



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,035 Newsy Stuff

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

January 21 2014



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USA, WYO, LOVELL, JANUARY 15 2014. OIL SPILL MAY TAKE DAYS TO CLEAN UP



A tractor trailer tanker crash this morning at 9:46 a.m. 5 miles south of Lovell on WYO 310 has sent a Salt Lake City man to the hospital and resulted in the spill of approximately 2,500 gallons of hot oil. The driver of the combination, Bruce Siggard, was treated and released from the North Big Horn Hospital in Lovell. Siggard was driving a tractor trailer tanker trailer combination that was pulling a pup trailer. The combination went off the right side of the roadway which caused the truck tractor and first trailer to roll. The tanker trailer that rolled suffered a breach of the tank and the load of hot oil spilled into the highway right-of-way. The pup trailer became disconnected, however it did not roll. The spill is not near a water source and no water ways are threatened by the spill. The hot oil has been contained within the right-of-way. The Worland Regional Hazmat Team has responded to the scene for cleanup of the oil. This

may take several days for the cleanup operations to be completed. WYO 310 remains open and motorists should be cautious traveling by the crash scene due to the work crews and equipment that will be entering/exiting and operating near the roadway. The spill poses no threat to motorists. Siggard had loaded the oil at a refinery in Billings, Montana and had a final destination in Salt Lake City, Utah. Troopers investigating this crash have cited Siggard for speed too fast for the existing conditions.

<http://www.sheridanmedia.com/news/oil-spill-may-take-days-clean68757>

USA, MI, SAGINAW, JANUARY 15 2014. OWNER OF NOW-CLOSED MILES PETROLEUM IN MERRILL PLEADS GUILTY TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK VIOLATIONS



The owner of shuttered Miles Petroleum Inc. in Merrill, on Tuesday, Jan. 14, pleaded guilty before Saginaw County District Judge A.T. Frank to two counts of underground storage tank violation. [Barry M. Marlow originally faced four counts of the violation](#), but two were dismissed as part of a plea agreement. The charge carries a possible penalty of six months in jail and or a \$500 fine. Authorities said Marlow used underground storage tanks after they were red-tagged by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Erick Thorson, a detective with the state Department of Natural Resources, previously told The Saginaw News the DEQ red-tagged the four tanks several years ago. He said underground storage tanks can be red-tagged for a variety of reasons, including not passing inspection or not having up-to-date registration. Thorson said Marlow was storing liquid industrial waste in the tanks after they were red-tagged. "In this case, it was mostly petroleum-related contact water," he said. Following Tuesday's hearing, Saginaw-based attorney James Gust, who is representing Marlow, said "there was an

emergency situation where they had some fuel in some trucks that were in danger of freezing" because of the cold weather, so Marlow used the underground storage tanks as a temporary measure. Miles Petroleum unexpectedly closed last year, and some customers said they were owed money and/or product they had prepaid for but had not received. [Joel Wardin, co-owner of Wardin Brothers Dairy in Hemlock](#), told The Saginaw News he's out \$10,000 as a result of Miles Petroleum's unexpected closure. The Michigan Attorney General's office has received numerous complaints pertaining to the closure. As of Sept. 24, the [Attorney General's office had received 51 such complaints](#) from the public. "Most of the complaints involve consumers who prepaid for, I believe it was, propane or natural gas, and they have not yet received it all," said Joy Yearout, spokeswoman for Michigan's Attorney General Bill Schuette. Yearout said the complainants are seeking the product they say they're owed or a refund. "Our consumer protection division does mediation," Yearout said. "The next step is, once we receive a complaint, we send a copy of the letter to the business asking them to respond." Yearout said complaints can be filed with the Attorney General's office online at www.michigan.gov/ag. "Depending on the circumstances, consumers might consider consulting a private attorney, as well," she said. Meanwhile, Marlow and his wife, Liat Lynn Honsinger-Marlow, have filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. A civil suit filed by World Global Financing against Marlow in Saginaw County's Circuit Court has been closed after an order was filed for administrative closing due to bankruptcy. And a civil suit filed by Crystal Flash Limited Partnership of Michigan against Miles Petroleum may soon be closed for the same reason, court records indicate. Marlow's sentencing on the storage tank violation charges is pending.

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2014/01/barry_marlow_pleads_guilty_to.html



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INDIA, KERALA, JANUARY 15 2014. LPG TANKER TOPPLES, CATCHES FIRE NEAR KANNUR

A bullet tanker carrying liquid petroleum gas (LPG) from Mangalore caught fire after it overturned on the National Highway at Kallyasseri in Kannur in the early hours of Tuesday. The incident occurred at around 4 a.m. when the tanker on its way to Kozhikode overturned after hitting a vehicle coming from the opposite side. The tanker, carrying 18 tonnes of LPG belonging to the Indian Oil Corporation, lost control after it was hit by the vehicle. On seeing the leakage of gas from the tanker the driver and the cleaner immediately fled from the cabin and informed nearby residents to leave in view of the possibility of an explosion. Around 20 Fire tenders from Kannur and nearby areas reached the spot to extinguish fire. District Collector M.G. Rajamanickam and Superintendent of Police A. Srinivas reached the spot and ordered the evacuation of the residents living in the vicinity, as the fire was still billowing from the tanker. The authorities said that IOC experts from Mangalore and Kozhikode were on their way to Kallyassery. The fire units are not able to go near the tanker as the gas continued to leak from the tanker. As the LPG tanker tragedy at Chala in Kannur on August 27, 2012, which claimed the lives of 20 people, was fresh in memory, the authorities and the residents were taking extra precaution to avert similar situation. The fire tenders, which reached the spot around 7 a.m. started spraying water on the tanker from a safe distance. The road traffic on the National Highway was diverted following the incident.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/lpg-tanker-topples-catches-fire-near-kannur/article5576498.ece>

USA, AKA, FIRBANKS, JANUARY 15 2014. REFINERY OWNER ASKS STATE TO CONSIDER LOWER CLEANUP LEVEL FOR TAINTED GROUNDWATER

tim ellis



Flint Hills Resources Alaska bought the 240-acre refinery in North Pole from Williams Alaska Petroleum in 2004.

The operator of the North Pole refinery wants the state to set a lower standard for cleaning up the sulfolane groundwater-contamination problem in the North Pole area. Flint Hills Resources Alaska has asked the head of the state Department of Environmental Conservation to set a less-stringent cleanup level for the industrial solvent that leaked into the groundwater for more than a decade before Flint Hills bought the refinery in 2004. The requests could delay cleanup for several months. The [DEC team](#) that's been working on the sulfolane contamination had hoped by now to be studying final reports on the problem

and preparing to review Flint Hills plans to clean it up, starting about a year from now. But Tamara Cardona, who heads up the DEC's team, says that schedule is up in the air now. "But there's been a little bit of a hiccup now that [Flint Hills](#) has formally challenged the cleanup level that was established back in 2012," Cardona said. Cardona can't say how much the schedule will be pushed back by that "hiccup." She says that'll depend on whether DEC Commissioner Larry Hartig grants Flint Hills' request to put the process on hold while he reconsiders the cleanup level that Flint Hills must attain to declare the area's groundwater safe to drink. "As for any other work, it's pending on this decision," she said. Flint Hills spokesman Jeff Cook declined to comment on tape Friday. But in a written response, he states that Flint Hills believes the DEC's proposed 14-parts-per-billion cleanup level is unnecessarily stringent, and that a higher level could be set that would protect human health. A Flint Hills document filed with DEC on Dec. 20 suggests the cleanup level could instead be safely set at about 25 times the level set by DEC – at 362 parts-per-billion. The response also reiterates Flint Hills' request that DEC require the refinery's previous owners, Williams Alaska Petroleum, to participate in the cleanup process. The two companies are entangled in a years-long lawsuit over who's liable, and for how much. Cardona says she can't say much about Flint Hills' requests while they're before the commissioner. "Now, it's a matter of waiting for how the commissioner is going to respond," she said. The commissioner's spokesman declined to comment Friday. A spokesman for the Attorney General's office says Hartig must rule by the end of February on whether he'll agree to reconsider the cleanup level. And if he does, the spokesman says that process could take several more months. [Fairbanks North Star Borough](#) Mayor Luke Hopkins has for more than a year now been urging state and federal environmental agencies to get the cleanup process moving along more quickly. Hopkins says while the bureaucracies plod along and weigh Flint Hills's requests, nothing is being done to stop the sulfolane from spreading through the groundwater underneath North Pole and Fairbanks. "The aquifer is at approximately the same levels that it had before, in terms of sulfolane," Hopkins said. "So we just keep seeing the date move on, and I don't see a lot of action happening, and I don't see a plan yet." [North Pole](#) Mayor Bryce Ward says he's glad that residents of the area affected by sulfolane are still getting the drinking water from Flint Hills while the debate over the appropriate cleanup level plays out. "Are they putting a very



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conservative number out there? I think that's probably a safe assumption," Ward said. "But the trick is, the true question is 'what is safe for consumption?' Personally, I wouldn't want to drink any of it." Not much is known about the health effects of consuming sulfolane, but tests are about to get under way to answer that question. Cardona says the [National Toxicology Program](#) will begin testing this month with laboratory animal subjects. She says results of those tests should be available in three to five years.

<http://fm.kuac.org/post/refinery-owner-asks-state-consider-lower-cleanup-level-tainted-groundwater>

USA, ALA, FOSTER'S CROSSROADS, JANUARY 16 2014. TANKER CRASH BRINGS BIG RESPONSE




Between 75 and 80 responders worked throughout the day Saturday to deal with a gasoline leak that occurred when this loaded tanker crashed early in the morning north of Foster's Crossroads.

