



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 1,028 Newsy Stuff

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

December 19 2013



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PHILIPPINES, MANILA, DECEMBER 11 2013. HAILAND'S PTT SETS P2.1 BILLION WAR CHEST FOR PHILIPPINE EXPANSION

euan paulo c. añonuevo



The local unit of Thailand's PTT is readying its war chest for a five-year plan to boost investments in the Philippines. In a press conference yesterday, PTT Philippines Corp president Wisarn Chawalitanon said the company allocated P2.1 billion to put up 75 new service stations over the said period. "Every year, beginning 2014, we will be opening up 15 new stations or a total of 75 new stations in five years' time, so we will be more visible particularly in Luzon," he said. PTT Philippines operates 70 outlets in the country, 15 of which were newly opened in Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, La Union, Pangasinan, Laguna and Quezon. Another seven stations are being constructed and expected to open early next year. One of these stations is PTT's first "platinum" station in Lucena, Quezon, which was patterned after the oil firm's major stations in Thailand. The facility covers a wider land area than conventional stations and contains a green

environment and one-stop shops. The company will also put up similar stations in Taytay, Rizal and Fairview, Quezon City. Both are expected to also open up in the first quarter next year. "Our long-term plan is to also expand in Visayas and Mindanao but our thrust for now is to establish our presence in Luzon. Once we succeed on this, definitely we will be moving towards southern Philippines," Chawalitanon said. PTT Philippines is a subsidiary of Petroleum Authority of Thailand Public Co, Thailand's largest oil firm.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/business/76584/thailands-ptt-sets-p2-1-billion-war-chest-for-philippine-expansion>

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, YALLABATHARRA, DECEMBER 11 2013. CHEMICAL SPILL IN MID WEST UNDER CONTROL



A chemical spill at a facility between Kalbarri and Northampton in Western Australia's mid west region has been contained. Thousands of litres of hydrochloric acid spilled from a tank at BASF's Hutt Lagoon site at Yallabatharra on Tuesday morning, with the operator blaming it on a faulty valve while the Department of Fire and Emergency Services attributed it to a ruptured pipe. 'Any content leaked from the tank has been fully captured by the containment bund,' BASF said in a statement. 'Local fire brigades from Kalbarri, Northampton and Geraldton have responded and are in the process of determining the best course of action to transfer the leaked content.' They are expected to remain there for several hours as chemical recovery personnel travel to the site. DFES

has warned of fumes in the area. George Grey Drive, which was briefly closed, has reopened but drivers are asked to slow down near the incident. The Hutt Lagoon site is part of BASF's Nutrition and Health business, where it derives beta-carotene from naturally occurring micro-alga. The product is used as food and beverage colouring and in dietary supplements. Production at the site will be suspended until the situation is under control, BASF said.

<http://www.skynews.com.au/local/article.aspx?id=932788>

SAUDI ARABIA, JEDDAH, DECEMBER 11 2013. JEDDAH GAS STATION SHUT FOR FUEL FRAUD

mohannad sharawi

Authorities have closed down a gas station, arrested several workers and charged a Saudi businesswoman with fraud, for selling diluted fuel to unwary customers, according to an Internet Arabic newspaper. The gas station in Al-Samer district was closed down after a police investigation revealed that the workers were mixing the green type of gasoline "91" with a special red substance and selling it as the red type "95." Lt. Nawaf Al-Bouq, spokesman of the Jeddah Police, said patrols were sent to the station following several complaints from motorists. The police then questioned the station's workers and its female owner. The case was forwarded to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for a decision. Al-Bouq said the owner would be named and shamed by publishing notices in local newspapers announcing that her business was fraudulent. Sources said the Saudi owner may not have known about the fraud, but still has to accept responsibility for the actions of her workers. Abdullah



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Al-Thebyani, a resident of Al-Samer, and a regular customer of the station, said he noticed that the fuel he bought over the past two months had affected the performance of his vehicle and was worried it would seriously damage his engine. "I was relieved when I heard the station had been closed for fraud." An increased number of cases of gasoline fraud have surfaced recently largely due to online activists reporting suspicious incidents to authorities. In late November, a leading gasoline company in the country had to publish notices in newspapers admitting that there had been tampering of gas pump meters resulting in its stations selling less petrol than customers paid for. At a recent meeting of the Young Lawyers United (YLU) organization at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, scores of experts, lawyers and legal professionals discussed the rising incidence of commercial fraud. Mohammad Shawly, a representative of Saudi Aramco, said there should be more education of consumers on how to report cases. He said consumers should use the ministry of commerce's fraud hotline and other online services to report corrupt activities. Basma Khashoggi, a legal expert, said that drastic measures were needed to combat these corrupt practices, which would include combined efforts from government and consumers. She urged the public to report such cases to the police.

<http://www.arabnews.com/news/490936>

USA, N,Y, CHEEKTOWAGA, DECEMBER 11 2013. FREIGHT TRAIN CARRYING CRUDE OIL DERAILS, NO INJURIES



Several tank cars carrying crude oil derailed on a train in the Broadway-Harlem Road area of Cheektowaga this morning, according to a spokesman for CSX. Three cars are on their side and two are upright following the derailment, which occurred at about 9:30 a.m., according to CSX spokesman Bob Sullivan. There were no leaks or injuries. The train was traveling from Chicago to Philadelphia, Sullivan said. Crews are working to rerail the cars, while the cause of the derailment is under investigation, Sullivan said.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city-region/cheektowaga/freight-train-carrying-crude-oil-derails-in-cheektowaga-no-injuries-20131210>

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, DECEMBER 11 2013. MAN MAY HAVE BURNED TO DEATH STEALING GAS

Watch the Video

- [Man Burns to Death allegedly trying to Steal Gas](#)
- [Man Burned to Death While trying to Siphon Gas in South LA](#)

Key Points:

- Van explodes, explodes, man burned to death,
- inside the van authorities discovered:
 - two 55-gallon tanks
 - a pump
 - an inch-wide water hose leading from the van to an underground tank.



A man who was fatally burned today inside a van at a South Los Angeles gas station may have been trying to steal fuel from an underground tank, authorities said. The body was found in the 4400 block of Avalon Boulevard about 6:30 a.m., said Officer Norma Eisenman of the Los Angeles Police Department's Media Relations office. Homicide detectives were sent to investigate the circumstances of the death, Eisenman said. The charred body was that of a male, said coroner's Assistant Chief Ed Winter. His name was not immediately available. LAPD Officer Manuel Gomez told reporters at the scene that the man may have been trying to steal gasoline from an underground tank at the gas station. "It appears that there was ... some type of pump coming from the

vehicle, to the port of the tank," Gomez told CBS2.

<http://www.myfoxla.com/story/24184545/man-may-have-burned-to-death-stealing-gas>



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USA, ILL, DEPUÉ, DECEMBER 11 2013. \$975,000 SETTLEMENT AT HAND FOR DEPUÉ IN POLLUTION BATTLE

craig sterret

In its ongoing negotiations and efforts to make sure the town gets cleaned up after years of industrial pollution, DePue reached a settlement in a seven-year legal battle with two corporate giants. DePue Village Board on Monday authorized village president Eric Bryant to enter a \$975,000 settlement in an appellate case against Exxon-Mobil and CBS Operations, the legally-identified "responsible parties" in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund cleanup of the Exxon-Mobil, New Jersey Zinc smelter site and other polluted parts of the community. The village twice filed lawsuits for nuisance-ordinance violations, seeking fines for the corporations for each day the village cleanup was not completed. Attorney of record Richard Steagall of Peoria said when the second of two DePue lawsuits was dismissed, it was sent to the 7th Circuit mediation council, which convened to suggest a settlement this fall. In the settlement document, "The village agrees to take no further action to prosecute the underlying litigation and the pending appeal in (the appellate case)." After approval of the agreement by the parties, the "village shall move for dismissal of the pending appeal" and pay to the circuit clerk fees and costs due upon dismissal. Within 30 days of the village's dismissal of the pending approval, CBS and Exxon shall make payment to the village. "It is understood by the parties the defendants' payment shall be allotted to such municipal projects as water and sewer system upgrades, improvements to municipal buildings and recreational facilities, and purchases of capital assets and real estate," a document reads. While the village won't pursue these particular daily fines, that doesn't mean the village or a citizens action group won't remain vigilant and active. A release typed for Monday's board meeting on Village of DePue letterhead read as follows:

"The Village of DePue is pleased to have settled the law suit with the Responsible Parties, Exxon Mobil and CBS Operations. However, the lawsuit concerned only the authority of the village to assess fines and bring certain kinds of lawsuits. The settlement does not in any way affect the ongoing cleanup process being led by the IEPA. The village will continue to participate vigorously in that process to ensure that the health and safety of the residents of DePue are protected and that the village gets the fair cleanup it deserves. It has been almost 20 years since IEPA entered a consent order with the Responsible Parties to clean up the hazardous wastes they left behind. We continue to call on Exxon Mobil and CBS to CLEAN UP DEPUÉ and urge IEPA to continue to push the remediation process forward as quickly as possible. The people of DePue have been waiting too long for simple fairness and justice."

