



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,051 Newsy Stuff

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

**March 13 2014**



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### USA, WASHINGTON, MARCH 2 2014. GOVERNMENT STRADDLES BOTH SIDES IN TOXIC WATER CASES >> OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFERS HEALTH CARE TO VETERANS INJURED BY WATER CONTAMINATION AT MARINE BASE, BUT IT WANTS TO BLOCK THEIR LEGAL CLAIMS

richard wolf



*A sign cautions visitors outside a water-treatment plant at the Marine base at Camp Lejeune, N.C., last year.*

#### Story Highlights

- Justice Department has argued that the clock has run out for the benefits claims
- Lawsuits generally involve "enormous financial stakes %u2014 typically in the millions of dollars"
- Contaminated water could cause liver and kidney damage, heart ailments and cancer.

President Obama signed a law in 2012 offering health benefits to thousands of former Marines and their families who were exposed decades ago to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. But in a related case headed to the Supreme Court in April that could bolster or block their claims for damages, Obama's Justice Department has argued that the clock has run out. The little-noticed case could have profound implications for victims of hidden contamination at Camp Lejeune and other former industrial sites in states that set deadlines on damage claims. Those lawsuits generally involve "enormous financial stakes — typically in the millions of dollars," according to a petition filed by the electronics manufacturer at the center of the high court case. It also puts the Obama administration in the awkward position of opposing environmental cleanup and help for veterans — two issues that have been among the president's top priorities. The focus of both the Supreme Court case involving property damage and health risks, and the more serious Camp Lejeune claims of deaths and serious illnesses from toxic water supplies, is a fundamental issue: How soon must victims cry foul? North Carolina, home to both conflicts, has a 10-year "statute of repose" after which claims are deemed moot. Unlike a statute of limitations, which usually begins when an injury is recognized, the clock ticks from the date of the final contamination — even if residents remain unaware until decades later. A provision in the federal Superfund law passed in 1980 was intended to help victims by giving them two years to file claims from the date they discover the cause of their injuries. Landowners who unknowingly bought contaminated property in Asheville, N.C. — the issue in the Supreme Court case — and veterans who lived and raised families at Camp Lejeune 400 miles away both discovered contamination decades later. The Justice Department, which declined to comment on the case while it is pending, has contended that the state's 10-year deadline precludes the lawsuits. "The United States has a substantial interest in the proper resolution of this question," the government said in its August 2012 federal appeals court brief in CTS Corp. v. Waldburger. It specifically noted that the Camp Lejeune claims rest on the same issue. "The fact that some plaintiffs will be unaware of their claims until after the statute of repose expires is an inherent feature of statutes of repose," the government argued. Exposing polluters to greater liability could discourage voluntary disclosure and cleanup, it said, as well as pose a burden to industry. The appeals court wasn't convinced. It sided with the 23 landowners seeking damages and remediation because their land had been contaminated with toxic chemicals from 1959 to 1985, when CTS Corp. ran an electronics manufacturing plant in Asheville. It wasn't until 2009 that landowners learned their water could cause liver and kidney damage, heart ailments and cancer. "Our decision here will likely raise the ire of corporations and other entities that wish to rest in the security of statutes of repose, free from the threat of being called to account for their contaminating acts," the panel said in a divided 2-1 ruling. Congress' intent in passing Superfund legislation, it said, was that "victims of toxic waste not be hindered in their attempts to hold accountable those who have strewn such waste on their land."

#### Marine's Crusade Continues

How the Supreme Court handles the Waldburger case will affect Camp Lejeune claimants, and potentially others, who get caught in the no-man's land between state legal deadlines and federal Superfund laws. One clock ticks forward from the polluter's last act, the other from the victim's discovery. The last wells contaminated with industrial solvents such as trichloroethylene (TCE), benzene and other chemicals at the Marine Corps base came on line in 1985. Under North Carolina law, that means claims must have been filed by 1995. But no one knew of the danger until 1997. Jerry Ensminger, a 24-year Marine veteran, was among the first to take notice. His daughter Janey was 9 when she died of a rare form of leukemia in 1985. She had been conceived at the base during her father's time there. In recent years, health and environmental studies



