



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,092 Newsy Stuff

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August 14 2014



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USA, NV, NORTH LAS VEGAS, AUGUST 4 2014. MAN DIES AFTER BEING OVERCOME BY ETHANOL VAPORS INSIDE RAILROAD TANKER

A man was overcome by highly volatile ethanol vapors and died while working inside a rail car tanker early Saturday. The CNorth Las Vegas Fire Department responded to 5095 El Campo Grande Ave. at 1 a.m. Saturday for a reported person down in a rail car tanker. Upon arrival at 1:08 a.m., crews found a tanker car on a railroad track with the top hatch of the car open. The witnesses stated that their co-worker lost consciousness inside the tanker and was not able to climb out. Firefighter crews assessed the tanker and found the atmosphere inside the empty tanker, which had highly volatile ethanol vapors, to be extremely unsafe. The area was secured and a number of resources throughout the community were dispatched to help mitigate the event and recover the body of the worker. Because of the extent of work needed to clear the tanker of the hazardous vapors, firefighters remained on scene until 11 am, when the scene was turned over to the Clark County coroner's office. The incident is under investigation by OSHA.

Related Stories

- [NLV Worker found Dead in Tanker Car](#)
- [Worker Dies after Toxic Vapors Detected](#)

<http://www.mynews3.com/content/news/story/Man-dies-after-being-overcome-by-ethanol-vapors/l9eGpK9fLEmS3KLvDSE2dg.cspix>

USA, MISS, GULFPORT, AUGUST 4 2014. GULFPORT FIREFIGHTERS KEEP FIRE CONTAINED AT BLACKLIDGE EMULSIONS

mary perez



Gulfport fire department engineer J.D. Rippey works at the scene of a fire at Blacklidge Emulsions Inc.'s production plant on Reichold Road in Gulfport on Sunday Aug. 3, 2014.

A fire Sunday at Blacklidge Emulsions that started in a fuel tank is out. Gulfport Fire Chief Mike Beyerstedt said nobody was injured at the plant east of Cowan Road on Reichold Road, along Industrial Seaway. This is an industrial area with no homes nearby. Beyerstedt said the problem began in one of the tanks that heats material. The company produces asphalt and roofing products. "When crews arrived they found one of the tanks on fire," he said. The gas shut-off on the tank didn't work, and he said the fire fighters had to shut off propane individually to each nearby tank and then cool all the tanks with a large volume of water flow. Several fire trucks were at the plant. Incident commander Ken Payne said investigators remained on the scene trying to determine the cause of the fire.

The incident is not the first at Blacklidge Emulsions. A 40,000-gallon asphalt tank exploded on Jan. 30, 2009, causing a spectacular fire. And in October 2008, DEQ officials were alerted to a 1,500-gallon kerosene spill into the marshes along Industrial Seaway.

<http://www.sunherald.com/2014/08/03/5727443/gulfport-firefighters-keep-fire.html>

USA, PA, PITTSBURGH, AUGUST 4 2014. DRILLERS DID NOT REPORT HALF OF SPILLS THAT LED TO FINES

sean d. hamill



Joe Cimino, water treatment plant operator for Galetton Water Authority, talks about a 2011 incident in which the Potter County borough had to close one of its two public water supply intakes after muddy runoff clogged water filters. The runoff came from a Chesapeake Energy well site under development; the company paid \$215,000 in fines.

Half the spills at Marcellus Shale well sites that resulted in fines weren't spotted by gas companies, which are required by state law to look for and report spills of drilling-related fluids. That is one of the main conclusions of a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette review of hundreds of thousands of state and company documents for every incident at a Marcellus well site that led to a fine against a driller through the end of 2012. The documentation showing that companies often failed to detect



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spills on their own sites offers a look at self-regulation in the shale gas industry. State regulation of the industry was the subject of a withering state auditor general review of the Department of Environmental Protection's oversight issued July 22. The audit detailed the agency's shortcomings, including failing to consistently issue enforcement orders to drilling companies after regulators determined that gas operations had damaged water supplies, even though the state's oil and gas law requires it. The Post-Gazette investigation using well permit file documents and other DEP data focused on 425 incidents involving 48 companies that resulted in nearly \$4.4 million in fines. Of those 425 fines, 137 were due to spills at or near a well site. They ranged from relatively small incidents involving a couple of gallons of diesel fuel on a well pad to larger accidents involving thousands of gallons of hydraulic fracturing flowback fluid that killed vegetation or fish. Since the first fine of the Marcellus era in 2005, the DEP has made it clear that incidents that potentially impact the environment would be the ones most likely to result in a fine, so it is no surprise that spills make up a significant portion of the fines. But what is surprising — to politicians, environmental groups, the industry itself and state officials — was the number of spills that were not first spotted by the drillers themselves. About a third were first identified by state inspectors while others, about one-sixth, were discovered by residents, according to the Post-Gazette's analysis. State law requires that reportable spills and even muddy runoff events be called in to the state within two hours of discovery. At least 60 percent of the 137 spills occurred while drilling crews were on site; it was not always possible to discern from reports whether crews were working. Few of the 20 drillers contacted for this story would address the question of why spills were missed. Some of those that did cited confusion over what constituted a spill in the early years of the Marcellus era. Companies that responded said they never failed to report a spill that they were aware had occurred. Several current and former DEP inspectors — all of whom asked for anonymity — said they believed some spills they didn't find went unreported. The Marcellus Shale Coalition, an industry trade group that represents all of the main drillers in the state, dismissed the Post-Gazette's analysis of spills and fines because the number of incidents represented just a small percentage of active well sites in the state (more than 6,000 wells drilled through 2012). "Moreover, judging environmental compliance exclusively based on fines is misleading, intellectually dishonest and suggests a purposeful manipulation of data to advance a flawed narrative," the coalition's spokesman, Patrick Creighton, said in an email response to questions. "Thanks to the leadership of both Govs. [Ed] Rendell and [Tom] Corbett, Pennsylvania has some of the most robust oil and natural gas regulations in the world." In some cases, the spills were first noticed by landowners who then reported them to the driller, who in turn notified the state. State officials sometimes took companies to task for not spotting the spill first. "You'd hope that the companies would report 100 percent of them," said Davitt Woodwell, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh-based Pennsylvania Environmental Council, which has worked with the industry to find ways to make drilling more environmentally friendly. "Spills have been one of our biggest concerns. Because the biggest number of problems aren't necessarily the hydraulic fracturing itself, but the handling of the chemicals at the surface that poses the greatest threat." The concern over spills is illustrated by two other facts shown in the state files. About one-third of the spills that resulted in a fine impacted a stream, pond or wetland, and about one-quarter of them occurred in a specialty or high-quality watershed — areas in which the state asks drillers to take special precautions to prevent spills.

Somerset County Big Spill

One of the state's largest fines for a spill stemmed from an incident that began on June 10, 2010, at a Marcellus well site owned by Chief Oil & Gas on a family dairy farm in Somerset County in the Laurel Hill Creek special protection watershed. April Weiland, a state inspector making a routine inspection, found what appeared to be a small spill of an oily substance on a corner of the well pad. It didn't seem to be that big of a deal at first to Ms. Weiland or the landowners. "I saw the spill earlier" than the inspector, said Robert Miller, 67, a second-generation farmer who runs the farm with his wife, Janet, 62. "It was just a darkened area on the side there, but I didn't think much of it." They and their son, Andy, 34, who also works the farm, said the well has been good for them and not impacted their farm life dramatically, and they support the natural gas industry. "They provide jobs. They provide money for landowners. And they provide energy," Andy Miller said of drillers like Chief. "But if they did something they weren't supposed to do, well, yeah, come down on them." That's what the state did in this case. Over the five months after she first found the spill, Ms. Weiland returned to the Millers' farm as Chief dug up enough of the well pad to dispose of the contaminated soil she found only for Ms. Weiland to return and spot additional oily spots on the pad that had to be dug up. It took Ms. Weiland a dozen return inspections, a dozen phone calls, four soil samples and several emails in the four months after she first spotted the spill to get it properly cleaned up, which involved removing 2,200 tons of contaminated soil. Despite her repeated requests to identify exactly what was spilled, it took Chief five months to tell her that it was hydraulic oil. At a settlement conference with the state in April 2011, Chief officials "admitted they didn't adequately handle the incident initially," according to a state document. Ultimately, Ms. Weiland determined that it appeared that Chief had "intentionally



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buried" the spill with soil and rock something Chief denies and it was fined \$180,000, one of the largest single-incident fines in the Marcellus era.

Runoff Incidents

State documents show that the state has assessed fines for everything from the most basic administrative errors to the most damaging well site accidents. In 28 incidents, the main reason for a fine was because a state inspector found "sediment-laden water" runoff at a well site. Such incidents are associated with inadequate erosion and sedimentation controls. The state considers these muddy runoff incidents to be potential pollution because they can damage surface and water environments by choking out vegetation or streams. Not one of the 28 runoff events that led to a fine was first reported by a driller, records show, and more than half of the runoff cases impacted a stream, pond or wetland; seven occurred in a specialty or high-quality watershed. In one of those cases, the state's largest driller, Chesapeake, paid \$215,000 (the second-largest fine in state history for a single incident tied to a well permit) after repeated warnings from state inspectors about erosion problems at a well site in the Pine Creek high-quality watershed in Potter County. During a rain and snow melt in March 2011, so much muddy runoff left the well site that the borough of Galeton had to close one of its two public water supply intakes on a stream for three months after the runoff choked its filters.

Why aren't Spills Reported?

Some of the spills that were missed by the drillers were relatively small, maybe a couple dozen gallons of spilled brine, drilling mud, hydraulic fracturing flowback fluid or some other contaminant. But others were large, comprising thousands of gallons that killed large swaths of vegetation, state documents show. There is no way of determining whether spills not spotted by inspectors or others went unreported. Scott Perry, a DEP deputy secretary who oversees the Office of Oil and Gas Management for the state, said: "I don't personally presume any criminal intent" on the part of drillers. He cites confusion over the state's laws and policies about what constituted a reportable spill as a possible reason so few of the spills were first spotted or reported by the drillers. "The [former] spill policy had a fair degree of ambiguity to it," said Mr. Perry. "We felt that small spills weren't getting reported to the DEP. With the new [spill] policy, we're intending to define a reported release. Anything more than 5 gallons dumped over 24 hours into a noncontained area. Drips are hard to ascertain, so we recommend spills of any size be reported." The new spill policy, adopted last fall, is DEP's attempt to provide a thorough definition of a part of the rewrite of oil and gas laws that were adopted under Act 13 in 2012, he said. Mr. Perry said he expects that rewrite, plus additional changes in the industry, to reduce spills generally and improve the reporting of spills.