An accident in the pouring rain early Saturday morning sent an 18-wheel tanker truck off U.S. 431 into a ravine and responders from Randolph and Cleburne counties into action. Randolph County E-911 received the call at 5:50 that morning that the tanker, containing 6,000 gallons of gasoline in three compartments and 2,500 gallons of diesel fuel, had hit a guardrail and gone off into a ravine near a branch, which is a tributary to the Tallapoosa River and Lake Wedowee. County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) director Donnie Knight said the southbound driver told the State Trooper he sneezed twice in a row, and when he looked up, he was running off the road about a half-mile north of DP Oil. The driver, Harold Simpson of Phenix City, was only slightly injured. Ruptures in the tanker allowed approximately 4,900 gallons to spill. The diesel fuel, however, did not leak. "We had a mess to clean up," said Knight. "Our hazmat team can't deal with that quantity of stuff." Both Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and EMA sent responders along with SWS Environmental Services. The water was monitored where the mouth of the creek enters the lake, approximately a mile from the crash site. Knight said with all the rainfall, they couldn't tell there was any release. Knight said it didn't matter if we had the biggest hazmat crew in the state, it rained so much and so hard right after the wreck--2.1 inches--it washed the fuel away. He said, "You couldn't do anything about it." Representatives of the trucking company, Florida Rock & Tank Lines, helped transfer the remaining fuel to another tanker. Ten fire departments, including two from Cleburne County, also helped, along with Randolph County Sheriff's Office and Southern Ambulance Transport. Knight said approximately 75 to 80 people helped during the day, with the last ones leaving around 9:45 p.m.

http://www.therandolphleader.com/news/article_bee6ce36-7dfc-11e3-907b-0019bb2963f4.html

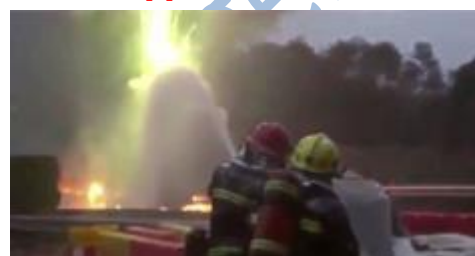
CHINA, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, JANUARY 15 2014. CHINESE FIREWORKS TRUCK CATCHES FIRE WITH SPECTACULAR RESULTS AS FIREFIGHTERS TRY IN VAIN TO EXTINGUISH THEM

anna edwards

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Chinese Fireworks Truck Catches Fire](#)
- [Truck Carrying Fireworks Explodes in China](#)

 **Photo's [6] Chinese Fireworks Truck Catches Fire**



With sparks flying and shooting across the sky, this was a spectacular fireworks display. But it was made more incredible by the fact that it was coming from a truck - which had caught fire and ignited the fireworks. The huge lorry was stuffed with 5kg of fireworks when the incident occurred on a highway in Zhejiang Province, in south east China. Drivers on the same road were treated to the unexpected pyrotechnics display as the vehicle burnt and its cargo exploded, the [Telegraph](#) reported. The passenger and the driver were able to get out of the burning vehicle before the cargo caught fire, sending multicoloured rockets into the air, [Newsflare](#) reported. Firemen arrived at the scene and put out the blaze at around 8am local time, [MSN](#) reported. No one

was hurt in the accidental fireworks display. Last week, two people lost their hands when an unused firework exploded



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because it was left in front a fire. Five others were injured when the 400g firecracker went off in a house in Tivoli, Lazio, Italy. One of those suffered serious stomach wounds. The explosive is thought to have been left over from New Year's Eve celebrations. Last year in Los Angeles, 28 victims ranging from 8 to 78-years-old were injured - four of them seriously - when a wooden stand collapsed sending live fireworks exploding into a crowd of up to 10,000 people. Thousands of others fled for cover at the Simi Valley park Independence Day celebration when streams of red and white smoke and flames shot across the ground towards the crowd around two minutes into a display. Authorities in Simi Valley called the detonation a 'fireworks mishap.'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2539198/Chinese-fireworks-truck-catches-fire-SPECTACULAR-results.html>

GHANA, DAMONGO, JANUARY 15 2014. FUEL STATION EXPLODES IN DAMONGO



A fuel station at Ngbaripe in Damongo was reduced to ashes last Friday after it caught fire while trying to serve some customers. The station exploded when fuel was being poured from one of the drums. An eyewitness said the owner of the station and his son went inside the building to pour some of the fuel and the next thing they heard was a loud sound with the station on fire. He said, they quickly called the Fire Service stationed in Damongo who responded swiftly and were able to bring the fire under control but nothing from the fuel station was rescued. A hairdresser's saloon which was also in the same lane was also burnt down.

<http://www.gbcghana.com/index.php?id=1.1660487>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, JANUARY 16 2014. OIL COMPANY CRIES 'SABOTAGE' AFTER 11 MYSTERY SPILLS COAT TRINIDAD BEACHES IN CRUDE

emily atkin

 **Photo's [10]** [Spill Pictures](#)



"Oil Company Cries 'Sabotage' After 11 Mystery Spills Coat Trinidad Beaches In Crude"

The media is calling it one of Trinidad and Tobago's [worst environmental disasters ever](#). The company responsible is [calling it sabotage](#). Petrotrin, Trinidad's state-owned oil company, is accusing an unknown party of causing at least two out of the 11 recent oil spills that occurred from a pipeline in mid-December, cloaking miles of beaches with crude. At least 7,000 barrels of oil have spilled so far, and local officials have [reportedly](#) accused Petrotrin of trying to downplay the extent and size of the spill. Company chairman Lindsay Gillette told reporters earlier this month that there was "strong evidence" to show that its facilities were "deliberately tampered with." At one of the facilities, run by Trinity Exploration Production, Gillette [said](#) "two of the plugs were removed and you

would [need] a very large wrench to remove that plug physically for that oil to flow" Trinity has [told local media](#) that the spills were not its fault. "The evidence is out there but I don't think it's being articulated clearly," Trinity executive chairman Bruce Dingwall [said](#). Now, the region's Minister of Energy is being urged to commission an independent investigation into what caused the spill, how it has effected the area, and what needs to be done next. "The inquiry must be done by people who don't have anything to protect and no rear end to cover," Keith Rowley, the leader of the Trinidad parliament's opposition party, [reportedly said](#) Monday. "The evidence must be taken in public." So far, Petronin has already been hit with a \$3.1 million fine from the country's Environmental Management Authority, The company's president, Khalid Hassanali, called it "harsh." Petrotrin has also released [a number of press releases](#) claiming "significant progress" on spill clean-up efforts, and [noting on Tuesday](#) that no one had called an ambulance since Sunday. A poll in Trinidad Express Newspapers showed that 84 percent of their readers [supported an independent investigation](#) into the cause and extent of the spill. "There was no question of sabotage," Trinidad member of Parliament Paula Gopee-Scoon [said](#). "It was all a question of bad operations on the part of Petrotrin ... It was a cover-up from day one." The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club [wrote in the Trinidad Express](#) that they were "alarmed" at the current rate of spills, and questioned that citizens were getting accurate information on whether



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substances used for clean-up had harmful health effects on humans; whether seafood caught from local waters would be safe to eat; or which ocean areas are safe to swim and bathe in. "Whether sabotage or not, the country needs to strengthen the preparedness of the sector, at all stages, from the maintenance of pipeline and related infrastructure, on-site facility security, detection of spills, the response to spillage and the dissemination of information to stakeholders," the club wrote. "We hope this spill does not worsen, and will serve as a lesson as to why oil-spill prevention and response must be taken seriously by both the authorities and citizens of our country." The spill has a real chance to effect tourism in Trinidad and Tobago, which gets approximately 40,000 visitors every month, according to the country's Ministry of Tourism. The Caribbean islands are popular tourist destinations, generally unaffected by hurricanes and strewn with mountains and beaches. Though Trinidad is currently in a low-tourism season, the spill first occurred in mid-December, a time when the country's travel industry is generally booming. Specific effects on tourism are not yet known.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/01/15/3165191/trinidad-oil-sabotage-spills/>

USA, WA, CAMANO ISLAND, JANUARY 16 2014. CHLORINE LEAK EVACUEE: 'MY THROAT WAS KILLING ME'

 **Watch the Video** [Chlorine Leak Evacuee: 'My Throat Was Killing Me'](#)



A man processing some old cylinders for scrap metal accidentally triggered a chlorine leak that sent eight people to the hospital and forced dozens of Camano Island residents to evacuate their homes. At roughly 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, residents reported seeing a "large white cloud" coming from a private residence on the island, according to Island County Sheriff Mark Brown. Michael Evers, who lives next to the home near South Bartl Drive and Elger Bay Road, noticed something was wrong right away. "Immediately, the eyes were watering and coughing and then the back of my throat was killing me," he said. His wife immediately called Terry Troutvine, who owned the home where the cloud was emanating from. "He was coughing really bad; he sounded very woozy," Evers

said. "(My wife) said 'we're going to hang up right now and you're going to call 911.'" Medics arrived at the home and found a five-foot-tall steel gas cylinder leaking chlorine, according to Camano Island Fire officials. Troutvine was taken to a local hospital for treatment, and roughly 25 to 30 homes in the area were evacuated or told to shelter in place. Three other residents of nearby homes also were also taken to the hospital after they began experiencing breathing problems. Four firefighters also were sent to the hospital as a precaution. All were treated and released. Troutvine, who runs a scrap metal business, said he had found 23 old cylinders at a home in Stanwood and brought them back to his home to be cut up for scrap. The first 20 went fine, but the 21st bottle began leaking chlorine. He said he didn't know what was in the cylinders because they were rusted over and not marked. A Skagit County HAZMAT team was dispatched to the island to deal with the leak. The canister was safely capped overnight and residents were told they could likely return to their homes Wednesday afternoon. Meanwhile, Troutvine says he'll never cut open those type of bottles again.

