



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 1,023 Newsy Stuff

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

**December 03 2013**



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### USA, GA, EFFINGHAM CO, NOVEMBER 22 2013. 2 DEAD IN GUYTON GAS TANKER EXPLOSION

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Fatal Tanker Truck Crash Closes Portions of GA 17 Until Monday](#)
- [2 Dead in Guyton Gas Tanker Explosion \[2 Video's\]](#)

 **Photo's [16]** [2 Dead in Guyton Gas Tanker Explosion](#)



The Effingham County Sheriff's Office says the tanker was carrying thousands of gallons of gasoline. It took firefighters, who came from across the county, about three hours to extinguish the fire. The blaze caused severe structural damage to the highway. The Georgia Department of Transportation is detouring traffic to SR 119N, SR 30 and back to SR 17. ECSO expects the stretch of Highway 17 to be closed at least until Monday afternoon. The coroner's office is working with ECSO and Georgia State Patrol to identify the victims and notify next of kin. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Two victims, passengers of the pickup truck, died in an afternoon crash along Highway 17 in Effingham County. Officials with the Effingham County Sheriff's Office confirm an vehicle crash involving a tanker truck resulted in an explosion on Highway 17 and Marlow road around 3:00pm. Officials are asking all citizens and motorists to avoid GA 17 between Courthouse and Guyton. That area is expected to be closed most of the night. All lanes on GA 17 between Blue Jay Road and Midland Road are closed. The tanker remains on fire, but has mostly been extinguished. Emergency crews from at least three nearby towns were dispatched to help control the flames. A spokesperson on the scene says the driver of the tanker truck was able to walk away from the scene before the explosion. Police say about six homes were evacuated. Witnesses tell [WSAV.com](http://www.wsav.com) 'it appeared as though the road was on fire'.

 **Related Stories**

- [Fatal tanker truck crash closes portions of Ga. 17 until Monday](#)
- [Tanker crash, explosion kills two people](#)
- [2 Dead In Guyton Gas Tanker Explosion](#)

<http://www.wsav.com/story/24036067/crash-and-explosion-reported-near-guyton>

### NEW ZEALAND, TAURANGA, NOVEMBER 22 2013. TANKER BREACHES RENA EXCLUSION ZONE



*The STX Ace 11 in port.*

The captain of a Tauranga bound fuel tanker is to receive a \$200 slap on the wrist for breaching the exclusion zone around the sunken Rena. The 30,000 tonne Panama registered STX Ace 11 passed 0.7 nautical miles of Astrolabe Reef, which is surrounded by a two nautical mile exclusion zone. While the wreck of the former containership Rena is no longer visible above the waterline, the exclusion zone is still in place to protect divers and boats working in the area. The distance - 0.7nm - is about 1.2km from the reef that is off limits to marine traffic as it is the centre of an intense salvage effort with

tugs, barges and divers down below. The maximum fine levied by the administering authority, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, is \$200. The \$200 may just be added to the STX Ace 11's port's bill of about \$34,360. The tanker is charged about \$32,450 in Port of Tauranga marine charges including one tug, plus about \$1500 in daily service charges and \$412 for a security guard on tanker watch for the first 12 hours. There have been 85 breaches of the exclusion zone so far this year and a total of 11 infringement notices served to pay a fine. The reasons for not serving an infringement notice range from not being able to collect enough information to very minor breaches and cooperation from the boat's skipper, says the council.

<http://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/58279-tanker-breaches-rena-exclusion-zone.html>



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### USA, MO, ST. LOUIS CO, NOVEMBER 22 2013. MANCHESTER MOM ARRESTED FOR DWI AFTER FIREWORKS IGNITE IN SUV, CAUSING CRASH

 **Watch the Video** [Fireworks Set Off Inside SUV cause Major Traffic Jam in St. Louis](#)

The fiery car crash Wednesday morning that seriously injured a woman from Manchester and her two teenage sons, tying up traffic on Interstate 270 for hours, happened after fireworks ignited inside the vehicle, authorities say. Police arrested the mother, Kara Koriath, on suspicion of DWI involving drugs. Police allege she was impaired after taking prescription medication. Koriath was also arrested on suspicion of second-degree assault and child endangerment. The Missouri Highway Patrol said someone in the vehicle apparently lit firecrackers and bottle rockets about 6 a.m. Wednesday as the 2008 GMC Acadia was heading north on I-270 near Clayton Road. Koriath, 43, of Manchester, lost control of the vehicle. It went off the right side of the road, hitting a guardrail and two road signs. The inside of the van burned up. Koriath's two sons — Andrew Dreeste, 16, and Matthew Dreeste, 13 — were passengers. All three were taken to Mercy Hospital St. Louis in Creve Coeur with serious injuries. On Thursday afternoon, the hospital said Koriath and Matthew were in satisfactory condition; Andrew was still in serious condition. They were all wearing seat belts in the crash, police say. Highway Patrol Sgt. Al Nothum said investigators planned to interview the family to find out what happened in the vehicle, including who lit the fireworks. "At this point, I don't know how they ignited," Nothum said. "We do know they were lit and a lot of them got lit and the whole inside of the vehicle was pretty well charred." During the crash cleanup, troopers found a plastic bottle of lighter fluid in the vehicle's glove compartment that did not ignite, Nothum said. The outside of the van was heavily damaged in the crash. The patrol and officers with the Town and Country Police Department closed two lanes of northbound I-270 near Highway 40 for several hours while they investigated the crash.

#### Related Stories

- [Manchester mom arrested for DWI after fireworks ignite in SUV, causing crash](#)
- [Fireworks inside vehicle cause highway accident](#)
- [Driver Charged in Firework Fueled Crash on I-270](#)
- [Mother charged with DWI following firework-ignited wreck on I-270](#)
- [3 injured when fireworks go off in vehicle, cause crash on I-270](#)

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/manchester-mom-arrested-for-dwi-after-fireworks-ignite-in-suv/article\\_b6c5b873-9c09-5c5f-92b4-5219a57b21e0.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/manchester-mom-arrested-for-dwi-after-fireworks-ignite-in-suv/article_b6c5b873-9c09-5c5f-92b4-5219a57b21e0.html)

### CHINA, SHANDONG PROVINCE, QINGDAO, HUANGDAO, NOVEMBER 22 2013. QINGDAO PIPELINE EXPLOSION DEATH TOLL SURGES TO 22

 **Watch the Video** [Qingdao Pipeline Leak Explosion](#)



*Scene at the site the explosion.*

The death toll from a massive explosion that shook the northern Chinese port city of Qingdao has risen to 22, the state-owned Xinhua News Agency said on Friday afternoon, making it one of the most deadly industrial accidents this year. Previously, local media in Qingdao said at least six people were killed and 48 injured when the powerful explosion occurred near the southern gate of the Lidong Chemical Plant in the city's Huangdao district in the morning. Xinhua said it was still verifying other casualty counts. An underground oil pipeline ruptured at around 3am, causing an oil spill, the Qingdao municipal government said. The emergency repair work that followed led to a fire and caused the explosion, it said. Two separate fires were extinguished by 1pm. The ruptured pipeline was

part of a 176-km underground pipeline project that pumps crude oil from Qingdao to Weifang, also in Shandong Province. Xinhua says the pipeline was operated by oil giant Sinopec. Crude oil leaked by the pipeline spilled into the harbour basin near Jiaozhou Bay at 3am in the night to Friday, according to a preliminary report by the Qingdao Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau. The operating company stopped the oil flow in the broken pipeline around 3.15am and attempted to contain the contamination of several hundred square meters large area of polluted water. Contamination at sea extended over three square kilometres, the report said. Oil that entered local rain drainage pipes exploded at 10.30am, the report said. Pictures published by local media and witnesses on the social media platform Weibo show corpses, damaged streets and overturned



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vehicles. One picture, purportedly published by an passenger on board an airplane which was flying over Qingdao after the explosion showed black smoke rising through the sky.

### Related Stories:

- [Qingdao oil pipeline blast kills 22](#)
- [Oil Pipeline Blast in China's Qingdao City Kills at Least 22](#)

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china-insider/article/1362729/three-dead-48-injured-explosion-qingdao-industrial-area>

### **BULGARIA, SOFIA, NOVEMBER 22 2013. LEADING BG PETROL COMPANY TO BE SAVED WITH EUR 100M**

Over EUR 100 million will be invested in Petrol Holding, Bulgaria's leading retail seller of petroleum products, in order to stabilize the company. This was announced at a press conference in Sofia, by 52.5% majority owner Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, former President of the Republic of Kalmykia. The company is in dire financial condition, has to repay huge loans while not working at full capacity and in fact is facing bankruptcy, it became clear from the words of Ilyumzhinov, who is also head of the World Chess Federation. Ilyumzhinov informed that has already held talks with Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Corporate Commercial Bank Tsvetan Vasilev, since most of the loans of Petrol Holding are from that financial vault. "I assured Mr. Vassilev that I have no intention of declaring bankruptcy of Petrol Holding and that we will work for its recovery, despite the difficult situation" Ilyumzhinov noted. On this occasion, the majority owner added that he feels like a crisis manager. Petrol Holding's head also assured the Oresharski government that the company will grow and will produce big budget revenues from taxes and social security contributions along with simultaneously creating new jobs. December 16 will be the date of the first General Meeting of Shareholders of Petrol Holding, convened by majority shareholder Ilyumzhinov in order to vote on the new members of the Supervisory Board of the company. Ilyumzhinov announced that he intends to appoint overseeing former MRF MP Yunal Lyutfi, French politician Jean-François Pennell and Mike LaSalle U.S. diplomat. Ilyumzhinov also commented that he would not give up football team "Chernomorets". Founded in 1932, Petrol AD is a distributing company which has 470 petrol stations, 80 petrol depots and 3 petrol port terminals throughout the country. The company was privatised in 1999.

