



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,119 Newsy Stuff

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December 24 2014



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USA, ORE, ASHLAND, DECEMBER 4 2014. ASHLAND SCHOOL EVACUATED, ROUTE 135 CLOSED AFTER GASOLINE SPILL

kiera blessing

A gasoline spill on Route 135 in Ashland Tuesday morning forced the closure of a one-mile stretch of road and the evacuation of a nearby middle school. A truck delivering gasoline to the Mobil station on West Union Street near Indian Spring Road spilled 30 to 40 gallons of fuel shortly before 7 a.m., said Peter Chisholm and Lieutenant David Larussi, spokesmen for the Ashland Fire Department. The tanker was unloading 11,000 gallons of gasoline when a malfunction occurred, causing the spill. As a precaution, Ashland Middle School, which is next to the gas station, was closed, Chisholm said.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/12/03/ashland-school-evacuated-route-closed-after-gasoline-spill/SiDY018xH3NyV3wmuatqZJ/story.html>

USA, TN, WILSON CO, LEBANON, DECEMBER 5 2014. FUEL SPILL CAUSES GRIDLOCK

kimberly jordan



An overturned tractor trailer carrying nearly 9,000 gallons of gasoline caused a serious traffic backup on Interstate 40 Wednesday. The crash happened just before 6:30 a.m. According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol report, Clayborn Helton, 77, of Nashville, was driving a 2004 Volvo tractor-trailer eastbound near the exit for Highway 109 and the truck ran off the right side of the road, crashing into a guardrail. The report states the vehicle then continued approximately 150 feet up an embankment, causing the vehicle to jackknife, at which point the trailer broke free of the tractor, spilling the majority of the fuel inside the tank. Wilson Emergency Management Agency Director Joey Cooper said both WEMA and Lebanon Fire Department responded to the scene. "Two of the tanks had ruptured due to the embankment he had run up against before he rolled over," Cooper said. He said the crew applied a foam that is designed to "keep down the vapors" from the spilled gasoline before digging trenches to

prevent the spill from moving further through the grass. "We had to go downrange toward [State Route] 840 probably 150-200 feet and dug a couple of trenches to make sure if one overflowed we could catch [the spill] in another one," said Cooper. Clean-up efforts caused the eastbound lanes to be shut down until nearly 5 p.m. Cooper said this was partially due to having to offload the damaged tank. "You have to offload one of those tanker trucks before you can turn it over. That's what usually takes so long, is waiting for a second tanker to offload the damaged one. "We shut down the westbound lane for about an hour to get [the trailer] upright and moved off. We do that for the safety of the citizens and the drivers on the interstate." Helton told responders he had blacked out and when he came to, he had crashed, according to the report. He was transported to University Medical Center following the crash, and Cooper said he had no injuries. The next step, according to Cooper, will be having the contaminated soil removed and replaced. He said the process of removing the soil could take a couple of days, but lanes should not have to be closed.

<http://www.lebanondemocrat.com/article/526811>

USA, OH, FAIRFIELD TWP, DECEMBER 5 2014. HEAT OIL TANK CAUSED LEAK AT GOLF COURSE

eric robinette

The fuel leak that contaminated ponds at the Walden Ponds Golf Club has been cleaned up, and an underground tank will be sealed with concrete to prevent a recurrence, said the township's fire chief. The property at 6090 Golf Club Lane once belonged to the Rentschler family, and the tank that leaked held heating oil, said Chief Timothy Thomas. The leak was found Thanksgiving night and a creek and retention ponds on the property have undergone cleaning since, Thomas said. Andy Crum, the golf club's general manager, said that the cleanup was expected to be finished Thursday. "The rumor mill kept telling us that a railroad car was buried on the property," Thomas said. "They weren't far off, (the tank) was almost big enough to be a railroad car." The tank measured 33 feet by 10 feet, with a capacity of 18,000 gallons. That was "not your typical home heating oil, but apparently Mr. Rentschler wanted to have plenty of heating oil available, so he installed that tank." One of the lines underneath the tank had broken off, and the remaining oil drained out of the tank. As of Tuesday, crews had cleaned up 1,200 gallons of product, said Thomas. Cleaning crews performed a thermal treatment Thursday to ensure there was no contaminant left. The booms will stay in place for some time as a safeguard, the chief said. According to the Ohio



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Environmental Protection Agency, the leak resulted in only a minor fish kill. All costs of the cleanup were borne by the property owner, and there was no cost in township dollars beyond the normal pay for the on-duty crews, Thomas said. "They're going to put approximately 90 cubic feet of concrete in that tank to seal it permanently, so it won't ever contain product again, or leech anything else out," Thomas said. Crum said the cleanup operations never disrupted operations at the golf course, beyond the oil smell that had permeated the property. "It has done a bit of grass damage on our hillside, but fortunately, this isn't wedding season for us," he said.

<http://www.journal-news.com/news/news/local/heat-oil-tank-caused-leak-at-golf-course/njLp8/>

USA, GA, CLAYTON COUNTY, DECEMBER 5 2014. SEVERAL CLAIM ARMY 'DRAGGED ITS FEET' ON TOXIC VAPOR TESTING NEAR FORT GILLEM

michelle wirth

 **Photo's [6]** [View Slideshow](#)

Earlier this year, the Army discovered toxic vapor in several homes near Fort Gillem. The former Army base is in Clayton County. It used to serve as a maintenance facility, and hazardous chemicals were routinely buried on its grounds. Now there's a debate about whether the Army is to blame for the unhealthy air. Chad Partin plays in his living room with his wife and young son. He lives in a newer two-story home about a mile from Fort Gillem. Partin and his wife thought they'd found the perfect house when they purchased it five years ago. But then Partin got a flier on his door. The Army wanted to test Partin's home for chemicals in the air which could be potentially hazardous to human health. That's when Partin became worried. "We don't feel safe here. I have a four-year-old son. I'm concerned everyday of him sleeping here and what kind of things it's doing to his body. My wife has constant headaches. My dog has a growth on the side of her head. Those may not be anything attributed to this kind of this stuff, but who knows." After finding out about the potential contamination nine months ago, Partin's wife and son started staying with family members in Newnan four days a week. "I don't get to see them at all, and that's stressful." Partin's home was eventually tested and the Army told him his home was safe. But he also got a letter from Georgia environmental officials saying there were hazardous chemicals. Now, Partin is unsure he'll ever be able to sell his home or get any of the equity he's put into it. "Even if my home is safe, the outlying area isn't, other homes aren't. The creek behind our house is contaminated, so the whole stigma on the area and the home is already there." State environmental officials thought several streams and creeks near Partin's home posed enough of a problem that they convinced the Army to put up signs to warn residents. But the Army says residents shouldn't be alarmed because the level of contaminants is low. That said, Army officials say residents probably shouldn't drink the water in those streams. From the 1940s through the 1970s, it was still legal to bury things like medical supplies, pesticides and chemicals at Fort Gillem. And eventually some of those chemicals seeped into ground and surface water. In October, the Army held an open house at a local city hall. Contractors showed the results of air quality tests to residents and asked others to sign up for future sampling. Residents could view maps of the testing area, and got fliers with explanations about hazardous chemicals. Some felt they got their questions answered, but others say the information was confusing. Dana Lemon owns a nearby funeral home, which hasn't been tested. She says, "It's just one of those situations where there is just so much technical information, we're not really sure what the implications are for our building." And this point she says, "We don't know whether we should be concerned or not." Tom Lederle is the Army's division chief for Base Realignment and Closure. He spoke to me from the Pentagon. Lederle says the Army tested 69 properties this year. And in most of them the Army didn't find a connection between the chemicals in the ground water and the toxic vapor entering homes. Lederle says the Army is finding higher levels of certain chemicals in those properties than in the groundwater. "That indicates that maybe there is another source." So what does he think those sources are? Lederle says, "Some of these chemicals are associated with household cleaners, other products, solvents, paints and things like that." But Lederle says the Army will clean up the contamination if further testing shows it's responsible. "The residents I spoke with, I told them if it's an Army problem we'll help fix it." Lederle says the Army has been cleaning up Fort Gillem and surrounding areas for decades. He says those efforts include a previous air quality study within some nearby homes. An environmental survey obtained by WABE says the Army knew as early as 1982 that contaminants were seeping into water outside Fort Gillem. And 10 years ago, a report by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry said the potential for hazardous chemicals within homes near the Fort may exist. The agency urged the Army to inform residents and conduct air quality testing inside houses. Lederle says he's unaware of the report. He took over the Fort Gillem project three years ago. "Since I inherited it, we've been moving just as fast as we can to get this done." But some environmental experts think the Army could have acted sooner. "Why did it take ten years? That's my question. I thought when I left the project was on track and residents were going to get relief." Ralph Arcangeli was a project manager for a company contracting with the Army



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Corps of Engineers on the Fort Gillem project between 1999 to 2003. Arcangeli says he and others performed soil gas testing near homes which found trichloroethylene. That's a solvent that can cause liver and kidney problems with long-term exposure. And he says that should have triggered air quality testing in homes. But he says to the best of his knowledge, that didn't happen until this year. "The Army has done a lot of work at Fort Gillem, but when it came to evaluating offsite issues, they were very slow in that execution." For years, the Army has been working voluntarily with state environmental officials. And Bert Langley with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division says that's made the cleanup process harder. Langley is the director of compliance for the Division. "The difficulty with any voluntary process in this arena is that when two groups, us and the Army, disagree, there is not, for want of a better word, a referee as in a court system that can make a decision." Langley says about 70 percent of the properties tested have levels that are unsafe for human health. And he says state officials believe the Army is responsible. "We're seeing some levels of contamination in basements and below slabs that would lead us to think it came from the actual groundwater contaminant plume as opposed to what people have in their homes." He also thinks the testing the Army is currently doing could have been done sooner. "If they had committed to doing the work, they could have moved forward five years ago, maybe even further back than that." Langley says the chemicals that have been discovered in residents' homes are fine if they're only exposed to them temporarily. But he says long-term exposure could be a problem. "Long-term effects can be kidney issues, liver issues. Not anything likely in cancers, but some of these chemicals have some potential to be cancer causing." Langley says earlier this year, the Army agreed it would quickly install air ventilation systems within homes that tested positive for toxic vapor. But Army officials say it was never part of the official work plan for the site. In September, the EPA issued an order to require the Army to move quicker to take corrective measures for homes with hazardous chemicals. But after meeting with the Army, EPA officials are still determining whether the order needs to be followed. In the meantime, the Army has agreed to install an air ventilation system in a local daycare center. Some residents aren't waiting to find out if the Army will do the same for them. The home Susan Martin-Morgan was renting tested positive for toxic vapor this past summer. And this was her shortly after the testing was conducted. "Concerned about me having my Down syndrome brother-in-law, grandbaby, and my pregnant daughter here again. I'm very concerned about the water and the air that we're breathing." Martin-Morgan also has health issues, which she said could be related to the toxic air. "Sometimes I feel like I just can't breathe at night." But the Army recently told Martin-Morgan its initial testing doesn't show the military is to blame for the toxic vapor within her home. Martin-Morgan doesn't think that's the case. And because she was worried for health, she packed up all of her belongings and moved out of her home.

<http://wabe.org/post/several-claim-army-dragged-its-feet-toxic-vapor-testing-near-fort-gillem>

CANADA, SASK, REGINA, FDECEMBER 5 2014. VICTIMS OF REFINERY EXPLOSION FEAR CO-OP WON'T BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE >> INJURED WORKERS IN SASK. ONLY ALLOWED TO PURSUE COMPENSATION THROUGH WCB

geoff leo

 **Watch the Video:** [Raw: Victim Describes Refinery Explosion](#)



Seven victims worry a lawsuit they filed against Co-op Refinery in Regina, following an explosion in 2011 that left many of them injured and unable to work, will be thrown out because of Worker's Compensation legislation in Saskatchewan.

A group of workers who were badly burned in an explosion at Regina's Consumers Co-operative Refineries Ltd. in 2011 are concerned they won't be compensated for the toll this has taken on their lives. Seven people who were working for contractors at the Co-op Refinery on Oct. 6, 2011 have [filed a lawsuit](#) arguing the explosion was the result of gross negligence by the refinery and some associated firms. They say, as a result, their health and their lives have been unalterably damaged. According to Saskatchewan law, this court action isn't allowed. In Saskatchewan, injured workers are only allowed to pursue compensation through the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB). They are not allowed to sue their employer for compensation in court. A WCB process is underway in which the defendants are arguing to have the lawsuit thrown out.

Victim's Lawyer Admits Case is a Long Shot

The workers' lawyer, Tavengwa Runyowa, said the lawsuit argues that "the refinery was an unsafe work environment. That the people in charge knew that. Certain employees made complaints about it and were basically told you can stay and work under these conditions or you can leave." He said in his view this "appears to be grossly negligent and possibly intentional conduct by the employer." Runyowa admits that on the surface the lawsuit is a long shot because of current law. But he said there is a higher law in this country. "What we're saying is that if there is a situation where one law is allowing something that is patently



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unfair from a natural justice perspective, or from a constitutional perspective, that law can be defeated," Runyowa said. The provincial government confirms that injured workers are not allowed to sue their employer and it defends the current approach as a "no fault" system that allows workers to get guaranteed benefits from their employer without going through a long legal process.

'I knew I Was on Fire'

Irene Rombaut still vividly remembers the day of the explosion. She was working for a scaffolding contractor when suddenly there was a massive explosion and a fireball came hurtling toward her. "I knew I was on fire. I knew there was a shower around the corner so my mind was on trying to get this fire out while everybody was yelling at me to run," Rombaut said. She tried to stumble away but the pain made that difficult. "My chest was hurting. My face was hurting. My neck was hurting. My ears were hurting. I had earplugs in and I was worried my ear plugs were melted into my head." She was rushed to hospital where, for 11 days, doctors treated the second degree burns on her face, ears, neck, arms and back in the intensive care unit. Her daughter, Justine Rombaut, was also working on site as a scaffolder that day and rushed to the hospital to see her mom. "I honestly shut down and thought my mom wasn't going to make it through the night because she was on life support," Justine said. She says the whole family was dramatically affected that day. "I feel like life was stolen from us. I feel like part of us was taken away. Like we lost something big," Justine said. And they say an independent investigation shows that the whole incident could have and should have been prevented.

Charges Laid Against Refinery

Based in part on this report, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) laid charges against the refinery in July 2013. It alleges Co-op Refinery failed to put in place a corrosion monitoring program, failed to maintain equipment in a safe way, and failed to maintain the safety and welfare of workers. That matter will be back before the courts in January. Irene Rombaut said all of this has led her to believe, "it could have been prevented. None of this needed to happen if people would have done their job." Her colleague Kim Janvier agrees. She was working for the same contractor not far from Rombaut that day and was also hit by a fireball which gave her first, second and third degree burns on her face, neck and hands. "I looked at my hands and [saw] that they were all white and waxy and then underneath on my left hand my skin was actually pushed up and there was actually fresh flesh under there," Janvier said. She said to this day she has nightmares and has been unable to go back to work at "live plants" where explosions could potentially happen, because of the mental stress.

