



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2014 – 1,031 Newsy Stuff

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January 02 2014



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USA, N.J, MORRIS TWP, DECEMBER 24 2013. 130 GALLONS OF OIL SPILLED FROM TANK IN BASEMENT OF MORRIS TOWNSHIP GAS STATION

meghan shapiro hodgin

About 130 gallons of oil spilled from a ruptured oil tank in the basement of a gas station on Sussex Avenue over the weekend, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection. At about 4:30 p.m. Friday, the Morris Township Fire Department was called to the Express Gas Station at 492 Sussex Ave. for a possible hazardous materials incident, said Morris Township Fire Chief Scott J. Lovenberg. When firefighters arrived, they found a 250-gallon home-heating oil tank in the basement that had ruptured, with another 250-gallon tank in the backyard that was leaking, he said. "Approximately 130 gallons of heating oil spilled from a tank in the basement of the structure, which also impacted the sump," said Bob Considine, press officer for the state DEP. The oil was used to heat a housing unit above the gas station, he said, and "the leak was stopped and the spill has been contained." The oil in the basement had been cleaned up before firefighters arrived, but an unknown amount of oil had leaked in the back of the residence, Lovenberg said. The building owners hired a contractor to perform the cleanup, which is ongoing, and being overseen by the DEP, Considine said. The Morris Township Police Department and Morris County Hazardous Materials Team also responded to the scene, Lovenberg said. Firefighters remained on the scene until 9 p.m. Friday, when the scene was turned over to the state DEP, he said.

http://www.nj.com/morris/index.ssf/2013/12/250-gallon_oil_tank_ruptures_leaks_into_yard_at_morris_township_gas_station.html

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, LA BREA, DECEMBER 24 2013. OIL SPILL SOS, MINISTER: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO BE USED IN CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS

carolyn kissoon



In Harm's Way: A rescue worker holds an oil-covered sea bird in La Brea on the south-western peninsula yesterday. An oil spill last Tuesday at Petrotrin's Pointe-a-Pierre jetty has made its way southwards, threatening villages and wildlife along the coast.

Energy Minister Kevin Ramnarine has indicated that international assistance will be required to assist in cleaning up the oil slick along the coastline of the south-western peninsula. Ramnarine visited the affected areas in La Brea yesterday, accompanied by Tourism Minister Chandresh Sharma and Petrotrin president Khalid Hassanali. "My initial impression is the situation is very serious," said Ramnarine. "What we are being told here is that about three to four miles of the beach, of the shoreline, is affected in this area. There are expertise outside of Trinidad and Tobago, for which we subscribe--Petrotrin pays an annual retainer

fee to a company in Florida called Clean Caribbean and they have cutting edge equipment, so I think given the seriousness of the situation, we may have to look at that option, look at triggering that option right now." Ramnarine said the clean-up exercise can last weeks. "I'm told that there is equipment in the US that can do this a lot quicker. How quickly we can get that here, I don't know. But, certainly, when I go back to the Ministry today, we will look at that." Ramnarine said the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan [NOSCP] would be made available to Petrotrin to assist in clean-up operations. He said Petrotrin had already removed 700 barrels of oil from the La Brea beach. "I've also been told by the exploration and production vice-president and his team that they have seen no commensurate decline in production at Trinmar, so the mystery of course remains, where is this oil coming from?" Ramnarine said the source of the spill at La Brea remained a mystery, as well as the oil spills on the two Trinmar platforms and at Rancho Quemado. "Rancho Quemado is pretty far from here, so at this time it is the biggest mystery. Where this has come from...I'm told there is no active pipelines around here so we continue to investigate as to what is the source, but we have to find out what the source is. HSE persons are here and medical staff for any sort of support the villagers would need," he said. And responding to complaints by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) that fields were not well secured, Ramnarine said: "Unmanned platforms are a part of the industry globally, we can't put people on every single platform. There are over 37 platforms in Trinmar, you can't put people on every one. And even on the east coast where you have EOG and BG, there are unmanned platforms there. In the Gulf of Mexico, there are unmanned platforms. Some of these platforms are even very small, you really don't have much room to house people on it so unmanned platforms are a part of the industry globally." Sharma said every person affected by the oil spills were being taken care of. He said the fishermen were in discussion with the authorities. "The fishermen have been communicated with. They certainly have some



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needs that must be attended to, because we have to return them to normalcy in the shortest possible time. In the time when they cannot go out and fish they will have expenses that they will have to meet. Whatever those expense are, the Government certainly will be looking at that because they will have families to take care of. We will make sure and Petrotrin, as a corporate citizen, will also be taking care of that," he said. Sharma said the cause of the oil spills was a serious concern. "What will make it more sad is if it is established that it has been an act that is man-made. It will be a horror story to think that in 2013, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, there are person or persons who may be engaged in such acts," he said. Fifteen families were affected by the oil spill in La Brea. The residents were advised to seek shelter at the nearby La Brea Community Centre, but they have refused. Petrotrin stated that 25 persons were treated at a medical centre established at the Lake Asphalt human resources building in La Brea, while one child was transferred to Point Fortin District Hospital. Residents said they were hoping that the beachfront is cleaned and their lives return to normal by Christmas.

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/OIL-SPILL-SOS-236967101.html>

USA, FLA, PALM COAST, DECEMBER 25 2013. FIERY CHRISTMAS EVE TANKER CRASH SHUTS DOWN I-95 NORTH IN PALM COAST FOR THE DAY

dan scanlan

- Killed was Christopher McEuen, 41, of Jacksonville's Florida Rock and Tank Lines

Watch the Video's:

- [Fiery Fatal Tanker-Semi Crash](#)
- [I-95 Shut Down after Massive Fiery Wreck](#)
- [I-95 NB shut down between US 1 & Palm Coast Pkwy](#)
- [I-95 N in Flagler to Reopen Tuesday Night after Tanker Explodes, Burns Road](#)

Photo's [4] Fiery Fatal Tanker-Semi Crash

Photo's [16] I-95 NB shut down between US 1 & Palm Coast Pkwy

Photo's [11] Fuel Truck Explodes in Collision with another Truck

Hear at:

[911 Wreck Call, 3:45 a.m.](#)

[Additional 911 Calls, 3:45-3:47 a.m.](#)



A Florida highway trooper investigates the aftermath of a fuel tanker crash that killed the driver when the tractor-trailer clipped another semi on Interstate 95 several miles north of Palm Coast Parkway Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2013.

An explosive Christmas Eve accident that left a Jacksonville truck driver dead also detoured thousands of holiday-bound motorists in and around Palm Coast after a chunk of Interstate 95 northbound was damaged by the flames, according to the Florida Highway Patrol. As work crews cleaned up the charred wreckage of the gasoline tanker that burned after the pre-dawn impact, 41-year-old Christopher James McEuen's former wife grieved for a man she called an "amazing person." McEuen had been driving for Florida Rock and Tank Lines of Jacksonville for the past few years, according to Christina McEuen. She learned of his death from family. "I am in shock and I am so sad," she said. "I just talked to him last night and he said 'I love you' when he hung up and I can't believe

that he is gone. In bad moments he always had a joke to come up with. ... He was just the best friend anybody could ever want." Travelers headed for Christmas with friends and family had to slowly thread their way up U.S. 1 in Bunnell and past Palm Coast to get around the accident scene on one of the busiest travel days of the year. "It is quite a mess with the increased traffic," Highway Patrol Sgt. Dylan Bryan said. "... We are directing traffic to U.S. 1 north and I-95 at the next exit. This has increased the flow on the smaller roads and it has caused a delay with the amount of traffic, but it is moving." The accident occurred about 4:15 a.m. at mile marker 290 when the loaded fuel truck tried to change lanes behind an unloaded tractor-trailer truck, Bryan said. Moving from the right to center lane, the tanker hit the left rear of the other truck, Bryan said. "This caused the tanker to lose control and overturn and it ignited, fully engulfing that vehicle," Bryan said. The other driver has been identified as 33-year-old St. Clair Agenord of Winter Haven, according to the Highway Patrol. Uninjured in the accident,



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he was charged on a warrant for child support out of Alachua County, Bryan said. Little was left of the tanker — just pieces of steel with the trailer frame. The tires were completely burned away. The fire was extinguished by about 6:15 a.m. The amount of heavy holiday traffic heading up the highway forced the Flagler County Sheriff's Office and Highway Patrol to move the detours south to U.S. 1 and Florida 100, Bryan said. Crews had to remove the asphalt that was damaged and begin the emergency repair process. "Due to the extreme heat from the fire, it damaged the roadway beyond the point where it was safe to operate vehicles," Bryan said. Initial estimates were that repairs wouldn't be done until early Christmas Day, but that was revised to about 6 p.m. Christmas Eve once work began, according to the Florida Department of Transportation. Palm Coast re-timed traffic lights along Florida 100 to ease congestion due to the detour, while the Highway Patrol assigned a trooper at Florida 100 and U.S. 1 to control that signal and keep traffic moving. Christina McEuen said her former husband, an Akron native, took the job with the Jacksonville-based company so he could be closer to his three boys and two girls ages 9 to 23. While the two separated in 2008, she said they had been "best friends" for the past three years. "He would help anyone if he could, whether he knew them or not," she said. "He loved his children and he was the greatest dad and was always there for them. He was kind of like an angel put on earth." Investigators said there were apparently no other witnesses, so it is unknown if speed, an improper lane change or some other factor caused the accident. Updates on the road as well as other reported accidents on state roads in Florida can be accessed at flhsmv.gov/fhp/traffic.

<http://jacksonville.com/breaking-news/2013-12-24/story/fiery-christmas-eve-crash-shuts-down-i-95-north-palm-coast-day>

ECUADOR, QUITO, DECEMBER 25 2013. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION IN ECUADOR MAY COST CHEVRON BILLIONS

andrew hiller



Humberto Piaguaje, representative of Ecuadorean people affected by environment damage caused by Chevron-Texaco in the Amazon basin region, speaks next to the lawyer Juan Pablo Saenz (R) during a press conference in Quito on November 13, 2013.