Some Drillers Spot More

Though nearly every major driller has had multiple spills that resulted in fines, some firms did better than others. Chief Oil & Gas, which was responsible for the spill on the Miller farm, had one of the worst records with spills that resulted in fines. Of 10 spills on the list, Chief spotted two of them first. Inspectors found seven spills and a farmer spotted one. A spokeswoman for Chief, which sold many of its wells to Chevron, did not respond to the question of why the company failed to spot the spills. But she did say in an email response to questions, in part: "Chief complies with the regulatory process outlined by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. We are inspected at our locations several times per month by the DEP. Chief's goal is zero violations." East Resources, which has sold all of its Marcellus wells to Shell, was the first to spot three out of 14 spills that resulted in fines, while inspectors noticed seven of them first and residents spotted four spills. In one notable case in May 2010, a spill of hydraulic fracturing fluid was suspected to have been drunk by some cattle on a farm in Tioga County. The fluid had leaked from a surface impoundment on a well pad, the seventh such occurrence at an East drilling site. All were discovered either by a landowner or a state inspector. East had inspected the cattle farm in Tioga County site twice in the four weeks prior to the spill there but reported it did not detect a leak. Eventually, all seven incidents, plus one more that occurred a month after the Tioga County spill, would result in \$159,165 in fines by the state. East's record in spotting spills "surprises me," Scott Blauvelt, East's regulatory manager, said in an interview. "With our inspections, we were incredibly proactive. We were never shut down because DEP believed we were being proactive. Even though there were releases, very few of them left the well pad and none affected the ground water. There was no long-term damage." Mr. Blauvelt said East used a two-prong incentive system to try to prevent or find any spills at well sites. Employees involved in drilling activities were given "substantial bonuses if there were no releases on that well pad," he said, in an attempt to make them be more careful. Asked if that could have had the opposite reaction of encouraging employees or subcontractors to not report spills, Mr. Blauvelt said: "No. I don't think so. We spent a lot of time talking with contractors. We made it a contractual obligation of them to report spills and clean them up. And we tried to tell people there was nothing to be gained by fighting with DEP." Private inspectors hired by East were given bonuses if they found spills at a well site, he said, "so that they knew they could report them." Two other large drillers were among the five companies with the most spills that resulted in fines: Chesapeake, which spotted seven of 12



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spills that led to fines against it, and Atlas Resources, which had the most spills that led to fines with 15, and spotted nine of them itself. Neither company would comment for this story. The other large Marcellus driller in the top five is Range Resources, which had a markedly different record from the other companies. Range, the second-largest Marcellus driller in the state behind Chesapeake, had 14 spills that resulted in fines. One of those spills was one of the state's most egregious: A hydraulic fracturing flowback fluid spill that killed fish and other aquatic life along nearly half a mile of a stream in Washington County in October 2009. That spill resulted in one of the largest fines in state history, \$141,175. But Range reported that spill first, as it did all but three of its 14 spills on the list. One spill was first spotted by an inspector and two others by residents. "Our goal is to have zero" spills, Range spokesman Matt Pitzarella said. But if there is a spill, "our policy is to report everything spilled over 1 gallon to DEP, even if it is contained" to the well pad, he said. "We make a big push for that internally. We discuss that at safety meetings all the time. And we measure and track all of that stuff internally."

Multimedia

- [Spreadsheet: All Marcellus shale well fines in Pennsylvania](#)
- [PG Interactive Map: Pennsylvania Marcellus shale wells](#)
- [Spreadsheet: Companies' total Marcellus shale well fines](#)

<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2014/08/03/Drillers-did-not-report-half-of-spills-that-led-to-fines/stories/201408020142>

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON, AUGUST 4 2014. CRISIS AND EMERGENCY RISK COMMUNICATION: LESSONS FROM THE ELK RIVER SPILL

john manuel

 **Photo's [5]** [Lessons from the Elk River Spill](#)

 **About This Article – open** [PDF Version \(5.2 KB\)](#)



Freedom Industries' Charleston, West Virginia, tank farm sits on a narrow crescent of flat land between a steep, wooded hillside and the green waters of the Elk River. On 9 January 2014 inspectors discovered a stream of chemical mixture leaking from the bottom of tank 396, under a containment wall, and into the river, which provides drinking water for some 300,000 residents.^{1,2} The mayhem that followed the discovery of the leak rocked the Mountain State. Within two weeks nearly 600 people visited emergency departments for symptoms claimed to be related to the spill, and 13 were hospitalized.³ Schools and businesses closed. According to a preliminary study by the Marshall University Center for Business Research, the spill cost Charleston-area businesses more than \$61 million in the first month alone. But the event has also carried a heavy intangible cost. By all accounts, the spill caught everyone off guard. Public health officials, hamstrung by a lack of

toxicity data, scrambled to assess the potential for harm among exposed residents. Efforts to communicate their progress to the general public were not always successful; terms that mean one thing in a risk-assessment context meant something completely different to tense residents awaiting direction. The public faith was sorely tested by what Charlestonians and other observers perceived as inaccurate, conflicting, and in some cases nonexistent communications from officials. As a result, the Elk River spill has won the reputation of "a case study in what not to do in terms of risk communication," says Rahul Gupta, executive director of the Kanawha–Charleston Health Department. "There is a lot that everyone can learn from this event."

Read More.....Full Article at: <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/122-A214/>

USA, AR, CLEBURNE CO, AUGUST 4 2014. TESTS SHOW CLEBURNE LEAK STARTED NEAR COUNTY'S FUEL LINES, DIDN'T REACH WATER TABLE

laura camper

Samples taken around the Cleburne County equipment building have led administrators to believe a petroleum leak originated at county-owned underground fuel lines but did not spread to underground water sources. County Engineer Shannon Robbins said the path of the leak is narrow and small. It starts near the supply lines of the two county fuel tanks and follows the downhill terrain toward Alabama 46. The tanks are above ground; the supply lines, which once carried fuel to a dispensing



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pump for vehicles, are underground (the county shut the system down after the leak was discovered). The path ends in a now-fenced-off area where the leaked fuel is being cleaned up. "It's not widespread," Robbins said of the leak, noting that it developed above the level of the water table. That's good news for the county, which has been footing the bill for the cleanup. It means the cost for the testing, reporting and construction of a remediation system will probably not rise above the originally quoted \$280,000, Robbins said. The leak was reported to the county this spring by a resident who saw a film on the water of a creek that runs by the county equipment building and onto his property. The county contacted the Alabama Department of Environmental Management immediately, Robbins said. "We've been doing everything and anything that ADEM asks," Robbins said. The next step will be the line closure, he said. The county will have a contractor remove the underground fuel supply lines sometime in the next two weeks, he said. At the same time, PPM, an environmental company the county hired to help with the cleanup, will create an official report of the sampling for ADEM. It's possible both things will be submitted to the department at the same time, Robbins said. But he said the company still has some samples to collect at the northeast corner of the county property. Robbins expects the county will have to construct six to eight monitoring wells. Quarterly monitoring tests of the wells could cost between \$100,000 to \$150,000 each year, he said. A request by the county to use money from the Alabama Underground and Aboveground storage tank Trust Fund to pay for the cleanup was initially denied by ADEM, which disburses the money. The state charges a fee on each gallon of fuel purchased, which is put in the trust fund and used for cleanups such as this, Swafford said. The county is hoping to appeal the decision. The Cleburne County commissioners have also contacted local legislators Sen. Gerald Dial and Rep. Richard Lindsey for their help, Swafford said. "Once we have the final reports I think we'll be in the best position for an appeal," Swafford said. In addition to the cleanup, the leak is a fineable infraction, said Jerome Hand, public relations director for ADEM. The department takes a lot of things into consideration when deciding to fine, including the severity of the issue, the level of cooperation in the cleanup, whether the problem was ignored when discovered, and any precautions taken, Hand said. "At this time the cleanup and assessment at the site is continuing," Hand said. "Some corrective action has taken place and the county has been responsive to the department's requirements."

http://www.annistonstar.com/news/article_b9ba3744-1aab-11e4-a53d-0019bb2963f4.html

USA, OH, WOOSTER, AUGUST 4 2014. MULTIPLE INJURED IN FUEL TANKER CRASH

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Portion of U.S. 30 Closed after Tanker Fire, 1 Critically Injured](#)
- [Multiple Injured in Fuel Tanker Crash](#)

State Route 30 westbound in Wooster is closed after a multiple-vehicle accident near Firestone road. The accident happened just before 5 p.m. Sunday. ODOT, Ohio State Highway Patrol and fire crews are on the scene. According to Wayne County Emergency Management Agency, the accident involved a semi-truck and a fuel tanker. Multiple injuries have been reported. The victims' conditions are unknown at this time. As a result of the accident, fuel was spilled on the roadway. However, the fuel has been contained and is being cleaned up. Emergency crews are asking motorists to avoid the area until further notice.

<http://www.wkyc.com/story/news/local/northeast-ohio/2014/08/03/wooster--multiple-injured-in-fuel-tanker-crash/13553921/>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, ROY, AUGUST 4 2014. ERRANT FIREWORKS AT ROY DAYS INJURES 10, CAUSES FIRE

 **Watch the Video:** [10 treated for injuries as fireworks malfunction at event in Roy](#)

ben lockhart



A fire burns at the Roy Days fireworks show late Saturday.

