



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2014 – 1,118 Newsy Stuff

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December 21 2014



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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, KATANGA, LUBUMBASHI, NOVEMBER 26 2014. CONCERN FOR ZIMBABWEAN DRIVERS AFTER PETROL TANKER EXPLOSION AT DRC TRUCK STOP

 **Photo's [4]** [Petrol Tanker Explosion at DRC Truck Stop](#)



Two petrol tankers are understood to have collided yesterday and exploded on impact at the border between Lubumbashi in the DRC and Kasumbalesa in Zambia. Several Nehanda Radio Citizen Reporters sent us these pictures from the scene. We understand the explosion caused extensive damage to between 48 and 60 trucks waiting to cross the border. Four years ago a devastating fuel truck explosion in the Democratic Republic of Congo claimed the lives of 245 people. The explosion in the eastern town of Sange erupted after a fuel truck overturned and people gathered around it to siphon off its contents, despite warnings from the driver that it might blow up. The fireball created by the blast spread to a cinema hall where a crowd had gathered to follow World Cup football matches in South Africa. More than 200 of the dead, including around 60 children and 30 women, were buried in three mass graves in Sange, where the flames had also engulfed dozens of earth-and-straw homes.

<http://nehandaradio.com/2014/11/25/concern-zimbabwean-drivers-petrol-tanker-explosion-drc-truck-stop-citizen-pictures/>

USA, N.Y, GENEVA, NOVEMBER 27 2014. DEC: CLEANUP COMPLETE AFTER CHEMICAL SPILL IN GENEVA

Department of Environmental Conservation officials say the cleanup is complete after hundreds of gallons of a chemical were spilled in Geneva. Officials say the spill happened at the Zotos facility on Forge Avenue. The DEC says the spill occurred after workers replaced a pump that moves ammonium hydroxide from one tank to another. The new pump overfilled one of the tanks and caused a release of the chemical through a vent in the roof. The chemical then spilled into the gutters and then into the storm sewer. The spill was discovered following pH test at a sewer outfall. We're told the outfall flows to a stream that leads to Seneca Lake. We're told crews contained the spill with sandbag dams and Zotos contracted a cleanup contractor. We're told pH levels are now at an acceptable level. The cleanup is complete, but the DEC is still investigating

<http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S3632813.shtml>

USA, ALA, MOBILE, NOVEMBER 27 2014. GAS TANKER CATCHES FIRE AT CHEVRON STATION IN GRAND BAY

cassandra mcaboy, rudy harper, andy vo

 **Watch the Video** [Gas Tanker Catches Fire at Chevron Station](#)

The Grand Bay Fire Department was on the scene of a gas tanker fire Tuesday night at a Chevron Station located at 9440 Grand Bay Wilmer Road. According to officials on the scene, the truck had been experiencing issues with the brakes, when the truck caught on fire. The driver of the tanker was examined by paramedics but didn't appear to have severe injuries. Officials say there was no leak involved in the accident. They told FOX10 News that the tanker had unleaded gasoline in its front tank however, the back tank was empty. Mobile Fire Hazardous materials units also respond to the scene. 9440 Grand Bay Wilmer Road South at the Chevron Station. This is still an ongoing investigation.

<http://fox10tv.com/2014/11/25/gas-tanker-explosion-at-chevron-station-in-grand-bay/>

USA, CT, ELLINGTON, NOVEMBER 27 2014. OIL TANKER FLIPS OVER IN ELLINGTON



A tanker carrying heating oil flipped over outside the fire department in Ellington, Wednesday, Nov 26, 2014.

Emergency crews helped rescue the driver of a tanker carrying heating oil after it tipped over Wednesday afternoon in front of the fire department in the Crystal Lake section of Ellington. Firefighters cleaned up a small fuel spill after the tanker rolled over outside the station around 2 p.m. at 316 Sandy Beach Road. "I was just sitting upstairs, hanging out, and it sounded like a plow truck hit the building," explained Shannon Bennett, of the Crystal Lake Fire Department. State police are asking residents to stay off the roads if at all possible.

<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Oil-Truck-Flips-Over-in-Ellington-283993411.html>



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CHINA, LIAONING PROVINCE, NOVEMBER 27 2014. CHINA COAL MINE FIRE IN NORTH-EASTERN LIAONING PROVINCE KILLS 24, INJURES 52: REPORTS

A fire at a Chinese coal mine has killed 24 workers, state media reports, the latest fatal incident to hit the accident-prone industry. The blaze at the mine in Liaoning province, in the country's north-east, also left 52 people injured, the official Xinhua news agency said, quoting the state-owned Fuxin Coal Corporation. An initial investigation showed that coal dust in a shaft had ignited shortly after a weak magnitude 1.6 earthquake hit the mine, the report said. Rescue operations were over and production had been suspended for safety checks, it said. Fuxin Coal is a large miner owned by the state, where safety measures are meant to be more strictly implemented, but the group has seen incidents in the past. In a major accident in February 2005, 214 people were killed and another 30 injured in a gas explosion at another of the company's mines. Last year, eight workers died in a gas leak at a separate facility.

Mining Accidents Common in China

China's mines are among the world's deadliest because of lax regulation, corruption and poor operating procedures. Safety is often neglected by bosses seeking easy profits and accidents are common. Last year, the country recorded 589 mining-related accidents, which left 1,049 people dead or missing, according to the government. Both the number of accidents and fatalities were down more than 24 per cent from 2012. But labour rights groups have said the actual death toll is likely to be much higher than official data, partly due to under-reporting of accidents as mine bosses seek to limit their economic losses and avoid punishment. Authorities have sought to shut down small mines, a major source of accidents, in an effort to consolidate the industry. The government plans to close more than 2,000 small coal mines by the end of next year, Xinhua reported in July. Multiple coal mine accidents have been reported this year. In June, 22 people were killed in an accident at a coal mine in the south-western city of Chongqing. And 20 people died in April when a coal mine in south-west Yunnan province suddenly flooded, leaving miners trapped. China is the world's biggest consumer of coal, relying on the fossil fuel for 65.7 per cent of its energy needs last year, Xinhua reported previously.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-26/china-coal-mine-fire-kills-24-state-media-says/5919488>

USA, CA, SAN DIEGO, NOVEMBER 28 2014. VEHICLE FIRE INJURES MAN AT KEARNY MESA GAS STATION

 **Watch the Video** [Vehicle Fire Injures Man at Gas Station](#)



A vehicle fire outside a Kearny Mesa gas station Wednesday left a man severely injured. Someone called for help after spotting the man and the flaming vehicle shortly before 5:30 p.m. at the Shell gas station on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard near Convoy Street, according to the California Highway Patrol and the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. Arriving firefighters extinguished the blaze. The unidentified man was taken to the burn center at UC San Diego Medical Center with burns to around 40 percent of his body, SDFRD spokesman Lee Swanson said. Police and members of the Metro Arson Strike Team were looking into what caused the fire, authorities said.

<http://www.sandiego6.com/news/local/Vehicle-fire-injures-man-at-Kearny-Mesa-gas-station-284043741.html>

USA, TX, PASADENA, NOVEMBER 28 2014. PETROBRAS WORKERS MAY BE PUNISHED FOR REFINERY IRREGULARITIES

Brazil's state-run oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA has a list of workers who could be punished for irregularities at an oil refinery in Pasadena, Texas, board member Sergio Quintella said on Thursday. The company, known as Petrobras, plans to present the results of its latest internal corruption probe at its Dec. 12 board meeting, including reports on its Abreu e Lima refinery in the northeast, he said. Widespread allegations of graft at the \$70 billion company have become the biggest crisis facing President Dilma Rousseff, who was chairwoman of the its board from 2003 to 2010. In March, Petrobras opened an investigation into its 2006 purchase of the Pasadena refinery amid questions about whether it overpaid for the facility. Brazil's top public prosecutor cleared board members of wrongdoing. Petrobras launched another internal probe this month after police arrested two former executives accused of funneling kickbacks to political parties. As a result, the company has already fired one employee, identified 15 others involved in corruption and delayed publishing its third-quarter earnings.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/27/us-brazil-petrobras-idUSKCN0JB1GA20141127>



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USA, TN, PARIS, NOVEMBER 28 2014. ONE INJURED WHEN TANKER FLIPS NEAR PURYEAR



Joe Ray Mancell (left) of the Paris Landing Volunteer Fire Department and Jonathan Barron of the Paris-Henry County Rescue Squad look at this overturned tanker truck involved in a one-vehicle accident on Highway 140 east of Puryear Tuesday morning. According to information from a Henry County Sheriff's Department officer at the scene, Christopher Ison, 34, of Henderson was heading west in the liquid asphalt tanker, owned by Damron Trucking of Counce, when the truck's tires went off onto a soft shoulder on the right side of the road, causing it to land on its side. Ison was taken by ambulance to Henry County Medical Center with what are believed to be non-life-threatening injuries.

http://www.parispi.net/news/local_news/article_bb571e82-7591-11e4-b431-cb01c6ee5106.html

USA, LA CROSSE, NOVEMBER 28 2014. LA CROSSE EXPLOSION CAUSE STILL UNKNOWN; ASPHALT TANK PERFORMED AS DESIGNED

chris hubbuck

 **Photo's [14]** [Midwest Fuels Explosion](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Explosion rocks North Side La Crosse, Wisconsin](#)



Steve Mathy, president of ALM Holding Co., the parent company of Midwest Industrial Asphalt takes questions during a tour of the site where a storage tank exploded last week.

Investigators have yet to determine the cause of last week's explosion at a North Side asphalt plant but say the tank containing liquid asphalt performed exactly as it was designed to. The 132,000-gallon tank exploded just before 7 a.m. Wednesday at Midwest Industrial Asphalt's Sumner Street terminal, rocking the surrounding neighborhoods and blasting the 24-foot diameter steel lid about 150 yards, according to company and fire officials. That vertical explosion contributed to the noise carrying to South Side residences, said Division Chief Craig Snyder of the La Crosse Fire Department; but it prevented the widespread damage and possible injuries that would have resulted from the tank walls rupturing. "The tank did what it was designed to do," Snyder said. "The tank itself held together as it was designed to do." Firefighters contained the resulting blaze within about 90 minutes, spraying water on adjacent storage tanks to ensure against additional explosions while employees deployed absorbent material to protect the nearby Black River from possible contamination by the mixture of asphalt and diesel fuel. At a Monday news conference and tour of the 22-acre terminal situated between the Canadian Pacific rail line and Copeland Park, company officials stressed that a system of earthen dikes would have contained the 7,000 gallons in the damaged tank. "Any of the tanks within this facility would be contained," said

Tara Wetzel, the company's vice president for environmental protection. Steve Mathy, president of Midwest's parent company, said cleanup was completed the day of the fire, and the seven-tank complex used to heat liquid asphalt remains out of service during investigations by fire, insurance and the company itself. "We can ensure everybody that everything here is secure," he said. "There are no health issues or environmental concerns." Mathy said the employee who was injured in the blast was treated for minor burns and is back at work. The worker declined through the company to be interviewed by media but is cooperating with investigators. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has opened an investigation into the explosion, but a spokesman said details will not be available until it is completed, which can take up to six months. Wetzel said Midwest employees used skimmers and absorbents to clean the estimated 90,000 – 100,000 gallons of water poured on the outside of the burning tank and those next to it and sent contaminated soils to the La Crosse County Landfill. A draft spill report filed with the state Department of Natural Resources indicates a contractor was hired to treat the oily fire water, which Wetzel said could be discharged into the Black River once determined clean. "Most of the time we let it evaporate," Wetzel



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said. With thick black smoke billowing from the burning tank, firefighters issued a "shelter in place" order, recommending that residents within a 10-block radius remain indoors to protect against possible airborne contaminants. Snyder said that was a precaution taken out of concern that there could be potentially hazardous chemicals, which they later learned was not the case. "Initially we were not sure what was in that tank," Snyder said. Snyder praised both firefighters and company employees, noting that Midwest immediately shut off heat to products in the six adjacent tanks and provided his crews with site plans and inventories. "Everybody on site did their job," he said. Mathy said he thinks the experience will result in a stronger organization. "When this process is over," he said, "I'm sure we'll learn a lot and be a better company."

Related Stories [Fire Extinguished after Explosion Rocks North Side; Cause Under Investigation](http://host.madison.com/news/local/crime_and_courts/la-crosse-explosion-cause-still-unknown-asphalt-tank-performed-as/article_1a74fcef-434c-5047-ae67-21f25cfa5981.html)
http://host.madison.com/news/local/crime_and_courts/la-crosse-explosion-cause-still-unknown-asphalt-tank-performed-as/article_1a74fcef-434c-5047-ae67-21f25cfa5981.html

USA, MT, KALISPELL, NOVEMBER 28 2014. FUEL TRUCK FIRE CAUSES BRIEF EVACUATION

brenda ahearn



Firefighters from the Kalispell Fire Department wrap up work at the scene of a propane tanker truck fire on Tuesday night at CityServiceValcon in Kalispell. The fire caused a brief evacuation of the surrounding area.

The engine of a propane tanker truck caught fire in the CityServiceValcon parking lot Tuesday evening, prompting a brief evacuation within a three-block of the West Montana Street fuel distributor in Kalispell. Kalispell Police Officer Jordan Venevio said that the fire call came in at 7:48 p.m. and the Kalispell Fire Department had the fire contained by 8:20 p.m., when the evacuation was lifted. The CityServiceValcon station is located behind Imperial Dry Cleaners and the Montana Golden Nugget at 640 W. Montana St. Police cruisers with flashing lights blocked off cross streets while officers knocked on residents' doors to advise them to get out. Fire Chief Dave Dedman said that the cause of

the fire was a result of a malfunctioning block heater or wiring to the block heater.

http://www.dailyinterlake.com/news/fuel-tanker-ignites-three-block-radius-evacuated-in-kalispell/article_326c1ae6-751e-11e4-ad2f-d38b75dbf009.html

USA, N.J, NORTH JERSEY, NOVEMBER 28 2014. 10 MORTON ST. CONTAMINATION CLEANUP WON'T BEGIN UNTIL 2019

kelly nicholaides



A remedial investigation into contaminants at 10 Morton St. is complete, 18 years after an oil spill, but remediation will not begin until 2019. The site contains a host of contaminants, including benzene in unknown source fill, metals, SVOCs and fuel oil.