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have classified TCE as a human carcinogen and linked it to kidney cancer, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, childhood cancers and other defects. Babies exposed during pregnancy have been found to be at greater risk of developing cancers or birth defects later in childhood. Ensminger's crusade to expose the Marine Corps he served was featured in a 2011 documentary, *Semper Fi: Always Faithful*. The following year, he stood beside Obama as the president signed the law — named after Janey Ensminger — offering health benefits to victims of the contamination. Obama noted that the law wouldn't help Janey or others who succumbed to their illnesses. But he said, "It will honor their memory by making a real difference for those who are still suffering." Through Nov. 11 of last year, 655 veterans had received treatment for one or more of the 15 illnesses or conditions covered under the law, according to Department of Veterans Affairs figures. To date, no family members have been helped. "That law is an admission by the government that they poisoned us," Ensminger says. Now he wants to see individual claims for damages by Camp Lejeune victims "go forward and be heard in an open courtroom."

### Camp Lejeune Claims Pending

Thirteen Camp Lejeune claims are combined in a case pending before the 11th Circuit federal appeals court in Georgia. The government is opposing those on the same grounds — that the time for claims to be filed has expired. The case was argued in January, but no decision is expected until after the Supreme Court rules in *Waldburger*. The high court's decision, expected by June, could affect not only the Camp Lejeune claims but any future cases involving military bases, scores of which are located near environmental Superfund sites. In a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder late last year, 23 environmental, health, veterans and related groups called the Justice Department's argument in the *Waldburger* case "particularly troubling" because it linked the potential result to the Camp Lejeune claims. If the government's argument prevails, they wrote, "landowners in Asheville and thousands more who have been unwittingly harmed in similar cases of contamination would be denied the justice they deserve." Mike Partain, who was born at the Marine base in 1968 and was diagnosed with male breast cancer seven years ago, puts it another way: "How many bullets do we have to take before we finally get our day in court?"

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/03/01/obama-environment-veterans-water-contamination-supreme-court/5426147/>

### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, MARCH 2 2014. AVIATION FUEL FOR MELBOURNE AIRPORT LEAKS FROM DAMAGED PIPELINE NEAR SUNSHINE RAILWAY STATION

*samantha landy*



*Aviation fuel leaked from a damaged pipeline near Sunshine rail station.*

Up to 4000 litres of aviation fuel has leaked from a damaged pipeline near railway lines in Melbourne's west. MFB Commander Frank Stockton said the spill - near the Sunshine railway station - occurred as workers were trying to transfer the fuel from an old pipeline to a new one being built alongside it. He said workers were now urgently trying to get fuel flowing through the pipe, which is a crucial fuel link to Melbourne Airport, a task he hoped would be achieved "within the next 24 hours". The fuel leak caused disruptions to a number of train services. It took about 30 MFB firefighters almost an hour to contain the leaked fuel by trapping it in a concrete-lined pit and blanketing it with foam. Mr Stockton said crews were

called to the site about 1.30pm on Sunday after a mishap at the work site caused between 1000 and 4000 litres to seep from the pipe. "They pressurised the pipeline with nitrogen to put the old product in the new pipeline," he said. "They overpressured it, and the fuel has escaped through the safety valve." Mr Stockton said train services through the area were stopped for about an hour, resuming when the site became safe about 2.30pm. Metro's Sunbury line was suspended between Sunshine and Watergardens, and two V-Line services running between Melbourne and Bendigo were partially replaced by emergency buses at Sunshine station. More than 100 passengers on the 1.36pm train to Bendigo were forced to wait more than an hour for coaches. V-Line spokesman Colin Tyrus said buses had been directed to Sunshine as quickly as possible. He said services returned to normal at 2.35pm. Firefighters remained at the scene into the afternoon, using an industrial vacuum truck to safely remove as much fuel as possible. But Mr Stockton said some of the product had seeped up to 10 metres into the ground. "That is subject to an environmental issue now, so we've handed over to the EPA," he said. Hazmat operators also attended the spill, using specialist equipment to monitor the fuel's flammability and toxicity levels, as well as weather reports and wind conditions. They were joined by Exxon Mobil staff, who provided expert advice on the product. Nearby residents were kept updated on the situation. Melbourne Airport spokeswoman Anna Gillett said the spill had no impact on its operations.