In 2006, attorney Missy Sims found an unusual way for the village to prod Exxon-Mobil and CBS Operations to speed up the cleanup of the village and industrial pollution sites. In late summer that year, village officials gathered at the Exxon Mobil and Viacom Superfund cleanup site and posted a Notice to Abate Nuisance on the gate. The notice stated the village could fine the companies \$750 each day that the pollutants at the site are not cleaned up. The village then filed suit. When a judge dismissed that suit and in his decision indicated the village would have more of a chance if it had home rule powers, village residents approved a referendum making DePue a home rule unit of government. The village later took similar legal action again and also made common law trespass and nuisance claims against the corporations, alleging that the companies or their predecessors allowed pollution from the site to, in essence, go where it should not have gone.

<http://newstrib.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=27&ArticleID=33334>

USA, IN, GREENDALE, DECEMBER 11 2013. TANKER TRUCK GOES OFF INTERSTATE

denise burdette

 **Watch the Video** [Overturned Tanker Closes US-50](#)

Greendale police, fire, EMS as well as a towing company had their hands full Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8, when a semi-tractor trailer left Interstate 275, and ended up in a field. The truck left the interstate near the 17-mile marker, and went over the embankment near Horseshoe campground. Greendale Police Sgt. Kevin Turner said the tractor and trailer were upright, and the tractor had heavy front end damage. Driver Vernon Brouwer, 57, of Holland, Mich., told police t he had hit his head during the accident and could not recall why he left the roadway. No other vehicles were involved in the crabs, and the only damage was to some trees and the vehicle. Drugs and alcohol are not suspected to be involved, said Turner. Brouwer was taken to Dearborn County Hospital for non-life threatening injuries. The trailer was loaded but not carrying hazardous materials. Greendale Assistant Chief Jeffery Allen Lane is investigating the accident. Schaffer's Towing assisted at the scene.

http://www.thedcregister.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13159:truck-goes-off-interstate&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=44



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NORTHERN IRELAND, CO MEATH, DECEMBER 11 2013. PLANT WITH CAPACITY TO LAUNDER 3 MILLION LITRES OF FUEL A YEAR UNCOVERED IN MEATH >> TWO MEN, AGED 19 AND 20, HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.



*The townland of Macetown, Rathfeigh, off the M3, is highlighted here
2 men have been arrested after an oil laundering plant was uncovered in Co Meath.*

Two men have been arrested after a large-scale diesel laundering plant was uncovered in rural Co Meath this evening. Fuel and related equipment was also seized in a joint operation carried out by Revenue officers and gardaí in the townland of Macetown, Rathfeigh. The two men arrested, who are aged 19 and 20, are being questioned at Navan and Ashbourne Garda Stations under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act. According to a statement from gardaí, the unit had the capability to produce 3 million litres of laundered fuel per year, and

the potential to deprive the exchequer of €1.5 million per year in terms of lost taxes.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/fuel-laundering-meath-1216344-Dec2013/>

BRAZIL, PARANA, ARAUCARIA, DECEMBER 11 2013. BRAZIL'S PETROBRAS SHUTS DOWN REFINERY IN WAKE OF FIRE

jeff Fick



Brazilian state-run oil company Petrobras, said Friday that it has shut down a refinery in southern Brazil to repair damage from a fire that damaged the plant last week. The idled Presidente Getulio Vargas Refinery in Parana state, also known as Repar, accounts for about 10% of Brazil's crude-oil processing, Petrobras said the outage would not affect fuel supplies, but the company is already struggling with a refining shortfall and can ill afford to lose processing capacity for any extended period without further hurting the firm's finances. The company currently imports heavy amounts of gasoline and diesel to meet growing domestic demand that have led to steep losses in Petrobras's refining division. The fire damaged Repar's distillation unit, which separates crude oil into different liquids that are then used to make products such as gasoline, diesel and cooking fuel. While the distillation unit has been shut down since the fire, the refinery's other units had remained in operation. The union representing

workers at the refinery posted images of the damaged unit showing beams and pipes that had been twisted by the heat of the fire. Workers are voting on a potential strike over unsafe conditions at the refinery in the wake of the fire, the union said.

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303330204579248073798831500>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, DECEMBER 10 2013. CSB RELEASES SAFETY MESSAGE FOCUSING ON PREVENTING ACCIDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY LABS



U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD

An independent federal agency investigating chemical accidents to protect workers, the public, and the environment.

Weber, an accident survivor, who on January 23, 2006, at age 15 was burned over 40 per cent of her body during a chemistry demonstration performed by her teacher at a prestigious boarding school she attended in Ohio. In her own words, Calais describes the demonstration, called the "rainbow experiment," that was meant to show how various mineral salts produce different color flames when burned. Mineral salts were mixed with highly flammable methanol in small dishes. CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "This is a new kind of video safety message for the CSB. Too often, chemical accident victims – survivors as well as fatalities -- are forgotten as time goes on. In this video, Ms. Weber tells a painful and poignant story that we hope resonates in high school and academic labs across the country." The video is a follow up to "[Experimenting with Danger](#)" concerning laboratory accidents in three major universities. In "After the Rainbow" Calais describes how she was standing in the first row as matches were dropped into each little dish. When one flame began to dim, Calais's teacher reached for a gallon-sized bottle of methanol. She began to pour the liquid on the open flame, and it exploded. "And because I was right in front, I got the brunt of it," Calais recalls. "I remember thinking, 'I'm on fire. Oh, my gosh, I'm on fire.'" While

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today released, "[After the Rainbow](#)," a video safety message focused on potential dangers in high school chemistry laboratories. The message features Calais



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attending school, Calais worked as a model. After the accident, she spent two and a half months in a hospital where she endured painful treatments and numerous surgeries, including facial skin grafts. She now volunteers with Angel Faces, a program designed to empower young women with facial disfigurements, often due to burn injuries. Calais goes on to describe what should have been done differently on the day of the accident, listing a lack of safety gear and the large amount of methanol present in the room. And she has advice for other teenagers who may feel unsafe in the classroom, saying, "While it can seem daunting, it's perfectly ok to speak up if you're not feeling safe, to always question, and if you're given a piece of information on safety, read it." Calais believes that her accident was entirely preventable and that with better attention to good safety practices, similar accidents can also be avoided. She says, "It feels with this type of injury that you've had so much taken away from you unnecessarily and to keep reading about other people who have had very similar experiences, it's tragic and shouldn't happen." CSB videos may be streamed and downloaded at www.CSB.gov from the CSB video room. They are also available on www.YouTube.com/uscsb.

www.csb.gov.

CANADA, ALBA, CALGARY, DECEMBER 11 2013. COMPANY FINED \$30,000 FOR DELAYING CALL AFTER SPILL

A Calgary property management company has been fined for waiting two hours before calling authorities after spilling 300 litres of diesel on top of a downtown office tower. Brookfield Properties Management Corporation and Brookfield Properties were handed \$30,000 in fines by a provincial court judge for failing to notify authorities of the spill at Fifth Avenue Place at 420 2nd St. S.W. on June 21, 2011. If the spilled fuel had entered the roof drainage system or ignited, the consequences could have been catastrophic. The diesel spilled on the roof of the 34th floor during the installation of a new generator and diesel storage tank. It took more than two hours after the spill was detected for staff and contractors working on-site to notify emergency responders. Fire crews activated the fire alarm and evacuated the building immediately. There were no injuries. The Alberta Fire Code requires building owners, managers and operators to notify emergency responders immediately. "Failing to ensure that the fire department is notified immediately once a flammable or combustible liquid has spilled, is a serious offence," said Calgary Fire Department fire marshal Ed Kujat. "There is risk to both people and the environment." "Serious incidents such as this require emergency responders to be involved," said Kujat. "It's a public safety issue. Building owners, managers and operators have a legal duty to ensure that they are in compliance with the Alberta Fire Code and the Safety Codes Act. We are pleased that this responsibility was recognized and reinforced by the courts." The maximum fines for these charges were limited to \$15,000 for each offence. Fines for violations have gone up significantly in Alberta for offences occurring after December 2012 — from a maximum penalty of \$15,000 per offence, up to a new maximum of \$100,000 per offence.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Company+fined+waiting+call+authorities+after+diesel+spill/9269017/story.html>

MALTA, GOZO, DECEMBER 11 2013. MEPA LAUNCHES FIREWORKS FACTORY COMPLEXES POLICY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION >> APPLICATIONS FOR FIREWORKS FACTORIES WILL BE VETTED BY NEW COMMITTEE BEFORE PASSING INTO MEPA'S HANDS



Labour MP and pyrotechnics lobbyist Michael Falzon (left) with MEPA chairman Vince Cassar, planning secretary Michael Farrugia, and MEPA CEO Johann Buttigieg.

A policy for new fireworks factory complexes and for the upgrading of existing facilities has been launched for public consultation by parliamentary secretary for planning Michael Farrugia, and policy chairman and Labour MP Michael Falzon and MEPA. Michael Falzon is also the legal consultant for the fireworks lobby, the Malta Pyrotechnic Association. Under the new policy, new factories will be developed in outside development zones. A committee will be set up to

vet applications before these are considered before the MEPA board. Falzon said the policy was intended at filling the lacuna of a specific MEPA policy. The policy stipulates those areas in which fireworks factory complexes cannot be developed and areas which would be considered as "candidate sites" for environmental protection. Michael Farrugia said the policy was "far more stringent than what is provided for in the existing legislation". "Amongst others, it excludes the siting of such complexes within the statutory distance, from hospitals, old peoples' homes, industrial areas, reverse osmosis plants and so on," Farrugia



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said. Limitations are also imposed as to the height of such structures, so as to have such structured blend in with the surrounding landscape as much as possible. Falzon said that for better operational and safety considerations, the policy avoids a one-size-fits-all approach by forcing each building to be designed according to the site in question. When the policy comes into force, references to fireworks factory complexes in two local plans will be superseded.