Worker says There Were Warning Signs

What makes Janvier most angry is that she raised concerns about the safety of the workplace before the explosion happened. Not long after she started the job as a scaffolder, she was told to be very careful around the pipes, which she said "were very rusted and brittle." "At one point we were told not to cause a spark or hit them or anything, because if a bird crapped on them they would break. That's how brittle they were," Janvier said. "And that came straight from an operator at Co-op." She said she was also worried because alarms were going off on a regular basis, which meant they had to stop working and go to a muster point. The statement of claim says that because of the frequent disruptions, some alarms "were disconnected or removed entirely." Janvier said workers raised concerns at the weekly safety meeting they were told, "if you don't like it, you can quit." She knows that this lawsuit is unlikely to succeed but she wants to send a message. "My main goal is that somebody gets held accountable for this. And that it just never happens again is my main focus on all this," Janvier said. The refinery hasn't filed a statement of defence and none of these allegations have been proven in court. Co-op Refinery has declined to comment because of the ongoing legal action.

Government Defends WCB System

The deputy minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety said he feels badly for the workers but he said the WCB system provides the best protection for workers and employers. Mike Carr said in the past employees had to take their employer to court. "It would be very expensive and it would be highly litigious, so you would find that probably the net beneficiaries are not injured workers but members of the bar," Carr said. He said the WCB takes a "no fault" approach to workplace accidents and is in place in every province and territory across the country. Carr said it provides "90 per cent of net income for the duration of disability. There will be the provision of a pension asset assuming that there is lifelong impairment as a result of the injury, and there's active and ongoing access to medical treatment to the injured worker at no cost for the duration of their disability." For her part, Rombaut is not impressed with her WCB benefits. "I wouldn't say it was compensation for what I lost. It was just to replace my wages," Rombaut said. "It doesn't cover the time I could have had with my kids."

Related Stories

- [Regina refinery explosion in 2013 could have been prevented: report](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/victims-of-refinery-explosion-fear-co-op-won-t-be-held-accountable-1.2859673)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/victims-of-refinery-explosion-fear-co-op-won-t-be-held-accountable-1.2859673>



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AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, DECEMBER 6 2014. NEW BP STORAGE TANK AT LARGS NORTH NOW OPEN.

BP announced late last week that the planned expansion of its Largs North fuel terminal in Adelaide had been completed. The construction of the new 30-million-litre storage tank will allow larger volumes of diesel to be stored on-site, allowing for more operational flexibility and increased security of supply for South Australia. In addition, a purpose-designed effluent management system will provide state-of-the-art environmental management at the terminal site. Marking the occasion, South Australian Treasurer and Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy Tom Koutsantonis cut the ribbon on the new tank. BP Australasia President Andy Holmes said BP's investment in the Largs North terminal showed the company's commitment to the prosperity of the South Australian fuel market. "Largs North is a key part of South Australia's supply infrastructure, and investment in this site is an example of BP's commitment to our customers and to the people of South Australia," he said. "This new tank will allow BP to optimise shipping operations from our Kwinana refinery in Western Australia and capture opportunities presented in South Australia. "BP has a long history in South Australia, and such investments are part of our commitment to continue to grow our business in the broader Australian market and underpin Australia's energy security."

<http://goo.gl/ERSBXv>

OMAN, MINA AL FAHAL, DECEMBER 6 2014. FIRE AT MUSCAT REFINERY PUT OUT, ORPIC SAYS

saleh al shaibany

 **Watch the Video:** [Fire at Muscat Refinery put out](#)

 **Photo's [3]** [Fire at Muscat Refinery put out](#)



A fire that broke out at the Muscat Refinery in Mina Al Fahal has been put out, Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company (Orpic) said on its website. "There were no serious injuries reported and we would like to assure you all that there are no direct impacts of this incident on fuel supplies to Omani local market or any contamination of oil products on the surrounding environment," the Orpic statement posted on its [website](#) said. The fire had broken out at the 85,000 barrels per day refinery on Thursday afternoon and all the staff were evacuated. There were no fatalities reported but three people sustained injuries due to burns. Orpic did not say what had caused the fire but witnesses heard a blast moments before the incident. "We heard a blast then saw smoke on top of the tanks and processing units. We don't know what has exactly caused it." one of the refinery staff, told Times of Oman. The refinery is managed by Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company (Orpic). The company is also managing another refinery in Sohar, which has a capacity of 120,000 barrels per day. Meanwhile, Public Authority for Civil Defence and Ambulances (PACDA) said that four people suffered medium injuries in the incident and that they have been admitted to the hospital. The civil defence authority added that fire in Muscat Refinery is under control. "Fire is under control. Employees have been evacuated," the PACDA tweeted on its official

twitter account. The reason behind the fire is not yet clear.

<http://www.timesofoman.com/News/43711/Article-BREAKING-Fire-breaks-out-at-Muscat-Refinery>

USA, MS, JONES CO, DECEMBER 6 2014. TANKER CARRYING FLAMMABLE LIQUID OVERTURNS IN JONES COUNTY, ROAD CLOSED TO MOTORISTS

jeff dale

 **Watch the Video:** [Tanker Carrying Flammable Liquid OvertURNS](#)

A tanker overturned in Jones County around 11 a.m. Thursday morning. The tanker was a Blossman propane truck, and overturned on Freedom Road in Southeast Jones County. The liquid in the tanker is flammable, and the Jones County Volunteer Fire Department is on the scene waiting to assist if the liquid were to leak. The road is closed to motorists until further notice. Authorities are asking for all to avoid the area at this time. Firefighters are on the scene in case of an explosion. The driver of the truck was not injured.

<http://www.wdam.com/story/27549391/tanker-carrying-flammable-liquid-overtURNS-in-jones-county-road-closed-to-motorists>



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USA, ALA, ETOWAH CO, DECEMBER 6 2014. INTERSTATE 59: DELAYS AND DETOURS IN ETOWAH, DEKALB COUNTIES AFTER TANKER CRASH, FUEL SPILL

Drivers between Gadsden and Collinsville are being detoured off Interstate 59 as crews clean a spill from a tanker truck crash. The detours likely could last through the night into Friday morning, according to the Gadsden-Etowah County Emergency Management Agency. Morning commuters should plan to continue using the arranged detour. The tanker left the roadway near mile marker 189, according to the Alabama Department of Transportation. Both directions of the interstate are closed between Exits 188 and 205, according to GECEMA. Traffic is being routed along U.S. 11 as an alternate between Exit 188 -- Alabama 211 in Reece City -- and Exit 205, which is Alabama 68 in Collinsville.

http://www.al.com/news/birmingham/index.ssf/2014/12/interstate_59_tanker_crash_fue.html

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, ALTONA, DECEMBER 5 2014. FUEL LEAK AT MOBIL REFINERY SPARKS EMERGENCY



A fuel leak has been contained at the Mobil Altona refinery.

Crews are working to fix a fuel leak at the Mobil refinery in Melbourne this morning. A spokeswoman for Mobil experienced a small release of fuel from one of the Altona refinery's process units about 2.30am. The Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services were called and used spray to contain the fuel, which was originally thought to be a gas leak. The fire crews were assisting the refinery's maintenance crews to patch up the pipe. "The leak has been contained but maintenance crews were still working to repair the pipeline," a MFB spokesman told news.com.au. The Mobil spokeswoman confirmed the unit had been safely shut down and there was no threat to the community or environment. "Mobil is

working to safely investigate the cause of the release and repair the affected unit," she said. She said that the company was not anticipating any impact to its fuel supply. "Mobil apologises for any inconvenience or concern that this incident may have caused our neighbours," she said. The refinery is located 13km west of the Melbourne CBD and supplies half of Victoria's fuel needs. According to its website, it operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and processes crude oil into petroleum products. After processing, refined products are pumped into one of the almost 100 storage tanks on site and in the adjacent "tank farm". For more information, please call the refinery's 24-hour community hotline on 1800 659 527.

<http://www.news.com.au/national/fuel-leak-at-mobil-refinery-sparks-emergency/story-fncynjr2-1227145514979>

USA, MT, LEWISTOWN, DECEMBER 6 2014. FUEL SPILL CLOSES HIGHWAY 87 NEAR LEWISTOWN

tom lutey

A semi truck hauling fuel has tipped over on Highway 87 east of Lewistown, closing the road for cleanup until at least 4:30 p.m. The Montana Department of Transportation is reporting that an undetermined amount of diesel and gasoline has spilled onto Highway 87 near mile marker 95. No one was injured in the wreck, which occurred on black ice. Freezing rain is in the National Weather Service forecast for Big Timber as well as Eastern and central Montana

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/fuel-spill-closes-highway-near-lewistown/article_a3b70609-7520-52a7-a7fe-c890b451142e.html

USA, ALA, REECE CITY, DECEMBER 6 2014. WRECK, FUEL SPILL SHUTS DOWN INTERSTATE 59



Photo's [9] Gas Truck Overturns



Interstate 59 northbound was closed after a tanker truck overturned in the median, Thursday, Dec. 3, 2014, north of Reece City, Ala. The interstate was closed between the Reece City/ Nocalula Falls exit and the Collinsville exit. The wreck happened about 2 p.m. one mile north of Reece City. The driver was transported to a local hospital with apparent non-life threatening injuries, according to officials on the scene. State Troopers, Reece City Fire and Attalla Fire responded to the scene. Officials speculated the interstate would be closed for several hours.

Interstate 59 is closed in both directions from the Reece City to Collinsville exits as safety crews deal with an overturned tanker that is spilling gasoline and diesel fuel. The interstate is expected to be closed for several hours, according to the Gadsden-Etowah Emergency Management Agency, and all traffic is being rerouted



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December 24 2014



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to U.S. Highway 11. The tanker was carrying 8,000 gallons of gasoline, according to Denise Cooley, deputy director of the Gadsden-Etowah EMA. The fuel is leaking slowly, Cooley said, but crews have been unable to stop the leak. Diesel fuel also is believed to be leaking from the tanker itself. Cooley said the tanker's owner is sending two pumper trucks to off-load the gasoline. She said the tanker is compartmentalized, and the most gasoline that could leak is 1,500 gallons. The driver was taken to Riverview Regional Medical Center, but did not appear to have life-threatening injuries. The Reece City Fire Department, the Attalla Fire Department and its hazardous materials team, the Gadsden-Etowah EMA and Alabama State Troopers are on the scene, as are Alabama Department of Emergency Management and Environmental Protection Agency personnel. The Alabama Department of Transportation is rerouting traffic.

<http://www.gadsdentimes.com/article/20141204/NEWS/141209888?Title=Wreck-fuel-spill-shuts-down-Interstate-59>

CANADA, QC, MONTREAL, DECEMBER 6 2014. FUEL RECOVERY AFTER TANKER ACCIDENT SUSPENDED DURING RUSH HOUR

anne sutherland

Friday's rush hour will be chaotic in the east end due to an accident earlier in the day, but at the last minute Notre-Dame will be open to traffic between 3 and 7 p.m., thanks to the Montreal fire department. A tanker truck containing gasoline lost an axle on a wide left turn at the corner of Dickson and Notre-Dame Sts. At 10:30 a.m. Firefighters have been on site because 15,000 litres of gasoline has to be pumped out of the damaged tanker into another truck and the liquid is highly flammable. Employees with the oil company have been having problems with valves, said Montreal police spokesperson Jean-Pierre Brabant. Notre-Dame had been closed to traffic in both directions between Cadillac and Vau Sts. From 10:30 a.m., but just before 2 p.m. a fire official said the pumping operation will be suspended between 3 and 7 p.m. to avoid what could have been a traffic problem of epic proportions. The road will be closed again as of 7 p.m. Notre Dame at Dickson is one of the entry points to Highway 25, serving the Louis-Hippolyte-Lafontaine tunnel, making it key to rush-hour traffic.

<http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/fuel-tanker-accident-closes-notre-dame-st-e-avoid-the-area>

HUNGARY, BUDAPEST, DECEMBER 6 2014. MOL GROUP COMPLETES THE ACQUISITION OF LUKOIL SERVICE STATIONS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

MOL Group successfully completed the takeover of the business activities of LUKOIL Czech Republic s.r.o. in the Czech Republic, including 44 LUKOIL service stations. This step will significantly contribute to improving MOL Group's market position and the intention of becoming a leading retailer company in selling fuel and non-fuel goods and services. MOL Group currently operates 192 service stations under Slovnaft, Pap Oil, and Lukoil brands in the Czech Republic, which are planned to be united in the course of 2015 under two strong brands. "MOL Group significantly strengthened its retail position by acquiring LUKOIL's service stations in the Czech Republic which will help us to further grow and also to become a number one choice for customers," said Lars Höglund, MOL Group Retail Senior Vice President. "Through this transaction, we are represented by three brands – Slovnaft, Pap Oil and LUKOIL on the Czech market. We aim to introduce MOL brand, which identifies our service stations in Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Austria as well, while keeping the currently operating Pap Oil brand" added Lars Höglund. MOL Group is committed to offer products and services to all its customers of superior quality and to continually innovate and develop its service stations. Following the takeover, a new range of high quality lubricants and auto chemicals with MOL branding will also be introduced to LUKOIL service station customers. The offer of fuels and services, including fuel cards, remains unchanged by the acquisition at Lukoil service stations. MOL Group also announced the acquisition of 208 ENI service stations in three CEE countries, including the Czech Republic in May, 2014. After meeting all the contractual terms and concluding this transaction, MOL Group will be among the ten largest companies in the Czech Republic.

<http://molgroup.info/en/press/press-releases/3066-mol-group-completed-the-acquisition-of-lukoil-service-stations-in-the-czech-republic>

USA, OH, CLEVELAND, DECEMBER 6 2014. I-90E REOPENS AFTER OVERTURNED TANKER CRASH, GOOD SAMARITANS RESCUE DRIVER

darren sweeney

 **Watch the Video:** [I-90E Reopens after Overturned Tanker Crash, Good Samaritans Rescue Driver](#)

 **Photo's [5]** [Overturned Tanker on I-90 eastbound at W. 44th St](#)



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ODOT reports that I-90E has reopened after a group of passing motorists stopped to help a truck driver trapped in his overturned tanker. The tanker truck rolled over on I-90 eastbound between W. 44th St. and W. 41st St. just after 2 a.m. Friday. As of about 6:45 a.m., one eastbound lane of I-90 had reopened. Three lanes remained closed at W. 44th St until about 11:30a.m. A Fox 8 producer came upon the scene before rescue crews arrived. He witnessed several motorists stop to make sure the driver, who was trapped in the cab of the tanker, was alright. Two men smashed the windshield and helped the driver, who appeared to be unhurt, get away from the wreckage. Kian Johnston was one of them: "I was on my way to work. I rolled up on the scene and I saw a couple of people on the side of the road with their hazards on," Johnston said. "I didn't actually see the tanker at first, because it was pretty dark. I stopped when I did see the tanker." He said two people were already on the scene calling 911 and told him the driver was trapped in the cab. Johnston was concerned about the fuel leaking from the truck. "My main concern was ... is this thing going to go up and the guy's still in there," he said. He said another man began to try to shatter the windshield to free the driver. "I went around the backside of the truck and found a good piece of metal, a pretty heavy piece of metal, and started smashing it. The guy from the inside starting smashing it out. We got him out in time fortunately, nothing erupted in flames or anything," Johnson said. "It was pretty scary." "We got him over to the side of the road. Gave him a big hug and told him he was okay," Johnston said. Johnston said he was bleeding pretty bad from his hand, but didn't think he would need stitches. "I'm just glad he's alright," Johnston said. "To the other guy who helped me get him out, I don't know who he was, we shook hands after it, I'm glad me and him were there to save him."