### Related Stories



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- [Between 1000-4000 Litres of Aviation Fuel has Leaked from a Pipeline in a Melbourne Suburb.](#)
- [Fuel leak in Melbourne suburb](#)
- [V/Line passengers left waiting](#)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/aviation-fuel-for-melbourne-airport-leaks-from-damaged-pipeline-near-sunshine-railway-station/story-fni0fit3-1226842977314>

### **SOUTH AFRICA, LIMPOPO, MOKOPANE, MARCH 2 2014. FIVE KILLED, THREE HURT IN N1 EXPLOSION NEAR MOKOPANE**

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [5 Killed, 3 Hurt in N1 Truck Explosion](#)
- [N1 Partially Opened after Mokopane Fatal Explosion](#)



Five people have been killed and three injured in an explosion on the N1 near Mokopane in Limpopo. Four of those killed were four police officers. They were attending to the scene of an accident after two trucks travelling in opposite directions crashed. Police spokesperson Hangweni Mulaudsi told eNCA the officers had been attending the scene when one of the trucks carrying explosives detonated. He said those who were injured were taken to the Polokwane Medi Clinic for treatment. They were said to be in a serious but stable condition. The N1 has been closed between Polokwane and Mokopane. In a statement released by the government Acting Government Communication and Information System CEO Phumla Williams said, "It's a sad day for

government and the people of the country to have lost men in the line of duty. Government offers its deepest condolences to the families and friends of the deceased. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. Government is confident that the South African Police Service will thoroughly investigate the incident." In a separate statement Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa also offered his condolences to the families of those who died. "We are deeply saddened about this tragic loss of lives of our members, who died whilst on duty. In their pursuit for safety, they served with dedication right until their untimely passing," read the statement. "Our hearts are filled with grief and sorrow because our nation, the South African Police Service and the people of Limpopo have been robbed of these dedicated members. On behalf of the police leadership, management and staff of the South African Police Service, I wish to convey our deepest condolences to the families." According to the statement Mthethwa was currently on route to Limpopo accompanied by the National Commissioner of Police, General Riah Phiyega. In addition, members of the Employee Health and Wellness team were also en route to the scene to offer the counselling to the families of the deceased.

<http://www.enca.com/south-africa/five-killed-n1-explosion-near-mokopane>

### **USA, FLA, TAMPA BAY, MARCH 2 2014. FOUR YEARS AFTER OIL SPILL, 1,250-POUND TAR MAT WASHES ASHORE IN FLORIDA**

*craig pittman*



Nearly four years after the Deepwater Horizon disaster, oil continues washing ashore in Florida. On Thursday, a crew from the state Department of Environmental Protection found a 1,250-pound tar mat in the surf off Pensacola Beach. The mat measured about 9 feet long and 9 feet wide, the DEP crew noted in a report. They dug up as much of the gooey mess as they could and contractors hauled it away. On Friday they excavated another 100 pounds. "What is remarkable about this area," noted DEP team members Dominic Marcanio and Joey Whibbs in their report, "is that this segment has been previously surveyed nine times" since last June, when the state and BP agreed

to discontinue daily beach surveys. The most oil that had ever been found in those nine prior checks amounted to about 32 pounds. However, they wrote, what had also turned up there before were "drift cards" set out by Texas A&M scientists to check where oil might go. The fact that the drift cards ended up there, and then a giant tar mat resembling congealed gravy, indicates "this may be a natural collection area" for other oil mats still drifting around in the Gulf of Mexico, they wrote. The glop turned up 20 feet offshore in water about 3 feet deep, according to BP spokesman Jason Ryan. "This is not new material,



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and it is heavily weathered and consists mainly of sand, silt and other non-oil materials," he said. Ryan contended the oil did not just wash in, but had been there all along and was recently uncovered by wave action. Because of its contact with the oil, the whole thing had to be handled as hazardous material. The location posed a bit of a problem for BP's contracted cleanup crews, according to Petty Officer Michael Anderson of the Coast Guard. BP's contractors aren't allowed to go out in the surf deeper than their knees, he explained. So DEP's two inspectors used their shovels to dig up the lumps of tar and carry them to shore, where the contractors could bag them up for disposal, he said. The Deepwater Horizon disaster began with a fiery explosion aboard an offshore drilling rig on April 20, 2010. It held the nation spellbound for months as BP struggled to stop the oil, finally succeeding in July 2010. Since then the spill has largely faded from national headlines. The oil is still there, though, to the consternation of beach residents such as Susan Forsyth. "If two guys can find this much oil," said Forsyth, who is also affiliated with the Surfrider Foundation, an environmental group, "how much more oil could they find if they had a lot more people out looking for it?"