Related Stories

- [MEPA issues draft consultation policy for new firework factory complexes](#)
- [Malta 'needs' more fireworks factories](#)
- [New policy for fireworks factories launched](#)

<http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/MEPA-launches-fireworks-factory-complexes-policy-for-public-consultation-20131210>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, DECEMBER 11 2013. WATER WALL FIGHTS FIRES



Fire is terrifying in its speed and ferocity. Aussie Pumps' "Water Wall" adds a new dimension to fire fighting and personal protection.

The Aussie Water Wall creates a 300m², 12–15m high wall of water jets from one hose. The effect of such a concentrated impact can be used to stop fire spreading or isolate a dangerous situation. "The applications for this new technology are endless," said Aussie Product Manager, Brad Farrugia, "We've seen it used in applications from creating firebreaks to chemical control." The Aussie Smart Hose is designed to be used in containment situations. It can prevent fires spreading by creating a firebreak, and can protect adjacent, sensitive, environments from heat damage. It can also be used in an isolating

capacity in applications like fuel and hazmat refilling work or decontamination. The necessity of keeping personnel out of harm's way in these situations is critical. "One Water Wall can deliver a water safety barrier into a high risk situation," explained Farrugia, "This not only protect operators but allows human resources to be deployed more efficiently," he claimed. Water Wall can also be used to deliver extinguishing and wetting agents, disinfectant and other chemicals. Jetting vapours and liquids can assist in the absorption of hazardous heavy gases. Chemicals can be introduced to the watermist to neutralise a dangerous environment. The Water Wall consists of 20m of 75mm Duraflex hose with 25 high-grade steel, interchangeable, nozzles. Weight is 16kg and it is flexible enough for rough terrain, including steps and rugged bushland. Sections can be locked together for extended coverage. Counter pressure generated by the nozzles prevents twisting so the hose is self-stabilizing. The water can be jetted horizontally or vertically and jets can be sealed off using dummy plugs. The water capacity is up to 1550 lpm depending on the pressure available and the nozzles used. Storz couplings are optional. "Water Wall has had a lot of attention from fire fighters already," said Farrugia, "and we expect the mining and oil and gas sector, chemical and other industries to be interested," he said. Water Wall is suited for use with high pressure/ high flow pumps such as Aussie Fire Chief or Mr T fire fighters. The Fire Chief has a maximum flow of 450 lpm and head of up to 75m (107psi). Aussie Mr T has maximum flow of 450 lpm and max head of 90m (128psi). The Aussie Smart Hose is part of Australian Pump Industries fire fighting and safety range.

[safetoworkwaterwall](#)

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, DECEMBER 11 2013. UPDATE: ON LPG AVAILABILITY AT CALTEX SITES IN NSW AND ACT

There is currently a shortage of LPG at some Caltex-supplied sites in New South Wales and the ACT due to the unavailability of a number of Cootes Transport distribution trucks. The issue is affecting approximately 25% of sites that Caltex supplies with LPG. We anticipate that there will be continued outages of LPG at Caltex-supplied retail sites over the coming days. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and we thank our customers for their patience as we restore supply to affected sites. We will restore supply as soon as trucks become available to handle this task. The disruption is isolated to LPG and only affects NSW and the ACT. Supply and distribution of all other products, including petrol, diesel and jet fuel, is unaffected.

<http://www.4-traders.com/CALTEX-AUSTRALIA-LIMITED-6492233/news/Caltex-Australia-Limited--Update-on-LPG-availability-at-sites-in-NSW-and-ACT-17601577/>



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USA, FLA, WEST PALM BEACH, DECEMBER 11 2013. AUTHORITIES: EQUIPMENT AT RICH'S ICE CREAM 'BELCHED SOME GAS', SENDS 2 TO HOSPITAL

susan salisbury

 **Watch the Video** [Equipment at Rich's Ice Cream 'Belched some Gas', Sends 2 to Hospital](#)



West Palm Beach firefighters take a worker from Rich's Ice Cream plant to St. Mary's Medical Center after an ammonia leak Wednesday afternoon, December 11, 2013.

Two Rich's Ice Cream employees were taken to St. Mary's Medical Center around 1 p.m. following an ammonia leak at the manufacturing plant at 2915 South Dixie Highway. West Palm Beach Fire Rescue Assistant Chief Daniel Hanes said anhydrous ammonia, a gas used to make ice cream freeze, leaked from some equipment. "The equipment belched some gas," Hanes said. "It was a very, very low concentration." The two were among 23 Rich's workers who were exposed to the ammonia and evaluated by city fire-rescue crews. The others were deemed OK. The two sent to the hospital reported experiencing

breathing problems, but are in stable condition, Hanes said. Hanes said the leak was a "nuisance leak" and the equipment was secured within an hour. Twelve fire rescue vehicles and 23 personnel were on the scene after being called at noon. Some wore hazardous material suits as a precaution. The plant was expected to be up and running again shortly.

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/crime-law/authorities-equipment-at-richs-ice-cream-plant-bel/ncHr2/>

ENGLAND, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, NEWARK, DECEMBER 11 2013. NEWARK EXPLOSION: BUILD-UP OF FOAM FILLER FUMES BLAMED

 **Photo's [9]** [Newark Gas Explosion](#)



The explosion in Wright Street, Newark, caused the Rourkes' home to collapse. An inquest has heard how a build-up of fumes from foam filler caused an explosion which killed a father and daughter in Newark earlier this year. The bodies of 71-year-old Leslie Rourke and his daughter-in-law Jeanette Rourke, 40, were found inside the terraced house on Wright Street after it collapsed in May. A coroner today ruled their deaths were accidental, after hearing that experts had determined at least 18 cans of foam filler had been used in a short space of time within a confined cellar area - and it should only be used in a well ventilated space. Supt Mike Manley, from Nottinghamshire Police, said: "This was clearly a tragic accident which resulted in two people losing their lives. The

blast was caused by a build-up of fumes from foam filler advised to only be used in a well ventilated space. "The devastation caused in terms of both the loss to the Rourke family and also to the local people of Newark is indescribable. Our thoughts go out to Leslie and Jeanette's family and friends and all those who knew them."

Related Stories

- [Newark death explosion caused by DIY work, inquest hears](#)
- [Newark house explosion due to foam fumes](#)
- [Newark house blast caused by foam filler, inquest hears](#)
- [Foam blamed for blast that killed two](#)
- [Newark House Explosion: The Cause](#)

<http://www.itv.com/news/calendar/update/2013-12-10/newark-explosion-build-up-of-fumes-from-foam-filler-to-blame/>

USA, GA, VALDOSTA, DECEMBER 11 2013. AG COMMISSIONER WARNS OF POSSIBLY VOLATILE KEROSENE

Agriculture Commissioner Gary W. Black is warning consumers who purchased kerosene on or before December 10, 2013 from the Gas & Go at 812 South Patterson Street, Valdosta, not to use the product in their kerosene heaters or lamps. The kerosene is possibly contaminated with gasoline and has the potential to cause an explosion or fire if used in home heaters or lamps. Inspectors from the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Fuel & Measures Division discovered the contaminated



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products on a routine inspection of the stores. A "stop-sale" order has been placed on the kerosene pump at both stores. The pumps will remain closed until the tank and lines have been cleaned and a new shipment has been tested and approved by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. To date, no other stations are involved. Consumers who purchased kerosene from either store on or before December 10, 2013 should refrain from using the product and return it to the store of purchase for a refund.

<http://www.mysouthwestga.com/news/story.aspx?list=196423&id=981691>

USA, TX, HARRIS CO, DECEMBER 12 2013. VEHICLE CRASH LEADS TO GAS PUMP EXPLOSION IN TEXAS



A pump at a gas station exploded in a ball of fire following a traffic crash in the U.S. state of Texas Wednesday, though no casualties were reported, according to local media. The explosion happened Wednesday morning near a gas station in Harris County, the Houston Chronicle website reported. Three vehicles were involved in the accident, which occurred at the intersection of two roads, resulting in one vehicle colliding with the gas pump and bursting into flames. Local TV footage showed fire engulfing the vehicle and large columns of black smoke billowing into the sky. Assistant Chief Deputy of the Harris County Office, Mark Herman, told the Chronicle no injuries were reported, though a woman in the station at the time of the blast had an unspecified medical emergency and was treated at the scene. Details of her current condition have not been released. The blaze was extinguished by firefighters hours later. Herman said investigators are trying to determine what led to the crash

<http://english.cri.cn/6966/2013/12/12/2361s803052.htm>

NEPAL, DHADING, JAWANG KHOLA, DECEMBER 11 2013. KTM-BOUND GAS LORRY IN FLAMES AT TRISULI



A lorry carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) that caught fire at the Trisuli River banks at Jogimara-2, near Jawang Khola of Dhading district, on Wednesday, December 11, 2013.

A lorry carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) has been recently seen in flames at the Trisuli River banks at Jogimara-2, near Jawang Khola of Dhading district. The tanker registered in India (HR 55 P 5904) was on its way to Kathmandu from India. According to police, it fell 10 meters down from the road and caught fire at around 3:15 pm today. One injured has already been rescued and no human casualties have been reported so far. The injured is identified as Madhav Prasad Pyakurel, driver of the lorry, of Tupche, Nuwakot. Pyakurel was rushed to Kathmandu after primary treatment at the Rajmarg Samudayik

Hospital, Malekhu. However, the local police have not been able to approach the site as the lorry has already caught fire, Jogimara Police Office said. Later, locals, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force contained the fire.