[http://www.standartnews.com/english/read/leading\\_bg\\_petrol\\_company\\_to\\_be\\_saved\\_with\\_eur\\_100m-1596.html](http://www.standartnews.com/english/read/leading_bg_petrol_company_to_be_saved_with_eur_100m-1596.html)

### **CANADA, QUE, LAC-MEGANTIC, NOVEMBER 22 2013. HARPER COMMITS UP TO \$95 MILLION FOR LAC-MEGANTIC DECONTAMINATION**



Ottawa and Quebec shared a rare moment of solidarity Thursday, agreeing to split the estimated \$190 million price tag to decontaminate the devastated town of Lac-Mégantic. Last summer, a runaway tanker train carrying crude oil rumbled into the heart of the Quebec community, jumped the tracks and exploded in a fiery crash that killed 47 people. The derailment levelled the town's centre and spewed millions of litres of crude into the environment, contaminating the soil as well as a nearby river and lake. Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited the region Thursday and pledged to help cover up to \$95 million of the cleanup cost, one-half of the overall estimate made by the Quebec government. "I know there is no amount of money that can erase the

painful memories...but you have to know that our government is doing everything in its power to support you," Harper told a news conference at the Lac-Mégantic golf course, a few kilometres from the centre of town. "The events of July 6, 2013, profoundly touched all Canadians from one end of the country to the other. "Above all, they noticed your resilience, your determination and your pure desire to rebuild." The provincial intergovernmental affairs minister reacted positively to Harper's commitment, even though members of the sovereigntist Parti Québécois government were not present for the announcement. "We're happy that at the end of the day we'll share the bill with the federal government," Alexandre Cloutier said in Quebec City, adding he believes Harper will be true to his word. "I'm convinced he said the truth at the press conference." The announcement follows Ottawa's earlier commitment to spend \$60 million on emergency response and to relaunch the local economy. Harper's visit to Lac-Mégantic, about a three-hour drive east of Montreal, was his third since the disaster. He was welcomed by Mayor Colette Roy-Laroche, who said the latest federal investment comes at an important time. "With winter and the holiday period around the corner, we really needed some good news," said Roy-Laroche, who was widely praised for her poise and calm demeanour in the aftermath of the disaster. "Today, your visit shows us that we have allies in the federal government and we are very happy." Roy-Laroche said the decontamination process will begin soon after a call for tenders



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and she predicted it to last at least 18 months. About 40 per cent of the decontaminated soil has been excavated, she added. The Quebec community, meanwhile, is gradually rebuilding. Dumptrucks, backhoes and construction workers were busy Thursday in the town's downtown core, which is surrounded by towering mounds of earth. A section of Lac-Mégantic's railroad tracks, which provide a critical economic lifeline for local businesses, is expected to reopen in the coming weeks. Roy-Laroche said she expects the federal government to participate and contribute more money as the reconstruction process moves forward. "We are thinking about the future," she said. In his announcement, Harper said his government has taken concrete steps to improve rail safety since the disaster. He noted that Ottawa has called for a parliamentary study on the transport of dangerous materials. Harper also pointed to a new federal rule introduced this week to force rail companies to tell municipalities when they transport dangerous goods across their borders. The company at the centre of the disaster, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic, remains under investigation, he added. "We want to absolutely assure you that we will get to the bottom of this," Harper said.

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/harper-commits-up-to-95-million-for-lac-megantic-decontamination-1.1553896>

### CHINA, GUANGXI ZHUANG, HEPU CO, NOVEMBER 22 2013. FIREWORKS FACTORY BLAST KILLS 3, INJURES 7

Three people were killed and another 7 injured in an explosion at a fireworks factory in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous region on Thursday, local authorities said. The accident happened at about 11 a.m. in an unlicensed fireworks factory in an orchard at Hongbeicheng Village, Hepu County. Guangxi is a major production base for fireworks. On Nov.1 this year, 11 people were killed and 17 injured in a factory explosion in Cenxi City. An investigation is underway.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90882/8462934.html>

### USA, GA, ATLANTA, NOVEMBER 22 2013. EPA, EPD SAY CONTAMINATION STILL IN SOIL OF FORMER BATTERY PLANT

jade hernandez

 **Watch the Video** [EPA, EPD Say Battery Plant Contamination in Soil](#)



*After neighbors of a former battery plant say they became sick by smells, on Thursday, Channel 2's Jade Hernandez investigated as Code Enforcement and firefighters tested the air quality in the surrounding area.*

The Environmental Protection Agency and Environmental Protection Division say they cannot find anyone to clean up the lead contamination that is still in the soil. The EPD says the building's most recent owner, Allene Avenue Redevelopment, LLC, in Illinois, walked away from the property a couple years ago, and the owner before that filed bankruptcy this summer. Currently, the property at 1246 Allene Ave. SW is on the EPD's hazardous sites list. Federal documents indicate it was a Superfund site years ago. Atlanta's Fire Department spokeswoman Janet Ward says she's not surprised about how difficult it is to track down building ownership. However, she says the Fire Department found no chemicals or hydrochloric acid in the air or area. Hydrochloric acid is a

common byproduct of battery manufacturing. Traquila Young noticed the number of firefighters down the block from where she lives with her 6-month-old son, but she was unaware of any issues. The woman who initially complained to Code Enforcement is not convinced her health issues will go away. The EPD does not know how long it will take to track down a responsible party to clean up the contaminated soil, but they are not giving up.

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/epa-epd-say-contamination-still-soil-former-batter/nbz63/>

### INDIA, GUJARAT, SURAT, NOVEMBER 22 2013. MAJOR FIRE AVERTED AT PETROL PUMP IN OLD SURAT

A big tragedy was averted in the city's Sahara Darwaja area when a major fire broke out at the tyre godown located close to a petrol pump in the early morning hours of Wednesday. Official sources in the fire and emergency service department of Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) said the fire broke out in the tyre godown located close to the petrol pump opposite the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) around 2:40 am at Sahara Darwaja on Wednesday. Around six fire fighters and eight water tankers were immediately rushed to the spot to douse the major fire in the tyre godown. however, it took more than five hours for the fire personnel to gain control over the situation, ensuring the safety of the petrol pump. Pankaj Patel,



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chief fire officer (CFO) told TOI, "Our priority was to avert major tragedy at the petrol pump. The fire could have spread to the tyre godown located in the next plot. But, our fire fighters did excellent job and gained control over the blaze after five long hours." According to Patel, the fire fighters had to break the rear wall of the tyre godown to gain access inside the premises. All the machines at the petrol pump were stopped to prevent the mishap.

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-11-21/surat/44325987\\_1\\_petrol-pump-tyre-godown-major-fire](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-11-21/surat/44325987_1_petrol-pump-tyre-godown-major-fire)

### USA, ALA, MADISON CO, NOVEMBER 23 2013. 2 HURT IN BLAST AT ALA PYROTECHNICS COMPANY

 **Watch the Video** [2 Injured after Blast at Pyrotechnics Building](#)

Authorities say an explosion at a north Alabama pyrotechnics heavily damaged a building and injured two people. WAFF-TV reports that state and federal authorities are investigating following the blast at Ultratec Special Effects, located in the Madison County community of Owens Cross Roads. Neighbors say they heard an explosion Thursday morning and saw fire engulfing a building. More blasts followed that. Officials say two workers were injured while running from the scene. One was checked at Huntsville Hospital and the other declined treatment at the scene. The company website says some of its fireworks were used during the opening ceremonies of the Summer Olympics last year.

[http://www.timesdaily.com/news/state/article\\_195369e1-6958-5f8d-a166-0ab374953920.html](http://www.timesdaily.com/news/state/article_195369e1-6958-5f8d-a166-0ab374953920.html)

### USA, GA, ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, NOVEMBER 23 2013. HAZMAT DATA SHEETS, LABELS CHANGING

Team Robins members will soon see changes in Labels and Safety Data Sheets used for hazardous materials. That's because OSHA now requires the use of new labeling elements and a standardized format for Safety Data Sheets, formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets. The changes are aimed at improving employee understanding of the hazards associated with the chemicals in their workplace, and more closely align U.S. standards with those of the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. Training will be provided over the next few weeks. The training only applies to those who currently require HAZCOM training. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html> or call David Trotter at 497-7555.

<http://www.robins.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123371823>

### USA, N.D, POWERS LAKE, NOVEMBER 23 2013. TANK OVERFLOWS AND SPILLS OIL, BRINE NEAR POWERS LAKE

About 20 barrels of oil and 680 barrels of saltwater spilled near here today after a tank overflowed at a saltwater disposal well, the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas Division said. The spill, reported by Oasis Petroleum, was contained on site, about six miles north of Powers Lake. The initial report says 20 barrels of oil and 660 barrels of saltwater have been recovered. The Oil and Gas Division has a state inspector traveling to the site.

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/419109/group/News/>

### USA, WYO, PINEDALE, NOVEMBER 23 2013. 5 ENCANA WORKERS INJURED IN JONAH FIELD FIRE

*benjamin storrow*



Five workers were injured when a tank exploded in the Jonah natural gas field near Pinedale on Friday morning. One worker was listed in critical condition while two others were said to be in serious condition, according to the Sublette County Sheriff's Department. A fourth worker was listed in stable condition, while the fifth was treated and released from a Pinedale clinic. The explosion took place by a battery of six condensate tanks at an Encana drilling site, said Doug Hock, a company spokesman. Three of the workers were employed by ASAP Construction of Boulder in Sublette County. The two others were contract welders. "This appears to be related to the welding they were doing," Hock said. "That was the ignition source." The exact cause of the explosion remains under

investigation. Emergency officials responded to a report that a tank exploded at Encana's Antelope 91-29H facility, some 35 miles south of Pinedale, around 10:15 a.m., the Sheriff's Department said. A fire on the site was not put out until shortly after 1 p.m. Sublette County EMS, the Boulder and Big Piney volunteer fire departments and sheriff's deputies responded to the explosion. Encana said it activated its emergency response plan in response to the explosion. Of the six condensate tanks, five were affected by the blaze. Hock described them as charred, torn and knocked over. "They were on fire," he said.



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Condensate is a byproduct of natural gas production. A nearby drilling rig was unaffected, Hock said. Two workers were flown to the University of Utah Medical Center. Another was flown to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, while a fourth worker was transported to Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County in Rock Springs. The incident will be investigated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. "This has been a difficult and sad day, and our friends and co-workers that were hurt are in our thoughts and prayers," Encana spokeswoman Bridget Ford said.