A lot on Morton Street that the East Rutherford Council wants to purchase for redevelopment of homes and retail as part of the town's redevelopment plans won't likely see remediation until 2019. Eighteen years following a 7,000-gallon oil spill, the former Chemical Leaman Tank Lines property at 10 Morton St. in the industrial Carlton Hill area in East Rutherford has been delineated for future housing. The town wants it cleaned up, to purchase the property and find a developer to build on it. But after a report was released recently the Department of Environmental Protection says that clean up won't likely begin

for four years. The property is currently owned by Fred Daibes. Chemical Leaman Tank Lines was a tank-washing facility. As part of the analysis by the Department of Environmental Protection, 1,000 gallons of oil have been recovered from the site, but future remediation implementation won't begin until 2019, environmental officials confirmed. The 3.71-acre property still includes groundwater and soil contamination above residual limits. The site contains metals from unknown fill, including mercury, aluminum, arsenic lead, zinc and chromium, as well as semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). Extractable Petroleum Hydrocarbons (EPH) exist above limits of 8,000 mg/kg, at 26,500 and 36,500 mg/kg. Additionally, benzene was detected "at levels greater than ever detected on the site," and coming from an



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unknown source according to a site remediation investigation report submitted on May 7. Chemical Leaman will be covering the cost of the analysis. Harrisburg, Pa.-based, Leidos Engineering, assigned to assess and clean up the damage, submitted its Remedial Investigation Report to the state in May. The report was recently obtained by the South Bergenite, in response to a months old OPRA request. "As per the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection requirements, the remedial implementation isn't due until 2019, and any land use changes that affect the remedial activities would also be addressed per the NJDEP requirements," said Ryan Fisher, a Leidos Engineering spokesperson. "We have a 1996 fuel release that we are addressing through NJDEP requirements. As such, the remedial investigation has been completed, and the Remedial Investigation Report has been submitted to the NJDEP." The property has a deep industrial history, both when it was an active industrial hub and afterwards. Asbestos totaling 8,000 square feet was removed in 2008 from the roof of the building, by Greenwood Abatement Consultants in Butler. Five underground storage tanks were removed in 1988. Two tanks removed included 100,000-gallon oil storage tanks and related pumps and piping. An estimated 7,000 gallons of fuel oil was released into the ground in 1996. Geo Environmental Consultants in Malvern, Pa., installed a groundwater interceptor trench in order to enhance recovery of petroleum and hydraulic control of groundwater. Due to NJDEP cleanup standards changing after 2006, additional groundwater and soil sampling was required in order to complete remedial investigation of the 1996 fuel oil release by the May 7 deadline. In response to the spill in 1996, 10 monitoring wells were installed, and groundwater samples collected from two wells. Two interceptor trenches were installed with sumps, and groundwater was sampled from each trench. Approximately 525 gallons of oil were recovered from wells and sumps by bailing and skimmers, and by 1998 it was up to 1,000 gallons. In 2000, "absorbent socks" were placed in four wells containing LNAPL, and were changed during the eight-quarter sampling program. LNAPL has not been detected in any monitoring well since 2000. This year, the borough began talks to buy the property from owner Morton Street, LLC, c/o Fred Daibes, who bought the property in 2006. Daibes submitted plans to the Planning Board in 2012, to build 90 units of housing, and a variance was needed for density among others. The plans were never approved, and then the borough began negotiating to buy the property, ultimately making it part of the town's new redevelopment plan. The property is assessed at \$2,597,000. The property taxes for the lot are \$49,446. A tax lien of \$33,014 was purchased by Empire Six Investors in Philadelphia in July, but Daibes satisfied the lien, and his taxes are up to date. NJDEP officials confirmed that Leidos is one of several hundred licensed site remediation companies that the state started using in 2009 as a result of a backlog of cases at NJDEP.

<http://www.northjersey.com/news/environment/property-that-piqued-town-s-interest-for-housing-won-t-see-cleanup-for-years-1.1142005>

USA, AK, FAIRBANKS, NOVEMBER 28 2014. NORTH POLE FILES LAWSUIT OVER SULFOLANE CONTAMINATION

rod boyce



Flint Hills Resources refinery: The Flint Hills Resources North Pole Refinery is one of two in-state refineries serving Alaska. The other is in Nikiski and owned by Tesoro.

The city of North Pole filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the two most recent owners of the oil refinery within its borders over sulfolane contamination that has spread into residents' groundwater. A news release from the city announced the filing against current refinery owner Flint Hills Alaska Resources and previous owner Williams Alaska Petroleum. The city's news release indicates additional defendants might be named. "It's come to this for several reasons," North Pole Mayor Bryce Ward said in an interview Wednesday afternoon. "The state filed

suit and is making decisions. We want to be a party. We should be at the table when decisions are made." Ward also noted that the statute of limitations on the city's opportunity to file a lawsuit is approaching. The North Pole City Council decided, in closed session at its Monday meeting, to proceed with a lawsuit. The lawsuit was filed, according to the city's news release, to "ensure that the health and economic interests of city residents are fully considered and addressed as part of the resolution of the sulfolane contamination issue." Flint Hills spokesman Jeff Cook said it was the refinery's former owner, and not Flint Hills, that caused the contamination. "The record on that is clear," he said. "As part of our effort to ensure everyone had access to clean water, we drilled new wells for the city and extended the city's water system to homes that previously didn't have service," Cook said. "We did this at a cost of millions of dollars and then donated the wells and water system to the city, free of any charge." "The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has acknowledged Flint Hills Resources Alaska made sure that all those impacted had clean water, having done the right thing from day one on our own volition," he said. The



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lawsuit squarely blames both companies for the pollution, however. "During the times that the defendants owned or operated the refinery, the defendants caused or allowed numerous and/or continuous releases of hazardous substances into the groundwater located beneath the refinery, and failed to contain or remediate the hazardous substances," the lawsuit reads. "Ultimately, these hazardous substances have migrated off the refinery property and have contaminated the groundwater down gradient of the refinery and within the city, including wells owned by the city and supplying drinking water to the city's inhabitants." The lawsuit goes on to identify sulfolane as one of the substances in question. "The presence of sulfolane contamination in the city's groundwater has rendered that groundwater unfit for human consumption and endangers the public health or welfare, or fish, animals, vegetation or any other part of the natural habitat in which it is found," it reads. The lawsuit cites damage to the local real estate market and the additional costs associated with developing property and building within the contamination plume. It also says the city government has incurred costs associated with the sulfolane contamination. Development within the city will be delayed by the contamination, resulting in less revenue from sales and property taxes, the suit says. The suit mentions other costs resulting from the contamination. The city is seeking to have the contamination cleaned up and to have Flint Hills and Williams Alaska pay the cost of that cleanup. The city also wants restitution for past and future damages, including damage to water wells, loss of income and loss of means to produce income. The city is also seeking punitive damages, to be determined by the court, but only from Williams Alaska, who the lawsuit accuses of acting "with reckless disregard of the rights of, the property of, and the residents of the City." "Based on the information we have, there was some reckless disregard while Williams was in control of that facility," Ward said. "Flint Hills at this point has been willing to work with the community and do so to clean things up. There was a short period of time from when they owned it to when they started with those actions." Flint Hills acquired the refinery from Williams Alaska in 2004. Flint Hills and the state of Alaska last month reached an agreement about sulfolane cleanup methods to be used at the refinery. That agreement is limited to the refinery; it does not extend to the off-site areas of the contamination plume. Nor does it affect the lawsuits pending between the state and Flint Hills regarding the cleanup level and who is responsible for the plume's cleanup.

http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/north-pole-files-lawsuit-over-sulfolane-contamination/article_343cf2ee-75cf-11e4-a15a-3f6ce1701935.html

NEW GUINEA, PORT MORESBY, NOVEMBER 29 2014. PUMA NOW IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

david larson



Puma Energy Holdings has acquired InterOil Corp's oil refinery, fuel terminals and service stations in Papua New Guinea at the price of \$526 million. This marks the first investment for Puma inside the Pacific nation. Puma Energy, based in Singapore has as its largest shareholder Trafigura Beheer BV a commodity trader, is looking to expand across Indonesia to build fuel terminals inside Myanmar said its general manager of Papua New Guinea and Australia Ray Taylor. We are within a growth mode at this time said Taylor, particularly in the region and are open to more entries and organic growth. The InterOil deal will provide Puma Energy with a way to tap into Papua New Guinea's growth while linking the country's market of fuel to the company's global operations. Puma became the largest independent retailer of fuel in Australia after making acquisitions of over \$800 million in 2013. The company said it also plans to add service stations and storage networks. InterOil announced it would use their

proceeds from the sale to fund its business of natural gas exploration as its looks for another export project inside Papua New Guinea along with its French partner Total SA. The sale comes after Puma's unsolicited approach, said InterOil in another statement. Included in the businesses is the Port Moresby Napa refinery that can process 28,000 barrels per day, 30 fuel depots, 52 service stations and a number of aviation sites. The purchases will be paid for by cash and bank facilities already in existence. Puma intends to make more investments in the oil refinery in Papua New Guinea calling it something in its portfolio over the long term. In 1997, Puma Energy was formed and is active in over 45 countries. The Vitol Group, the largest independent oil trader in the world are attempting to develop facilities for fuel storage and retail establishments in Australia as other companies like Royal Dutch Shell shut down refineries.

<http://www.intercooleronline.com/headlines/puma-now-in-papua-new-guinea/22195/>



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USA, UT, SPANISH FORK, NOVEMBER 29 2014. GAS TANKER EXPLOSION CRITICALLY INJURES DRIVER IN SPANISH FORK

david wells,

 **Watch the Video**

- [Gas Tanker Explosion Critically Injures Driver in Spanish Fork](#)
- [Tanker Fire Shuts Down I-15 In Spanish Fork](#)

 **Photo's** [Gas Tanker Explosion Critically Injures Driver in Spanish Fork](#)

The driver of a gasoline tanker was critically injured Friday afternoon in a crash that forced closures at I-15 and US-6 in Spanish Fork. According to the Utah Highway Patrol, the gas tanker was on the exit ramp from southbound I-15 to eastbound US-6 when it off the road, down an embankment, then turned over and exploded around 2:22 p.m. Police said the tanker was carrying approximately 8,500 gallons of gas and was driven by a 28-year-old Colorado man. "[The driver] did have very serious burns over a large percentage of his body," said Sgt. Brett Christensen, Utah Highway Patrol. The resulting fire forced closures on northbound and southbound I-15 at mile post 257. The Utah Department of Transportation reports those lanes have since reopened, but the I-15 connector ramp to US-6 is still closed. UDOT suggests using SR-77 to US-89 as an alternate route. The driver was taken by helicopter to the Burn Center of University Hospital. A hazardous materials team responded to the scene of the crash for cleanup. The victim's name has not been released.

<http://fox13now.com/2014/11/28/semi-trailer-fire-closes-ramps-at-i-15-and-us-6-in-spanish-fork/>

USA, OH, FAIRFIELD TWP, NOVEMBER 29 2014. CREWS CLEAN UP FUEL SPILL IN FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP NEIGHBOURHOOD >> MANAGER SAYS HE SUSPECTS SPILL CAME FROM BURIED TANK

 **Watch the Video** [Cleanup Crews Were At Walden Ponds Golf Course Cleaning Up A Fuel Spill](#)

Crews from Clean Harbors focused on the retention ponds on the course. There are a few ponds that connect and go down through the golf course, and there are some small slicks on each of the ponds. A quarter-mile of the course's waterways were affected, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said. Absorbent booms were being used to cut off the flow of oil, which resembled an orange film, so that it does not contaminate a nearby creek. "As we look out at the back pond, I'd like to see the fountains going again and know that there isn't just muck in there," resident Brenda Schaller said. On Thursday, residents reported an odd odor and that's when the spill was discovered. "That's concerning, it's the first time I'm hearing of it," resident Jamie Wiesman said. Some residents had reported a group of dead fish, but the general manager said he couldn't confirm that. No other wildlife was believed to have been affected. "It's sad to learn that. I mean the wildlife down on the golf course is probably the allure of the neighborhood and we've seen so many cranes and just beautiful animals down there," resident Barbie Gregory-Higgins said. He said he suspected the spill came from a buried fuel tank. The previous owner of the property, before it was a golf course, had a fuel oil tank that was in a vault underground. The Butler County Emergency Management Agency and Ohio EPA were investigating whether that tank sprung a leak, causing the oil to seep into the retention ponds. "We had a zone one hazmat study done just a few years ago for some other development on the golf course, and there's never been anything that's been a red flag and just a couple of days ago, when we had the rains, they suspect that's when a little bit of fuel oil leached through," general manager Andrew Crum said. If crews have to do a burn off through the creek bed, homeowners will be notified ahead of time. "Some people are concerned but I'm personally not. I know they'll do a very good job of treating the water," resident John Carboy said. Officials said the spill is contained and the golf course is open for business. "I'm glad they're working on it and I hope they get it fixed," resident Ron Schaller said. The EPA said the leak had stopped. There was no danger or health risk in the area. "I hope, as residents, we stay informed of the process of what's going on down there for our general welfare as well," Gregory-Higgins said. Cleanup operations will continue throughout the night. The EPA will address the media Saturday at 10 a.m. to update the situation.

<http://www.wlwt.com/news/crews-clean-up-fuel-spill-in-fairfield-township/29968994>

UK, WALES, PRMBROKESHIRE, MILFORD HAVEN, NOVEMBER 29 2014. NOVEMBER 29 2014. MURCO TERMINAL INVESTIGATES CONTAMINATION PROBLEM

john wood

The Murco fuel terminal at Milford Haven is investigating how contaminated fuel was delivered to two west Wales supermarkets. At least 17 cars broke down after motorists bought unleaded petrol from Morrisons forecourts in Carmarthen and Llanelli, and sales of unleaded petrol have been halted at the two stations. A spokesperson for Murco said a number of deliveries of unleaded fuel from its Pembrokeshire refinery may have been contaminated by water. In a statement it said: "We



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are currently carrying out an investigation to determine whether such contamination has occurred at our site and its cause. "Until we complete our investigation we will maintain additional controls to ensure that any fuel leaving the site is free of contamination." A Morrisons spokesman said: "Morrisons sources its unleaded petrol from the Milford Haven refinery, which has confirmed to us that a batch of fuel may have been contaminated with water. "Deliveries to two Morrisons stores – Carmarthen and Llanelli – appear to have been from the affected batch. "As soon as we became aware of the problem we immediately took the unleaded off sale at these sites. "We apologise to those motorists affected and are doing everything we can to support them. Customers affected will be reimbursed for their fuel, vehicle recovery and any repairs which are needed." Motor Fuel Group, which bought Murco's retail business in October and has a supply deal with the Milford Haven refinery, said none of its company owned or dealer sites had been affected.

http://www.forecourtrader.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/9184/Murco_terminal_investigates_contamination_problem.html?utm_source=newsletter_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2BWeekly%2BIssue%2B445

USA, AZ, PHOENIX, NOVEMBER 29 2014. TANKS EXPLODE DURING FIRE AT PHOENIX WELDING SUPPLY BUSINESS

jennifer thomas

 **Watch the Video** [Tanks Explode during Fire at Phoenix Welding Supply Business](#)

 **Photo's [6]** [Tanks Explode during Fire at Phoenix Welding Supply Business](#)

Tanks were exploding as firefighters arrived at a fire at a welding supply business in southwest Phoenix on Thursday. Fire crews responded to the business located in an area near Lincoln Street and 40th Avenue late Thursday morning. Phoenix Fire Department spokesman Capt. Mark Vanacore said tanks were exploding in an outside containment area when they got to the scene. "The explosions could create projectiles," Vanacore said. "Those projectiles are very unpredictable. These houses here are pretty close so we wanted to ensure their safety and get this under control as soon as possible." Crews got the fire under control within an hour and were able to keep the fire from spreading to other tanks. Vanacore did not know if there were any workers at the facility at the time of the fire. There are houses near the business, but no one had to be evacuated and there were no injuries. "There was at least 30 explosions," said resident Mary Martinez. "My sister came and got us and told us to leave. So she grabbed me. I grabbed my mom and we left aw

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/Tanks-explode-during-fire-at-Phoenix-welding-supply-business-284092441.html>

USA, KS, TOPEKA, NOVEMBER 30 2014. FUEL TANK ERUPTS INTO FIREBALL INSIDE TOPEKA BUILDING

nick viviani

pickup truck's gas tank erupted into large fireball while two workers were trying to remove it on Friday night, according to Topeka firefighters. The truck belonged to one of the two men who run the Pancho Auto Repair, 310 SE 15th Street. While they were pulling the tank out, a static charge sparked the gas fumes in the tank which caused the ball of fire. Despite the fireball flashing on them, both men were escaped the blaze unharmed. The building is now being ventilated and the fuel tanks were moved outside. Westar crews were called in as well to try to localize where the electricity to the bottom part of the structure where the fire happened. If they aren't able to localize it, the whole building will have to be shut down.