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Scrap-metal-project-triggers-chlorine-leak-on-Camano-Island-240326701.html>

USA, OH, CINCINNATI, JANUARY 16 2014. CHEMICAL LEAK FROM WEST VIRGINIA ARRIVES IN THE TRI-STATE

A chemical leak from West Virginia made its way to the Tri-State late Tuesday night by way of the Ohio River, according to Cincinnati Water Works. Greater Cincinnati Water Works said the chemical was identified in an upstream river sample late Tuesday evening. The sample came from the water at Meldahl dam, about 25 miles upstream from the city's treatment plant. GCWW has been collecting samples between Maysville, Ky. and Cincinnati. They will continue to monitor the water until the chemical fully passes through our area. They expect the spill to pass within the next 24 to 48 hours. Experts said residents won't need to see the pollution to know it's there: They can smell it. Officials said it has a distinct licorice smell -- but it is not impacting the region's drinking water. "We have asked the people at the locks and dams to report to us when they smell it," said Jerry Schulte of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission Tuesday. "We had a report, actually, from Maysville. They smelled it at 5 a.m." Cincinnati Water Works shut off valves that carrying the water into the area at 11:45 p.m. Tuesday and are using water reserves, as well as water from upstream of the Ohio, until officials deem the water safe from the chemical, Crude MCHM, or 4-Methylcyclohexanemethanol. Crude MCHM, which few scientists were familiar with before the discovery of the spill last week, cleans impurities like sulfur and other pollutants from coal during its processing. Its leak left hundreds of thousands of West Virginians without tap water and with lots of unanswered questions. When the chemical arrived in the Cincinnati area, it traveled more than 200 miles. The river is moving at 3 mph, which is considered fast. According to



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officials, the pollution should only spend about 20 hours in the Tri-State before heading toward Kentucky's largest city. "I am beginning to work the City of Louisville and the water utility of Louisville to see what type of support we can provide them," Schulte said. Schulte said water contamination events like this happen about every ten years.

 **Related Stories** [Read a full breakdown of the chemical leak and what local experts have to say](#)

<http://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/mysterious-chemical-leak-from-west-virginia-to-bring-distinct-smell-to-the-region>

USA, FLA, ESCAMBIA COUNTY, JANUARY 16 2014. CHEMICAL TANKER TRUCK DRIVER ARRESTED FOR DUI NEAR CENTURY

 **Watch the Video** [Truck Driver Carrying Potentially Dangerous Chemical Arrested.](#)



The driver of a tanker truck hauling a chemical compound was arrested for DUI just outside Century. The Escambia County Sheriff's Office said a citizen's tip about 5:30 Tuesday morning about a trucker driving erratically led to deputies stopping the northbound tanker truck full of maleic anhydride on Highway 29 near Tedder Road. The driver, 35-year old Alex Victorovich Kozlov of Milton exhibited odd behavior and an odor of alcohol was detected by deputies, the Sheriff's Office said. He failed a field sobriety test and was arrested for driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. "A half empty bottle of vodka was recovered from the cab of the truck which indicated the suspect was still consuming alcohol at time of stop," Sena Maddison, spokesperson for the Escambia County Sheriff's Office, said. Maleic anhydride is the acid anhydride of maleic acid and is used primarily in the formation of unsaturated polyester resins for use in boats, autos, trucks, buildings, piping, and electrical goods. It is also used to make pesticides and other organic compounds, according to the EPA. Acute inhalation exposure of humans to maleic anhydride has been observed to cause irritation of the respiratory tract, burning in the larynx, reflex cough, lacrimation, headaches, eye irritation, and

corneal burns.

<http://www.northescambia.com/2014/01/chemical-tanker-truck-driver-arrested-for-dui-near-century>

USA, GA, EFFINGHAM, JANUARY 16 2014. EMA DIRECTOR CRITIQUES RESPONSE TO TANKER FIRE

 **Document** [Effingham After Accident Report](#)

Keeping the fire truck with foam in the north end of Effingham County caused "a severe delay" in fighting a tanker truck fire in a wreck that killed three brothers in November. That's according to Ed Myrick, Effingham Emergency Management Agency director, who critiqued response to the wreck of a pickup truck and a tanker truck on Nov. 21 in a seven-page "after action report." Myrick said he investigated the response to the accident through first-hand observations, interviews and a review of audio recordings. The report is to be used as a "training tool," looking at ways to "maximize strengths and "minimize weaknesses," he said. Wesley Mulligan, 18, was driving a pickup truck west on Marlow Road when he failed to stop and crashed into a tanker truck traveling south on Ga. 17, authorities said. Mulligan died, along with his two passengers, his brothers: Garrett Mulligan, 16, and Eli Hickox, 3. The tanker truck exploded and burned for several hours. Myrick said it was an "extremely complex incident that required the choreography of 13 organizations, 23 vehicles, approximately 50 first responders at an expense estimated at \$70,000." While "personnel in general did a good job" and some of the responders provided "exceptional leadership and service," there also are areas that require "immediate modification and improvement," he said in the report. Myrick said Jennifer Wright of Effingham County Fire/Rescue was one of the first responders who did an excellent job. He presented her with a plaque at the county commission's meeting on Jan. 7. Wright started as a volunteer in 2006 and has worked full-time since August. Although she was off duty when the wreck occurred, she was the first person on the scene. Myrick said she cleared the roadway of several vehicles and a loaded school bus, saving lives while the tanker truck burned. Her actions "saved lives and drastically improved response times," he said. Several other responders were cited in the report for outstanding work. All names in the report, except for Wright's, were redacted. Myrick said the names were being withheld until the investigation is completed, which he said should take until the end of January. Regarding the overall response to the accident, a number of things could have been done better, Myrick said. He said the truck with foam was stationed in the north end of the county even though most of the population is in the southern part of the county. Among his other findings:

- "Proper perimeter security was never established." Myrick said. That meant citizens and unauthorized first responders had access to the "hot zone." "Had the center compartment of the tanker exploded at this time, the lives of the bystanders were at risk," he wrote.



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- Numerous unauthorized personnel were at the scene, inside the perimeter. "The presence of ... non-uniformed responders within the perimeter with no responsibilities creates an illusion to the citizens that spectators are welcome, which causes additional hazards," he said.
- Several suggestions were made regarding better ways to communicate. In one instance, "Incident Command was mobile and at times unreachable for communications." Operations Command North "requested Incident Command five times consecutively with no response as Incident Command was updating an elected official."
- Rincon's fire department offered to lay hose for a mile and get water to the accident scene, but the offer was rejected and instead, water was shuttled from 1.5 miles away.
- Guyton firefighters were tasked with shuttling water from Honey Ridge. They disregarded the order and got water from Midland Road instead, which is closer. But the Honey Ridge location could provide more water faster and the Midland Road location couldn't keep up with the demand.
- The "driving habits" of some of the Effingham Fire/Rescue were criticized. One driver in particular was cited for going "extremely too fast considering the environment and the personnel that was in the area."
- Some responders were in the "hot zone" without protective gear.

<http://savannahnow.com/effingham-now/2014-01-15/ema-director-critiques-response-tanker-fire#>

USA, MD, HOWARD CO, JANUASRY 16 2014. HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, SETTLES UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK VIOLATIONS AT TWO FACILITIES

Howard County, Maryland, has agreed to pay a \$9,727 penalty to settle alleged violations of underground storage tank (UST) regulations at two facilities in Columbia, Md., the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today. EPA cited the county for not complying with safeguards designed to prevent, detect, and control leaks of petroleum and other hazardous substances from USTs. The alleged violations involved federal and state UST regulations requiring monthly leak detection monitoring, and cathodic anti-corrosion protection. According to EPA, a 1,000-gallon UST containing used oil, located at the Bureau of Utilities at 8250 Old Montgomery Rd., was not regularly monitored for leaks for three and a half years. Also, the county failed to provide cathodic protection for piping to a 2,500 gallon UST containing diesel fuel, located at Long Reach Fire Station #9 on 5950 Tamar Drive. With millions of gallons of petroleum products and hazardous substances stored in USTs throughout the U.S., leaking tanks are a major source of soil and groundwater contamination. EPA and state UST regulations are designed to reduce the risk of underground leaks and to promptly detect and properly address leaks thus minimizing environmental harm and avoiding the costs of major cleanups. The settlement penalty reflects the Howard County's cooperation with EPA in correcting the alleged non-compliance and resolving this matter. As part of the settlement, the county did not admit liability for the alleged violations. For more information on cathodic protection, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/oust/ustsystem/cathodic.htm> For more information on underground storage tanks, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/oust/index.htm>.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/a7cfde1d7c5badfb85257c61006ad8d8?OpenDocument>

CANADA, B.C, SQUAMISH, JANUARY 16 2014. RESTORED TUG SINKS, SPILLING DIESEL NEAR SQUAMISH >> UP TO 1,500 LITRES OF FUEL LEAKED FROM THE 112-YEAR-OLD BOAT WHEN IT SANK



Map: [Squamish, B.C.](#)

Watch the Video [Restored Tug Sinks](#)



Old tug sinks, spilling diesel fuel.

A 112-year-old tugboat that sank near the government dock in Squamish, B.C. on Tuesday spilled up to 1,500 litres of diesel fuel into the waters of Mamquam Blind Channel. According to the website tugboatinformation.com, the Elf was built in 1902 in Tacoma. (Tugboatinformation.com) Officials are on the scene assessing the situation, using booms and absorbents to contain whatever fuel they can. The Coast Guard expects waves will break up any of the fuel that did manage to spread. Still, local environmentalists are concerned about what affect the spill might have on local fish stocks. "It's going to have some long-term effects, any fuel spill, any oil spill," says John Buchanan, a member of the Squamish Streamkeepers Society, which has been working to reestablish

herring in the area. "It leaves behind a residue, it coats the substrates along the coastline — and those are the substrates that



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the herring spawn upon, so there's going to be mortalities." Steen Larsen, co-owner of the sunken vessel, believes the "Elf" went down around 4:30 in the morning. He thinks the century-old tug was scuttled and is calling on the RCMP to investigate: "It looks to me and feels like it was sabotaged." Larsen denies the "Elf" was in disrepair, claiming he had recently spent \$125,000 in overhauls.