### Related Stories

- [Explosion of gas tanks injures five in Wyoming](#)
- [Wyo. gas field tank explosion injures 5 workers](#)
- [Wyoming Explosion Leaves Five Gas Field Workers Injured, One Critically](#)
- [Tank battery explosion in Jonah gas field in western Wyo. injures 5 workers, 1 ...](#)
- [Wyoming blast injures five in Wyoming](#)
- [5 Encana workers injured in Jonah Field](#)
- [5 workers injured in Jonah Field fire](#)

[http://trib.com/business/energy/encana-workers-injured-in-jonah-field/article\\_deaedce9-be1f-592e-9426-d4cc777ad961.html](http://trib.com/business/energy/encana-workers-injured-in-jonah-field/article_deaedce9-be1f-592e-9426-d4cc777ad961.html)

### INDIA, HARYANA, AHIKA, NOVEMBER 23 2013. 3 KILLED IN CAR-OIL TANKER COLLISION

Three persons were killed while another was injured when their car collided with an oil tanker on Jind-Patiala road near Ahika village here today. Ram Niwas, Satpal and Manish were killed in the mishap, police said. The injured was referred to PGIMS at Rohtak due to his serious condition. A case has been registered against the driver of the tanker, who is absconding, police said.

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/3-killed-in-car-oil-tanker-collision-113112201121\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/3-killed-in-car-oil-tanker-collision-113112201121_1.html)

### CHINA, SHANDONG, QINGDAO, NOVEMBER 23 2013. CHINA COMPANY SORRY FOR OIL BLASTS THAT KILL 47



China's largest oil refiner Sinopec on Saturday apologized for explosions from a ruptured oil pipeline that killed 47 people and injured 136 others in one of the country's worst industrial accidents this year. Sinopec's expansion of petrochemical projects has met with resistance from members of the public, and Friday's blasts in the eastern port city of Qingdao will likely add to growing concern about safety and environmental risks. The accident was the deadliest involving Sinopec. The explosions ripped slabs of pavement and online photos showed bodies, overturned vehicles and shattered windows in nearby buildings. Black smoke rose above gigantic fuel silos and darkened much of the sky over a bay area. The pipeline, owned by Sinopec, ruptured and leaked for about 15 minutes onto a street and into the sea before it was shut off. Hours later, as workers cleaned up the spill, the oil caught fire and exploded in two locations,

the city government said. Fu Chengyu, chairman of Sinopec, issued a public apology Saturday morning, according to a company statement. He said that Sinopec will collaborate with a State Council investigation group. "We will investigate the incident with responsibility and give timely reports," another Sinopec statement said. The Qingdao Environmental Protection Bureau said barriers had been set up to contain the oil as it spread into the sea, but that a mixture of gas and oil from a storm sewer exploded and caught fire over the sea. More than 3,000 square meters (32,000 square feet) of sea surface was contaminated, the city government said. Authorities said the oil had seeped into underground utility pipes, which could have been a factor in the blasts, but they did not elaborate. They assured the public that the explosions did not affect any petrochemical plant or military facilities in the seaside district and that air quality remained good after the disaster. About 18,000 residents have been evacuated in the wake of the blasts, and power was restored to all except two residential neighborhoods, authorities said. Of the 136 people hospitalized, 10 remained in critical condition, the city government said. The Beijing News cited a resident surnamed Gao, who works in logistics, as saying he was driving past Qingdao's Huangdao district when he felt the force of the blasts, and then realized the ground in front of him had fractured. The air was pungent, many cars on both sides of the road were overturned and there was dark smoke rising in the distance, he said. "It felt like an earthquake, and I was dumbstruck," Gao said, adding that there was chaos on the street as people ran, panicking, in all directions. Authorities ruled out terrorism but the incident remained under investigation, it said. President Xi Jinping urged local



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officials to go all out in finding missing people, treating the injured and finding the cause of the accident, state TV broadcaster CCTV said. It was China's second deadliest industrial accident this year, behind a chicken factory fire in June in Jilin that killed 121.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/oil-pipe-blast-east-china-kills-20975610>

### USA, GA, AUGUSTA, NOVEMBER 23 2013. METHANOL TANKER TRUCK CATCHES FIRE IN MCDUFFIE COUNTY

Interstate 20 near Thomson was shut down for more than two hours Friday after a tanker truck carrying methanol caught fire. About 5:30 p.m., crews were called to mile marker 167 after the truck blew a tire in the westbound lanes, causing the sleeper cab to ignite, according to McDuffie County Fire Rescue Assistant Chief Steven Sewell. Traffic was stopped on both eastbound and westbound lanes in McDuffie County and traffic was rerouted to Three Points Road near Thomson. The eastbound lanes and one westbound lane were reopened after the blaze was contained. Sewell said the full load of methanol was never threatened. No injuries were reported.

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/crime-courts/2013-11-22/tanker-truck-catches-fire-mcduffie-county?v=1385163719>

### USA, N.Y, ALBANY, NOVEMBER 23 2013. NY SETTLES OIL SPILL CLAIM WITH EXXONMOBIL

New York's attorney general has announced an \$8 million settlement with ExxonMobil for the cleanup of oil spilled at Ogdensburg in northern New York. State officials say the company operated a major oil storage facility that received deliveries by barge from the late 1800s to 1984 on the peninsula along the St. Lawrence and Oswegatchie rivers called Lighthouse Point. Petroleum contamination was found in 2001 around the terminal and underground pipelines connecting to the Oswegatchie River, followed by cleanups in 2006-2007 paid for by the state's Oil Spill Fund. The settlement was reached last week in state Supreme Court. Attorney General Eric Schneiderman says Friday it's only right that corporations pay for damage they caused to New York's natural resources. ExxonMobil spokesman Todd Spitler says the company is pleased to reach the settlement with the state.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/22/4641931/ny-settles-oil-spill-claim-with.html>

### USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, NOVEMBER 24 2013. CONTROVERSIAL URBAN OIL FIELD VOLUNTARILY AGREES TO HALT OPERATIONS



*Tim Parker, vice president of operations with Allenco Energy Co., leads a tour of the company's facilities in South Los Angeles. Allenco will suspend operations pending completion of investigations into health complaints by people living near the oil field.*

Allenco Energy Co. will suspend operations at a South L.A. oil field pending completion of investigations into health complaints. Operators of a controversial urban oil field in South Los Angeles voluntarily agreed Friday to halt operations pending completion of investigations prompted by complaints from neighbors, who blame noxious vapors for persistent respiratory ailments, headaches and nosebleeds. The move comes a few weeks after U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) urged Allenco Energy Co. to suspend oil production in the University Park neighborhood, half a mile north of USC, "until the experts tell us it is safe for our

most vulnerable populations." In a letter to Boxer, Allenco President Peter Allen agreed and said the decision to suspend operations was made "to give you and the residents in our area a greater sense of confidence in our ability to operate responsibly and to appropriately address any concerns." Barry Wallerstein, executive director of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, said that it "doesn't happen very often that an operator voluntarily shuts down in response to concerns expressed by the community and its elected representatives — in this case, Sen. Boxer." He added that Allen "had committed to make changes in equipment that was responsible for those vapors leaving the facility." "He was quite sincere in resolving the problems and making the necessary equipment modifications," Wallerstein said of Allen. Allenco is the focus of ongoing investigations by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](http://www.epa.gov), the South Coast air quality agency, the city attorney's office, the county Department of Health and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, which leases the 2-acre site to the company. "I appreciate the company's decision to suspend operations," Los Angeles City Atty. [Mike Feuer](#) said. "Our investigation into the company's compliance with the law continues." A team of federal and county environmental officers was recently overwhelmed by toxic



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vapors while touring the site, lending support to residents' suspicions that odors from the facility are making people sick. The neighborhood surrounding the oil field includes homes and schools, as well as the Doheny Campus of Mount St. Mary's College. Complaints related to the facility increased in 2010, when Allenco boosted production at its wells by more than 400%. Neighbors complained to the air quality agency 251 times over the next three years. The air district responded by issuing 15 citations against Allenco for foul odors and equipment problems. But frustrations over the air district's inability to say whether fumes from the oil field are hazardous triggered the ongoing investigations aimed at determining the cause of the ailments, as well as the validity of Allenco's operating permits and the archdiocese's lease agreements with the company. "Even while our operations are down, we will continue to work with the regulating agencies," Allen said in his letter to Boxer. "We will continue to seek advice from the community, and we have already hired engineering firms and environmental consultants to help us improve our operations." Neighbors applauded the company's decision. "It's a great victory for a community that has been living and suffering in the air plume of Allenco's emissions," said Nancy H. Ibrahim, executive director of Esperanza Community Housing Corp., a nonprofit affordable housing developer in the area bounded by the 110 Freeway, the 10 Freeway and USC. Said Monic Uriarte, whose 12-year-old daughter is among neighborhood children suffering from frequent nosebleeds: "What happened today is a lesson for neighborhoods across Los Angeles. Don't give up."

<http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-1123-oil-field-fumes-20131123,0,7551455.story#axzz2ITVtsKQ6>

### **NIGERIA, BAYELSA, YENAGOA, IKARAMA, NOVEMBER 24 2013. FRESH OIL SPILL POLLUTES BAYELSA COMMUNITY**

A recent oil spill from Okordia-Rumuekpe 14-inch crude delivery pipeline has discharged crude into the environment at Ikarama community, Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa. The spill was reportedly caused by activities of oil thieves who left a hacksaw cut on the pipeline. The Public Relations Officer of Ikarama Community Development Committee, Washington Odoyibo, said on Thursday that the leak had been clamped. He said that the spill had taken a negative toll on the farming and fishing vocations of Ikarama community. According to a Joint Investigation Visit Report, the cause of the spill was traced to sabotage by yet-to-be identified persons. The report stated that the spill impacted an area of 6400 square meters which stretched beyond the oil firm's right of way into the adjoining land near the spill site. It said that some 482 barrels of Shell's Bonny Medium crude stream was discharged into the environment while 15 per cent of the volume may have evaporated. Representatives of National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency, host communities, Bayelsa Ministry of Environment, Department of Petroleum Resources and Police signed the report. The report further stated that Shell commenced the recovery of spilled oil on November 12 while clean up of the spill site would be completed in April 2014.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201311220058.html>

### **USA, WYO, CHEYENNE, NOVEMBER 24 2013. OKLAHOMA COMPANY TO PAY FINE IN WYOMING OIL SPILL**

An Oklahoma company on Friday agreed to pay a \$1 million penalty for allowing thousands of gallons of oil to flow into a creek south of Rawlins in 2011. Thomas Sansonetti, a lawyer for the company Nadel and Gussman Rockies, entered a guilty plea for the company before U.S. District Judge Alan Johnson in Cheyenne. Johnson accepted the company's plea for the misdemeanor violation of the federal Clean Water Act conditionally, pending his review of a report. He set sentencing for January. Federal prosecutor Bob Murray told Johnson more than 4,700 gallons of oil spilled into Emigrant Creek after a contract pumper working for the company left a tank valve open overnight in late April 2011. Murray said the pumper had opened the valve to drain production water from the tank. Murray said the oil also drained out after all the underlying water in the tank was gone. Murray said Hugo Cartaya, then a production manager for Nadal and Gussman, had approved of disposing of the production water, which had some contaminants in it, by draining it from the tank into the nearby creek bed. Murray said the snow was too deep for a tanker truck to get to the site to haul the water away so dumping the water provided a way to continue oil production at the site. After the pumper discovered the oil spill, Murray said Cartaya told him not to report it to the company or to regulators. Authorities learned of the spill later after a person passing by smelled oil and saw it flowing under a nearby road in the streambed. Both the pumper and Cartaya denied knowledge of the spill when approached by federal investigators, Murray said. He said the pumper later said he caused the spill. Murray said the pumper has entered into a diversion program and is cooperating with federal officials. A federal indictment filed in September charges Cartaya with eight felony counts, including discharge of oil into the waters of the United States and making false statements. He has pleaded not guilty and is scheduled to stand trial in February. Michael David Lindsey, Cartaya's attorney, said he expects his client to be exonerated. Sansonetti said officials with Nadel and Gussman moved to address the spill as soon as they heard about it.