<http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/Structure-Fire-In-Central-Topeka--284190121.html>

RUSSIA, MOSCOW, NOVEMBER 30 2014. ROSNEFT GETS STAKE IN TOTAL REFINERY IN GERMANY

charles platiau



Russian oil major Rosneft has agreed to take over a 16.67 percent stake from France's Total in an oil refinery in Germany. The deal was struck during the first visit to Russia of Total's new CEO. "This agreement reflects the level of trust and confirms the commitment of Total and Rosneft to a long-term and mutually beneficial relationship," said the head of Rosneft Igor Sechin. "It demonstrates the efficiency of energy cooperation between Europe and Russia," he added. The meeting was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin and representatives of the country's largest oil corporations. Sechin says the deal will strengthen Russia's position in one of the most efficient European refineries, and will give Rosneft an opportunity to reach end consumers in the key European market. After the deal was signed, Rosneft and Total will have around 55 percent of the refinery's share capital,



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he said. At a meeting with the new Total CEO Patrick Pouyanne, President Putin said he expected the oil market will likely to stabilize despite OPEC's refusal to cut output. "The winter is coming, and I am sure in the first quarter, in the middle of the year, the market will become balanced," said Putin. "We are satisfied with it as a whole," he said adding that Moscow did not insist on any other decision. The Russian President says a drop in oil prices after OPEC's decision was an inevitable reaction from the market. "It was clear to us from the very beginning that after the announcement of OPEC's decision to retain its current output the prices would react to it and slightly fall," said Putin. Putin said that Russia met with OPEC representatives before Thursday's meeting. "None of the major energy producers insisted on any particular action for leveling prices, neither did we," he said "We know the oil industry and the energy sector in general are going through hard times. But I think it's not surprising neither for us, nor for you," he added.

<http://rt.com/business/209767-rosneft-share-total-refinery/>

USA, LA, BATON ROUGE, NOVEMBER 30 2014. MAN LOSES LEGS IN EXXON BATON ROUGE REFINERY INCIDENT: LOCAL MEDIA

A contract worker lost his legs in an accident on Thursday at Exxon Mobil Corp's Baton Rouge, Louisiana, refinery, according to a report by WAFB-TV in Baton Rouge. Exxon confirmed a contractor was injured at the refinery on Thursday, but did not confirm the extent of his injuries. "A contractor was injured during the course of regular operations at the Exxon Mobil Baton Rouge Refinery," the company said in a statement. "He was treated at the scene and transported by emergency medical service to a local hospital for further treatment." "We regret that this incident occurred," said Refinery Manager Mark Northcutt in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the contractor and his family." Exxon was investigating the cause the accident.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/28/us-refinery-injury-exxon-mobil-batonrouge-idUSKCN0JC1VE20141128>

ENGLAND, HAMPSHIRE, NOVEMBER 30 2014. ESSO PETROL STATION CLOSED AFTER 'SPILL'

A Hampshire petrol station was closed tonight following a fuel leak. Customers were blocked from entering the area around the Esso service station in Ringwood Road, Totton, until just after 8.10pm. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service who attended the incident said the incident was caused by a broken fuel line.

http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/11634626.Petrol_station_closed_after_spill/

USA, OH, COLUMBUS, NOVEMBER 30 2014. PIPELINE COMPANY MARKWEST FINED FOR REPEATED SPILLS INTO OHIO STREAMS

laura arenschield

It took more than two years, but the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has reached a settlement with a pipeline company that repeatedly spilled thousands of gallons of drilling slurry into wetlands and streams in eastern Ohio. Under the agreement, MarkWest Energy Partners will pay more than \$300,000 in fines for 19 spills in eastern Ohio from September 2012 to November 2013. Of that, \$200,000 will go to the village of Cadiz, near one the largest spills, to pay for upgrades to the Harrison County community's sewer system; \$95,000 will go to the state; and \$25,000 will go to researchers at Ohio State University to help find ways to prevent future pipeline spills. Environmental advocacy groups criticized the EPA last year for dragging its heels. Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler said the settlement took so long to reach in part because of the number of spills. "As we were negotiating this, we just put them all together into one settlement," he said. Negotiations started under former EPA director Scott Nally, who left the agency in January. Butler said he needed to "get up to speed" on the case before the state could reach a settlement. "I wish it would have gone quicker," Butler said. "But it's not because it was not an issue we were paying attention to." The EPA investigation into MarkWest started in September 2012, when drilling slurry — a mix of clay and water — spilled into a creek and wetland in Cadiz, about 120 miles east of Columbus. The slurry isn't toxic, but it can smother fish and plants in streams and wetlands. Less than a month later, more slurry from MarkWest's pipeline-drilling operations spilled into the same wetland. And during the next 13 months, MarkWest's drillers, who were boring holes underground in eastern Ohio to add to the network of pipelines that carry oil and natural gas to processing centers, sent slurry into streams, wetlands and trails 17 additional times. One spill contaminated about 1.5 miles of Boggs Fork, a waterway near Cadiz. The cleanup took more than three months. Another spill resulted in 1,200 gallons of slurry flowing into a Monroe County wetland. Denver-based MarkWest is among a group of companies building a network of pipelines across eastern Ohio. The work is considered a key element to the state's shale-drilling and fracking boom. The company is one of the biggest players in that growing network in Ohio, with more than 350 miles of pipeline crisscrossing the eastern part of the state, at a cost to the



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company of about \$2.2 billion. Christopher Rimkus, an attorney who represents MarkWest, said the spills occurred when drillers encountered empty pockets below ground where the land had been strip-mined for coal. Because so much of eastern and southeastern Ohio was strip-mined, he said, pipeline companies such as MarkWest often can't avoid those pockets. "You'd be hard-pressed to find acreage (in eastern Ohio) that wasn't strip-mined," Rimkus said. He said MarkWest hired crews to clean one of the worst spills, at Jockey Hollow in Harrison County, by hand. He said that area now is a conservation district, meaning it will remain a wetland indefinitely. "That property looks beautiful now," Rimkus said. MarkWest has been responsible for spills in other states, too. West Virginia environmental regulators cited MarkWest in 2013 after a spill near the Ohio River. A landslide ruptured a pipeline, according to West Virginia environmental records, and natural gas spilled into a stream, killing minnows, smallmouth bass and other fish. There have been other spills in Ohio as well. Records show that Utica East Ohio Midstream reported a 500-gallon spill in Clearfork Creek in Harrison County on May 28, 2013, and that Dominion East Ohio Gas reported 14 spills from March 2013 to September 2013. Most of those spills involved pipeline-maintenance work in northeastern Ohio. Butler said the Ohio EPA is working with MarkWest and other pipeline companies to protect the environment. In eastern Ohio, for example, it might make sense to cut through a wetland rather than to dig beneath it, he said. "You would think boring under a wetland might cause less of a problem," Butler said. "(But) what we found is, sometimes, the impacts ... were more than it would be to make an open cut and repair it immediately. "It's a really short amount of time, and we can be really prescriptive about how they put it back."

<http://eaglefordtexas.com/news/id/141003/pipeline-company-markwest-fined-repeated-spills-ohio-streams/>

USA, N.C, HICKORY, NOVEMBER 30 2014. TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS IN N.W. HICKORY



an overturned tanker truck on 6th Street N.W.

An 18-wheel tanker truck flipped over on 6th Street N.W. in Hickory (also known as Lake Road) in the curves in front of the Mallard Creek condos today, just before the bridge near Quail Run. Hickory Police expected the road to remain closed at least until dark, perhaps later. No injuries were reported. Local residents reported smelling diesel fuel after the accident. A septic truck was reportedly pumping fuel from the tanker.

<http://www.whky.com/archive/item/3992-tanker-truck-overtURNS-in-n-w-hickory#.VHpHUIuUdu4>

TURKEY, KARAMAN, ERMENEK, NOVEMBER 30 2014. ERMENEK COAL MINERS DIED DUE TO METHANE GAS POISONING, NOT DROWNING



Snow covered the neighborhood of the Ermenek coal mine, in which eight miners are still trapped.

Autopsies performed on the recovered bodies of mine workers who became trapped in a coal mine near Ermenek, Karaman province, on Oct. 28 have determined that the cause of death of the miners was not drowning in the flooded mine but poisoning by methane gas. A newly released autopsy report from Ermenek State Hospital shows that the eight miners who were recovered 22 days after the accident waited for 15 hours to be rescued huddled close to each other, leaning on one of the mine's walls. According to the report, all the

miners, including the two whose bodies were recovered on the 10th day, did not drown when the mine was flooded with water but died due to poisoning from exposure to methane gas. According to experts, refuge chambers, which are compulsory for mining companies to build for miners' safety in many countries around the world, could have saved the lives of the 18 trapped miners in Ermenek. The miners could have survived for an extended period of time, even up to 30 days, if the owners of the mine, Has Şekerler Mining Ltd., had invested in refuge chambers, which cost TL 530,000 (\$250,000). The obligation for mines to have refuge chambers was put on the agenda after a mining accident in Soma killed 301 miners in May. On July 10, Parliament's Planning and Budget Commission rejected a proposal by the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP)



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to add an article to a 150-article omnibus bill to ensure that the construction of refuge chambers is compulsory in mines, as commission members from the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) voted against it. The Ermenek Chief Public Prosecutor's Office started an administrative investigation against the General Directorate of Mining Affairs, using the first expert report into the incident which found the directorate responsible for the accident. The office sent a letter to the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Labor to determine the identities of the personnel responsible for the accident. Eight miners remain trapped inside the Ermenek mine as the efforts to reach them have proven harder than expected due to increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the mine and decreasing levels of oxygen. The arrival of winter also makes rescue operations more difficult.

http://www.todayszaman.com/national_ermenek-coal-miners-died-due-to-methane-gas-poisoning-not-drowning_365572.html

ENGLAND, KENT, LYMINGE, NOVEMBER 30 2014. WINCH USED BY FIREFIGHTERS TO FREE CAR WEDGED INTO FUEL TANKER IN LONGAGE HILL, LYMINGE.

sam lennon

A car and a fuel tanker became wedged together in an accident in a country lane. Firefighters had to use a winch to free the car at Longage Hill, Lyminge. Police had first been called at about 10.20am today. A Kent Police spokesman said: "No injuries were reported and officers attended to assist with road closure while the vehicle was recovered." The road was re-opened just before 12.42pm. A spokesman for Kent Fire and Rescue Service said: "We were called to a fuel tanker and car that had become wedged. Firefighters used a winch to free the car. No fuel leaks were caused."

<http://www.kentonline.co.uk/folkestone/news/car-and-fuel-tanker-wedged-27776/>

USA, TX, LA PORTE, NOVEMBER 30 2014. DUPONT: 23K POUNDS OF TOXIC GAS ESCAPED FROM PLANT

About 23,000 pounds of a flammable, acidic, toxic chemical escaped in the building where four DuPont workers recently died at a pesticide plant in La Porte, the company reported Friday. That amount of gas could quickly displace the air in an enclosed space, leading to asphyxiation, which medical examiners identified as the cause of the workers' deaths. Although the company has not disclosed how quickly the liquid material escaped and vaporized, it's enough that, if it happened at once, it could fill two Olympic-sized swimming pools. "The displacement of oxygen would be very severe and very quick," said a former DuPont engineer familiar with the plant and who spoke on the condition of anonymity, adding "within the time it takes you to take a couple of breaths ... that's how quick it is, and you have no idea what's happening to you. Just all of the sudden you're unconscious." The company was required to submit the report to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Although DuPont disclosed the amount of gas in a three-paragraph news release, it declined to release the full report. Commission offices were closed Friday. The Nov. 15 release of methyl mercaptan, a foul-smelling gas that, besides its use in pesticide production, is sometimes used to odorize natural gas, is under investigation by the [U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board](#). While details of the accident are still emerging, a Chronicle investigation found the pesticide production facility had been plagued with recurring maintenance problems and that workers lacked quick access to breathing equipment that would have given them a better chance at survival. Those killed included [Crystle Rae Wise](#), 53, the first to alert others of a leak; [Wade Baker](#), 60, a longtime supervisor; and brothers Gilbert and [Robert Tisnado](#), 48 and 39, respectively. Family members and their attorneys said some of the workers who died were trying to help the others escape. They and the company have indicated a faulty valve may have been involved in the release. The gas escaped from pipes and vessels inside the pesticide unit, DuPont spokesman Aaron Woods said. That methyl mercaptan leaked and killed workers was a tragic irony in a plant that was upgraded years ago to curb the hazards of what's considered a much deadlier chemical: methyl isocyanate, or MIC. It's the chemical responsible for initially killing more than 2,200 people after escaping an Indian pesticide plant in 1984, causing lingering injuries and deaths for thousands more in the world's worst industrial disaster. Even tiny concentrations of the chemical can be deadly. DuPont engineers won an industry award for upgrades that allowed the company to produce and consume small batches of MIC, eliminating the need to store and transport it. Methyl mercaptan, on the other hand, had always been viewed as a "pussycat chemical" by comparison, the former engineer said. The La Porte plant routinely contained tens of thousands of pounds of the mercaptan, according to government documents. Outdoors, it poses the least threat. County officials monitoring air around La Porte after the release detected none of the gas, although residents could smell it because the human nose detects it at levels so small instruments cannot. Woods said the gas that built up inside the pesticide building dissipated over time as it escaped through openings in the structure. Once released to air, it rapidly degrades, he said.

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/DuPont-says-23-000-pounds-of-toxic-gas-escaped-5923055.php>



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INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, ULHASNAGAR, NOVEMBER 30 2014. GAS LEAK IN ULHASNAGAR, OVER 300 PEOPLE AFFECTED

Around 191 people were admitted to Ulhasnagar's Central Hospital at 5 am on Saturday after some chemical effluents were released in a nearby river. A poisonous gas leak incident has affected more than 200 people in and around Ulhasnagar and Ambarnath belt as reported. The incident have already created intense panic situation among the local residents which led them to evacuate from the location on temporary basis. The incident has been reported at Ambarnath Police station as well as at Central police station in Ulhasnagar, as the area falls under the industrial belt of both Ulhasnagar and Ambarnath. At around 5 am on Saturday morning, people started turning up at the hospital complaining of nausea, headache, stomach ache and dizziness. While all of them were treated upon, only 38 have been admitted and are said to be stable. According to senior PI of the Ambarnath police station, a report is being drafted by the MPCB after which an FIR may be filed later in the day. Samples of the contaminated water have been collected for inspection. There has been no instance of death reported as yet, however, sources indicate that close to 350 people have been hospitalized due to exposure to this poisonous gas. The Ambarnath police filed an FIR against unknown persons in the Ulhasnagar toxic fumes case. The police booked the unknown accused under IPC sections 277 (Fouling water of public spring or reservoir), 278 (Making atmosphere noxious to health) and 336 (Act endangering life or personal safety of others).