Errant fireworks injured 10 and caused a small fire late Saturday at the annual Roy Days festival, Roy fire officials said. The spectators all received minor injuries after an unexpected sideways blast at about 10:15 p.m., Roy Fire Chief Jason Poulsen told the Standard-Examiner. All 10 were treated on scene; none were taken to the hospital, Poulsen said. The victims were of all ages, including some children, the chief added. The blast occurred immediately after the show's finale. "We thought it was over, there were cheers, and then you saw one just go sideways," Poulsen said. The group was "pretty amped up" after getting hit, he said, but "they settled down once the initial shock wore off." Dispatchers had

confirmed just after 10:30 p.m. there was a small fire at West Park near 4500 South and 2900 West and that medical workers were responding to the situation. Little other information was available at that time because it was a medical call in progress. An earlier firework had caused a decent sized grass fire, Poulsen said, and brush trucks each from Riverdale and Roy put out



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the blaze while the show continued. "They were in the perfect spot," Poulsen said, to douse the fire. "It created quite a backdrop." Two part fireworks cased in so-called "peanut" shells caused the fireworks to go haywire, according to Poulsen. One portion of each errant firework likely didn't ignite properly, he said, and remained to deflect the second portion sideways. Everything was done according to required safety standards, Poulsen said, including keeping spectators a specified distance away and having fire trucks on scene. The fireworks were legal, he added, and their malfunction couldn't have been predicted. Dorian Kunzler, who attended the show, said on Facebook a "low flying firework" had ignited some nearby weeds east of the fireworks launch site. Another errant firework caused the injuries, Kunzler said, concurring with the official report. "Then ... at the end of the Grand Finale there was another low one that blew up ... (and) a second one ended up landing (and) blowing up in a group of people (mostly kids) about 20 feet from where we were at!!!!" Kunzler's post read. "Good thing the EMT's and Paramedics were across the street and were on scene quickly." Some of the group, Kunzler wrote, "suffered minor burns and were shaken up good." Others also took to social media to express a close call Saturday's fireworks. "Roy fireworks tried to reach out and touch somebody tonight!" tweeted Twitter user @andrewmcrane. Andrew Crane. Twitter user Garet Stokes, @garetstokes, said the small explosion of a nearby firework was too close for comfort. "Fireworks just blew up about 10 feet away at Roy Days fireworks lol," read a part of Stokes' tweet. Twitter user Allison Carver, @allison_carver, expressed a similar sentiment. "Roy fireworks tried blowing me up .. seriously," she wrote.

<http://www.standard.net/Fire/2014/08/03/Fire-breaks-out-at-Roy-Days-fireworks-injuries-confirmed.html>

ENGLAND, LUTON, AUGUST 4 2014. DON'T USE PETROL TO START BARBECUES URGE BEDS FIRE SERVICE

Fire Officers have said that people are putting lives at risk because they are using petrol to get their barbecue going. On Thursday Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) attended two separate incidents where householders had "a very lucky escape", after their BBQ got out of control and resulted in serious fires because of petrol. The first incident occurred at 1 pm, when a resident in Wyatt Road, Kempston, attempted to put petrol from a can onto a lit BBQ. The fuel ignited and spread back to the can, and the occupier threw the flaming can across the garden, setting fire to the plastic patio furniture and a fence. The fire was out when firefighters from Kempston Fire Station arrived, and nobody was injured. Four hours later, the same fire crew from Kempston was sent to another barbecue fire in Caister Road, Bedford, when a badly maintained BBQ fell over onto a nearby can of petrol. Once again the fire was out when the Fire and Rescue Service arrived, and nobody was injured. In both cases, young children were present at the time of the fires. Watch Manager Dave Wright, from White Watch at Kempston Fire Station, who attended both incidents said: "Regardless of how difficult it may be starting a BBQ, or getting it going, you should never, ever use petrol. Or even have petrol anywhere near the BBQ. Petrol fumes are explosive and can ignite instantly. The consequences could be fatal." "Although neither of these fires resulted in serious damage to property, the outcome could have been devastating. In both instances, the situations had got out of control very quickly and the occupiers were in immediate difficulty and danger. The fact that young children were present on both occasions highlights they all had a very lucky escape." "When lighting your BBQ, allow time for the coals to heat up. Barbecuing is not an instant process, like turning on a cooker. Don't place people's lives at risk by forgetting about the dangers of putting petrol on or near a fire."

<http://www.lutontoday.co.uk/news/local/don-t-use-petrol-to-start-barbecues-urge-beds-fire-service-1-6214996>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, POINTE-A-PIERRE, AUGUST 4 2014. PETROTRIN SUSPENDS VP OVER OIL SPILL

richardson dhalai s

State-owned oil Petrotrin has suspended Mado Bachan, its vice president of refining and marketing over last week's oil spill which saw 17,000 barrels of oil dumped at the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery. The announcement of Bachan's suspension was made yesterday by Petrotrin's chairman, Lindsay Gillette, at a press conference, as mopping up operations continue of the oil that was spilled into the Guaracara River following the incident on Tuesday. The oil spillage, which resulted from a ruptured oil tank (MP 6) and the collapse of a bond wall which was supposed to contain the spilled oil from the tank, was the second major oil spill at the State-owned refinery facilities. In December, approximately 7,000 barrels of fuel oil were spilled into the Gulf of Paria. Addressing a media conference yesterday, Gillette also announced the immediate appointment of an independent auditor to investigate and report on how the bond wall collapsed and the leak occurred on the tank. Gillette said, "Further, the vice president of refining and marketing immediately be suspended to allow a full and independent investigation to take place. Further, we will direct the president to suspend all other persons whose duty it was to prevent this occurrence pending the investigation. Present at yesterday's press conference were: Gillette (chairman), Khalid Hassanali (president) and Aleem Hosein (deputy chairman). Gillette said, "When this board was appointed, it set up an asset maintenance and optimization committee to look at asset integrity issues. This committee will now be expanded to include independent consultants and



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investigators to look at all asset integrity issues and I call upon the president to provide all inspections reports to this committee and for management to cooperate fully." The independent auditor is expected to be given a two-week deadline to complete the report, Gillette said. Gillette also said that the company welcomed the announcement by the Ministry of energy for an audit of the assets of the energy sector. Gillette added, "It is our intention to ensure that we work together with the ministry in this regard to allow even a greater degree of oversight as far as integrity and safety practices are concerned." Hassanali, while offering an apology to the Marabella community for the inconvenience suffered following the spillage, said an inspection had been performed on the tank in May 23, 2010, and it was observed that while the bund wall was 'good', there was seepage on the eastern end of the tank. Hassanali said, "What is supposed to happen after this is the information is supposed to be entered into our computerized maintenance system and then action taken. As of today, it is obvious that it was not entered. There was no entry into our computerised system. That is most unfortunate. So with the tank, we had indications of this before." Asked about claims by the Oilfields Workers trade Union about 42 other "high-risk" tanks, Hassanali responded that the company had established a priority listing "and have established priorities in addressing some of these concerns, not only visual inspections but where high risk exists". Meanwhile, the company has reported that approximately 202 residents had received medical treatment for a variety of ailments related to the oil spill, including headaches, eye pain, aggravated asthma, vomiting and skin irritations. Approximately 92 children were attended to while three pregnant women were also given treatment with one being sent to the Augustus Long Hospital.

<http://www.newsday.co.tt/news/0,198560.html>

USA, GA, SAVANNAH, AUGUST 4 2014. HAZMAT CREWS AND COAST GUARD WORK TO CONTAIN FUEL SPILL

marla rooker



CEMA and the U.S. Coast Guard worked the scene of a fuel spill in waters off the 3000 block of River Drive in Thunderbolt starting at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 3rd. Officials do not know how long the spill has been in the Wilmington River but the water is being tested to find the one responsible for the noticeable sheen on top of the water. Officials from the station Tybee Coast Guard say they are attempting to locate the source but they have no way to trap the mystery substance leaving the clean up in the hands of mother nature. Coast Guard of Savannah and station Tybee will be taking over the hazmat situation in hopes of finding the culprit.

<http://www.wtoc.com/story/26184436/hazmat-crews-and-coast-guard-work-to-contain-fuel-spill>

USA, OK, KINGFISHERCO, AUGUST 4 2014. FRACKERS SPILL OLYMPIC POOL'S WORTH OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID IN OKLAHOMA

ari phillips



An acid spill on Monday in rural Kingfisher County northwest of Oklahoma City, Okla., could turn out to be the largest spill "in relation to fracking materials" in the state according to an Oklahoma Corporation commission spokesman. Spokesman Matt Skinner said 480 barrels of fracking-related hydrochloric (HCL) acid, nearly enough to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool, emptied out of a tank where it was stored. Acid is used in the fracking process to both clean wells and stimulate the flow of oil and gas. The cause of the spill, which occurred in an alfalfa field, is under investigation. Skinner told ThinkProgress this is the largest frack-related spill he is aware of in the state's history. He was unable to comment on the cause of the spill because it is currently under investigation, but said they "think they know the cause." "Our main concern is to get the area back

to the way it was before the spill happened," said Skinner. While there are no water wells in the immediate vicinity, there were concerns if not properly taken care of the acid could taint the nearby town of Hennessey's water supply. A nearby creek flows into the town's water system and a rainstorm could result in contamination. However, Skinner said the area was bermed off



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and the remediation company was able to contain the chemicals through any rain so far. A berm is a small hill or wall of dirt or sand separating two areas. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission is overseeing the cleanup of the well, which was operated by Blake Production, an independent oil and gas producer operating wells in four states. The company's owner, Blake Vernon said the company will compensate the landowner for the next six years for the loss of his alfalfa crop. The landowners' lawyer Matthew R. Oppe said this may not suffice. "The spill occurred in the center of my client's alfalfa field and while the property is currently used for agricultural purposes the Hawks hoped to build a home on their Turkey Creek property," said Oppe. "Unfortunately the spill will not only affect the Hawks immediate use and enjoyment, but future development may be impossible." Recent studies have also revealed a probable link between the wastewater injection process of fracking, in which leftover water used during fracking is injected deep into the ground, and earthquakes. In Oklahoma, these so-called "frackquakes" may be linked to the more than 2,500 small earthquakes that have hit the state in the last five years. Other nearby states including Arkansas, Kansas and Texas have also seen a distinct rise in small- to medium-sized earthquakes over the last few years just as the fracking boom has escalated. As of early July, Oklahoma had experienced more than twice the number of earthquakes as California, making it the most seismically active state in the lower 48. Just ten years ago it was ranked 17th. Oklahoma is also one of the top states in overall oil spills, having experienced 951 reported oil spills in 2013 — more than every other fossil-fuel producing state except North Dakota according to an EnergyWire investigation. However in North Dakota companies have [to report](#) any spill larger than one barrel, or 42 gallons, whereas in Oklahoma the threshold is 10 barrels.