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"They jumped right on it," he said, adding that the company's cleanup costs reached into the six figures. Sansonetti said the company is a family-run business that operates around the Rockies. Murray said the company's \$1 million penalty will include the following:

- \$357,500 as a fine for violating the Clean Water Act.
- \$200,000 to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, a federal fund that covers oil spill cleanup costs.
- \$230,000 to the Carbon County Commission. The county will use about \$80,000 of that amount to buy equipment and supplies for responding to oil spills. Three conservation districts in the county will each get \$50,000 for natural resource improvement projects. They are the Little Snake River; Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins; and Medicine Bow conservation districts.
- \$106,000 to the Yellowstone Park Foundation.
- \$106,000 to the Grand Teton Park Foundation. Both park foundations will use the money to preserve natural resources.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/22/4642488/oklahoma-company-to-pay-1m-fine.html>

### USA, FLA, RIVERVIEW, NOVEMBER 24 2013. EXPLOSION ROCKS RIVERVIEW PHOSPHATE PLANT, 2 INJURED

 **Watch the Video** [Explosion at Mosaic Plant Injures Two](#)

 **Photo's** [Explosion Rocks Riverview Phosphate Plant](#)



An empty acid tank exploded during routine maintenance, causing the top to fly approximately 100 feet in the air and come crashing to the ground, officials said. Two Mosaic Co. employees were injured when an explosion rocked the phosphate company's Riverview plant off of Highway 41 this afternoon, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue spokesman Ronnie Rivera said. An empty acid tank exploded during routine maintenance, causing the top to fly approximately 100 feet in the air and come crashing to the ground, Rivera said. The explosion also sent up a cloud 100 feet above the plant. The two employees were taken to the hospital with what were deemed non-life threatening injuries, Rivera said. According to The Associated Press, one worker who had been standing on the structure was struck in the chest by shrapnel. The other injured worker was on the ground. Hillsborough County Fire Rescue's Hazardous Incident Team was

on the scene after the explosion, metering the air for safety.

<http://tbo.com/Local/CommunityNews/explosion-rocks-mosaic-phosphate-plant-in-riverview-20131123/>

### SYRIA, HOMS, NOVEMBER 24 2013. REBELS ATTACK SYRIA'S KEY OIL FACILITIES AMID FIERCE FIGHTS

The radical rebels targeted on Saturday key oil resources in central and eastern Syria, as intense battles are still ongoing at the al-Qalamoun Mountains in the northern countryside of Damascus, reports said. Armed rebels fired mortar shells at Homs Oil Refinery in Syria's central province of Homs Saturday, causing a huge fire at one of the fuel tanks, the state-media said. The Director of Homs refinery, Akram Sultan, said that a worker was injured as a fuel tank was set ablaze by a mortar shell launched by "terrorists". Sultan said that the firefighters have started extinguishing the fire. Homs Refinery Company, the first refinery in Syria, came into operation in 1959 with a capacity of one million ton per year of light crude oil. The rebels have targeted several oil and gas pipelines across the country in a bid to paralyze the energy sector of the war-torn country. Earlier in the day, al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front captured al- Omar oil field in the eastern province of Deir al-Zour during an overnight battle with the government troops, according to activist groups. The rebels initially captured the oil field, which is regarded as the largest oil field in eastern Syria, in November 2012 but were dislodged by the Syrian troops. A video footage appeared online Saturday purporting to show radical rebels driving a tank under a sign that read "Euphrates Oil Company-al-Omar field." Recent local reports said that oil, the lifeline of the Syrian economy, is at risk as the main oil fields are located in rebel-held areas in northeast Syria and is erroneously used by gunmen. The report said that 40,000 oil barrels were stolen on a daily basis, causing \$1.4 billion in direct material losses and 17.7 billion in indirect losses till the end of the third quarter of 2013. The report said that data of the oil establishment have revealed that more than 20 oil wells have been burned and 128 others were stolen. According to the General Director of the General Establishment for Oil, Ali Abbas, some 8.5 billion barrels have been



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stolen, adding that some 16.000 tons of cooking gas were also stolen. He said that heavy oil production has been completely stopped as of the third month of 2013 and what is currently being produced in light oil, whose quantity doesn't exceed 15.000 barrels a day because of repetitive attacks against oil pipelines extending from Tal Adas in the northeastern city of al-Hassakeh till Homs refinery in central Syria. Gas production also dramatically declined from 28 million cubic meters to 17 million as rebels have fully controlled Deir el-Zour and al-Jibsseh gas plants. It has totally stopped on December 2012. Al-Jibsseh plant re-operated in August but with no more than 50 percent of its capacity. Oil sector was a pillar of Syria's economy until the outbreak of events, with the country producing about 380.000 barrels and exporting around 130.000 barrels a day and put the rest in domestic use. Oil was forming around 45 percent of Syria's total exports. In 2010, Syria's oil exports were estimated at \$3 billion. In 2013, Syria imported oil by \$1.7 billion, in a drive aimed to meet the people's need of oil derivations. At the beginning of the crisis, the EU has slapped Syria with harsh economic sanctions including an embargo on purchasing or transporting Syrian oil and prohibiting companies from dealing with Syria or investing in it, in addition to withdrawing experts and staff, suspending funding, and imposing sanctions on Syrian petroleum companies. By the end of 2011, all foreign companies that were operating in the oil field left the country. On April 2013, the EU countries permitted the purchase of the stolen crude Syrian oil, a step which has been denounced by the Syrian government and was considered as encouraging armed groups to steal oil. The cost of rehabilitating oil establishments is totaled at around \$1 billion and unveiled a plan to re-operate oil establishment within the next five years. Aside from the attacks against the country's oil reserves, clashes continued Saturday in the towns of al-Qalamoun Mountains, located north of Damascus on the international road that connects the capital with the central province of Homs. The clashes intensified in the town of Deir Attieh, which was overran by the rebels last Wednesday following their escape from the town of Qara which was freed by the Syrian troops earlier last week. Activists said the Syrian troops carried out multiple airstrikes against the rebel positions in al-Qalamoun as the road between Damascus and Homs was cut off due to the intensity of the clashes. Most of the fuel stations in Damascus were empty of fuel Saturday as a result of the international road's closure. The victory in al-Qalamoun is crucial to the Syrian troops as ridding the rebel-held area would secure the road that connects Damascus in the south with central and northern Syria and would cut off the rebels' supply line from neighboring Lebanon. Meanwhile, Syria's state-run SANA news agency said the Syrian army carried out "intensive, successful qualitative operations" against armed rebels in the northern province of Aleppo, eliminating several groups with all of their weapons and equipments. The operations took place at Castello, Sheikh Najjar, west of Khan al-Asal town, al-Bab, and east of al-Nairab area among others, the report said. Opposition activists, however, claimed that the government troops operations in Aleppo led to the killing of at least 40 people, mostly civilians. The Syrian troops and its affiliated militias have been intensifying attacks against rebels' positions in the eastern outskirts of Aleppo, recapturing a number of key positions and towns, a progress that aims at securing the vicinity of the international airport of Aleppo, which has been closed off for over a year due to the intensity of clashes in its vicinity.

<http://www.philstar.com/world/2013/11/24/1260376/rebels-attack-syrias-key-oil-facilities-amid-fierce-fights>

### NIGERIA, LAGOS, BADA, NOVEMBER 24 2013. YEM-KEM FACTORY BURNS TO ASHES IN LAGOS

 **Photo's [4]** [Yem-Kem Factory Burns >> Caused by Exploding Drum of Ethanol](#)



*Workers say the fire was caused by one exploding drum of ethanol out of the 520 which was delivered.*

Leading herbal products manufacturing company YemKem office suffered a massive loss today after its factory, located in Bada, Ayobo area of Lagos got burnt down to ashes in a fire explosion that started sometime around 6:30 pm today. According to workers, the fire reportedly started when a drum full of ethanol, exploded. The company had taken delivery of 520 tanks of ethanol today. The YemKem Office, two other houses and a local primary school (Liberty Primary School) got burnt. Fortunately, no life was reported lost.

<http://www.nigerianbulletin.com/threads/explosions-fire-guts-yemkem-herbal-factory-in-lagos.22193/>



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### USA, TX, DALLAS, NOVEMBER 25 2013. OSHA NO MATCH FOR WORKPLACE DANGERS THAT KILL THOUSANDS

randy lee loftis



*Matthew L. Bowman (right) pleaded guilty to violating OSHA safety rules, leading to a worker's death. A plea deal gave him a year in federal prison and a \$5,000 fine.*

One day El Campeón took on his last challenge. The Champion — that's what people at work called Adan Juan Padron. In good shape at 41, he seemed willing to face any danger to feed his family. Dangers were plentiful. Southeast Texas is refinery and chemical-plant territory, with fuming, square-mile mazes of pipes and towers and flares blazing through humid nights. Their output fuels the nation. Their thousands of tanks hold contents that can and often do burn, corrode, poison or explode. Somebody has to clean them, from the inside, by hand. An oxygen line might fail with no escape. A high-pressure hose might turn on its user. Stuff might crush a skull. A faulty work light might fill a tank with fire. But Padron and his wife, Herlinda, had three

children and another on the way. So on Feb. 22, 2005, at a Houston methane plant, he crawled through an 18-inch hatch into the bottom of V321B, an empty, waste-encrusted, vertical tank. For days the crust had resisted hydroblasting. Padron swung his brass pick. Seconds later, Padron became one of 5,734 U.S. workers killed on the job that year. Hidden in cases like his — and the April 17 fertilizer explosion in West — is a neglected reality of work in America. Many workers climb, rappel or reach into daily dangers but draw federal notice only by dying. Given limited budgets and frequent political attempts at reducing enforcement even more, inspectors might be absent until a calamity occurs.