<https://www.google.com.au/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=where%20is%20Ulhasnagar%2C>

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, AMBERNATH, NOVEMBER 30 2014. 300 TAKEN ILL AFTER TANKER DISCHARGES EFFLUENTS INTO NULLAH IN THANE DISTRICT

sajana nambiar



Fire brigade officers spray water in the nullah after a tanker discharged effluents into it, near Ulhasnagar.

More than 300 people were taken ill with complaints of uneasiness, vomiting, fainting, breathing difficulties and headache after a tanker discharged effluents into a nullah near Vadol village in Ambarnath MIDC in the early hours of Saturday. Following check-ups, more than 50 people were admitted to Ulhasnagar's Central Hospital. At around 3am on Saturday, fumes from the effluents caused several residents in Ulhasnagar No 3, Ramesh Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Sita Nagar, Renuka Society and Ayodhya Nagar to faint or feel uneasy. "Every night, a foul smell emanates from the nullah after tankers discharge some effluents in it. This time, the smell was so strong that some residents fell ill," said Shriprasad Pun, 34, a resident of Vadol village. "I left for work around

9am after having breakfast with my wife. Later, I got a call saying she had fainted. I took her to the hospital." The residents have been complaining about the foul smell on a daily basis. "Tankers from other states come here to discharge effluents into the nullahs and this has been happening since years. Things which are banned in other places are discharged here just because we don't have a strong body to take stringent action. People could be killed due to this, it's God's grace that people survived this tragedy. I hope the authorities will wake up and find some solution for this," said Madhukar Panchal, a resident. After several such cases were reported, panic spread in the area, leading residents to temporarily evacuate. A team of doctors from Central Hospital reached the affected areas and started checking on patients. "All of them are out of danger as they left the polluted area in time," said Ratna Raokhande, deputy director of Central Hospital. Few patients were admitted to other hospitals near Ulhasnagar. The Central Hospital, playing a major role, looked after the patients by sending ambulances and team of doctors on time. Poonam Soni, who was admitted along with her five-month-old baby, said, "My baby, Ayush, suddenly stopped breathing for a while and I got worried. Even I was suffering from vomiting at around 4am in the morning. I took my baby to the hospital. Anything could have happened to him if he was not treated on time." The incident was reported at Ambarnath police station as well as at Central police station in Ulhasnagar. The Ambarnath police have tracked down the details of the tanker which had discharged the effluents and are now trying to locate the tanker's owner. The Kalyan division of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has taken samples from the nullah and are investigating what kind of chemical was discharged into the water. "The chemicals are not discharged by companies in Ambarnath. It is done by a tanker which belongs to an area outside Kalyan. We have collected the samples from two places. We will help the police in the investigation and we shall also start night patrolling in these areas to keep a watch on such tankers" MPCB sub-regional officer Nitin Shinde



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informed. PI Balkrishna Wagh, investigation officer said, "We have got the registration number of the tanker - MH 43E 1336. We are trying to find out more details. Once the owner of the tanker is traced, we will take due action."

How it Unfolded

- In the early hours of Saturday, a tanker discharged effluents in a nullah near Vadol village in Ambarnath MIDC
- Between 3am and 5am, residents in nearby areas began feeling queasy. Some of them even fainted
- Residents have complained about the foul smell emanating from tanker discharges for years. However, this is the first time that people have fallen ill because of the fumes
- A fire department team said it had managed to wash out most of the effluent from the nullah by the evening

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/mumbai/thane-50-admitted-after-tanker-discharges-effluents-into-ulhasnagar-nullah/article1-1291532.aspx>

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, TALEGAON DABHADE, NOVEMBER 30 2014. MUMBAI-PUNE TRAFFIC HIT AS GAS TANKER OVERTURNS

Traffic on the Pune-Mumbai highway was severely hit after a gas tanker overturned and developed a leak at Chakan phata in Talegaon Dabhade around 2.45am on Saturday. Police diverted the traffic coming from Pune and Mumbai through the Expressway via Valvan bridge in Lonavla. Traffic movement returned to normal only around 9.10am, after the leak was plugged and the tanker moved to the side of the road. "The tanker was on its way to Sangli. The driver lost control while overtaking," said sub-inspector Santosh Vairagade of the highway safety patrol in Vadgaon Maval. "We summoned four cranes, four fire brigade units and chemical experts," he said. The gas did not pose any danger, he said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Mumbai-Pune-traffic-hit-as-gas-tanker-overturns/articleshow/45322492.cms>

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, AMBERNATH, NOVEMBER 30 2014. POISONOUS GAS PUTS 500 LIVES IN DANGER IN ULHASNAGAR

sadaguru pandit



The crater formed near Ulhas river. 500 Ulhasnagar residents complain of nausea and respiratory problems after alleged dumping of chemicals in the Ulhas River

On Saturday morning, Ulhasnagar residents woke up feeling nauseous, giddy, and suffering from severe headache, vomiting, respiratory problems and indigestion. The cause? Tankers had allegedly dumped poisonous chemicals in the Ulhas River around 2.30 am. The Ulhasnagar Central Hospital and four other hospitals had a hectic morning as they had to deal with a constant inflow of patients. A team of four specialists from JJ Hospital were also dispatched to attend to the patients. Ambarnath police, under whose jurisdiction the area falls, have already filed a First Incident Report (FIR) against unknown individuals, since the accused are yet to be identified.

Poisonous Vapours

One of the patients, Deepak Nupe, kept under observation at Ulhasnagar Central Hospital said, "I was on my way to work when I saw two people from my neighbourhood pass out. Till the time I could reach out to help, it became difficult for me to breath and I, too, fainted. Next thing I remember is waking up in the hospital." At the last count, more than 500 people had received treatment at various hospitals. Dr Ashok Nandapurkar, civil surgeon at Ulhasnagar Central Hospital, said they had enough resources to tackle the situation. "All the patients narrated similar complications. We admitted 25 patients as their condition was serious, while the rest were sent home after primary treatment." However, Nandapurkar added that had the patients not reached on time, the situation would've turned much more serious.

Nothing New

When Sunday mid-day visited the bank of the river, we saw a huge crater, allegedly formed due to constant release of the chemical content in the river. Local residents confirmed that around five trucks have been making visits every alternate day to the spot in order to dump the chemicals. "This is nothing new for us, it's been going on since a year. The frequency of the tanker visits has reduced, but one can still spot them on alternate days," said Ishwar Singh, owner of Sara engineering, a bus-building factory that is located right opposite the alleged chemical release point. "Our employees have complained about the issue multiple times. We have even sent letters to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, but till date no action has been taken



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against this illegal activity, he added. Even the authorities at Maharashtra Pollution Control Board had no clue about the incident. An official from MPCB who rushed to inspect the point of chemical release said, "The content of the chemical can only be known after the inspection is completed after 48 hours."

<http://www.mid-day.com/articles/poisonous-gas-puts-500-lives-in-danger-in-ulhasnagar/15802176>

INDIA, MADHYA PRADESH, MANDIDEEP, NOVEMBER 30 2014. 44 HOSPITALISED AFTER CHLORINE LEAKS FROM MANDIDEEP FACTORY



A doctor examines the victims who were hospitalised after the gas leak in Mandideep.

A gas leak from a factory in Mandideep township had 44 people taken ill on Saturday, in an incident that spread panic in the region that falls on the outskirts of Bhopal. Police said the leak – possibly that of chlorine gas -- took place from a chemical factory, which reached the workers of another facility who were outside for lunch. The incident comes barely days before the state marks the 30th anniversary of the gas leak in Bhopal, the world's worst industrial disaster. Panic gripped the Mandideep township when the affected started coughing and vomiting. Police and fire personnel were rushed to the spot after which senior officials were called in. Initial investigation revealed the leak took place from Speciality Organics private limited's factory. Those hospitalised belonged to Goyal batteries, which is located nearby. "In all, around 44 persons were affected.

The condition of none of them is critical", said a police officer. "It seems that the leakage took place from a chlorine cylinder. After inquiry, a case may be registered," he added. Ajay Sahu, Anil Jha and Hira Mani were identified as those severely affected and were taken to a hospital in Bhopal. The collector of Raissen, the district within which the township falls, JK Jain said an inquiry would be conducted to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the entire incident.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/bhopal/mp-44-hospitalised-as-gas-leaks-from-chemical-factory-in-mandideep/article1-1291585.aspx>

USA, N.Y, BERKSHIRE SPUR, NOVEMBER 30 2014. TANKER ROLLOVER, LEAK STOP TRAFFIC *brittany horn*

Eastbound lanes of Berkshire spur close for about 9 hours after driver takes turn too fast, troopers say. A tanker truck rollover accompanied by a hazardous material spill closed a stretch of the state Thruway to eastbound traffic for about nine hours Saturday, causing delays and forcing Thanksgiving weekend travelers to detour around exits of the Berkshire spur. [State Police](#) said they responded to calls about the truck crash just before 9 a.m. at mile marker B6.6 near the B1 exit on I-90. The incident closed down both eastbound lanes of the I-90 Berkshire Connector from exit 21A on I-87 to Exit B2, Thruway spokesman [Dan Weiller](#) said. The eastbound lanes reopened just before 6 p.m. Westbound traffic was not affected. The truck was headed to Massachusetts carrying about 11,000 gallons of the fluid and the lengthy road closure resulted because the tanker leaked about 2,000 gallons of gasoline additive grade alcohol onto the road, which need to be cleaned up, state [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) spokesperson [Lori Severino](#) said. The driver, [Christopher W. Webb](#), 28, was going too fast around a ramp entering the spur and the truck rolled, blocking the two lanes, troopers said. Webb was hospitalized for non-life-threatening injuries, police said. DEC Spill Response crew, a Rensselaer County hazmat team and the [South Schodack Fire Department](#) aided in cleanup.

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Tractor-trailer-roll-over-closes-Thruway-5924283.php>

CANADA, ALTA, RED EARTH CREEK, DECEMBER 2 2014. ALBERTA PIPELINE SPILLS 60,000 LITRES OF CRUDE INTO MUSKEG, SAYS ENERGY REGULATOR

The Alberta Energy Regulator says close to 60,000 litres of crude oil have spilled into muskeg in the province's north. An incident report by the regulator states that a mechanical failure was reported Thursday at a Canadian Natural Resources Limited (TSX:CNQ) pipeline approximately 27 kilometres north of Red Earth Creek. The report says there are no reports of impact to wildlife and that a cleanup has begun. Red Earth Creek is over 350 kilometres northwest of Edmonton. Carrie Rosa, a spokeswoman for the regulator, says officials have been delayed reaching the scene due to poor weather in the last few days. No one from Canadian Natural Resources could be reached on Saturday for comment. In April, a pipeline owned by the



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company spilled 70,000 litres of oil and processed water in the region. The Alberta Energy Regulator said at the time that the spill northwest of Slave Lake was not near any people, water or wildlife.

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/11/29/alberta-pipeline-spill-muskeg_n_6242102.html

INDIA, RAJASTHAN, SIROHI, DECEMBER 2 2014. THREE PEOPLE BURNT ALIVE AFTER CHEMICAL TANKER COLLIDES WITH MOTORBIKE

 **Photo's [5]** [3 People Burnt Alive after Chemical Tanker Collision](#)



A fatal accident after the collision between a motorbike and a chemical tanker burnt three people alive on Saturday near Beawar- Pindwara highway. The chemical tanker caught fire after the collision, also engulfed the three people on the highway. The deceased have been identified as Ruparam, Punaram and Wagram. According to the eyewitnesses, the three youths were travelling on bike when the mishap took place. However, the family members said that they were waiting near the parked bike for another vehicle.

<http://daily.bhaskar.com/news/RAJ-JPR-chemical-tanker-collides-with-motorbike-4824445-PHO.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, DECEMBER 2 2014. REPORT ON DANGEROUS GOODS REPORT FLAWED, SAY BOTANY CITY COUNCIL AND RESIDENTS

natalie o'brien



Dangerous route: Denison street is frequented by trucks carrying chemicals to and from Botany Industrial Park.

A dangerous goods report which is supposed to outline the potential risk to residents and businesses from hazardous chemicals being trucked through the middle of their suburb has been criticised as "flawed" and unrealistic. A "dangerous goods" transport study supposed to outline risks of fatality and injury from hazardous chemicals being trucked through the middle of Botany, has been criticised as "flawed" and unworkable. Dangerous goods including chlorine, explosives, LPG and petroleum are regularly transported along Denison Street to and from Port Botany, with some being taken in and out of the Botany Industrial

Park which houses the chemical and plastics companies Orica, Qenos and Huntsman. The report, which was commissioned by the Department of Planning and the Botany City Council, has been attacked for making recommendations that "cannot be complied with and for completely omitting risk assessment of injury in the wake of an incident or accident. Residents, business owners and the Botany council are angry that representatives from the Department of Planning have refused to turn up to the Botany Council's Risk Committee meetings to discuss the report's shortcomings. The Mayor of Botany, Ben Keneally said that the council was extremely dissatisfied with the department and how it has handled this whole process. "Initially the department did not even want to consider undertaking a quantitative risk assessment. Then they took an extraordinary length of time to produce a final draft," said Mr Keneally. "Yet the DoP continue to give our residents the run-around. It neglected to send a representative to the meeting held by Council's Risk Committee to answer a number of questions and discuss aspects of the report. This is imperative as there are recommendations in the draft report that are flawed and simply cannot be complied with." "This is simply not good enough." A spokeswoman for the department said it had met with the council and the committee several times and directly consulted with them on the draft report, seeking their feedback. "The department and the independent consultant will consider all submissions and concerns. The consultant will then finalise the report. When the final report is ready the department will publish it online," she said. The risk review was prompted by a proposal to build a new Bunnings store on one of the dangerous goods routes. There have been repeated concerns from residents and business



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owners that the number of people attracted to the store would result in unacceptable levels of risk because it is located on Denison Street, a deemed dangerous goods route which has trucks carrying chemicals, including chlorine, to and from the Botany Industrial Park. Last year the council recommended refusing the proposed Bunnings development because its application did not adequately address traffic risk and noise concerns and a review of an initial risk reported submitted for Bunnings was criticised for a lack of proper assessment leading to the latest dangerous goods transport being carried out. But now the council's own risk consultant has raised "significant issues" about the new report, including that some of the recommendations are unrealistic and cannot be complied with. Steve Haigh, from the Hillsdale Eastgardens Residents Action group, said the risk assessment is the first time the department had publically released any transport risk assessment for the vicinity of the Botany/Randwick industrial complex. But he considers that "the report has no value to developers, consultants, decision-makers and the community and does not contribute to the protection of the people and their environment".