It is a case that has spanned decades, Texaco before it was acquired by Chevron was charged with environmental damages leading to serious health consequences for the indigenous people of the Amazonian region of Ecuador. The latest turn involves a Canadian judge saying that the plaintiffs are allowed to pursue damages granted against the company by an Ecuadorian court. Suzana Sawyer, a professor of anthropology and the author of "Crude

Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador" has been following the case. She says that what is in contention here is what effect Texaco's drilling and refining practices have had on the region. During the investigation, the judge, prosecutor, and members for the defense investigated 54 suspected contaminated sites. One of the first questions investigated was the process by which the company drilled for the oil. "Texaco engaged in production technology and practices that essentially releases all of the heavy crude oil that emerges from oil exploration that can't be used along with what's called the formation waters which are all the waters and sands which exist (underground) two miles down with the crude oil and comes up with the crude." Sawyer describes large swimming pool-sized excavation pits as one of the primary culprits that the plaintiffs allege caused major contamination. She describes tanks as these as huge pits. "(They) were not lined. Often had goose necked pipes would drain them out into the neighboring little streams and rivulets and rivers. And it rains like crazy in this... in the Amazon as you might imagine, where rainfall can be over five meters a year and the pits themselves would often overflow." The practice that Texaco employed was not considered unique and was employed in a number of third world regions, but Sawyer emphasizes they were practices not used in the United States. Chevron, however, disputes this claim, saying that they have utilized the same technology across the U.S. during the time period in question.

In the suit, the plaintiffs are claiming serious health effects ranging from birth defects to several types of cancer including esophagus and lymphoma. "The ruling the judge made in Ecuador is very substantive, very elaborate. It's over 200 pages and he never claims absolutely that it has been proven that indeed crude oil is absolutely toxic nor has it ever been proven without doubt that there are health effects that there are health effects that are directly caused by it." The judge's ruling was based upon something similar to the precautionary principle which boils down to "if it is believed that there is a significant possibility that harm has been caused that is good enough." It is not good enough, however for Chevron though. They report that they are planning to continue to fight this as they have been since acquiring Texaco more than 20 years ago.



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http://voiceofrussia.com/us/2013_12_23/Environmental-contamination-in-Ecuador-may-cost-Chevron-billions-5908/

USA, N.J, CLIFTON, DECEMBER 25 2013. ROADS CLOSE WHILE AUTHORITIES CONTAIN OIL LEAK IN CLIFTON



Members of the Clifton fire department place booms along Union Ave. at the intersection of Getty Ave. to prevent waste oil leaking from JC Auto.

Parts of three streets near Main Avenue were closed Monday as oil spread for several blocks after spilling from an above-ground tank that apparently fell over at an auto repair shop, authorities said. The oil came from a tank at JC Auto, located at a Delta gas station at Main and Union Avenues, Deputy Chief Kevin McCarthy of the city fire department said. Firefighters were notified about the spill at 9 a.m. when a resident called to complain about oil in the street, he said. Firefighters used absorbent pads to stop the oil from spreading, he said, although some spilled into storm drains that eventually lead to the [Passaic River](#). A state Department of Environmental Protection spokesman, Bob Considine, said there was no impact to waterways. Parts of Union, Harding and Getty avenues near Main Avenue were closed while firefighters worked to contain the spread of the oil, and were reopened in the afternoon, McCarthy said. He said

the oil no longer was flowing from the tank by the time firefighters arrived, and that the spill apparently had taken place hours earlier. "We traced it back to the auto repair shop," he said. JC Auto did not respond to a message left at its office Monday. The owner of the property hired a company to clean the spill, an effort the DEP was overseeing and which was "ongoing" as of Monday evening, Considine said. He said the 275-gallon tank "apparently topped over" but did not say how much oil it contained when it fell. McCarthy said authorities had not determined how much oil spilled, but added that it was a "significant amount."

http://www.northjersey.com/clifton/Authorities_try_to_contain_oil_leak_in_Clifton.html

KENYA, KINANGOP, DECEMBER 26 2013. TEENAGER BURNT TO DEATH AFTER PETROL OUTLET BURST INTO FLAMES

Key Points:

- 16-year-old girl burnt to death
- petrol outlet burst into flames.
- Girl using lantern to check on leaking container
- Property worth millions of shillings reduced to ashes

A sixteen-year-old girl was burnt to death in Kinangop, Nyandarua County after fire broke out in a residential plot. The teenager was burnt beyond recognition during the incident in Chobe village after a petrol outlet burst into flames. Property worth millions of shillings were reduced to ashes and over ten families left homeless during the Monday night incident. A fifty-year-old man was rushed to Naivasha district hospital in a critical condition after he was injured during the incident. According to a witness Joel Maina, the fire broke out from the fuel outlet spreading fast to the adjoining houses. Maina said the teenager was using a lantern to check on a leaking container that had petrol when the fire broke out. "The leaking container burst into flames burning the girl and spreading fast to the nearby houses," said the witness. Kinangop OCPD Yawa Chome said the body of the deceased had been taken to Naivasha district hospital mortuary. "The minor died at the scene while one victim is recuperating in hospital as we investigate the issue," he said on phone.

http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000100762&story_title=teenager-burnt-to-death-after-petrol-outlet-burst-into-flames



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USA, MA, NANTUCKET, DECEMBER 26 2013. HARBOR FUEL AGREES TO EPA SETTLEMENT

Nantucket's Harbor Fuel Oil Corp. has agreed to pay a \$14,000 penalty and spend at least \$37,940 to purchase new equipment, including an emergency-response spill trailer, as part of a settlement with the federal Environmental Protection Agency for allegedly failing a 2012 oil-spill-response exercise to ensure the company's preparedness in the event of a major spill. Harbor Fuel operates the large fuel-tank farm downtown, consisting of 11 aboveground fuel tanks, holding 954,000 gallons of heating oil, diesel and gasoline. The tanks sit in a densely-populated area along the Nantucket waterfront with the potential for a catastrophe to the town of epic proportions if an accident were to occur, town officials have long argued.

<http://www.ack.net/HarborFuelagreestoEPASettlement122413.html>

USA, ORE, PORTLAND, DECEMBER 26 2013. MAN LIT HIMSELF, CAR ON FIRE WHILE STEALING GASOLINE

kimberly eiten

 **Watch the Video** [Man Lit Himself, Car on Fire while Stealing Gasoline](#)



A man's criminal attempt to fill up a can of gas as he smoked a cigarette went up in flames Sunday morning, according to police. Portland police said 62-year-old Harry Suniville lit himself and his car on fire after he tried to steal gas from another driver's truck. From across the street, bystanders caught it all on camera. Jim Owens, who works near the scene of the crime at Southwest 11th Avenue and Columbia Street, didn't see the alleged crime, but he did watch the aftermath. "Just that one little flame under the tire, I saw out of the corner of my eye that something was wrong there," Owens said. "Next thing you know, there was 10 feet of flames, and he was in the car and I got really worried and I knew I had to save him," he said. Despite Owens' efforts to save Suniville, and

Suniville's own efforts to get away, he burned his socks, pants, eyebrows and hair. He was treated at the scene and released by paramedics, then arrested on charges of criminal mischief in the second degree, reckless burning and theft in the third degree. "As you're walking up you hear your truck was on fire and you're like well, that's that," driver Timothy Hardin said. Timothy Hardin's truck was parked right next to Suniville's when it caught fire. Officers learned that Suniville had stolen a partially-filled gas can from Hardin's truck "It's just Portland. There's a lot of car crime," Hardin said. The back of Hardin's blue truck is now a bubbled shade of black, and he won't be driving it anytime soon. But, Hardin said, he's looking for the silver lining. "I was just glad that nobody got hurt and that the guy who did it got caught," he said.

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/24285886/police-say-man-lit-himself-car-on-fire-while-stealing-gasoline>

USA, CT, DANBURY, DECEMBER 26 2013. COUPLE SMELLED FUEL BEFORE STATION FIRE THAT BURNED NYACK HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

akiko matsuda & hoa nguyen



Gas pumps where 60-year-old Nyack Hospital Chaplain David Wentroble was injured during an explosion Dec. 20, 2013 in Danbury.

Four days after a Nyack Hospital chaplain was critically injured after catching on fire while pumping gas into his car, supporters are praying for his recovery while police continue the investigation. Authorities gave no indication what may have sparked the fire at the Wheels Citgo station that left David Wentroble, 60, with third-degree burns. A motorist said he and his wife stopped at the Citgo only minutes before Wentroble caught on fire and noticed an overpowering smell of fuel that morning — much more so than the many other times they have stopped at the gas station. "It was reeking — holy cow," said Patrick Mohan, 49, owner of Candlewood Bait & Tackle shop in Danbury. But the couple didn't think much of the smell because they couldn't see any large fuel spills. About 20 minutes later, the Mohans, whose shop is only yards from the gas station, saw fire personnel

responding to the scene. Patrick Mohan said he has experienced malfunctions at the gas station in the past, including two months ago when he took his boat in to fuel and noticed gas leaking from the hose. The manager of the gas station declined to comment Tuesday. Two gas pumps remained out of use with black fire marks on the stall and nearby ground being the only evidence of a fire. Fran Mayko, a AAA spokeswoman, said an explosion or fire that occurs while a driver is pumping gas is



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extremely rare. She would not comment specifically on the Danbury incident because it remained unclear what ignited the fire. Running the engine while refueling, a problem with the tanks or a creation of static electricity all can be a potential cause, she said. In general, drivers can improve refueling safety by reducing or eliminating the chance of creating static electricity. Tips include turning off the engine before refueling, "grounding" yourself by tapping the car roof or the side door when you get out of the car to refuel and not smoking or getting back into the car while refueling. Wentroble, who also is minister at Central Presbyterian Church in Haverstraw, has been placed in a medically induced coma at the Bridgeport Hospital burn unit. His friends have said he will face months of surgery, skin grafts and rehabilitation as a result of burns across 20 percent of his body. The Rev. Margery Rossi, pastor of Stony Point Presbyterian Church, said Tuesday that members of the church community reached out to Wentroble's family, offering help. "They had asked we wait until he is taken out of the induced coma, so there's no actual plans for what to do for him because it's so unclear at this point what he might need," Rossi said.