<http://www.care2.com/causes/frackers-spill-olympic-pools-worth-of-hydrochloric-acid-in-oklahoma.html>

CANADA, N.W.T, AUGUST 4 2014. BUFFALO AIRWAYS MAY FACE \$200K FINE FOR FUEL TRANSPORT CHARGES



Two Buffalo Airways DC-3s at a Northern gravel airstrip in the summer of 2006. Buffalo Airways was in court Friday on charges of hauling diesel fuel in oversized tanks without proper certification and dangerous goods markings.

Buffalo Airways was in court Friday on charges of hauling diesel fuel in oversized tanks without proper certification and dangerous goods markings. Buffalo Airways has pleaded guilty to the charges under the Transportation of

Dangerous Goods Act, which date to March 2012. The crown says the tanks are unsafe and Buffalo flouted regulations. The Crown asked the judge to fine the airline \$200,000. Buffalo says the tanks have been in use for 30 years, and while it didn't have certification in this case, it does have an exemption to use the tanks in one of its aircraft. Buffalo says when the tanks are connected to the fuel system of an aircraft, they no longer require the dangerous goods certification so the issue is not about safety, but more about paperwork. A decision is expected Aug. 22.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/buffalo-airways-may-face-200k-fine-for-fuel-transport-charges-1.2725850>

LIBYA, TRIPOLI, AUGUST 4 2014. LIBYA SAYS TRIPOLI FUEL-TANK FIRE SPREADS, WARNS OF DISASTER >> HEAVY MILITIA FIGHTING NEAR AIRPORT KEEPS FIREFIGHTERS AWAY

summer said



A fighter looks on as smoke rises from Tripoli's main fuel depot after rockets fired by one of Libya's militias struck and ignited tanks there on Saturday.

Libya warned Sunday of the risk of a humanitarian and environmental disaster after eight fuel tanks caught fire amid heavy fighting near Tripoli's international airport between rival militias, pushing the oil producer deeper into chaos. Rockets fired by one of Libya's militias hit Tripoli's main fuel depot near the airport Saturday, setting a gasoline tank ablaze, but firefighters deployed to tackle the fire were forced back by the militia fighting. The fire rapidly spread to seven other tanks, increasing the risk of an explosion at the site, which contains 90 million liters (almost 24 million gallons) of fuel and cooking gas. "Since the morning firefighters from Brega Petroleum Marketing Co. have been trying to enter the

depot to control the fire and stop it from spreading to the rest of the tanks...but unfortunately due to the random shooting they cannot get to the storage facility," the oil ministry said in a statement. The fire "could lead to a humanitarian and environmental disaster and trigger an explosion in the gas tanks," the ministry said, calling on the health ministry to be prepared in case of casualties. Libyan authorities called on locals to leave the area within a perimeter of at least four kilometers, or about 2½



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miles, of the blaze. Libyan oil officials said the damage will make it even more difficult to supply Tripoli, which has already suffered from acute shortages of fuel. More than two weeks of heavy clashes between rival militias in the capital Tripoli and in Benghazi have killed more than 200 people and forced embassies from around the world to suspend operations and evacuate their citizens. Libya's government said 22 people were killed and 72 were wounded Saturday in the latest battles between armed factions fighting to control Tripoli airport, the worst violence since the 2011 civil war that led to the downfall of former leader Moammar Gadhafi. Saturday's violence comes a week after a similar crossfire between rival factions near Tripoli airport set three fuel tanks at the main fuel depot ablaze, which burned out of control for days. The National Oil Corp. is considering renting a floating tank to supply Tripoli with fuel to make up for the burning tanks, a top oil official said. He added said that couldn't find fuel himself and Libyan officials overseeing the crisis are now forced to share cars to get to work. Libya, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and the holder of Africa's largest crude reserves, used to produce almost 1.6 million barrels a day of oil before Gadhafi was ousted. The country currently pumps around 500,000 barrels of crude oil a day.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/libya-says-tripoli-fuel-tank-fire-spreads-warns-of-disaster-1407087064>

TAIWAN, TAIPEI, AUGUST 4 2014. CASUALTIES RISE TO 332 THREE DAYS AFTER GAS EXPLOSIONS IN KAOHSIUNG



Casualties from Thursday's gas explosions in Kaohsiung stood at 332 as of late Sunday afternoon as rescue crews continued to wade through rubble looking for survivors and utilities companies rushed to restore water and power. In total, 28 were confirmed dead, 302 injured and two missing as of 4:00 p.m. because of the propylene-fueled explosions, according to the Central Emergency Operation Center. Four of the dead were firefighters sent to the scene before the explosions to spray water in an attempt to disperse the leaked gas. The two missing were a city fire official and a firefighter. In total, 32,968 households were affected in some way, according to government statistics from earlier in the day. Despite the increasing numbers of confirmed casualties, utilities companies were racing to give electricity, water and natural gas back to nearby residents. Taiwan Power Co. restored power to 27,521 households by Sunday and expected to give power back to all affected customers over the nearly three-square-kilometer

area by Tuesday. Taiwan Water Corp. said running water will resume by Tuesday night on Yisin and Sanduo roads, and on Kaisyuan Road within three days. The timetable for the resumption of natural gas supplies to the 4,602 households in the disaster area is not clear, however, with progress pending repair of roads and underground pipelines.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/asoc/201408030016.aspx>

USA, LA, NORCO, AUGUST 4 2014. FIRE AT BIODIESEL PLANT EXTINGUISHED >> AUTHORITIES SAY NO INJURIES IN THE EXPLOSION

 **Watch the Video:** [Fire at Biodiesel Plant Extinguished](#)

A fire at the Diamond Green Diesel plant in Norco has been extinguished. The blaze broke out around 9:30 p.m. Sunday. St. Charles Parish officials say that there are no protective actions necessary on the part of the public and no injuries have been reported from the fire. Officials add that air motioning crews in the area have found no detected readings. The St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations Center is continuing to monitor the situation. Diamond Green Diesel is a joint venture between Valero energy and Darling International Inc. The "renewable diesel" refinery is located adjacent to the larger Valero St. Charles Refinery in Norco. The Diamond Green website indicates the plant produces about 10,000 barrels of fuel per day.

<http://www.wdsu.com/news/officials-confirm-explosion-at-norco-diesel-plant/27292600#!bviHQv>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI, AUGUST 4 2014. DUBAI LINKING ITS DANGEROUS GOODS TRANSPORT PROCEDURES WITH POLICE AND STATE SECURITY

Dubai Civil Aviation Authority is working on linking its online approval system for dangerous goods transportation with the emirate's State Security Department (SSD) and Dubai Police for faster and seamless sanction of applications for transportation of explosives and radioactive materials. Ahmed Hamad, the head of dangerous goods section at DCAA's aviation security & accident investigation department, said: "We have issued 9,764 No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for



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Dangerous Goods transportation by both passenger and cargo airlines in 2013, up from 8146 NOCs, while 686 approvals were given for firearms transportation last year as against 588 in the year 2012," he said. In the first half of 2014, as many as 4344 and 346 NOCs were issued for the dangerous goods and firearms, respectively. During the same period, about 189 applications for dangerous goods transportation were turned down. Last year, the department rejected 654 requests for dangerous goods transportation and eight for the firearms for a variety of reasons, including non-compliance of international and local rules and regulations. In an interview with DCAA's Via Dubai magazine Al Hammadi said: "The compliance rate by the cargo industry is very high and we are working to improve this further through creating industry awareness about the latest in dangerous goods regulations and potential suspicious shipments." According to figures released by International Air Transport Association (IATA), the airline industry handles 52 million tons of cargo a day globally.

<http://www.arabianaerospace.aero/dubai-linking-its-dangerous-goods-transport-procedures-with-police-and-state-security.html>

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<http://www.arabianaerospace.aero/dubai-linking-its-dangerous-goods-transport-procedures-with-police-and-state-security.html>

GHANA, BUSICHIM, AUGUST 4 2014. ILLEGAL MINING PIT KILLS THREE



An illegal mining pit has trapped three persons to death at Mamuamano, a farming community near Busichim in the Prestea Huni/Valley District. The deceased have been identified as Yaw Mintah, 30, John Adu Boakye, 30 and Kwaku Takyi, 35. The incident occurred last Wednesday around 1500 hours and their bodies have been deposited at the Prestea Government Hospital morgue for autopsy. Mr Iddrisu Salifu Mohammed, District Coordinator of the National Disaster Management Organisation, disclosed this in an interview with the Ghana News Agency. He said the victims, who were natives of Himan near Prestea, met their untimely death when a pit they were prospecting for gold caved in and trapped all of them to death. Mr Mohammed said when his office received the information and officials rushed to the scene, some people who tried to rescue

the victims brought them from the pit already dead.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/artikel.php?ID=319668>

CHINA, GANSU PROVINCE, LÁNZHŌU, AUGUST 4 2014. FIRE AT PETROCHINA'S LANZHOU REFINERY PUT OUT

fayen wong, chen aizhu, judy hua

A fire broke out at a PetroChina refinery and petrochemical plant on Monday but was later put out and no casualties were reported, government and company officials said. The plant near Lanzhou city in the northwestern province of Gansu is one of the country's oil refining hubs. It operates crude refining capacity of just over 200,000 barrels per day and also an affiliated petrochemical complex. Initial investigation showed the fire, which broke out at 8.39 a.m. (0039 GMT), was triggered by a leak of propylene at a 300,000 tonne-per-year air separation unit, the government of Gansu said on its website (www.gansu.gov.cn). The fire was put out at 1:45 p.m., it said. It was not immediately clear if other main production facilities at



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the plant were affected by the fire. On Saturday, China suffered its worst industrial accident in a year when an explosion killed at least 69 people and injured more than 120 at a factory in the eastern province of Jiangsu that makes wheels for U.S. carmakers, including General Motors.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/04/us-china-refinery-fire-idUSKBN0G405620140804>

ITALY, ROME, AUGUST 4 2014. TWO 'KILLED BY FUMES' AT COMPOST SITE

Toxic fumes are thought to have been responsible for killing two truck drivers at a composting plant in Italy, it has been reported. The men were found at the Kjklos facility, which makes fertiliser from organic waste. According to the Corriere di Latina local newspaper it is thought the pair were working for an outside company and were unloading a tanker at the site in Aprilia near Rome when a spillage caused ammonia and gas to mix, creating toxic fumes. The paper has suggested that one of the drivers, who was found lying on the ground, may have been killed instantly while the other may have lost consciousness and hit his head when he fell two metres into a tank. Rai state TV, meanwhile, reported police as saying that it was not clear whether the men's deaths were caused by the fumes or their falls. Following the incident the area surrounding the plant was sealed off to enable investigations to be carried out.