Related Stories

- [Abandoned boat poses hazard near Vancouver](#)
- [Tugboat Information: FOSS No. 15](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/restored-tug-sinks-spilling-diesel-near-squamish-1.2496355>

USA, KS, TOPEKA, JANUARY 16 2014. FUEL SPILL CLEANUP CONTINUES AT SHUNGA CREEK

melissa brunner



State officials say crews have recovered 1500 gallons of diesel fuel from Shunganunga Creek in Topeka. The fuel began spilling more than a week ago from Haag Oil's property near SE 17th and Adams. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment said Tuesday that Haag's environmental contractor continues working to vacuum up the spill. KDHE says oil-absorbent booms will remain on-site to capture any residual amounts. State officials also say there is no evidence the fuel flowed further downstream. Crews have been working seven hours a day since Friday in an effort to complete cleanup.

<http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/Fuel-Spill-Cleanup-Continues-At-Shunga-Creek-240212971.html?ref=971>

USA, PA, HARRISBURG, JANUARY 16 2014. Q AND A: INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER EXPLAINS MOTIVE BEHIND STORY ON AMMONIA IN PENNSYLVANIA

david wanner

Bill Heltzel, an investigative reporter for [PublicSource](#), answered questions from PennLive about [his story focusing on anhydrous ammonia](#), a toxic gas which is the most widely used dangerous chemical in Pennsylvania.

Q: What caused PublicSource to tackle this subject and what did it entail in terms of time and resources?

A: I started working on the story in July but set it aside several times to work on other stories. We got interested in the subject because of the Texas fertilizer plant explosion in April. The chemical implicated in that explosion was ammonium nitrate. The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry keeps track of ammonium nitrate stockpiles but refused to give us the information. That Right-to-Know issue is on appeal in Commonwealth Court. Then I looked at anhydrous ammonia, the main ingredient in ammonium nitrate. Using EPA pollution records we identified a facility in Donora that makes explosives. But we still didn't have a good list of state ammonia facilities. That led to the EPA's risk management program. The EPA shows every facility that handles large amounts of extremely hazardous chemicals, including ammonia. But the really good stuff, contained in the Offsite Consequence Analysis, can only be viewed at EPA offices or DOJ reading rooms. That took nearly 4 months to coordinate, and we recruited journalism students to help us overcome a 10-report per month limit per person on reviewing the reports. By the way, EPA records also show that ammonia is the most widely used hazardous chemical, by number of facilities and weight, in Pennsylvania, in the risk management database.

Q: How great is the threat of ammonia escape?

A: The risk from all hazardous chemicals is small yet persistent. Just last week, a West Virginia plant leaked a chemical into a river and caused a 4-day shutdown of the municipal water system. Small ammonia leaks happen with some frequency. Usually no one is seriously hurt. Major catastrophes are rare. The regulations that require companies to report worst-case scenarios go back to a catastrophe in Bhopal India that killed thousands of people (I think it was around 1984). Pro-regulation folks argue that the Clean Air Act has made chemical facilities safer, for workers and the public, by getting this information out to emergency responders, workers, environmentalists, etc.

Q: What is your main advice to people who live near facilities that use this type of ammonia?

A: I think people who live near these facilities should make sure their local emergency responders have a response plan, including evacuations, and their public officials are aware of the risks. Organizations can use the information to pressure



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companies to substitute safer chemicals in their manufacturing processes, and to emphasize preventative maintenance and training.

Q: What is your take on how well the use of this chemical is regulated, and whether most companies that use it are taking the needed precautions?

A: My hunch is that most companies are prudent. Their workers face the greatest risks, and a catastrophe could cripple a company financially. (Think of BP and the Gulf leak.) But there are always outliers, and in tough economic times there is a temptation to cut corners on preventative maintenance and training.

Q: What is your background?

A: I've been the senior investigative reporter at PublicSource for nearly 2 years. Except for a 6-year break at Bloomberg in training and sales, I've been a reporter for 35+ years.

Related Stories

- [1.5 million Pennsylvanians live close to large amounts of hazardous ammonia](#)
- [See which central Pa. companies are storing ammonia](#)

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/01/q_and_a_investigative_reporter.html

USA, TX, AMARILLO, JANUARY 16 2014. CLEANUP EFFORTS WORKING AT NUCLEAR WEAPONS PLANT



This Sept. 4, 1992 file aerial photo provided by Pantex shows the U.S. Department of Energy's Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas. Actions to clean up contamination at the nation's only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly plant are proving effective and the effort will continue for years, according to the first five-year review of the Superfund site. The goal of the long-term project at Pantex in the Texas Panhandle is to clean up contaminated soil and groundwater beneath the plant.

The effort to clean up soil and groundwater contamination at the nation's only plant for assembling and disassembling nuclear weapons has been effective so far and will continue for years, according to the first five-year review of the site. Pantex in the Texas Panhandle was added to the national Superfund cleanup list in 1994 because of past site practices that included burning chemicals in unlined pits, burying waste in unlined landfills and discharging waste into on-site surface waters known as playa lakes. The review says the long-term project is focusing on removing contamination from soil and a shallow aquifer beneath the plant, located 17 miles northeast of Amarillo. "We are already seeing significant reduction in contaminant concentration in parts of the perched aquifer," said Camille Hueni, who's overseeing the project for the Environmental Protection Agency. One of the top goals of the cleanup is to keep contamination from reaching the Ogallala Aquifer, which underlies eight Plains states and is the Panhandle's major source of water for municipal, industrial and agricultural use. The shallow aquifer, or groundwater, is perched as much as 200 feet above the Ogallala. Workers at Pantex assemble and dismantle nuclear warheads for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. More than 12,000 plutonium pits, which serve as triggers for nuclear warheads, are stored at the plant. The soil there is contaminated by solvents, remnants of explosives and radiological elements, including depleted uranium and traces of plutonium, while the groundwater has solvents, remnants of high explosives, chromium and other chemicals from a shallow aquifer. While the sources of the soil and groundwater contamination have been eliminated, the contamination itself remains.

<http://www.gosanangelo.com/news/2014/jan/15/cleanup-efforts-working-at-nuclear-weapons-plant/>

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON, JANUARY 16 2014. CHEMICAL SPILL COMPANY CITED FOR ISSUES AT SECOND SITE >> DEP SAYS SECONDARY CONTAINMENT MISSING AT NEW LOCATION

jonathan mattise

State inspectors have cited the company whose spill contaminated the water supply for 300,000 West Virginians for five violations at a second facility where it is storing chemicals, and they say Freedom Industries might have to relocate its materials again because of a lack of a secondary containment plan. State inspectors found the violations Monday at a Nitro site where Freedom Industries moved its coal-cleaning chemicals after Thursday's spill, according to a state Department of Environmental Protection report. Inspectors found that, like the Charleston facility where the leak originated, the Nitro site lacked appropriate last-resort containment to stop chemical leaks. A department report described the site's secondary



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containment as "deteriorated or nonexistent." It described a building with holes in its walls at floor level and a trench surrounding the structure that lets stormwater mix with spilled chemicals. Department spokesman Tom Aluise said the ditch eventually drains into the river. The facility had no documentation of inspections of the Nitro site. Nor did it have proof of employee training in the past 10 years, the report said. Aluise said Wednesday that the state might force Freedom to move the material again or build secondary containment structures. The department said it would tell Freedom how to proceed later Wednesday, according to Aluise, and he said penalties have not been determined. The report only specifies that Freedom Industries has 20 days to provide a written response detailing corrective action. It's unclear whether the state had inspected the Nitro facility before Monday. The facility violated its stormwater permit, which doesn't require routine inspections, Aluise said. Freedom Industries directed a request for comment to spokeswoman, who said the company didn't want to comment. Keith Beneker, the Nitro plant manager, also did not answer a phone call. The Charleston facility flew under the regulatory radar because it only stored, not produced, chemicals, DEP officials have said. During the 7,500-gallon spill there Thursday, a cracked containment wall allowed the chemical to ooze into the Elk River. Freedom Industries then moved the Charleston site's remaining 70,000 gallons to Nitro, which isn't near a river or water supply. Officials have lifted the water-use ban that resulted from Thursday's spill for about half of the water system's customers.

<http://www.register-herald.com/todaysfrontpage/x1724059545/UPDATE-Chemical-spill-company-cited-for-issues-at-second-site>

CANADA, SK, REGINA, JANUARY 16 2014. ASBESTOS CLEANUP DELAYS EXPLOSION PROBE AT REGINA REFINERY >> DEBRIS HAS TO BE CAREFULLY PROCESSED, FIRE MARSHALL SAYS



The Co-op Refinery Complex in Regina on December 27, 2013. The fire investigation into the Regina's Co-op Refinery Complex explosion is slowly moving forward, say investigators. It has taken almost three weeks, but fire investigators are now able to examine the perimeter of blast site.

Regina fire officials are learning more about the extent of the fire and explosion damage at the Co-op refinery, with asbestos and a lot of debris still strewn around. No one was injured in the Dec. 24th explosion at the refinery in Regina's north end, but the explosion could be heard from several kilometres away. Investigators couldn't get close until Monday because of heavy damage to the area. Private contractors have bagged and removed much of the asbestos that was sprayed over the area during the blast, but more remains to be cleaned up.

Randy Ryba, the fire marshal with the Regina Fire Department, said investigators are looking into the area surrounding the explosion but have not yet reached the centre of the blast. "We have a lot of debris strewn on the ground," Ryba said. "That all has to be processed to ensure that it was not part of the causation mechanism that initiated the blast and ensuing fire." The blast happened on a reactor platform that is about four storeys tall. "Right now we are working the perimeter, in very close quarters to the steel structure itself," Ryba said. "We're hoping in the next few days, weather-permitting, that the safety specialists will finish their work on the platform and then we'll be entering the platform." In addition to the asbestos, the blast left various objects, including many pieces of metal, strewn about the structure, Ryba said. Ryba expects it to be another four to five days before he can get to the heart of the explosion. The investigation could take a full year to complete.