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/water/four-years-after-oil-spill-1250-pound-tar-mat-washes-ashore-in-florida/2167938>

### INDIA, ANDHRA PRADESH, VISAKHAPATNAM, MARCH 3 2014. LEGAL METROLOGY SEIZES 50 PETROL PUMP NOZZLES

Sleuths of the enforcement wing of the legal metrology department raided several petrol outlets in the city during the weekend and seized 50 unauthorised nozzles used for filling petrol, according to MNS Madhuri, assistant controller of the department. The raids were conducted, as per the directions of state controller S Gopal Reddy, on outlets suspected to be indulging in fraudulent practices, Madhuri told mediapersons. As many as 24 nozzles were seized on Saturday during raids on a couple of petrol bunks. On Sunday, 26 nozzles were seized from one petrol outlet named Millennium at Siripuram Junction in the city. Millennium has 36 nozzles, of which 26 were seized on Sunday on the charges of not possessing an authorized model approval from the department concerned, Madhuri added. "The raids will continue till further instructions from Gopal Reddy," Madhuri told TOI. The department of legal metrology has been receiving complaints from the public about the fraudulent practices by petrol outlets. A senior metrology officer from Vizag pointed out that Gopal Reddy took the complaints seriously and ordered a special drive against the dispensing pumps. The department has appealed to the public to approach the department on 18604253333 if they suspect any fraudulent practice by petrol outlets, said the official quoting from a press statement sent out by Reddy. "On one hand, the government is increasing fuel prices and on the other hand the errant petrol outlets are cheating consumers by indulging in wrong practices," said MNA Patrudu from Ravindra Nagar. Patrudu urged the government to keep a constant vigil on such practices and take appropriate action against petrol bunks indulging in the fraud.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/Legal-metrology-seizes-50-petrol-pump-nozzles/articleshow/31301459.cms>

### USA, N.Y, HUDSON, MARCH 3 2014. GASOLINE SPILL FROM HESS STATION ENTERS SEWER LINES

john mason



Flushing the storm drain: Hudson firefighters flushed a storm drain at the intersection of Columbia and State Streets near 8th street to attempt to locate the source of a strong odor of gasoline Saturday evening.

Strong odors of gasoline that occupied Hudson's firefighters for several hours Saturday evening were eventually traced to a leaking, underground fill pipe at the Hess service station at Columbia and Green streets. The search began with a call about gasoline odors from 753 Columbia St., said Fire Chief Craig Haigh. Fumes were strong in the immediate area, and the entire fleet of fire trucks was deployed up and down Columbia between State and Frederick streets, and at 8th and Warren streets. We found three lines with heavy gas odors," Haigh said about 7:30 p.m. "We're flushing the lines with water to get them moving, then we'll check again." In addition to 753 Columbia St., there were also reports of

slight odors in 12 properties. "Any time there are gasoline vapors, you always have a risk," he said, adding that he was labeling it a heavy risk for the time being. Hudson Water Department Foreman Frank O'Neill was on the scene to advise the firefighters as to the locations of the sewer pipes. Haigh said the fire department was doing everything it could to reach out to the property owners in the neighborhood. At one point he was considering evacuating 8th Street, but the strong odors there



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dissipated. At about 9:30 p.m., Second Assistant Chief Anthony DeMarco said they were still flushing the lines and trying to track strong odors. Owners of nearby businesses, such as the Stoddard Corner Bookstore and Niver's, were being notified so they could open them up, check for odors and ventilate if need be. Asked what could cause this, Haigh said it could have been a car leaking gas parked over a drain, or someone pouring gas into the system. But at about 10:15 p.m., Haigh said the source of the leak had been discovered — a broken underground pipe at the Hess station. He said he was unsure how much fuel had leaked out, and was advising the state Department of Environmental Conservation. Columbia Street between State and Frederick was shut down for several hours. The Catskill Fire Department stood by at the Hudson central fire station, and the Greenport Fire Department stood by at their own stations. By 9:30 p.m., enough Hudson fire trucks had returned to service to allow Catskill and Greenport to go off standby.