<http://fox8.com/2014/12/05/overturned-tanker-closed-i-90-good-samaritans-rescue-driver/>

USA, KS, WICHITA, DECEMBER 6 2014. HAZMAT CREWS ON THE SCENE OF A TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNED

john wright

 **Watch the Video:** [Tanker Truck Overturns](#)

A tanker truck is turned on it's side. Hazmat crews are on the scene near Indianapolis and Wichita Street. The tanker was hauling 5,000 gallons of gasoline. Wichita Police has the traffic blocked in the residential neighborhood. The driver has minor injuries. The tanker owner is not yet known. EMS was told to standoff until it is determined a non-hazardous situation. No evacuations have occurred.

<http://www.kwch.com/news/local-news/haz-mat-crews-on-the-scene-of-a-tanker-truck-overturned/30066782>

USA, N.C, GREENSBORO, DECEMBER 6 2014. 2,000 GALLONS OF ETHANOL SPILL IN GREENSBORO

joe gamm



Greensboro firefighters at 217 Atwell Ave., a Ryder truck rental facility, deal with a leaking tanker on Friday, Dec. 5, 2014, in Greensboro, N.C.

About 2,000 gallons of ethanol spilled in an accident in south Greensboro this afternoon. A tanker filled with ethanol ruptured after the legs, known as landing gear and used to hold the trailer upright when not hooked to a tractor, collapsed, Battalion Chief Bill VanWert said. Firefighters responded at about 12:45 p.m. to Ryder Truck Rental, 217 Atwell Ave. Firefighters found fuel running across the parking lot and draining into a tributary of South Buffalo Creek, VanWert said. "It

was huge," VanWert said. "We tried to contain it as best we could, with an ongoing leak." They called in city crews with heavy equipment to dig a pit to contain the fuel, VanWert said. Firefighters were able to place large containers under the tanker to capture some of the fuel, VanWert said. Crews from the Greensboro's Water Resources, and Emergency Management departments, and its stormwater program were on the scene this afternoon, as were state representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, VanWert said. The truck rental company hired A&D Environmental Services, which has an office at 1915 Brentwood St. in High Point, to clean up the spill, firefighters said. City spokesman Donnie Turlington said the Environmental Protection agency has been notified. He said the city expects there to be a short term impact on fish and wildlife in the area. He also said the city is looking into what if any permitting issues applied to the tanker. No one was injured in the incident. The tanker contains five sections, so if a leak occurs, the entire load does not spill, VanWert said. Only one section was punctured, he said. Crews began transferring the rest of the fuel from the damaged tanker to another this afternoon. The tanker was in storage at the site, VanWert said.

http://www.news-record.com/news/update-gallons-of-ethanol-spill-in-greensboro/article_c16101be-7ca6-11e4-b6a6-7bcadc29503a.html



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NEW ZEALAND, WAIKATO, DECEMBER 6 2014. OIL SPILL CLOSES OYSTER FARMS IN COROMANDEL

donna-lee biddle

Two oyster farms in the Coromandel closed for harvesting today when a boat submerged in the harbour, leaking oil into the sea. The Waikato Regional Council marine oil-spill response staff were alerted to the sinking at Waipapa Bay off Windy Point at about 5.30am. Regional scene commander Adam Munro said the vessel sunk in 4.5metres of water and they are still unsure as to why. "We will continue working with the very co-operative owner and the oyster farm operators to manage the situation going forward. We'll also monitor what's happening in the harbour today and over the weekend," he said. It is unclear exactly how much diesel has spilled but there has been a relatively substantial surface slick in the harbour. It is also unclear if there is any damage to the marine environment. Sorbent booms were deployed to help prevent the spread of diesel from the 12-metre vessel and a salvage diver has managed to plug the leak. Coromandel Oyster Company co-owner Anne Loudon said they voluntarily stopped harvesting to assess the how bad the oil spill was. "...given that we could see some diesel on top of the water we thought that we would not harvest," she said. The company's oyster farm is a couple of kilometres away from the spill but Loudon thought there may have been a risk the oil could reach the farm tidally. "The tide was coming in and it came near to the farm and now the tide is going out so it will go out to sea and probably break down." The vessel had around 400 litres of diesel on board. Munro said that they hoped the boat would be re-floated this afternoon. "We are working closely with the vessel's owner, who will be arranging salvage through their insurer," said Munro. In April last year, a partly sunk boat in the Coromandel's Wyuna Bay was found to be leaking oil. The 50-foot leisure boat was attached to its moor and Munro said they were not yet aware of why that boat sunk. He added that any boat sinking like this reinforces the need for owners to moor their boats safely and keep them well-maintained.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/63858259/Oil-spill-closes-oyster-farms-in-Coromandel>

USA, IA, SULLY, DECEMBER 6 2014. FAMILY FILES LAWSUIT OVER WORKER'S DEATH



The family of a man killed while working at the [Sully Truck Wash last January](#) have filed a lawsuit against the company. The Sully Truck Wash and Brent Vander Molen are named in the lawsuit by Willie Mercer's family. Mercer was found unconscious inside a tanker trailer. He died and two others were hurt when they were overcome by fumes. "Willie's death and the damage it has caused his family could have been prevented if Sully Truck Wash would have simply just followed the OSHA requirements. Instead they completely ignored the confined space requirements which resulted in Willie's death," said Corey J. L. Walker, the Mercer family's attorney. The family's lawyer said that according to the report from the Iowa Division of Labor, "Employees were not informed of the hazards of a permit space, not trained on permit required confined entry spaces, appropriate personal protective equipment was not available for use by employees entering a permit space." The company was originally fined \$8,400, but later paid a reduced fine of \$5,000. Walker said he hopes "this will send a message to employers that OSHA rules are there for a reason."

<http://www.kcci.com/news/family-files-lawsuit-over-workers-death-at-truck-wash/30080574>

USA, TX, CORPUS CHRISTI, DECEMBER 6 2014. FUEL SPILL CLOSES STRETCH OF AGNES FOR THREE HOURS

 **Watch the Video:** [Fuel Spill Closes Stretch of Agnes for 3 Hours](#)



A section of a busy Corpus Christi street had to be shut down for three hours Thursday afternoon when a tanker spilled diesel fuel all over the roadway. It happened just after 1:30 p.m. on Agnes near Old Robstown Road on the city's westside. Police say the driver of an 18-wheeler noticed fuel spilling out of the tank he was hauling. It turned out to be about 40 gallons in all. The driver immediately stopped and called police and fire crews to the scene. Firefighters quickly doused the fuel with an absorbent to prevent it from spilling into the storm drains. Officials said there was no danger to the environment, but the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality was called in to monitor the spill.

<http://www.kiiitv.com/story/27552339/fuel-spill-closes-stretch-of-agnes-for-three-hours>



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USA, MA, BOSTON, DECEMBER 6 2014. NEW FIRE CODE WILL ALLOW 'HOLD-OPEN' CLIPS ON GAS STATION PUMPS

kelly o'brien

 **Watch the Video:** [Static Electricity Starts a Flash Fire](#)



See that little metal clip under the nozzle handle? That's currently banned in Massachusetts.

For decades, Massachusetts drivers have been left out in the cold by state laws, but that's about to change this winter. [According to WGBH](#), gas stations will be allowed to install hold-open clips on their pump nozzles starting January 1st. Hold-open clips are those little metal pieces used just about everywhere else in the country to keep the nozzle pumping gas even if no one is squeezing the trigger. They let people get back in the car during fill-up, which would be pretty nice during those brutal New England winters. But that's also the reason hold-open clips have been banned in Massachusetts since the 1970s, according to WGBH. State Fire Marshall Stephen Coan told WGBH that officials had been concerned drivers would build up static electricity by sliding in and out of their cars, then touch the metal nozzle trigger and send a spark into the gas tank. It really happens, apparently (jump to :55 for the exciting stuff). But years of data from other states have convinced the Massachusetts Fire Safety Department to lift the ban, Coan told WGBH. The rule change is part of a larger fire code overhaul going into effect at the start of 2015. So feel free to get excited about not standing next to your car in the cold this winter. But don't get too excited and rub your gloves together in anticipation. We don't want any sparks flying.

<http://www.boston.com/cars/news-and-reviews/2014/12/05/new-fire-code-will-allow-hold-open-clips-gas-station-pumps/hsvbj51JfIUsvEeDLVuJBN/story.html>

CZECH REPUBLIC, ZLINSKY KRAJ, VRBETICE. DECEMBER 6 2014. VILLAGES EVACUATED AFTER HUNDREDS OF BLASTS AT "CLEARED" SITE OF OCTOBER EXPLOSION



Hear at: Download: [MP3](#)

Villages in the vicinity of a former munitions store in South Moravia have been evacuated after a series of blasts rang out on Wednesday. The situation has come as a shock to locals, who believed the site was now safe almost two months after the store first exploded. The cause is not clear – and there have been warnings more detonations could follow.

Explosions at a former munitions store at the village of Vrbětice in southern Moravia on Wednesday were heard up to 40 kilometres away in the regional centre of Zlín. The private arms depot was destroyed in a huge blast in mid-October. However, pyrotechnics experts struggled to bring the site under control and smaller explosions were still going off weeks later. Final clearance work was meant to have been carried out last weekend, with the remaining ammunition readied for removal from the site. However, the problem returned with a vengeance on Wednesday morning. Fresh detonations began at 7:15 and hundreds have been heard since. The police evacuated Lipová and Haluzice, two villages near the site, and local children were sent home from school. Olšáková, mayor of the nearby Valašské Klobouky, made this comment on Czech Television on Wednesday morning. "I don't want to speculate, but I think people have been quite taken aback by the situation. Because we had information that they were starting to remove the munitions. We're now awaiting news because we're not in a position to say anything. We've been told that the minister of the interior is going to make a statement on the whole situation." Interior Minister Milan Chovanec did indeed make a statement, suggesting the fresh blasts may have been caused by the adverse weather conditions of recent days. The prime minister, Bohuslav Sobotka, laid the blame on subsidence at the site of the original crater. The minister of defence, Martin Stropnický, also spoke on the subject, telling the Chamber of Deputies that no guarantees could be given to the people of Vrbětice and surrounding villages. "These explosions could occur, they could, nobody knows exactly. It is beyond human powers to determine if that will happen and to what extent. Explosions could be caused by the movement of animals, or partial subsidence of the soil. The whole complex is a very risky place. But the number of specialists deployed is the maximum number that could take action." The prime minister has reiterated a previous comment that the state wasn't fully prepared for such a crisis situation, though he also insisted that things had now been brought under control. The site has been cordoned off and is being guarded by soldiers. As previously, it will remain completely closed for a period of at least seven days before explosives experts can examine it.

<http://www.radio.cz/en/section/curaffrs/villages-evacuated-after-hundreds-of-blasts-at-cleared-site-of-october-explosion>



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USA, NE, GRAND ISLAND, DECEMBER 6 2014. FIRE CREWS CLEAN UP DIESEL FUEL AT BOSSELMAN TRAVEL CENTER

eamon o'meara

Key Point: Driver empties diesel fuel tank in the parking lot and drove off

A messy situation at Bosselman's Travel Center in Grand Island Thursday night as crews were on scene cleaning up gallons of Diesel fuel. The Grand Island Rural Fire Department responded to Bosselman's north of I-80 interchange around 7:30 p.m. An employee said a trailer was leaking Diesel fuel so the driver decided to pull into the parking lot. The employee said the driver emptied the fuel in the parking lot and then drove off. Bosselman's said they have sand down on the fuel and it will be cleaned up by Friday morning. Four semi-truck parking spots had to be closed due to the fuel.

<http://www.nbcneb.com/home/headlines/Fire-Crews-Clean-Up-Diesel-Fuel-After-Intentional-Leak-284832671.html>

USA, WA, ILWACO, DECEMBER 6 2014. CRAB BOAT RUNS AGROUND NEAR MOUTH OF COLUMBIA



The stern of the sunken fishing vessel Titan remains visible above the water near the A-jetty on the north side of the Columbia River off of Ilwaco, Wash., Dec. 5, 2014.

The Coast Guard says a crab boat that ran aground at the mouth of the Columbia River near Ilwaco is leaking diesel fuel. The vessel was carrying 3,500 gallons of diesel but it's unknown how much spilled. A sheen is visible on the water. The Coast Guard says the 78-foot Titan out of Warrenton, Oregon, ran aground about 2 a.m. Friday and started taking on water. A 47-foot Coast Guard boat from Ilwaco delivered a pump to the boat but that couldn't stop it from sinking. The five crewmen were rescued with no injuries. The Titan owner has hired Global Diving Salvage to clean up the diesel spill and salvage the vessel. It was carrying more than 40,000 pounds of Dungeness crab.

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Crab-boat-runs-aground-near-mouth-of-Columbia-284909881.html>

ISRAEL, EILAT, DECEMBER 7 2014. 6,000 TONS OF POLLUTED SOIL DUG UP AFTER SOUTHERN OIL SPILL

Key Points:

- Experts have warned that the spill — [3 million liters, or 660,000 gallons, according to one expert](#) — could take months or even years to clean up.
- Nature reserve badly hit in ecological disaster; officials now fear flash floods may wash pollutants down to Gulf of Eilat



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

Following a major oil spill caused by a leak in the Trans-Israel pipeline Thursday night, the Environmental Protection Ministry said Saturday that it has so far removed 6,000 tons of contaminated soil from the southern Avrona nature reserve, in an attempt to contain and minimize the impact of what experts have labeled one of the country's worst ever ecological disasters. The polluted soil was transferred to the Nimra Landfill, located north of Eilat, the Walla news site reported. The Environmental Protection Ministry added that workers will continue evacuating soil from the reserve throughout the night. Citing weather forecasts indicating heavy

rainfall across the country later this week, officials at the ministry also voiced concern over the possibility that the polluted area would be hit by flash floods, thus spreading the contamination to additional territories in the south, and possibly washing the oil into the Gulf of Eilat. The Gulf of Eilat is home to protected coral reefs which could suffer major damage should the oil reach the sea. Experts have warned that the spill — [3 million liters, or 660,000 gallons, according to one expert](#) — could take months or even years to clean up. A preliminary investigation suggested that the oil spill was caused after the pipeline, a major oil conduit between the Mediterranean and Red seas that runs from Eilat to Ashkelon, was struck accidentally during maintenance work at Be'er Ora, 20 kilometers north of Eilat. Over 80 people were treated for respiratory problems on both sides of the Israel-Jordan border following the spill, as oil flooded the Route 90 highway leading into Eilat. The vast majority of



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those affected were in Jordan. 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," Samet said, adding that rehabilitation could take years. Be'er Ora sits in the sparsely populated Arava region besides multiple nature reserves that are home to indigenous flora and fauna, including rare acacia trees and over 280 deer.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/6000-tons-of-polluted-soil-dug-up-after-southern-oil-spill/>