 **Related Stories** [Explosion and fire rock Regina refinery](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/asbestos-cleanup-delays-explosion-probe-at-regina-refinery-1.2497384>

USA, MD, MARYLAND CITY, JANUARY 16 2014. OVERTURNED TANKER LEAKS FUEL IN MARYLAND CITY

An overturned tanker spilled around 1,000 gallons of fuel Wednesday, tying up traffic and interrupting rail service in the area. The accident occurred around 6 p.m. in the 8500 block of Brock Bridge Road. Anne Arundel County firefighters arrived to find the tanker, carrying some 3,000 gallons of heating oil, leaking on its side, fire department spokesman Division Chief Keith Swindle. CSX rail service was interrupted. Some of the fuel spread into a storm runoff area but was controlled, Swindle said. It took firefighters and Department of the Environment workers around three hours to bring the incident under control.

http://www.capitalgazette.com/news/for_the_record/overturned-tanker-leaks-fuel-in-maryland-city/article_47b7a63a-eff0-55ce-8a84-f1ee908e342c.html



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USA, HAWAII, HONOLULU, JANUARY 16 2014. LEAK IN NAVY FUEL TANK RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT WATER CONTAMINATION

sophie cocke

 **Watch the Video** [Water Safe to Drink after Navy Fuel Leak](#)

Navy press release:

Navy fuel operators detected a discrepancy in the tank's monitored level on January 13, 2014. The tank holds JP-8 aviation fuel, primarily consisting of kerosene. Manual measurements indicated a possible loss of fuel from the tank and the Navy immediately began transferring fuel to another tank at the facility in accordance with response procedures. The transfer process may take up to five days to complete. Following transfer of fuel and venting of the tank, a full inspection will be conducted to determine the cause of the fuel level discrepancy and whether any was released; if so, then a response and remediation action will be implemented.



In this file photo, James Murray of the Fleet Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor, looks 200 feet down to the bottom of an empty fuel storage tank at the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility.

The U.S. Navy confirmed Thursday that one of its massive underground tanks near Pearl Harbor has a leak and may have spilled up to 20,000 gallons of aviation fuel, raising concerns about potential drinking water contamination. The Navy began investigating the possibility of a leak at the historic Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility on Monday after officials noticed a discrepancy in the tank's fuel levels and later discovered a 3 foot wide wet spot on a nearby concrete wall. Tests confirmed that the fuel soaking the wall matched that in the tank. Earlier this week, the Navy shut down a well that serves the military, and the Honolulu Board of Water Supply closed five wells in the Aiea area, according to military and government officials who spoke at a news conference Thursday afternoon. The most western well has since been reopened to avoid a water shortage, according to Ernest Lau, manager and chief engineer of the city's water supply board. He told Civil Beat that he is "pretty

confident" about the safety of the water in the reopened well. Lau and military officials stressed that it was unlikely that the fuel had percolated into the nearby Red Hill aquifer and that they believed Oahu's water was safe to drink. In order for the fuel, comprised primarily of kerosene, to escape the facility and enter the water supply it would have to permeate the concrete walls surrounding the facility, as well as the rocky hillside, said Tom Clements, a Navy spokesman. Still, Navy and government officials are awaiting the results of drinking water tests, which are expected to be available early next week. The samples were sent to a lab run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in California, Lau said. In the meantime, the 8 million gallon reduction to Oahu's water supply is minimal — Oahu consumes 140 million gallons of water a day. The tank is one of 20 massive fuel tanks at the once top secret military facility built in the early years of World War II. Each tank stands 250 feet tall, with a 100-foot circumference, and can hold up to 12.6 million gallons, or the equivalent of 21 Olympic size swimming pools. Fuel from the underground tanks runs through a series of pipelines to Pearl Harbor. The leaking tank had been idle for four years and was brought back into service in December after undergoing routine maintenance, said Capt. Mark Wheeler, commanding officer of Pearl Harbor's Fleet Logistics Center. Wheeler said the military began refilling the tank on Dec. 10, and it was nearly full when the leak was detected. The military has been moving the fuel to a separate tank, but the transfer likely won't be complete until Saturday.

Related Stories

- [Navy: Fuel found outside underground Hawaii tank's steel layer](#)
- [Officials declare water safe to drink despite leak of jet fuel close to wells](#)
- [Leak Confirmed at Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility](#)
- [Navy Investigating Possible Fuel Tank Leak](#)

Documents:

- [Red Hill Fuel Storage Tanks at Pearl Harbor \(1940-43\)](#)
- [Red Hill 'hides' WWII engineering wonder](#)
- [Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility](#)

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2014/01/16/20941-leak-in-navy-fuel-tank-raises-concerns-about-water-contamination/>



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USA, N.J, KNOWLTON TWP, JANUARY 16 10'4. VOLTAIX EXPLOSION RAISES NEW JERSEY OFFICIALS' WORRIES ABOUT COMMUNICATION

sarah peters



The Voltaix plant is 103 Demi Road in Upper Mount Bethel Township, in the Portland Industrial Park.

Two explosions in a little more than six months at an [Upper Mount Bethel Township](#) manufacturing plant have officials across the Delaware River worried. [Knowlton Township](#) Committee members say only silence has reached their side of the river in the wake of the explosions. Committeewoman Adele Starrs said she thought communication would be better, based on a meeting she attended in October of the community advisory panel established for the company, [Voltaix](#). She had asked that the maker of semiconductor and solar cell materials relay information on potential emergencies to officials with the township and Knowlton Township Elementary School, less than four miles from the plant. Voltaix Vice

President Mark Wilkinson told Starrs he understood, and the company should be able to do that, she said. But her phone was silent Monday after an early morning explosion. "They called the Pennsylvania side, but they're not taking care of the New Jersey side," Starrs said. "I understand in a true emergency, Knowlton's emergency personnel would be notified, but since we live so close to this facility, we would like to be notified before it reaches the true evacuation point." A small cluster of residents live in Knowlton's village of Delaware near the factory, Starrs said. [Communication with Knowlton officials was "nonexistent" after a chemical fire and explosion at the plant in June shook some residents' homes.](#) That's what prompted her plea, she said.

Voltaix Cites Protocols

Voltaix follows required notification protocols when dealing with any incident, company spokeswoman Heather Browne said in a statement. Voltaix informed the Northampton County Office of Emergency Management, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the local advisory panel about the early morning explosion, she said. The statement in response to a reporter's questions did not address inquiries specific to Knowlton Township. Monday's explosion in a cabinet in the manufacturing building involved "nontoxic" materials, and there was no off-site release based on the company's preliminary investigation, Browne stated. An internal investigation is ongoing, and the company will take corrective action as needed, she wrote. [Bob Mateff](#), Northampton County's emergency management coordinator, said the company brought in a contracted team to clean up after the explosions, which was confined to the laboratory. There was no danger to the public or any of the emergency responders, he said. Federal law requires the company to report what kind of chemicals are on the premises and what their plan is in an emergency, Mateff said. Knowlton Mayor Ron Farber said the township isn't totally sure of what to do in an emergency involving Voltaix, because officials don't know what kind of hazard would be produced. They're open to suggestions from the company. "We're still scratching our heads about what we could or should do. We're going to be pushing on somebody about trying to get some cooperation (from Pennsylvania) if this is going to happen all the time," Farber said, noting the previous explosion. "Something is wrong. We're just hoping to get results from somebody."

DEP: No Air Sampling

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection sent out an investigator about 5:20 a.m. Monday, spokeswoman [Colleen Connolly](#) said. Any potential chemical releases into the air were controlled by an emergency scrubber, and no uncontrolled releases were expected, she said. There was no reason to grab air samples, according to Connolly. Upper Mount Bethel Township Supervisor [Jerry Geake](#) said the township manager called supervisors Monday morning to inform them of the explosion. He said he thought Knowlton officials were already on the call list. As far as he knew, Knowlton officials hadn't approached Upper Mount Bethel supervisors to rectify the situation. "They really should be notified at the same time that we are," Geake said. "I don't know why they haven't been." As Voltaix sought permission to build in the [Portland Industrial Park](#), Wilkinson, the vice president, told Upper Mount Bethel supervisors "there would have to be a sequence of failures on several levels" to cause a fire or explosion. A fire and explosion injured one person in 2008 at the company's headquarters in Branchburg Township, N.J. Upper Mount Bethel's emergency management coordinator and local fire chiefs sit in on safety debriefing at the 103 Demi Road plant at least once a month, Geake said, and he is eager to find out from the coordinator what caused Monday's explosion. "I want to try to figure out what it is that keeps going wrong there," Geake said.

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/breaking-news/index.ssf/2014/01/voltaix_explosion_raises_new_j.html



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GHANA, KWAHU SOUTH, KWAHU FODOA, JANUARY 17 2014. GAS TANKER BLAST KILLS FIVE MONTH OLD BABY, INJURES 28 INJURED OTHERS



The gas tanker accident

Twenty eight people sustained severe burns while a five month old baby died when a gas tanker with registration number GE 6376 13 exploded at Kwahu Fodoo in the Kwahu South District of the Eastern Region. Narrating the incident to Radio Ghana, the Municipal Fire Officer, Divisional Officer George Anim Frempong, said at about half past four in the morning, it was reported to their outfit that a gas tanker heading towards Kumasi had been involved in an accident near the New Faith Church at Fodoo. In a bid to prevent any calamity, fire officers rushed to the scene and later called for reinforcement from the Kwahu South District Fire Station. Mr Frempong said they later communicated to the people in the vicinity not to light any fire. In the process of preventing leakages, he said they heard an explosion about 500 metres away from where the gas tanker was. He said the explosion affected 37 houses outside the vicinity. At the Holy Family Hospital at Nkawkaw where the victims were rushed,

the Director of Health Services, Julia Nimo, said they received 20 victims at about 6:10 am, out of which 13 were so critical that they were transferred to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi while the rest were admitted at the Holy Family Hospital. The Eastern Regional Minister, Helen Ntoso, together with the Kwahu-South District Chief Executive-Joseph Omari, the MP for Mpraeso-Seth Acheampong and NADMO officials among others visited the victims and the scene of the incident. Madam Ntoso said tents and other necessary items would be distributed to the victims. She wished the victims speedy recovery.