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=KTM-bound+gas+lorry+in+flames+at+Trisuli&NewsID=399264>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, DECEMBER 12 2013. ROAD TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS TRENDING DOWN



File photo.

An insurance provider says it has had its lowest claims year on record for heavy vehicles in the dangerous good sector. According to Grant Stillman, head of DG insurance at OAMPS and a 30 year veteran in the insurance business, there are a lot of lessons that can be drawn from analysing insurance claims. "We are currently experiencing our best run in history with claims reducing year on year" he said. "We had one spike two years ago, which highlights how volatile the industry can be even with the most risk-conscious clients." The reduction in claims is not due to luck but a focus by the insurers and also the companies



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insured to 'get it right' with proper systems and procedures. "There has been a lot of focus of late about tanker maintenance, yet our records show that we have not had to pay out on one claim based on poor maintenance in years," Mr Stillman said. OAMPS' main concern is driver error that leads to accidents. "More than 70% of our claims are attributed to driver error. It is where the focus should be to reduce accidents in this sector," he said. "Whilst OAMPS would not dispute that having properly maintained vehicles is essential, the evidence that the current fleet is both poorly maintained and therefore causing a safety risk does not stack up from an insurance claims perspective. "At the end of the day, the buck stops with the insurance companies. We see all claims related incidents and go through them with enormous care to determine fault. It is our business. Our major focus is with the driver and his ability to focus on the job." OAMPS is supportive of in-cab cameras to continuously record drivers and the road ahead. "It has been a wonderful invention that allows companies to assess near misses as well as accidents. There is nothing like vision and audio in any post-analysis to determine the causal factors. It is not expensive but it is very effective," he said "I am confident that if we focus on the driver and how to improve their work life and focus on the job, we will see a further and sustained reduction in incidents and claims over time."

<http://www.tandlnews.com.au/2013/12/12/article/road-transport-accidents-trending-down/>

USA, KY, GRAYSON, DECEMBER 12 2013. FIRE AND BLAST ROCK CLOSED GAS STATION



Grayson and Hitchins Volunteer Fire Departments responded to the Somerset Oil Gas Station on East Main Street after the town was rocked by a gas explosion.

Fire exploded from a recently closed gas station on Main Street Thursday night after a construction company may have struck a natural gas line after removing underground tanks. Grayson Volunteer Fire Department Chief Greg Felty said no injuries were incurred from the accident and responders from the department, approximately two blocks away from the site, were on location within one or two minutes of the call received at 5:37 p.m. The Hitchins volunteer department also responded to the blast. Grayson Somerset Oil Gas station owner Randy McGuire said he left the site temporarily at the time of the blast, where 10 to 12 workers were operating equipment only a few feet from

where the fire broke out. The cause of the fire is believed by McGuire and Felty to be a result of striking a natural gas line underground after the removal of all the 12,000-gallon tanks, but it is yet to be officially determined. "The building just blew from the inside out. We're lucky nobody was killed," McGuire said. The construction company overseeing the job was Shield Environmental, based in Lexington, but McGuire was unsure about the company doing the digging. McGuire said he was alerted to the fire after hearing the blast from a few blocks away. He then promptly turned in a nearby parking lot just as responders were arriving on the scene. He said he had previously asked the city to turn off the utilities and gas in the area before construction began, but said it delivered a notice around 3 p.m. Thursday to the station requesting McGuire's signature before shutting off services. McGuire said he was unsure if this may have also contributed to the explosion.

<http://www.journal-times.com/local/x1801394944/Fire-and-blast-rock-closed-gas-station>

USA, CT, NORWICH, DECEMBER 11 2013. FUEL TRUCK FLIPS ON ICY ROADS

adam benson



A fuel truck overturned on Route 16 in Lebanon just over the Colchester town line Tuesday during the snowstorm.

A kerosene truck traveling in Tuesday morning's icy conditions slipped off Route 16 in Lebanon, closing the road for several hours as clean up crews worked to remove thousands of gallons of oil contained inside. The accident, which left a driver with minor injuries, highlighted a busy day for state and local responders across the region as Connecticut picked up its first winter storm of the season. Cyndy Chanaca, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, said the truck, which was owned by Willimantic-based Ives Brothers Oil, was carrying 2,000 gallons at the time of the accident. The road reopened about 3 p.m., state police said. About 20 gallons spilled onto the



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road, but none of it entered the local watershed or soil deposits. Chanaca said North Franklin-based Kropp Environmental Contractors were called out to remove the oil from inside the vehicle. Darrell Lizotte and his wife, Linda, live on Lebanon Avenue near where the truck went off the road. Darrell was in the back of his home at the time, but said such events are not unusual in slippery conditions. "That's a dangerous area in the winter time," he said. "There are two hills going in either direction and a sharp curve at the bottom." The rollover was one of about 100 weather-related accidents Tuesday that left 10 people injured, State Police Lt. Paul Vance said. "There were quite a number spun out and that type of thing. The first snowstorm kind of gets you acclimated back to the fact that we live in New England," Vance said. Snowfall totals hovered between 2 and 5 inches. Temperatures will remain near-freezing for the next several days before another storm arrives in the area over the weekend, WFSB Chief Meteorologist Bruce DePrest said. Depending on its track, the precipitation with the weekend storm could be a wintry mix or just snow. "Either way, it's going to be a mess," DePrest said. "Winter's here early, and we're getting an early, early look at it." Aaron Kupec, a spokesman for AAA Connecticut's Allied Group that includes New London and Windham counties, said the company responded to 742 calls for roadside assistance as of 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, on top of 1,024 service calls Monday. "When you have a larger storm, what you see is a lull at the height of the storm and then a sharp increase right as it passes and people get out of their homes and get back on the roadways. They want to get back out there and go about their business, but there's still cleanup to do," he said. "A lot of crashes are caused by people traveling too fast for conditions." Nearly all schools and municipal meetings were canceled on Tuesday, but a Plainfield referendum to decide whether \$5.5 million should be spent on sewer plant upgrades and school work went on as scheduled. Local and state plow crews were out in force to stay ahead of deteriorating conditions as Tuesday's storm spanned the morning rush hour commute through the afternoon commute. In Norwich, officials deployed 19 jet trucks and six plows, and about 90 tons of de-icing materials was laid down on city streets, Public Works foreman John Johnson said. "We were out Monday night around 1 o'clock in the morning, so this is our second time out," Johnson said. "We went out just as it started snowing and got the material down. The fleet was ready to go." Statewide, 632 plows were fanned out on Department of Transportation-run roads, agency spokesman Kevin Nursick said. "We will be keeping crews on tonight to prevent any freeze-ups. Things have been going pretty well, and I'd really attribute that to the fact we've been working our tails off to keep roads safe," he said.

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/article/20131210/NEWS/131219930>

USA, CA, MERCED CO, SNELLING, DECEMBER 12 2013. CAL-OSHA INVESTIGATING FATAL 300-POUND FUEL TANK EXPLOSION AT RANCH ON HIGHWAY 59 NEAR SNELLING

rob parsons

Key Points:

- worker was grinding a 300-pound gasoline tank when it exploded
- killing one and seriously injuring two others
- welding experts say the dangers come from gasoline vapors and fumes



Merced County Fire Department mops up the scene of an apparent industrial accident about halfway between Merced and Snelling off Highway 59.

A ranch worker was apparently grinding a 300-pound gasoline tank late Wednesday afternoon when the tank exploded, killing the worker and seriously injuring two other workers, a state health and safety official said Thursday. The names of the man who was killed and the two who were injured have not been released. Peter Melton, a spokesman for the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health, was careful to note that the investigation is still in its early stages and said details may change as the inquiry progresses. One of the workers suffered severe burn injuries and another suffered "less serious injuries," Melton said. "We know one remains in the hospital and the other is

expected to be released (Thursday)," he said. Cal-OSHA said initial reports indicate that three workers were reconditioning three gasoline and diesel fuel tanks on a ranch on Highway 59, about halfway between Snelling and Merced. "It is believed they had finished one tank and were working on the second when that one exploded," Melton said. The ranch is apparently operated by a ranch management corporation that contracted employees through Big Valley Labor Inc. of Winton, authorities said. The name of the ranch management company could not be confirmed Thursday. Big Valley Labor did not return phone calls seeking comment. It was not clear Thursday whether any gasoline was in the tank when it exploded, but two welding



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experts said the dangers come from gasoline vapors and fumes, not necessarily the fuel itself. Robert Erwin, owner of Cal-Trade Welding School in Modesto, said that gasoline is "more explosive" than diesel fuel. "But the problem with tanks is the fumes, not the liquid," he said. "In general, you just make sure there are no fumes. I've even filled gasoline tanks with water before working on them for my own peace of mind." Tom Martin, a welding instructor at Modesto Technical College, agreed. "Standard procedure is to make sure the tank is purged and you take a reading to make sure there are no fumes or vapors," Martin said. Both men stressed they were speaking only regarding the accepted best practices for their trades and not commenting on Wednesday's incident in Merced County. Whether all proper procedures and safety protocols were followed before the deadly explosion is the main focus of the Cal-OSHA investigation. Melton confirmed that the incident was quickly reported by both Big Valley Labor and the Merced County Sheriff's Department. He said investigators would examine the ranch's Injury-Illness Prevention Plan and interview all witnesses and employees. "We have up to six months to complete any investigation," Melton said. If any violations are found, the state can issue citations and equipment restrictions.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2013/12/12/3390306/cal-osh-investigating-fatal-300.html>

AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, KAKADU NATIONAL PARK, DECEMBER 12 2013. RANGER URANIUM MINE SPILL: WORKER INJURED IN CLEAN-UP, UNION SAYS



A tank containing up to a million litres of uranium ore and acid split early on Saturday.