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/report-on-dangerous-goods-report-flawed-say-botany-city-council-and-residents-20141130-11pxwn.html>

INDIA, MADHYA PRADESH, BHOPAL, DECEMBER 2 2014. 18,000 TONNES OF TOXIC WASTE STILL IN UC PLANT



The tens of thousands who survived the leak of methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas from the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal on the night of Dec 2-3, 1984 not only battle the after-effects but also live with an unsavoury legacy: 18,000 tonnes of toxic waste in the defunct plant that is polluting the environment and contaminating the soil and ground water. The nearly 2,000 truckloads of the waste had been accumulating for nearly 15 years before the world's worst industrial disaster struck, killing over 3,000 people immediately and thousands others over the years due to related causes. Union Carbide had set up the pesticide plant in 1969. Twenty-one ponds were dug to dispose of the toxic effluent from the plant. The ponds were in use till 1977 when they proved to be inadequate due to the increasing volume of effluent from the plant. This necessitated a 32-acre solar evaporation pond, soon followed by two more such. Water from the effluent in these ponds got evaporated, leaving behind the

harmful chemicals. In 1996, waste from the three ponds was gathered in one pond and covered with soil. This waste exceeds 18,000 tonnes, Satinath Shadangi, a member of rights body Bhopal Group for Information and Action, told IANS. It was only when various research showed that this waste was contaminating the soil and ground water and its spread was increasing over time that urgent steps were planned to destroy it, Shadangi said. Alok Pratap Singh, who has been crusading for the rights of the victims of the gas tragedy, moved the Jabalpur High Court in July 2004 for disposal of the waste. The court constituted a task force to make recommendations on this. In June 2005, the state government, as directed by the high court, tasked Ramky Enviro Engineers at Pithampur near Indore, to rid the Union Carbide plant of the waste. The company deposited 346 tonnes of pesticide and other chemicals and 39 tonnes of lime sludge in a warehouse in the pesticide plant. As recommended by the task force, the high court in October 2006 ordered that the 385 tonnes of waste be incinerated at the Ankleshwar plant of Bharuch Environmental Infrastructure Limited in Gujarat. After widespread opposition to the move, the Madhya Pradesh government moved the Supreme Court in August 2008. In October 2009 the task force decided to send the waste to Pithampur in the state instead of Ankleshwar. In January 2010, the Supreme Court directed that the waste be incinerated in Pithampur and asked the high court to oversee the entire process. However, due to protests in villages surrounding Pithampur, the Madhya Pradesh government wrote to the central government in August 2010 expressing its inability to send the waste. The central government moved the Madhya Pradesh High Court in May 2011 seeking a direction that the waste be incinerated at a Nagpur facility of the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The high court asked the state government to do so. Then, on a plea of the Vidarbha Environmental Action Group, the Mumbai High Court in July 2011 stayed its counterpart's order. Officials of the pollution control boards of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra met in February 2012 and decided that 346 tonnes of the waste would be incinerated at Pithampur. In the meantime, a German company, GEZ, expressed interest in destroying the waste in Hamburg following which the central government moved the Supreme Court. The court directed the state government in April 2012 to send the waste to Germany, but later stayed this decision. A Group of Ministers (GoM) also approved incineration of the waste in Germany. But this plan too had to be dropped due to opposition in that country. In October 2012, the GoM decided that the waste would be destroyed in Pithampur. R.A. Khandelwal, commissioner, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department, told IANS: "The Supreme Court in



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April 2014 ordered that 10 tonnes of waste be incinerated at Pithampur on a trial basis." However, due to technical glitches in the incinerator, the waste has not been sent to Pithampur. It's a different matter that American courts have been moved for damages, but the question that now begs an answer is: If 346 tonnes of waste cannot be disposed off, what happens to the remaining 18,000 tonnes lying buried in the solar evaporation pond and elsewhere in the plant

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/444759/18000-tonnes-toxic-waste-still.html>

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, PUNE, DECEMBER 2 2014. TRAFFIC HIT AS GAS TANKER OVERTURNS ON HIGHWAY

Traffic on the Pune-Mumbai highway was severely hit after a gas tanker overturned and developed a leak at Chakan phata in Talegaon Dabhade around 2.45am on Saturday. Police diverted the traffic coming from Pune and Mumbai through the expressway via Valvan bridge in Lonavla. Traffic movement returned to normal only around 9.10am, after the gas leak was plugged and the tanker moved to the side of the road. "The gas tanker was on the way to Sangli from Mumbai via Pune. The driver lost control over the vehicle while overtaking another vehicle," said sub-inspector Santosh Vairagade of the highway safety patrol in Vadgaon Maval.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/Traffic-hit-as-gas-tanker-overtURNS-on-highway/articleshow/45322939.cms>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, DECEMBER 2 2014. ON 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FATAL CHEMICAL RELEASE THAT KILLED THOUSANDS IN BHOPAL, INDIA, CSB SAFETY MESSAGE WARNS IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN

 **Watch the Video** [Reflections on Bhopal after 30 Years](#)



CSB Chairperson Says More Must be Done to Improve Process Safety Regulations in the U.S. to Prevent the Next Accident from Occurring. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today released a [short video safety](#)

[message](#) marking the 30th anniversary of history's worst industrial accident. The tragedy occurred at the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, India and killed thousands of people. The CSB's safety message examines recent incidents in the U.S. three decades after this deadly event and discusses how more must be done to prevent similar accidents from occurring. [The video entitled "Reflections on Bhopal After Thirty Years"](#) chronicles how on December 2, 1984, water inadvertently entered a storage tank containing more than 80,000 pounds of methyl isocyanate, or MIC, which reacts violently with water. A subsequent runaway reaction overheated the tank and resulted in a massive toxic gas release. A dense, lethal cloud drifted over the city of Bhopal exposing hundreds of thousands of people to deadly MIC and other chemicals. An estimated 3,800 people died immediately, and tens of thousands were injured. Eventually thousands more died from toxic gas-related illnesses – the release eventually killed tens of thousands of people. In the wake of Bhopal, Congress enacted new laws to increase chemical emergency preparedness and to require companies to develop process safety and risk management programs, and to report their worst-case release scenarios. Congress also established the Chemical Safety Board to independently investigate chemical accidents and recommend measures to prevent such catastrophic accidents. But despite these actions in the 1990's, the United States continues to experience serious chemical accidents. In the video, CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso says, "Process safety management regulations are in need of reform. There must be more emphasis on preventing the occurrence of major chemical accidents through safer design. Responding to emergencies and punishing people after the fact are not enough. In the past few years, CSB investigations have found deficiencies in design and process safety management similar to those uncovered in Bhopal. The video points out that a 2008 explosion killing two workers and injuring eight others at a pesticide plant in Institute, West Virginia found that incomplete operator training and procedures similar to Union Carbide's at Bhopal. Furthermore, had the Institute plant vessel that exploded taken a different trajectory, pieces of it could have struck piping connected to a storage tank containing 13,700 pounds of MIC, potentially causing a large release of the same highly toxic chemical that killed thousands in Bhopal. The safety message discusses a number of additional accidents currently investigated or previously investigated by the CSB which ultimately could have been prevented had current federal and state regulations focused on preventative measures or continuously reducing process risks. To enhance safety in the chemical industry, the Board has voted to include "Modernize U.S. Process Safety Management Regulations" on the CSB's list of most wanted safety improvements. Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso concludes the video with the following call to industry and regulators, "Since Bhopal, both industry and government have increased their efforts to prevent major chemical accidents. But multiple CSB investigations show that much more needs to be done to assure that future tragedies will be avoided."

<http://www.idevmail.net/message.aspx?d=86&m=1528&e=petenv@optusnet.com.au&r=9130741>



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USA, TX, AUSTIN, DECEMBER 2 2014. DUPONT TRAGEDY ONE OF MANY TOXIC GAS RELEASES

neena satija, jim malewitz & marcos vanetta



A Saturday morning tragedy introduced Texans to an invisible killer. Methyl mercaptan, a foul-smelling gas, overwhelmed five workers at the DuPont chemical plant in La Porte on Nov. 15, killing four – including two brothers – and sending another to the hospital. Such rapid deaths from toxic chemical exposure are rare, experts say. But dozens of times in the past two years, a Texas Tribune analysis shows, plants across Texas have reported accidentally releasing gases that can be deadly in relatively small amounts. Thousands – and even millions – of pounds of toxic chemicals beyond what permits allow have spewed from facilities. While companies considered many of those events “close calls” that prompted evacuations at worst, some triggered deadly explosions that, in turn, caused even more gas to be released. “The bounty that we get from all this business has got kind of a dark side,” said Rock Owens, an environmental

attorney for Harris County, home to the Houston Ship Channel, whose oil refineries make up 12 percent of the nation's refining capacity. “We have a very high concentration of dangerous industry here, and I don't think the state has the resources to address it.” The Tribune analyzed an Texas Commission on Environmental Quality inventory of chemical releases higher than what the law allows. The data relies on industry reporting. Since 2009, Texas chemical manufacturers have reported at least 19 other unauthorized releases of methyl mercaptan, the analysis found. Methyl mercaptan can cause nausea, vomiting and fluid buildup in the lungs. Its rotten-egg smell wafted over La Porte for at least 24 hours, but county health experts said the leak posed little risk to the community because even trace amounts carry the smell. DuPont's was the only methyl mercaptan release that killed or injured workers in the past five years, according to state and federal data. The gas, however, is among hundreds of dangerous chemicals plants spew across Texas. “There are a lot of compounds where you wouldn't necessarily have four or five people die, but that doesn't mean that those releases aren't harmful,” said Elena Craft, a health scientist who specializes in air pollution at the Environmental Defense Fund, an advocacy group. “We need to limit these massive amounts of release. I mean, they're highly toxic compounds.” Industry officials say Texas plants have grown safer in recent decades as companies pour millions of dollars into training and protective gear. They say the toxic releases need context. After all, Texas is huge – and so are its chemical manufacturers. “Our industry takes every process safety incident very seriously,” Hector Rivero, president and CEO of the Texas Chemical Council, said in a page-long statement that offered “deepest sympathies,” to those affected by the DuPont leak. He also said the industry's record is improving on several safety measures, but did not provide a source for the data. Alex Cuculis, a researcher in Houston who used to work for Shell, agreed. “I think most petrochem workers, myself included, felt that we were much more likely to be killed in an accident driving to work than from a plant explosion,” Cuculis said. “I think the stats support that pretty well.” Still, critics worry safety culture at plants can shrivel after just a few months of smooth operations and “near misses.” The results, they say, can mirror what happened at DuPont. “You'll have a company who will have a good run, but then something like this will happen,” said Robert Morse, a Houston lawyer who has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in industrial accident cases. “It's been my experience that DuPont probably runs a better shop than most companies, but they clearly dropped the ball here.” Texas' hands-off regulatory philosophy doesn't help, Morse and others say. “The penalty structure here for an event like this – depending on how many violations you can carve out of a horrible incident like this – would range from \$50 per day per violation to \$25,000 per day per violation,” Owens said. “If you're a major company, that's not even as significant as a parking ticket is to deal with for a normal household.” In the past two years, several industrial plants reported dozens of unauthorized releases of hydrogen cyanide, a chemical that interferes with organs' oxygen use and is [deadly](#) in high concentrations. And in at least 10 instances, plants released 65 pounds or more of the gas. That was [enough](#) to send six workers to the hospital after an industrial plant leak on Texas' Gulf Coast last February. In that case, Alvin-based Ascend Performance Materials, a producer of carpet and textile fibers, reported a venting issue that [released](#) 65 pounds of hydrogen cyanide. That prompted a “shelter in place order,” and the hospitalizations, according to a federal [incident report](#). The Occupational Safety and Health Administration [fined](#) Ascend \$37,000, which the company is appealing. Not all information on TCEQ enforcement is readily available, but agency records show that Ascend [paid](#) the agency a \$6,120 for leaking 178 pounds of hydrogen cyanide in 2011 — three years before six workers were hospitalized. The company told regulators it had replaced some electrical equipment and started a maintenance inspection program. In 2012, Invista, an Orange County fiber producer, [released](#) at least 14 pounds of hydrogen cyanide from a leaky valve. That prompted an evacuation and sent one person to the hospital, federal [reports](#) show. About a year later,



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workers fled the plant after [another](#) such leak. A few months after that, regulators [fined](#) the company \$5,251 for the 2012 incident and asked for an additional \$5,000 that would go toward a state energy efficiency program. When it comes to leaks of toxic chemicals like volatile organic compounds — which can cause cancer due to long-term exposure or cause dizziness, throat and eye irritation, or other impacts upon short-term exposure — hospitalizations are less likely. But they have happened in at least a few instances, federal data show. In May, loose bolts on a gasoline pump suction strainer at a BASF chemical manufacturing plant in Port Arthur [released](#) a number of different volatile organic compounds, or toxic chemicals that also contribute to ozone pollution, the company reported. A federal incident report shows that [one person](#) went to the hospital. Acute short-term exposure to one of the compounds, [toluene](#), can affect the central nervous system. The plant also released [benzene](#), a known carcinogen and occupational hazard. Those weren't the first such releases at the plant. In the two years prior to that incident, BASF reported unauthorized emissions of benzene and other volatile organic compounds at least five other times. That included [one release](#) of more than 1,500 pounds of benzene in August 2013 after pressure gauges rupture and caused a leak. It [appears](#) that the TCEQ fined the company for such emissions around that time, but specific records were not immediately available. In one of the larger events reported in recent years, Shell Oil's Deer Park refinery [released](#) close to 40,000 pounds of benzene in January 2013. Along with other volatile organic compounds, the substance vented out of an improperly operated valve for 15 days before a plant worker noticed. It [paid](#) the TCEQ \$200,000 for that and other related emissions violations, along with contributing money to a Houston-area air-monitoring project. Repeated events like that one impact public health, Craft said. "You've got folks that are getting routine exposure to benzene, and after some certain number of years there's a chance they're going to end up with cancer," she said. "It all adds up." For their part, Texas regulators say they swiftly respond to chemical leaks — within their power. "In emergency response events, TCEQ's role is to rapidly provide personnel, expertise, and equipment, as necessary, to assess the extent of public exposure to hazardous materials, such as monitoring offsite air quality," Terry Clawson, a TCEQ spokesman, said in an email. Clawson added that this past year, the agency found that 98 percent of all facilities that emit air pollutants that it inspected were in compliance.