Related Stories

- [Five more die in Kwahu Fodoo gas explosion](#)
- [Gas tanker blast kills five month old baby, injures 28 injured others](#)
- [Fodoo gas explosion accident kills 5](#)

<http://gbcghana.com/index.php?id=1.1664387>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, JANUARY 17 2014. OIL SPILL SICKENS LA BREA PUPIL >> NO SCHOOL FOR ISRAEL UNTIL RASH CLEARS

carolyn kissoon

Five-year-old Israel Regis was unable to attend school since the new term started last Monday as his body is covered with patches of red spots. His mother, Tenesha Modeste, said her son also suffered a high fever and swelling in the throat. The symptoms, she said, began after the massive oil spill came ashore at Coffee Beach, La Brea, on December 18. "My son went to school last week and the teachers saw how he was uncomfortable. They told him to stay at home until the itching stopped. Now, he has to miss out school until whenever this thing goes away," Modeste said. Her one-year-old niece, Anastasia Modeste, was also treated for an allergic reaction. "People feel everything is okay here because they cleaning up the oil. But nobody really paying any kind of attention to us. I went to the medical facility Petrotrin has here but they give us a medicine that not working. I had to go and buy my child's medication," she said. Modeste said her son will visit a dermatologist this morning. "The Petrotrin man here tell me to bring back the medical report for him," she said. Modeste was among several people in La Brea yesterday who complained of medical problems, arising out of the oil slick at Coffee Beach where about 20 families live. Sharon Alleyne, another resident, said she also suffered an allergic reaction. "They giving us food and jobs and we are thankful, but we are not satisfied with the medical treatment," she said. Mother of three Melissa Joseph moved out of the area after she fell ill last month. Joseph was treated at the Point Fortin District Hospital for a lung infection. She was discharged last Thursday. Joseph said she was advised by doctors not to return to the community until the oil spill is properly cleaned. She is staying with relatives in Claxton Bay. Petrotrin has established a makeshift medical centre at the La Brea Community Centre to treat affected residents. Petrotrin president Khalid Hassanali said on Monday that more than 200 residents have visited the facility. Hassanali said an ambulance was also stationed in the community for emergency cases.

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/No-school-for-Israel--until-rash-clears-240380701.html>



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CANADA, N.S, TRURO, JANUARY 17 2014. OIL TRUCK FIRE CLOSES HIGHWAY 102 AT MILLBROOK

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Residents Return Home Following Fuel Truck Fire Near Truro](#)
- [Fuel Truck Fire Shuts Down Highway Between Truro, Halifax](#)

 **Photo's [6]** [Residents Return Home Following Fuel Truck Fire Near Truro](#)



An oil truck fire in Millbrook near Truro closed the 102 Jan. 15.

Police are evacuating an area near the Truro Power Centre after an Esso fuel truck caught fire while travelling in the northbound lane of Highway 102 late in the afternoon Jan. 15. Several small explosions were heard, and thick, black smoke filled the air at the scene. Townsview Estates on Abenaki Road has been evacuated, along with businesses in the Truro Power Centre. Witnesses said a tire on the truck began smoking before the blaze occurred. The lone male occupant of the vehicle escaped unharmed. Both the northbound and southbound lanes of the highway between Exits 12 and 13 are now closed to traffic. The truck was carrying a large amount of diesel fuel, and RCMP say its is concerned with the amount of fuel on the truck. Local fire departments are fighting the fire and assistance is being provided by Transportation Infrastructure and Renewal and the Department of Environment. Colchester Detachment RCMP members are investigating the fire, which was reported at 5:09 p.m. Due to the potential for explosions, the public is requested to stay away from the area.

<http://www.kingscountynews.ca/News/Regional/2014-01-15/article-3578013/Oil-truck-fire-closes-Highway-102-at-Millbrook/1>

USA, FLA, FORT PIERCE. JANUARY 17 2014. PACKERS OF INDIAN RIVER: 13 HOSPITALIZED AFTER CHEMICALS WERE MIXED INCORRECTLY, OFFICIALS SAID

 **Watch the Video** [13 Hospitalized After Chemicals Mixed Incorrectly](#)



13 hospitalized after chemicals were mixed incorrectly at Packers of Indian River in Fort Pierce.

St. Lucie County Fire District Hazmat crews are on the scene of chemical emergency at a Midway Road business. A report came in at 2:13 p.m. of at least four people at Packers of Indian River at 5700 W. Midway Road in Fort Pierce having difficulty breathing and feeling nauseous, district spokeswoman Catherine Chaney said. Fire investigators later determined that chemicals were mixed incorrectly. The building, with about 75 people, was evacuated at 2:15 p.m. 13 people were taken to the hospital for observation. Firefighters think they may have inhaled chlorine, Chaney said. The chemical has been confined.

http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/region_st_lucie_county/packers-of-indian-river-possible-chemical-spill-at-midway-road-business

NIGERIA, LAGOS, JANUARY 17 2014. KIRIKIRI TANKER FIRE - TANK FARMS MUST REMAIN IN APAPA - UNION

Mr Enoch Kanawa, Executive Secretary, Jetty Owners and Petroleum Tank Farm Owners Association of Nigeria, says it will be difficult to relocate tank farms from Apapa. Kanawa told journalists on Thursday in Lagos that recent calls by some Nigerians for relocation of tank farms were uncalled for. According to him, globally, tank farms are located close to the ports because of their closeness to the sea. "Besides, it is cost effective. "Tank farm or tanker accident happens anywhere in the world and Nigeria's case should not be different. "The Jan. 7 incident in which a tanker laden with fuel fell at Olodi-Apapa did not occur inside a tank farm, but within the area. "Accident can also happen when a tanker is discharging fuel in a filling station. Will anybody call for relocation of the filling station because of such a mishap," Kanawa said. He said that one or two occurrences were not enough to call for the relocation of tank farms because it cost billions of naira to build one. Kanawa said that all stakeholders, including the Federal and State Governments should ensure that all the roads were safe. NAN recalled



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that a tanker, laden with 33, 000 litres of fuel from a tank farm in Apapa, fell at Olodi-Apapa which caused a fire. Scores of people were reportedly killed, while vehicles and properties, including a bank, were affected by the fire.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201401161472.html>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JANUARY 18 2014. NEW TESTING FINDS CONTAMINATION IN NORTH TEXAS WATER SPREADING; SCIENTISTS POINT TO DRILLER

ramit plushnick-masti

Texas' oil and gas regulator has opened a new investigation into allegations that methane is contaminating North Texas water after residents complained that independent sampling by university researchers revealed high levels of the explosive gas in their residential wells, the state agency and scientists said. Further analysis by another independent scientist, Geoffrey Thyne, of testing done by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) and natural gas company Range Resources indicates the contamination is spreading to more wells and the levels are increasing in some cases. Thyne said his preliminary analysis strengthens his belief that the contamination originates at wells drilled by Fort Worth-based Range. "The leak continues and it's spreading," Thyne told The Associated Press. "I can say, based on the current data, there are at least two other wells that show the same source ... which is the Range well." The Texas Railroad Commission, the state agency that oversees oil and gas drilling, opened its new investigation in August, spokeswoman Ramona Nye said in an email. Additional information will be released when the investigation is complete, possibly in February, she said. Range Resources has no evidence the gas in the water and the gas it is producing is the same, company spokesman Matt Pitzarella said in an email. The gas in the water is naturally occurring, as sometimes happens. Range's tests do not find dangerous levels of methane in the water, but the company encourages all homeowners to vent their wells. However, Thyne and [Duke University](#) scientist Rob Jackson say they have seen dangerous levels of methane. The findings are likely different because the oil and gas industry typically uses a different sampling method, Thyne said. Thyne's study includes isotopic analysis. This fingerprint-type analysis allowed him to review the unique chemical makeup of the gas found in the water wells and compare it to the gas Range Resources is producing and methane in a rock formation called the Strawn, which is where Range says the gas contaminating the water originated. Thyne had already reviewed some data for the EPA after it opened its investigation in 2010, but in recent months he did a more thorough analysis. Now, after a preliminary review, Thyne said he is more convinced the gas in at least three of the water wells originates in the Barnett shale — the rock layer from which Range Resources is extracting gas — and is identical to what is found in the company's well bore. At first glance, it may appear that the gas in the Strawn and Barnett layers are indistinguishable "but in fact, people are able to notice subtle differences," Thyne said. The case began in 2010 when homeowner Steve Lipsky, who lives in an upscale subdivision in Weatherford about 60 miles west of Dallas, complained to the Railroad Commission that his water was bubbling. The agency found methane in Lipsky's water. Lipsky, afraid his family could be in danger and that the Railroad Commission was not working fast enough, contacted the EPA. Methane can be explosive if it builds up in a confined space and has an ignition source. The EPA ruled the gas in Lipsky's water was likely coming from Range Resources' well site in a wooded area about a mile from the family's home. The company used hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" — a method of pumping millions of gallons of chemical-laced water into the ground to break up hard rock — to drill the two wells that were later sold to Legend Natural Gas. The EPA issued a rare emergency order in late 2010 demanding that Range Resources resolve the problem and supply Lipsky's family with water. But in March 2011 the Railroad Commission ruled Range Resources was not to blame. Range agreed, and refused to comply with the EPA's order, which landed the company in court. Range settled in March 2012 and the EPA withdrew its order. The company agreed to conduct testing for a year. Later, at the insistence of Republican congressmen who accused the EPA of needlessly going after the gas driller, the agency conducted an internal review. That investigation sided with the EPA's initial actions, and the Office of Inspector General in a report released Dec. 24 asked for additional measures to ensure there is no risk. The EPA has shared Range Resources' test results with the Railroad Commission but "no immediate next steps" are planned, said David Bloomgren, an EPA spokesman in Dallas, in an email. Officials from the two agencies met this week, Nye of the Railroad Commission said. Jackson, the Duke University professor, also specializes in isotopic analysis. He declined to share his study — funded by Duke and the National Science Foundation — until it is peer-reviewed and published, but some homeowners shared test results with the AP. Jackson found higher levels of methane in some water wells — sometimes five to 10 times higher — than what Range Resources' tests showed. In some cases, the levels are five times higher than the 10 parts per million per liter set as a threshold limit by the U.S. Geological Survey. "We're seeing high methane concentrations and that result alone indicates to me that EPA closing the case was premature," Jackson told the AP. Range Resources declined to comment on Jackson's findings, saying he has not shared the results. Elizabeth Struhs, whose property abuts Lipsky's, fears



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her family is in danger. Jackson's samples found 17 parts per million of methane per liter of water in her well, while Range Resources said its tests did not detect any hazardous methane level. "We had good water before they came here and we should have good water now," Struhs said.