A worker has been injured during the clean-up of a toxic spill at the Ranger uranium mine in the Northern Territory, the ABC has been told. The Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU) says a fitter was injured this morning while cleaning up slurry that spilt out of a tank that collapsed last weekend. Brian Wilkins from the AMWU says the man fell through the crust of the radioactive material up to his armpits. It is understood the man was cleaned up and asked to return to work, but he refused. Mine operator Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) says it will look into the validity of the claims. A tank containing up to a million litres of uranium ore and acid split early on Saturday, damaging the crane that was trying to repair it and surrounding infrastructure at the mine near

Kakadu National Park. ERA said at the weekend the spill had been contained and there was no risk to the surrounding area and national park. Meanwhile the Federal and Northern Territory governments have released the terms of reference for their joint investigation into the spill. The investigation will identify why the leach tank collapsed, examine the integrity of broader processing operations and identify any gaps in maintenance procedures. A representative of the traditional owners of the mine site will be asked to participate on the taskforce that is carrying out the investigation. The Greens [have called for a permanent end to operations](#) at the mine. West Australian Greens Senator Scott Ludlam has said: "I think this latest disaster doesn't improve anyone's confidence that the mine is capable of running for another 10 or 15 years."

Related Stories

- [Contaminated slurry spills from uranium mine tank](#)
- [Greens call for Ranger uranium mine closure](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-12-13/worker-injured-in-clean-up-of-spill-at-ranger-uranium-mine/5156292>

USA, TX, BEAUMONT, DECEMBER 13 2013. EXXON SAYS PINHOLE PIPE LEAK REPAIRED AT TEXAS REFINERY

koustav samanta & anupam chatterjee

Exxon Mobil Corp said on Thursday that an earlier reported spill event at its 344,500 barrel-per-day refinery in Beaumont, Texas has ended after a small pinhole leak was repaired. The refinery had reported a spill of benzene due to a pipeline leak, according to a notice filed with regulators. Laboratory analysis found the leak did not contain benzene, company spokeswoman Kathleen Jackson said in an email. "The refinery anticipates no impact to production," the email added.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/12/us-refinery-operations-exxon-beaumont-idUSBRE9BB0OM20131212>

CHINA, CHANGJI PREFECTURE, DECEMBER 13 2013. GAS BLAST AT CHINESE COAL MINE TRAPS 22 WORKERS

A gas explosion has trapped 22 workers underground in a coal mine in western China. A government news office in Changji prefecture said the blast at a coal mine occurred at 1:26 a.m. local time Friday when 34 miners were working. The news office



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says on its official microblog that 12 miners were able to scramble to safety but 22 others remained trapped. China News Service says rescuers were searching for the trapped miners and it was unclear whether there were injuries or fatalities among them. Accidents are common in China's mines, which are the deadliest in the world. Safety improvements have reduced deaths in recent years, but regulations are still often ignored.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/545787/gas-blast-at-chinese-coal-mine-traps-22-workers>

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 12 2013. NAVY SUBCONTRACTOR BREAKS SILENCE ABOUT TREASURE ISLAND RADIATION

vicky nguyen, liz wagner & jeremy carroll

 **Watch the Video** [Navy Subcontractor Breaks Silence about Treasure Island Radiation](#)

[A health physicist with extensive experience working on radioactive cleanup sites speaks out for the first time and warns that residents and the environment may be at risk on Treasure Island. Investigative Reporter Vicky Nguyen reports in a story that aired on December 11, 2013].

Documents:

- [Newly Identified Radiological Impacted Site Map Page 1](#)
- [Newly Identified Radiological Impacted Site Map Page 2](#)
- [Bigelow Court Report](#)
- [Letter to Treasure Island Residents](#)
- [Navy Statement on Treasure Island Clean Up](#)

A radiation expert among the first to sound the alarm about radiation at Treasure Island speaks publicly for the first time about the Navy's attempts to conceal information from the public. A health physicist commissioned to survey San Francisco's Treasure Island for radiation has revealed for the first time to the Investigative Unit his belief that people never should have been allowed to live there. Radiation expert Don Wadsworth was hired on a multimillion dollar contract to perform routine tests for radiation on the former naval station beginning in 2007. He says Navy officials told him they didn't expect to find any radiological contamination on the island beyond what the Navy had already identified. But Wadsworth said he found radioactive material on sites throughout Treasure Island, including locations adjacent to occupied residences. "My job is to protect the people and the environment and it's not getting done," Wadsworth said. His company, [New World Environmental](#), based out of Livermore, has performed military cleanups of radioactive sites around the world, including Hunters Point in San Francisco and the Navy bombing yard on the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico. When asked for his professional opinion about whether people should be living on Treasure Island, he responded without hesitation: "No." During an interview with NBC Bay Area, Wadsworth reviewed a photo from a [Navy report](#) provided to regulators, which highlighted a radiation reading taken at building 1101 on Bigelow Court. The report states that the photo shows a technician "evaluating elevated levels of radiation detected beneath a slab" of concrete. The reading shows radiation levels of 80,000 cpm and 30 uR/hr, which according to Wadsworth, translates to one million times what the Environmental Protection Agency or the California Department of Public Health would allow for occupancy. The building on Bigelow Court has never been leased to residents because it is located on a known former solid waste disposal site, but it wasn't until this year that the Navy identified it on a [map](#) as being in a "newly identified radiological impacted site." Wadsworth says that is an example of the Navy's reluctance to reveal the nature and degree of radiation contamination on Treasure Island. When asked whether he believes the Navy has tried to cover up the extent of the radiation he said, "I really don't have a way of knowing what they're doing but certainly it does appear that way." The Hayes family agrees. "The information we get from the Navy is all denial saying everything is fine, there is nothing to worry about and we haven't found anything alarming at this point," said Paris Hayes, who has lived on the island with his wife Lucinda for 11 years. Four days before Thanksgiving, the Hayes' and two dozen other households in six residential buildings received [letters](#) from the [Treasure Island Development Authority \(TIDA\)](#) informing them that they would need to [vacate their apartments](#) beginning in April 2014. The letter states that the Navy is planning work adjacent to the buildings and that it would be necessary for tenants to move out of the buildings to complete the work. It goes on to say that the work "is part of the Navy's ongoing cleanup of buried and currently inaccessible low level chemicals" and that it is not related to radiological testing. "They told us that our relocation was based on the fact that they had to do more surveillance on the property but it was not related to any radioactive material findings," Lucinda Hayes said. However, in a [recent map](#) of survey work at Treasure Island drawn up by the Navy, the six buildings slated for relocation—1205 Bayside Dr., 1311 Gateview Dr., 1325 Gateview Dr., 1313 Gateview Dr., 1133 Mason Ct., and 1237 Northpoint Dr.—are located on or next to "newly identified radiologically



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[impacted sites](#)." Like 1101 Bigelow Ct., those buildings now need to be tested for radiation. TIDA director Robert Beck denied that there is evidence of any radiological material being buried where people are currently living. He has continually defended the Navy's position. "I think they've been extremely straightforward in informing the residents and TIDA," Beck said. But past events show that the Navy may not have been upfront with regulators and residents when it comes to the radiological legacy on Treasure Island. In March 2001, the state's Integrated Waste Management Board urged the Navy to conduct radiological surveys in the residential area because the Navy hadn't performed tests to prove its claim that the area was clear of radioactive material. And in February 2006, the Navy wrote in its Treasure Island Naval Station Historical Radiological Assessment report that there is "no evidence that radioactive material was deposited in any debris disposal area on [Naval Station] Treasure Island." The Navy has since acknowledged that radioactive contamination may be more extensive than it had initially reported. The Investigative Unit requested an interview with Keith Forman, the head of the Navy's [Base Realignment and Closure Commission at Treasure Island](#), but his office said he was not available. After Forman refused to answer questions during a potluck dinner before a public meeting on Treasure Island Tuesday night, NBC Bay Area reached out again to the Navy's communications office. Officials provided this [statement](#):

"The Navy is working collaboratively with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Department of Public Health, US EPA, and the City of San Francisco to investigate, and where necessary, clean up contaminated areas on Treasure Island to protect human health and the environment. The State, the City, and the Navy do not have any data indicating a risk to human health and all agree there is no imminent health risk to current tenants and/or users of the leased property. The Navy proactively communicates our environmental program and cleanup schedules to the public during our bi-monthly Restoration Advisory Board meetings with Treasure Island residents, and we will be supporting a residential workshop hosted by Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA) tonight, where residents can ask us questions regarding our cleanup efforts."