USA, MD, BALTIMORE, DECEMBER 7 2014. GANSLER EYES LAWSUIT OVER WELL CONTAMINATION

timothy b. wheeler



Monitoring station at the former Exxon station in Fallston that had a gasoline leak and MTBE levels were found in the wells of homes and businesses. Out of gas, but not out of court: Gansler eyes joining "cascade" of litigation over MTBE Maryland Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler, encouraged by whopping awards and settlements in other states, could join what one analyst calls a "nationwide cascade" of litigation against the oil industry for its use years ago of a gasoline additive that has contaminated groundwater across the state. Gansler's office is reviewing proposals from outside lawyers aimed at helping the state sue to recover the costs of dealing with the noxious, potentially cancer-causing additive methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE. Once widely used

in gasoline, MTBE has fouled hundreds of household and public drinking-water wells across the state. Gansler's office has begun auditioning outside lawyers to help decide whether Maryland should join other jurisdictions in suing oil companies, gasoline refiners and marketers to pay for the cleanup. "A number of states have had litigation on MTBE and have brought big fines back," Gansler said in an interview. Law firms that have handled such cases "have suggested that in fact the state can reap great damages from MTBE here in Maryland." Gansler, a Democrat, leaves office in January, which could pose a problem: The attorney general needs the approval of the governor to bring such a suit. Former Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., a Republican, refused to authorize two environmental lawsuits that Gansler's Democratic predecessor wanted to bring, including one over mercury contamination by out-of-state polluters. Gansler pursued both cases after Democrat Gov. Martin O'Malley defeated Ehrlich. A spokesman for Republican Gov.-elect Larry Hogan said it would be premature to comment. Attorney General-elect Brian E. Frosh, a Democrat, said MTBE litigation is "worth considering." But he said he would need to review information received by Gansler's office. MTBE was added to gasoline in the 1990s to make the fuel burn more cleanly, reducing smog. But the chemical was prone to leaking from underground storage tanks. It spread rapidly through groundwater and proved tough to filter out. Scores of states and municipalities have sued. A New Hampshire jury ordered Exxon Mobil Corp. last year to pay \$236 million to help the state monitor and clean up groundwater there. ExxonMobil is appealing the verdict. The Maryland Department of the Environment has identified 673 private wells with more than trace levels of the chemical. In some cases, carbon filters have been installed to remove relatively low levels of the contaminant. In others, residents have hooked up to a new well or public water system. And in still others, the MTBE levels have fallen below the level at which the state requires any remedial action. But the state is still tracking nearly 200 contaminated wells, and 10 to 20 new cases are discovered each year. Statewide, 219 community water systems also have detected the chemical in their wells since the mid-1990s, according to MDE spokesman Jay Apperson. In recent sampling, 50 systems reported still finding it. MTBE has caused cancer in laboratory rats that inhaled high doses, and the Environmental Protection Agency concluded it was a potential human carcinogen. But the agency said the research was too thin to determine the risks to humans who consume minute amounts in drinking water. State policy requires a public drinking water system to act when contamination exceeds 10 parts per billion. When a private well reaches 20 parts per billion, the state furnishes bottled water and/or carbon filtration. If the state can identify the source of the contamination, it requires the source to take responsibility for providing clean water. The oil industry stopped adding MTBE in 2005. But the litigation over groundwater contamination has continued. In April, the Supreme Court refused to review a \$105 million verdict against ExxonMobil for contaminating New York City's ground water. Since then, Pennsylvania and Vermont have brought suits seeking hundreds of millions of dollars against dozens of gasoline manufacturers, refiners and distributors. Professor Robert V. Percival, head of the environmental law program at the University of Maryland School of Law, said municipalities and states have been "fairly successful" in their



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MBTE claims against the oil industry. "Cities are saying, 'You're trespassing in our water supply by the contamination, and it requires us to constantly monitor it, and you should be required to clean it up,'" Percival said. The plaintiffs often allege that the oil industry put MTBE in gas even though it knew it was prone to contaminate groundwater and didn't warn anyone. Oil industry officials argue they were required to use MTBE by Congress, so they shouldn't be held liable. But that defense has failed in several cases, Percival said. He said lawmakers ordered that gasoline burn more cleanly, but didn't prescribe MTBE. Much of the well contamination in Maryland has been addressed. In cases in which MTBE contamination can be traced, Maryland regulators have required the culpable gas station owner to clean it up. Where responsibility can't be determined, the state handles cleanup with federal grants and funds raised by a fee on oil brought into the state. Officials say those sources totaled about \$2.5 million this year. Private landowners who have brought MBTE claims in Maryland have had mixed results. ExxonMobil was ordered to pay a total of \$1.65 billion to more than 500 families and businesses in Baltimore County for harm alleged from a 25,000-gallon fuel leak there eight years ago. But Maryland's Court of Appeals last year threw out most of the awards, including \$1 billion in punitive damages. Big-ticket claims brought on behalf of water providers have fared better. In 2008, industry defendants agreed to pay more than \$400 million to more than 150 municipalities in 17 states to compensate them for removing MTBE from their water supplies. In Maryland, Worcester County and six towns and cities — including Aberdeen and Taneytown — joined a \$20 million lawsuit filed three years ago by 21 water providers against 43 companies that made or sold gasoline containing MTBE. A few of those plaintiffs have settled out of court with at least some of the defendants. Aberdeen, which had to remediate contamination of its well-based water system, accepted a \$3.9 million settlement. Municipalities with MTBE contamination face costly treatment, according to lawyer Robin Greenwald, whose firm, Weitz & Luxenberg, represented the Maryland plaintiffs. Carbon filtration systems to get the contaminant out of drinking water can cost \$500,000 to install, she said, and \$60,000 every time filters have to be changed. If Gansler decided to pursue a lawsuit, he said his office likely would retain outside lawyers experienced in such litigation. They'd probably be paid on a contingency basis, splitting whatever damage awards or settlement could be obtained. Outside law firms were involved in the recent successful cases in other states. A spokesman for ExxonMobil declined to comment on a potential lawsuit, and attempts to get comment from other oil industry spokespersons were unsuccessful. But Mark Chenoweth, general counsel for the free-market-oriented Washington Legal Foundation, questioned the use of outside lawyers. He said Maryland ought not sue unless it actually needs funds for cleanup. His organization filed a friend-of-the-court brief asking the Supreme Court to overturn what the group called an "eye-popping" \$104 million jury award against ExxonMobil over MTBE contamination of ground water in New York City. "Before Maryland goes down the MTBE lawsuit path," Chenoweth said, "it should take a long look at the problems with such lawsuits elsewhere, including contingency-fee lawyers with conflicts of interest running amok, unjustly inflated damage claims, novel market-share-liability theories, juries deliberately kept in the dark about company-funded cleanup efforts, and defendants chosen based on deep pockets rather than any culpable conduct." Gansler stressed that he's made no decision yet on whether to join the legal fray, but wants expert advice on the prospects for such a case in Maryland. A spokesman declined to say how many proposals had been received.

Related Stories

- [Aberdeen Havre De Grace: Aberdeen officials seek greater flexibility in using money from MTBE settlement](#)
- [North County: Families settling in Exxon gasoline leak case](#) 43 Jacksonville households reach confidential agreements

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/blog/bs-md-mtbe-litigation-20141205-story.html#page=1>

AUSTRALIA, LOGANHOLME, DECEMBER 7 2014. JACK-KNIFED DIESEL TANKER SPILLS LOAD, BLOCKS LOGAN MOTORWAY

tom snowdon

Traffic is banking up after a diesel tanker jack-knifed on the Logan Motorway in Loganholme this morning. Initial information suggests the truck ran into a barrier and was reportedly hanging over the edge of the Pacific Highway overpass about 11am. Fires said the tanker split during the incident, spilling about 200L of fuel over the road. They are working to contain the liquid. Police said traffic has banked up heavily in both directions and falling debris has also effected the flow of vehicles on the Pacific Highway below the crash site. However, a police spokesman said most of debris had been cleared from the Pacific Highway and conditions were expected to ease along that stretch of road. Paramedics said they have treated the 67-year-old male driver for an injured arm. He is in a stable condition. Authorities are asking motorists to avoid the area.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/jack-knifed-diesel-tanker-spills-load-blocks-logan-motorway/story-fnihsrf2-1227146813938?nk=d9586d42ced309a01fa663fca6ee09e0>



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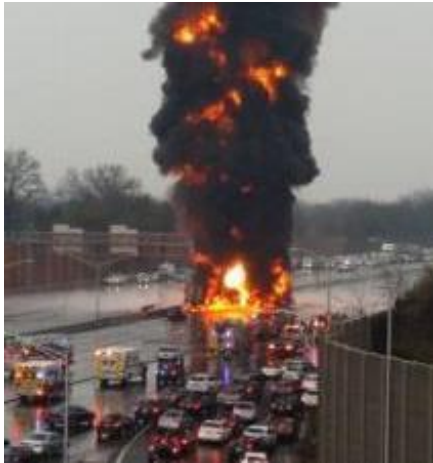
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IRELAND, COUNTY ARMAGH, JONESBOROUGH, DECEMBER 7 2014. TOXIC SLUDGE NEAR IRISH BORDER WAS 'LARGEST' FIND THIS YEAR

Forty-five thousand litres of toxic sludge left on a trailer near the Irish border is "the single largest" incident of its kind this year. The sludge, which is highly hazardous, is the by-product of diesel laundering. It was put in plastic containers on an abandoned trailer and left on a lay-by off the M1 motorway, near the junction for Jonesborough, County Armagh. Louth County Council confirmed it was the largest single dumping of the sludge. Specialist contractors retained by the council are due to remove it to a safe storage facility in Dundalk, County Lough, on Thursday evening. The council said it deals with dozens of such incidents every year.

 **Related Stories** [High cost of toxic sludge cleanup](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30336532)
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30336532>

USA, N.J, UNION TWP, DECEMBER 7 2014. OFFICIALS: 1 DEAD AFTER CRASH, TANKER EXPLOSION ON I-78



Tanker fire on I-78

Authorities say one person is dead after a crash that caused a fuel tanker explosion on I-78 in Union Township. The accident happened shortly after 1 p.m. near Exit 52 for the Garden State Parkway. The tanker, which was carrying up to 9,000 gallons of fuel, erupted in massive flames after crashing into the rear of a tractor-trailer. A car that was trailing those two trucks then rear-ended them. Viewer photos sent in to News 12 showed that the smoke and flames could be seen for several miles. A specialized fire rescue team from Newark Liberty International Airport was dispatched to help in the firefighting efforts since the Port Authority's Aircraft Rescue firefighting truck is used to battle fires involving large amounts of fuel. All lanes on I-78 were closed and detoured after the crash. The accident caused delays on nearby Route 22 and the Garden State Parkway. The victim has not yet been identified. Police have not said which vehicle the deceased victim was in.

<http://newjersey.news12.com/news/officials-1-dead-after-crash-tanker-explosion-on-i-78-1.9687553>

CANADA, OTTAWA, DECEMBER 7 2014. CANADA BANS THOUSANDS OF OLD CRUDE RAIL TANK CARS

richard nemec

While it has a phase-out process running into 2017 for old (DOT-111) rail tank cars that carry crude oil, Canada's Transport Department (CTD) has accelerated the process by banning nearly 3,000 of the older model cars from carrying "dangerous goods" throughout the nation. The transportation agency, the equivalent to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), has ruled that 2,879 of the tank cars are not safe enough to continue carrying shipments of oil, chemicals or other explosive materials. CTD issued a 30-day deadline to rail operators last April to stop using certain types of DOT-111 tank cars that were deemed to be least resistant to crashes, saying the cars needed to be refitted with thicker steel and stronger reinforcement over the next three years or face being decommissioned for crude shipments. DOT-111 railcars were carrying crude in July 2013 when a train derailed causing an explosion that killed 47 people in the small Quebec town of Lac-Mégantic (see *Shale Daily*, [July 9, 2013](#)). It was subsequently determined that more than 5,000 of the rail tank cars without reinforced bottoms were still operating in North America, nearly 3,000 of them in Canada. Since then, CTD has taken further measures, including

- Removing the least crash-resistant DOT-111 tank cars from dangerous goods service;
- Introducing new safety standards for DOT-111 tank cars, and requiring those that do not meet the new standards to be phased out by May 1, 2017;
- Requiring railway companies to slow trains transporting dangerous goods and introduce other key operating procedures;
- Requiring emergency response plans for even a single tank car carrying crude oil, gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel, and ethanol; and



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- Creating a task force that brings municipalities, first responders, railways, and shippers together to strengthen emergency response capacity across the country.

"The department has moved to enhance inspections, documentation, and follow-up for rail safety and transport of dangerous goods," the agency said on its website. "This includes more frequent inspections at sites where petroleum products are transferred from one mode of transport to another, for example from truck to rail." Early this year, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a series of recommendations calling for tougher standards for rail shipments of crude oil on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border (see Shale Daily, [Jan. 23](#)). NTSB and the Transportation Safety Board of Canada issued the recommendations jointly in recognition that the same companies operate crude rail trains in both nations, frequently crossing the U.S.-Canada border. NTSB called the joint move unprecedented and said it came in response to growing concerns about "major loss of life, property damage and environmental consequences" from the increasingly large volumes of crude oil being carried by railroads in North America. DOT's Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration earlier this year issued new rules dealing with the design of new rail tank cars, maintenance of the rail infrastructure, content of the crude supplies being shipped and notification and training of local emergency response organizations (see Shale Daily, [July 24](#)).

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/100633-canada-bans-thousands-of-old-crude-rail-tank-cars>

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, AMBERNATH, DECEMBER 7 2014. DRIVER, OWNER OF TANKER ARRESTED IN AMBERNATH GAS POISONING CASE

The Thane Police, which were tracking movements of the tanker that had allegedly dumped untreated chemicals into an Ambarnath drain last week, have arrested two persons identified as Deepak Kumar Jaiswal (32), the driver of the tanker, and Ramesh Gudru (42), the owner. Over 400 Ambarnath residents took ill after they inhaled a poisonous gas released into a nullah near MIDC on November 30. The gas was reportedly from untreated chemical waste released into the nullah by an unidentified tanker. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Ulhasnagar) Vasant Jadhav said that the police obtained the number plate of the tanker from CCTV cameras. "We traced the tanker to a location on the north coast of the state. The accused shared the details of three more persons, who we have detained and are making inquiries with," Jadhav added. He said that the police is investigating the route that the tanker took and the kind of chemical it discharged. "We are checking the CCTV footage at toll nakas on the highways to check the number of times the tanker made trips to the nullah. The tanker does not belong to a company from the MIDC in Ambarnath," Jadhav said.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/driver-owner-of-tanker-arrested-in-ambarnath-gas-poisoning-case/>

USA, WYO, CHEYENNE, DECEMBER 7 2014. WYOMING MINERS INHALED URANIUM IN CLEANUP

mead gruver

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said six workers at a Wyoming uranium mine inhaled the radioactive element while cleaning up a spill inside a building. The federal agency alleges the workers' urine afterward tested positive for uranium. The spill and cleanup of 1,500 pounds of yellowcake happened just over a year ago at the remote Lost Creek uranium mine in southern Wyoming. Yellowcake is a precursor of enriched uranium. The regulatory commission issued a violation notice Nov. 14 against mine owner Ur-Energy (YOU'-are Energy) for failing to issue a permit to clean up the spill. Ur-Energy President Wayne Heili said Friday the workers' exposures were nowhere near their annual dose limits, and they had no ill effects. He said mine officials didn't stop to complete paperwork before cleaning up the spill.