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/f866144f00704a30af32e2a3e35bc029/TX--Gas-Drilling-Water-Contamination/#.Utpqgti4bX4>

USA, MT, BELGRADE, JANUARY 17 2014. CASE GOING TO TRIAL FOR EX-MANAGER SUIT AGAINST CPS >> CROP PRODUCTION SERVICES ELEVATOR

michael tucker



The Crop Production Services building is shown. A former manager is suing the company wrongful termination.

A Gallatin County District Court judge ruled Monday that a lawsuit filed by a former Crop Production Services employee who claims he was wrongfully terminated in May 2011 will go to trial. Jim Heys filed a lawsuit against CPS in April 2012. In the suit, Heys said he was fired after he instructed employees to dispose of 500 pounds of ammonium nitrate that leaked out of the building on April 26, 2011. The fertilizer was "sloppy and unusable," the suit states. Heys instructed his employees to clean up the ammonium nitrate by scooping it up and placing it in recycled alfalfa seed bags and putting it in a lockable dumpster. On May 6, 2011, Heys was fired. CPS said Heys violated the company's Ammonium Nitrate Security Plan. "Mr. Heys' employment was terminated for violation of company work/safety rules, i.e. improper disposal of ammonium nitrate," CPS said in court documents. "Specifically, Mr. Heys directed employees to put approximately 500 pounds of loose ammonium nitrate in used bags and throw them away in an open, unsecured trash can." In subsequent court documents, Heys claims that for the 36 years he worked for CPS, he was never warned not to place waste fertilizer in a dumpster. He said it was common practice among CPS employees. Heys also said nothing in the Ammonium Nitrate Security Plan dealt with the proper disposal of an unusable product. Court documents state that Heys was not in favor of CPS' corporate decision to stop carrying ammonium nitrate. Heys believed his stance on the product may have played into his termination. Ammonium nitrate is a volatile fertilizer that caused a massive fertilizer plant in Texas to explode in April 2013. Scientists and fertilizer suppliers say that without an additive, ammonium nitrate isn't explosive. In addition to the ammonium

nitrate cleanup, Heys also suspected he was fired so CPS could replace a high salary employee with a cheaper, younger employee. Heys was hired by CPS in 1974. He was promoted to plant manager in Dec. 1982, a position he held until he was fired in 2011. He was 62 years old. After filing his lawsuit a year later, Heys' case has been dragging through the court system. On Jan. 6, District Court Judge Holly Brown denied CPS' request for summary judgment, which would have stopped the case from going to trial. In her decision, Brown wrote that there are "genuine issues of material fact regarding whether CPS had good cause to fire Mr. Heys." Brown said it will be up to a jury to determine whether CPS had an "honest reason" for firing Heys. William Mattix, the attorney for CPS, said he hasn't spoken with his client since the ruling. He would not comment about whether CPS will reach a settlement with Heys before the case goes to trial. Heys' lawyer said Thursday he will not comment on pending litigation. A date has not been set for the trial.

http://www.belgrade-news.com/news/article_cfd5637c-7f11-11e3-9e1b-0019bb2963f4.html

CANADA, P.E.I. CHARLOTTETOWN, JANUARY 18 2014. LOOMING OIL TANK EXPIRY WORRIES SENIORS, SAYS MLA

The need to replace heating oil tanks under new regulations on P.E.I. is causing concerns for seniors and other people on fixed incomes, says independent MLA Olive Crane. Without a valid tag on heating oil tanks, homeowners can be refused delivery and have their insurance cancelled. (CP) Two years ago the P.E.I. government started phasing out metal tanks, and introduced new rules that require existing tanks be replaced as early as 15 years from the date of manufacture. All tanks on



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P.E.I. carry inspection tags, and the tags on about 3,500 oil tanks will expire this year. Crane said some Islanders can't afford replacement tanks, which can cost \$2,000 or more. "What I'm suggesting is if government gave some dollars to the seniors' federation, and they hire an inspector that's qualified that could go out and check over these tanks," she said. "If it's in good working order, extend the life of the tag so that people could get their insurance, and so they can get oil delivered." Without a valid tag homeowners can be refused oil deliveries and have their home insurance cancelled. William Comeau of Fort Augustus said he has to replace his tank this year. It's 15 years old and located in his basement. He said it hasn't weathered like it would have if it was located outside. He said a replacement will cost him at least \$2,000, something he and his wife can't afford, relying on their old-age pensions. "You know we're trying to survive here, we're seniors, I'm 72 years old." He said he hopes to be able to pay for a new tank in installments. "We'll buy a tank. We got no choice here, unless we want to freeze to death."

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/looming-oil-tank-expiry-worries-seniors-says-mla-1.2500768>

USA, N.C, ASHEVILLE, JANUARY 18 2014. TANKER CRASH SPILLS FUEL



A fuel tanker overturned on Connestee Road around 11 a.m. Friday and spilling about 100 gallons of fuel into the ground. Firefighters say the tanker belonged to Henderson Oil Company and was driven by 59-year-old Billy Jones. Troopers say Jones told them he lost control of his brakes and went off the road. They have not charged Jones at this time. Firefighters say the damage to nearby homeowners should be minimal. "We probably had 50-100 gallons on the ground that we was able to catch, very little in the ground so far. I think we've got leak contained, once company comes in they can take top layer of soil off and do a test but I think we're in pretty good shape," said Connestee Fire Rescue Chief Keith Owen. Jones was transported to Transylvania Hospital and then airlifted to

Mission Hospital. No word on his condition at this time.

http://www.wlos.com/shared/news/features/top-stories/stories/wlos_breaking-tanker-crash-14792.shtml

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON, JANUARY 18 2014. FREEDOM INDUSTRIES FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY AFTER SPILL

gary strauss

Key Points:

- Chemical spill on Elk River affected 300,000 West Virginians
- Company, ordered closed last week, declines comment



A worker moves a drilling machine around storage tanks at Freedom Industries storage facility on Monday in Charleston, W. Va.

Freedom Industries, the chemical company behind the toxic leak that tainted West Virginia's Elk River and forced 300,000 state residents and businesses to go without water for several days, filed for bankruptcy protection Friday. The Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing will allow the company — facing at least two dozen class-action lawsuits and several state and federal probes — to reorganize and continue operating under federal law. Freedom, which was ordered shut down last week by state officials, declined comment Friday. A 35,000-gallon storage tank operated by the company leaked thousands of gallons of the coal processing chemical 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM), into the Elk River on Jan. 9, affecting residences, businesses and schools in nine counties. MCHM can cause skin irritation, vomiting and diarrhea. Freedom owes \$3.66 million to

its top unsecured creditors, according to bankruptcy documents, The Charleston Gazette reported. The company has been in hunker-down mode since last Friday, when company co-founder Gary Southern gave a brief press conference, dodging questions about the company's monitoring and preventive measures in the 7,500-gallon spill. The company, initially launched in the mid-1980s, formed under a new entity in December when it merged with Etowah River Terminal, which operated the site, a former oil and gas terminal owned by Pennzoil-Quaker State. Other Freedom partners include chemical processor Poca Blending and Crete Technologies, a Delaware limited partnership, according to reports by The Charleston Gazette and The Wall Street Journal. The companies share many of the same executives, while Southern has ties to five Florida-based mining



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and chemical companies, the Journal reported. An inch-wide hole in the storage tank caused the leak. The bankruptcy filing states that while "facts surrounding the incident are subject to pending investigation by Freedom and various regulatory and other government authorities," the company says that a local water line break next to the storage tanks may have caused the ground underneath to freeze, causing a pierce in the bottom of the tank that leaked. Freedom said it owes \$3.66 million to its top 20 unsecured creditors, according to bankruptcy documents. Separately, the Internal Revenue Service says it's owed over \$2.4 million in taxes dating back to 2001. While the ban on using public water supplies has been lifted for most of the counties affected by the spill, some residents have been advised not to drink the water, and others have been told to boil water as a precaution. Bottled water is still being distributed in several areas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also recommends that pregnant women consume bottled water.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2014/01/17/freedom-industries-files-for-bankruptcy-following-last-weeks-chemical-spill/4587805/>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JANUARY 14 2014. TANKER TRUCK ACCIDENT CAUSES OIL SPILL IN NW HARRIS COUNTY



It's unclear how the accident happened but the overturned rig has spilled chemicals on the roadway.

A tanker truck accident sent oil all over a northwest Harris County roadway Friday morning. It happened on Wilson Road at Beltway 8 frontage road. The intersection is blocked due to the accident. A HazMat team is on the scene. TxDOT officials say the cleanup process is expected to take another five to six hours. There is no word of any injuries.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=9396869>

USA, N.Y, MONROE CO, JANUARY 18 2014. MISTAKE LEADS TO SPILL OF 200-PLUS GALLONS OF FUEL OIL

meaghan m. mcdermott,



A contractor's mistake burst a storage tank inside a county building at Northampton Park in late December, spilling more than 200 gallons of fuel oil into the basement, where some of it was pumped out to nearby Salmon Creek.