<http://www.iosh.co.uk/News/Two-killed-by-fumes-at-co.aspx>

INDIA, UTTAR PRADESH, LAKHIMPUR, AUGUST 5 2014. FIVE KANWARIAS KILLED AS OIL TANKER RAMS INTO A TRACTOR TROLLEY

Five kanwaris were killed and over 36 injured on Monday when an oil tanker rammed into a tractor trolley carrying them in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur district, police said. All the deceased were going to visit a Lord Shiva temple to offer holy water. The tractor trolley carrying the devotees was headed for Gola Gokarannath temple when a speeding oil tanker rammed into it, police said. The bodies have been sent for an autopsy, an official told IANS. The driver of the oil tanker managed to escape from the accident site.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/five-kanwaris-killed-as-oil-tanker-rams-into-a-tractor-trolley/490207-3-242.html>

TURKEY, DIYARBAKIR PROVINCE, TUZLUCA, AUGUST 5 2014. DEATH TOLL IN OIL TANKER EXPLOSION REACHES 30



A tanker truck carrying liquefied petroleum gas or LPG, overturned and exploded on a highway in southeast Turkey.

The death toll has reportedly reached 30 following the explosion of a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker on July 21 in eastern Turkey, in which two long-distance coaches and a car were destroyed. The incident occurred when the tanker overturned on the Diyarbakır-Bingöl highway in the village of Tuzluca in Diyarbakır province two weeks ago. When the tanker overturned, gas leaked out and spread over the area. A massive explosion erupted when a passenger from a coach that had been stopped by the accident lit a cigarette. Twenty-six of 40 burn

victims were reported to have died by July 31. The latest fatalities are Aslan Doğan, Zeynep Kılıç, Halil İbrahim Kırmızıkan and Yasin Çalkandır, who had been treated at hospitals in the provinces of Mersin, Kocaeli and Elazığ, bringing the total number of deaths to 30. Ekrem Önkol, whose car was burnt in the incident, told the Cihan news agency that his nephew had died: "He responded to treatment and his situation was improving, but due to damage to his internal organs, he lost his life four days ago." Önkol has demanded the government pay damages to the victims' relatives. "Our documents are at the police station. Today they were sent to Lice. We're waiting and we're going to follow through with this. We are not happy; people are still dying. We are not going to let this go."

http://www.todayszaman.com/national_death-toll-in-oil-tanker-explosion-reaches-30_354624.html

RUSSIA, MOSCOW, AUGUST 4 2014. RUSSIA'S LUKOIL TO SELL 44 PETROL STATIONS IN CZECH REPUBLIC

alexei anishchuk & sandor peto

Russia's largest private crude producer Lukoil agreed to sell 44 petrol stations in the Czech Republic to Hungarian Oil Company MOL, the two companies said. Lukoil also said it would sell 75 stations in Hungary and 19 stations in Slovakia to Norm Benzinkut Kft. "The decision to sell the assets was taken as part of the effort to optimize Lukoil's business in petroleum product marketing," the Russian company said in a statement. MOL aims to expand its more than 1,700 filling stations in



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Central Europe and the Balkans and earlier this year bought Italian Eni's Czech, Slovak and Romanian units. After buying Lukoil's network, MOL will have 318 filling stations in the Czech Republic, making it one of the leading participants in that market, it said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/04/russia-lukoil-assets-sale-idUSL6N0QA2SQ20140804>

USA, ILL, SPRINGFIELD, AUGUST 5 2014. 25 YEARS OF REMOVING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS IN ILLINOIS *mike moen*

In 1989, Illinois established the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program. Officials say the ongoing groundwater contamination probe in the town of Wedron highlights the importance of the program. The initiative gives the EPA the tools to oversee clean-up once a leak from an underground tank has been reported. The U.S. EPA also has an office committed to such efforts. Heather Nifong is with the Illinois agency. She says they're not surprised the investigation in Wedron has unearthed multiple tanks. "Mid-century, there were any number of corner gas stations in these towns, and there were many more tanks than there are today," Nifong said. Nifong says the hard part sometimes is tracking down the person or company liable for the leak. "With the older tanks, it's especially difficult because the registration wasn't in place back then. There may be many historic tanks out there and they may not be posing any sort of a problem, but they are unaccounted for," Nifong said. To date, more than 20,000 releases have been cleaned up under the program. The state reimburses tank owners and operators when they have to pay for clean-up work. That money comes from a fund that collects dollars from the motor fuel tax, along with an environmental impact fee.

Wedron Update

Meanwhile, a public hearing will be held this week on the contamination probe in Wedron, which is an unincorporated town in LaSalle County. On Wednesday evening, the federal EPA will update residents about the latest in its investigation. The meeting begins at 5:00 Wednesday at Dayton Township Hall. Over the past couple of years, officials have traced the source of elevated levels benzene in the water, while sorting out alternative supplies for private wells. The meeting comes two weeks after a judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by local residents. The suit, which targeted several companies cited as potential sources, claimed the contamination created a number of health risks. The plaintiffs say they will file an amended complaint.

<http://northernpublicradio.org/post/25-years-removing-underground-storage-tanks-illinois>

USA, CA, ORCUTT, AUGUST 5 2014. OIL SPILL CLOSES ROAD NEAR LOS ALAMOS

cory james & claire anderson

 **Watch the Video:** [Oil Spill Closes Road Near Los Alamos](#)

An early morning oil spill that happened just before 5 a.m. closed Palmer Road near Orcutt Monday. Crews from Greka Oil and Gas used vacuums and other cleaning supplies to reopen the roads. Frank Iarossi was riding his bike nearby. He said he wasn't too too concerned or inconvenienced by the spill because "the industry works very hard, they have proven methods, but there is always human error." Human error, however, does concern Roben Rios. She says "this isn't the first time" and adds that the release of natural gas from Greka Oil and Gas has also been making people in the neighborhood sick. "It's not like no one lives out here, we have a school, we have a fire department, and it's not right to put anybody's health at risk," said Rios. California Highway Patrol closed the road until 11 a.m. for cleanup crews. The cause of the spill is under investigation.

<http://www.keyt.com/news/oil-spill-closes-road-in-santa-maria/27299570>

USA, CA, SANTA MARIA, AUGUST 5 2014. CREWS CONTAIN OIL SPILL NEAR SANTA MARIA

katie kreider & lili tan

 **Watch the Video:** [Crews Contain Oil Spill near Santa Maria](#)

Crews contained a spill after more than 1,200 gallons of oil leaked from a Greka pipeline early Monday morning. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department responded to a call that came in about 4:45 a.m. at 6780 Palmer Road, just south of Orcutt. The pipeline is approximately six inches in diameter. When the leak sprung, the fluid traveled less than a mile southwest, according to Division of Oil, gas and Geothermal Resources' Don Drysdale. SB County Fire official David Sadecki says crews used vacuum trucks and then steam cleaned the roads to clean up 30 barrels of oil that leaked. What caused the leak is still under investigation. Drysdale says the pipeline cannot be inspected because it is underground; however, a portion of the line was pressure tested in December 2011, two months after another leak. He says DGGGR has sent Greka several citations for pipeline violations in the past several years, including in April of 2013 when one of their pipelines released injection water. Santa Barbara County Public Health officials say they sent inspectors out twice on Monday, and say they will not be issuing



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any advisories and there is no threat to people's health. Sadecki says there is also no threat to the environment, as no oil spilled into the nearby creek. Crews will be digging out and removing the soil in the spill area. KSBY News left phone messages for Greka representatives, but they did not respond by press time.

<http://www.ksby.com/news/crews-on-the-scene-of-an-oil-spill-near-santa-maria/>

INDIA, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5 2014. TWO INJURED AS SERIES OF EXPLOSION IN INDIA'S TARAPUR CHEMICAL UNIT

 **Watch the Video:** [2 Injured in Tarapur Chemical Unit Explosion](#)

A series of nine explosions took place in the reactor of a chemical plant in Tarapur MIDC on Sunday night. The blast was so massive, that its tremors were felt in 10 km radius and the entire building was in flames. A supervisor is missing and two workers of an adjoining industry sustained burn injuries. As per the reports, the fire broke out in plot number 92 of Nutraplus India Limited, a chemical manufacturing company at around 10.30 pm. While the seven to eight workers were rescued, the supervisor identified as Ajay Bore was reported as missing. The fire spread to the neighbouring Vineet Textiles, injuring two employees Indrajeet Tiwari and Nandan Singh, both 40. Both sustained around 40 per cent burns and have been admitted to a private hospital. Nandan Singh is said to be in critical state. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained. It is believed that some chemicals leaked and caused the fire and subsequent explosion.