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/1913195-155/wyoming-miners-inhaled-uranium-in-cleanup>

CANADA, ONT, WHITE RIVER, DECEMBER 12 2014. BROKEN WHEEL ON CP TRAIN CAUSED 100,000-LITRE OIL SPILL, SAFETY BOARD SAYS

Derailed tank cars on a freight train in northern Ontario spilled almost 102,000 litres of crude oil and 18,000 litres of canola oil, says the Transportation Safety Board. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada has determined the derailment of a CP freight train in northwestern Ontario — which led to an oil spill — was due to a rail fracture caused by a broken wheel. In an [investigation report](#) released Thursday, the board says the train was travelling from Edmonton to Toronto on April 3, 2103, when an "undesired emergency brake application" happened near [White River, Ont.](#) It says this happens automatically when air pressure in a train's braking system is interrupted anywhere along the train. Twenty-two cars derailed, nine of which were Class 111 tank cars, and the report says seven of those contained petroleum crude oil, which is classified as dangerous goods. Several cars rolled down an embankment but there were no injuries. The report says three of the derailed tank cars



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spilled their contents — a total of almost 102,000 litres of crude oil from two of them and 18,000 litres of canola oil, which is not considered dangerous, from the third. The investigation determined there were no issues with the handling of the train and no track defects in the area of the derailment. But it says four days before the derailment, a trackside wheel impact detection system had recorded an impact that was above the Association of American Railroads' threshold for wheel removal, but company guidelines permitted the wheel to remain in service. The wheel later failed and fractured the rail, causing the derailment, the report says, adding that the top and bottom fittings on the dangerous goods tank cars did not adequately protect against a spill. The Transportation Safety Board says after the incident, Transport Canada and the railroad association began talks on design improvements to Class 111 tank car bottom outlet valves to prevent spills during a derailment. The Association of American Railroads has since proposed design improvements to tank car bottom outlet valves. The Transportation Safety Board investigates transport incidents for the purpose of improving safety but does not assign fault or determine liability.

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/12/11/broken_wheel_on_cp_train_caused_100000litre_oil_spill_safety_board_says.html

USA, S.C, BELTON, DECEMBER 12 2014. EPA: 8,000-GALLON GAS PIPELINE CLEANUP TO LAST WEEKS

tonya maxwell



Work near Belton to clean up an estimated 8,000-gallon gasoline leak from a major distribution pipeline likely will continue through December, an official monitoring the rural site said Wednesday. Passing motorists on Monday reported dead vegetation and a gas odor near Lewis Drive and West Calhoun Road, and crews later found a pinhole-sized leak in the pipe, buried four-feet deep. Owned by the Plantation Pipe Line Company, the 26-inch diameter pipe runs 3,100 miles from Louisiana to Washington, D.C., and the leak was discovered about a mile outside of Belton, company officials said. It is operated by Kinder Morgan, the country's largest energy infrastructure company. The pipe was turned off Monday evening, and crews drilled another tap to drain gasoline, said Jason A. Booth, a scene coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency. "These pipes are old and they're bound to get leaks and cracks," he said. "They can be minor and hard for the transfer station to detect a

drop in pressure." Contractors likely will spend the next two to three weeks removing soil saturated with gasoline from the area. An unnamed tributary of Browns Creek is about 1,000 feet from the leak, Booth said, and monitoring has shown gasoline has not reached the water. Officials will continue to observe the stream. All residents in the area are on municipal water, and those lines are unaffected, he said. The cause of the leak remains undetermined, said Melissa Ruiz, spokeswoman for Plantation Pipe Line Company. No drop in line pressure was detected, she added, and investigators have not determined when the leak began. "All appropriate agencies have been notified and the company anticipates that there will be no customer impacts," she said in a statement. An investigation into the cause and quantity of the release is under way. Service was expected to resume Thursday morning. Plantation Pipe Line is creating an environmental sampling plan in cooperation with the Department of Health and Environmental Control and the EPA, said DHEC spokeswoman Cassandra S. Harris. Booth, of the EPA, said the company soon will begin drilling holes in the ground at 50-foot increments to determine how far the gasoline had spread. In South Carolina, the line enters in the Lake Hartwell area and continues through Belton and Spartanburg before heading toward Charlotte. The same line broke in May at the company's Anderson station during routine maintenance. Along Lewis Road, two backhoes were among several vehicles working Wednesday afternoon, with rolls of hay serving as a backdrop to the construction equipment. On the other side of the road, set back by a wide front yard is the Jameson residence. Crystal Jameson, mother of a toddler and an infant, said she didn't notice a gas odor until crews began digging trenches to reach the pipe. She declined the pipeline company's offer to evacuate her family to a hotel, and she joked that she was unfazed by the noise and the light smell of gasoline near her home. "I smelled gas yesterday and they said they might punch holes in my front yard," she said. "All I hear all day is my kids screaming. My toddler loves to watch the big trucks. Usually all you hear out here is the cows mooing."

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/12/10/gas-leak-near-belton-sparks-cleanup/20189533/>



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ISRAEL, EVRONA DESERT RESERVE. DECEMBER 12 2014. CLEAN-UP OF ISRAELI DESERT OIL SPILL COULD TAKE YEARS: EXPERTS



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looks out of a helicopter window at the polluted area caused by an oil leak in southern Israel December 9, 2014.

Ecologists said on Wednesday it could take years to clean up a massive oil spill that flooded an Israeli nature reserve with up to five million liters of crude and threatened to spread to the Red Sea shore and neighboring Jordan. A breached pipeline started spewing oil into Evrona desert reserve -- famed for its rare deer and douma palms -- a week ago, causing what experts called the worst spill in Israel's 66-year history. Clean-up teams have started sucking up the slick and have dug pools and erected barriers to stop it spreading further. But they warned that any rainfall could swell the black streams and overwhelm their defenses. After the clean-up, experts would still have to deal with the damage caused to the fragile environment, they added. "How exactly do you

take care of a deer that is running and limping because of the oil? ... How do you clean the vegetation? This is very complicated business " Roey Talbi, an ecologist with Israel's Nature and Parks Authority, told Army Radio. "We don't have experience with something of this scale. Clean-up could take months, it could take years," said Tali Tenenbaum, a spokeswoman for the Nature and Parks Authority. The breach occurred during maintenance on the pipeline between the city of Eilat on the Red Sea and Ashkelon on the Mediterranean coast, about 18 km (12 miles) north of Eilat, near the border with Jordan. Between 3 and 5 million liters of oil leaked, of which about 2 million have since been drained with suction equipment, said the Eilat Ashkelon Pipeline Company which owns the line. Some 20,000 tons of contaminated earth has been removed. EAPC, a state-run company, is funding the clean-up and is considering bringing in foreign experts to help with rehabilitation, a spokesman said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/10/us-israel-oil-spill-idUSKBN0JO10F20141210>

USA, PA. PYMATUNING TWP, DECEMBER 12 2014. CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST REED OIL OVER FATAL EXPLOSION

melissa klaric



The state attorney general's office has charged Reed Oil Co. with two counts of unlawful contact for violating state laws on above-ground storage tanks that were blamed for an August 2013 explosion that killed a New Castle welder who was working on a tank.

Criminal charges have been filed against a New Castle company in connection with the explosion of a storage tank in Pymatuning Township that killed a welding contractor last year. Reed Oil Co. was charged Nov. 26 by the state attorney general with two counts of unlawful conduct for violating state Department of Environmental Protection laws on above-ground storage tanks at one of its subsidiaries, Brownie's Greenville Oil bulk plant, 499 Reynolds Industrial Park

Road, Pymatuning Township. Brian Krauss, 37, of New Castle, died of massive head trauma in the Aug. 19, 2013, explosion. The blast hurled a large storage tank across Crestview Drive and landed in the front yard of a nearby home. The state attorney general's office started an investigation into the explosion based on a referral made by DEP. In October, DEP fined Reed Oil more than \$60,000 for 21 violations of environmental statutes. "I'd like to see this guy go to jail," John Krauss, Brian's father, said Tuesday evening in reaction to the criminal charges. As for the fine, he said, "That's like flicking a quarter or a nickel. That's a slap on the hands." It is unclear what criminal penalties the company is facing, as a spokesperson for the state attorney general's office was not immediately available. According to an affidavit for probable cause, the state attorney general contends that Reed Oil hired Krauss knowing that he didn't have the proper certification to work on the tanks. "They said that Brian wasn't certified but he was certified," Krauss said. "This isn't the first time he'd been up there welding. He had welded for the state of Pennsylvania on bridges." Reed Oil also is accused of failing to have four of the six ground storage tanks at the Brownie's site, including the one that exploded, inspected by a certified inspector within 10 years. The last inspection of the tanks was October 2002, violating the state environmental code, according to the affidavit. An investigator discovered that on the day of the explosion, Krauss had been hired to reattach the catwalk to the top of the tanks and it is suspected that the use



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of an angle grinder by Krauss caused the explosion and fire. "Those people could've told him they put fuel in there. A tank is worse when it's not completely full," Krauss, who is a welder, said. "And if Brian would've known there was anything in it, he wouldn't have done anything on it." The late Transfer Fire Chief Phil Steele had told the Herald two days after the explosion that the 10,000-gallon tank was drained of gasoline a week prior to the explosion and 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel were pumped into it two days before the explosion. Krauss was one of several people who'd been working on the tanks leading up to the explosion, according to a neighbor. Krauss worked on the storage tanks on other occasions, including Dec. 3, 2012, when he welded two hooks on three Brownie's tanks. A spokesperson for Reed Oil Co. was not immediately available for comment late Tuesday afternoon. A preliminary hearing is set for 1 p.m. Dec. 29 in Judge Brian Arthur's district court, Greenville. "We just miss Brian very, very much," Susan Krauss, Brian's stepmother, said Tuesday evening.

http://www.sharonherald.com/news/local_news/criminal-charges-filed-against-reed-oil-over-fatal-explosion/article_713e491d-39ed-59e1-914d-4464c9550ffe.html

USA, HI, HONOLULU, DECEMBER 12 2014. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, U.S. NAVY AT ODDS OVER RECOMMENDATION FOR RED HILL TANKS

jim mendoza

 **Watch the Video:** [Department of Health, U.S. Navy at odds Over Recommendation for Red Hill Tanks](#)



The tanks in the Navy's Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility are constructed of quarter-inch steel covered with concrete. In January, one of the underground tanks leaked 27,000 gallons of jet fuel. The Health Department believes each tank should have another wall of protection. "Should the interior wall that's holding the petroleum spring a leak, the petroleum will be contained within the outer wall and can be instantly measured and removed," Deputy Director Gary Gill said. But Navy Region Hawaii's chief engineer said rushing to double-wall the tanks could lead to problems. It would be difficult to inspect a tank if it's enclosed. "How do you manage accelerated corrosion which could occur if you had water or moisture

collect in that space right now?" Capt. Mike Williamson said. The Department of Health is leading a task force that's finalizing a report on the spill. The committee will recommend what should be done to minimize risk to Oahu's drinking water should another spill happen. "Any single-walled tank, should it rupture, regardless of how carefully you manage it and maintain it, when it ruptures, what leaves the tank goes straight into the environment," Gill said. The tanks are over 200-feet tall and 100-feet in diameter. Service stations double-wall their fuel tanks. But Williamson said that doesn't mean the technique is perfect. "They sit in the ground for 20 years. And then they pull them out and put a new one in to last for twenty more years because the insurance companies won't insure them beyond a 20-year period," he said. Williamson feels increasing inspections, checking for leaks, and monitoring fuel levels are options that should be considered. "It's not as simple as simply putting a coating, or putting a tank within a tank inside these tanks," he said. But the Health Department said short of shutting down the 70-year-old Red Hill facility, secondary containment may be the best option. "The best possible way to reduce risk of spill from these underground tanks is to have two walls," Gill said.

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/27610617/departement-of-health-us-navy-at-odds-over-recommendation-for-red-hill-fuel-storage-facility>

USA, KS, ATCHISON COUNTY, DECEMBER 12 2014. SEVEN INJURED, TWO SERIOUSLY, IN EXPLOSION AT RAIL CAR REPAIR FACILITY NEAR ATCHISON

michelle pekarsky, megan dillard & eric burke

 **Watch the Video:** [7 Injured, 2 Seriously >> Rail Car Was Carrying Fuel, Possibly Gasoline, Explodes](#)

An explosion inside a GBW Railcar Services facility sent metal flying and workers to hospitals on Thursday. The 911 call was placed just after 2 p.m. The Atchison County Sheriff's Office reported a rail car that was carrying fuel, possibly gasoline, exploded and sent seven employees to hospitals. Ambulances rushed two of the most seriously injured to The University of Kansas Hospital's burn unit where they're expected to undergo a full battery of tests. "Right now they're getting all of their imaging done, CAT scans to see the extent of their trauma injuries from the explosion. As soon as that's known, the decision will be made whether they need to go to the operating room for any type of intervention related to that. After that they will be on the burn unit," Tracy McDonald, trauma and burn program manager at the hospital, said. A hospital spokeswoman provided



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an update late Thursday night that both men were listed in fair condition. Between 16 and 17 other employees were working at the rail car services facility at the time of the explosion. The area they were working in is where rail cars are stripped before they are painted. The explosion was massive and rescue crews were able to get to the scene quickly to take care of the injured and prevent further explosions. They pulled the tanker that exploded and caught fire out of the warehouse and let it burn itself out. The employees who weren't injured were sent home after the troubling day at work. "All the employees were shaken up. Given it's a small area they work in, even the office personnel you know, as loud as it was probably for all of them down there, probably pretty scary," Atchison County Sheriff Jack Laurie said. The Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office will handle the ongoing investigation. The type of fuel, why it was in the tanker and how it caught fire will be just a few of the questions the office will have to answer. All of the injuries ranged from minor to serious, but none are believed to be life-threatening. GBW Railcar Services is a joint venture between Oregon and Kansas based companies, creating a network of shops that repair and refurbish rail cars. Thursday's explosion wasn't the first time employees claim they've been put in danger while working for one of the partners in that joint venture. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, is well acquainted with Watco, a partner in the joint venture that GBW announced in July. The Pittsburg, Kansas based company was cited for 17 violations at a facility in Hockley, Texas. Two employees were killed after a combustible dust flash fire there in 2012. The initial proposed fine was more than \$90,000 as OSHA cited the company in that case with 14 serious violations, including keeping work areas clean of combustible dust and confined space violations. Later, the fines were appealed and brought down several thousand dollars. Then in March of 2014, OSHA investigated Watco again for an incident that happened in Omaha, Nebraska. A worker suffered respiratory inflammation while welding in a rail car at a shop there. There, the company was cited for three repeat and three serious safety violations. Once again, as in the investigation in Texas, most of those stemmed from the confined space safety regulations. According to OSHA, confined spaces put workers at-risk for serious injury and illness due to poor air quality and other hazards. In that case OSHA proposed more than \$133,000 in fines for Watco. It's unknown at this time how much of that will actually be required. There was another case in 2013 out of Cherryvale, Kansas. In that case Watco was cited for unguarded floor openings, a serious violation. Watco was fined \$4,900. At present it's too early to tell what happened Thursday, or which agencies will take the lead.