According to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, workers with Samson Fuel overpressurized the storage tank while making a delivery to 304 Salmon Creek Road on Dec. 27, causing about 240 gallons of the red-dyed oil to leak. The oil flowed into the crock for the sump pump, and from there was discharged into a drainage ditch near the seasonal-use building. Cleanup efforts began the following day, after citizens hiking on Salmon Creek Road noticed the smell and red fluid in the drainage ditch and contacted authorities. Samson Fuel owner Linda Fedele was ticketed by a DEC officer for not reporting the spill when it happened. According to DEC, it is likely a small amount of oil entered Salmon Creek, but none had accumulated downstream of the building. Larry

Staub, Monroe County parks director, said while contractors hired by Samson Fuels to remediate the fuel oil spill were working in the basement, they discovered a second area of contamination near what he called a "slop sink." That contamination — likely mineral spirits or another petroleum product — was uncovered while workers were drilling holes through the cellar floor to flush out the fuel oil, he said. Monroe County workers have not used those particular products in more than a decade, and Staub said it was impossible to guess when that spill may have happened. Nonetheless, the county enlisted Day Engineering to come up with a remediation plan. As far as the fuel oil, most of that spill already has been cleaned via a mix of absorbent booms used to skim the oil off surface water in the drainage ditch, flushing and vacuuming under the basement floor and filtering the groundwater before discharging it through the sump pump to a holding tank. According to the DEC, the cleanup was completed on Wednesday. However, Staub said the groundwater will continue to be discharged into the holding tank for the time being because it is also helping to clear pollutants from the mineral spirits spill. He said Samson Fuels has been very cooperative and is paying for all cleanup of the fuel oil spill, and that the work for the second spill is being done in-house at



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minimal cost. The 973-acre Northampton Park straddles the Ogden-Sweden town lines. It was the source of controversy over the summer when the County Legislature agreed to allow Monroe County Fair and Recreation Association, a private organization, to construct buildings on and use 25 acres of the park 10 days a year. The move prompted a lawsuit by residents, which was dismissed.

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/local/2014/01/17/mistake-leads-to-spill-of-200-plus-gallons-of-fuel-oil-/4593665/>

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, JANUARY 18 2014. OIL TANKER SLAMS INTO PAYATAS JUNK SHOP, 2 HURT

robert mano

 **Watch the Video** [Tanker Truck Filled with Gasoline Flips Over in Payatas](#)



At least two people were injured after an oil tanker turned on its side along Payatas Road in Quezon City Friday afternoon. Speaking to radio dzMM, Supt. Jesus Fernandez of the Quezon City Fire Department said the oil tanker lost its brakes, causing it to turn on its side and slam into a junk shop along the road. Two people were hurt in the incident. They were identified as Regie Dumaraog, porter of the truck, and Milet Dumanyer, resident of Payatas Road. The 10-wheeler delivery truck of Jeaffer gasoline station, owned by Ferdinand Isidro, was carrying around 2,000 liters of kerosene and 12,000 liters of gasoline. Authorities have already cordoned the area after oil started to leak from the truck.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/metro-manila/01/17/14/oil-tanker-slams-payatas-junk-shop-2-hurt>

USA, DE, WILMINGTON, JANUARY 18 2014. EPA TRIES TO MAP A TOXIC LEGACY IN DELAWARE

 **Key Points:**

- Chemical plant filed for bankruptcy in 2002
- U.S. Geological Survey assisting with mapping of threats to aquifer
- Many chemicals produced at plant are carcinogenic



EPA contract workers prepare to extract soil samples near the Metachem Superfund site.

Cleanup at the Metachem Superfund site has cost taxpayers \$100 million so far, with no end in sight. Snow flurries rode a faint chemical breeze across Red Lion Creek marsh near Delaware City on Thursday as Environmental Protection Agency contractors maneuvered a sediment probe across cold muck and crackling reeds. The labor, science and mothball-like aromas were legacies of the Standard Chlorine/Metachem debacle, a 2002 chemical plant bankruptcy that followed years of spills, loose regulation and illegal operations that left state and federal taxpayers with a cleanup bill last estimated at \$100 million. It is a number that could push higher, even after a dozen years of government control and study, as efforts to locate and measure contamination and nail down new cleanup and containment strategies for soil and groundwater continue. A separate agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, is assisting, while also mapping threats to a deep aquifer, the Potomac, used for public utility drinking water wells to the north and south. "It's a highly complex site. I think all Superfund sites are, but this, given the nature of the contamination we have and the volume of contamination, has been complex from day one," said Brad White, the EPA's remedial project manager. David Carter, conservation chairman for Delaware Audubon Society, said the costly exercise proved the value of Delaware's ban on new heavy industry in the Coastal Zone, and the public stakes in discussions about stretching or amending the conservation law for jobs and economic development. "The brutal reality is that we do not currently have the technology, knowledge, and/or financial resources to adequately clean up this toxic industrial site," Carter said. "Under such circumstances, the proposed cures may come at risk of being worse than the damage done." White said Thursday that the EPA is wrapping up weeks of sediment sampling, at 80 different spots near the creek, to help scientists figure out what, if any, method to use for decontaminating about 30 acres of wetlands and adjacent areas where chlorinated benzenes spilled into the landscape. Toxic chlorinated benzenes, dioxins and poly-chlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs have been found in sediments to a



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depth of about 24 feet, and in groundwater nearby at depths of 150 feet or more. Even in wetlands hundreds of yards from former production and storage areas, workers are required to wear protective suits and, in some conditions, air-filtering masks. For decades, the factory produced chemicals used to make herbicides and pesticides, in some cases stockpiling wastes and fending off safe disposal orders with promises of recycling. Although owners were under orders for years to finance cleanup and containment studies, federal officials after the bankruptcy described the work as superficial or incomplete, leaving taxpayers to undercover the depth of the problems. Many of the chemicals used and produced at the plant are carcinogenic and long-lived, with a tendency to accumulate in plant and animal tissues. Federal regulators in recent years reassessed and tightened public health and exposure standards for some of the site's more-common contaminants, ratcheting up risk calculations. State officials cannot say for certain what materials moved in and out of the plant over the years. Some of the operations inventories were byproducts imported from older and more loosely regulated pesticide manufacturing processes in Europe, or were recycled from solvents used by businesses that cleaned PCBs from electrical transformers. For a time, the plant's byproducts were shipped to another company for use in making Agent Orange, the toxic herbicide that earned notoriety in Vietnam. "The goal of this event is to fill in data gaps, both vertically and areally, for places where we don't have a lot of information," White said. "Hopefully, this is one of our last characterization events. Over the next year we'll be combing through the data and hopefully sometime in 2015 we'll have a better idea on the final remedial strategy out here." On Thursday morning, a tank-like crawler built in Louisiana and specially leased for the Red Lion Creek work, lumbered along the wetland edge. Workers on top, wearing protective suits, peered at a hand-held global positioning system to find the right spot, then positioned sections of pipe and rattled them into the sediment, part of the chore of pulling up long tubes of sediment for analysis. "Our goal is to look at: 'Where is the contamination, what is the risk to human health and the environment and what will it take to clean it up,'" White said. Options for the wetlands range from letting nature take its course to installation of big ground filters containing chemical-eating bacteria, to digging out and treating sediments in complex "bio-reactors." A last resort: excavation and disposal. Nearby, in the concrete slab-strewn area that marks Metachem's former production area, officials are waiting for federal appropriations to carry out another option: entombment. As much as \$19 million would be needed to permanently seal ground where chemicals have soaked down to depths of 70 feet and more, leaving no hope for even an expensive recovery. EPA is still waiting for money to begin the capping project. "I didn't want to start crushing concrete pads out here because I'm not sure what's underneath them," White said. "That's all material that will be under the cap, and I didn't want to make matters worse" by disturbing contamination ahead of time. A 3-foot wide, 70-foot deep, 1-mile in circumference buried wall surrounds the entire production area, underlain by a "pump and treat" well system capturing toxic groundwater from the worst part of the site year-round. Delaware City Manager and former state representative Richard Cathcart said that his community is watching the process closely. "It's not an immediate problem for us, but it is a concern," Cathcart said. "We're interested in anything that's going on in the aquifer. They're more shallow than ours, but we're keeping abreast of it. There's still always the concern that it could damage our aquifer."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/01/16/epa-toxic-metachem-superfund/4553595/>

INDIA, GUJARAT, SURAT, JANUARY 18 2014. BLAST IN SILVASSA UNIT KILLS FOUR WORKERS

Four persons were charred to death and four received serious burn injuries in a blast at a polythene plastic product factory at Arihant industrial estate in the Union Territory (UT) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli on Friday. The industrial estate located on Damni road in Dadra woke up to a huge blast and fire in [Vison Polypack Private Limited](#), a unit manufacturing polythene plastic products, including polythene bags of various sizes and shapes, police said. At the time of the incident, the workers from the night shift handed over the charge to those in the morning shift. There were around 20 workers inside the factory premises when the blast took place. Three deceased were so far identified. They were Dipak Sawant, Subhash Sawant, Narayan Parab. They hailed from Maharashtra. The identity of one deceased could not be established as yet. Two workers sustained 90 per cent injuries and the other two had 70 per cent burn, police added. At least five fire tenders from Silvassa and Vapi were rushed to the spot. It took more than two hours for the fire personnel to control the huge fire. The mamlatdar of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, officials of labour department, industrial safety department and [DNH administration](#) rushed to the spot. CM Rohit, fire officer, DNH, said, "We recovered four badly charred bodies. The four workers who were seriously injured have been shifted to [Vinoba Bhawe Civil Hospital](#). All other workers in the factory were rescued safely." Rohit added, "Though the exact cause of blast is yet to be ascertained, primary investigation suggests that it might have occurred during the mixing of the chemicals for the manufacturing of polythene bags. The exact cause will be known after the FSL officials finish their investigation."

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/Blast-in-Silvassa-unit-kills-four-workers/articleshow/28978684.cms>



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