<http://www.lohud.com/article/20131224/NEWS02/312240072/Couple-smelled-fuel-before-station-fire-burned-Nyack-Hospital-chaplain>

MALAYSIA, KAMPAR, DECEMBER 26 2013. TANKER & LORRY DRIVER KILLED IN ACCIDENT NEAR GUA TEMPURUNG



Commuters travel along the Federal Highway in Kuala Lumpur December 18, 2013.

Two lorry drivers were killed in an accident involving two lorries at Km300.4 of the North-South Expressway (northbound) here, today. Kampar District Police chief Supt Ng Kong Soon said during the 9.15am incident, tanker driver Mohd Iswad Ramli, 33, and a yet to be identified lorry driver, died from head injuries at the scene. "Investigation revealed that Mohd Iswad had parked the tanker in the emergency lane when another lorry, driven by the unidentified man, crashed into it from behind," he said when contacted here today. He said the lorry also ploughed into Mohd Iswad, of Felda Palong 8, Gemas, Negeri Sembilan, who was inspecting the tyres of his tanker during the incident. "Both bodies were sent to the Kampar Hospital for post-mortem," he said, adding that the stretch of the

road where the incident took place was straight and the weather was fine. The accident caused a massive traffic congestion for about 10km and only returned to normal four hours later, he added.

<http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/lorry-drivers-killed-in-accident-near-gua-tempurung>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, POINTE-A-PIERRE, DECEMBER 26 2013. 'IT'S BUNKER FUEL' >> IMA FINDS 'MISSING LINK'...

anna ramdass

Thousands of barrels of bunker fuel were somehow released from Petrotrin's storage facilities in Pointe-a-Pierre which resulted in the entire South coast of the country being polluted, a report compiled by the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) has stated. The IMA conducted an investigation and fingerprinting analysis of the oil spills that impacted the Gulf of Paria during the past week and found that it was not crude oil but bunker fuel which is mainly used on ships and refineries. A Government source told the Express yesterday that the "missing link" has been found as to what type of substance was polluting the waters and where it came from. The mystery now, said the source, is how thousands of barrels of bunker fuel found its way into the oceans and who or what caused this. The source said sabotage was still likely in the case of Rancho Quemado where special tools were required to open the valves. "The source of this spill has been scientifically established beyond doubt and by sampling it is the same fuel in Granville, La Brea, Carrat Shed and at Pointe-a-Pierre," said the source. "The probe will have to take place with respect to the land base allegations of sabotage because it required specialist equipment to open the valves," the source added. "We have established the fingerprint of the oil spill fuel but we have not established how the oil came to spill, that is a matter which will have to be independently investigated," said the source. Cabinet on Thursday appointed Minister of the Environment and Water Resources Ganga Singh as chairman of a committee along with Energy Minister Kevin Ramnarine and National Security Minister Gary Griffith to oversee an investigation into the oil spill. A technical committee was established comprising Prof John Agard, Andrew Jupiter, Dr Allan Bachan, head of the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and Dr Indar Ramnarine, chairman of the Institute of Marine Affairs. The IMA team, which conducted the scientific analysis on the spill samples was led by Darryl Banjoo and comprised members Wendy Nelson,



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Shane Ramsammy, Kyle Williams and Malini Ramlal. The Express obtained a copy of the preliminary report which stated that the results of the fingerprinting analysis indicate a strong resemblance between the samples of oil found at La Brea and Granville and the oil at the spill site at Petrotrin Pointe-a-Pierre which suggest a link between these samples. IMA chairman Dr Indar Ramnarine told the Express that bunker fuel was crude oil minus gasoline and kerosene. He said this type of fuel will have the same negative impact on the environment as crude oil. Ramnarine said sea currents would have pushed the fuel from Pointe-a-Pierre to La Brea and Cedros affecting the coast. The Rancho Quemado case, he said, might be crude oil as it was land based where the valves were deliberately opened. He said a team from the IMA on Friday, will do a detailed survey of the coastline from Chatham to Pointe-a-Pierre and will study the impact of the spill on the marine life including plants such as sea grass and mangrove. Ramnarine said a forensic analysis will be required to determine whether the spillage from Petrotrin's storage facilities was deliberate or carelessness.

Related Stories

- [Petrotrin: \\$\\$, clean-up material for affected fishermen](#)
- [Oil spill an assault on the whole country](#)
- [100 barrels of oil collected from Rancho Quemado](#)

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/lts-bunker-fuel-237205061.html>

INDIA, KARNATAKA, GURPURPETE, DECEMBER 26 2013. OIL TANKER GOES BERSERK AT GURPUR: ONE DEAD, SHOPS, CARS DAMAGED

Photo's [24] Oil Tanker Goes Berserk At Gurpur



At least one person died and four others sustained injuries when an oil tanker ran berserk after its brakes failed. The horrid accident took place at Gurpurpete under Bajpe police limits here on Wednesday December 25. Apart from the casualties and injuries, the oil tanker also razed down Suvarna tailoring shop and Swagat tea stall and damaged two cars. Eyewitnesses said that an empty oil tanker with Tamil Nadu registration was plying towards Mangalore, when its brakes at Gurpurpete. As the tanker was at high speed, the driver lost control and rammed into a Maruti Eco and a Swift. Two women who were walking towards the bus stop from a temple were hit, and one of them died on the spot while the other lady was critically injured. Their names are not yet known. The passengers who were in the Eco and Swift cars were also injured. The injured were rushed to AJ Hospital. The lorry driver reportedly said that he tried his

best to avoid damage but could not do so as there were cars in front of him and the road is narrow. Fire tender and police rushed to the spot. Mescom linemen also arrived to cut the power supply to prevent further damage.

http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=209013

VIETNAM, BINH PHUOC, DECEMBER 26 2013. DOZENS OF FAMILIES IN BINH PHUOC PANICKED OF WELLS FULL WITH GASOLINE



Many households in Village 9, Long Ha commune, Bu Gia Map district in the central province of Binh Phuoc are living in fear because their wells can ignite at any time since they are full of gasoline.

According to local police, these wells are polluted with gasoline from a nearby gas station. The leaked gas tank is 10-15m deep and gas from the tank polluted an area of about 70sq.m in radius. The gasoline has absorbed into over ten wells in the area. Earlier, some residents living around the petrol station detected gas in their wells so they reported the incident to the police. They did not dare to cook for fear of their houses would ignite at any time. Mr. Hoang Tien Yen, one of the most affected households, said that about 20 days ago, when he pumped water from the well, he smelled gasoline in the water so he did not dare to use the water. His neighbors found the same thing. Yen has had to travel over one kilometer to take water from his relative's home. "These days we are living in fear because we don't know when the gasoline in our wells will inflame," he said. Mrs. Can Thi Ngai, who lives near the petrol station, said that her well was



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full of petrol. "We have used this well for over ten years. Suddenly in the past three weeks, it is full of gas. The water blazed when we burned it. We have asked the authorities to handle it quickly because we cannot live like this any longer," she said. Many households also worried: "We are living with death. Just a spark could accidentally burn this area," one said. The petrol station, named Hong Hang, is located close to the center of Long Ha commune, Bu Gia Map district. The owner – Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thuy - apologized to all affected families and promised to solve the incident. According to Thuy, the leaked gas tank contained about 7,000 liters of gasoline and about 3,000 liters were absorbed into the soil. Mr. Le Van Toan, deputy chief police of Long Ha commune said that the authorities closed the petrol station to deal with the gas leakage. "It will be difficult and will take a long time to remedy the incident because the amount of leaked gas is huge and it is deep underground," Toan said.

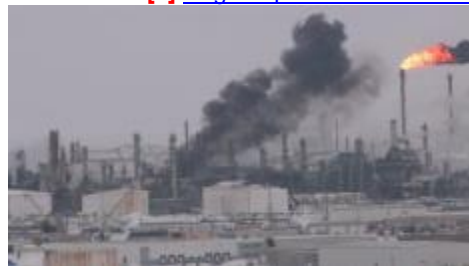
<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/society/92338/dozens-of-families-in-binh-phuoc-panicked-of-wells-full-with-gasoline.html>

CANADA, SK, REGINA, DECEMBER 26 2013. NO ONE HURT IN REFINERY EXPLOSION IN REGINA

Watch the Video

- [No One Hurt in Refinery Explosion in Regina](#)
- [No Injuries, Everyone accounted for at Explosion at Refinery in Regina](#)

Photo's [6] Huge Explosion at Oil Refinery Rocks Regina on Christmas Eve



A Regina fire official says everyone has been accounted for and there are no injuries after an explosion Tuesday at a refinery in Regina. People from across Regina and as far as 15 kilometres outside the city heard and felt the explosion at the Federated Co-op refinery around 3:30 p.m. local time. Deputy Fire Chief Layne Jackson says all personnel are accounted for, and amazingly no injuries were reported- no one was taken to hospital. He says the focus was on putting out the fire. "Right now, the subsequent fire that ensued is under control. There's just a small flame. They're burning off some gases associated with the explosion," said Jackson. "Once that has been completed the scene will be stabilized and assessed for safety and any other collateral damage." One

woman from Pilot Butte, about 20 kilometres east of Regina, called radio station CKRM. "From out here, we heard it and was like, 'what the heck's that? And then my son called me shortly after because he was on his way in to the city and they were right by the refinery and he said his whole truck just shook and they felt the vibrations in their chest," the woman said. Larry Shrader lives in Regina. "I'm a mile away from it and my house shook, the front window shook, my Christmas tree shook; scared the heck out of all of us," he said. Dan McMurtry, Vice-President Systems and Strategy, Federated Cooperatives Ltd., says the large blast was due to the nature of the fuel involved. "Part of the reason for the nature of the explosion- it was a propane and butane processing unit, propane and butane are light fuels and highly explosive. It was not gas," he said. It's the fourth fire in about two years at the refinery. "One is too many. We've had a number. It's a serious concern." In February, a fire in a coker unit sent flames shooting nearly 20 metres in the air, but was quickly brought under control. In October 2011, corrosion in a pipe triggered a fireball that sent several contract workers to hospital, forced 1,400 workers from the facility, and injured dozens. In May 2012, a much smaller fire occurred when an overheated crude oil pump ignited. There were no injuries.