<http://fox4kc.com/2014/12/11/reports-of-injuries-in-explosion-at-atchison-kansas-rail-car-repair-facility/>

GHANA, ACCRA, DEC3EMBER 12 2014. 3 BROTHERS DIE AFTER INHALING ACID FUMES IN SEPTIC TANK



Tragedy struck the family of three sanitary workers when all the three brothers died instantly whilst trying to empty a septic tank Thursday morning. The victims are suspected to have inhaled acid fumes from the underground septic tank on which they were working. The tank, owned by Blancomet Recycling, a car battery recycling company in the Industrial Area in Accra is believed to contain poisonous liquids suspected to be acid. The three, on Thursday morning, arrived at the scene with a liquid waste collection vehicle. According to eyewitnesses, one of the brothers peered into the underground tank in the process of placing a tube to pull the waste. He was however knocked unconscious. His two brothers

rushed to his rescue but suffered the same fate. When Myjoyonline.com's David Andoh arrived at the scene, the bodies of the three had been covered by a white polyethene whilst family members wailed and reeled on the ground. Managers of the company will not speak to journalists about the incident.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/artikel.php?ID=338785>

USA, S.C, ANDERSON CO, DECEMBER 12 2014. TIP LEADS TO DISCOVERY OF GASOLINE LEAK

 **Watch the Video:** [Tip Leads to Discovery of Gasoline Leak](#)

Video Transcript: Continuing to help us cover a gasoline leak in anderson county... Repairs work goes on ... There outside belton. It's expected to go into the night again. It's all happening near lewis drive and west calhoun road. Wyff news four's ashley swann is here. Ashley ... How's the leak affecting people who live nearby. It was someone in the area, michael, who tipped plantation pipeline off to the leaking gasoline. Residents tell us they're relieved it's being taken so seriously. 12:51:24 "i smelled it when i a pipeline representative says they hope to have the line fixed and service restored by the morning. Clean-up will take

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/tip-leads-to-discovery-of-gasoline-leak/30167952>



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

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CANADA, N.S, HALIFAX, DECEMBER 12 2014. OIL TANKER ADRIFT OFF NOVA SCOTIA COAST



An oil tanker carrying 675,000 barrels of crude oil was drifting Wednesday off the coast of Nova Scotia after losing its steering.

An oil tanker carrying 675,000 barrels of crude oil was drifting Wednesday off the coast of Nova Scotia after losing its steering. A spokesman for Teekay Corp., the ship's owner, said the Australian Spirit started having problems Tuesday evening. Jonathan Anthony said the tanker was about 70 kilometres southeast of Halifax early Wednesday afternoon and it wasn't near any other ships. One tugboat, the Atlantic Larch, had reached the vessel and another tugboat that is capable of towing the tanker was expected to arrive by the evening, he said. "The crew and cargo are safe. ... We obviously take it very seriously, but there's no imminent danger," he said in an interview from Vancouver. Keith Laidlaw, an environmental response officer with the coast

guard, said if the steering can't be fixed then the tugs will make a towing plan to bring the tanker into harbour for repairs. The vessel was not in danger of breaking up and its drift towards shore had slowed as seas calmed, he said, adding that if the ship is towed that wouldn't begin until Thursday morning. Laidlaw said the vessel's towing plan would have to be approved by Transport Canada.

Related Stories

- [Teekay tanker adrift](#)
- [Oil tanker adrift off NS now under tow to Halifax](#)
- [Full Coverage](#)

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1719181/oil-tanker-adrift-off-nova-scotia-coast/>

USA, GA, ALBANY, DECEMBER 12 2014. TRUCKER GETS BURNING RIG AWAY FROM FULL GAS TANKER

wright gazaway

 **Watch the Video:** [Trucker Gets Burning Rig away from Full Gas Tanker](#)

A quick thinking truck driver prevents a fire in his truck from becoming a major explosion. Albany firefighters say the fire started in the engine of this truck on US Highway 82 between Albany and Acree around two o'clock Thursday. The truck, owned by Brad Lanier Oil Company, was hauling a tanker filled with ten-thousand gallons of gasoline. The driver quickly detached the burning truck from the trailer of gas. The call came in at 1:47PM, when the truck driver noticed smoke and was able to pull off, and disconnect the truck from the trailer full of gasoline. Battalion Chief Keith Ambrose says this saved them from shutting down traffic much longer, had the tanker burned as well. "It helps us tremendously. We've just got a single vehicle on fire. We don't have the added concern of gallons of gasoline that he is carrying on that tanker. We were able to get the road back opened to just one lane of traffic flowing," said Ambrose. The fire was under control in 15 minutes, but the truck is completely burned. Another truck arrived to take the tanker to its destination. The driver of the rig was uninjured.

<http://www.walb.com/story/27606682/trucker-gets-burning-rig-away-from-full-gas-tanker>

SCOTLAND, ABERDEEN, DECEMBER 12 2014. TANKER CRASHES OFF SNOWY A9

jane candlish



A tanker has crashed off the A9 Inverness-Perth road this morning as Highland motorists face testing conditions throughout the region. Gritters and ploughs are out on the route after waves of wintry showers and lightning strikes have cut power to 27,000 homes in Skye and the Western Isles. The oil tanker jackknifed on the road four miles north of Aviemore just after 8am. It is understood that the driver was uninjured. A police spokeswoman said that recovery was being arranged. The road is not blocked. Other motorists also experienced slippery conditions near Carrbridge, where one vehicle ended up on the verge after sliding in the snow.

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/inverness/427816/tanker-crashes-off-snowy-a9/>



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MALAYSIA, TERENGGANU, KUALA TERENGGANU, DECEMBER 12 2014. TANKER SHIP EXPLOSION KILLS TWO

An explosion on a tanker off Malaysia killed two crew members, an official said Thursday. Two other crew members of tanker DL Calla were injured in the accident that occurred late Wednesday in the waters off Kuala Terengganu, 450 kilometres north-east of Kuala Lumpur, according to Terengganu state Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency chief Mohammad Zainal. The South Korean-operated vessel was carrying liquified natural gas, and the explosion was triggered by gas leakage, he said. The dead were a Myanmar and a South Korean national, and the two injured crew members were also one Myanmar and one South Korean. Malaysian rescuers brought the injured to a hospital in Kuala Terengganu. The vessel, with 23 crew members, was en route from South Korea to Thailand. It was not seriously damaged and continued on its way.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/transport/449037/tanker-ship-explosion-kills-two>

BANGLADESH, SUNDERBANS, DECEMBER 12 2014. 3,50,000 LITRES OF OIL SPILLS IN RIVER AS TANKER SINKS IN SUNDERBANS

monideepa banerjee

 **Watch the Video:** [About 3,50,000 Litres of Furnace Oil Spilled in the River](#)



A major oil spill has taken place in the Sunderbans in Bangladesh after an oil tanker sank in the Shela river early on Tuesday. About 3,50,000 litres of furnace oil spilled from an oil tanker called OT Southern Star 7, after it was hit from behind by an empty cargo ship, Total. Sources said the oil might have spread over 50 km on the waters of Shela where the tanker sank, and Pashur rivers. Authorities in Dhaka have ordered an intensified campaign to remove oil from the waters as it had spread quickly through a wide network of rivers and channels in and around the forest. Forest officials and environment experts are deeply worried because as the oil spill spreads, it threatens the water bodies' wildlife, especially dolphins. Experts say the spill will cause massive ecological disaster in the biggest mangrove forest in the world. Locals said they spotted

several forest animals like lizards and otters floating dead near the river banks. The scene of the accident is known as a sanctuary for dolphins and different rare aquatic animals and fishes. Pradeep Vyas, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Director, Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve, told NDTV, "Border camps have been alerted for any sign of spillage. So far there has been no impact on Indian side as the spill location far from Indian side of Sunderbans... This is a very serious incident. There is a dolphin sanctuary near spill site." The Sunderbans forest, which cover 26,000 square kilometres in India and Bangladesh, is the habitat of famous Royal Bengal Tigers. It is also a Unesco Heritage site.

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/3-50-000-litres-of-oil-spills-in-river-as-tanker-sinks-in-sunderbans-633192>

USA, MI, DETROIT, DECEMBER 12 2014. UNDERGROUND TANK SCAM THREATENED WATER QUALITY

amanda proscia

A judge sentenced a mid-Michigan man to one day in prison and fined him \$20,000 for creating and selling fake insurance certificates to owners and operators of underground storage tanks throughout Michigan. Allen P. Chadderdon, of Williamston, wrote to U.S. District Judge Janet Neff that he was trying to help desperate underground tank owners before she sentenced him on Dec. 3, according to [court documents](#). Chadderdon and Dean P. Tucker, of Lansing, pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan on Dec. 1 to fabricating certificates that made it appear as though underground storage tanks of gasoline complied with federal and state law, Michigan's U.S. Attorney Patrick Miles Jr. wrote in a press release. Tucker faces sentencing in March 2015. Owners and operators of certain underground storage tanks, typically containing gasoline, must obtain proof of insurance in case they leak. Most obtain a policy to cover \$1 million worth of cleanup costs and damages, according to the press release. The fake document scheme lasted from 2011-2013 and primarily involved gas stations with tanks that are either too old or too damaged to be insured. According to the press release, Chadderdon and Tucker would create a false insurance certificate for the uninsurable tanks so that the gas stations could continue to operate. If any of the falsely insured tanks were to leak into the surrounding groundwater – a source of drinking water – there was a possibility that there would be no way to clean it up, Miles said. This put residents of more than 30 different Michigan cities at risk. Undercover Lansing area FBI and EPA agents exposed the scheme by infiltrating the creation and sale of the false insurance certificates, according to the press release. Once the agents disrupted the scheme, they used Chadderdon's help to



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identify which gas stations had tanks not in compliance with federal and state law. Federal agents shut down the gas stations that were unable to present a legal insurance policy until the owner or operator complied with the law.

<http://greatlakesecho.org/2014/12/11/underground-tank-insurance-scam-threatened-water-quality/>

USA, W.V, CHARLESTON, DECEMBER 12 2014. COMPANY PRESIDENT CHARGED WITH DECEPTION IN ELK RIVER CHEMICAL SPILL

nick dutton



For West Virginians getting their drinking water from the Elk River, the pungent aftertaste from a chemical spill in January has lingered in the legal system, with more than 60 lawsuits filed. On Monday, the FBI added a criminal case against the former president of Freedom Industries, Inc., the company whose storage tank leaked more than 7,000 gallons of a black licorice-scented chemical used to clean coal. Representatives of the company were not immediately available for comment. Gary Southern lied to dodge responsibility for the spill, according to the criminal complaint filed in a West Virginia federal court. Southern, who was arrested on Monday after the filing, was released on bond and can only travel between West Virginia and Florida, where he has homes.

Complaint: False Impression

Southern lied under oath, saying he had just taken on leadership responsibilities at Freedom only days before the spill, FBI Special Agent James Lafferty wrote in the complaint. He wanted to leave an impression that — because of that — he could hardly be held responsible, the complaint said. In reality, Southern had been a leading executive at the company since 2009, when he became chief operating officer, Lafferty wrote. Then there was the matter of the former president's paycheck. In a bankruptcy filing on behalf of the company, Southern made an application to further collect his check using the same justification — he had not been in charge long, when the tank containing 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM) sprung a leak. He later withdrew the application to keep collecting the check, according to the complaint.

Complaint: Deception Worked

But the alleged deception worked, the FBI agent wrote. A committee for creditors swallowed the line, saying it believed Southern had been involved with Freedom for just a short time. "...Southern's goal in making the false and/or deceptive statement is to protect his assets from legal judgments that may result from lawsuits..." the complaint said. Southern faces charges of lying under oath, bankruptcy fraud, and also wire fraud for transferring much of his wealth out of his bank account. Southern, who is also the target of two lawsuits, has \$7.7 million in assets, the complaint said, and he moved \$6.5 million from his Wells Fargo bank account into an annuity account with Jackson National Life Insurance Company, Inc.

Nausea, Headaches, Rashes

The chemical was discovered leaking on January 9 into the Elk River, which supplies the city of Charleston with water. A do-not-use order was issued to 300,000 residents, some of whom could not drink or bathe in their water for more than a week. MCHM is not directly lethal but can cause nausea, vomiting, dizziness, headaches, diarrhea and skin rashes. A month after the spill, tap water tests in 10 homes detected MCHM still in the water supply, albeit at levels within the state's legal limit. Freedom Industries, Inc., in a settlement reached with plaintiffs, agreed to transfer \$2.9 million into a trust fund to be used for "the greater good."

<http://wtvr.com/2014/12/10/freedom-industries-president-charged-in-elk-river-chemical-spill/>

USA, MI, BATTLE CREEK, DECEMBER 12 2014. ENBRIDGE SETTLES CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT OVER KALAMAZOO RIVER OIL SPILL

The Canadian company responsible for a 2010 oil spill in Southwest Michigan has agreed to pay about \$6.8 million to settle a class-action lawsuit. A federal judge must still approve the settlement reached last week by Enbridge Inc., based in Calgary, Alberta. The company has agreed to pay about \$2.2 million to residents and land owners of properties within 1,000 feet of the Kalamazoo River. Those who lived within 200 feet of the river will split a total payment of \$250,000 and those who lived further away from the river, will each receive several hundred dollars, depending on the proximity. The lawsuit was filed more than three years ago by five people seeking damages, injunctive relief and attorney fees. Some cases filed separately against the company have been dismissed and will not be eligible for the payments, while nearly 30 have already been settled in Calhoun County Circuit Court. Four more cases are scheduled to go to trial next year. A pipeline leak spewed more than 800,000



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gallons of crude oil into the Kalamazoo River and Talmadge Creek in July 2010, resulting in one of the costliest onshore oil spills in U.S. history. The settlement also includes a \$50,000 well-testing program and a \$1.5 million general claims fund for reimbursing property owners for spill-related expenses. The company has also agreed to donate \$150,000 to local organizations committed to environmental conservation efforts, such as the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council and the Calhoun Conservation District. "The settlement has positive outcomes for the local communities in Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties," Enbridge spokesman Jason Manshum said in a statement. "We agreed to this settlement as part of our overall commitment to address the concerns of the community." Enbridge has estimated cleanup costs to be about \$1.2 billion, including more than \$551 million on response personnel and equipment and \$227 million on environmental consultants.

Related Stories

- [Enbridge: \\$1.75B pipeline plan will create 528 jobs](#)
- [Lawsuits over Kalamazoo River oil spill seek damages for residents](#)
- [Detroit-based Great Lakes Law Center threatens suit over Kalamazoo River oil spill](#)
- [Gov. Granholm declares state of disaster for Kalamazoo River oil leak](#)

<http://www.crainsdetroit.com/article/20141210/NEWS01/141219992/enbridge-settles-class-action-lawsuit-over-kalamazoo-river-oil-spill>

USA, N.J, SANDY HOOK BAY, DECEMBER 12 2014. COAST GUARD: OIL SPILL THREATENS SANDY HOOK BAY

toniann antonelli



Sandy Hook beach

Coast Guard officials are investigating the source of a two-mile long oil spill that is threatening the Sandy Hook Bay and its wildlife. According to the Coast Guard in Monmouth County, the spill is believed to be diesel fuel, although it's still not clear where the fuel originated. Coast Guard officials in New York said the oil sheen was reported from the National Response Center at 1:45 p.m. Thursday and officials were alerted after 2 p.m. A 47-foot boat was dispatched to the bay to determine the size of the sheen, which was found to be 2 miles long and 400 feet wide. Coast Guard Petty Officer Richard Heller said a crew will likely be out tomorrow to determine whether to clean up or contain the spill. He said there isn't much that can be done to evaluate the spill until daylight. Officials are hoping that the wind speed and direction will work in their favor and contain, rather than spread the spill. At this point, the Coast Guard is concerned that the

spill could effect the wildlife that inhabit the bay, including the seals that migrate each winter to the area. Great and harbor seals migrate to the bay during the colder months, [according to NBC 4 New York](#). The National Park Service says the animals have already moved there for the season, NBC reported. In a statement released Thursday night, Congressman Frank Pallone Jr. (NJ-06), called the situation "troubling." "Reports of an oil slick off the coast of Sandy Hook are troubling, and I will be closely monitoring this ongoing situation," Pallone said. "I will work with local and federal agencies, as well as the local communities, to make sure we minimize any adverse effects of the oil. It is critical that we find the source of the spill and take all necessary steps to ensure that our waters are not contaminated, that marine life and animals are not endangered, and that our shoreline is protected."

