than 8,000 former well sites around western North Dakota. He said the health department orders cleanup if a dormant well rises to its attention, as happened when the oil spill near Tioga intersected with the old Hess site.

<http://www.minotdailynews.com/page/content.detail/id/590070/Cleanup-at-oil-spill-to-include-well-site.html?nav=5010>

USA, WI, SHULLSBURG, NOVEMBER 27 2013. HAZMAT CLEANUP TAKES HOURS AFTER DEADLY WISCONSIN CRASH OF AMMONIA TRUCK

A crash between a semi truck loaded with ammonia and a tow truck Monday on Highway 11 in rural Shullsburg killed one driver and sent Hazmat teams scrambling to contain the toxic cargo. The cleanup lasted into Tuesday morning, and the highway didn't fully reopen until about 7:30 a.m., according to the state Department of Transportation. The crash happened around noon Monday after the tow truck, driven by Steven Humphrey, 54, of Shullsburg, skidded onto the highway at an intersection because of slippery snow, the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office said. He crashed into the semi, driven by Alfred Rott, 58, of Monona, and both vehicles ended up in the ditch. Rott died at the scene, while Humphrey was treated for his injuries at a hospital. The semi, which fell over in the crash, was loaded with anhydrous or commercial ammonia, which is toxic. Hazmat teams from neighboring Wisconsin and Illinois counties responded, and the cargo was transferred to another truck. The removal of the vehicles took a while because of safety concerns about the release of ammonia, the Sheriff's Office said.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/traffic/hazmat-cleanup-takes-hours-after-deadly-wisconsin-ammonia-truck-crash-b99150914z1-233456711.html>



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USA, MA, NEW BEDFORD, NOVEMBER 27 2013. OFFICIALS SEEKING CAUSE OF OIL SPILL AT ACUSHNET SAW MILL

ariel wittenberg



A spill of land diesel fuel that made its way to a storm drain in the area of Tarkiln Hill Road flowed into the river at the Acushnet Saw Mill. Booms were placed in the water to stop the fuel from spreading and to absorb it.

Acushnet, New Bedford and state officials are still searching for the cause of an oil slick in the Acushnet River after finding a second spill at a nearby gas station. Officials responded to an oil spill found in the river near the Saw Mill site on Mill Road Tuesday morning and determined that the slick had entered the river through a Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) drain located at the Saw Mill site, according to New Bedford Fire Department Temporary District Chief Matt

Ostiguy. Crews then began searching for the source of the red-dyed, thin oil, going street to street and popping open sewer caps and inspecting catch basins to follow the trail. As part of that process, DEP spokesman Edmund Coletta said, crews found a second oil spill at a Gas Express station located on Tarkiln Hill Road and Belleville Avenue. Coletta said the crews were distracted by a diesel spill that had occurred at the gas station; that spill had flowed into a gutter and nearby gas station. Upon further inspection, officials realized that the diesel spill, which did flow down a catch basin, did not flow all the way into the river. The source of the red-dyed oil is still unknown, but Coletta said officials now believe it is from a residence. "It is probably from a nearby home that may have a problem with home heating oil coming out of a tank or sump pump," he said. The New Bedford Fire Department was first alerted to the smell of oil in the water around 10 a.m. Tuesday, but Ostiguy estimated the oil had been leaking into the river since 8 a.m. He said when crews arrived on-scene there was an oil slick roughly one-quarter mile long down the river. He said absorbent pads had also been placed in the water when crews arrived on-scene but that the flow of the river had prevented much of it from being cleaned. "It's moving water up here, so most of it was let go when we got here," he said. Crews immediately deployed two oil booms — one orange and one white — in the area around the storm drain to collect whatever more might come out. In addition to crews from the New Bedford and Acushnet Fire Departments, a truck from the state's Department of Environmental Protection was also on-scene. The Acushnet Saw Mill site is currently being restored by the Buzzards Bay Coalition. Coalition President Mark Rasmussen said "lighter oil" is usually more toxic than sticky, dark oils like the one that contaminated Buzzards Bay during the Bouchard Oil Spill. "A light oil like diesel or gas will evaporate quickly but it's very toxic," he said. "It's immediately harmful to what's right there, but it's hard to tell the exact effect because it won't leave a mark on a fish that swims through it."

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20131127/NEWS/311270363>

USA, N.H., MONADNOCK, NOVEMBER 27 2013. SCHOOL OIL SPILL CRISIS AVERTED >> CLASSES CANCELED AFTER DISCOVERY

elodie reed

Following a ruptured fuel line that leaked heating oil into the Rindge Memorial School drainage system early Friday morning, school officials were forced to cancel classes and call in the Rindge Fire Department and N.H. Department of Environmental Services. According to Principal Jurg Jenzer, the mechanical accident took place sometime between Thursday night and Friday morning, and was discovered by a school custodian around 6:15 a.m. on Friday. The fuel, which spilled into the parking lot and filled the school with fuel odors, had found its way into the drainage system leaving the school, heading directly for the nearby wetland. Because of the spill and subsequent lack of heat, school was canceled for the day. "The worst was avoided," Jenzer said by phone Monday. Jenzer commended the Rindge Fire Department, who quickly responded to the scene and contained the fuel in the drainage site, stopping it from leaking into the wetland and the two brooks running into local lakes. The school then contacted N.H. Department of Environmental Services personnel, who arrived at the school between 8 and 9 a.m. to assess the situation. EnviroPro, a professional environmental contractor, did the remaining clean-up on Friday. The fuel lines and pumps have since been replaced, and RMS was back to normal by Monday. "We got pretty lucky in a dicey situation," Jenzer said. According to Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative District Supt. James O'Neill, the cost of the incident is still being determined with the district's insurance providers.

<http://www.ledgertranscript.com/home/9510663-95/school-oil-spill-crisis-averted>



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USA, N.Y, NEW BABYLON, NOVEMBER 27 2013. HOMEOWNERS FIND OIL SPILL INSIDE BASEMENT, SEEKS COMPANY TRUCK

greg cergol

 **Watch the Video** [Homeowners Find Oil Spill inside Basement](#)

The North Babylon homeowners are looking for the company responsible for pumping 15 to 20 gallons of oil into their home. A Long Island family wants to know who created an oil spill inside their North Babylon home Saturday. Patty and Robert Festa discovered 15 to 20 gallons of home heating oil in their basement after returning from a Caribbean cruise. The Festa family hasn't used oil to heat their home in 20 years. "My son says he smells oil in the basement. And I said, 'We don't have oil. It can't be,'" said Robert Festa. The family believes the oil was pumped into the home by mistake. So far, no company has come forward to take responsibility for that mistake. "I cried," Patty Festa said. "The stench is horrific. How stupid is this company that doesn't know where to go?" The outdoor pipe used to deliver the oil was once connected to an oil tank in the Festa's basement, but that tank was removed when the family converted to gas heat. "They realized what they did because they stopped after 15, 20 gallons, and they never took responsibility, said anything," Robert Festa said. So far, the clean up has cost \$5,000. The family's homeowners insurance doesn't cover any of the costs. The Festa family has filed a police report and even searched for surveillance video from neighbors in an effort to identify the oil company. A young neighbor reported seeing an oil truck in the family's driveway the day of the spill; but, the Festas say that company has denied responsibility. "Fess up. Give us a break," Robert Festa said. "Step up and pay the damages," pleaded his wife, who plans to move out temporarily until the clean up is completed.