Related Stories [Explosion & Fire Rock Regina Refinery](#)

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1049232/no-one-hurt-in-refinery-explosion-in-regina/>

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, DECEMBER 26 2013. PHILIPPINES FIREWORKS FACTORIES WARNED VS. HIRING MINORS



Fireworks display in Zamboanga City.

The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking issued a stern warning against firecracker factories using children as workers in their operations, stating that the operators and handlers of these shops will be dealt with the full force of the law. IACAT also urged local government units, down to the barangay level, to adopt measures to make sure that no children will be exploited as laborers in the hazardous manufacturing of firecrackers, which poses grave danger from accidents and also exposes workers to health problems. Justice Secretary Leila M. De Lima, also the IACAT chairperson, emphasized the role of the local

government units in monitoring these incidents of child labor especially in small shed operations that springs up in bunches



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when the holiday season approaches. According to a recent report of the International Labor Organization (ILO), some 168 million children aged 5-17 years were involved in child labor as of 2012. This is about one-tenth of the total child population in the world. Out of that figure, 85.3 million children (55 million for boys while 30.3 million for girls) are subjected to hazardous work. Hazardous work is defined as any activity or occupation that, by its nature or type, has or leads to adverse effects on the child's safety, health and moral development. It is a subcategory of child labor. "Everyone must understand that the young children subjected to the manufacturing of these pyrotechnics are not aware of the risks that they are being exposed to, and their parents who allow or even push them to work do not know any better," De Lima said. There have been explosions in fireworks factories as early as April this year, leaving one dead and two injured. "It is the responsibility of the government, both national and local, to protect our youth from this danger of being exposed to hazardous child labor," De Lima added.

http://www.mindanaoexaminer.com/news.php?news_id=20131225103352

USA, ME, SOUTH BERWICK, DECEMBER 26 2013. DELIVERY TRUCK SPILLS OIL: APPROXIMATELY 30 GALLONS SPILL ON ROAD, MAKE WAY INTO RIVER

crystal a. weyers



Firefighters soak up spilled heating oil on Quarry Drive after an oil truck lost some of its load while parked on a hill making a delivery to a home.

A Downeast Energy oil truck lost some of its load during a home delivery Monday afternoon, spilling upward of 30 gallons onto the street and making its way into Great Works River. The spill was quickly contained and although a smell lingered in the air there was no threat to those living nearby. The South Berwick Fire Department responded to the spill originating at 15 Quarry Drive in the Old Mills subdivision at approximately 2:15 p.m. "He was backed into a driveway delivering oil and the vent on top of his truck was open," Deputy Fire Chief and Code Enforcement Officer Joe Rousselle said of the Downeast Energy oil truck driver involved. "By the time he got done filling up and realized it, he had lost anywhere from 20 to 30 or maybe 40 gallons." The Department of Environmental Protection was immediately notified, the drain to the river

blocked and a boom was being used to absorb the oil on the iced-over river. Firefighters blocked off a portion of the street off and were using absorbent pads to soak up the oil in the roadway. "Our biggest concern was that it went into a catch basin that goes directly to the river," said Rousselle. "The absorbent pads soak up oil and petroleum products, so that's the best thing we can do; just try to stop whatever would go into the catch basins." The firefighters used absorbent booms to collect the oil they could get off the ice on the river and the DEP would get a cleaning company to pump out the basins. "It was in an area where we could isolate it, so that was a good thing," said Rousselle. Officials said there was no danger to residents, their children or pets.

http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20131224/GJNEWS_01/131229746/-1/fosnews

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, GLADSTONE, DECEMBER 26 2013. PORTS CORP STAYS TIGHT LIPPED OVER BUND WALL ALLEGATIONS



An aerial view of the bund wall at Fisherman's Landing, Gladstone, which sprung a leak in 2011.

The Gladstone Ports Corporation has refused to answer questions about whether its Western Basin bund wall failed to meet its environmental commitments. The GPC is under fire after a report found poor design of the wall allowed dredge spoil to leak into Gladstone Harbour in September 2011. It has been claimed an engineers' report provided to the GPC in November 2011 linked the huge leak and a plunge in water quality at the time of the fish disease outbreak. The Observer has asked GPC if the bund wall met its commitments under the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project environmental impact statement. The GPC did not respond, but a spokeswoman said "an extensive

monitoring program was established for the duration of the WBDDP". "The GPC notified relevant regulatory authorities and the community about the leak (when it occurred), and its contribution to turbidity in the harbour," she said. A new internal wall and



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seal was then developed. Independent engineers delivered a presentation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority showing that bund wall leaks over two years were due to inadequate lining, placed outside the wall rather than built into it. In the environmental impact statement, the risk of turbidity around the bund was flagged as high, but GPC said it had committed to a control strategy. [The Australian](#) on Thursday reported the ports corporation was forced to seek urgent permission to breach its environmental approvals in a race to plug the leaking bund wall before it ran out of space to store potentially toxic acid sulphate soils associated with the dredging. It said an application for a transitional environment program lodged in June last year confirmed the environmental impact of the original bund wall failure and how an initial response had not fixed the problem, and documents showed the ports corporation was aware of the extent of the environmental threat posed by the bund wall failure.

Related Stories

- [Port Plea to Stem Toxic Leak](#)
- [Fishermen Claim Dredging Impact Covered up by GPC](#)
- [Ports Corporation Says Bund Wall in Harbour isn't Leaking](#)
- [Sediment Leaks into Harbour, First Time this Year GPC Says](#)
- [Dredging Halted in Harbour](#)

<http://www.cqnews.com.au/news/ports-corp-coy-over-bund-wall-allegations/2124263/>

THAILAND, SUPHAN BURI, MUANG, DECEMBER 26 2013. FIREWORK FACTORY BLAST KILLS 2

Photo's [3] [Firework Factory Blast Kills 2](#)



A Suphan Buri fireworks factory blew up, killing two workers and setting off an inferno that burned the plant down and heavily damaged six buildings. Two people were wounded. The damage was estimated at about Bt3 million. Provincial police chief Maj-General Chatcharin Sawangwong said yesterday that the factory had applied for a permit to produce explosive products including fireworks but had not yet obtained it. Sparks caused by friction on the production line could have ignited the initial blast, he said, but further investigation into the cause was needed. The two dead workers were identified as Phaithoon Jamsuwan and Monote Sukying. This facility, located on a three-rai site in Muang district and owned by local politician Sujin Japhan, was hit by

an explosion on June 9 of last year. He has been charged with manslaughter.

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/Firework-factory-blast-kills-2-30222952.html>

USA, CO, DE BEQUE, DECEMBER 26 2013. WELL LEAK SPEWS FLUID; IS FRACKING TO BLAME?

Authorities are still awaiting test results that could help determine the cause of a leak at a 32-year-old, nonproducing oil and gas well seven miles southwest of De Beque. The Maralex Resources well is now producing about 100 barrels, or 4,200 gallons, of fluids a day into a containment pit, about a week and a half after the discovery of gas and fluids leaking from and around the well. Part of the leak investigation is focused on whether recent hydraulic fracturing of a nearby Black Hills Exploration & Production well could have caused the leak. As of Tuesday, results weren't back from water and soil tests that could confirm or rule out the presence at the leak site of frack fluids from the recent operation. Todd Hartman, spokesman for the state Department of Natural Resources, said test results are expected the first week of January. Black Hills drilled a well about a mile away that by design turned horizontally underground. The company believes it came within about 400 feet of the Maralex well, which is on Bureau of Land Management land. The Black Hills well is targeting the Niobrara shale formation, whereas the Maralex well was drilled deeper to reach the Dakota sandstone formation. BLM spokesman Chris Joyner said it's theoretically possible the two wells are as close as 260 feet. He said that in the spring, Black Hills ran measuring tools down the Maralex well, and it headed in a direction that would place the new well about 400 feet from it. But for some reason Black Hills didn't measure the entire length of the Maralex well, so if it happened to make a 90-degree turn beneath the measured length, the wells could be as close as 260 feet, Joyner said. That's unlikely for what is considered to be a vertical rather than horizontal well, and the 400-foot distance is probably correct, but the BLM has to consider worst-case scenarios, he said. An unknown amount leaked from the well before it was discovered and Maralex began diverting it into the pit, from which fluids are being removed by trucks. The BLM says no surface water impacts have occurred. The nearest surface water is the Colorado River, which is anywhere from four to six miles away as measured by the winding canyons below the spill site.



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Crews have built a berm and shored up the downhill side of the pad, and installed a trench to protect a nearby draw, particularly from any possible leaked fluids that may now be frozen but could flow when thawed. Soil samples also have been taken in the draw, and Joyner said it's likely Maralex also will be ordered to install groundwater monitoring wells in the area. Following the leak's discovery, Maralex opened the well and installed a diversion pipe from it, and leaking around the well ceased. Flows from the well itself also have been intermittent. Joyner said some of the flows may simply consist of substances coming up from the well's target production zone because it's no longer shut in. That shut-in occurred in 1981, the same year the well was drilled, but it remained capable of production, the BLM says. The well showed no structural problems during a BLM inspection this summer. The BLM has ordered Maralex to permanently plug and abandon the well and reclaim the site. Joyner said plugging could occur as soon as the end of this week, but first the problem with the well must be identified and fixed. "Right now we're very actively engaged in trying to figure out what the problem is with the well," he said. "... It's a very controlled situation now. We just don't have the well killed, so to speak, and fixed." He said the BLM has been happy with the efforts by Maralex and the industry in general, including contractors and companies that have lent equipment. Quick early actions helped contain the leaking fluids, he said. Black Hills also has been involved on the scene. "It's certainly not looked at as just a Maralex problem. It's looked at as a problem that we need to fix as a group," he said, referring to the industry, BLM and Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Hartman said the COGCC has had personnel on the scene daily. He said the agency has had discussions with Maralex about a remediation plan that will be carried out after the well is plugged. Joyner said site access has been a challenge due to alternately frozen and muddy roads. An employee for Ignacio-based Maralex who declined to give his name said Tuesday that the company was waiting on test results before it would speak to issues surrounding the leak.