#### The Case in West

At West Fertilizer Co., no federal workplace safety inspector had shown up for 28 years before tons of ammonium nitrate blew up and killed 15 people, including a dozen volunteer firefighters. Among them was company foreman Cody Dragoo, 50. He had rushed back to the plant that evening to battle the blaze just before the explosion. Padron never saw a federal inspector while he worked for CES Environmental Services in Houston. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration opened its first inspection of the Houston company the day after he died. It was an investigation into his death. CES had been in business for six years, cleaning tanks for some of the biggest corporate names on the chemical coast. A slab of waste broke loose from 18 feet above Padron. A "hangman's fracture" his injury is called, in grim homage to the snap of the executioner's rope. In modern times, trauma crews know it mostly from head-on collisions. CES and sister company Port Arthur Chemical and Environmental Services eventually became symbols of criminal risk to workers. Within four years, three more men died — two poisoned and one burned and blasted. OSHA and other enforcers cracked down. The companies are now bankrupt and shuttered. On Dec. 12, their former president is to report to a federal prison. A plea bargain on workplace safety and hazardous chemicals charges got Matthew L. Bowman a one-year sentence and a \$5,000 fine — coincidentally, the same amount as the OSHA fine for Padron's death. His criminal defense attorney, Dan Cogdell, said Bowman pleaded guilty to put it all behind him. "He does certainly regret that some lives were lost," Cogdell said, but is not convinced that his companies were wholly to blame. "He thinks that the sentence, under the circumstances, is a bit excessive." Bowman did not respond to an interview request mailed to his last available address in Houston. Families of the men who died working for his companies either chose not to comment or could not be located. Houston personal-injury lawyer Donald H. Kidd, who represented Padron's family after his death, found in the case both private tragedy and a public problem. Big companies tend to get safety scrutiny, he said. "But what about the CES's of the world and the Bowmans of the world? They're under the radar until they kill someone," Kidd said. Deaths from big industrial accidents like West Fertilizer or the 2005 BP Texas City explosion, which also killed 15, generate headlines and sympathetic profiles of the dead. But most workplace victims die in the way of CES-PACES employees Padron, Joey Wayne Sutter, Charles Brent Sittig and Bruce Clayton Howard: mutilated, poisoned, burned, severed or suffocated one at a time. They rarely make the front page. Some do not make the news at all, and if they do, might not receive even the dignity of a name — just "a worker," "an employee." Still, a common factor links many visible and hidden catastrophes: Inspections to catch a wobbly walkway, a malfunctioning air tank or an exposed electrical panel might never happen. Just in Padron's line of work, tank and spill cleanup, the list of dead is long. David Lee Ingram, 53, of Charlotte, N.C., lost his oxygen hood inside a tanker in South Carolina in 2007. Dannye R. Allen, 53, was hit by a truck at a highway spill near Warsaw, Ky., in 2011. A volunteer firefighter, he left behind his father, sons, brothers, sisters and grandson. Alton Charles Washington, 46, inhaled hydrogen sulfide gas at a Louisiana refinery in 2007. Henry Arnoldo Flores, 28, was in a rail tank car in Commerce City, Colo., in 2010. A flash fire started. It took him 85 days to die. Jose Francisco Fuentes, 21, was cleaning a



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polymer tank in Odessa in 2002. An 8,000-psi water jet cut a 4-inch-wide, V-shaped channel through his chest, his right lung and his left ventricle. He left behind a wife and daughter, parents, sisters and grandparents.

#### OSHA Investigates

OSHA investigated each death. But before the accidents, records show, each company had been in business for at least three years with no checks of conditions, training or equipment. Fuentes' employer, Total Jetting Inc., had been operating the longest with no inspections, nine years and eight months. Many companies willingly spend time and money to protect their people. But OSHA, labor organizations and safety advocates say workers cannot count on government inspections to make up for private negligence or greed. "We're a small agency with a big job," OSHA spokesman Jesse Lawder said. "We can't be in every company every day." Some administrations have stressed workplace enforcement, and others have pulled back. But presidents and Congresses of both parties have consistently kept OSHA as one of the smallest of the regulatory agencies with broad responsibilities. OSHA standards cover about 100 million people in as many as 8 million workplaces. Its entire staff in fiscal 2014 is 2,258 — smaller than the enrollment of a typical suburban high school. Of those, 1,539 are designated for enforcement. The Dallas Police Department, by comparison, has about 3,500 officers. In 22 states, state agencies cover OSHA's duties as partners. Their inspectors plus OSHA put the national enforcement force at 2,000 to 2,200. Grants to states take up about 20 percent of OSHA's budget. In April, the Government Accountability Office called for better OSHA oversight of state programs. Texas is not an OSHA partner. The Texas Department of Insurance's voluntary inspection program is designed to educate employers and has no enforcement powers. By longstanding state law, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality cannot regulate anything, including air contaminants, inside a workplace. OSHA's 2014 budget request, \$571 million, would run the Environmental Protection Agency (\$8.2 billion) for about 25 days. The government spends less on OSHA than on the House of Representatives (\$1.2 billion), federally funded broadcasting such as the Voice of America (\$723 million) and payments to tobacco farmers (\$960 million). Lean budgets force OSHA to focus on some industries to protect the largest number of the most at-risk workers. Others might wait for a death, catastrophic injury or complaint. OSHA picks national and local priorities based on history and known dangers and targets severe or repeat violators, spokesman Lawder said. It adjusts the focus as conditions change. The approach makes sense for a tiny agency, said Peg Seminario, longtime director of safety and health for the AFL-CIO. But enforcement can still seem like Whac-A-Mole: a response only after problems arise. "You want them to be more preventive," Seminario said. "How do they do this with this minimum number of people they have?" The emphasis on a handful of industries and the shortage of prevention were in view when tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer detonated in West. OSHA never checked to see if West Fertilizer was protecting its workers or the surrounding town despite ammonium nitrate's well-known explosion risk from fire and shock. The agency said it had not chosen ammonium nitrate dealers as one of its inspection priorities. It's a small industry. Current focuses include refineries, chemical plants and the most dangerous work, construction. Still, the blast echoed in Washington. Under President Barack Obama's post-West executive order, agencies must deliver new chemical-safety plans. And in October, on the eve of a six-month enforcement deadline, OSHA fined Adair Grain, dba West Fertilizer, \$118,300 for alleged violations unrelated to the blast. A federal and state investigation of the explosion continues. Another major Texas case — CES, PACES and Bowman — is officially closed but still resonates. Matt Bowman, with a 1993 bachelor's degree in environmental sciences from Texas A&M University, worked in waste management and sales before starting CES in 1999. He was 28. Fights soon broke out with CES's neighbors. Residents complained of environmental and health problems. Bowman accused them of unfairly targeting the company. In legal papers, he said the city of Houston faked violations to steal CES's land. Opening PACES in Port Arthur in 2008 brought that city into conflict with Bowman. Eventually, the TCEQ, the state attorney general, the cities and other companies were all targeting his operations. But work went on. Often after tough times and other tough jobs, people ended up in Bowman's small circle.

#### Hard Life

At 36, Joey Wayne Sutter appeared to have had a hard time finding his path. Family photos over the years show him fishing, standing with relatives and holding a baby, but rarely smiling. He was married with two children. Texas records reflect a burglary as a teenager, a domestic assault case in 2003 and a probation revocation in March 2007, 21 months before he died on Dec. 18, 2008. PACES lab technician Suzi Ann Mock told criminal investigators with the EPA and TCEQ that Sutter seemed all right as they took samples with a tool called a sludge judge. At his direction, she opened a valve, heard a hissing noise, then closed it. Mock, then 38, told the investigators she was promoted into the lab job with no real training. She mentioned fresh-air safety packs repossessed by a vendor. Hydrogen sulfide detectors didn't work. OSHA later found only one of five detectors operating. Atop the tanker, Sutter reached across a hatch to tighten a nut, then collapsed. "Blood came from



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his nose and his eyes rolled back," investigators wrote. Mock grabbed his shirt and called for help. Firefighters found Sutter in full cardiac arrest atop the tanker, according to an incident report. En route to Christus-St. Mary Hospital, a strong chemical odor from his clothes assaulted paramedics. Emergency room staff put the clothes in a biohazard bag. The medical examiner said hydrogen sulfide fumes killed Sutter. Mock told investigators she later asked for safety harnesses and breathing equipment for unloading tankers. Three supervisors told her "she was overreacting," investigators wrote. Charles Brent Sittig's death four months later was similar: He breathed hydrogen sulfide. The medical examiner said the poison contributed to a heart-related death at age 48. A truck driver for PACES, Sittig was a Louisianan. The family photo album depicts a smiling man surrounded by relatives and friends. On April 14, 2009, he drove to PACES from Lake Charles, La., with a load of naphthenic acid, a product of refining crude oil, manager Ryan Thomas told Port Arthur police. He arrived around 12:45 p.m. Mock told investigators Sittig entered the lab for paperwork and went back outside. Thomas told police Sittig climbed the tanker to offload the chemical. Mock said she waited in the lab for a load sample. An OSHA report said the company never produced test results. Sittig spoke briefly in Thomas' office, went to mechanic Glen Olsen's office, took a cellphone and went outside, reports show. Olsen told police that he heard Sittig sit down in a folding chair. Then he heard an exclamation from Sittig and a thump. Sittig fell face first from the chair, Mock told investigators. OSHA inspectors later questioned whether such a short fall could have caused his injuries and blood loss. Sittig was face down on the ground, gasping for breath. Mock said she ran back to the lab and told Thomas to call 911. Olsen said co-workers put Sittig on oxygen and tried to start CPR. Some time later, Mock told investigators, a CES manager gave her Sutter's and Sittig's autopsy reports and told her the evidence proved that both men died of natural causes — an assertion that Bowman also made in court papers. Mock said she did not agree. "Mock said that in her opinion CES has committed homicide," the EPA investigator wrote. For Bruce Clayton Howard, life was hard and death was fast and horrible. He had convictions for burglary and selling cocaine. By age 45, he was cleaning tanks at CES. About 4 p.m. on July 7, 2009, a co-worker was inside a tank with some leftover sludge in it. Howard, above on a catwalk, lowered an electric light into the tank for the other man. The type of light was approved for use with flammable or explosive gases, but this one was unsafe. "It had a disconnected ground and was missing the explosion-proof cable grip bushing," OSHA inspectors wrote. Ignition, flash fire and explosion came almost as one. Flames engulfed Howard. He either fell or was blasted 11 feet to the ground. He had third-degree burns all over and blunt-force head trauma.