<http://en.cihan.com.tr/news/Two-injured-as-series-of-explosion-in-India-s-Tarapur-Chemical-Unit> 4593-CHMTUxNDU5My80

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, AUGUST 6 2014. MANHUNT ON FOR CHEVRON EXECS WANTED IN PHILIPPINES TRADE CASE

Executives from Chevron's unit in the Philippines are facing arrest for alleged monopolies and restraint of trade. An arrest warrant has been issued by a Pasay City court, a report by the Manila Standard Today said. There is also an ongoing manhunt for the defendants by the National Bureau of Investigation. Those named in the report are Chevron officials Timothy D. Leveille, Rebecca A. Alivio, Steven T. Mulvaney, Aner M. Anda, Randall H. Johnson, Armando Diaz, Glenn A. Lynch, Leo Vasco G. Dagamac and Husain Shibly Latiff. Other Chevron officials were already charged for the same offenses and have posted bail. The report identified them as Ramon R. Ortiz, Frumencio A. Deguito, Carlito G. Lopez, Carol A. Bautista and Rafael C. Medina Jr. The Pasay City Regional Trial Court, Branch 114, issued a "hold departure order" (HDO) against the Chevron executives. The case stemmed from a complaint filed against Chevron by the Petroleum Distributions and Services Corporation (PDSC), a Filipino-owned small gasoline dealer company presently based in Pasay City. PDSC was still a dealer of Chevron when it found in 2003 that the oil company was giving preferential discounts in the prices of its products to gasoline stations owned by the oil giant, otherwise known as Company Owned, Company Operated (COCO) stations, the Manila Standard Today said. "This is one of the very rare occasions where a David represented by a small Filipino business company is putting up a fight against a Goliath in the person of a mighty oil corporation in the name of genuinely free and honest trade," Conrad Limcaco, president of PDSC, said. Chevron is one of the largest investors in the Philippines, with more than \$2 billion in capital investments. It markets Caltex® fuels, lubricants and petroleum products in the Philippines through a network of service stations, terminals and sales offices.

<http://petroglobalnews.com/2014/08/manhunt-on-for-chevron-execs-wanted-in-philippines-trade-case/>

USA, WASHINGTON, DC, AUGUST 5 2014. STATEMENT FROM CHAIRPERSON RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO ON THE DEADLY CONSEQUENCES OF COMBUSTIBLE METAL DUST



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

Friday's reported metal dust explosion in Jiangsu, China, is another reminder of the tragic and deadly consequences of combustible dust accidents, a hazard with which the US Chemical Safety Board is all too familiar. Just last month the CSB released its [final report](#) and [safety video](#) on the 2010 metal dust explosion and fire at the AL Solutions metal recycling facility in New Cumberland, West Virginia. This incident killed three workers and injured a fourth. The [AL Solutions incident](#) is one of nine serious combustible dust incidents investigated by the CSB since 2003, including the [Imperial Sugar disaster](#) near Savannah, Georgia, in 2008 as well as three combustible dust incidents over a six month period in 2011 at the [Hoeganaes facility](#) located in Gallatin, TN. These nine explosions and fires caused a total of 36 deaths and 128 injuries. These tragedies include a 2003 incident at the [Hayes Lemmerz](#) manufacturing plant in Huntington, Indiana, which cast and machined aluminum automotive wheels. The series of explosions was fueled by accumulated aluminum dust, a flammable byproduct of the wheel production process. An explosion inside the plant's dust collection system



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propagated back into the facility, where it ignited dust that had settled on horizontal surfaces. Plant mechanic Shawn Boone, 33, was killed in the explosion, and two others were injured. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the CSB's longstanding recommendation resulting from its [2006 Combustible Dust Hazard Study](#) to the Occupational safety and health Administration to address this deadly hazard in the United States. Preventable combustible dust explosions continue to occur, causing worker deaths and injuries. From 2008 until 2013, the CSB documented 50 combustible dust incidents resulting in 29 fatalities and 161 injuries. In 2013 the Board designated the issuance of a general industry dust standard as the CSB's first "[Most Wanted Safety Improvement](#)." The CSB believes it is imperative for OSHA to issue a comprehensive combustible dust standard for general industry with clear requirements for preventing dust fires and explosions.

<http://www.csb.gov>

USA, ORE, PORTLAND, AUGUST 6 2014. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AGREES TO DISCLOSE DAM POLLUTION

nigel duara

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced in a legal settlement Monday that it will immediately notify the conservation group Columbia Riverkeeper, which filed the lawsuit, of any oil spills among its eight dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers in Oregon and Washington. For the first time in its history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must disclose the amount of pollutants its dams send into waterways in a groundbreaking legal settlement that could have broad implications for the corps' hundreds of dams nationwide. The corps announced in a settlement Monday that it will immediately notify the conservation group that filed the lawsuit of any oil spills among its eight dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers in Oregon and Washington. The corps also will apply to the Environmental Protection Agency for pollution permits, something it has never done for the dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers. The settlement filed in U.S. District Court in Portland ends the year-old consolidated lawsuit by the conservation group Columbia Riverkeeper, which said the corps violated the Clean Water Act with unmonitored, unpermitted oil discharges from the eight hydroelectric dams. No one outside the corps knows how much pollution is flushed into waterways every day. The agency doesn't have to track it, and before Monday no one with sufficient authority compelled them to do so. As part of the settlement, the corps admits no wrongdoing but will pay \$143,000 in attorney fees. The consolidated cases were dismissed. "This is the right thing to do," said Brett VandenHeuvel, Columbia Riverkeeper's executive director. "There have been several large, high-profile spills in the last decade that made it harder for them to ignore this issue of oil on the river." The corps' Northwest and national offices Monday referred questions to the U.S. Department of Justice, which negotiated the settlement. Justice Department attorney Wyn Hornbuckle indicated the agreement applies to the eight dams in question. He did not immediately respond to questions concerning the national impact. The settlement will allow oversight of the dams by the EPA, a responsibility the agency has sought but never obtained. The EPA had the authority to regulate the dams' pollution before the settlement, but it could not compel the corps to file for a pollution permit. The corps also will be forced to switch to a biodegradable lubricant for its dam machinery if an internal study finds it financially feasible. The corps isn't just a polluter, however. It also is a regulator of pollution under the Clean Water Act. The act grants the corps the authority to issue permits for discharge of materials excavated from or put into U.S. waterways. "Under the letter of the law, they have been engaged in unpermitted discharge for years," said Melissa Powers, an environmental law professor at Lewis & Clark law school in Portland. "They should have long ago said, 'This is how much we're discharging. Here are the environmental impacts.'" Monday's settlement will force the corps' hand. To discharge pollutants into waterways, polluters must obtain permission from state and federal governments. Before, the EPA knew about the unpermitted discharges from dams, but the corps said in letters to state agencies it is not accountable to the EPA. The corps argued in the same letters that disclosing the mechanical workings of the dams as part of an oil-discharge summary could compromise their security. The corps doesn't have to report its day-to-day pollution, but it must report spills. That's what happened in 2012, when it detected slow leaks of 1,500 gallons of oil from its Ice Harbor dam into the Snake River near Pasco. The spill included toxic PCBs, an industrial insulator shown to be harmful to humans. In July 2013, Columbia Riverkeeper sued and demanded to know what and how much the corps was sending into the water. "When you're not regulated under a permit, you don't have to say what the impact (of pollution) on water was," Powers said. Nationally, the settlement could force all unpermitted dams to obtain discharge permits from the EPA. The eight dams affected by the settlement are the Bonneville, the John Day, The Dalles and McNary between Washington and Oregon, and the Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite in Washington. The eight dams use turbines that have shafts and hubs filled with oil or other lubricants. The oil leaks to the surface, along with oil from drainage sumps, transformers and wickets that control water flow. Environmentalists will closely watch the type of permit issued by the EPA, Powers said. A "site-specific" permit likely would include limits that the corps would have to meet on the amount of oil discharged. If the EPA instead issues a general permit, environmentalists would be



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less sanguine about its prospects, Powers said. General permits are less effective in compelling change because they don't contain specific metrics that must be met, she said.

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2024238615_dampollutionxml.html

USA, TX, HOUSTON, AUGUST 6 2014. EPA SHOWDOWN: WHO IN TEXAS WANTS TIGHTER REFINERY REGULATION? >> DO HYDROGEN CYANIDE LEAKS SHOW WEAKNESS OF CURRENT REGS?

dave fehling

 **Hear at:** [Showdown: Who in Texas Wants Tighter Refinery Regulation?](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will set up its microphones for an all day [hearing Tuesday in Galena Park](#), a community on Houston's east side in the heart of the enormous Houston Ship Channel refinery complex. It's the second of two such hearings with the first held last month in a similar community in Los Angeles. At issue: [new EPA rules](#) that would make oil refineries invest in better equipment to reduce pollution emissions from storage tanks and to improve the efficiency of [flares that burn emissions](#) during plant "upsets". Refineries would also have to increase fence-line monitoring to track exactly what pollution is blowing into adjacent communities.

What'll it Cost?

The EPA says complying with the new requirements will cost refineries an estimated \$240 million and would have a "negligible impact" on the price of gasoline and other products. The industry says the new rules will cost "billions" and aren't needed. "For example, in the Houston area, the concentrations of what are called the toxic compounds have declined by 87 percent over the last 27 years. That's a very big drop," said Howard Feldman, Director of Regulatory and Scientific Affairs at the [American Petroleum Institute](#). But why not have more fence-line monitoring to show emissions are really as low as the industry contends? "It's just a question of how much money do you want to spend to measure something you don't think you have an issue with," Feldman told StateImpact Texas. He spoke at the hearing in Los Angeles and the industry will have representatives to testify in Galena Park.

Who'll Benefit?

But the EPA will also hear from Texans like Dr. Brian Tison. "I think when you get the concentration of industry that we have here in Houston, it means that we have to be the most stringent. Because we definitely know we're dealing with chemicals that have clear, public health harm," said Dr. Tison. Dr. Tison specializes in treating breathing problems at his office in southeast Houston. It's across the street from the [Brio Superfund site](#) where a subdivision had to be bulldozed because the soil was so contaminated. Many of his patients live near or work in the refineries and chemical plants that are found on the southeast side of Houston all the way to Galveston. "We definitely do see that patients who are closer to petrochemical plants do seem to come in more frequently with sinus and asthma complaints," said Dr. Tison who plans to testify at the hearing. "Whenever I see patients who are missing school, patients who are missing work, who've really reorganized their life around air quality, it makes me want to be more proactive."