<http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/well-leak-spews-fluid8232-is-fracking-to-blame>

BULGARIA, VARNA, DECEMBER 27 2013. WORKER, INJURED DURING INCIDENT AT BULGARIA REFINERY, DIES



Most seriously injured worker at LukOil Heftohim – Burgas company, who suffered 45% burnings after an incident at the oil refinery, has died last night. Dr Ivaylo Vazharov, Director of the Navy Hospital in the coastal city of Varna, announced the news for Radio FOCUS – Burgas. Man's condition worsened, which led to the lethal ending. "Despite all our efforts, we did not manage to save him," Vazharov remarked.

News Agency Recalls:

4 workers with Lukoil Neftochim-Burgas oil refinery have been hospitalised with different degree of burnings in the coastal city of Burgas on Friday. The most severely injured patient – a 51-year-old man, has 45% of burning. A 52-year-old man suffered 15% of burning. The other two injured workers are with 5% of burning each. The incident with the workers in Lukoil Neftochim-Burgas oil

refinery was caused during the replacement of an out-of-service cable, Krasimira Georgieva, a representative of the Burgas Labour Ministry Directorate, announced the news in an interview for Radio FOCUS – Burgas. "An electric arc was caused while the cable was being cut because of the presence of a high-voltage current, which injured the workers who were in close proximity," Ms Georgieva remarked. She added the Labour Directorate employees would perform a check of documents inside the refinery in the following days. She stated she did not know whether any other people had witnessed the incident.

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n322172>

MALAYSIA, KUALA LUMPUR, DECEMBER 27 2013. PETRON TO REBRAND REMAINING 280 SERVICE STATIONS BY END-2014

Petron Malaysia Refining & Marketing Bhd, a unit of Philippines-based Petron Corp, will rebrand and upgrade its remaining 280 retail service stations by end-2014. Petron Corp acquired the downstream business from ExxonMobil in March 2012, taking over the existing 560 service stations in Malaysia. Retail Business Head Faridah Ali said Petron has refurbished and upgraded half of ExxonMobil's service stations in the country to date. "Petron has been given three years by ExxonMobil until March 31, 2015, to convert all ExxonMobil service stations to Petron," she told Bernama. Faridah said Petron aims to upgrade up to 30 ExxonMobil service stations a month, giving it a buffer of about three months to complete the final touches. "The amount of investment per station differs as they vary in size, and with the more investments that we make, the more returns we expect. "We go to every station to see what needs to be done and we do up the station as well as upgrade it," she added.



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She noted that since the company began upgrading its service stations, Petron's business sales have been very encouraging. Petron has agreed with ExxonMobil to convert its proprietary brands, including liquefied petroleum gas, retail service stations and loyalty cards, by March 31, 2015. Last year, Petron Corp, a unit of conglomerate San Miguel Corp, acquired the Malaysian businesses of oil refiner Exxon Mobil, namely 65 per cent of Esso Malaysia Bhd and the wholly-owned Exxon Mobil subsidiaries, Exxon Mobil Malaysia Sdn Bhd and Exxon Mobil Borneo Sdn Bhd. Petron Corp's wholly-owned unit Petron Oil and Gas International has assumed control of the three companies.

<http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v7/bu/newsbusiness.php?id=1003810>

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, DECEMBER 27 2013. POISON GAS KILLS EIGHT LEFT IN DARK AFTER STORM

richard a. oppel jr.

Key Points: Carbon Monoxide given off by gasoline-powered generators kills 3 Americans & 5 Canadians, *Without power since Monday, the Devine family in Belgrade, Me., hauls a sled full of Christmas gifts to their home on Wednesday.*



With downed power lines forcing hundreds of thousands [to spend Christmas without electricity](#), ice storms that raged through the Northeast and the Midwest continued to have a deadly effect as carbon monoxide given off by gasoline-powered generators killed three Americans and five Canadians, officials said. In Maine and Vermont, where state authorities described the ice storm as the worst since 1998, there were no deaths from falling tree limbs or fallen power lines. But each state reported one death from carbon monoxide from a generator run after power was lost. The authorities reported a similar fatality in Michigan, and at least five people in eastern Canada were reported to have died

from carbon monoxide poisoning. Many others in those places who used generators or grills to heat homes also fell ill from the toxic, but odorless, gas. "It's a real problem, a silent killer," said Joe Flynn, Vermont's director of emergency management and homeland security. The death in Vermont occurred on Monday after a man set up a generator outside his home but near a window that drew the gas inside, Mr. Flynn said. Four other Vermont residents who lost power also fell ill from what was believed to be carbon monoxide. In Knox, Me., a 50-year-old man woke up early Tuesday morning, went to his garage to refuel a generator that had kept his family warm that night, and collapsed and died. "He was overcome within minutes from the fumes that had built up overnight," said Steve McCausland, the spokesman for the Maine Department of Public Safety. He and other officials urged people using generators to leave them outside their homes and garages and well away from windows. Twenty-four deaths in the United States and Canada have been linked to the storms since last weekend, according to The Associated Press. Five people were killed in Canada in car crashes, while five died in Kentucky on Sunday after they were trapped by floodwaters, according to officials there. The weather has complicated repairs to power lines. Freezing temperatures have persisted across much of the northern United States, and the National Weather Service said more snow would fall in Michigan and Maine on Thursday. Yet despite cold that kept a thick layer of ice on transmission lines, power companies reported progress in restoring electricity. In Michigan, 18,000 customers of [DTE Energy](#) were without power on Wednesday, down from 49,000 on Tuesday evening. Another large Michigan utility, [Consumers Energy](#), said 118,000 customers remained without power, down from 149,000 a day earlier. The region around Flint was hit especially hard. At the worst point, 23,000 customers in Vermont were without power, but by Wednesday that was cut to about 1,600, Mr. Flynn said. The Central Maine Power Company said 45,000 customers did not have electricity on Wednesday afternoon, but officials were working to lower that number to 30,000 by day's end. At the worst point, 87,000 were without power. The utility, which has 850 employees, rushed in so many crews from outside the state that by Wednesday 1,800 people were working to fix damage, said John Carroll, a company spokesman. Some towns in Maine lost nearly all their power, including Pittston, where Tim Marks, who serves in the State House of Representatives, said that when he looked out his window on Christmas morning, an inch of ice still coated everything he saw. Neighbors were looking after one another, checking up on people and swapping generators. But Mr. Marks, a deer hunter, worried how wildlife could survive a long period of coated ice on the ends of low-hanging trees and shrubs. "I don't know how they can eat anything," he said. "They can't paw the ground, and the buds are covered with ice."

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/26/us/carbon-monoxide-causes-fatalities-after-power-outage.html?_r=0



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PHILIPPINES, MANILA, DECEMBER 27 2013. FLYING V TARGETS 500 GAS STATIONS BY 2014



The race to breaking the retail dominance of the three major oil companies has just been intensifying with independent player Flying V of the Villavicencio group now keeping eye on the goal of increasing to 500 its gasoline stations until next year. That could comfortably place the Filipino oil firm into the fourth spot as retail player in the deregulated downstream oil industry - that is, if the other briskly growing independent players will not surpass its targeted expansion. More than edging industry rivals, Flying V chief operating officer Noel Soriano enthused that the company is more "driven by our desire to expand." From a portfolio of 350 stations, the company is targeting to add 50 retail networks this year and that will inch up further next year to reach the goal for 500 stations. The network additions will be a combination of small-scale to mega stations. The expansion, he stressed, will be "pretty much equally distributed in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao"; with some to be constructed in market cores of urban

National Capital Region. Beyond the company's investment expansion plans, Soriano similarly disclosed to media their initiative to accelerate the pilot market introduction of the 5.0-percent biodiesel blend (B5) at their Philcoa station. For getting headway on this biofuels blend mandate, the oil firm executive emphasized that Flying V "is just continuing its tradition that we started in 2005"; when it also jumped the gun on competitors in embracing alternative fuels at its pumps. He stressed that "test runs" have been undertaken on the use of B5 for jeepneys, and that the result will soon be made available by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), one of the government agencies aiding the Department of Energy (DOE) in accelerating the implementation of B5 blend for diesel products. Biodiesel producers are in the forefront of lobbying for accelerated B5 blend to as early as October 2013, as they perpetually sounded off to government that their production level can conveniently cater to higher mix of coco methyl ester (CME) to diesel products. So far, in the test runs for B5-blended diesel, Soriano said results exhibited at least 12 percent reduction in opacity; and 5.9 percent increase in fuel efficiency. Past the oil business, the Villavicencio group is also reportedly exploring other investment prospects in alternative energy technologies, although there is nothing specific in the drawing board for now.