### Penalties Multiply

With each death, OSHA stepped up penalties: Padron, two violations, \$5,000. Sutter, seven violations, \$16,600. Sittig, 40 violations, \$207,800. Howard, 71 violations, \$1.48 million. Of the 71, 17 were "willful" — with "intentional disregard or plain indifference." Bowman contested the violations, but pressure was mounting. The Texas attorney general's office sued at the TCEQ's request and settled for \$841,000. Dead workers' families, angry neighbors and other firms were also suing — 21 lawsuits at one point. In 2010, both companies filed for bankruptcy reorganization, but the judge changed it to liquidation. Bowman claimed persecution. The multiple investigations, the companies' bankruptcy lawyers wrote in filings, "resulted from a kind of perfect storm" of unjust claims. The city of Houston, they wrote, pressured an odd collection of parties into a conspiracy to destroy CES, including the "TCEQ, EPA, OSHA, the city of Port Arthur, Jefferson County, the United Black Front, the New Black Panther Party, private plaintiffs, and the news media." When Houston cut off CES's wastewater service, the lawyers wrote, it "effectively sentenced CES to corporate death." As for the actual deaths, they were "unfortunate but accidental." And the Sutter and Sittig autopsies, they wrote, were falsified through a conspiracy of the medical examiner, lab companies and Jefferson County officials. The company had "strong evidence" that the deaths were natural and was finding more. The protests were for naught. Investigators and federal prosecutors were developing a case. Last year, a federal grand jury in Beaumont returned a 13-count indictment alleging violations involving hazardous waste, hazardous materials transport, workplace safety, false statements and conspiracy. If convicted on all counts and sentenced consecutively to the maximums, Bowman faced a theoretical 56 years in prison and \$2.57 million in fines. But a plea deal was in the works.

### Plea Deal

In May, Bowman pleaded guilty to one count each of willingly violating OSHA safety rules, leading to Sutter's death, and faking documents describing chemical shipments. Last month, Bowman received his sentence, as agreed: one year and \$5,000. The plea deal recommends a low- to medium-security federal prison in Bastrop, near Austin. Bowman asserts that he has suffered, said Cogdell, his criminal defense lawyer. "He's lost everything, from a financial standpoint, companies he built," Cogdell said. "He's lost his reputation — most of it." Kidd, the Padron family's lawyer, saw it differently. "Bowman's family has the comfort of knowing that his separation from them is temporary," he said. "Herlinda Padron and her sons are in the eighth year of a lifetime sentence without Juan because of Bowman's misconduct. "Bowman is the least of the victims of his misconduct."



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### The Men who Died

Over four years, four men died while working for now-defunct companies founded by Houston businessman Matthew L. Bowman: CES Environmental Services of Houston and Port Arthur Chemical and Environmental Services of Port Arthur.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/investigations/20131123-osh-no-match-for-workplace-dangers-that-kill-thousands.ece>

### NIGERIA, KATSINA, DANDUME, NOVEMBER 25 2013. EXPLOSION KILLS 3, DESTROYS 6 HOUSES IN KATSINA

*bolanle akanji*



Three people have been confirmed dead following an explosion of two fuel-laden articulated vehicles at Gyazama village, along the Funtua-Birnin Gwari road in Dandume Local Government Area of Katsina State. Four other people suffered varying degrees of burns. The incident occurred when some drivers were transferring fuel from a broken down tanker to another using a pumping machine. Alhaji Abdulkadir Muhammad, the Transition Committee Chairman of Dandume Local Government Council, told the News Agency of Nigeria in Dandume two of the deceased were operators of the pumping machine. According to him, the fire could not be contained by the area's firemen and it took the intervention of firemen from neighbouring areas to put the fire off. The blaze which started on Saturday evening lasted till Sunday morning before it was subdued.

<http://www.nigerianbulletin.com/threads/explosion-kills-3-destroys-6-houses-in-katsina-state.22436/>

### UAE, FUJAIRAH, NOVEMBER 25 2013. CAR CATCHES FIRE AT A PETROL STATION IN FUJAIRAH

*aghaddir ali*



*A car burns at an Enoc petrol station in Fujairah yesterday. An official warned that motorists should avoid using flammable materials at a petrol station.*

The fire completely burned down the vehicle and partially damaged the petrol station's cladding roof. A car was reported to have caught fire at 2.49pm on Friday in Fujairah when it was parked at an Enoc petrol station. Colonel Ali Al Tuaniji, Director General of Fujairah Civil Defence, told Gulf News that the fire was successfully put out because of Fujairah Civil Defence's quick response. Al Tuaniji added that no injuries were sustained but the car was completely burnt and the cladding roof of the petrol station was partially damaged. The site is currently closed for maintenance and a full investigation is being undertaken by authorities. He advised motorists to avoid using any flammable materials such as cigarettes while at petrol stations and to have periodical maintenance on their

cars.

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/general/car-catches-fire-at-a-petrol-station-in-fujairah-1.1258398>

### UAE, ABU DHABI, NOVEMBER 25 2013. ADNOC SEEKS TO ACQUIRE 24 PETROL PUMPS IN SHARJAH >> ADNOC PLANNING TO SET UP NEW PUMPS ON SAADIYAT ISLAND

Adnoc, one of the world's largest oil producing firms, is locked in negotiations to acquire 24 petrol stations in Sharjah as part of an initial agreement inked in 2012 with Emirates General Petroleum Corporation (Emarat) to take over 74 pumps in the northern emirates, an Adnoc official said in remarks published on Sunday. Abdullah Al Dahiri, CEO of Adnoc for Distribution, said the negotiations have reached their final stages and Adnoc could re-commission the 24 stations in the first quarter of 2014 in case the talks lead to an agreement. Quoted by Arabic language dailies, he said the 24 stations had been owned by Dubai-based Enoc before it stopped operating them in mid-2011. "These negotiations are part of our agreement with Emarat in May 2012 to take over 74 petrol stations in Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain and Fujairah." Dahiri said Adnoc-Fod has been locked in a strategy to expand its operations to other countries, including Saudi Arabia, adding that the services also include jet fuel. "Adnoc-Fod is also planning to set up new petrol pumps on Saadiyat Island," he said.

<http://www.emirates247.com/business/energy/adnoc-seeks-to-acquire-24-petrol-pumps-in-sharjah-2013-11-24-1.529084>



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### USA, TX, LONGVIEW, NOVEMBER 25 2013. GAS STATION PUMP CATCHES FIRE AFTER SUV PLOWS THROUGH SUNDAY

 **Watch the Video** [Gas Station Pump Catches Fire after SUV Plows Through](#)



An SUV plowed into a gas pump causing an explosion which started a fire at an East Texas Convenience store. It happened in the 4800 block Of Estes Parkway at Zippy Js just south of Longview around 8:30 Sunday Morning. Someone driving on Estes Parkway Sunday Morning shot video of Zippy Js shortly after the wreck. You can see there are no emergency vehicles in the shot. Clerks Jamie Jones and Jessica Jolley were working when it happened. "Heard a loud bang. Actually it was an extremely large explosion. And by the time we got probably about right here he hit the pump and the pump just like blew up and the canopy came down and it just looked like a streak just flying through here. If it wouldn't have been for the wrought iron fence down there I don't know how far he would have went. The front end of his truck looked like an accordion and even the back end of the truck had damage to it and I'm not quite sure how that happened," said Jamie. "He walked up because he got himself out, I guess he wasn't wearing a seat belt because he got himself out and he walked all the way up there and he just sat down and said he didn't want an ambulance he just wanted to go straight to jail, He just sat down. He said he just fallen asleep and was only going about fifty miles an hour. But that's not what we heard," Jessica added. The SUV went through a power pole, a gas pump and a canopy support and still went another fifty yards before stopping. While taking down the canopy with a cutting torch workers started a small fire where the pump had been burning. Workers found their fire extinguisher didn't work, but were able to smother the fire. Before the fire department got there an off-duty firefighter shut off a circuit breaker just in case and the fire burned itself out. The clerks say the driver, 26 year old Antonio Gonzales was a regular customer, and they're glad no one was filling up when the wreck occurred. Twenty-six year old Antonio Gonzales was taken to a local hospital for a blood test for suspected DWI and issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

<http://www.kltv.com/story/24056759/gas-station-pump-catches-fire-after-suv-plows-through-sunday-morning>

### USA, CA, ORANGE CO, NOVEMBER 25 2013. RULES ON LEAKING TANKS WORRISOME

kellie mejdrich

 **Photo's [7]** [Rules on Leaking Tanks Worrisome](#)



*A leak was found under four 10,000-gallon storage tanks excavated in 1996 at this San Clemente gas station. The station, at 422 Avenida De La Estrella, is now a clean-up site that a consultant argues is complicated by nearby leaks.*

- When Anthony Rodrigo bought a Huntington Beach day care in 2003, he knew that the carwash next door was under scrutiny because gasoline had leaked from an underground tank into the soil below. But Rodrigo wasn't too worried. Local health care agency officials told him the state had plans to clean up the site – and were already doing so. Findings of This Investigation:

- California has the largest number of underground fuel tank leaks in the nation, with thousands of contaminated sites still on state records after 30 years

and billions of dollars in cleanups.

- State regulators last year enacted a new "low-threat" closure policy that will allow hundreds of underground leak sites to end regulatory monitoring even though residual contamination still exists underground.
- The new policy relies on the belief that remaining fuel components will naturally degrade underground before they leach into underground aquifers and pose a threat to humans or the environment.
- These assumptions have been questioned by many local water regulators and federal environmental scientists, who caution that natural degradation depends on the local geology.
- The state has gone over the heads of local regulators to close some cases under the low-threat policy despite protests from local scientists, water districts, and nearby property owners.