Reference Material: [Texas Chemical Council Statement to Texas Tribune](#) PDF (101.6 KB)

<https://www.texastribune.org/2014/11/20/gas-killed-dupont-workers-not-rare-texas/>

ENGLAND, LONDON, DECEMBER 2 2014. RUMORS RISE AGAIN OF BID FOR BP >> SPECULATION CITES MORE THAN ONE OIL GIANT AS POSSIBLE ACQUIRER



Shares of [BP](#) rose more than 3% Tuesday afternoon, with several traders citing market talk of a takeover bid from rival Royal Dutch Shell, reported Reuters. "BP shares have rallied on the back of enthusiastic buying on talk of Shell's interest in the company," Chris Beauchamp, analyst at IG, told the news agency. "But it seems difficult to believe that Shell would make such a big acquisition at this difficult time for the oil market." Minutes after BP surged, two rumors surfaced, said a report by The Telegraph: one a potential takeover by Shell, the other that ExxonMobil and Chevron were considering a breakup of the company. Spokespersons for BP and Shell said they do not comment on market rumors, while some traders dismissed the chatter as spurious, the Telegraph said. But oil

and gas shares have had such a torrid time of late that analysts had nevertheless been expecting deal speculation to emerge, the newspaper added. BP plunged to its lowest level since June 2012 on Monday. The group's depressed share price had prompted Jason Kenney, an analyst at Santander, to tell clients on Tuesday morning that the stock could draw bid talk. "We see a possible rise in speculation regarding potential corporate M&A," he said, citing Shell and ExxonMobil as possible suitors. Last month, Oppenheimer analysts said BP could attract a predator and that "continued low oil prices could accelerate industry consolidation." Also, former BP boss Lord Browne revealed in his 2010 memoirs that he had discussed a merger with his Shell counterpart six years earlier, said the report. There had been talk of Shell taking out BP in the aftermath of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster as BP's share price collapsed; however, BP's ongoing liabilities for tens of billions of dollars over that spill, and its continued difficulties in rebuilding its reputation and winning projects in the United States have been seen as a deterrent to bidders, according to a report by The Independent. London-based BP is the single, global brand formed by the combination of the former British Petroleum, Amoco, Atlantic Richfield (ARCO) and Burmah Castrol. BP is a global producer, manufacturer and marketer of oil, gas, chemicals and renewable energy sources. With U.S. headquarters in La Palma, Calif. (West), and Warrenville, Ill. (East), BP markets more than 15 billion gallons of gasoline every year to U.S. consumers through more than 11,000 BP- and ARCO-branded retail outlets and supplies more than four billion gallons of fuel annually to fleets, industrial



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users, auto and truck manufacturers, railroads and utilities. Royal Dutch Shell plc, based in The Hague, The Netherlands, and London, is the parent company of Shell Oil Co., Houston, and its subsidiary, Shell Oil Products US. Shell Oil is a leader in the refining, transportation and marketing of fuels, with a network of approximately 6,000 Shell-branded gas stations in the western United States. Another 8,300 Shell-branded stations in the eastern and southern United States are managed by Motiva Enterprises LLC, a joint venture between Shell Oil and Saudi Refining Inc.

<http://www.cspnet.com/mergers-acquisition-growth/mergers-acquisitions-news/articles/rumors-rise-again-bid-bp>

USA, MI, GRAND RAPIDS, DECEMBER 2 2014. TWO LANSING INSURANCE AGENTS FACE PRISON FOR FRAUD SCHEME

steven r. reed



Two Lansing insurance agents have pleaded guilty to creating and selling fake insurance certificates to owners and operators of aging, uninsurable underground storage tanks, U.S. Attorney Patrick Miles Jr. announced Monday. Allen P. Chadderdon, 33, of Williamston, and Dean P. Tucker, 55, of Lansing face up to 20 years in prison. Chadderdon will be sentenced Wednesday and Tucker faces sentencing on March 5 before U.S. District Judge Janet T. Neff. Neither man could be reached for comment Monday. The fake documents created by the defendants made it appear some tanks were in compliance with laws requiring the tanks' owners and operators to demonstrate the financial ability to clean up any environmental contamination caused by a leaking tank, Miles said in a news release. Most owners and operators obtain an annual insurance policy that covers up to \$1 million in clean-up costs and damages, he said. The fake document scheme, which Miles said operated from 2011 to 2013,

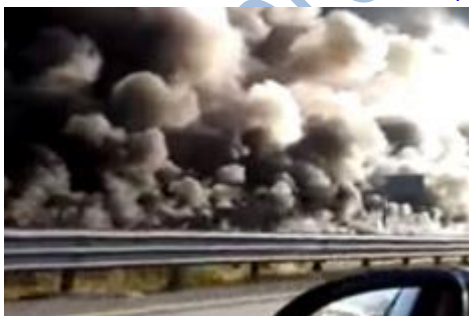
mostly involved gas stations with underground tanks that were uninsurable due to age or condition or were more expensive to insure than owners were willing to pay. Rather than replace the tanks, owners and operators purchased fake insurance certificates. The Environmental Protection Agency and the FBI discovered the scheme and then worked to mitigate the risk of harm to the environment by identifying the tanks that were not in compliance. Some gas stations were shut down until the owner or operator complied with the law. "This fraud scheme presented a serious risk of harm to ... residents of more than 30 different cities, including Battle Creek, Lansing, Ann Arbor and Detroit," Miles said. "Fuel and oil that leaks from underground storage tanks threaten not only the land surrounding the tank, but can harm drinking water and our state's rivers and lakes," he said. "These recent pleas demonstrate that insurance agents who callously place the American people at risk by falsifying official certificates will be held accountable for their actions," said Randall K. Ashe, special agent in charge of EPA's criminal enforcement program in Michigan.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2014/12/01/underground-storage-tanks/19757367/>

MEXICO, QUERÉTARO, SAN JUAN DEL RÍO, DECEMBER 2 2014. HUGE WALL OF FIRE ENGULF MOTORWAY AFTER TANKER CARRYING CHEMICAL CRASHES AND EXPLODES INTO FLAMES

Ian Leonard

 **Watch the Video** [Chemical Tanker Explodes into Flames: Wall of Fire Engulfs Motorway](#)



Pluming Clouds of smoke filled the sky following the explosion.

The lorry was carrying a chemical which leaked onto the road and caught fire, sending flames shooting into the air. This dramatic footage shows a terrifying wall of fire engulfing a motorway after a tanker carrying a flammable chemical crashed, causing a huge explosion. Conflicting reports say the driver either lost control or was hit by another vehicle as it travelled in the Mexico-Queretaro highway near San Juan del Río. The vehicle was reportedly carrying a chemical called mercaptan - added to natural gas to make it easier to detect - which leaked and caught fire. Video, shot from a passing car's dashcam, shows the huge blaze, which sent flames shooting into air and caused clouds of smoke that could be seen for miles around. According to reports, the tanker was carrying 67,000 litres of the chemical but no one was injured. Firefighters and Civil



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Protection units were called to deal with the fire on Saturday.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/watch-huge-wall-fire-engulf-4726651>

USA, MD, LANDOVER, DECEMBER 2 2014. TANKER CRASH SHUTS DOWN EASTBOUND ROUTE 50 IN LANDOVER FOR HOURS

Eastbound Route 50 in Landover was shut down for almost twelve hours on Sunday after a tanker truck crash, fire officials said. The tanker ran off the road and into a ditch near Route 202 around 5:50 a.m. fire officials said. The driver was taken to a trauma center, officials said. Hazmat officials spent hours cleaning up 22 hundred gallons of fuel that spilled onto the road during the incident. The road reopened just after 5 p.m.

<http://www.wusa9.com/story/news/local/landover/2014/11/30/tanker-accident-shuts-down-east-bound-route-50/19721975/>

INDIA, MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2 2014. OWNER OF TANKER THAT DUMPED CHEMICALS IN ULHAS RIVER HELD

clara lewis

The owner of the tanker that carried untreated chemical effluents and dumped them into the Waldhuni river has been arrested and charged with culpable homicide. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) is the complainant in the matter, principal secretary (environment) Medha Gadgil said. At a two-hour meeting at Mantralaya on Monday, to take stock of the incident in which over 600 people were affected, officials said it seemed such dumping was regular in the area. Gadgil said a team had been set up under the additional superintendent of police, Thane, to identify spots where the dumping was being carried out. The team includes chief officers of the Ambarnath and Badlapur municipal councils and commissioners of the Kalyan-Dombivli and Ulhasnagar municipal corporations. MPCB officials said though regular water samples were analyzed, they were unable to identify the chemicals as the large amount of untreated sewage diluted the effluents.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Owner-of-tanker-that-dumped-chemicals-in-Ulhas-river-held/articleshow/45340119.cms>

USA. TX, HOUSTON, DECEMBER 2 2014. DUPONT PLANT IN NEW JERSEY CITED BY OSHA OVER TOXIC LEAK

lise olsen

Occupational Safety and Health Administration officials announced Monday that they have cited E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. for 11 alleged violations and proposed \$120,300 in fines related to problems found after toxic chemicals leaked from a tanker truck in May and exposed workers to health risks at a Deepwater, N.J., plant that is one of DuPont's largest facilities in the United States. OSHA continues to investigate another chemical leak that killed four workers at DuPont's facility in La Porte. No citations have been issued in that Nov. 15 accident. In two of the 11 violations in New Jersey, OSHA alleged that the company had repeatedly failed to perform proper inspections and tests on equipment used in the chemical process based on problems inspectors uncovered there and previously found at other DuPont plants in Beaumont, Texas, and in Belle, W.Va. "The chemicals used at the Deepwater plant are corrosive and volatile," said Paula Dixon-Roderick, director of OSHA's area office in Marlton, N.J. "Releasing toxic, reactive or flammable liquid can cause serious injury and death. It's vital that DuPont recognize these hazards and take the steps necessary to prevent situations like this tanker truck leak."

Looking at OSHA Findings

In response to the citation, DuPont spokesman Aaron Woods said the New Jersey plant is committed to working with OSHA and is carefully reviewing the agency's recommendations. "We are also committed to meet or exceed the agency's regulatory requirements, keep our employees safe and operate our facilities at the highest standard of excellence," he said. DuPont was cited in 2010 for failing to perform proper analysis of the hazards of storage and transportation of chemicals, after a worker accidentally inhaled a lethal dose of poisonous gas at the Belle plant, and in 2011, after 26 people were exposed when about 1,000 pounds of Aniline escaped from a relief valve at the Beaumont plant, according to an OSHA database and a DuPont statement. In each case, OSHA found one or more process safety violations, and those citations are the basis for the so-called "repeat violations" issued Monday in New Jersey.

Multiple Violations

The Beaumont incident resulted in five violations and an \$18,000 fine after DuPont appealed. The worker's death in Belle prompted 11 violations and a \$43,000 penalty. Both included infractions of OSHA's process safety management standard, a detailed set of rules and procedures applied to all chemical plants and refineries nationwide that handle hazardous substances. The Belle worker was exposed to phosgene - used in chemical warfare during World War I - after a transfer hose ruptured inside a shed. Though the man survived long enough to contact a co-worker via a public address system and walked



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out of the shed on his own, he was later transported to a hospital and died the next day, according to OSHA records. In its own 2011 probe of the Belle death, the Chemical Safety Board found "numerous safety deficiencies" caused "a string of three serious accidents that occurred over a 33-hour period on January 22 and 23, 2010." Prior to the death, operators discovered "that 2,000 pounds of methyl chloride, a flammable gas, had been leaking unnoticed into the atmosphere for five days. The next morning, workers discovered a leak in a pipe carrying oleum, producing a fuming cloud of the sulfur trioxide. The phosgene release occurred later that day." Celeste Monforton, a Texas-based workplace safety expert and public health lecturer at George Washington University, said the violations issued Monday show that DuPont is on OSHA's "radar screen." "Serious violations of any sort are bad enough, but when OSHA cites an employer for repeat violations, there's no doubt that the company has gross deficiencies in its safety program," Monforton said. "It's a sign that something is wrong throughout the organization."

Many DuPont Sites

Nationwide, DuPont employs more than 11,226 workers in 30 facilities that handle potentially dangerous toxic chemicals, according to risk management plans that the company is required to file with the Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to the deaths in La Porte, all of those facilities together had reported approximately 34 incidents in which a toxic release or spill caused 151 injuries in the last five years or so, according to risk management reports available via the Right-to-Know Network. The Deepwater plant is the fourth-largest DuPont facility in terms of employees, with about 850 workers. The Beaumont plant has 283 workers; the Belle facility employs 436; and in La Porte, there are 472 employees, the same reports show. The CSB and OSHA continue to investigate the November deaths at the facility in La Porte, which resulted in the release of 23,000 pounds of the foul-smelling methyl mercaptan, a pesticide ingredient that DuPont makes. Said Woods: "As previously stated, DuPont is continuing its investigation into the recent incident at the La Porte plant. Several governmental agencies also are conducting their own investigations. DuPont is cooperating with these agency reviews. While these efforts are ongoing, it is premature for DuPont to provide information outside of these processes."

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/DuPont-plant-in-N-J-cited-by-OSHA-over-toxic-leak-5928359.php>

USA, AKA, GAVEL, DECEMBER 4 2014. BLACK-MARKET DIESEL: THIEVES SELL FUEL BY THE TRUCKLOAD

daniel hajek



Underneath this truck bed's cover is a homemade rig of tubes and a welded-together 250-gallon tank. These thieves were making runs between Las Vegas and Los Angeles. You may have heard about criminals hiding payment-card skimmers in gas pumps to steal credit card numbers. But this isn't your classic case of identity theft — stealing those digits is just the start. Instead of going on shopping sprees or buying flat-screen TVs, organized crime gangs are buying hundreds or thousands of gallons of diesel fuel, and reselling them to make an untraceable profit.

'Stacks of Cards'

In Glendale, Calif., just north of Los Angeles, police officer Dan Suttles sees this kind of thing all the time. In the police department evidence room, he opens an envelope full of gift cards, hotel key cards and blank cards with magnetic strips. "These are the types of things that we're finding ... when we do these search

warrants and we go to their houses, just stacks of cards," Sgt. Suttles says. All of these cards store credit card numbers, stolen from skimmers secretly installed in gas pumps across the country. Thieves use these cards to go from gas station to gas station, buying diesel fuel, which is then sold on the black market to truckers, taxi companies and construction companies. "They're going to drive through and say, 'Hey, I've got some fuel,'" Suttles says. "You either go across the street and you pay a dollar extra a gallon for it, or you buy it from this guy for a dollar off." Suttles says LA is a hot spot but thieves in Atlanta, parts of Florida and Oregon are doing the same thing: Selling stolen diesel by the truckload.

Beat-Up Trucks Hide Big Profits

U.S. Secret Service agent Steve Scarince is with the department tasked with investigating these crimes — the Secret Service may be famous for protecting the president, but the agency also investigates financial fraud. "Most of our cases will take anywhere from 5 to 10 trucks; that's a typical sized crew that operates here in Los Angeles," Scarince says, walking through an impound lot in Compton. He says gas thieves use utility vans and trucks with hidden tanks, called bladders, that hold the



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fuel. There's a white Dodge Ram pick-up truck on the lot that they seized earlier this year. Scarince says this group made runs between Las Vegas and LA. Underneath the truck bed's hard cover is a homemade rig of tubes and a welded-together 250 gallon aluminum tank. "When they first get these trucks, the first thing they do is they actually pull out the gas tank," Scarince says. "And they punch holes into it — they just plumb in all the different pipes that they need to draw in the fuel into this larger tank in the back." He opens the driver-side door and points to a hidden switch on the dashboard. "This red switch is what activates the siphoning pump," he says. Flip the switch and a pump in the back of the truck kicks on. That's what moves the fuel from the vehicle's gas tank up into the bladder. Don't be fooled by these beat-up trucks and makeshift rigs. Scarince says this is a lucrative enterprise. "Our average case is between \$5 and \$10 million gross profit per year," he says.