However, the statement did not address specific NBC Bay Area questions provided in writing to the Navy's communications office about whether radiological contamination has been detected on or near the six buildings where residents are being forced to move, or reaction to Wadsworth's claims that people never should have been living on the island. Residents say it has been a frustrating ordeal for the people who live and work on Treasure Island, and their voices have grown louder as more information surfaces. Some of them voiced their concerns at the Tuesday night's Restoration Advisory Board meeting hosted by the Navy. "You're playing with thousands of people's lives out here," said Seandra Conley. "You come here and you tell us what you want us to hear. But I think you need to go back to whomever and let them know that the tenants on Treasure Island are no longer buying it." The Navy has to assess and clean up the island before selling it to the city as part of a planned \$1.5 billion housing development, although there is no firm data for when the project is set to begin. Wadsworth warns that the radiological material must be dealt with and cleaned up correctly. "It's a very nice location," he said. "I can see why people want to develop it. But, having people live there and just cover it over, it's going to have a significant impact on people's health."

<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/Navy-Subcontractor-Breaks-Silence-About-Radiation-Contamination-at-Treasure-Island--235499911.html>

USA, PA, WASHINGTON CO, AMWELL TWP, DECEMBER 13 2013. LAWSUIT CLAIMS UNREPORTED SPILL AT MARCELLUS DRILLING SITE IN AMWELL

A Washington County judge will be asked next week to order a Texas-based water hauler to turn over photographs it may have of an alleged spill at an Amwell Township Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling site. The motion will be presented by attorney John Smith, who is representing a group of neighbors suing Range Resources over claims they were sickened by the Yeager drilling operation, court records show. As part of the discovery process in the lawsuit, Smith received documents from Red Oak Water Transfer indicating there was a leak of 500 barrels of flowback water at the site in 2010, and a subsequent cover-up of what took place. Other court documents in the case show a company executive denying the spill took place and alleging that the story had been fabricated by a disgruntled employee to get a coworker in trouble. The information prompted state Rep. Jesse White Tuesday to ask state Attorney General Kathleen Kane to investigate the matter. Her spokesman, Joe Peters, said the law prevents her from investigating such cases unless they are referred to her by the state Department of Environmental Protection. John Poister, spokesman for the DEP in Pittsburgh, said the department is conducting an internal investigation of its records to see if there was a spill reported at the drilling site off McAdams Road in Amwell. The information the DEP has found thus far in its files does not correspond with the allegations that surfaced in the lawsuit, Poister said. The



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plaintiffs in the long-running case are Stacey, Harley and Paige Haney; Beth, John and Ashley Voyles; and Loren and Grace Kiskadden. Last month, President Judge Debbie O'Dell Seneca ordered [40 companies Range brought to the property to provide Smith with every chemical they used](#) in the drilling process. Red Oak, which now operates as Rockwater Energy Solutions, did not respond to a message seeking comment. White also forwarded his complaint to Washington County District Attorney Gene Vittone. Assistant District Attorney Joe Zupancic said Vittone's office would review the matter, but it would be more a matter for the state to investigate.

<http://www.observer-reporter.com/article/20131211/NEWS01/131219860>

USA, CA, MONROVIA, DECEMBER 13 2013. CHEMICAL COCKTAIL LED TO MASSIVE CALIFORNIA QUARANTINE

Firefighters from across the San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles County responded to a HazMat situation early on December 9, 2013, which required the evacuation of nearly 200 employees from nearby industrial companies. Monrovia fire officials told the San Gabriel Valley Tribune that a three unknown chemicals had been mixed together to create a cocktail of hazardous gas. The chemicals have since been identified as cyclo aliphatic resin, boron trifluoride, and ancamine. At least 50 of the evacuated employees complained of headaches and nausea from the fumes. Some were taken to hospital. The fumes, carried through a ventilation system, originated at Air Logistics Corp, which mixes chemicals as part of its manufacturing processes in Southern California.

<http://www.hazmatmag.com/news/chemical-cocktail-led-to-massive-california-quarantine/1002796867/?&er=NA>

NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, DECEMBER 13 2013. CHEMICAL SPILL AT AUCKLAND AIRPORT

teuila fuatai

Fire fighters are cleaning up a chemical spill at Auckland Airport. A Fire Service spokesman said three fire trucks were called to the chemical spill at an Air New Zealand cargo building on Ogilvie Crescent shortly before 11am. "There are no fumes and it seems to be very minor." One of the appliances was a hazardous materials unit, he said. It was not yet known what type of chemical was involved in the spill. Air New Zealand was not immediately available to comment on the incident.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11171472

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, DECEMBER 13 2013. VESSEL OPERATORS FINED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OF TANK VESSEL REGULATIONS



The Coast Guard has issued monetary penalties to three vessel operators in violation of federal regulations related to tank vessel response plan requirements. The vessels Pacific Galaxy, operated by Synergy Maritime PET, Tamar, operated by MTM Ship Management, and Yayoi Express, operated by MOL Tankship Management, have been issued a monetary violation for non-compliance with [Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 155 Subpart D](#) in Alaska. Vessel operators can face penalties of up to \$11,000 per violation, per day. Tank vessels bound to or from a U.S. port and transiting through the Western Alaska Captain of the Port zone must have an approved geographic specific appendix in their vessel response plan for Western Alaska prior to transiting or operating within the COTP zone if carrying oil in bulk as cargo or oil cargo residue. Violation of this requirement can include the issuance of a letter of warning, notice of violation, or a civil penalty. In 2012, an alternate planning criteria was established by the Alaska Maritime Prevention and Response Network to enable tank vessels operating in Western Alaska to comply with an appropriate alternative to the

national planning criteria established under Title 33 CFR Part 155. "The [Alaska Maritime Prevention and Response Network's Alternative Planning Criteria](#) for tank vessels was approved by the Coast Guard over a year ago, giving vessel operators ample time to comply," said Lt. Ryan Butler, assistant chief of inspections, Sector Anchorage. "Protecting Alaska's marine resources is one of the Coast Guard's highest priorities and tank vessels operating within the Western Alaska COTP zone must adequately plan to mitigate and respond to potential oil spills. Those vessels not in compliance risk enforcement action." <http://alaska-native-news.com/alaska-native-news-at-sea/9766-vessel-operators-fined-for-non-compliance-of-tank-vessel-regulations.html>



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USA, TX, HOUSTON, DECEMBER 13 2013. WOMAN INJURED IN FIERY GAS STATION CRASH

Watch the Video [Woman Injured in Fiery Gas Station Crash](http://www.usatoday.com/videos/news/nation/2013/12/12/3999833/)
<http://www.usatoday.com/videos/news/nation/2013/12/12/3999833/>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, DECEMBER 13 2013. TANKER SAFETY NOT ACCEPTABLE: NSW GOVT

NSW Transport Minister Duncan Gay has denied threatening to ground the entire fleet of Cootes fuel trucks in the state. The denial comes after a gas leak was earlier this month found in an LPG tanker belonging to Cootes - the same company involved in a fatal Sydney smash earlier this year. The LPG tanker from Cootes Transport was grounded, with Mr Gay at the time saying if the company didn't shape up, its vehicles would be taken off the road. Clarifying his position on Friday, Mr Gay said there was no outstanding threat to ground the Cootes fleet. "We haven't been threatening to ground the entire fleet," Mr Gay told reporters. "We've indicated to Cootes that their standard is not a standard that we find acceptable. "We've been targeting them because frankly we've seen a couple of situations following the tragedy on Mona Vale Road that were just not acceptable." He said Cootes had to "lift their game or we will have to take remedial action". Since the fatal Mona Vale crash, NSW authorities have issued hundreds of defect notices and grounded at least 10 vehicles. Roads and Maritime Services has directed Cootes' parent company McAleese Group to provide a full account of the measures being taken to resolve safety issues within the company.

Related Stories

- [Cootes tanker grounded, NSW govt fed up](#)
- [Truck maintenance, safety to be reviewed](#)
- [NSW truck inspectors given greater powers](#)

<http://news.ninensn.com.au/national/2013/12/13/10/42/tanker-safety-not-acceptable-nsw-govt>

USA, AZ, FOUNTAIN HILLS, DECEMBER 13 2013. CLEAN-UP CONTINUES

bob burns



Container lineup: Containers containing contaminated soil from the gasoline spill on Nov. 17, line Saguaro Boulevard awaiting removal.

A meeting between town officials and representatives of the transport company involved in a 2,300 gallon gasoline spill near Shea and Saguaro boulevards scheduled for early this week was delayed. Staff said it was unclear why the delay was needed. Town Manager Ken Buchanan told the Town Council last week the meeting was to discuss soil test results and how the clean-up of the contaminated areas will proceed. Town officials have told the fuel transport company, United Petroleum Transports of Oklahoma, that the town wants asphalt and curbing removed from the shoulder along Saguaro Boulevard and

soil underneath removed. Buchanan told the council test results indicated there was considerable contamination of the soil under the asphalt where the gasoline ran along the gutter between Trevino Drive to a culvert just north of Ledferd Lane. This is an area the town has concern about because of plans to reconstruct Saguaro Boulevard over the next couple of years. "We don't want a class A (environmental) clean-up in association with the Saguaro project," Buchanan said. He said that as of last week the clean-up has cost about \$500,000 for the transport company and its insurers. Councilman Tait Elkie asked how the town protects itself from the possibility of contamination when work begins on Saguaro. Town Attorney Andrew McGuire said the town is looking for "tail coverage" from those involved, although he said that can be difficult when you are working a year or more into the future. "We will be asking them to continue working with us through our Saguaro project," McGuire said. There was good news, Buchanan said, as testing also showed that there is no evidence of contamination in the wash where it crosses onto the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. A remediation crew has been working since the spill, primarily in a wash area adjacent to the First Baptist Church on Saguaro where the gasoline flowed out of the underground culvert and seems to have concentrated. Saguaro Boulevard has been lined for a couple of weeks with containers where the contaminated soil was placed. Buchanan said the clean-up contractor just last week received the permits required to transport and dispose of the soil. About 1 a.m. on Nov. 17, a gasoline tanker had just completed a delivery to the Circle K on Saguaro Boulevard at Shea when the accident occurred. The driver was pulling the truck between McDonald's and the rear of the Circle K/Senor Taco when the