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Oil-Mistakenly-Pumped-Long-Island-Home-Basement-233534701.html>

USA, TN, CHATTANOOGA, NOVEMBER 27 2013. MAN BURNED IN GAS PUMP FIRE



We now know the name of the man who was burned while pumping gas at a local gas station Monday. James Eady is recovering after receiving first and second degree burns. Fire department investigators have not yet said what they believe caused the fire. "I don't smoke, nor use my cell phones when pumping gas," says Nikki May. "I just try to shut all of the ignitions off, leave my cell phones away, and just try to look at the warnings on the gas pumps," says Marcus Locklin. And they're right - according to Chattanooga Deputy Fire Chief Chris Adams. He says smoking is the number one cause of fires at gas pumps. The second cause he says is static electricity. "Don't lock your gas nozzle and get back in your car because you can charge your body with static electricity,

especially in the winter time, then you get back out and touch the gas pump, you can ignite the gasoline vapors," said Deputy Fire Chief Chris Adams. Eady, 32, was pumping gas at the Murphy's USA gas station on Brainerd Road Monday evening when the fire erupted. Firefighters say his pants and part of his car caught fire. "I'm concerned because it's too many freak accidents these days," says Marcus Locklin. Unfortunately these fires happen quite often. We obtained [surveillance video](#) that captures an Atlanta-area man holding a cigarette lighter too close to a pump. Police arrested the man a few weeks ago after his wife suffered second degree burns to her back, arm, and legs. Firefighters say the winter months are the worse for fires at gas stations. And they say even if you have to sit in your car while pumping gas. "When you get out of the car, touch the metal car before you put your feet on the ground, and that'll discharge any static electricity from your body," says deputy fire chief Chris Adams. If you do catch fire at the pumps, Deputy Fire chief Chris Adams says stop, drop, and roll.

<http://www.newschannel9.com/news/top-stories/stories/update-man-burned-gas-pump-fire-8057.shtml>

PAKISTAN, KARACHI, NOVEMBER 27 2013. CRACKDOWN AT NORTHERN BYPASS: AUTHORITIES DEMOLISH 61 ILLEGAL PETROL PUMPS

Sixty-one illegal petrol pumps on the Northern bypass were demolished in a Customs crackdown assisted by police and Rangers. "Heavy quantity of petroleum products and dispensers of worth Rs1b were also confiscated," said Collector Customs (Preventive) Tariq Huda. Addressing a press conference at Customs House, Huda said authorities had a tip off that these petrol pumps were involved in illegally selling smuggled Irani petrol and diesel. More than 100 dispensers and other equipment were also taken into custody, he added. He said the officials did not face any resistance during the action as all the staff at these petrol pumps fled on arrival of the authorities and no arrests could be made. "The culprits will, however, be rounded up



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soon," he said, adding that such crackdown would continue. Huda said the companies working lawfully could not operate because of these illegal vendors of fuel. "The smuggled petroleum products are also causing the consumers heavy loss as they damage their vehicles," he added. The official vowed that the action against these illegal petrol pumps would continue without any discrimination and political compromises. It may be noted that there are hundreds of illegal petrol pumps operating on Northern bypass and Hub River Road.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/636648/crackdown-at-northern-bypass-authorities-demolish-61-illegal-petrol-pumps/>

UAE, EMIRATE OF SHARJAH, NOVEMBER 28 2013. ADNOC TO OPEN 21 OUTLETS >> EXPANSION PLANS SET TO TAKE TOTAL NUMBER OF ADNOC SERVICE STATIONS TO 400 BY 2015

Adnoc Distribution today has opened Al Madar service station in the emirate of Sharjah. The facility is the first to open following the agreement signed with Emirates General Petroleum Corporation (Emarat) earlier this year that authorised Adnoc Distribution to acquire 75 service stations as well as the Sharjah Terminal Depot (Port Khalid) in the emirate of Sharjah and the Northern Emirates. The opening ceremony of the rebranded Al Madar Service station was attended by Abdullah Salem Al Dhaheri, CEO of Adnoc Distribution, accompanied with officials of Adnoc Distribution senior management in the presence of government officials from the government of Sharjah and guests from the relevant authorities and national companies. The acquisition agreement mandates Adnoc Distribution to continue working with Emarat on the internal and external redesigning works of the acquired stations and take them over in a phased manner upon the completion of refurbishment works. Following the rebranding exercise, the new signages will allow the public to identify the service stations as Adnoc-owned facilities. In line with this prerequisite, Adnoc Distribution has completed the rebranding, as well as the internal and external re-design works of the Al Madar service station in conformance with the company's quality standards. The overhauling works also included an upgrading of all facilities at the premises such as the Adnoc Oasis. Adnoc Distribution will retain the same fuel products that the station retailed prior to its acquisition. Abdullah Salem Al Dhaheri, CEO of Adnoc Distribution, said: "We are glad to announce the forthcoming operations of the freshly rebranded Al Madar service station. The opening gains added significance given the fact that it is the first service station to commence operations following the acquisition agreement that we signed earlier this year with Emarat. Adnoc Distribution has utilised its expertise to leverage the station's existing facilities, especially the retail and technical services to fulfill our customer needs and enhance the overall experience for visitors." As per the acquisition agreement, 30 service stations in Sharjah, 17 in Ras Al Khaimah, 12 in Fujairah, 10 in Ajman, six in Umm Al Quwain, as well as the Sharjah Terminal Depot of petroleum products in Sharjah's Port Khalid have moved under the Adnoc Distribution Service Stations network. The rebranding process of all acquired service stations is anticipated to be completed within the next five years. In addition to the acquisition activities, Adnoc Distribution is constructing 21 new service stations across different Adnoc assigned locations in the UAE, besides managing more than 80 service stations in the survey or design stage. The acquisitions take the total number of service stations currently managed by Adnoc Distribution to 300. Adnoc Distribution aims to increase its presence in the region as part of its expansion plans while developing services on par with world class standards to keep pace with the rapid local market growth. In line with this strategy, the company is set to take the total number of service stations that it manages to over 400 within the next two years, doubling its assets since 2010 when Adnoc Distribution had just 180 service stations in its ambit.

<http://www.emirates247.com/business/energy/adnoc-to-open-21-outlets-2013-11-26-1.529347>

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 28 2013. HOW CHEVRON COULD STILL LOSE ITS EPIC POLLUTION CASE

Over the past six weeks inside a Manhattan courtroom, Chevron ([CVX](#)) has dumped a mountain of damning evidence before U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan in an effort to undermine a multibillion-dollar pollution verdict the company incurred in Ecuador in 2011. Chevron wants Kaplan to rule that New York-based plaintiffs' attorney Steven Donziger [lied](#), [fabricated evidence](#), and even [blackmailed an Ecuadorian judge](#) as part of an elaborate shakedown. On top of all that, the oil company has produced troubling indications that Donziger's legal team [ghostwrote the contamination judgment](#). And still, Chevron could eventually lose this case. After closing arguments Tuesday, there's not much doubt how Kaplan will rule. Presiding over the civil trial without a jury, Kaplan has [sent every signal](#) a judge can send—interim opinions, comments from the bench, etc.—that he's on his way to finding Donziger liable for several varieties of fraud. Although he denies wrongdoing, Donziger concedes he's going down. The lawyer's spokesman, Chris Gowen, said yesterday afternoon via e-mail that Donziger considers it "a foregone conclusion" that Kaplan will rule in favor of Chevron, given his bias and the fact he excluded all key evidence about Chevron's environmental contamination relied on by the Ecuador court to find the company liable. Judge Kaplan ran a show