<http://nj1015.com/coast-guard-oil-spill-threatens-sandy-hook-bay/>

USA, IA, IOWA CITY, DECEMBER 12 2014. RAILROAD SETTLES MISSISSIPPI RIVER OIL SPILL CLAIM

A railroad has agreed to pay \$625,000 to settle allegations that it failed to adequately clean up a 2008 oil spill that damaged the shoreline and aquatic life in the Mississippi River between Iowa and Wisconsin. The Dakota Minnesota and Eastern Railroad, a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific, would make the payment without admitting wrongdoing to resolve a civil complaint filed Tuesday by the state of Iowa and the U.S. government. The settlement, known as a consent decree, would cover the cost of assessing damage and pay for restoration activities. It's expected to go into effect after a 30-day public comment period. The case stems from a derailment that happened July 9, 2008, when a boulder dislodged by heavy rains tore up a section of the track on the river near Guttenberg, Iowa. Four diesel locomotives crashed into the river and were submerged and leaked oil for several days. Two workers suffered minor injuries. The complaint alleges that those engines leaked 4,400 gallons of diesel oil and other petroleum products, causing floating slicks of oil and oil sheen along a 10-mile stretch. The area of the



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river, known as the Bluff Slough, is across from Cassville, Wisconsin. Few birds or fish died, but other slower-moving aquatic life that lived in or near shore habitats were affected by the floating oil. The spill, which came as the river was at flood stage, resulted in the loss of mussels that are considered endangered and threatened species and damage to mayflies, a rare mudpuppy and a water snake, the complaint says. Much of the oil on the shoreline wasn't cleaned up, while some of it stuck to sediments that flowed downstream in the high and turbulent waters, the complaint said. Iowa Department of Natural Resources spokesman Kevin Baskins said the restoration work will include re-establishing mussel beds that were disturbed when the company built a platform to remove the locomotives. A damaged parking lot also will be repaired. "We're glad to have the opportunity to restore a sensitive area of the river," he said. "Anytime we can make an effort to increase mussel survival and production, it's something that's real positive for the ecosystem as a whole." After the derailment, state officials worried that the railroad took too long to remove the engines from the river and to respond to the environmental threat they posed. Workers deployed booms to contain the discharged oil, used pads to absorb floating oil, removed oiled vegetation and eventually re-railed the locomotives and grain cars, the complaint said. However, the response "was not able to remediate the entire area affected by the discharge incident" and didn't address oil that sank in the river. The complaint alleged a violation of the Oil Pollution Act. Canadian Pacific spokesman Andy Cummings called the derailment an "unusual incident," saying the company is pleased to have the complaint resolved. The consent decree says the payment would avoid complicated litigation and expedite restoration work. Government lawyers can withdraw the settlement if public comments "disclose facts or considerations" that show it to be inadequate. Wally Taylor, a Cedar Rapids environmental attorney, said he will consider filing a comment on behalf of the Sierra Club. "It sounds like it's not nearly enough," he said of the settlement. "I suspect the company probably resisted pretty strongly but that the government didn't want to really take them to court."

http://www.omaha.com/money/railroad-settles-mississippi-river-oil-spill-claim/article_124b7860-8090-11e4-a785-6bac013cd41e.html

NIGERIA, LAGOS, DECEMBER 12 2014. TANKER EXPLOSION ROCKS LAGOS AS 26 VEHICLES WERE REPORTED DESTROYED



According to publication, an explosive eruption from a tanker loaded with petroleum product rocked Amuwo Odofin area of Lagos, Monday night, resulting in fire that destroyed 26 trucks. Report also indicated that the scene of the fire incident was an illegal fuel depot and that the petroleum products were being trans-loaded into trucks at the depot located at C40, Alakuso Avenue, when the explosion occurred. Efforts by staff of the undisclosed company to contain the fire failed. It took the intervention of the Lagos State Fire Service to put out the fire. The affected vehicles include 24 fuel tankers, a caterpillar and one 505 car owned by Inter-land Transport Company. A company staff close to the location of incident disclosed to reporters that "at 9.35p.m., a deafening sound jolted everyone, causing us to run in different directions for safety because we thought it was a bomb. "Unimaginable

damage would have been done if the fire was not brought under control because there were over 50 fuel tankers within and around the premises when the explosion occurred.

<http://www.360nobs.com/2014/12/tanker-explosion-rocks-lagos-as-26-vehicles-were-reported-destroyed/>

ISRAEL, JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 12 2014. FUEL TANKER, BURST INTO FLAMES, 1 DEAD

 **Watch the Video's: [3] 1 Dead Fuel Tanker, Bursts into Flames.**

 **Photo's [4] Fuel Tanker, Bursts into Flames, 1 Dead.**



12:10 PM IL: A collision on Highway 1, the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Highway shut down areas roads on Wednesday morning 18 Kislev. One fatality is reported. Two trucks collided, one being a fuel tanker, which burst into flames. The second truck may have been a vehicle carrier. Police report the Ben-Shemen Interchange from Highway 1 and Highway 6 southbound remain shut. Traffic is at a standstill. Magen David Adom and Ichud Hatzalah responded. MDA reports that efforts to extricate the driver from the burning tanker was unsuccessful. A



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one kilometer safety radius has been set into place as some reports indicate one truck involved is carrying a toxic substance. 1:24PM IL: The area of road involved in the accident will remain closed for hours. Rescue workers are having difficult separating the trucks for fear of re-igniting the fire in the area. Fire expects warn a spark could result in the fuel tanker lighting up again. EMS personnel are standing by as many agencies continue operating on the scene. There are also vehicles that were on the transport truck that were thrown to the road. Israel Police reports Hwy 1 is closed between Ben Shemen and Anaba Interchanges – use 443. Hwy 6 is closed between Ben Shemen & Nesharim Interchanges – use 444.

<http://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/headlines-breaking-stories/274954/israel-major-mva-on-highway-1-involving-fuel-tanker-results-in-1-doa.html>

USA, AK, VALDEZ, DECEMBER 12 2014. 'SIGNIFICANT' FUEL SPILL AFTER TRAILER LOADED WITH DIESEL FLIPS *zaz hollander*

A North Pole-based tractor-trailer hauling diesel from Valdez overturned Tuesday evening on the Richardson Highway, spilling 4,400 gallons of fuel that's now awaiting cleanup. The accident occurred at Mile 48 of the highway that connects Valdez and Fairbanks. Steven Russell, an environmental program manager with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, called the spill "significant," though no diesel apparently reached a nearby creek. The crash site is about halfway between Valdez and Glennallen and is threaded with wetlands and streams feeding into the Tiekkel River. The rollover involved a double trailer owned by Alaska Petroleum Distributing Inc. Driver Lawrence Cook, 65, of North Pole was northbound with a smaller "pup" trailer behind a larger trailer, DEC and Alaska State Troopers said. The smaller trailer was loaded with low-sulfur diesel. Troopers said Cook drove off the edge of the road, causing the rear tanker to overturn. Conditions were icy and snowy at the time. He was cited for driving too fast for conditions. Cook's boss, Alaska Petroleum co-owner Jay Johnson, said his driver told him that an oncoming vehicle with bright "moose lights" came partly into his lane as blowing snow made for poor visibility ahead. "Larry had to move over so he didn't head-on the guy," Johnson said. "He got the truck and the trailer over but he was hauling doubles and it was that second trailer that got too far over on the side. He had slowed way down but it was too far over and rolled over into the ditch." The accident occurred at about 6:30 p.m. but wasn't reported to troopers until 3:30 a.m. Wednesday, they said. DEC officials heard about the accident at 2 a.m. and called troopers, Russell said. Johnson said a few things happened there. For one, there's no cellphone coverage in the area. And the first reports Johnson got Tuesday night described a pinhole leak that was under control. He said he went to bed concerned about the accident but glad it wasn't worse -- then woke up to hear about the scale of the spill and have "all fears realized." Alaska Petroleum has contracted with Emerald Alaska to conduct emergency response and cleanup, he said. A DEC representative out of Valdez is on scene and working with the company, Russell said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is also involved. "There is a concern that the spill, if not cleaned up appropriately, could threaten the waterways in the summertime or in a thawing period that we have this winter," Russell said. "So it's certainly something we want to address quickly and appropriately."

<http://www.adn.com/article/20141210/significant-fuel-spill-after-trailer-loaded-diesel-flips>

USA, KY, LESLIE CO, HAYDEN SPUR, DECEMBER 12 2014.. TANKER TRUCK CRASH CLOSES HYDEN SPUR FOR MORE THAN ONE HOUR

The Hyden Spur was closed for more than one hour Wednesday following a crash involving a tanker truck. Deputies say the driver reported a brake failure after he passed the truck pull-off and then hit a light pole. Deputies cleared the area out because of the risk posed by live wires, combined with a truck with a full load of diesel fuel. The road reopened just before two Wednesday afternoon. Deputies say the driver went to the hospital as a precaution.

<http://www.wkyt.com/wymt/home/headlines/Tanker-truck-crash-closes-Hyden-Spur-for-more-than-one-hour-285409771.html>

CHINA, BEIJING, DECEMBER 12 2014. CHINA FISH FARMERS SUE CNOOC, CONOCOPHILLIPS FOR \$22 MILLION OIL SPILL DAMAGES

China's CNOOC and ConocoPhillips are being sued by a group of 21 Chinese firms for damages stemming from two 2011 oil spills at the Peng Lai 19-3 oilfield in offshore China. The spills poured about 700 barrels of oil and 2,500 barrels of oil based drilling mud into China's Bohai Bay, affecting about 2,393 square miles of water. The suit, filed in China, claims CNOOC and ConocoPhillips did not promptly inform aquaculture farmers about the incident and caused the farmers to use contaminated water at their farms. Most of the farmers specialized in growing sea cucumbers, a type of sea slug that is a delicacy in China. The 21 firms are seeking \$22.8 million in compensation. Houston-based ConocoPhillips claimed the farmers were not certified for seafood farming and argued the requested compensation payment was too large, Energy Voice said. In 2012, CNOOC and



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ConocoPhillips were ordered to pay \$272 million in damages for the spills by China's State Oceanic Administration. The two companies also reached a settlement with China's Ministry of Agriculture to pay \$160 million for oil spills in the northern part of Bohai Bay. Production at Peng Lai 19-3 was suspended in 2001 and resumed in 2013. The field is currently producing 160,000 barrels per day. CNOOC holds a 51 percent stake in the Peng Lai 19-3 field. ConocoPhillips holds a 49 percent operating stake in the field.

<http://petroglobalnews.com/2014/12/china-fish-farmers-sue-cnooc-conocophillips-for-22-million-oil-spill-damages/>

CANADA, ONT, TORONTO, DECEMBER 16 2014. ECUADOR CASE AGAINST CHEVRON BEFORE CANADIAN COURT



Chevron hired an investment banker to gauge buyer interest in its Hawaiian operations. Lawyers for a group of Ecuadorian villagers are asking Canada's high court on Thursday to grant their clients access to Canadian courts to enforce a US\$9.5-billion Ecuadorian judgment against Chevron Corp for rainforest damage. Lawyers have fought for years in several countries over who's responsible for pollution in the rain forest. They are arguing that the case should be heard in Canada because Chevron has a Canadian subsidiary. In February 2011, a judge in Ecuador issued an \$18 billion judgment against Chevron in a lawsuit brought on behalf of 30,000 residents. The judgment was for environmental damage caused by Texaco during its operation of an oil consortium in the rainforest from 1972 to 1990. Chevron later bought Texaco. Ecuador's highest court last year upheld the verdict but reduced the judgment to about \$9.5 billion. Chevron, which now has no assets in Ecuador, argues that a 1998 agreement Texaco signed with Ecuador after a US\$40 million cleanup absolves it of liability. It claims Ecuador's state-run oil company is responsible for much of the pollution in the oil patch that Texaco quit more than two decades ago. The Ecuadorian

plaintiffs said the cleanup was a sham and didn't exempt third-party claims. The lawyer for the Ecuadorians, Steve Donziger, has sought to have the judgment enforced in Canada, Brazil and Argentina. They have not pursued Chevron in the United States where a New York judge ruled in favor of Chevron's counter-suit that argued the judgment from the Ecuador courts was obtained fraudulently by corrupt means. That New York decision is now being appealed. A year ago, the Ontario Court of Appeal overruled a lower court decision and concluded that Ontario is an "appropriate jurisdiction" to determine whether the Ecuadorian judgment should be enforced. Chevron is now looking for the country's top court to overturn the appeal court. The international oil giant has argued that its Canadian subsidiary had nothing to do with the underlying lawsuit, and that allowing the action to proceed would violate a principle known as the "corporate veil," which says that subsidiaries are separate entities from their corporate parents and are not liable for actions of the parents. It noted the parent company has no assets in Ontario, and Chevron Canada Ltd. has very little business in the province. However, Alan Lenczner, the Toronto-based lawyer representing the Ecuadorian villagers, expects the Supreme Court of Canada to rule in his client's favor. "I'm hopeful, more than hopeful," he said. "I believe that they will."

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/12/11/ecuador-case-against-chevron-before-canadian-court/>

ENGLAND, MERSEYSIDE, DECEMBER 13 2014. HMRC RAID BIRKENHEAD AND ASHFORD DIESEL LAUNDERING PLANTS



HMRC took equipment, chemicals and fuel from both plants.