High Risk of Combustion, Low Risk of Punishment

Some crews even invest in tanker trucks. There's one parked in the back of the impound lot. Scarince says these thieves were stealing 4,000 gallons of diesel a day. "Our big fear, of course, is when one of these goes and ignites," Scarince says. "That's when there'll be a lot of carnage." Those jerry-rigged pipes, pumps and gas tanks leak. Here in LA, a man lit a cigarette while he was stealing fuel a couple years back and his truck exploded. Back at the Glendale Police Department, Sergeant Dan Suttles says that doesn't deter the thieves. "I actually interviewed one of these guys," Suttles says. "And I asked him, 'Why do you do this? Because it's not right.' And he says, 'Well, I've opened up two legitimate businesses, I have a house that's clear and paid for, I have put my daughter through [the University of Southern California]. You tell me why I wouldn't do this.' " The risk is low: Diesel is an untraceable commodity. Sometimes, of course, people do get caught. A man in Texas and two men in Hawaii were sentenced to 20 years for installing skimming devices in gas pumps. In Idaho, a suspect faces a federal case. Meanwhile, in California, Suttles says re-encoding credit cards is a misdemeanor. In his view, that's too lenient. "It's literally just a slap on the wrist," he says. The reward, Suttles says, is too high. Thieves will keep filling up their tanks.

<http://www.ktoo.org/2014/12/01/black-market-diesel-thieves-sell-fuel-truckload/>

SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN, DECEMBER 3 2014. DURBAN HARBOUR OIL SPILL PROBE

barbara cole & kamcilla pillay



Dumped oil in the Bluff Silt Canal at the weekend.

The search will be on on Monday for the culprits responsible for causing "disgusting" pollution at the Bluff Silt Canal this weekend. The pollution left a 10m-wide slick in the canal, home to the Bluff Yacht Club and the KZN Light Tackle Boat Angling Association, staining boats and ropes, leaving black scum on the surface and on the beach and damaging mangroves. A goliath heron, which is supposed to be brown, was spotted covered in black sticky oil. "We've seen dead fish too. This area is a feeding ground for fish, so it will seriously affect the rest of the harbour," said outraged fisherman, Lionel Crow. "This is a big spill. It is really disgusting, third-world stuff and it is unacceptable for someone to just dump oil." Crow said that when he arrived at the canal at the weekend, there was a 10m oil slick. He estimated that the affected area stretched for about 3km. It is believed the oil entered the canal via a stormwater drain. Ashton Martin, whose

boat was moored at the Bluff Yacht Club, described the pollution as "disgusting". "I will have to take my boat out of the water and on to the beach to clean it," he said. Crow reported the pollution to Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) and a representative from the environmental department carried out an inspection on Sunday afternoon. Spilltech, a pollution control company was called in to clean up. It was not known how long and how costly the operation would be, said TNPA Port of Durban media spokeswoman, Lesley van Duffelen. The Port of Durban had alerted eThekweni Municipality which would have to track down the culprits as it appeared the cause of the spill was somewhere in the city. Captain Alex Miya, acting port manager of the Port of Durban, said cleaning crews normally set up "booms" to prevent the pollutant from spreading to a wider area. "The clean-up had started on Sunday and the booms were placed immediately to contain the oil." Sand and water samples were taken. The kwini Municipality would be involved in the investigation into the leak's source, he said. Co-founder of the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance, Desmond D'Sa, said this morning that a team of his specialists would be dispatched to collect samples of the water in the area. Local environmental activist and Bluff resident of 55 years, Ivor Aylward, said residents often found used nappies, discarded condoms and dead animals floating in the waterways. Fishermen and yachtsmen believe a net should be installed in the canal to contain future spills.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/durban-harbour-oil-spill-probe-1.1788999#.VIAevluUdu4>



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AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, DECEMBER 4 2014. YARRA RIVER SMOTHERED BY MYSTERY OIL SLICK BETWEEN CROWN CASINO AND MELBOURNE AQUARIUM

ashley argoon



A giant oil slick has shut down sections of the Yarra River. About 50 litres of an unknown substance covered the river in front of Crown Casino and Melbourne Aquarium at 11.30am. An MFB spokesman said it was believed the oil was biodegradable and was not a fire risk. "We don't believe it to be toxic," he said. On advice from the Environment Protection Authority, the spill was being dispersed by fire brigade boats along the river, between Spencer St and Kings Way. Sections of the river could be closed into the late afternoon as MFB boats spread the oil. It is not known where the substance came from.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/yarra-smothered-by-mystery-oil-slick-between-crown-casino-and-melbourne-aquarium/story-fni0fit3-1227143658521?nk=d9586d42ced309a01fa663fca6ee09e0>

USA, WI, GRANT, CO, DECEMBER 3 2014. OLD GRANT COUNTY GAS STATION SITE MUST BE CLEANED UP, STATE SAYS

bill novak

An old contaminated gas station site in Grant County must be cleaned and made environmentally safe, according to a judgment made against the owner in a case dating back to 2000. The Wisconsin Attorney General's Office said on Monday that Illinois resident William Davis, owner of the property, must clean up the site and pay \$7,560 in forfeitures, court costs and other fees, after a Grant County judge issued the judgment against Davis. In October of 2000, four underground petroleum storage tanks were removed from the site. Soil samples taken at that time showed significant soil contamination. The Department of Natural Resources told Davis in January of 2001 that he was responsible for cleanup and restoration, but the work hadn't been done. The DNR turned the matter over to the Department of Justice, according to a news release. "Wisconsin's spills law requires that persons who possess or control hazardous substances discharged to the environment take responsibility for the discharge, and take actions necessary to restore the environment to the extent practicable, and to minimize the harmful effects from the discharge to the air, lands or waters of the state," the release said. Davis will be required to do a complete site investigation to see how big the contamination area is, removing the soil, and do soil and groundwater monitoring.

http://host.madison.com/news/local/crime_and_courts/old-grant-county-gas-station-site-must-be-cleaned-up/article_f3d36326-4235-5cdb-b8de-7e101500e0bb.html

USA, MO, MARYLAND HEIGHTS, DECEMBER 3 2014. FUEL LEAKS ONTO MARYLAND HEIGHTS EXPRESSWAY AFTER TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS

 **Watch the Video** [Fuel Leaks after Tanker Truck OvertURNS](#)

 **Photo's [14]** [Fuel Leaks after Tanker Truck OvertURNS](#)



A tanker truck overturned causing fuel to leak onto the Maryland Heights Express Monday morning. The truck overturned just before 9:30 a.m. on the Maryland Heights Expressway north of Creve Coeur Mill Road. Skyzoom 4 was over the accident scene and saw emergency crews blocking a portion of the Maryland Heights Expressway following the accident. Another tanker overturned on eastbound Interstate 270 at Riverview at the same time emergency crews were responding to the accident on the Maryland Heights Expressway. Only one lane of traffic was able to get by, leading to a large traffic backup. No other information was immediately available.

<http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Tanker-truck-overtURNS-in-Maryland-Heights-284341591.html>



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CANADA, B.C, DELTA, DECEMBER 3 2014. CANADA SETS COLLAPSIBLE FUEL TANK STANDARD

The world's first collapsible fabric storage tank standard was released by the Canadian Standards Association in July 2014. There was previously no credible reference document detailing the minimum requirements for the use of collapsible bladder fuel storage tanks or pillow tanks. This new standard provides information to ensure the use of collapsible fuel bladder tanks meets the challenges of Canada's harsh arctic conditions, which is where they are typically deployed. [SEI Industries Ltd.](http://www.seiindustries.com), a Canadian fabric manufacturer that participated in the committee that prepared the new standard, hopes to offer its Arctic King tank as the first bladder certified by an accredited third party in 2015.

http://specialtyfabricsreview.com/articles/1214_sw10_canada_fuel_tank.html

ENGLAND, CORNWELL, DECEMBER 3 2014. A30 BLOCKED AFTER PETROL TANKER OVERTURNS IN CRASH



A stretch of the A30 has been closed after a fuel tanker crashed and overturned this morning. The road is blocked northbound near Bodmin in Cornwall as a result of the overturned tanker. The truck is blocking both lanes heading eastbound the carriageway near the A30 at Carminow Cross. The incident is being treated as "severe", according to reports from Cornwall. A tanker reportedly overturned on the A30 Eastbound at Innis Downs, between Victoria and Bodmin. According to police the fuel tanker carrying non-flammable fuel is leaking onto the road. The A30 is expected to be closed some time to allow a clean up.

<http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/A38-blocked-petrol-tanker-overturms-crash/story-24957396-detail/story.html>

MEXICO, HUIMANGUILLO, DECEMBER 4 2014. MEXICO THIEVES STEALING BILLIONS IN OIL, GASOLINE FROM COUNTRY'S PIPELINES



group of men carrying plastic jerrycans arrive near the site of a gasoline spill in Mexico's Tabasco state Nov. 19, 2014, hoping to skim off spilled gasoline for their own use or to sell on the black market. The surrounding sugar cane fields reeked of gasoline.

The big-time gasoline thieves had already come and gone during the wee hours, filling their tanker trucks with stolen fuel and then fleeing. Then dawn broke, and word spread that a crime gang had again tapped into a gasoline pipeline, and it was spewing fuel into a ditch. At first, only a few farmers showed up, carrying plastic jerry cans. Then dozens. Then even more. All were eager to collect what spilled fuel they could. Gasoline fumes filled the air, and puddles of rainwater

and gasoline spread amid a drizzle. "This is a gift from God," said one of the farmers, who gave only his first name, Frank, as he partially filled a five-gallon white plastic container with gasoline. Mexico is plagued by rampant energy theft. In the first eight months of this year, 7.5 million barrels went missing, a rate of about 30,000 52-gallon barrels a day, enough to fill a fleet of more than 100 tanker trucks. Organized crime groups are behind much of the theft, which occurs along a network of pipelines that carry gasoline, diesel, crude oil, natural gas and petrochemicals around the nation. The problem just keeps getting worse. In 2000, Mexico tallied 155 cases of fuel theft from pipelines. Since then, it's been a steady climb. In 2012, thieves drilled 1,635 illegal taps. That number grew to 2,614 in 2013. This year, the number of illegal taps is expected to top 3,000. Constant spills caused by the theft spoil the environment and rob Mexicans of a valuable resource. But the piracy also may crimp Mexico's success in opening its energy sector to international investment. In early 2015, for the first time in eight decades, Mexico will allow foreign companies to bid for concessions and explore for energy on its soil or in its offshore waters. To deal with the piracy, and a web of corruption surrounding stolen fuel, foreign companies operating in Mexico will have to budget for high security costs. Weak penalties for stealing oil and gasoline have exacerbated the problem. "It's not considered a serious crime and as a consequence, the penalties are truly reduced," Omar Fayad Meneses, head of the Senate Commission on Public Security, said in a speech Nov. 11 in which he called for prison terms of 25 to 35 years for those involved in major energy theft. His bill is still pending. Fayad, a member of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, said he believes organized crime groups rake off \$1 billion a year from energy theft. The head of the state oil giant Petróleos Mexicanos, also known as Pemex, Emilio Lozoya Austin, has called energy theft one of the worst crimes against the nation because it hijacks revenues that otherwise would go directly into state coffers. "Schools, hospitals and highways won't be built," Lozoya said. But Lozoya



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said prosecutions are difficult even against the few people caught red-handed with what is believed to be stolen gasoline, diesel or crude oil. "If you catch a presumed criminal with tanks of gasoline or diesel, it's not a trivial matter to prove that he stole it," Lozoya said. "He can say he got it anywhere." Theft from Pemex pipelines and installations involves far more than a few clandestine tanker trucks and some rogue engineers. More often, the chain of criminal involvement extends from local police to gas station owners and seemingly legitimate distribution companies. It also may penetrate deeply into Pemex itself, which enjoys a monopoly on retail sales in Mexico. In late September, prosecutors announced they had smashed a huge energy theft ring that dealt more than 1 million gallons of stolen gasoline and diesel a month. The ring was headquartered in the central state of Guanajuato. At the heart of the ring was Petrobajio SA de CV, a seemingly legitimate company that has held a concession since 2011 to transport gasoline for the state's Pemex. Petrobajio, however, also bought stolen fuel from an organized crime group that siphoned it from pipelines in Tamaulipas state, which abuts Texas, prosecutors said. As part of their raids, authorities seized 78 tanker trucks that helped transport stolen fuel to the nearby states of Jalisco and San Luis Potosi. Organized crime was firmly in control of Petrobajio – a lesson, experts say, for foreign energy companies eager to come into Mexico. "The use of firms that appear to be legitimate by criminal groups is a common practice in Mexico," IHS Inc., a Colorado-based global information company, said in a report Oct. 1. A foreign company that failed to properly vet its Mexican partners might find itself not only the victim of theft, but facing potential prosecution, IHS warned. Mexico is not alone among oil-producing nations with rampant theft. Nigeria loses an estimated 400,000 barrels a day to pirates. Indonesia is also plagued by oil theft. As in those countries, the thievery in Mexico usually occurs at night, and the teams of crooks tapping pipelines employ a battery of skills to avoid triggering an explosion. "You need technical expertise, engineers and welders, support crew for them, and the security side, the people with the guns," said Dwight Dyer, a senior analyst based in Mexico City for Control Risks, a global consultancy on political and security risks with headquarters in London. Dyer said the methods used by thieves range from drilling into pipelines to siphon off fuel to actually installing valves that allow criminal gangs to return again and again. "It's getting far worse," Dyer said. "If you look at Pemex's numbers, the number of (illegal) taps identified has roughly doubled every two years." "This is a major issue not only for the oil and gas sector. It's a major issue for the country as a whole," he added. Pemex, one of the world's largest companies with 155,000 employees, has been opaque about how many of its workers have been disciplined, fired or prosecuted for collaborating with organized crime. The company did not respond to email requests for an interview over a period of two months. Outside experts say, however, that the oil and gasoline thefts could not be done without some help from within the state oil giant. "You need people from Pemex with experience in the sector to know how to tap these pipelines without making a huge mess," said Carlos Petersen, an analyst on Mexico with Eurasia Group, a U.S. consultancy. Lozoya, the Pemex chief, appearing at a Nov. 5 forum, did not respond to a question about Pemex employees collaborating with organized crime. Rather, he said the oil company is spending tens of millions of dollars to detect illegal taps. The company is installing a \$282 million system to alert technicians whenever pressure drops anywhere along the 22,000 miles or so of pipelines that Pemex operates, allowing the company to respond rapidly to an illegal tap. Most major crime groups are believed to have diversified into energy theft, including the New Generation Jalisco Cartel, the Gulf Cartel and the Zetas. The Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas are the ones established along the Gulf Coast where Pemex has most of its installations, Petersen said. Pemex operates all gas stations in Mexico, although individuals or companies may own them. It's clear that a significant number sell stolen fuel from time to time. "They are threatened if they don't buy it. They have to buy from the mafia and from Pemex," said Emilio Moller, a newspaper columnist in the city of Mérida. Tabasco state has tallied more than 180 illegal taps on pipelines so far this year. That's more than three a week, and many leave significant spills. "It just gushes out of the pipe. This situation just can't go on," said Jose Manuel Arias Rodriguez of the Santo Tomas Ecological Association, an advocacy group in Villahermosa, the state capital. Arias said little action has been taken to stop the theft. "If you're cynical, you begin to think a lot of people are involved," he said. On a recent morning, motorists along a main highway could notice a steady trickle of bicyclists and motorcyclists on the shoulder, some carrying empty jerry cans. Those heading in the opposite direction had jerry cans full of gasoline. "When word spreads, ta-ta-ta, everybody comes running," said Antonio Rodriguez, a 38-year-old farmer who toted a plastic jug full of gasoline. "There's no other work around here." He signaled a site further along the road where he said a visitor could walk along a muddy path through sugar cane fields for 400 yards and come upon a spill. "There's like 100 to 150 people up there," he said, all using buckets and sponges to skim a layer of gasoline off the surface of water in a ditch. But he urged caution. "There are people who faint because of the fumes," he said.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/12/02/4265477/mexico-thieves-stealing-billions.html>



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CANADA, QUE, PIEDMONT, DECEMBER 4 2014. TANKER DRIVER DEAD: LAURENTIANS GAS STATION FIRE

 **Watch the Video**

- [Major Fire Erupts at Gas Station](#)
- [Major Fire Gas Station in the Laurentians Leaves 1 Man Dead](#)



About 50 firefighters were called after an explosion at a gas station on Highway 117 in Piedmont. A man is dead after a fire and explosion occurred late Tuesday afternoon at a gas station on Highway 117 in Piedmont. Firefighter officials said the victim was likely the driver of a tanker truck, which was carrying heating oil. The truck caught fire while it was parked at the gas station, and flames quickly to the building. About 50 firefighters in the Laurentians responded to the call, which came just before 5 p.m. They spent several hours battling the flames. A spokeswoman with the Sûreté du Québec said police could not access the site right away as firefighters had to secure the area first. Highway 117 will be closed in the overnight hours in both directions between Chemin Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs road and Chemin de la Gare. Drivers are being rerouted onto Autoroute 15.