<http://ph.news.yahoo.com/flying-v-targets-500-gas-stations-2014-165514992.html>

USA, WA, RENTON, DECEMBER 28 2013. RENTON MAN PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO VEHICULAR HOMICIDE IN FEDERAL WAY TANKER CRASH

A Renton man pleaded not guilty to vehicular homicide Thursday, in connection with an Interstate 5 crash in Federal Way that killed a Sumner man last year. Stephen J. Palmer, 22, was released on his own recognizance on the conditions that he not use alcohol or any non-prescribed drugs or drive without a valid license and ignition interlock device. Prosecutors said Palmer was impaired by alcohol and marijuana when he hit a guardrail while heading south on the freeway in November 2012. Troopers said several vehicles were involved in the resulting crash, including a tanker truck driven by 68-year-old Joseph Bartkowski, who swerved to dodge Palmer's vehicle. Bartkowski died when the tanker truck, carrying aviation fuel, hit a barrier wall and caught fire.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/12/27/2966295/federal-way-man-pleads-not-guilty.html>

USA, CT, DANBURY, DECEMBER 28 2013. WITNESS: HEAVY GAS SMELL IN AIR BEFORE EXPLOSION

Officials are still investigating the cause of a Dec. 20 explosion at Wheels/Friendly Citgo gas station, which severely burned a local man, but a witness who stopped by the station just before the fireball said there was a heavy smell of gasoline in the air. Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal Mark Perry said Thursday that until the victim, the Rev. David Wentroble, can be interviewed, the investigation will not be closed and no cause for the explosion will be released. Wentroble, 60, of Danbury, remained in critical condition Thursday in the burn unit of Bridgeport Hospital, according to hospital spokesman John Cappiello. A chaplain at Nyack Hospital, in Nyack, N.Y., Wentroble suffered burns over most of his body as the result of the blast that occurred at the gas station on Tamarack Avenue, police said. Theresa Mohan and her husband, Patrick, had stopped at the station minutes before the 6 a.m. accident. They own Candlewood Bait & Tackle shop, just yards from the station, and stop for gas in the morning on their way to work, she said. "I was napping in the back seat of the car, and the smell of gas when we pulled to the pumps was so strong it woke me up," Theresa Mohan said. That was around 6:05 a.m., she said. The couple then drove to the parking lot behind their tackle shop and her husband walked in the back door, through the small shop and opened the front



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door. "Patrick saw a man on the ground by the pumps with another man over him, beating him to put out flames," Mohan said. "We never heard an explosion, though. And we were at the pumps to the far north of the station (Nos. 15 and 16) when we stopped for gas, and the man on the ground was at the farther pumps (Nos. 1 and 2). It doesn't make sense that the gas smell could have been carried that far." Eyewitnesses said Wentroble was pumping gas when there was an explosion. Flames forced him to the ground as station employees worked to extinguish the blaze. An attempt to reach the gas station's owner, [Richard Whiel](#) of [Consumer Petroleum](#) in Trumbull, was unsuccessful. A spokesperson for Consumer Petroleum said the company had no comment about the incident at this time. The Wheels/Friendly gas station remains open for business.

<http://www.newstimes.com/local/article/Witness-Heavy-gas-smell-in-air-before-explosion-5094831.php>

ANGOLA, LUANDA, DECEMBER 28 2013. ANGOLAN COMPANY TO INVEST US\$60 MILLION IN NEW FUEL STATIONS



Pumangol, an Angolan fuel retailer, plans to invest around US\$60 million in building 11 new fuel stations by the end of next year, the company's managing director Paul Edwards said. Cited by newspaper *Expansão*, Edwards said that construction of the new fuel stations was part of the company's expansion plan, and that the new stations would be built in Luanda province (nine) and Benguela (one) and Lunda Norte (one). Pumangol's expansion plans also include introduction of fleet cards (Frota) in partnership with Banco Atlântico, which will be aimed at the heavy goods transport segment. The company currently has 62 fuel stations in Angola and recently opened one in Luanda, in the Benfica area, in which it invested US\$4 million. For next year, according to Edwards, one of the company's main priorities is to have a presence in each of

Angola's provinces, with a complete network of fuel stations adapted to local needs.

<http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/2013/12/17/angolan-company-to-invest-us60-million-in-new-fuel-stations/>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, DECEMBER 28 2013. EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS >> RECENTEXPLOSIVE ACT, REGULATIONS AND CODE CHANGES WILL AFFECT EXPLOSIVES LICENCE HOLDERS.



• The NSW Explosives Act and Explosives Regulation 2013, a range of Australian standards and codes, and a licensing and notification system, work together to regulate explosives, certain explosive precursors and fireworks. From 1 September 2013, the [Explosives Regulation 2013](#) replaces the Explosives Regulation 2005. The changes to licensing of explosives and fireworks means:

- you do not need a licence to learn blasting
- you do not need an explosives licence if you store up to 12kg of propellant powder for reloading purposes – and hold a licence under the [Firearms Act 1996](#)
- you can get a single-use fireworks licence up to four times a year
- there are changes to licence conditions (ie explosive licensing conditions and conditions applying to pyrotechnician and fireworks (single use) licences) and licence fees have changed - refer to the [WorkCover NSW fees schedule](#)
- an unsupervised handling licence has been abolished and replaced with a security clearance.

Changes From 1 March 2014 Mean:

- you need a safety management plan to hold a manufacturing licence
- you must notify WorkCover at least seven days before using explosives (except for coal and mining workplaces).

The NSW Explosives Act has been amended to support these changes. The Explosives Regulation 2013 requires all activities involving the handling of explosives and fireworks to be carried out in accordance with the licensing conditions and:

- Australian standard AS 2187 – Explosives: storage, transport and use
- Australian code for the transport of explosives by road and rail.

In relation to explosive precursors, activities must be carried out in accordance with the:

- Australian dangerous goods code & Australian standard AS 4326: Storage and handling of oxidizing agents.

Applicants and licence holders should also refer to the [Guide for the secure and safe handling of explosives and security sensitive dangerous substances](#) WorkCover licenses specific activities related to explosives, certain explosive precursors and fireworks, including:

[security clearance](#) (previously called an Unsupervised handling licence), [security sensitive dangerous substances](#), [manufacture](#), [import](#), [supply](#), [storage](#), [transport](#), [pyrotechnician and fireworks single use](#), [blasting](#)



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It is an offence to possess or have unsupervised access to explosives, explosive precursors or fireworks without the appropriate security clearance and licence issued by WorkCover (with exceptions such as marine distress signals for boating use etc). Applicants will need to satisfy WorkCover's licensing criteria and receive a favourable [national probity assessment](#) from NSW and Commonwealth police and security agencies. WorkCover may suspend, cancel or impose penalties on licence holders who do not comply with the conditions of the licence or security clearance or requirements of the legislation.

Summary of Key Changes:

- Security clearances for handling explosives or explosive precursors must be held by natural persons.
- The regulator can communicate any information that comes to its knowledge in the exercise of its functions with respect to licences and security clearances and persons who hold these.
- At the request of the regulator, the Commissioner of Police can report on:
 - an applicant's participation in criminal activity
 - available information concerning convictions that the commissioner considers relevant
 - whether the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence or security clearance
 - whether it is contrary to the public interest for a person to hold a licence or security clearance.
- The Administrative Decisions Tribunal may not disclose information reported by the Commissioner of Police to the regulator unless the commissioner gives permission to do so.
- Decisions regarding licences and security clearances can be reviewed internally by the regulator and externally by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal.
- Inspectors may request in writing that a person:
 - provide written information
 - provide documents
 - attend a specified place to give verbal or written evidence, or produce documents.

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/licensing/explosivesfireworks/Pages/default.aspx>

USA, N.M, ALBUQUERQUE, DECEMBER 28 2013. LUJAN GRISHAM CONTRADICTION ON FUEL SPILL

The Kirtland Air Force Base jet fuel spill is a big problem — a federal one the Air Force says it is addressing. New Mexico's junior congressional representative, Michelle Lujan Grisham, recently said the massive underground spill should be the delegation's "No. 1 priority." She is calling for more independent oversight and accountability of efforts to clean it up. While the Air Force was tardy in accepting responsibility and accelerating cleanup efforts, it has shown serious commitment and action in recent years, including communicating more directly with stakeholders like the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. Meanwhile, sentry wells show there is no immediate threat to the metro area's drinking water. Thanks to prodding from the community and media efforts to keep the spill in the public eye, the delegation is more involved and the Air Force has ramped up remediation. There is room for concern — and improvement. The fuel plume is migrating off base and approaching water authority drinking water wells. And the leak is huge — possibly as much as 24 million gallons. A New Mexico Environment Department official has called the spill its top priority. It is regulating the cleanup, and the water authority and a citizens advisory board are keeping tabs on the progress. While Lujan Grisham's newfound concern is understandable, it's a contradiction for her to say it should be the federal delegation's top priority but oversight should remain with local authorities. Fact is, the spill is a federal problem caused by the U.S. Air Force. And the feds should make every effort, including ensuring adequate funding, to find ways to remove it and protect the area's drinking water supplies for future generations. For Lujan Grisham, with less than a year in office and no plan in hand, tagging the spill the top priority of a busy delegation comes off as grandstanding.

<http://cnjonline.com/2013/12/26/lujan-grisham-contradictory-on-fuel-spill/>

CANADA, AB, EDMONTON, DECEMBER 28 2013. SEMCAMS ULC PLEADS GUILTY AND IS ORDERED TO PAY \$350,000 FOR RELEASE OF INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER FROM RUPTURED PIPELINE

SemCAMS ULC was ordered to pay \$350,000 on December 23, 2013, in Alberta Provincial Court after pleading guilty to one count under the Fisheries Act and one count under provincial environmental legislation. The charges relate to a release of 852,000 litres of industrial wastewater from a ruptured pipeline near Fox Creek, Alberta. On August 10, 2010, Environment Canada responded to a report concerning the release of industrial wastewater into muskeg and a small unnamed creek. During the response, hundreds of dead fish were discovered in the creek downstream of the spill. A joint investigation into the release was conducted by Environment Canada and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. The



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wastewater had been generated from the processing of natural gas and liquid hydrocarbons at the SemCAMS ULC facility, and was being transported by an underground pipeline when the pipeline ruptured. Sample analysis determined the wastewater was harmful to fish. For the count relating to the Fisheries Act (depositing a deleterious substance into water frequented by fish), SemCAMS ULC is required to pay a federal penalty of \$200,000. Of this penalty:

- \$185,000 is to be paid into the Environmental Damages Fund; and
- \$15,000 is a fine to be paid to the court.

The remaining \$150,000 of the total penalty relates to the provincial offence. The Environmental Damages Fund is administered by Environment Canada to direct funds received as a result of fines, court orders, and voluntary payments to projects that will benefit our natural environment.