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### Related Stories

- [Data: Scientists: Rules on leaking tanks worrisome](#)
- [Static Map: Tank locations](#)
- [Graphic: When Tanks Leak](#)
- [Chart: Number of Cases](#)

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/state-538421-water-county.html>

### USA, PA, ERIE, NOVEMBER 26 2013. PREVIOUS BOAT OWNER DROPPED FROM ERIE EXPLOSION SUIT

 **Watch the Video** [Judge Rules in Favor of Former Boat Owner](#)



*This is a May 2011 file photo of the aftermath of a boat explosion at the Erie Yacht Club in Erie that occurred on May 30, 2011, killing one person.*

To defend themselves in a suit over a fatal boat explosion at the Erie Yacht Club on Memorial Day 2011, the owners of the boat countersued the person who sold them the 32-foot 1987 Wellcraft St. Tropez. That strategy has failed in Erie County Court. The boat's previous owner, James P. Cummings, a former Erie resident who now lives in Florida, has been dismissed from the suit. Judge William R. Cunningham ruled that the owners of the boat -- local physical therapists Aaron Hertel, 35, and Michael Brown, 37 -- failed to present enough evidence to support claims that Cummings was at fault when they bought the boat from him in "as-is" condition five days before the blast. Hertel and Brown claimed that if anyone was negligent in failing to replace any worn equipment on the boat, it was Cummings, who had owned the boat for 15 years before selling it. Cummings objected to the claims and sought dismissal of the case against

him. Cunningham on Oct. 17 gave Hertel and Brown a month to revise their initial countersuit, filed in April, to add more information regarding their negligence claims against Cummings, 57. Hertel and Brown never filed an amended complaint. Cummings' lawyer, Tibor Solymosi, on Wednesday won a judgment that dropped Cummings from the case, which originated when the husband of the woman who died in the explosion, 25-year-old Erin Carlisle, sued Hertel and Brown in September 2012. "There are not enough material facts alleged by Hertel and Brown to establish the elements of a negligence claim against Cummings," Cunningham wrote in a 17-page decision on Oct. 17. "Hertel and Brown use conclusory terms instead of facts." Cunningham said he recognized that the countersuit was in its early stages, and that the lawyers for Hertel and Brown had yet to finish the evidence-gathering process known as discovery. But he said a dismissal would be proper if Hertel and Brown failed to come up with new information in 30 days. "It may be that Hertel and Brown are hoping to learn through the discovery process the defect which they can attribute to Cummings," Cunningham wrote. "If so, it is unfair to Cummings to continue to defend this case while Hertel and Brown are searching for that defect." The original suit, whose lead plaintiff is Ryan Carlisle, 28, is continuing, as is what is left of the countersuit. Carlisle sued Hertel, Brown and the Erie Yacht Club. Hertel and Brown countersued Cummings; James Byham, a boat mechanic at his Bayshore Marine Services, who worked on the boat before the sale, according to the countersuit; and Charles J. Miller, a boat surveyor at his North Coast Marine Services, who Hertel and Brown claim inspected the boat before they bought it, on May 25, 2011. Carlisle, who suffered third-degree burns in the blast, is claiming Hertel improperly refueled the boat at the Erie Yacht Club and then tried to restart it, despite a strong odor of gasoline, and that the explosion resulted. Carlisle is claiming Brown also tried to restart the boat, contributing to the accident, and that the Erie Yacht Club failed to properly monitor the refueling. Hertel, Brown, the Carlises and Hertel's then-2-year-old son were on board when the boat, named Jimmy Time, exploded. Hertel, his son, Brown and Rachael Palkovic, a seasonal employee at the yacht club, were injured. Palkovic sued Hertel and Brown in April. Hertel and Brown are denying they were at fault, and the other defendants in the suit and countersuit are denying fault and are expected to seek dismissals as well. Cunningham will have to rule on a number of pretrial issues before deciding whether the cases go to trial. In ruling in favor of Cummings, Cunningham wrote that "there is nothing alleged within the complaint against Cummings identifying any defect that Cummings failed to maintain, identify repair or disclose." "Hertel and Brown," he wrote, "are seeking to impose a duty that was not bargained for within their contractual relationship with Cummings and is sought only after a tragedy."

<http://www.goerie.com/previous-boat-owner-dropped-from-erie-explosion-suit>



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#### PAKISTAN, LAHORE, NOVEMBER 26 2013. CYLINDER EXPLOSION LEAVES ONE DEAD, INJURES 4

An explosion in the Misri Shah scrap market killed one person and injured four others on Monday. The deceased was identified as Sabar Ali, hailing from Kasur, while the injured persons identified as Akhter Ali, Tariq Mahmood, Muhammad Asif and Chaha Maher who were admitted to a nearby hospital where their condition was said to be critical. According to rescue officials, victim and others were busy working at an iron warehouse of steel mill when the cylinder exploded due to gas leakage. As a result, Sabar, the labourer, while other four were rushed to the hospital after receiving burns. Soon after the incident, Rescue 1122 and police reached the scene and started rescue operation. Police also collected evidence from the spot. However, no FIR was registered till the filing of this report. District Coordination Officer (DCO) Dr Ahmad Javed Qazi took notice of the issue and constituted an inquiry committee to investigate the incident thoroughly and would submit their report soon. DCO ordered the hospital administration to provide all medical facilities and free medicine to the victims.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013%5C11%5C26%5Cstory\\_26-11-2013\\_pg13\\_2](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013%5C11%5C26%5Cstory_26-11-2013_pg13_2)

#### USA, ALA, MONTGOMERY, NOVEMBER 26 2013. STATE GAS PUMP INSPECTIONS WOEFULLY BEHIND

*peter albrecht*

 **Watch the Video** [State Gas Pump Inspections Woefully Behind](#)



Gas isn't cheap. Even though prices are lower right now than earlier in the year, a gallon of gas has been as much as four dollars. That's why you want to get every drop you pay for. Just how accurate are the gas pumps where you fill up? And who's checking them for accuracy? Meet Teddy Sheppard -the one and only gas pump inspector for Mobile, Baldwin and eight other counties. There aren't many guys like Teddy in Alabama. "Five in the field and two in Montgomery," said Sheppard. That's seven inspectors in the state, down from 28 in 2004. Inspectors work for the State Agriculture Department and are in charge of checking out the almost 100,000 pumps at 6300 locations statewide. It was a department woefully understaffed even before big budget hits caused

by the recession. In 2011, the department had to make 35% cuts and a quarter of its workers were laid off. There are gas pumps out there that haven't been inspected in two or three years. "Oh, you can bet that there are," said Brett Hall, Deputy Agriculture Commissioner. He oversees inspections in the state "People need to know that these pumps weren't being inspected as they should have been, or on a regular basis," said Hall. In 2011, only about 30-percent of the pumps statewide got inspected. About 90-percent of pumps in the state have on them an orange sticker that gives a phone number to call if there's a complaint. If you don't see a State of Alabama sticker, that means the pump has not been inspected in 2013. A red tag on the handle means this pump has failed the test. You're more likely to see that a pump has been inspected recently along a major road. They get priority. "Like Airport Boulevard's going to be more busy than a little road in Citronelle," said Sheppard. "I'm going to do Airport Boulevard first, but I'll eventually make it to Citronelle and that road." Complaints from consumers, though, will move a gas station to the top of Teddy's list. "If he gets a couple of complaints, the same pump, the same station. I'm gone." Some customers, usually regulars, don't worry about the lack of inspections. "Most places I go, I trust," said one motorist who frequents a Chevron station off Interstate-10 in Mobile. But a traveler from South Carolina, at that same station, is suspicious. "You want to get your money's worth, you know," said the motorist. "I mean the price of gas keeps going up, so I like (to know) exactly what you get, you know?" It's Teddy Sheppard's job to make sure consumers get a square deal. "Fuel is a lot of people's budget and they need to get what they paid for," said Sheppard. There just aren't enough Teddy Sheppard's around.

<http://www.wkrq.com/story/24065534/state-gas-pump-inspections-woefully-behind>

#### EU, 26 NOVEMBER 2013. INDEPENDENT PETROL RETAILERS OWN A FIFTH OF EUROPE'S PETROL FILLING STATIONS

Major oil companies (ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Total and Chevron) now own just a third of Europe's petrol filling stations, according to the latest research from global real estate advisor CBRE. Europe's largest oil companies are now placing greater emphasis on upstream activities, namely exploration and production, shifting focus from downstream retail activity, by exiting from less profitable real estate sites. Such divestment by major oil companies is creating opportunities for independent petrol retailers, who now own exactly 20%, of all petrol filling stations across Europe, compared to 16% in 2007. Across the same



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## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 1,023 Newsy Stuff

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

**December 03 2013**



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period major oil companies' market share decreased 11%, from 43% in 2007 to 32% today. This trend is most pronounced in less mature European markets, with independent petrol retailers having the strongest foothold in Bulgaria, where they account for almost two thirds of filling stations at 64%. In Czech Republic the figure is 56%, and over a third of petrol filling stations have been acquired by independents in Hungary, Belgium, Poland and Romania. In Hungary rental levels and sale prices seemed to stabilize in 2012 after a significant drop was reported in previous years. Rental interest remained focused on prime urban locations whilst sales occurred in regional and motorway locations. The top five fuel retailers by fuel volume sales accounted for 61% of the Hungarian service station network in 2012. MOL accounted for 22% of the national network. All big oil companies have been downsizing and optimising their retail networks. Verdict predicts that the number of service stations in Hungary will decline by 1.2% in the foreseeable future. Agip announced that they will be evaluating the performance of their portfolio in 2013 with a view to optimising performance. Shell closed 17 sites in 2012 and 14 in 2013. Announcements were made earlier this year that more sites will either close or sell in the near future. OMV closed ten sites in 2012 with 170 remaining. MOL closed four sites in 2012. 'White stations' (stations free of supply tie, which can negotiate the price at which they buy fuel) like Oil! and Dallas have been expanding, taking over stations divested by the major operators. Service operators reported decreasing shop turnover in 2012, attributed to higher fuel prices. It is expected that the recently introduced tobacco concession regulation will affect service station turnover negatively. The government's decision for tobacco products to be sold only at authorized shops has meant that many stations would lose a chunk of their turnover. For instance, out of MOL's 360 stations in Hungary, only 25 won a concession to sell tobacco under the new legislation. MOL has announced that it is looking for tobacco concession winner partners to set shop at 200 of their locations. Hypermarket chain Auchan, which operates service stations under its own brand, announced plans to build more stations at its existing hypermarkets, including the seven Cora stores they acquired in 2012.