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trial to inject his own politics into a case that allows him to spread those views around the world." It's not clear exactly what "politics" Team Donziger refers to. Kaplan, a 68-year-old former corporate law firm partner, was nominated in 1994 by then-President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, and as a trial judge he has supervised an eclectic array of criminal prosecutions, terrorism cases, and civil suits. Kaplan has a reputation for being smart, independent-minded, and, in the classic manner of a federal trial judge, imperious toward the mere mortals who appear before him. Whatever Donziger has in mind, his side's snarling about "bias" and a "show trial" is not the sort of talk designed to ingratiate. Donziger has his eye on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, which oversees Judge Kaplan. Despite the questionable way he pursued the [two-decade-old litigation](#) over U.S. oil industry pollution in the rain forest in Ecuador, Donziger has some entirely respectable arguments on appeal. Chevron's attempt to use the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, to squelch Donziger's victory in Ecuador requires an expansive interpretation of the 1970 anti-mob statute—one that the Second Circuit may be queasy about, even if Judge Kaplan isn't. Donziger can't enforce his Ecuadorian verdict in Ecuador because Chevron has no assets there. Instead, he and allied lawyers are trying to enforce the judgment—now valued at \$9.5 billion—in countries where the company does have assets: Canada, Argentina, and Brazil. Chevron wants Judge Kaplan to brand Donziger's Ecuadorian lawsuit a "racketeering enterprise" so that the company can dissuade these countries from enforcing the verdict. To accomplish that, Chevron appears to have convinced Judge Kaplan that what Donziger calls vigorous litigation and activism was, in fact, an elaborate extortionate RICO violation involving corrupt Ecuadorian witnesses, judges, and lawyers. RICO, however, is a complicated statute originally intended to put American gangsters in prison. Congress didn't envision it would be used to scrutinize the legitimacy of far-flung Latin American contamination lawsuits. On appeal, Donziger will doubtless argue that Chevron improperly seeks to stretch RICO to apply to actions overseas. The company will answer the "extraterritoriality" defense by stressing that Donziger masterminded his plot from his Manhattan home office by using e-mail, cell phone, and the occasional old-fashioned envelope (read: wire and mail fraud). Donziger will also tell the Second Circuit that while RICO allows private plaintiffs to sue for money damages, Chevron improperly seeks "equitable relief"—legalspeak for a court order banning him and his clients from ever profiting from their alleged fraud. Whether RICO permits anyone other than the government to get equitable relief is a live question in the federal courts. It's a law school exam puzzler that will require the Second Circuit to parse competing precedents and split statutory hairs. In other words, Donziger has a fighting chance. Fortifying this highly technical-sounding attack on Chevron's expected trial victory is a more thematic argument: The Second Circuit should be wary of setting a broad precedent that allows corporate defendants to condemn an aggressive mass lawsuit as extortion. After all, lawsuits by definition are a form of civilized extortion: Pay me a fat settlement or I'll break your knees, figuratively speaking, in court. Chevron and the corporate interest groups cheering it on have [said explicitly](#) that the case against Donziger is meant as a lesson (threat?) to overeager plaintiffs' lawyers everywhere. The Second Circuit may not want to amplify that message. In light of these potential appeal arguments, what's Chevron's most effective defense of its imminent trial victory? I know what it's not. It's not a stirring call for a bold expansion of RICO. Chevron's brief to the Second Circuit would go something like this: *Rest assured, your honors, most mass-tort suits aren't racketeering conspiracies and aren't vulnerable to a table-turning RICO counterattack. That's because most plaintiffs' lawyers aren't Steven Donziger. They don't threaten judges. Their former scientific advisers don't [disavow their technical work](#). Their former co-counsel don't accuse them of [ethical lapses and deceit](#). Their ex-financiers don't [call them liars](#). Somewhere, your honors, there's a line where what looks like a lawsuit becomes a fraudulent conspiracy. Fortunately, you don't have to say precisely where that line is or how many suits go too far. You don't have to set a precedent or expand RICO. All you have to say is that what happened in this case in Ecuador was definitely over the line. This ruling is good for today and today only.*

Judge Kaplan is expected to rule early next year. Later in 2014, the Second Circuit will have its say. This one is worth watching.

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-11-27/how-chevron-could-still-lose-its-epic-pollution-case>

USA, N.D, BISMARCK, NOVEMBER 28 2013. PIPELINE LEAK SPILLS 17,000 BARRELS OF SALTWATER

A saltwater pipeline leak that occurred in Montana released 17,000 barrels of brine and the spill has flowed into a creek in rural Bowman County in southwest North Dakota, the North Dakota Department of Health said today. The release reached the Big Gumbo Creek and has flowed down 1.4 miles of the creek into a rural area about 14 miles south of Marmarth. The creek is not a source of public drinking water. The Department of Health has inspectors on site to monitor the response and cleanup activities. The release was reported by Denbury Onshore. A barrel is 42 gallons.

<http://www.jamestownsun.com/content/pipeline-leak-spills-17000-barrels-saltwater>



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USA, TN, KNOXVILLE, NOVEMBER 27 2013, EASTBOUND MIDDLEBROOK PIKE IN KNOXVILLE REOPENS AFTER FUEL SPILL

 Watch the Video [Eastbound Middlebrook Pike in Knoxville Reopens after Fuel Spill](#)



Fuel being offloaded from the tanker.

Both eastbound lanes of South Middlebrook Pike at Weisgarber Road were closed Tuesday morning due to an overturned tanker truck spilling fuel. Traffic was diverted through the area until the fuel was cleaned up. Middlebrook Pike reopened around 4:15 p.m., but Knott Road will remain closed for several more hours. The spill was reported around 10:40 a.m. Tuesday Police say the tanker dislodged from the truck and overturned in the eastbound lanes near Knott Road. "The tanker dropped down to the pavement, that seems where the initial rupture came from when the tanker dropped," said Knoxville Fire Department spokesperson D.J. Corcoran. Corcoran said 3,400 gallons of fuel spilled from the truck, which holds 8,400 gallons. Corcoran said the fuel made its way into storm drains leading into Third Creek. He suspects the heavy rain helped to accelerate the flow down the creek. Authorities estimated 2,800 gallons of the spilled 3,400

gallons got into the storm drain system. The storm drains feed into Third Creek, which then runs into Fort Loudoun Lake. Booms were placed to capture the runoff at Ed Shouse and Middlebrook, Middlebrook at Lonas, Sutherland at Third Creek, and Concord at Third Creek. These booms will capture any gasoline runoff and prevent fuel from entering the Tennessee River. David Hagerman, stormwater engineer with Knoxville, said it appears emergency workers got ahead of the gasoline as it made its way along Third Creek. Hagerman said the trucking company responsible for the spill will pay for the cleanup costs and any materials used by the city. Hagerman said it was too early to tell how much it would cost. Twenty employees from Johnstone Supply and four employees from Southern Kitchen were sheltered in place because their only routes for leaving would take them directly through the spill area. Those employees spent nearly a full work day without being able to leave. "We've had a couple people had to walk to be picked up by someone for doctor's appointments, and of course we haven't had a single customer come here all day, so that's been very disruptive for business," said Todd Cramer, president and owner of Johnstone Supply. Officials say they began offloading fuel Tuesday afternoon from the damaged tanker into another tanker to be safely hauled away. Once offloaded, a wrecker was called to haul away the damaged tanker. There are no reports of injuries in the crash. The driver has been identified as William Sandefur, 58, of Harrogate. The truck belonged to Lee Oil Company in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. The Tennessee Highway Patrol will inspect the truck and determine if any citations should be issued.

<http://www.wate.com/story/24073166/eastbound-middlebrook-pike-in-knoxville-closed-due-to-fuel-spill>

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, NOVEMBER 28 2013. FUEL FUMES BLAMED FOR DUPLEX FIRE IN NE ANCHORAGE



Firefighters are instructed to pull back as the right side of a condo duplex loses structural integrity at 5664 Alora Loop on Tuesday evening, November 26, 2013, in Anchorage.

At least one family was displaced after a fire tore through half of a duplex Tuesday night in northeast Anchorage, fire officials said. A caller reported the blaze about 6:51 p.m. in the "high density housing" at 5664 Alora Loop., near the intersection of 4th Avenue and Boniface Parkway, officials said. Thirteen units responded, and the bulk of the flames, concentrated on the right unit, were knocked down in about 30 minutes. Firefighters said the blaze started in the garage, where an occupant was working on a fuel tank. Some of the unidentified fuel was being held in a bucket while the work was being done, and when a nearby boiler kicked on, it sparked the fuel's fumes and started the blaze,

officials said. "They did a good job stopping the fire and not letting it get to the other half," said lead dispatcher Don Tallman on Tuesday night. "The fire wall is credited with saving the other side of the unit." The right unit was destroyed, he said, with the blaze intense enough to burn down some of the staircase in the entryway. No injuries were reported, and the Red Cross was



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on the scene helping at least two members of the displaced family, Tallman said. Siding on a neighboring home was damaged during the blaze, and it was unclear when the duplex's surviving unit would be habitable.