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tank struck a post for a gate on a trash enclosure and ruptured the tank. The gasoline flowed out Trevino Drive to Saguaro and north to the culvert near Ledferd.

http://www.fhtimes.com/news/local_news/article_18b7b328-61e0-11e3-835f-0019bb30f31a.html

USA, MN, MOORHEAD, DECEMBER 13 2013. GASOLINE IN FIREPLACE STARTS MOORHEAD HOUSE FIRE

 **Watch the Video** [Gasoline in Fireplace Starts Moorhead House Fire](#)

Update

The Moorhead Fire Department has determined the cause of a fire on Wednesday night that killed an area family's pet. The cause of the fire was determined to be accidental. Assistant Fire Marshal Chad Stangeland says gasoline was used to start a fire in the fireplace, and that is what created the fire. Stangeland says this highlights the dangers of gasoline and that it should never be used to start a fire, inside or outside. Stangeland says gasoline vapors can accumulate very quickly and when ignited can cause flash fires, with a high probability of burning the person starting the fire. In this case, both occupants only had slight smoke inhalation, but fire officials say they are fortunate they did not get burned. The fire call came in just before 8:15 p.m. on December 11. The two people home at the time were able to get out of the house, but unfortunately the dog was found deceased. The house sustained heavy fire and smoke damage throughout the first floor and moderate smoke damage to the basement.

Original Story

Crews are cleaning up and clearing out smoke after scrambling to knock down a house fire in Moorhead around 8 p.m. Wednesday night. Two people safely evacuated the residence at 1019 11th Avenue South. A dog was later found dead. According to the assistant fire chief, the fire was contained to one room, but the entire first floor sustained significant smoke damage. Both The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross were at the scene. A room for a few nights as well as money for food and clothes will be provided to the homeowners.

<http://www.valleynewslive.com/story/24199346/fire-damages-moorhead-home>

USA, WA, VANCOUVER, DECEMBER 14 2013. TANKER TRUCK CRASH RESULTS IN 3,200-GALLON GASOLINE SPILL

tyler graf

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Semi Rollover Closes Streets in Northeast Vancouver](#)
- [Fuel Tanker Crashes in Vancouver Neighborhood](#)
- [Tanker Tips, Spill 3000 Gallons of Gas](#)

 **Photo's [3]** [Fuel Tanker Crashes in Vancouver Neighborhood](#)

A tanker truck overturned on Northeast 18th Street in Vancouver early this morning, spilling its 3,200-gallon load of gasoline.



The 1:16 a.m. crash has affected bus routes for Evergreen Public Schools. Routes for Evergreen High School, Cascade Middle School, Fircrest Elementary and Endeavour Elementary are being rerouted because of the crash at Northeast 18th Street. A significant amount of fuel spilled onto the road as a result of the crash. District officials say they don't know whether the road closure will affect afternoon bus routes. "We don't know how long it will be closed," said Gail Spolar, the district's spokeswoman. "If it's not cleaned up, we'll have to get creative (later in the day)." Dan Olson, deputy chief of the Vancouver Fire Department, said traffic will likely be rerouted along Northeast 18th Street between Northeast Four Seasons Lane and Northeast 125th Avenue for much of the day. The truck's 3,000-gallon tanker spilled its load onto the road, a nearby ditch and the storm water system feeding into the Mission Hills Apartments.

Olson said the road should be cleared by noon, but the road could remain closed indefinitely until the state Department of Ecology finishes on site. Linda Kent, a spokeswoman for the department of ecology, said the road won't reopen until the spill has been thoroughly cleaned. The road is still slicked by spilled gasoline. Roughly 700 gallons of oily water was siphoned out of the storm water system by 11 a.m. Friday. The truck company carrying the fuel will be responsible for cleaning the spill,



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which was contained in one area, Kent said. "One of the first concerns is whether this will move on and get into any rivers and streams," she said. "It looks like that wasn't the case this time."

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2013/dec/13/tanker-truck-blocks-road-affects-bus-routes/>

USA, FLA, TAMPA, DECEMBER 14 2013. TANKER HITS, KILLS MAN AS HE'S LEAVING STRIP CLUB

 **Watch the Video** [SB Dale Mabry Closed after Fuel Truck ran over Pedestrian](#)

Police say a man was struck and killed by a tanker truck as he was leaving a Tampa strip club this morning. It happened right in front of the Mons Venus on Dale Mabry Highway. Traffic was being diverted off of Dale Mabry in the area of Walnut. The road was closed between Columbus and Spruce. It has since been reopened, police said. Police say the man was leaving Mons Venus and did not see the tanker truck. No criminal charges are expected to be filed against the driver, who said the man simply ran out in front of him.

<http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/story/24211829/2013/12/13/fatal-pedestrian-accident-in-front-of-mons-venus>

THAILAND, KOH LARN BEACH, DECEMBER 14 2013. SMALL OIL SPILL FOULS KOH LARN BEACH



Rescue workers clean up oil deposits from at Koh Larn's Tawan Beach.

About 50 Pattaya and Marine Department workers needed about four hours to clean up a minor oil spill that washed ashore at Koh Larn's Tawan Beach. Suspected to emanate from a passing ship, the oil slick fouled a portion of beach, clumping in balls along the shoreline Dec. 7. While not permanently damaging, the spill prevented tourists from going in the water at the beach. One beach umbrella vendor said such minor spills occur frequently and accused locals boats of dumping fuel overboard or negligently polluting the sea.

<http://www.pattayamail.com/localnews/small-oil-spill-fouls-koh-larn-beach-32917?ref=pmci>

CANADA, ONT, OTTAWA, DECEMBER 14 2013. OTTAWA TO DESIGNATE CRUDE OIL AS HIGHLY DANGEROUS

 **Watch the Video** [From the U.S. to Lac-Mégantic: Inside the massive growth of oil by rail](#)

The federal government will, for the first time, designate crude oil a highly dangerous substance and introduce tougher safety and testing measures for shipping oil by rail, Transport Minister Lisa Raitt has told The Globe and Mail. The fundamental shift, in response to mounting concerns about crude safety, comes after a Globe investigation detailed how the oil that exploded in Lac-Mégantic, Que., last summer was far more dangerous than regulators and shippers considered. The investigation found that numerous warning signs about the volatility, corrosiveness and content of the crude were ignored before the disaster. Until now, the government considered crude flammable, but not highly explosive. However, massive fireballs erupted in Lac-Mégantic on July 6 after a train carrying 72 tankers of crude oil derailed, killing 47 people and levelling much of the downtown. It is the worst railway disaster in Canadian history. Ms. Raitt said on Thursday there is a clear need for higher safety standards to deal with the massive growth in oil being shipped by rail through cities and towns. Transport Canada also plans to pursue oil shippers who are not properly testing crude before shipping it in light of the Globe investigation, which found shippers were loading oil on trains without knowing whether it was potentially dangerous, despite an order from Ottawa to scrutinize shipments. "That Globe and Mail article bothered them [Transport Canada officials] as much as it bothered me," Ms. Raitt said. "What it has triggered is that reaction from Transport Canada making sure we focus more clearly" on fixing the problems. "Everybody understands and knows what the urgency is," Ms. Raitt said. "We want to get these things moved as fast as possible." Ms. Raitt called the change an "acknowledgment, intuitively, that [crude] is a dangerous good, and should be treated as such." For decades, specialized safety procedures were required for dozens of explosive hazardous materials, but not for crude oil. The Lac-Mégantic disaster, and a similar explosive derailment last month in Alabama, have shown that particular types of oil, such as the light crude shipped from North Dakota, can be unusually volatile. One retired rail inspector told The Globe that he has been told some of the oil, which is regularly shipped to refineries in Canada, is "damn near close to



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gasoline." Ms. Raitt said she has asked a special working group inside Transport Canada to come up with an Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP) for crude oil. She has given the department until the end of January to formulate the plan, which will move oil to the highest level of dangerous goods, and expects the new regime governing oil shipments to be in place by mid-2014. Those new rules will require railways and importers to have specific emergency plans for crude, including ensuring specialized response teams are available along the route in the event of an accident. The first ERAP was put in place for chlorine and propane after the 1979 derailment of a train in Mississauga led to the evacuation of about 220,000 people. Such steps have been considered for crude oil, but never implemented. The Globe investigation detailed how Transport Canada over the past decade decided on several occasions not to treat oil as a particularly dangerous product. At least three times, in 2006, 2008 and 2012, the department decided not to add crude oil to the ERAP list. In doing so, a department official said the flammability of crude was taken into account. However, there is no evidence the explosiveness of oil was considered. Nor was the new kind of oil being shipped from North Dakota into Canada examined. "Unfortunately, in the history of Transport Canada, we have seen conversations and consultations that seem to go on for 10 years, and 15 years," Ms. Raitt said. "So we gave them the end of January as the deadline From there I will be in a position to have the department finalize how we go about extending ERAPs to include crude oil." The addition of crude to the list could ensure future accidents are better controlled. While the Lac-Mégantic disaster was unusually large and spiralled out of control almost immediately, emergency crews could have used more help as the town had to borrow specialized equipment from nearby cities just to extinguish the flames, which burned for days. An ERAP could save lives in future derailments. Transport Canada must decide which forms of crude are on the list and whether rules will differ depending on volume of oil. In the past five years, a shortage of pipelines has resulted in unprecedented amounts of oil moving by rail, including trains of more than 100 tanker cars. Ottawa has said it will require hazardous-materials shippers to carry more insurance to cover derailments, so towns like Lac-Mégantic are not left with a cleanup bill. That step was announced in the federal Throne Speech in October. The government said it would take "targeted action" to increase the safety of transporting dangerous goods.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/federal-government-to-designate-crude-oil-as-highly-dangerous/article15943495/>

CANADA, B.C, VICTORIA, DECEMBER 14 2013. HEATING OIL SPILL CONTAMINATES COLQUITZ RIVER PARK



Crews from Saanich public works set up a containment boom on the Colquitz River, after a home heating oil spill was discovered just up the hill from the bank, at a home on Rolston Crescent.