Why's it Needed?

A central issue behind the EPA's new rules was concern that not nearly enough is known about the actual amount of toxic emissions from refineries. Data is often based on models and estimates and according to the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP), can mean that data reported by industry to the government is far less than the actual amounts of pollution. In 2012, EIP and community groups in Texas, Louisiana and California outlined the deficiencies in [a lawsuit against the EPA](#). The new rules address much of what the lawsuit alleged. One particular concern was the reporting of leaks and spills of highly toxic chemicals. For example, hydrogen cyanide. The EIP lawsuit said "hundreds of tons" of the potentially lethal chemical were emitted from plants nationwide but went unreported in pollution estimates. Hydrogen cyanide is used in chemical weapons but is more commonly used to make synthetic clothing and other consumer materials. Another group, [Public Citizen](#), has been analysing [a national database](#) for accidental releases and found 50 reported leaks of hydrogen cyanide in 2012 nationwide. "And about 30 of those were in Texas. So the majority of those were in Texas," said Nancy Nusser with Public Citizen's office in Austin. "This is an extremely dangerous situation because hydrogen cyanide as a vapor can be instantly lethal." None of the leaks killed people but an EPA document said a leak at a plant in Orange, Texas may have been what killed four birds "near the area of the release." Environmentalists say it's an example of why stricter monitoring is needed. The refining industry says it's spent \$268 billion since 1990 for technology to reduce emissions. "I think the industry has moved towards controlling emissions to the fullest extent that it can and putting in technologies that are all cost effective," said the API's Feldman. "So we are clearly trying to minimize emissions of all compounds right now."

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2014/08/04/epa-showdown-who-in-texas-wants-tighter-refinery-regulation/>



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ARGENTINA, CORDOBA PROVINCE, AUGUST 6 2014. FATAL GAS PLANT BLAST UNDER INVESTIGATION

anjalee khemlani



An Argentinian gas processing plant explosion which killed one, injured a few, left thousands without power and slowed production for several industries is under investigation. The explosion was reported Friday, after 9:20 a.m., and claimed the life of a 50-year-old farmer who was driving by the Pilar power plant in his pickup truck. This happened in the province of Cordoba, according to La Voz. Some of those burned by the fire, which was hotter than 1,000 degrees, include a teacher and a child. The Shanghai Daily reported that local news agencies said those injured were motorists who were traveling near the plant, and suggested the aging infrastructure of the 1960s plant was at fault for the disaster. None of the victims were plant employees. At least 14,000 were initially without power, but some electricity was restored and the thermoelectric company, TGN, had slowly restored power to affected areas over the weekend, according to la Voz. The federal gas regulatory body, Enargas, announced the investigation three days after the explosion and said there could be penalties

for the GAS COMPANY in the fatal explosion. There were also some reports of a possible GAS leak days before the explosion, but Pilar Mayor Diego Bechis told La Voz that he had not heard of any such reports, and it could not be true because the gas would not give off any odor. Some industries suffered losses and a decrease in production because of the explosion. At least 30,000 liters of milk had to be dumped at a dairy company in Pilar because of the gas being turned off. Food production companies, as well as bars, restaurants, wineries, nursing homes and school cafeterias in the region were also affected. Individual residences had to be inspected and the gas restored by a technician, which would take several days, Bechis told La Voz Monday. The fire burned at least 164 feet high and was under control by about noon Friday.

<http://www.latinpost.com/articles/18604/20140805/argentina-explosion-fatal-gas-plant-blast-under-investigation.htm>

CANADA, QC, ST-EUSTACHE, AUGUST 6 2014. CLEANUP CONTINUES AFTER DIESEL SPILL IN ST-EUSTACHE

geoffrey vendeville

 **Watch the Video:** [Cleanup Continues after Diesel Spill in St-Eustache](#)

 **Photo's [4]** [Cleanup Continues after Diesel Spill in St-Eustache](#)



Workers remove hooks used to haul the remains of a truck that crashed into the Chêne River in St-Eustache, west of Montreal, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014, after the driver lost control. Diesel from the generator it was carrying, mixed with fuel from the truck, spilled into the river.

An environmental cleanup crew was still dealing with a spill in the off-island suburb of St-Eustache, northwest of Montreal, Tuesday night, nearly a day after a truck carrying a diesel generator careened off the road and emptied its load into the nearby Chêne River. "We're talking about a quantity of around 4,000 litres of hydrocarbons that were contained in the reservoir of the generator and the truck," said Urgence-Environnement spokesperson Alain Rochon. "We don't know how much spilled into the river, but 23,000 litres of water and oil were pumped." As of Tuesday night, all debris from the truck had been cleared from the area, and the crew was still working on removing oil from the surface of the water, St-Eustache fire chief Charles de Rouville said. The next step was removing contaminated soil from the riverbank to ensure it wouldn't slide back down into it. "The work is scheduled to be done by late tonight, but could last until 5 tomorrow morning," de Rouville said on Tuesday. The river is not a source of drinking water. For reasons that are still unclear, the driver of the truck lost control of his vehicle at Industriel Blvd. and St-Eustache St. around 6 p.m. on Monday and spilled its contents into the river. The truck ran off the road and into the river after failing to negotiate a turn where two lanes merged into one. The vehicle caught fire after the crash. St-Eustache firefighters were able to rescue the driver, a man in his 60s, from the truck's cab. He suffered serious burns and was taken to a hospital. A spokesperson for the St-Eustache police department said the driver was still hospitalized as of Tuesday night, but doing much better. He had been put into a medically induced coma on Monday, but was awake and talking on Tuesday evening. Urgence-Environnement said the truck belonged to RFA Transport Inc., a company based in Montreal with contracts in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick



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and seven U.S. states, according to its website. The company refused to comment. No other vehicles were involved in the crash. A team from Urgence-Environnement was also on the scene Monday night. The cleanup operation was entrusted to a specialized company that worked through the night. Barriers were installed to limit the damage. A police investigation is underway to determine the cause of the accident

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Cleanup+continues+after+diesel+spill+Eustache/10090675/story.html>

NEW ZEALAND, MARLBOROUGH, AUGUST 6 2014. PETROL LEAKS INTO PARK DUCK POND

cathie bell



Not A Good Look: A rainbow-coloured sheen can be seen on the surface of the Pollard Park duck pond because of a petrol leak.

Pollard Park's duck pond has been contaminated with petrol, thought to have washed in with stormwater after heavy rain earlier this week. Hayden Cole noticed the sheen of petrol on the water and the smell when he went to the Blenheim park with his 3-year-old daughter to feed the ducks. Council compliance manager Garth Congdon said council staff had deployed booms to contain the petrol in two areas. He said they couldn't work out where it had come from. "Quite frankly, the area where it's coming from is so big, we are unlikely to be able to track it down . . . something's got into the stormwater from somewhere." The stream had stormwater from across a wide part of Springlands feeding into it, he said. The contamination could have come from a spill, or it could be that someone's petrol tank in their car was leaking onto the road and it had been washed into the stormwater in the rain earlier this week. "We would like to think it's not deliberate." Two booms had been put across the pond to capture the petrol and to stop it going further and ending up in the Taylor River.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/10352959/Petrol-leaks-into-park-duck-pond>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, SPRING VALLEY, AUGUST 6 2014. DIG FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SPRING VALLEY EXTENDED TO 2017 >> WILL THE SEARCH FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION EVER END IN THE ELITE DC NEIGHBORHOOD?

harry jaffe

The Army Corps of Engineers announced yesterday that the project to clean up chemical weapons and toxic waste in Spring Valley will take another three years. Since 1993, the Army has been cleaning up World War I bombs and chemical agents buried from experiments at American University in 1918. In 2012, it said the project would finish this year. The new target is 2017. The Army has estimated the cleanup cost at \$250 million, but that number is likely to increase with the extended schedule. The Corps now says the project will cost \$256 million, according to Andrea Takash, a spokesperson for the Army Corps' Baltimore District, which is handling the cleanup. "This is heading to \$300 million," says Harold G. "Buzz" Bailey, an environmental lawyer who's followed the Spring Valley project and represented residents dealing with the federal government. If the Army actually finishes its excavation and restoration by 2017, the cleanup of toxic waste will have taken 24 years since contractors stumbled upon a cache of bombs with traces of chemical agents. In those 24 years, the Army has cleaned up 177 yards and lots where it discovered high levels of arsenic and other chemicals. It has found more than 1,000 "ordinance items, including rounds filled with chemical agents." Army contractors have sunk 53 wells to monitor ground water and found high levels of arsenic and perchlorate, according to the Army Corps website, and are planning to drill two more. The toxic waste comes from chemical labs at American University established during World War I to develop bombs to use in the European trench warfare. During the 1914-1918 war, armies used bombs with poison gas on the battlefield. The US Army asked chemists from around the country to gather at the American University Experimental Station to develop a lethal poison gas. The chemists came up with Lewisite, a gas made principally of arsenic. It was dubbed the "dew of death," because one drop could be lethal. Back then, Spring Valley was fields and forest, and soldiers fired poison-gas bombs across the area to see how quickly it killed animals tethered to stakes. The war ended before the Lewisite could make it to Europe, and the American University Experiment Station closed down. Soldiers buried the bombs and dumped chemicals into pits. In the following decades, the neighborhood in the District's far northwest corner bordering on Maryland developed with fine homes and mansions. Spring Valley became the home of presidents and diplomats. Until it came to light in 1993, Spring Valley's chemical



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past was buried in archives. The Army is currently excavating a burial pit at 4825 Glenbrook Road, Northwest. It borders American University and lies between the home of the university's president and the residence of the South Korean ambassador. So far, the Army has unearthed toxic glassware from the labs, a number of bombs with no explosives, and tons of contaminated soil. It has put in place an elaborate safety system to protect workers and residents. Christine Dieterich, who lives with her husband and two young children across the street, pleaded with the federal government to relocate her family during the dig. She failed, and has rented an apartment where her children can spend time while contractors search for chemical weapons across the street. "The Dieterichs are very frustrated that the project is taking so long," says Buzz Bailey, who represented the family in dealings with the government, "but they are not surprised given the amount of chemical weapons previously found and expected to be found. This continues to take a huge psychological and financial burden on the family." Meanwhile, given that the Corps has extended its schedule at least twice, the chances are high that the dig will take even longer than estimated.