<http://www.adn.com/2013/11/26/3199655/firefighters-respond-to-duplex.html>

CHINA, SHANDONG PROVINCE, QINGDAO, NOVEMBER 28 2013. OIL LEAKAGE CLEANUP UNDERWAY AFTER PIPELINE BLAST IN QINGDAO

 **Photo's [8]** [Oil Leakage Cleanup Underway after Pipeline Blast](#)

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Scary! Qingdao Explosion at the Front of a PX Chemical Plant](#)
- [Survivors from Qingdao pipeline explosion recall miserable moment](#)
- [Qingdao Residents Demand Safe Homes after Explosion](#)
- [Xi Jinping Visited Qingdao to Investigate on the Explosion](#)
- [China oil pipe blast: Qingdao pipeline blast 'kills 35'](#)
- [Residents to receive compensation after the Qingdao blast](#)
- [China Deadly Oil Pipeline Explosion Immediately After Blast In Qingdao!!](#)
- [China Pipeline Blast : Police Detain Nine After Qingdao Oil Blasts](#)



The photo, taken on Nov. 25, 2013, shows a work-crew attempt to clean up the oil slick that is resulted from Friday's deadly pipeline blast in Qingdao, Shandong Province. The death toll from the blast has risen to 55.

<http://english.cri.cn/11354/2013/11/26/3441s800496.htm>

CHINA, GUIZHOU PROVINCE, ANSHUN, PINGBA CO, NOVEMBER 28 2013. ABOUT 2,000 TONNES OF GASOLINE POURS FROM BROKEN PIPELINE

thomas whittle

 **Photo's 5** [Gasoline Pours from Broken Pipeline](#)



Rescuers work at the site after a gasoline pipe was broken in Pingba County of Anshun City, southwest China's Guizhou Province, Nov. 27, 2013. The gasoline pipe was broken after a construction tower collapsed late on Tuesday night at a high-speed railway construction site. About 2,000 tonnes of gasoline leaked from the broken pipe on Wednesday. Emergency measures have been taken to stop the leak and evacuate residents from within a two-kilometer radius.

About 2,000 tonnes of gasoline have leaked from a broken pipe after an accident at a construction site on Tuesday night in southwest China's Guizhou Province, rescuers said Wednesday. The leak started at about 12:40 am Wednesday from a broken gasoline pipe after a construction tower collapsed late on Tuesday at a high-speed railway construction site in Pingba County of

Anshun City, said rescuers. The pipe belongs to a branch of Sinopec, the country's largest oil refiner. Local government authorities have cordoned off the leak site and laid pipelines to pump the oil leakage. Environmental personnel have started environmental monitoring at the site, where petrol fumes were pungent. The current primary task is to focus on pumping the leakage and screening the leak risks to avoid further accidents, said Li Shangkuan, director with the Guizhou Provincial Administrator of Work Safety. Three people have received medical treatment, and more than 110 are working to repair the



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broken pipe and clear the site, which is about 30 meters from the Shanghai-Kunming railway and has residential houses nearby. The local government has taken emergency measures to stop the leak and evacuate residents from within a two kilometer radius. Rail authorities have suspended train services from Anshun to the provincial capital of Guiyang. A provincial joint investigation team has been formed to look into the accident, and safety inspections are being carried out across the province.

<http://www.nzweek.com/world/china/gasoline-pours-from-broken-pipeline-in-sw-china-2-101488/>

AUSTRALIA, N.S.W, PAMBULA, NOVEMBER 28 2013. GAS LEAK AT PAMBULA UNITED SERVICE STATION



Emergency services at the United service station, Pambula.

An over-filled LPG tank at the United service station in Pambula resulted in the closure of Quondola Street just after 1.30pm on Monday, November 25. Police, Rural Fire Service and NSW Fire and Rescue were called to the scene whereupon adjacent buildings were evacuated and traffic diverted while the emergency was contained. NSW Fire and Rescue officers applied cooling spray lines to keep the gas from expanding, until the LPG company's tanker arrived to decant the cylinder. The operation was completed at about 5pm. One of the Fire and Rescue members attending the scene, Craig Dickmann, said the main bullet gas cylinder had recently been filled when the gas began venting. He said the

pressure had blown the lid off the tank. However, when contacted by the News Weekly, the regional manager for United, Gavin Cuddy, said it was "no big deal" and that "a valve had been left open". According to a spokesperson for NSW Fire and Rescue, LPG tanks are meant to be filled to a level of 85 per cent of the tank's capacity, to allow for expansion of the gas inside. When tanks are over-filled the increasing pressure resulting from the expansion will cause the gas to vent to the outside, usually through a pressure valve.

<http://www.merimbulanewsonline.com.au/story/1934000/gas-leak-at-pambula-united-service-station/?cs=12>

USA, OH, WILLARD, NOVEMBER 28 2013. TRAIN ACCIDENT - HAULING ROUGHLY 26,000 GALLONS OF STYRENE MONOMER >> HUNDREDS EVACUATED AFTER SPILL IN WILLARD, SOME MAY BE OUT UNTIL SATURDAY

david patch

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [400 People Evacuated Due to Toxic Leak](#)
- [Homes Evacuated in Willard](#)



Emergency workers gather near the east end of the CSX train yard in Willard. Immediate cleanup efforts that started early Wednesday did not progress as quickly as hoped. Efforts were slow in part because the substance vaporizes quickly.

Jeff Feltner said he first knew something was wrong when he couldn't hear train noise early Wednesday morning from the massive CSX Transportation railroad yard near his home in this southern Huron County city. When he looked out his window, he saw lights flashing from the tops of vehicles. Ten minutes later, "here come the police" to tell him he needed to leave, Mr. Feltner recalled Wednesday afternoon while passing the time at Willard High School. He was sent there, along with hundreds of his neighbors, after a derailment late Tuesday in the CSX yard caused a chemical spill. About 400 homes on both

sides of the tracks, just west of downtown Willard, were evacuated during the wee hours Wednesday after the accident. About half of a tank car's 26,000-gallon load of styrene monomer spilled after it and three other railcars derailed. Officials announced Wednesday evening that the evacuation would continue into today. Brian Humphress, Willard's city manager, said that while officials were hopeful that most residents could return sometime today, about 20 homes closest to the accident scene might remain off-limits into Saturday. CSX provided hotel rooms for evacuees, primarily in Tiffin about 22 miles west of Willard. But even before the evacuation's likely duration was announced, the chance of a disrupted Thanksgiving holiday loomed for many. "Most likely, we're not going to have Thanksgiving with our family," Jennifer Barnett predicted Wednesday morning. She lives