Two diesel laundering plants, capable of producing up to 26,000 gallons (120,000 litres) of illegal fuel a day, have been closed down by authorities. The HM Revenues and Customs (HMRC) raids on Merseyside and in Kent saw fuel, equipment and chemicals seized. The plants were being used to remove the government marker from the fuel and thus allow users to evade paying tax. The operation saw eight men arrested in Essex, Lancashire, Merseyside, Staffordshire and the West Midlands. HMRC officers, along with Merseyside Police, searched premises in Wirral and Liverpool on 4 December and took more than 2,000 gallons (9,000 litres) from a site in Birkenhead. A further 2,600

gallons (12,000 litres) were removed from a site in Ashford, Kent, in a subsequent raid, which also saw the seizure of a fuel tanker. The operation involved more than 100 HMRC officers, assisted across the country by local police forces. Two men aged 41 and 61 from Wirral, a 39-year-old from Liverpool, a 53-year-old from Birmingham, a Basildon man aged 50, a 38-year-



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old from Stoke and two men aged 37 and 45 from Accrington were arrested. They have all since been bailed pending further inquiries. The HMRC said laundering diesel often leads to waste being "dumped indiscriminately in the countryside or next to the road with no care for the pollution it can cause". "Typically the waste is dumped in agricultural areas or forests, chosen for their remoteness to avoid detection," a spokeswoman said. She added that laundered fuel was "filtered through chemicals or acids to remove the government marker". "The chemicals and acids remain in the fuel and damage fuel pumps in diesel cars."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-30431553>

ENGLAND, LONDON, DECEMBER 13 2014. MORE ENGLISH FUEL LAUNDERING PLANTS RAIDED

john wood

Two diesel laundering plants, capable of producing nearly 120,000 litres of suspected illicit fuel and evading almost £12.5m in taxes a year, have been dismantled by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The finds follow the discovery of [sites in Merseyside and Essex last month](#). Officers from HMRC and Merseyside Police searched three premises on the Wirral and one in Liverpool, where they discovered a laundering plant in the Birkenhead area on Thursday 4 December. More than 9,000 litres of suspected illicit fuel were removed from the site, along with equipment and chemicals. Three men from Merseyside were arrested in connection with the find. A second laundering plant was discovered after HMRC searched premises in Ashford, Kent. Officers removed 12,000 litres of suspected illicit fuel from this site, dismantled the laundering plant and seized chemicals, equipment and separately a fuel tanker. The operation involved over 100 HMRC officers, assisted by Merseyside, Lancashire, Essex, Kent, West Midlands and Staffordshire police forces. A further eight premises were searched during the activity and another five men were arrested in Essex, Lancashire and the West Midlands. All those arrested have been bailed until April 2015 pending further enquiries. Investigations into the illegal fuel plants are continuing Sandra Smith, assistant director, criminal investigation, HMRC, said: "It is wrong that honest businesses should be undercut by criminals involved in making or selling laundered fuel. Buying illicit fuel not only funds crime, it supports and encourages these dangerous activities within our communities. "Every illegal laundering operation typically generates tonnes of toxic waste, involving significant safety and environmental issues. As taxpayers and local ratepayers, not only are we missing out on the stolen tax that ends up the pockets of the criminals, we are also paying the substantial clean-up and disposal costs. Anyone with information about fuel fraud should call the Customs Hotline on 0800 595000."

http://www.forecourtrader.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/9280/More_English_fuel_laundering_plants_raided.html?utm_source=newsletter_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2BWeekly%2BIssue%2B451

USA, MN, WINNEBAGO, DECEMBER 13 2014. MINNESOTA ETHANOL PLANT FINED \$25K

The Corn Plus ethanol plant in the south-central Minnesota city of Winnebago has agreed to pay a \$25,000 penalty and take steps to reduce its air pollution and noise levels. The corrective actions announced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on Wednesday mark the latest step by officials to bring the plant into compliance with environmental regulations. Corn Plus has paid about \$660,000 in state and federal penalties for air and water quality violations and agreed to environmental improvements costing nearly \$700,000 since 2009. Corn Plus has an application pending with the MPCA for renewal of its environmental permits. Under its latest agreement with the agency, the company must submit more information for that application to move forward.

http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_27116210/minnesota-ethanol-plant-fined-25k

CANADA, SASK, REGINA, DECEMBER 13 2014. REPORTED SPILLS AND LEAKS TRIPLED AT CO-OP REFINERY OVER PAST YEAR >> FIRE AND TOXIC GAS LEAK HAPPENED AT REFINERY JUST 2 WEEKS AGO

geoff leo

 **Photo's** [Corroded Pipes that Caused the Refinery Explosion on October 6, 2011](#)



A close up look at the corroded pipe that ruptured and caused the explosion at the Co-op Refinery on October, 6 2011. The number of spills and leaks at the Co-op Refinery in Regina has tripled in the past year.

CBC's iTeam has learned that the number of reported leaks and spills at Regina's Co-op Refinery has tripled in the past year. According to the Ministry of Environment's Sask Spills website, there were eight spills and leaks in



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2013. That number jumped to 24 in 2014. Three of those incidents happened within the last month, and at least one of them involved a fire. Ash Olesen, a manager with the Ministry of Environment, explained what went wrong:

- On November 18, a pipe fitting broke spilling 580 litres of a corrosive chemical: an Amine-based corrosion inhibitor.
- On November 19, an equipment failure in the coker unit caused 20 litres of asphalt to leak onto a heater drum. That caused the asphalt to turn into hydrocarbon vapours which were emitted into the atmosphere. In that case the facility was evacuated.
- And then on November 27, a tube leaked and released 1,600 litres of reduced crude. It caught on fire and burned for about 40 minutes. That caused the release of about 0.12 tonnes of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere.
- Olesen explained to CBC's iTeam that sulphur dioxide is "potentially harmful to the environment and human health." Olesen said the ministry will be following up on these incidents. He said investigators will want to answer the questions, "do we have systemic issues here? Is this a one-off?" Over the past year, the refinery has reported accidentally emitting a range of substances including hydrogen gas, hydrogen sulphide, waste water, gasoline liquid, sulphur dioxide, sour gas, diesel fuel, diglycolamine, butane and sodium hypochlorite. A human resources professor at the University of Regina who specializes in occupational health and safety says the refinery has been experiencing a troubling number of problems in recent years. "Someday, if things don't change, if there's not a new plan, a new course of action, a new public accountability there, someone's going to die," said Sean Tucker. Tucker said his primary concern is the series of significant fires and explosions in recent years.
- On [October 6, 2011](#) a pipe ruptured leading to an explosion that injured 52 people, sending several to hospital.
- Then on [May 15, 2012](#) a fire broke out in a pump house. 350 workers had to leave the area and no one was injured.
- A fire broke out in the asphalt processing area on [February 11, 2013](#), with flames shooting 25 metres into the air. Once again no one was injured.
- And then, on [December 24, 2013](#), the refinery was rocked by an explosion that was felt across the city. A recent report concluded this incident was preventable.
- No one was injured in the December 2013 incident, but Tucker said "multiple people could have lost their lives. They just got lucky." He said refineries are supposed to have plenty of fail-safes built in because they are complex facilities dealing with highly toxic and combustible gasses and liquids. Sean Tucker, a University of Regina professor who specializes in occupational health and safety, says he is worried someone at the refinery could die if things don't change. "It's not normal at a refinery - a place where it's high risk for explosions - that you would have this many incidents - serious incidents - over the course of a few years," Tucker said. "It's time there's a level of seriousness about safety at the refinery. And that may mean changes in management."

Refinery Not Responding to CBC's Interview Requests

CBC asked the Co-op Refinery for an explanation for the increase in spills and leaks, but it didn't respond. However, in a recent interview, Executive Vice-president of Strategy Vic Huard, said "we believe profoundly that all accidents are preventable and that one accident is too many and we work very very hard to prevent them." But Huard explained that's easier said than done. "It's a highly complex operation and as we work to get better, and it's a continuous improvement process, we learn as we go."

Environment Ministry Originally Told CBC Refinery Improving

The Ministry of Environment's Ash Olesen says based on reports from 2010 to 2012, the province is seeing performance improvement in terms of spills at the refinery. The refinery is required to report all leaks and spills to the Ministry of Environment, which the government posts on its Sask Spills website. Last week, CBC's iTeam asked Olesen how concerned the ministry was about the number of leaks and spills at the refinery. He said, "generally speaking, we are seeing performance improvement in terms of spills at the refinery." However, Olesen was basing that on reports from 2010 to 2012, which appear to show a decline. But that fails to take into account that there have been 24 reported leaks and spills so far this year, triple the number reported in 2013. The iTeam asked why Olesen said things were improving when the 2014 number seemed to lead to the opposite conclusion. In an email response, the ministry said, "we cannot speak to the performance in 2014 until all final written reports from the refinery are received and assessed."

Saskatchewan More Focused on Productivity than Safety

Mike Carr, deputy minister for Occupational Health and Safety, says too many people in Saskatchewan are focused on getting the job done, rather than getting it done safely. The deputy minister for Occupational Health and Safety told CBC's iTeam "the ministry shares the concern that you've identified in terms of the frequency of incidents occurring on (the Co-op Refinery) site." Mike Carr notes that Occupational Health and Safety has laid charges against the refinery related to the October 6, 2011



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explosion, which he said shows government takes that incident seriously. He said Saskatchewan people should be troubled that this province has "the second worst injury rate in the country." That's twice as high as Ontario's rate and almost three times higher than Alberta's. Carr said there's a simple explanation for the high rates in this province: the lack of a safety culture. "To be blunt, we have a culture that is more focused on getting it done than getting it done safely," Carr said.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/reported-spills-and-leaks-tripled-at-co-op-refinery-over-past-year-1.2870415>

NORTHERN IRELAND, CO DOWN, DECEMBER 13 2014. HMRC SEIZES PUMPS FROM FORECOURT

john wood

A filling station suspected of selling illicit fuel has had its forecourt pumps removed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). HMRC worked with specialist contractors to remove the fuel pumps and an over-ground fuel storage tank safely at the forecourt in County Down, Northern Ireland. At a second site, also in County Down, HMRC visited an oil storage depot where they removed more than 4,000 litres of suspected illicit fuel. A total of 6,450 litres of illicit fuel were seized during the operation on Wednesday December 10. Investigations into the filling station and storage site are ongoing. Pat Curtis, national oils co-ordinator, HMRC, said: "Selling illicit fuel creates an unfair playing field and seriously undercuts legitimate traders who should be able to operate without the threat of unfair competition. Retailers who sell illicit diesel will not only face seizure and removal of fuel and equipment from their premises, but also risk losing their licence to trade. "Anyone with information on fuel misuse or suspicious activities can contact the Customs' hotline on 0800 595000."

http://www.forecourtrader.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/9281/HMRC_seizes_pumps_from_forecourt.html?utm_source=newsletter_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2BWeekly%2BIssue%2B451

USA, TX, DALLAS, DECEMBER 13 2014. 3 DEAD WORKERS IN TANK WERE TRAPPED BY FIRE UNDER DOWNTOWN DALLAS HIGH-RISE

naheed rajwani, claire z. cardona, julie fancher, tristan hallman and robert wilonsky

Key Points:

- Officials did not know whether the workers might have been welding or cutting, Best Mechanical hasn't had a valid permit to do that kind of work since December 2009.
- Thanksgiving Tower's permit for welding, cutting and hot work expired in March.
- The source of the blaze was about 35 feet below ground.

Photo's [3] 3 Dead Workers in Tank were Trapped by Fire



Friends and relatives concerned about the missing victims awaited word from Dallas Fire-Rescue on Thursday.

Three workers died Thursday after they were trapped by fire in an underground tank at a downtown Dallas skyscraper. Their bodies were recovered from below a Thanksgiving Tower parking garage as grieving relatives stood by helplessly. The victims were identified as Oscar Esparza-Romo, 36, Luis Carrillo-Solorzano, 43, and Nicacio Carrillo-Martinez, 60. Nicacio Carrillo was Luis Carrillo's uncle. The three were subcontractors working on a thermal storage tank that is part of the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, a Best Mechanical Inc. spokeswoman said. "Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to these families, especially at this time of the year," said the spokeswoman, Cheri Torres. "It was a very, very tragic accident." She said safety equipment and evacuation procedures were in place at the work site when the fire broke out about 10:30 a.m. near Elm and Ervay streets. The executive vice president of Thanksgiving Tower's management company said it was not clear what type of work the men were doing when the fire broke out. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of

the victims who suffered a loss today," said Jay Johnston of Lincoln Property Co. Investigators had initially suspected the fire was electrical, but Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Jason Evans said the cause now is undetermined and is still being examined. Officials did not know whether the workers might have been welding or cutting, and Dallas Fire-Rescue Assistant Fire Chief Ted Padgett said Best Mechanical hasn't had a valid permit to do that kind of work since December 2009. He also said Thanksgiving Tower's permit for welding, cutting and hot work expired in March. Juan Rodriguez of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration said federal authorities will investigate the fire at the skyscraper, which is undergoing an \$18



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million renovation. Emergency personnel initially believed they were responding to a car fire in the building's garage in the 1600 block of Elm Street. But firefighters soon found that the source of the blaze was about 35 feet below ground. Crews learned workers might be in the tank, but intense smoke and heat prevented them from trying to rescue them. Several people were evaluated at the scene for smoke inhalation, and three people were taken to hospitals for non-life-threatening injuries. Although the fire was extinguished by noon, it took several hours to ventilate the area well enough for the workers' bodies to be recovered. The victims' relatives gathered in Thanksgiving Tower's lobby as authorities tried to confirm what happened. "We don't want to tell you something that isn't true," a police officer told the anxious family members. While they waited, they tried frantically to call their loved ones' cellphones. About an hour later, officials reported that the three bodies had been found. Zaira Martinez said her uncle and cousin had died. The third man was a family friend, she said. One of the workers had five young children, and his wife was devastated. "She's out of it. She doesn't know what to think or say," Martinez said of the woman. The CEO of the company that wrote Dallas Fire-Rescue's high-rise response plan said firefighters handled the situation as well as they could. Curtis Massey said the confined spaces of Thanksgiving Tower's underground areas make them vulnerable to heavy smoke that can hamper rescue efforts. "There was excellent interface between building staff and fire commanders," he said. "It seemed to be a very well-coordinated operation." Firefighters evacuated the 2,800 people who work in the building, and some surrounding streets downtown were closed for more than six hours. Thanksgiving Tower reopened about 2 p.m., but many of the offices inside remained closed for the day.

Related Stories

- [Smoke killed 3 workers trapped in burning storage tank](#)
- [Tower Workers Killed in Fire Used Torches, Died of Smoke](#)
- [Federal investigation underway into Thanksgiving Tower deaths](#)
- [Coroner identifies 2 of 3 victims in Dallas](#)
- [Dallas investigators seek cause of fatal skyscraper fire](#)

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/metro/20141211-3-workers-die-in-fire-at-thanksgiving-tower-in-downtown-dallas1.ece>

BANGLADESH, SUNDERBANS, DECEMBER 13 2014. SUNKEN OIL TANKER SALVAGED AFTER 52 HRS



About 52 hours after its capsized, 'OT Southern Star 7' has been salvaged. The sand carrying cargo-vessel-turned oil tanker was pulled out from Shela River in Sundarbans' west zone in Bagerhat district on Thursday morning. The salvage vessels of Ms Harun & Co had dragged its sunken oil tanker to the bank of the river before 2 navy ships – Shah Poran and Akter Uddin – and 2 other rescue vessels sent from Barisal and Narayanganj reached the spot. 'OT Southern Star 7', which was a river vessel to carry sands from one district to other before it was converted to a fuel oil-carrying ship, was loaded with 357,664 litres of furnace oil when it went down after being hit by 'MV Total', a smaller vessel, on the Shela at Mrigmari in Sundarbans' Chandpai Range early Tuesday. The massive oil spill from the tanker has already put the biodiversity and ecology of the world's biggest mangrove forest, a world heritage site since 1997, at risk. Three vessels of Ms Harun & Co, the owner of 'OT Southern Star 7', have pulled out the oil taker from the river around 9:00am today, Divisional Forest Officer Chowdhury Amir Hossain informed. There were eight inter-connected tankers in the 'OT Southern Star 7', he said adding that 6 of the tankers cracked following the hit by cargo vessel 'Total'.

As the tankers were interconnected, most of the 0.357 million litres oil spilled out of the tanker into the river stretching over around 70 kilometres. Two other salvage vessels sent from Barisal and Narayanganj reached Joymoni area in the morning. Sulatan Mahamud, a fuel oil transportation businessman, said the tanker was not capable of carrying oil. It was mainly built for carrying sand. As a result it capsized after being hit a minor cargo ship. Environmentalists and researchers are deeply concerned that the oil from the tanker could spread to the east and west sides of the Sundarbans because of the tides. The oil has already spread to the northern and southern regions, according to a news agency.

<http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2014/12/11/70505>



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