A home heating oil spill on the bank of the Colquitz River was caught Thursday night before the oil reached the salmon-bearing stream. Mike Ippen, Saanich's manager of public works, says the spill was discovered Thursday afternoon when a passerby in Colquitz River Park could smell a strong odour of oil and notified Saanich. Public works crews traced the spill back to a home in the 3400-block of Rolston Cres., which sits on a hill just above the creek. "We worked late into the night putting containment in place, so oil never actually got into the Colquitz. It's just in the soil," Ippen said. A long containment boom, as well as absorbent pads and siphon dams have been set up, and Saanich will

continue to monitor them over the coming days. "If it rains, we want to make sure that anything that bleeds through the soil will be captured before it gets to the river," he said. The leak came as a result of a broken supply line between a home heating tank and a furnace. The homeowner, who declined to speak to the News, has hired a private contractor to do remediation work. The company that supplies the fuel is also working to determine just how much oil leaked into the soil. "We think it was a slight drip, but over a few days it just emptied the tank," Ippen said. The Colquitz watershed is no stranger to oil spills. Since 2011 there have been at least eight oil spills that contaminated the creek, including an 1,100 litre home heating oil spill in November 2011 and a [mineral oil](#) leak from a B.C. Hydro line last year. Thursday's leak contaminated parkland on the direct opposite creek bank that B.C. Hydro had [excavated](#) earlier this year, in a project that removed 850 tons of earth soiled from a low-toxicity oil surrounding a transmission cable. It's not known yet if the creek will be subjected to another soil excavation project. Less than a kilometre down the creek from the location of the contaminated soil, stream stewards monitor the health of the Colquitz and count the number of salmon returning in the fall and winter to spawn. A record year, so far more than 1,250 salmon have passed through the fish fence this fall to head upstream to spawn. Ippen says Saanich crews will continue to



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monitor the situation, but they've handed cleanup duties to the contractor. Workers will be removing vegetation and conducting soil samples to ensure remediation is done. For information on how to better protect yourself from a home heating oil spill, visit saanich.ca/services/utilities/spills.html.
<http://www.vicnews.com/news/235791411.html>

INDIA, HARYANA, AMBALA, DECEMBER 14 2013. EXPLOSIONS IN AMBALA AIR FORCE STATION TRIGGER PANIC IN ADJACENT AREAS

Key Points: An aircraft took off and bombs mounted on it fell down

Residents of [Ambala Cantonment](#) panicked on Friday after two explosions inside the Air Force station damaged windowpanes of several houses around the airbase. The incident took place when splinters of two-high density bombs, stated to be defused by the Air Force officials, fell into the residential area. The splinters also caused cracks in the wall of a house adjacent to the Air Force station. However, no injury was reported in the incident. The intensity of the explosion of the bombs was so high that a piece of metal also fell in the residence of Ambala deputy commissioner (DC), which is about 1,000 yards away from the Air Force area. Soon after the incident, the Ambala deputy commissioner of police (DCP) and commissioner of police reached the spot to take stock of the situation. While the district administration confirmed that they were not informed by the Air Force authorities before defusing the bombs, the latter refused to share any information about the incident. Sources, however, revealed that the incident had occurred when an aircraft took off and bombs mounted on it fell down leading to high intensity explosions. Despite repeated attempts, the Air Force authorities refused to comment on the issue. However, sources confirmed that an internal inquiry has been marked by the Air Force regarding the incident. When contacted, [Ambala police](#) commissioner Rajbir Deswal informed that they had registered a case in the matter. "Matter is being probed and action will be taken if negligence is proved on the part of the Air Force authorities," Deswal told TOI.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/Explosions-in-Ambala-Air-Force-station-trigger-panic-in-adjacent-areas/articleshow/27319110.cms>

ENGLAND, NORTH NORFOLK, DECEMBER 14 2013. £12,000 WORTH OF DIESEL STOLEN FROM STATION



Martins Service Station in Alby where thieves stole £12,000 worth of diesel.

Thieves stole £12,000 worth of diesel from an independent north Norfolk filling station.

The overnight theft of 7,800 litres of the fuel from an underground tank happened at the Martin Service Station on the A140 in Alby, near Cromer, between 7am on Thursday December 5 and 7am yesterday. It was described as "huge loss" by the site manager. He said: "It hasn't happened here before. It is a large amount to take and is usually siphoned from lorries. We are disturbed and upset. We work hard to collect the pennies." It is not known what night the theft took place but it would have been done in one go, according to the manager. He said a neighbour heard noises on Monday night at about 10.30pm but the site does not have CCTV - something which will be installed after the incident. The empty tank was first discovered yesterday morning at 7.30am during a delivery.

A lock into the container, which can hold up to 14,000 litres of fuel, had been broken which will cost about £300 to replace. The 7,800 litres of stolen diesel was for vans and lorries. A Norfolk police spokesman said: "Diesel thefts on this scale are rare, and it is likely this happened during the hours of darkness." Another diesel tank underneath the service station was not tampered with. Officers would like to speak to anyone with information or witnesses.

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/crime/12_000_worth_of_diesel_stolen_from_north_norfolk_filling_station_1_3105032

INDIA, HARYANA, AMBALA, DECEMBER 14 2013. EXPLOSIONS IN AMBALA AIR FORCE STATION TRIGGER PANIC IN ADJACENT AREAS

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<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/Explosions-in-Ambala-Air-Force-station-trigger-panic-in-adjacent-areas/articleshow/27319110.cms>

ENGLAND, CHELMSFORD, DECEMBER 14 2013. COMPANY ADMITS SHIPPING EXPLOSIVE CARGO THROUGH STANSTED AIRPORT



An aviation company, which shipped unlabelled, dangerous explosive goods from Stansted Airport to America, must wait to hear its fate after pleading guilty to failing to comply with safety regulations. Burwood Aviation Supplies Ltd, of Verwood, Dorset, was prosecuted by the Civil Aviation Authority for sending a chemical oxygen generator – used in overhead oxygen masks if aircraft decompresses - for repair via Federal Express to Kansas, but it was not packaged properly. The CAA prosecutor told Chelmsford Magistrates Court today (Friday, December 13) a chemical charge triggered the working of oxygen masks for passengers in the event of decompression. The carriage of units on their own and their packaging is strictly regulated because of the dangerous combination of oxygen and explosive. As an example of their potential risk,

prosecutor Alison Slater said: "In 1996 a passenger aircraft crashed in the Florida Everglades [killing 109 people]. The American authorities investigated and found what caused the crash was an explosion caused by chemical oxygen generators accidentally being activated." Burwood Aviation pleaded guilty to failing to comply with the regulations on or about April 13 this year at Stansted Airport by sending the generator without technical instructions and not packaged in fit condition for carriage by air. After hearing both prosecution and defence mitigation, magistrates decided their powers were not sufficient to pass sentence and sent the case for sentencing in January to Chelmsford Crown Court. The court was told that FedEx picked up the consignment from Burwood on April 12 and sent it through Stansted, first to Memphis on a FedEx plane and then to BE Aerospace Inc in Kansas. When it was opened on arrival on April 15, BE Aerospace immediately reported it to the Federal Aviation Authority, which passed on the information to the CAA. The prosecutor said two retaining pins to stop the chemical charge starting accidentally in transit were not complied with; the cardboard box was marked with "oxygen mask container" instead of the proper description; and it did not have a hazard label or cargo-only label. In addition the important dangerous goods transport document was missing. The prosecutor added that the company, which employs four full-time staff and two part-timers, told the CAA its one member of staff trained in dangerous goods was away on maternity leave at the time. Hugh O'Donovan, for Burwood, said the incident sounded alarming but there were 51 generators in the plane which crashed in 1996 and only one in this case and aircraft safety was more sophisticated today. He said that Burwood was a small, successful company with an unblemished record, specialising in the supply of aviation components. Only five per cent of its items were in the dangerous category. The court was told that on the same day the incident came to light, the company immediately began its own investigation. And it had alerted its customers that it would not be handling any dangerous goods while its trained staff member was away. However, Mr O'Donovan told the court was that wrong information was inputted into the company's computer and it was described as an oxygen mask container, which was not dangerous, instead of chemical oxygen generator. He said that meant it was not flagged up on the system as a dangerous item and continued: "There was nothing deliberate about this. It was an administrative error. It has never happened before."

<http://www.hertsandsexobserver.co.uk/News/Uttlesford/Company-admits-shipping-explosive-cargo-through-Stansted-Airport-20131213175641.htm>



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