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on Keefer Street, within the half-mile radius of the accident scene. "It's messing our plans up a bit," agreed Manuel DeLeon Gonzalez. He had stayed overnight with a friend, but on Wednesday afternoon returned to the high school for a ride to one of the hotels. Jeri Coburn, a West Sandusky Street resident, said that if she and her family ended up spending the holiday in a hotel, "I'll just go to Ryan's or Golden Corral" for dinner — "my little boy likes those." Mr. Feltner, who uses a wheelchair or crutches to get around, turned down being taken to a hotel Wednesday morning, thinking the evacuation would be brief. "There was no sense in going there for a couple hours, then coming back," he said at midafternoon. "Now I've been here 12 hours. I guess I should have taken them up on their offer." The accident involved railcars that were being sorted by a switching crew when they somehow jumped the rails on a track near the east end of the yard. The rail yard sprawls west from the northern edge of Willard's downtown. One tank car ended up leaning against an auto-carrier car in a train on a parallel track to the south, but Gary Sease, a CSX spokesman, said he did not know if that was the tank that was breached. About 12,500 gallons of styrene monomer were believed to have leaked from the damaged tank car, spilling onto ballast rock that supports the tracks. Styrene is a synthetic, and heavily used, petroleum derivative used in a variety of industrial processes, most notably the manufacture of polystyrene plastics. It is an oily liquid at room temperature but evaporates quickly and is highly flammable. It has a slightly sweet odor that was faintly but plainly detectable downwind of the railroad yard Wednesday. Mr. Sease said at midmorning that the spill had been contained on railroad property, but hours later he said railroad and environmental-protection officials were still determining how the material would be removed, including contaminated soil at the spill site. Chris Abbruzzese, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency spokesman, said the cleanup focused first on containment, then removal. "Anytime you have a spill like this, there is cause for concern," Mr. Abbruzzese said. "We have not seen any impact to surface water, and from what I have been told, any air impact has been very minimal. There hasn't been any immediate threat to humans or the environment." Mr. Abbruzzese said the evacuation was ordered "out of an abundance of caution." While highly concentrated styrene monomer is an eye and skin irritant, its flammability and the associated risk of an explosion was the main reason for the evacuation, Mr. Humphress said. Mr. Sease said one rail car coupled to the car that leaked also contained styrene monomer, while another derailed tank car carried butyl acrylate, another highly flammable plastics-related chemical. The fourth derailed tank car contained corn syrup. Air monitoring was to continue overnight near the scene while the remaining styrene was pumped from the damaged tank car, followed by ballast and soil cleanup. Like others, Ms. Barnett and her family were roused by a knock on their door at 2:30 a.m., with a railroad-provided van waiting outside to take them to the high school. "Everybody had to leave, right then and there," she said. Pets had to be left behind, which was one of several causes for anxiety later, along with a lack of sleep. "I haven't had but maybe an hour's sleep," Ms. Barnett said, noting that the school gym set up as a dormitory was cold, and children were noisy and unsupervised. Deana Gonzalez, whose Front Street home is next to the tracks, said she and her family slept through authorities coming to their home. They awoke Wednesday morning to numerous phone messages from her mother inquiring about their whereabouts. They got a ride to the high school, from which Ms. Gonzalez then arranged with CSX for transportation to Sandusky, where she works at a hotel. "I work all day Thanksgiving anyway, so I'll just have my family with me," she said. The accident prompted CSX to shut down train traffic through Willard. While no passenger trains were affected, scores of freight trains that normally enter, exit, or pass by the Willard yard on a normal day were disrupted. Many are to be held until the evacuation is lifted, while some were diverted onto one or more detour routes bypassing Willard. The soil cleanup could further disrupt rail operations through Willard until that task's completion.

<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2013/11/28/Hundreds-evacuatedafter-spill-in-Willard.html>

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, NOVEMBER 28 2013. BENZENE FROM ILOILO OIL SPILL REACHES ALARMING LEVEL

The Department of Health (DOH) said the benzene content in an area in Estancia, Iloilo affected by an oil spill has reached an alarming level. Dr. Glen Alonsabe, DOH Region 6 epidemiologist, said benzene content in the area has reached 16.9 parts per million, way beyond the permissible limit of 0.5 ppm. The American Cancer Society describes [benzene](#) as "a colorless, flammable liquid with a sweet odor. It evaporates quickly when exposed to air... [and] is also a natural part of crude oil, gasoline, and cigarette smoke." "Benzene is known to cause cancer, based on evidence from studies in both people and laboratory animals. The link between benzene and cancer has largely focused on leukemia and cancers of other blood cells," the society said. Short-term exposure to the chemical compound causes drowsiness, dizziness or unconsciousness. Due to the threats posed by the chemical compound, the DOH is strictly implementing a "No Personal Protective Equipment, No Work Policy" among those tasked to contained the oil spill. The oil spill occurred after the Napocor Power Barge 103 was dislodged



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from its mount by strong waves when super typhoon "Yolanda" hit the province on November 8. The local government has since enforced a compulsory evacuation of residents in the coastal town.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/11/28/13/benzene-iloilo-oil-spill-reaches-alarming-level>

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 28 2013. NAVY CLEANUP ON TREASURE ISLAND FORCES RESIDENTS TO MOVE

 **Watch the Video** [Treasure Island Residents asked to Vacate due to Cleanup](#)



Residents in two dozen homes on San Francisco's Treasure Island were notified this week that they will have to move because of the U.S. Navy's ongoing cleanup on the island. The Treasure Island Development Authority sent a letter dated Monday to 24 households on the island, saying they will have to relocate the residents because of the Navy's cleanup work. "The work is part of the Navy's ongoing cleanup of buried and currently inaccessible low level chemicals that were identified in prior assessments and historical investigations and is not related to ongoing radiological surveys," the letter states. The residents will likely be relocated elsewhere on Treasure Island, according to the letter. The TIDA is holding a meeting on Dec. 3 for the affected residents, as well as a meeting on Dec. 11 for all Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island residents to update them on the cleanup activities, which will take place in 2014. The letter, signed

by TIDA director Bob Beck and director of operations Mirian Saez, said "regulatory oversight agencies have repeatedly stated that it has been and continues to be safe to live in the units on Treasure Island." Treasure Island is still owned by the Navy, which closed its base there in 1997. Beck said earlier this year that the Navy plans to transfer the property to the city in four major phases starting in October 2014 and ending in 2021. In 2011, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved a massive redevelopment project to add thousands of new residential units, commercial space and other new infrastructure on the island. Beck and other members of the development authority were not immediately available this morning to discuss the relocation of the residents. Anyone with questions about the relocations is asked to call the development authority at 415-274-0660 or email them at TIDA@sfgov.org.

 **Related Stories** [Memo: Radioactive waste found on Treasure Island](#)

<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Navy-Cleanup-on-Treasure-Island-Forces-Residents-to-Move-233709831.html>

USA, AZ, QUEEN CREEK, NOVEMBER 28 2013. 6 BURNED WHEN GAS IS POURED ON FIRE IN QUEEN CREEK YARD

steve stout

 **Watch the Video's:**

[6 Burned after Bonfire gets out of Control](#)

[11 Year Old FDights for Life after](#)

[Phoenix Police Officer Injured in Backyard Bonfire](#)



An 11-year-old girl suffered burns over more than half her body when an accelerant was poured onto a bonfire in this Queen Creek yard Tuesday night. Six people in all suffered burns.

Six people were burned, including an 11-year-old girl with burns over half her body, when someone poured gasoline on a backyard fire in Queen Creek on Tuesday night. The 11-year-old girl suffered burns over much of her upper body, including her face and head, said Maricopa County sheriff's deputy Joaquin Enriquez. Three people, including another child, a 19-year-old man and 38-year-old woman, suffered second- and third-degree

burns, he said. The people were gathered around a "warming" fire that was burning boards in a 50-gallon drum about 9 p.m., Enriquez said. A man in his 30s is believed to have poured gasoline from a plastic gas can onto the fire when it exploded, burning the victims, who were standing or sitting close to the fire. Three burn victims were flown to Maricopa Medical Center while the other three were taken by ambulance, he said. All victims were alert and conscious before they were hospitalized. All the victims were related, Enriquez said. There was no update on anyone's condition Wednesday morning. Enriquez said the



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investigation was continuing to determine whether criminal charges would be pursued. No other information was immediately available.

<http://www.kpho.com/story/24082227/6-burned-when-gas-is-poured-on-fire-in-queen-creek-yard>

USA, TX, DEWITT CO, NOVEMBER 29 2013. TANKER TRUCK CRASHES, FIRE KILLS DRIVER

 **Watch the Video** [Tanker Truck Crashes, Fire Kills Driver](#)



A 53-year-old San Antonio woman died when the tanker truck she was driving crashed and burned Wednesday morning near Nordheim in DeWitt County.