<http://www.property-magazine.eu/independent-petrol-retailers-own-a-fifth-of-europe-s-petrol-filling-stations-26878.html>

### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, NOVEMBER 26 2013. 'ONGOING CONCERN' FOR COOTES TRUCK FLEET DEFECTS

matt o'sullivan



*"This inspection process had identified further major and minor defects, including defects that had recurred following their earlier repair by either Cootes Transport or external repair providers."*

The trucking company involved in a fatal fuel-tanker crash in Sydney's northern beaches last month is under extra scrutiny after initial repairs to its trucks allowed them to be pressed back into service but failed to pick up and fix the underlying cause of the defects. Almost two months after the accident, NSW transport authorities have told McAleese Transport about their "ongoing concern that major defects continue to be identified through the inspection process". The transport company, which is chaired by high-profile Melbourne businessman Mark

Rowsthorn, is due to list on the stock exchange on Thursday following the completion of a share offer to retail investors. It has already raised \$166 million from institutional investors. Two people were killed and five injured when a fuel tanker from McAleese's fuel-haulage division, Cootes, lost control on a bend in the Sydney suburb of Mona Vale and burst into flames on October 1. NSW authorities said defects found since the accident included ineffective brakes, oil and fuel leaks, steering, axle, suspension and exhaust failures, broken engine mounts and tread peeling from tyres. McAleese has just revealed to investors that Roads and Maritime Services began another inspection of about a third of Cootes' NSW fleet – or about 111 trucks and trailers – in the state early this month. Authorities had earlier made random and targeted inspections of Cootes' trucks. Most of the trucks which have since been taken off the road for further checks are those that authorities had found to have major defects last month. "This inspection process had identified further major and minor defects, including defects that had recurred following their earlier repair by either Cootes Transport or external repair providers," McAleese said in a supplementary prospectus. "While the initial repairs enabled the vehicles to be returned to service, they failed to identify and rectify the underlying cause of the defects." As of last week Cootes, the country's biggest fuel transport company, continued to have "ongoing unresolved maintenance issues" with its NSW fleet. About 23 trucks and 31 trailers were under repair. Police are still investigating the accident, and a coronial inquiry is likely next year. After the incident, authorities found a "number of significant maintenance defects" during their first round of inspections. It led to about a third of Cootes' fleet in NSW being sent to



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workshops because of major defects and almost half grounded for minor problems. McAleese revealed that Cootes had to make "multiple attempts at rectification" in some cases before NSW authorities were willing to clear vehicles to return to service. The company has put the cost of the accident and subsequent review of its fleet maintenance at almost \$11 million. It will also increase its annual spending on repairs and maintenance by \$3.5 million. McAleese concedes in its prospectus that Cootes may lose contracts because it had been unable to meet all of its obligations while parts of its fleet were taken off the road. "As a result of the ongoing fleet maintenance review, Cootes Transport's reputation with regulators has been damaged and Cootes Transport may lose certain accreditations, licences or authorisations that it currently holds if it is unable to resolve the ongoing maintenance issues," it said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/ongoing-concern-for-cootes-truck-fleet-defects-20131126-2y6rl.html>

### **PALAU, KOROR, 26 NOVEMBER 2013. WORKSHOP "EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR" CONCLUDES IN PALAU**

A workshop on 'Addressing Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Contamination in the Pacific' has concluded in Koror, Palau. The workshop, which was held from 18 to 22 November 2013, was organised by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in close collaboration with the Government of Palau and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS). Funding for the workshop was provided by the Government of the United States. Nine Forum Island countries – the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu – remain contaminated by explosive remnants from battles fought during World War II. For almost 70 years now, these leftover explosive remnants have and continue to pose a very real threat to the safety of Pacific communities – in particular children and young people. In many cases, the presence of ERW has restricted the ability of communities to use or develop land for socio-economic development. "The ERW scattered across these islands pose a great hazard to the inhabitants as well as to visitors of the islands," explains GICHD Director Stephan Husy. "In addition to the cost on human wellbeing and safety, the presence of these leftover remnants also has an impact on livelihoods." In his opening remarks, Palau's Minister of State, Mr Billy Kuartei stated that "unexploded and explosive remnants (UXO) from World War II have been a long standing humanitarian, security and environmental threat to the Republic." Mr Kuartei further highlighted that to manage the threat, Palau, by executive order, has formed a "UXO Advisory Committee tasked to organize Palau's clearance work and to initiate work toward establishing Standards and Procedures to guide work involving UXO." The workshop provided a further opportunity for participants to discuss and consider a more technical and operational focus on topics such as techniques in ERW clearance operations, humanitarian underwater demining, national capacity development support, and information management training. Similar meetings on ERW and UXO were also held in Palau in October 2012 and in Brisbane, Australia in June 2013.

 **Related Stories** [Workshop Explosive Remnants of War concludes in Palau](http://pacific.scoop.co.nz/2013/11/workshop-explosive-remnants-of-war-concludes-in-palau/)

<http://pacific.scoop.co.nz/2013/11/workshop-explosive-remnants-of-war-concludes-in-palau/>

### **CHINA, SHANDONG, QINGDAO, NOVEMBER 26 2013. QINGDAO OIL PIPE BLASTS, 55 KILLED: 9 ARRESTED**

 **Photo's [8]** [Oil pipeline explosion in Chinese city of Qingdao](#)

 **Photo's [14]** [China's Deadly Pipeline Blasts](#)



Police in China have arrested nine people in relation to explosions that killed 55 people, state media report. The blasts in the eastern city of Qingdao took place on Friday, after a leaking oil pipeline owned by oil refiner Sinopec caught fire. Seven of those arrested were Sinopec employees, while two came from the city's economic and technological development zone, Xinhua reported. The explosions injured at least 160 people, with nine people still missing. The blasts took place in two locations after oil leaked from the pipeline caught fire, media reports said. Yang Dongliang, director of the State Administration of Work Safety, led a preliminary investigation into the incident and said that there had been "a serious lapse of responsibility", state media said. The incident "revealed

problems, including a poor layout of the oil pipelines and the city's drainage pipes", Xinhua quoted Mr Yang as saying. "The pipe was not properly maintained, leading to the original oil leak, and following the leak the emergency procedures were insufficient. They did not take preventative measures such as sealing off the area and evacuating people," Xinhua added,



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quoting Mr Yang. Pictures of the blast showed concrete slabs and roads shattered, and overturned cars. More than 100 firefighters were deployed to put out the fire. On Saturday, Sinopec apologised for the explosions and said it would "investigate the incident with responsibility". Chinese President Xi Jinping visited survivors of the blast at a Qingdao hospital on Sunday.

### Related Stories

- [Oil Leakage Cleanup Underway after Pipeline Blast in Qingdao](#)
- [Human error blamed for Qingdao oil pipeline explosion](#)
- [Oil Tankers Remain at Anchorage at Qingdao Port](#)
- [Public anger in China in the wake of explosion in Qingdao](#)
- [Xi inspects rescue work in Qingdao, E. China](#)
- [Nine detained in Qingdao over fatal pipeline blast that killed at least 55](#)
- [Police detain nine after Qingdao oil blasts](#)
- [Anger in wake of deadly Qingdao explosion](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-25085327>

### **NIGERIA, ABUJA, NOVEMBER 26 2013. SHELL CLOSES NIGERIA GAS PLANT**

Royal Dutch Shell closed its Obigbo gas plant in Nigeria due to safety concerns, resulting in 40 million standard cubic feet of gas per day being shut in, the company said on Sunday. The gas processed at the plant is usually supplied to industrial consumers and power plants, Shell Nigeria said. "The company took the action ... on discovering that different types of buildings and structures have been erected on high pressure gas pipelines thereby exposing the occupants to considerable health and safety risk," it said in a statement. The gas plant was closed on 1 November.

<http://ewn.co.za/2013/11/25/Shell-closes-Nigeria-gas-plant>

### **NORTHERN IRELAND, CO FERMANAGH, NOVEMBER 27 2013. LORRY HAD SECRET TANK FOR RED DIESEL, COURT HEARS**

A 26-year-old man involved in the illegal supply of agricultural diesel for use as road fuel has been apprehended on the forecourt of a filling station in Fermanagh. Peadar Sean White was found sitting in the driver's seat of a lorry with a secret tank in which the diesel had been stored. Defence barrister Heather Philips told Fermanagh Court White was "not a professional smuggler" but had "maybe closed his eyes to the obvious". White admitted having a lorry with a concealed fuel tank and being involved in defrauding the tax man of VAT and Excise Duty. He was fined £500. The court heard that 2,800 litres of "contaminated" fuel was seized from the filling station and that £1,310 of duty would have been payable. A prosecutor explained that on Monday, September 5, 2011, police received information from two members of the public that a lorry was unloading fuel at a filling station in Lisnarick at 8.40am, before the station had opened. Officers found White sitting in the driver's seat of a Mercedes flat-bed lorry from which a large black hose was protruding. White told the police: "What do you want me to say? I came this morning for a spin." HM Revenue and Customs officers were called to the scene and discovered an aluminium plate set against the back of the lorry. It covered a concealed access valve to a fuel tank. Samples were taken from the lorry and the filling station. They were tested and found to contain rebated fuel, on which the tax has not been paid, so it cannot legally be used in vehicles on the public road. White was interviewed but didn't answer any of the questions put to him. In a brief written statement from his solicitor he denied the offences. The court heard that the lorry was not registered to White and has been forfeited. Miss Philips said an individual had asked White to accompany him. "He is not a professional smuggler," she stated. She told District Judge Nigel Broderick he might be aware why White, from Crossmaglen in South Armagh, hadn't identified the individual he was with. "It has to be conceded he maybe closed his eyes to the obvious," she said, adding that "he didn't run" away. "The garage owner has not been prosecuted," she pointed out. The prosecutor said the owner was interviewed and reported to the Public Prosecution Service but the directing officer decided there was insufficient evidence to prosecute. The District Judge said: "The courts increasingly take a dim view of evasion of this nature." He said he was satisfied this was a "somewhat sophisticated" operation in that there was a concealed tank on the lorry. However, it was not clear what function White had and there was no evidence he profited from the offences.

<http://www.impartialreporter.com/news/roundup/articles/2013/11/25/403141-lorry-had-secret-tank-for-red-diesel-court-hears-/>



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