<http://ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=En&n=CA459A72-1>

INDIA, GUJARAT, VAPI, DECEMBER 28 2013. GAS TANKER OVERTURNS, HALTS TRAFFIC TO MUMBAI

Traffic between south Gujarat and Mumbai came to a halt for several hours after a gas tanker overturned and caught fire near Talwada junction on the border of the two states on Friday. Before it overturned, the tanker carrying butadiene gas from Hazira also rammed a motorcycle, killing two youths on the spot, said police sub inspector of [Bhilad police](#) station, RK Solanki. Their bodies were not identified till late evening. Fire tenders rushed to the spot to douse the blaze but the movement of vehicles towards Mumbai was badly hit. Anirudh Captain, police inspector, Umbergaon, said that chemical experts of near-by industries and Hazira have been called to suggest ways to douse the fire which could not be controlled for nearly four hours. Vehicular traffic towards Mumbai was diverted via Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/Gas-tanker-overtURNS-halts-traffic-to-Mumbai/articleshow/28026753.cms>

USA, W.VA, MCDOWELL COUNTY, DECEMBER 28 2013. ASPHALT LEAKING INTO MCDOWELL COUNTY CREEK AFTER TRAIN WRECK

 **Watch the Video** [Asphalt Leaking into McDowell County Creek after Train Wreck](#)

 **Slideshow** [Slide Show Vivian Derailment](#)



Asphalt is leaking into Elkhorn Creek from a train derailment in McDowell County, but the leak is not putting anyone in danger, a railroad official said. Robin Chapman of Norfolk Southern said 16 cars hauling asphalt, soybean oil meal and cross ties derailed in the incident. Emergency crews have booms in the creek to contain the asphalt leak. WVVA reported the derailment occurred in the Vivian-Landgraff area between Keystone and Kimball, Chapman said railroad traffic should be restored by 3 p.m. Saturday. No estimate was available when the accident would be totally cleaned up. The cause of the accident remains under investigation. Chapman said the train was headed to Linwood, N.C.

http://www.wchstv.com/newsroom/eyewitness/131227_21939.shtml

INDIA, GUJARAT, SURAT, DECEMBER 28 2013. 10 HURT IN CYLINDER BLAST AT POWERLOOM

Three textile workers received severe burn injuries while seven others sustained minor ones in a [LPG cylinder blast](#) in a powerloom on Udhna-Magdalla Road on Friday. The blast took place during the chemical processing of fabrics. Sources in the fire and emergency services of [Surat Municipal Corporation](#) (SMC) said that the accident took place on the second floor of the three-storey powerloom located at Swamy Industrial Estate. The textile workers were busy with the chemical processing of the fabrics in a gas-based boiler when there was a blast in the LPG cylinder due to some leakage. All the workers on the second floor including the owner of the power loom Hitesh Chandu Rotliwala received burn injuries. Rotliwala jumped off the second floor and fractured his right arm. Four fire tenders and five water tankers were deployed at the spot and it took around half an hour for the fire fighters to control the fire. The injured were immediately shifted to Amruta Hospital, New Civil Hospital (NCH) and [Nirmal Hospital](#). Sources said that three workers identified as Prabhakar (45), Jitu Patel (40) and Khatalbhai (22) have sustained around 70 per cent burn injuries while seven others have received 10 to 30 per cent burns. The condition of the



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former three undergoing treatment at Amruta Hospital is said to be critical. Pankaj Patel, chief fire officer told TOI, "The powerloom unit owner was illegally carrying out the gas-based chemical processing of fabrics on the second floor of his unit. The blast occurred due to leakage in the LPG cylinder which was used in the chemical processing. There was no fire safety equipment at the unit. We will take action against the owner under the fire safety act."

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/10-hurt-in-cylinder-blast-at-powerloom/articleshow/28026727.cms>

MALAYSIA, KELANTAN, MACHANG, DECEMBER 28 2013. LORRY ACCIDENT CAUSES HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS TO SPILL



Under control: The Hazmat team cleaning up the road where the lorry overturned and spilled chemicals.

A lorry carrying 34 drums of acid skidded and overturned, causing spillage of the hazardous chemical on the Machang-Kota Baru road at Kampung Bukit Belah here. Machang Fire and Rescue Department Operation chief Senior Superintendent Mohd Sabri Ismail said 20 drums of hydrochloric acid and 14 drums of nitric acid littered the road at about 6.30am yesterday. "A small portion of the drums were found to have leaked and nearby villagers were told to evacuate their houses as the fumes could be hazardous. "The public were advised not to approach the site of the incident while road users were directed to an alternative route," he said. He said the lorry which was on its way to Kota Baru from Machang overturned on the left side of the road after the driver lost

control. A team of 33 Fire and Rescue Department personnel from Machang and Hazmat team from Kota Baru were involved in the clean-up operation. "The situation is under control as only a few drums leaked and we are working to ensure the spillage does not endanger the people and road users. "There are no casualties reported, but the lorry driver suffered minor injuries," he said. The acid consignment was being sent to a rubber glove manufacturing factory in Kota Baru.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2013/12/27/Lorry-accident-causes-hazardous-chemicals-to-spill/>

USA, TX, NORTH HOUSTON, DECEMBER 28 2013. CREWS CLEAN UP AFTER TANKER OVERTURNS IN NORTH HOUSTON



Crews are cleaning up after a tanker truck carrying nitrogen overturned early Friday morning in north Houston.

The Houston Fire Department and tow truck drivers work to upright an overturned big rig in the 200 block of Dorchester, Friday, Dec. 27, 2013, in Houston. HFD Hazmat units had to vent nitrogen from the tanker in order to upright. A plume hung in the area from the nitrogen although no health threat existed. The tanker toppled over about 4:10 a.m. at 246 Dorchester near Bauman, according to the [Houston Fire Department](http://www.houstonfire.org). Officials said workers are slowly venting the tanker into the air and a slight plume may be visible. However, officials added, there are no health dangers for the public. It was unclear how long the process might take. Once the process is completed, the tanker will be

righted. Officials said there were no injuries in the wreck. Investigators are still trying to determine what caused the crash.

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-traffic/article/Crews-clean-up-after-tanker-overturms-in-north-5096102.php>

NETHERLANDS, ARNHEM PORT, DECEMBER 28 2013. DIESEL SPILL IN ARNHEM PORT

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, has been busy all day cleaning up an oil spill in the Nieuwe Haven in Arnhem. By a cause, yet unknown, about 2,650 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into the water. Rijkswaterstaat expects to be able to open parts of the port back up for ships in the course of the afternoon. For now a patrol vessel is stationed in front of the port to keep ships out and to prevent the spill from spreading into the Rijn. Rijkswaterstaat commissioned an investigation into the cause of the spill. The spill could be due to an illegal discharge of diesel. The offender, if found, will have to bear the costs of the cleanup, running into tens of thousands of euros. The fuel has a value of 15,000 to 20,000 euros.

<http://www.nltimes.nl/2013/12/27/diesel-spill-arnhem-port/>



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USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, DECEMBER 29 2013. TOXIC WASTE WATCHDOG CAN BE GLACIALLY SLOW

One summer Saturday in the Bay Area city of Richmond, nitric acid leaked from a tank at a metal plating company, forming a toxic cloud that floated over a neighborhood of small houses and stucco apartments. "People were coughing. They were gasping for air," recalled Denny Larson, a community organizer who rushed to the scene. More than 125 people were taken to hospitals. The year was 1992. Four years later, state regulators decided a study was needed to assess the extent of contamination from that and other releases of hazardous materials at Electro-Forming Co. Seven more years passed before the Department of Toxic Substances Control began the assessment. All the while, the company continued operating, even as signs of danger accumulated. A former employee told authorities toxic waste had been poured into a laundry sink. This year, state inspectors found cyanide stored near containers of acid; if the two were mixed accidentally, the resulting gas could kill workers and neighborhood residents. The state obtained a court order forcing Electro-Forming to dispose of the cyanide safely. But the wider study of contamination at the site still has not been completed—more than 20 years after the nitric acid spill panicked the neighborhood. The Department of Toxic Substances Control is supposed to use regulations, fines and the threat of legal action to protect Californians and the environment. But its oversight of hazardous waste operations — and its response to urgent problems — are often ineffectual and glacially slow. This conclusion emerges from a Los Angeles Times review of departmental inspection reports, internal memos, court records and local fire and health department documents, as well as from interviews with residents, business owners and regulators. The review found that:

- A quarter of California's 118 major hazardous waste facilities are operating on expired permits that may not meet current standards. In a conspicuous case, a battery recycler in Vernon whose lead and arsenic emissions have endangered the health of residents in southeast Los Angeles County has been smelting batteries for decades with only a temporary permit.
- Hundreds of companies have walked away from contaminated sites, sticking taxpayers with cleanup costs. The department acknowledges that it did not even try to collect \$140 million in such costs from 1987 through last year. In cases where the department did make some effort to recover cleanup costs, it folded when polluters simply failed to pay bills totaling about \$45 million.
- Increasingly, regulators have not used their strongest legal weapons to bring polluters to heel. In a state where more than 100,000 businesses generate hazardous waste, the department has referred an average of four cases per year to prosecutors over the last five years — compared with more than 40 a year in the previous five-year period.
- The agency's use of financial penalties has also declined. From 2008 through 2012, companies agreed to pay fines totaling \$2.45 million a year on average. That's half the average of the previous five years.