53-year-old San Antonio woman died Wednesday morning when the tanker truck she was driving overturned and burned in DeWitt County. Suzzie Queue was pronounced dead at the scene at 7:05 a.m. by DeWitt County Justice of the Peace Bill Robinson, said Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman Trooper Gerald Bryant. The crash occurred about 6:40 a.m. on state Highway 72 about two-tenths of a mile west of Nordheim. The 2012 Kenworth, owned by Nabors Well Service, was traveling west when it ran off the right side of the road, said Bryant. "The driver overcorrected back onto the roadway, and the

truck flipped over onto its side and immediately burst into flames," Bryant said. The roadway reopened to one lane about 2 p.m. Trooper Elizabeth Tolbert is investigating the crash. She is assisted by Trooper Sgt. Frank Casillas.

http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2013/nov/27/tanker_truck_fire_sl_112813_226281?breaking

NEW ZEALAND, CANTERBURY, NOVEMBER 29 2013. CHLORINE SPILL AT FONTERRA FACTORY

Fonterra's chief executive Theo Spierings says he has confidence in health and safety measures at a South Canterbury milk factory where a chlorine spill sent seven people to hospital. Part of the dairy cooperative's Clandebye plant, north of Timaru, had to be evacuated after the spill just before midday on Wednesday. Mr Spierings says it appears that the incident was caused by chlorine coming out of cleaning tanks from a leaking valve or pipe and spilling on the floor. The area was evacuated and the people closest to the spill were taken to hospital as a precaution which he said was an "outstanding operating procedure". The plant's operations manager, Steve McKnight, said the chlorine was being pumped into a tank as part of the cleaning process. "One of the bends of the pipe ... has let go. We don't understand how or why yet, but that'll form the basis of our investigation." Mr McKnight says some workers closest to the spill had breathing difficulties and needed to be given oxygen. All seven people have since been released from hospital. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is also looking into the incident.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/229122/chlorine-spill-at-fonterra-factory>

SCOTLAND, GRANGEOUTH, NOVEMBER 28 2013. POLICE URGE MOTORISTS TO TAKE CARE AFTER FUEL LEAK IN GRANGEMOUTH

james trimble

A BP petrol tanker has leaked aviation fuel onto Inchyra Road, Powdrake Road and Bo'ness Road making driving conditions in the area more challenging. Police and fire service are currently in attendance and drivers are asked to amend their speeds accordingly when travelling through the area. Falkirk Council, Bear and SEPA are also aware and are monitoring the situation. However, there is no risk to the public.

<http://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/news/local-news/police-urge-motorists-to-take-care-after-fuel-leak-in-grangemouth-1-3210828>

SOLOMON ISLANDS, CHOISEUL, NOVEMBER 228 2013. INTERNATIONAL-STANDARD FUEL DEPOT BEGINS OPERATIONS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Choiseul Bay Association and Humphrey Engineering has opened a \$3.4 million fuel storage and distribution facility at Buruburu Island, Choiseul. Emerald Oil, as it has been named, will compete against two other major fuel suppliers in the country, Markwarth and South Pacific Oil in Honiara. The company aims to expand in the future to cater for customers in Shortland Islands and Bougainville. At the moment, the facility can only cater for customers in the area of Taro. The facility has two 55,000-litre fuel tanks on the site plus oil pipes for ships, drum filling shade, office, and floating wharf, which reportedly took about seven months for local contractors to complete. Director of Humphrey Engineering Humphrey Tura says the



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business aims to assist the province from buying drums in Honiara, but to have it at customers' doorsteps in order to drive economic growth. He adds that even though they can't control the price of fuel because the country's economic scale is small, they can manage it. The facility has met international requirement under International Safety Guideline Oil Tanker Terminal (ISGOTT) to supply fuels to ships and other customers. Fuel will be imported from overseas suppliers, which Emerald Oil says it has 'already established links with'.

http://www.tankstoragemag.com/industry_news.php?item_id=7117

SOMALIA, MOGADISHU, NOVEMBER 29 2013. FIRE DESTROYS FUEL DEPOT & PROPERTIES IN SOMALIA CAPITAL



Cars destroyed by the fire.

A fire broke out at a fuel depot and car sale yard, in the centre of the Somali capital Mogadishu, causing extensive damage. Over 100 vehicles, 800 gallons of fuel and hundreds of cartons of car lubricants were in the depot at the time of the fire. A huge smoke hang over the city for hours as AMISOM soldiers, together with the newly trained Mogadishu fire fighters battled to put out the fire. The fire that paralyzed business along the Kilometer 4 Junction has been linked to the fuel trade in the area, as the possible cause. One-eye witnesses however said it was sparked off a tanker, from which fuel was being transferred, before spreading out. "There was fuel being sold here, so the fuel caught fire and then it spread to the cars. The cars then exploded as a result and the nearby shops caught fire. No one was killed by the fire but we know that there has been extensive damage and the traders here have lost a lot of their belongings," he

says. The effort to put out the fire went on for hours. This comes just over a month after the Mogadishu fire fighters completed training in Fire and Rescue Skills, facilitated by AMISOM. Speaking at the scene, Farah Karar Mahamud, one of the fire fighters said they had done everything possible to put out the fire but still face major constraints. "We were informed that this fire was as a result of fuel. There was fuel being transferred from a tanker and then it caught fire. We have been criticized for our shortcomings because we didn't have a water tanker with us. We would like to thank AMISOM who came to our aid. They have been our mentors and trainers," said Farah Mahamud. One of the traders in the area Mohamud Hashi Awale says they have suffered extensive losses. "There were up to 800 drums of diesel and petrol stored in here, there were 2000 cartons of lubricants, there were 130 cars and there was a lot of money in cash," he says. The fire was put out after hours of battling; leaving the traders to count their losses while others struggled to salvage what little was left. Still recovering from over two decades of war, Somalia is yet to have an established banking system while fuel trade remains largely unregulated without specific trading areas. In September there was another huge fire after an accidental explosion at another fuel storage facility at the former US resident in Mogadishu.

<http://www.somalicurrent.com/2013/11/28/fire-destroys-properties-in-somalia-capital/>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, NOVEMBER 29 2013. UNITED PETROLEUM MAY SPLIT TO IGNITE INTEREST

amanda saunders

United Petroleum is proving too big an asset for buyers to swallow, with advisers looking at restructuring by splitting off the properties as a way of stimulating stalled interest in the sale, according to industry sources. Talk on the sale of Australia's biggest independent fuel supplier and retailer has gone quiet since the end of October, when bids were said to have closed, and industry sources have told DataRoom that interest has fallen away. Caltex is understood to have made two bids for the asset at a price well short of the expectations of United co-founders Avi Silver and Eddie Hersch, according to people familiar with the matter. It is believed no one else lodged a formal bid. One industry source described the United sale as "opportunistic", saying the group was testing the market to see if they could get a "silly price" after the sale of Ausfuel earlier this year for \$625 million. The source said talk on the sale had gone "dead quiet" over the past six weeks. Valuations on the company vary wildly, with industry source saying it would be unlikely to fetch more than \$600 million, while other valuations have been as high as \$1 billion. Advisers on the sale of United Petroleum, KPMG Corporate Finance, are understood to be looking at ways to separate the company's properties from its operating assets to rekindle interest and expand the field of contenders. A restructure would open up the field to more bidders by lowering the amount of capital required. It would bring property investors into any bidding fray and could create the price tension that has so far been lacking, people familiar with the



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matter said. Splitting United's assets would also go some way to allay possible competition concerns around a Caltex play for the group under its current structure. Caltex's \$300 million bid for about 300 Mobil service station sites in 2009 was scuppered by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. Caltex is chasing a bigger distribution network as they move away from refining. The group is in the throes of converting its Kurnell refinery in Sydney into an import terminal. On its website, United Petroleum says its chain of service stations and convenience stores extends across all states and territories, and it has fuel import terminals in Victoria, New South Wales, Northern Territory and Tasmania. Dutch-owned Puma Energy, which bought Ausfuels for \$625 million earlier this year, is understood to have expressed early interest in United but stopped short of placing a bid. Private equity firms Carlyle and Affinity were kicking the tyres on it, but also fell out before the first round of bids. A spokesman for Caltex said the company did not comment on speculation. KPMG Corporate Finance declined to comment. <http://spectator01.businessspectator.com.au/news/2013/11/29/dataroom/united-petroleum-may-split-ignite-interest>

NEW ZEALAND, WHANGAREI, NOVEMBER 29 2013. GAS CLOUD COULD HAVE IGNITED, SAYS FIRE CHIEF



Scene at the Z service station after a bus backed into natural gas substation.