 **Related Stories**

- [Major Fire Erupts at Gas Station in Piedmont](#)
- [Major Fire Erupts at a Gas Station in the Laurentians](#)
- [Quebec Gas Station Blast Causes Giant Fireball](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/major-fire-at-a-gas-station-in-the-laurentians-leaves-one-man-dead-1.2858112>

USA, PA, HARRISBURG, DECEMBER 4 2014. PENNSYLVANIA FINES GAS DRILLER IN EXPLOSION, SPILL

Pennsylvania environmental regulators are fining Houston-based Cabot Oil and Gas for a storage tank explosion and wastewater spill at a gas drilling site. The Department of Environmental Protection said Tuesday it fined Cabot \$120,000 for the January incident at its Reynolds well pad in Susquehanna County. Officials say vapors in the headspace of the wastewater tank ignited and caused the Jan. 11 explosion, rupturing the tank. The Times-Tribune of Scranton reports that inspectors found that a worker checking the level of fluid in the 21,000-gallon wastewater tank ignited the vapors while using his cellphone as a flashlight. The department says an employee was injured and more than 2,800 gallons of wastewater spilled, tainting soil beyond the well pad. It says Cabot cleaned up the spill.

http://www.sharonherald.com/news/pennsylvania-fines-gas-driller-in-explosion-spill/article_01cbc6bc-7aea-11e4-a61f-ef155441ef57.html

USA, OH, BELMONT CO, DECEMBER 4 2014. TANKER WRECK: FUEL OIL SPILLS INTO DRINKING WATER

 **Watch the Video** [EMA Monitoring Conditions Following Fuel Spill on OH SR 148](#)



A tanker truck carrying hundreds of gallons of fuel oil rolled over on its side on Ohio 148 in Belmont County on Monday, spilling about 100 gallons per minute, threatening a drinking water well in the area as well as Captina Creek. Officials estimated that about 500 gallons spilled out of the tanker. Heather Lauer, spokesperson for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, said officials from the agency investigated the scene and they do not believe any fuel reached Captina Creek, a tributary of the Ohio River. The Ohio Department of Transportation said that Ohio 148 was closed from the Ohio 26 intersection to the Ohio 9 intersection. Becky Horne, executive administrative assistant at the Belmont County Emergency Management Agency, said the truck overturned on

a sharp bend in the roadway around 9 a.m. She said the truck's capacity for diesel is approximately 2,500-3,000 gallons. Belmont County Emergency Management officials and the Somerton Volunteer Fire Department responded to the accident as soon as it was reported. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Transportation, Belmont County Health Department and the Ohio State Highway Patrol also responded. The Salvation Army Canteen was at the scene. Official said the contents of the tanker were threatening a private drinking water well at 41790 West Captina Road. Crews from the Somerton VFD were placing absorbent pads to contain the spill, and the Belmont County Health Department was testing



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the water. Horne said the health department will also test the well for contamination later this week. Stonebraker's Towing righted the tanker and the area was secured around 5:30-6 p.m. according to Horne.

<http://www.timesleaderonline.com/page/content.detail/id/567595/Tanker-wreck-causes-fuel-oil-to-spill-into-drinking-water.html?nav=5010>

USA, N.C, JOHNSTON CO, DECEMBER 4 2014. PICK-UP CRASHES INTO TANKER HAULING DIESEL FUEL IN JOHNSTON COUNTY



Officials said the driver of the pick-up truck ran into the back of the tanker truck hauling diesel fuel on NC-39 in Selma Tuesday night.

A crash in Johnston County late Tuesday night forced authorities to take extra precautions after a pick-up truck slammed into a tanker truck. Officials said the driver of the pick-up truck ran into the back of the tanker truck hauling diesel fuel on N.C. Highway 39 in Selma. No one was hurt, but police blocked the road for over an hour because of the danger of explosion. Authorities said they believed alcohol may have played a role in the crash. It is unclear if any charges have been filed.

<http://abc11.com/traffic/pick-up-crashes-into-tanker-hauling-diesel-fuel/419923/#gallery-2>

USA, TN, LEBANON, DECEMBER 4 2014. TRACTOR-TRAILER LEAKS FUEL, I-40 E IN WILSON CO. REOPENS

 **Watch the Video** [Tractor-Trailer Leaks Fuel, I-40 E in Wilson Co](#)



The driver of the semi is said to have minor injuries.

The eastbound lanes of Interstate 40 have reopened in Wilson County after a tanker truck overturned and leaked fuel for several hours on Wednesday morning. The leak was contained, but crews worked throughout the day to clean up the 8,000 gallons of fuel that was spilled between SR 109 and SR 840. "With gas, sparks are a thing you have to look out for," said Joey Cooper, director of the Wilson County Emergency Management Agency. Hazmat officials sprayed foam on the spilled gas to keep the fumes down. According to officials, the driver

crashed into an embankment around 6:45 a.m. after blacking out because of a medical condition. He is said to have minor injuries. Traffic was detoured from SR 109 to SR 840 and then back onto I-40.

 **Related Stories** [Tractor-trailer leaks fuel, closes I-40 E](#)

<http://www.wsmv.com/story/27534895/overturned-tanker-truck-closes-i-40-east-in-wilson-county>

USA, CA, CARSON, DECEMBER 4 2014. SHELL OIL SETTLES GIANT CAROUSEL ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION LAWSUIT IN CARSON



Shell Oil has settled a giant lawsuit stemming from contamination at the Carousel tract in the city of Carson. Children play on Marbella Ave. near home with sign indicating the toxic nature of the neighborhood in this July 2013 file photo.

City officials have announced final settlement agreements involving Shell Oil Co., the city, and hundreds of current and former residents of the Carousel neighborhood in the city's southern end over a contamination lawsuit stemming from a former oil tank farm at the site. The details of the two separate settlements between Shell and the city, and Shell and residents, weren't disclosed during Tuesday night's City Council meeting. But Shell's [settlement with 1,491 residents will be a total of \\$90 million](#) divided with attorneys and disbursed by a mediator based on health and property damage claims, according to documents obtained by the Daily Breeze. The neighborhood was

developed from a tank farm into a residential community in the 1960s. Widespread petroleum contamination was found



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beneath hundreds of the homes in 2008 and an environmental investigation began. Shell is now finalizing a plan to remove the contaminated soil.

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/general-news/20141203/shell-oil-settles-giant-carousel-environmental-contamination-lawsuit-in-carson>

USA, CO, BROOMFIELD, DECEMBER 4 2-014. I-25 ON-RAMP CLOSED AFTER TANKER OVERTURNS, SPILLS OIL



A tanker spill closed an I-25 onramp in Broomfield Wednesday morning, Dec. 3, 2014.

The on-ramp from Colorado 7 onto southbound Interstate 25 in Broomfield has been closed as crews clean up after a semi-trailer tanker hauling crude oil overturned on Wednesday morning. The northbound off-ramp from the interstate onto Colorado 7 has also been closed. The crash happened about 8 a.m. on the on-ramp, spilling crude oil onto the roadway, according to North Metro Fire Rescue. The driver of the tanker was taken to a hospital with unspecified injuries. Police say they are investigating the cause of the wreck. Photos from the scene showed crews working to plug the tanker leak. Police say they expect the ramps to be closed through Wednesday afternoon.

http://www.denverpost.com/News/ci_27058424/I25-onramp-in-Broomfield-closed-after-tanker-overtURNS-spills-oil+

NIGERIA, NIGER DELTA, DECEMBER 4 2014. NIGERIAN COMMUNITIES REELING FROM MASSIVE SHELL OIL SPILL



A villager shows a bucket of of crude oil spill at the banks of a river, after a Shell pipeline leaked, in the Oloma community in Nigeria's delta region November 27, 2014.

Fishermen and the environment of Niger Delta continue to suffer the consequences of a massive Shell oil spill in the Niger Delta - one of the worst in years. The oil giant says 1,200 barrels had been recovered as of Tuesday. Traveling to the affected areas of the Niger Delta in Nigeria, Reuters witnessed the devastation in the delta which covers 20,000 km² within wetlands of 70,000 km². Crude is everywhere, enough in some cases to fill Jerry can with the black gold. "We saw dead fish, dead crabs ... This spill occurred 7-8 nautical miles

from the shore ... so the volume runs into thousands of barrels," Alagoa Morris, head of the Niger Delta Resource Center for Environmental Rights Action, told Reuters. Morris was referring to the Shell oil spill at the site on the Okolo Launch on Bonny Island in late November where an estimated 3,800 barrels of oil have leaked into the data, according to an investigation by Shell and government officials. According to the oil giant, the spill was caused by a failed crude theft. While Shell shut down its 28 inch pipeline carrying Bonny Light crude on November 22, the company has discovered that the origin of the leak happened on a smaller 24 inch pipe, which was shut last year. Shell continues the recovery effort of the spilled oil and so far managed to clean up 1,200 barrels, a spokesman told Reuters. Home to 20 million people and 40 different ethnic groups, the Niger Delta is the largest wetland in Africa and contains one of the highest concentrations of biodiversity on the planet. The unique ecosystem also has more species of freshwater fish than any ecosystem in West Africa. This fragile environment now suffers. "We can't go fishing anymore. It has destroyed our fishing equipment," Boma Macaulay, a fisherman from Bonny told Reuters, adding that it was the worst spill in at least five years. Shell claims that it is committed to environmental recovery efforts, but says that significant environmental damage in the Niger Delta is the result of sabotage of facilities that result in oil spills. In the last five years some 70 percent of all oil spills have been the result of sabotage, Shell claims. But Shell's reputation is tainted in the region from oil spills over previous years. In November, a week before the most recent oil leak, Amnesty International revealed that Shell has repeatedly made false claims about the size and impact of two major oil spills at Bodo in Nigeria that happened back in 2008. The aim of the company was to minimize its compensation payments for the damage caused to 15,000 people whose livelihoods were devastated by oil pollution, the NGO claimed. In a high-profile compensation case in England's High Court, the Shell did confirm that the two spills had been far greater than the previously believed. Yet Shell did not give a revised figure, which now stands at 4,144 barrels.

Related Stories [Shell ignored 'risk & hazard' of Nigeria pipes, downplayed size of 2008 spills – court documents](http://rt.com/news/211247-nigeria-shell-oil-spill/)
<http://rt.com/news/211247-nigeria-shell-oil-spill/>



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ISRAEL, EILAT, DECEMBER 5 2014. SOUTHERN OIL SPILL ONE OF ISRAEL'S WORST ECO DISASTERS

- Over 80 people on both sides of Israel-Jordan border treated for respiratory problems after maintenance workers damage pipeline
- 600,000-Gallons Lost in Eilat Pipeline Breach

Watch the Video:

- [Israel Oil Spill: 600,000-Gallons Lost in Eilat Pipeline Breach](#)
- [Israel oil spill 'worst accident' in country's history](#)



Major oil spill north of Eilat leads to "extensive contamination" as a result of a damage to the Trans-Israel pipeline December 4, 2014.

Over 80 people were treated for respiratory problems on both sides of the Israel-Jordan border on Thursday morning, amid warnings of an ecological disaster following a major oil spill overnight that flooded the highway leading into Eilat. The vast majority of those affected were in Jordan. Traffic heading to the southern resort city was restarted Thursday morning after several hours of highway closure. The leak, near the village of Be'er Ora, was caused due to damage to the Trans-Israel pipeline, a major oil conduit between the Mediterranean and Red seas that runs from Eilat to Ashkelon. In Jordan more than 80 people were hospitalized, including 30 workers at Aqaba's King Hussein

International Airport. The city's residents were ordered to remain indoors, Jordanian media reported. On the Israeli side, at least three people were treated by paramedics after they inhaled poisonous gases. A preliminary investigation indicated that the spill was caused after the pipeline was struck accidentally during maintenance work. Firefighters and environmental groups scrambled to the scene in an attempt to seal the puncture in the pipeline and prevent further contamination, which was described as "considerable" by Guy Samet, the director of the southern region in the Environmental Protection Ministry. "This is one of the largest [environmental] events in the history of the country," Samet told Channel 10. "We're talking about thousands of gallons of crude oil, which will endanger local wildlife and the surrounding nature reserve," he said, adding that rehabilitation could take "years." The spill was "a couple of kilometers long", according to an Environmental Protection Ministry spokeswoman who was unable to give more specific information. Be'er Ora sits in the sparsely populated Arava region, 20 kilometers north of Eilat, beside multiple nature reserves that are home to indigenous flora and fauna, including rare acacia trees and over 280 deer, said Doron Nissim, director of the Nature and Parks Authority's Eilat chapter. "From what we currently know, there is extensive pollution. Tomorrow we will perform an analysis of the damage and then we'll have a clearer picture," he told the news site Ynet on Wednesday night. Route 90, Israel's longest road and the main route of access into the resort town, was affected in both directions between Ketura and Eilat, roughly 50 kilometers (30 miles) apart. Police rerouted traffic overnight to route 12, which skirts along the Egyptian border.

Related Stories

- [Israel Oil Spill: 600000-Gallons Lost in Eilat Pipeline Breach](#)
- [Oil spill near Eilat is 'one of the worst environmental accidents in Israel's History.](#)
- [Southern oil spill one of Israel's worst eco disasters](#)
- [Eilat Oil Spill 'Not Foul Play'](#)
- [Israel hit by environmental crisis over crude oil spill from Eilat](#)
- [Highway to Eilat blocked off after oil spill](#)
- [Oil Spill Causes Closure of Main Road to Eilat](#)
- [Breached Pipeline Causes Israel Oil Spill](#)
- [Oil Spill Damages Israel Desert Nature Reserve](#)

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/southern-oil-spill-one-of-israels-worse-ever-eco-disasters/>



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