"There is a systemic problem with enforcement of regulations to protect the public," said state Sen. Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles), whose district includes Vernon, parts of the Alameda Corridor and other communities affected by hazardous waste operations. "It's the agency's main responsibility to ensure that these facilities pose no harm, and the reality is, that is not happening." The causes of the breakdown include inconsistent standards for regulation, haphazard enforcement, years of staff cuts and turnover at the top. The agency has had seven directors in the last 10 years. "When I came on board, I found a department that was [in] what I would call structural disarray," current director Debbie Raphael said at a recent public meeting. "We had all sorts of problems with our budget... with our staffing. ... There was a lot of turmoil." Raphael, who took over in 2011, declined to be interviewed for this article. Previously, she has said she's working hard to correct a long list of inherited problems. "We are committed to owning up to the problems and taking the steps necessary to ensuring they are fixed once and for all," she said in a statement posted on the agency's website. The department's often disjointed approach to oversight came into sharp relief this year in Vernon, where Exide Technologies, one of the world's largest makers and recyclers of lead-acid batteries, operates a smelter. In March, the South Coast Air Quality Management District reported that arsenic emissions from the plant created an elevated risk of cancer for as many as 110,000 people in an area stretching from Boyle Heights to Huntington Park. The district has cited the plant 41 times since 2003, often for excessive lead emissions. Exide took over the operation in 2000. For decades, the Department of Toxic Substances Control has allowed the plant to operate without the full permit required by federal law. Instead, it has run on "interim status," a temporary designation intended to give companies time to qualify for permits and meet legal standards for safe handling and disposal of toxic materials. In 1992, soon after the state agency was founded, environmental activists flew to Sacramento and appealed to top officials to make sure the battery plant and similar facilities obtained permits. One by one, other facilities did. Not Exide. "How is that possible?" asked Jane Williams, executive director of California Communities Against Toxics, a nonprofit her mother helped found in 1989. "It's not like it's some small mom-and-pop facility that we have somehow missed ... Their smokestack can be seen from downtown L.A." In an interview in October, Raphael called the department's record on Exide "an embarrassment." Jim Marxen, the agency's top



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spokesman, said last week that regulators do not have a good explanation for the plant's continued operation without a full permit. "I don't blame the activists who say we are slow to act," he said. "If that was in my neighborhood, I would say the same thing. ... Ten years ago, when they had hearings on this, there was frustration even then." After The Times published articles in the spring about the plant's arsenic emissions, the department ordered Exide to suspend operations. Exide appealed in Los Angeles County Superior Court. The company said it had reduced the emissions by 70% since 2010 and that the plant posed "no substantial danger to the public health, safety or the environment." Judge Luis A. Lavin allowed the facility to reopen, pending the outcome of an administrative hearing on the suspension order. Ultimately, the department reached an agreement with Exide, requiring the company to set aside \$7.7 million to replace leaking wastewater pipes and further reduce its arsenic emissions. It was also required to offer blood tests to 250,000 people who might have been affected by the emissions. In return, state officials dropped their effort to shut the plant. The air district, however, is still seeking to close the facility until Exide shows that it can consistently keep toxic emissions within safe limits. Exide officials are fighting the air district's effort but say they are cooperating with the Department of Toxic Substances Control. "The department has unfortunately had a long history of constant turnover and uncertain standards — a situation that has left permittees frustrated with frequently shifting oversight, guidance, requirements and deadlines," said Bud Desart, a senior director of Exide's recycling group. He added, however, that Exide officials are working with the "new and engaged leadership now at the department" to overcome "historic challenges" and obtain a permanent permit. Though Exide is the only major hazardous waste facility in California that has never acquired a full permit, 29 others are running on expired permits. A report by CPS HR Consulting, a Sacramento firm hired by Raphael, said the situation stemmed in part from "poor management practices" and the lack of agreed-on procedures for revoking or denying permits, even in response to significant threat to public health. Liza Tucker, a staff member at Santa Monica-based Consumer Watchdog, said the department has often lacked the will to force companies to make changes to their operations. "They buy the line that companies won't be willing to do business in California if the agency is too tough on them," said Tucker, who specializes in environmental issues. "They're willing to sacrifice public health for the sake of jobs, but they shouldn't be mutually exclusive." While some other states renew permits within 180 days, the CPS report said, California takes years — sometimes more than a decade. Companies are allowed to keep operating in the meantime as long as they have applied for new permits. One of the agency's most embarrassing lapses was its failure to recover \$184.5 million in cleanup costs stemming from 1,825 polluted sites — in many cases because it failed to send a bill. Many of the polluters were small, bankrupt operations, but the list of those never billed includes profitable businesses and corporate giants such as Chevron and PG&E. Raphael herself disclosed the problem in May. She said she would make "every effort to collect past costs" and that the department had instituted a new billing procedure and stepped up collection efforts. So far it has recouped about \$16 million. PG&E officials learned from news reports that the company had never been billed for \$85,000 spent to clean a number of sites it owned. The utility contacted the department, asked to be billed and paid immediately, PG&E spokesman Jeff Smith said. Chevron was never billed for \$53,000 in cleanup costs, according to state records. The company declined to comment. The largest amount outstanding is from Chemical & Pigment Co., a Contra Costa County business that abandoned a heavily contaminated 12-acre site more than a decade ago. The state has spent more than \$9.4 million to clean it up, and the project is not finished. The company produced zinc sulfate for fertilizers and other products and had a history of groundwater pollution and other environmental problems, records show. In 1996, it was acquired by Robert G. Knox III, a former Alameda County treasurer and supervisor, and his CPC Holdings Inc. In March 1998, state regulators fined the company \$50,000. Two months later, Chemical & Pigment filed for bankruptcy protection. When the state rejected its clean-up plan, the company liquidated its assets and walked away. Knox said that when he took over the operation, he believed it was economically viable and that its environmental issues, centered on a 15,000-cubic-yard pile of contaminated soil left by a previous owner, could be fixed. But state regulators, he said, were "unrealistic about the fact that this was a small company that didn't have the resources to do the cleanup at the pace they probably wanted." The company abandoned the property at the direction of the bankruptcy trustee, Knox said. Among other things, it left behind 75 "super-sacks" containing one cubic yard each of zinc sulfate, with high concentrations of cadmium and lead. Also abandoned were leaky storage tanks holding thousands of gallons of dangerous chemical mixtures and the soil pile contaminated with zinc, cadmium and lead, the state said in a 2002 report. When Knox and previous occupants didn't heed the agency's cleanup order, the department began the work itself. The state has placed liens on the property, which would allow it to recover costs in the event of a sale. Other than lien notices, Knox said, the state made no attempt to recover costs. "I never heard from them again," he said in early December. The department said last week it is "still investigating the feasibility" of recouping cleanup expenses associated with the site. Marxen attributed the broader failure to recover costs to a "systematic breakdown" caused by a lack of "resources, training and will." Not trying is no longer an option, he said: "The attitude has got to be to go after everybody until



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every avenue has been exhausted." State officials said they also plan to increase criminal enforcement actions. Earlier this year, personnel cuts had trimmed the agency's criminal investigations staff to 12, with only one in Southern California. In the last six months, the department has added two investigators in Southern California and will soon add a third. In the Electro-Forming case, politicians and environmental activists were mystified by the department's lack of forceful action after the 1992 nitric acid spill in Richmond. A memo in the department's files indicates that in January 1996, staff members recommended a "preliminary endangerment assessment" of the property. It wasn't begun until seven years later. Marxen said regulators were dealing with more pressing situations at the time, such as the closure of military bases and the notorious Stringfellow acid pits, a federal Superfund site in Riverside County. In 1993 and again in 2002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reviewed the site for possible inclusion in the Superfund clean-up program, but decided both times that the risks it posed were not sufficiently urgent. Shortly after the 2002 review, state officials turned their attention back to Electro-Forming. The owner, Gerhard Patigler, had pleaded guilty that year to criminal charges of improperly storing hazardous waste from a metal-plating shop he owned in Alameda County. In 2003, the department conducted the "preliminary endangerment assessment" and found a host of problems, including dangerous levels of chromium in the soil. Four years later, the agency determined that the contamination was an "imminent and substantial endangerment" to people living nearby, and ordered Electro-Forming to devise a cleanup plan. The case took a bizarre turn in 2009, when Patigler flew a small plane into the Arctic and was never heard from again. His daughter Marion, who now runs the company, asked to put the site investigation on hold to sort out her father's estate. State officials granted her request, but since 2011 they have pressed the company to work on a clean-up plan. Last year, a former employee told authorities that his duties included driving drums of hazardous waste to Marion's home in Pinole and pouring the contents into her laundry sink, according to Contra Costa County records and a civil complaint filed by the department. The ex-employee also said Electro-Forming workers emptied part of a 6,900-gallon tank containing cyanide onto the ground at the plant. Patigler did not return a call seeking comment. Her lawyer denied the former employee's allegations and said the man manufactured them because he had been fired. In March of this year, investigators searched the site and were alarmed to discover a drum of cyanide near a drum of acid, according to the department's civil complaint. If an accident caused the two substances to mix, a deadly gas could form. Still, agency officials didn't seek an emergency order to shut down the company. Instead, they filed a lawsuit seeking fines and an order barring Marion Patigler from handling or disposing of hazardous waste without court approval. The case is pending. In November, officials obtained a judge's order forcing the removal of the cyanide. The state and a consultant for the company are devising a plan to clean up the broader contamination, which investigators now believe may be tainting groundwater. Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), whose district includes neighborhoods near the plant, said she is astonished at how long the situation has dragged on. "These serious violations go back 20 years," she said. "You've got to question the effectiveness of our regulatory system if a company like this persists with these kinds of violations."

<http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-toxic-oversight-20131226-dto,0,7127395.htmlstory>

USA, WASHINGTON D.C, DECEMBER 28 2013. NTSB REPORTS ON TANKER ALLISION WITH BRIDGE



Allision damage to the Overseas Reymar's aft starboard side.

The National Transportation Safety Board has published a Marine Accident Brief on the January 7, 2013 allision of the 752 ft tanker Overseas Reymar with the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge. The accident occurred at 1118 local time when the ship allided with the fendering system of the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge's Echo tower. The vessel was outbound in San Francisco Bay. No one was injured and no pollution was reported. Damage to the vessel was estimated at \$220,000, and the cost to repair the Echo tower's fendering system was estimated at \$1.4 million. The National Transportation Safety Board determines that the probable cause of the Overseas Reymar allision with the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge was the pilot's decision to alter course from the CD span to the DE span without sufficient time to avoid alliding with the bridge's Echo tower, and the master's failure to properly oversee the pilot by engaging in a phone conversation during a critical point in the transit.

http://www.marinelog.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=6039:ntsb-reports-on-tanker-allision-with-bridge&Itemid=229



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