The Fire Service says a major gas leak in a Whangarei suburb had the potential to be a disaster. Police said a bus hit a natural gas substation at the Z service station on Kamo Road in the Northland town about 7.30am on Thursday. The City Link Bus reversed through caging around the gas substation, bent the pipes and broke a valve causing an immediate leak of high pressure gas and a large gas cloud. There were fears of an explosion and police began evacuating people from within 600 metres of the service station and set up evacuation centres. Shops, houses and schools were evacuated and 10 fire trucks called to the scene. Whangarei senior fire station officer Ron Wilson said crews in breathing apparatus checked houses, telling some residents to leave and in

other cases to shut doors and windows and turn off power. Students and staff from Kamo High School, directly opposite the service station, and the nearby primary school had to be evacuated to the intermediate school outside the cordon. Fire officers turned high pressure hoses on the gas cloud and managed to disperse 90% of it. The leak was capped, and the owner of the gas reticulation system, Vector, shut down the substation for repairs. A spokesperson said no customers were affected because the line was re-routed. Mr Wilson said there is always the possibility a gas cloud could ignite and the leak could have resulted in a major explosion. "It can flash back if you get the right ignition source and the right gas mixture. It can flash back and then it all just turns to fire." Detective Inspector Marty Ruth said a fire rescue team was able to shut off the flow of the LPG and isolate the remaining leakage. By about 9am all cordons were removed and all areas had been confirmed safe. Civil Defence personnel were helping with the return of evacuated pupils to their respective schools. There were no reports of injury.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/regional/229210/gas-cloud-could-have-ignited,-says-fire-chief>

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, NOVEMBER 29 2013. CALI LOSES TRACK OF HAZMAT >> 174,000 TONS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE INTENDED FOR DISPOSAL NOT ACCOUNTED FOR

The Golden State has lost track of 174,000 tons of hazardous waste intended for disposal over the last five years. The missing loads of hazardous material—including more than 20,000 pounds of lead; 520 tons of benzene, a carcinogen; and 355 tons of the flammable solvent methyl ethyl ketone (dubbed "methyl ethyl death" by industry insiders)—were shipped, but the state's database shows no record of them arriving at their intended destinations, according to the Los Angeles Times. "We don't know. It's a question mark," said Debbie Raphael, director of the [California Department of Toxic Substances Control](http://www.california.gov/toxic), referring to the fate of the more than 23,000 hazmat loads, adding that the lack of information "is concerning, absolutely."

<http://www.newsreview.com/chico/cali-loses-track-of-hazmat/content?oid=12136475>

USA, IN, AVON, NOVEMBER 29 2013. HAZMAT CALLED TO AVON RAILROAD TANK LEAK >> NO INJURIES REPORTED

 **Document** [Information about vinyl chloride http://1.usa.gov/ItaKCY](http://1.usa.gov/ItaKCY)

Crews were called to clean up potentially hazardous material in Avon after a railroad tank car leaked Thursday, officials said. A worker at the CSX Transportation rail yard at 491 S. County Road 800 East smelled the leaked substance and called it in. The



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tank was carrying vinyl chloride, which the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says](#) is most often used to make PVC plastic and vinyl. Roads were closed off on the property while hazmat crews and emergency workers responded to the scene. The Wayne Township Fire Department said on its Twitter account that they'd been called to the scene to assist. The hazmat teams gave the all-clear about 12:30 p.m. A mitigation team hired by CSX will handle the cleanup. No injuries were reported, and there was not an evacuation.

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/hazmat-called-to-avon-railroad-tank-spill>

USA, TX, AMARILLO NOVEMBER 29 2013. INVESTIGATORS: ACETYLENE TANK CAUSED BLAST

russell anglin

Vapors from an acetylene tank caused an accidental Tuesday night vehicle explosion at a southwest Amarillo apartment complex that rocked the neighborhood, Deputy Fire Marshal John Woodward said Wednesday morning. No serious injuries were reported in the accident at The Granite at Olsen Park, 3318 S. Western St., and Amarillo police said Wednesday there have been no arrests or charges filed. The explosion occurred at 7:19 p.m. in an interior parking lot between Western and Eddy streets, Woodward said. A man who was inside the vehicle at the time of the explosion was treated at the scene of the explosion for minor injuries and was not hospitalized, Woodward said. Acetylene is a compressed gas used for welding, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website states. The tank was stored in the vehicle's trunk, Woodward said. Amarillo Police Bomb Squad officers responded to the explosion Tuesday night, Cpl. Jerry Neufeld said. Beth Weldon said she lives at The Granite and spoke to a man who said he was in the car when it exploded. "He was really shaken up," Weldon said. "I went up to him after the police were done talking to him and asked him if he needed anything." Weldon said she called 911 and ran down to find out what happened after the blast shook the apartment where she, her fiancé and children live. "All the pictures in my apartment are crooked," Weldon said. "I seriously thought my windows were going to shatter." She was one of dozens to leave their apartments and gather in the parking lot near the explosion. Several Amarillo residents posted about the explosion on the AGN Media Facebook page, saying they heard it from as far as several blocks away. Bart O'Dell posted on Facebook that he lives near Southwest 34th Avenue and Marion Street — about seven blocks from The Granite — and it shook his house as though it was "right out front."

<http://amarillo.com/news/local-news/2013-11-27/fire-marshals-police-investigate-vehicle-explosion>

INDIA, WEST BENGAL'S, NADIA DISTRICT, NOVEMBER 29 2013. 3 KILLED, 5 INJURED AS TANKER RAMS INTO ROAD SIDE SHOPS

Three persons were killed and five others injured when a gas tanker rammmed into road side shops at a major crossing in Nadia district today, police said. The accident occurred at Bara Jaguli crossing under Haringhata police station about 7 AM when the driver of the tanker, belonging to a nationalised company, lost control over the vehicle.

http://www.ptinews.com/news/4187722_3-killed-5-injured-as-tanker-rams-into-road-side-shops.html

VIETNAM, KHÁNH HÒA, TRUONG SA ISLANDS, NOVEMBER 29 2013. TUVALU FLAG TANKER ON FIRE NEAR TRUONG SA ISLANDS



Yesterday morning, November 27, the tanker Theresa Bitung of Tuvalu sent a distress signal when its engine room caught on fire and the crew completely lost control over the ship. At 10.05am, the Coastal Information System Station of Vietnam received a distress signal of the tanker. A distress signal was issued from vicinity 09 35N 111 38E, SW of the Truong Sa Islands, about 272 nautical miles south east from Vung Tau city, Vietnam. The system immediately notified the search and rescue units in the area and contacted the tanker to gather more information but do it did not get a response. At noon of the same day, the system confirmed that the engine room of the Theresa Bitung was burned and the crew completely lost control. All of them left the ship. The relevant agencies of Vietnam enhanced observation assisted the ship in distress and got feedback

from the ships operating in the region to support Theresa Bitung. At 1.44pm, Greek bulk carrier Maiden Voyage rescued the crew members of Theresa Bitung and delivered them to Hong Kong. The Coastal Information Station Systems of Vietnam got in touch with the Maiden Voyage vessel to verify the number of crew members who were saved. No injuries reported, it is



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understood that abandoned tanker is on fire and drifting. Product tanker Theresa Bitung, IMO 8618229, dwt 29995, was built in 1989, flag Tuvalu, manager Faffles Shipmanagement Services Private Ltd, Singapore.