 **Related Stories** [The Toxic Waste Pit Next Door](http://goo.gl/xMCx67)
<http://goo.gl/xMCx67>

USA, WI, GREEN BAY, AUGUST 6 2014. MINOR OIL SPILL CLOSSES BEACH IN FISH CREEK SUNDAY

ramelle bintz



Booms were placed in the water to contain a minor oil spill in Fish Creek over the weekend and the public beach was temporarily closed.

The public beach in Fish Creek was temporarily closed over the weekend after a report of an oil spill in the water. U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment petty officer Brian O'Neil, whose Sturgeon Bay office responds to any environmental spills in the area, received the call Sunday afternoon. The Gibraltar Fire Department closed the beach as a precautionary measure and reopened it to the public Monday, O'Neil said. "A light rainbow sheen overnight naturally evaporated," he said. "We followed up on Monday morning with the fire department, and the beach was reopened Monday morning." No known source of the oil product has been determined and an investigation is pending, but there is a marina near the beach. An absorbent boom was placed in the water to contain the oil, but at that point there was no recoverable oil, he said.

Any physical cleanup would cause more harm than letting the oil evaporate, he said. Anyone who sees any oil or contaminants in the water should call the Environmental Protection Agency National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/local/door-county/news/2014/08/05/minor-oil-spill-closes-beach-fish-creek-sunday/13621161/>

MALTA, VALLETTA, AUGUST 6 2014. €21 MILLION NEEDED TO UPGRADE PETROL STATIONS



Smaller petrol stations without ancillary services like car washes and a shop might find it hard to justify the investment needed.

A total of €21 million will be needed to upgrade petrol stations to bring them in line with an EU directive, according to the Malta Chamber for Small and Medium Enterprises (GRTU), which is concerned that many might have to close down.

According to a GRTU study, around 80 of the 90 petrol stations in Malta need to change all their equipment, from the underground storage tanks and petrol pumps, to all the piping, which will cost hundreds of thousands of euros. The intention is to make them safer, as well as more environmentally friendly by cutting down on fumes, leakages and emissions. The substantial works mean it

would take around six months to complete each petrol station. Although they have until the end of 2019 to comply, Malta could end up with the operation of several stations disrupted at the same time unless works start soon and in a planned and managed sequence, the GRTU warned. However, delays are likely because few petrol station owners have fund for the work, GRTU chief executive Abigail Mamo said. "Petrol station owners are hoping they can get help from the government or the EU. There were fudbs at one stage but no one was aware of them and we are now trying to find out whether they are still



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available," she said. "The problem is that EU funds cannot be used for works relating to compliance. But since this does not become a compliance issue until 2020, we are trying to find a way for the work to be seen as an upgrade investment. "There was also a fund built up over the years from a percentage of the revenue, which was recently distributed to the station owners, but this was barely enough to cover their normal maintenance and upgrading costs, let alone something on this scale." The cost of the works will be complicated by the fact that many stations would have to close down while the installation is underway, although Electrofix, which has set up a petroleum division, believes that it would be possible to do the work without interrupting operations. "We are offering a turnkey service from design to installation and we believe that we could do a station within three months or less while operations continue. But clearly, it does not make sense for all the petrol stations to want the work done at the same time. They need to start thinking about it sooner rather than later," director Debbie Schembri said. The GRTU believes that without assistance, a number of the petrol station owners will not afford the works – especially those without enough space to offer ancillary services like a car wash, shop and mechanics. As a result, they will close down and sell their licences. "There is now a Mepa fuel policy which identifies possible locations. But there are still a lot of complicated procedures involved with getting a permit, both from Mepa and the Malta Resources Authority. The goalposts keep changing too as Mepa is also taking this as an opportunity to bring other aspects of the stations up to scratch or to regularise them," Ms Mamo said. "There does not seem to be any sense of urgency because there are years left but we want to make it clear that there could be delays with permits and that the changeover needs to be done in a planned way. There will be problems if everyone leaves it too late." The GRTU has sent its study, which was conducted by an auditor, to the MRA and is awaiting guidance.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20140731/business-news/-21-million-needed-to-upgrade-petrol-stations.530019>

INDONESIA, EAST JAVA, AUGUST 6 2014. BREATHING IN TOXIC FUMES, CARRYING 70KG LOADS AND LEFT WITH SHORT LIFE EXPECTANCIES: THE HORRIFIC CONDITIONS FACED BY INDONESIAN SULPHUR MINERS SO THAT YOU CAN USE MATCHES

Julian Robinson

 **Watch the Video:** [A look inside the Indonesian sulphur mines](#)

 **Photo's [13]** [Images Show Men Enduring One of the World's Most Dangerous Jobs](#)

Key Points:

- Men work on side of volcano in sulphur mines and go without gas masks
- Workers at the mines in East Java, Indonesia, have short life expectancy
- Sulphur used to create range of products including matches and cosmetics



These stunning images show men enduring one of the most dangerous jobs in the world - working in highly toxic sulphur mines on the side of a volcano. Braving horrific conditions, these workers breathe in highly noxious gases without masks while they risk their lives carrying loads of up to 70kg up steep quarry walls. The men - working in Ijen, a super volcanic range in East Java, Indonesia - have a short life expectancy as a result of the hardship they face on a daily basis. The sulphur they produce is used to make a huge range of products from concrete and asphalt to matches and the bleaching of white sugar. Many of them work shirtless, and have huge growths on their back from the loads. Photographer Brad Ambrose captured the breathtaking pictures along with his friend Geoff Mackley, while trekking through Indonesia. 'The majority are

working in there with no masks to filter out the deadly gases. 'Even though we each used a gas filter set, at some stages we could still taste the gas.' The photographers, from New Zealand, travelled from midnight to try and get pictures of the sulphur fires before sunrise. Unfortunately, it was already too light to capture them when they arrived, but they shot lots of the men working. Brad said: 'The physical wear and tear on the bodies of these miners must be horrific. 'They carry baskets in excess of 70kg up and out of the crater and down to the collection point, about three kms and most of them do this at least twice a day.' Among the industries which require the use of sulphur are fertilisers, cosmetics, insecticides and petroleum processing. It is also used to manufacture paper, paints, plastics, rubber, batteries, explosives and film.

<http://goo.gl/ggQk5K>



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INDIA, TAMIL NADU, CHENNAI, AUGUST 6 2014. OVER 11,000 PEOPLE BOOKED FOR MISUSING LPG CYLINDERS IN TAMIL NADU



A total of 11,140 persons have been booked under various cases for misusing their LPG supply and gas cylinders worth Rs. 1.43 crore have been confiscated from them across Tamil Nadu, the state Assembly was informed today. Replying to a special call attention motion brought by DMDK members R M Babu Murugavel and K Thinakaran on increasing instances of gas cylinder explosions in the state, Food Minister Kamaraj said that preventive cases have been booked against 27 persons for repeating the crime. Contending that gas explosions in the recent past across the state has been occurring only because of poor awareness among the people on handling LPG cylinders and stoves, he said that awareness campaigns are being conducted. Not closing the gas valve during nights, non-checking of cylinders for any leak, using electricity not knowing the leakage, using domestic cylinders for commercial purpose and equipment not certified by proper authority are the main reasons behind these incidents, the Minister said. Earlier,

Mr Murugavel and Mr Thinakaran brought to government's notice, the increasing instances of gas cylinder explosions in Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, Salem and Chennai.

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/south/over-11-000-people-booked-for-misusing-lpg-cylinders-in-tamil-nadu-571046>

VENEZUELA, ZULIA, AUGUST 7 2014. VENEZUELA SAYS CITGO ASSETS WORTH MORE THAN \$10 BILLION

Petroleos de Venezuela SA, the Latin American nation's state-owned crude producer, said the U.S. oil refining and marketing assets it's seeking to sell are worth more than \$10 billion. "Their value is much, much more," Rafael Ramirez, president of the oil producer known as PDVSA, told reporters this week. The company is receiving offers for assets of Houston-based Citgo Petroleum Corp., he said, without providing details of the value of the bids received. PDVSA is seeking to sell Citgo assets, the U.S. unit said in a July 29 bond prospectus document. The company owns three refineries capable of handling about 749,000 barrels a day in Louisiana, Texas and Illinois, and sells gasoline through about 6,000 stations. "We are not a refining company, we're an oil producing company," Ramirez said at an event marking 100 years of Venezuelan oil production in the western Zulia state. Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro is seeking to sell foreign refineries to boost oil exports to China, raise cash and reduce the risk of having assets seized if it loses international lawsuits brought by former oil partners, GlobalSource Partners' Ruth de Krivoy and Tamara Herrera said July 31 in an e-mailed report to clients. "Our situation is not like many analysts have said, claiming that we need fiscal revenues," Ramirez said. "We are doing well with our fiscal revenues from the oil sector."

Contract Disputes

Contract disputes and expropriations have been filed at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes and the International Chamber of Commerce's Court of Arbitration by mining and oil companies that operated in the country including Exxon Mobil Corp., Gold Reserve Inc., Phillips 66 and ConocoPhillips. "With takeovers of Exxon and ConocoPhillips upgraders, these assets could be potentially taken to satisfy an arbitration ruling against them," Andy Lipow, president of Houston-based Lipow Oil Associates LLC energy consulting firm, said in a phone interview. Venezuela is Latin America's biggest oil exporter, shipping 1.8 million barrels a day in 2013, according to the BP Statistical Review of World energy. Maduro has spent revenue from exports on social programs created by predecessor Hugo Chavez and debt repayments, pushing the country's public sector deficit to 12.3 percent of gross domestic product last year, according to Barclays Plc. Citgo had sales of \$42.3 billion last year and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization of \$1.8 billion, according to the bond prospectus.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/08/06/venezuela-says-citgo-assets-worth-more-than-10-billion/>



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