Related Stories

- [Tanker fire rages out of control off Vietnam](#)
- [Crew safe after Singaporean tanker fire](#)

<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/society/90225/tuvalu-flag-tanker-on-fire-near-truong-sa-islands.html>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, NOVEMBER 29 2013. MAN KILLED AFTER SLAMMING INTO 18-WHEELER IN NW HARRIS COUNTY

dug begley



Authorities say an SUV driver slammed into a tanker truck that was pulling out of the gas station on FM 529.

A man was killed Wednesday night when, according to witnesses, he was speeding along FM 529 in northwest Harris County and slammed into the front of a semi truck. The man, identified as Joseph Robinson, was speeding westbound around 10 p.m. in a Chevy Blazer, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Office. A truck driver meanwhile was pulling out of a gas station parking lot, headed east on FM 529 near Wright Road. The trucker pulled into the turn lane, but his trailer was protruding into the interior westbound lane, according to the sheriff's office. Robinson hit the truck behind the right front axle, wedging the green Blazer under the truck. He died at the scene. The crash is under investigation, sheriff's officials said.

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Man-killed-after-slamming-into-18-wheeler-in-NW-5019969.php>

USA, N.Y, ALBANY, NOVEMBER 29 2013. NY PLAN REFLECTS DEMAND FOR NATURAL GAS TRUCKS

mary esch

In the four decades since 40 workers were killed by an explosion in a 108-foot-tall liquefied natural gas tank in Staten Island, New York has banned construction of such facilities. It wasn't a major issue over the years, without much demand for the fuel that's created by chilling natural gas to an extremely low temperature to a liquid state. The state's three existing LNG storage facilities, built on Long Island in the 1960s, remain in operation, exempt from the ban. Now things have changed. Demand is rising as trucking companies switch from diesel fuel to LNG, which doesn't produce the toxic fumes in diesel exhaust that are associated with smog, asthma, lung cancer and other health problems. It's also much cheaper than diesel because the abundance of natural gas produced by hydraulic fracturing in shale formations has driven prices to near historic lows. New York's ban puts up a roadblock as companies including Royal Dutch Shell PLC, General Electric Co. and Clean Energy Fuels build out a nationwide network of LNG fueling facilities. The Department of Environmental Conservation has drafted regulations, expected to be finalized by early next year, that will allow LNG truck-fueling stations and other types of LNG storage plants. The agency estimates that about 21 fueling stations will be built over the next five years. Some environmental groups oppose letting LNG facilities in, citing concerns about safety and methane emissions. New Yorkers Against Fracking calls the regulations a backdoor attempt to get the infrastructure in place for shale gas development, which has been banned since the state began an environmental review of it in 2008. The state Motor Truck Association says major fleet operators that have switched to LNG are realizing savings of \$1 to \$3 per diesel equivalent gallon. UPS is now operating 59 LNG trucks between its southern California and Las Vegas depots and more than 1,000 natural gas trucks nationwide. Lowe's Cos. has launched a fleet of LNG trucks at a distribution center in Texas and says its goal is to replace all its diesel-powered fleets with natural gas trucks by the end of 2017. Natural gas has been used as a truck and bus fuel for many years but as compressed gas rather than liquid. Compressed natural gas is good for vehicles that return to a central hub to slowly refuel overnight, like garbage trucks and municipal buses, but is impractical for long-haul trucks. Tractor-trailers can't carry enough compressed gas to go long distances, and refueling is slow. Liquefied natural gas is higher in energy and flows into the gas tank as fast as diesel. The main obstacles to increasing use of LNG by long-haul freight companies are the cost of specialized trucks with double-walled tanks, which can cost \$10,000 more than diesel trucks, and scarcity of fueling stations. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, there are now 81 LNG fueling stations in 14 states, with more than half of them in California and the



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rest primarily west of the Mississippi. But the number is poised to rise significantly in the next few years. Shell has announced plans to build LNG fueling facilities at up to 100 TravelCenter and Petro truck stops along interstate highways. Clean Energy Fuels, co-founded by billionaire T. Boone Pickens, is installing LNG fueling tanks at Flying J truck stops coast to coast. Among the planned fueling stations listed on Clean Energy's website are two in New York: in Rotterdam, about 20 miles west of Albany serving the Interstate 88 corridor, and Pembroke, along Interstate 90 in western New York. They will need state permits under the new regulations. Spokesman Patric Rayburn said Clean Energy completed 70 stations nationwide in 2012 and anticipates completing 30 to 50 more in 2013, though many are not yet fueling. "As more LNG trucks are put into service, we get the stations up and running," Rayburn said.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/28/4656029/ny-plan-reflects-demand-for-natural.html>

USA, TX, AUSTIN, NOVEMBER 29 2013. EXPLOSION ROCKS DIME BOX OIL WELL SITE



Lee County Sheriff Rodney Meyer and pumper Glenn Jatzlau survey a well site in Dime Box after a heater treater caught fire and exploded last Wednesday, November 20.

Last Wednesday, November 20, the Dime Box Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to an oil field fire at about 12:25 p.m. According to the Lee County Sheriff's Department, the DBVFD responded to an oil lease located at the Carla West property on CR 426, about two miles south of Hwy. 21 and east of FM 141 in Dime Box. A hot oil operator, Jeremy Urbanovsky, working for John's Hot Oil from Caldwell, was preparing to work on the well when a gas line on the ground, that goes into the heater treater, caught fire. The heater treater also caught fire and exploded, sending it 100 feet into the air. As it blew, the treater struck a Bluebonnet Electric power line, knocking it down. Urbanovsky was able to

disconnect his line and drive his truck away before the explosion, without any injury to himself and without further property damage. The property was leased by PennTex Petroleum Corporation, from Austin. Lee County Sheriff Rodney Meyer and Captain Crockett were on the scene, along with Glenn Jatzlau, the pumper of the well, and several Dime Box Volunteer fire fighters. Sheriff Meyer said, "The fire fighters did an excellent job, keeping the fire contained and putting it out. This could have been much more serious than it was. We are grateful that there were no injuries in the explosion."

http://www.lexingtonleader.com/news/2013-11-28/Front_Page/Explosion_Rocks_Dime_Box_Oil_Well_Site.html

USA, TX, AMARILLO, NOVEMBER 29 2013. PHILLIPS 66 TO PAY \$300K SETTLEMENT FOR BIRD DEATHS

jim.mcbride

Phillips 66 Co. and federal authorities have reached a nearly \$300,000 settlement over migratory bird kills at the company's facilities near Borger. In August 2012, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service learned about 260 waterfowl, mostly teal, had been killed at the Johnson Tank Farm Pond, a 3 million-barrel brine water pond spanning 22 acres in Hutchinson County. Company officials reported the incident to wildlife officials in August 2012 and began taking steps to keep migratory birds from the pond, according to information from the company's compliance settlement. Phillips also established an emergency treatment center for injured birds at the Borger facility, installed bird deterrent devices and contracted with another firm to keep birds away from the pond with a boat and air horns, federal authorities said. Under terms of the agreement announced Wednesday, Phillips has agreed to make a \$200,000 donation to the South Plains Wildlife Center, pay \$10,000 in restitution and pay a \$50,000 fine. The company also agreed to pay \$38,820 to Texas Parks and Wildlife for the value of the birds. In exchange for the company's mitigation efforts, authorities will not prosecute Phillips under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or other federal laws if the company continues to comply with terms of the agreement, which was reached Nov. 22. Phillips' compliance plan also requires it to submit annual reports to federal officials, and deploy a bird detection and radar control system at the tank farm. Phillips spokeswoman Janet Grothe said it has taken steps to address federal concerns. "At Phillips 66 we conduct our business with care for the environment. ... We have added additional deterrents and continue to work closely with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to minimize bird activity near our operations," she said in a statement.

Related Stories [Phillips 66, WRB Refinery in Borger Agree to Penalty & Compliance Plan for ...](#)

<http://amarillo.com/news/2013-11-27/feds-reach-agreement-phillips-over-bird-kills-borger-plant>



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