[http://www.registerstar.com/news/article\\_f35d9414-a1b6-11e3-8af7-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.registerstar.com/news/article_f35d9414-a1b6-11e3-8af7-0019bb2963f4.html)

### USA, WASHINGTON, MARCH 3 2014. EPA SETS LOWER SULFUR LEVELS OF GASOLINE TO FIGHT SMOG

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing new rules on Monday which will reduce the current sulfur level in gasoline by two-thirds. The changes were made to fight smog emitted by automobiles which threatens public health. Major contributors of smog in the United States include chemical plants and oil refineries, utility plants, and mobile sources such as automobiles, trucks, trains, and airplanes. Mobile sources account for 21 percent of the total smog based on the agency's National Toxin Inventory. Researchers attribute the growing problem of smog on the number of automobiles in the country which has grown by 300 percent since the 1970s, [according to a report by the Stanford University](#). In fact, 60 percent of the pollution in California is from automobiles. The U.S government has been working to maintain air cleanliness thus passing the Clean Air Act in 1990 which listed 188 chemicals as hazardous air pollutants due to environmental and public health implications. One of these chemicals is Sulfur dioxide which when mixed with smog can be damaging to the health of both humans and animals. The EPA announced that they will be lowering the sulfur levels of gasoline 10 parts from the original 30 parts. Additionally, it will also set limits on tailpipe emissions. This is the most significant move to protect public health that the EPA will make this year," said Frank O'Donnell, president of Clean Air Watch, to [Chicago Tribune](#). "There is literally no more effective tool to fight smog. Every American will breathe easier because of these standards." Environmentalist groups are happy that the government is finally prioritizing public health over businesses that are against the sulfur reduction. Oil companies argued that it will increase their production costs because cleaner gasoline is more expensive to produce which can cause them approximately \$12 billion. It seems that the U.S government has taken queue from the air pollution happening in Beijing, China which has reached ["its most unbearable stage."](#) The World Health Organization (WHO) already [advised residents to lock indoors](#) to avoid catching respiratory diseases and the national government cramming to reduce coal use.

<http://www.hngn.com/articles/25584/20140301/epa-sets-lower-sulfur-levels-of-gasoline-to-fight-smog.htm>

### BANGLADESH, DHAKA, MARCH 3 2014. REFORMS SLOW IN BANGLADESH'S TOXIC TANNERIES



*AFP Reforms slow in Bangladesh's toxic tanneries.*

Standing knee deep in toxic chemicals, Mokter Hossain loads animal hides into huge drums filled with still more dangerous liquids at a tannery in the Bangladesh capital. Barefoot and sick with fever, Hossain stops every now and then to cough, a legacy of the job that his doctors warn could one day kill him. "Some days I am too ill to work," said Hossain, 25, who has spent years inhaling fumes from the hexavalent chromium and other chemicals used to turn the raw hides into soft leather. "I take medicine to control my skin diseases. If I don't, it gets worse," Hossain adds, gesturing to his arms and legs which are covered in rashes and black spots. Hossain's tannery is one of 200 in Hazaribagh in Dhaka, where some 25,000 workers toil for as little as \$50 a month to produce leather for shoes and

other goods for stores in Europe and the United States. Ten months ago, Western retailers were forced into action after a garment factory complex collapsed killing 1,135 people, one of a string of tragedies that have shone a global spotlight on that sector's shocking labour and safety conditions. But there are few signs of reform at Bangladesh's leather industry, where conditions are equally atrocious and business is booming thanks to the West's growing demand for cheap leather items. Top local activist Rizwana Hasan blames a lack of headline grabbing disasters in the industry that could make consumers think twice about where their shoes and bags are made. "In these tanneries, death comes slowly," said Hasan, referring to respiratory problems, cancers, skin diseases and other illnesses that doctors blame on long hours and few safety precautions.



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"(So) while Bangladesh garment disasters make headlines across the world, the even more terrible conditions at the tanneries don't." "These tanneries remind us of factories in the 19th century," she added. An AFP reporter recently saw children as young as 14 working inside one tannery, whose floor was awash with chromium effluent and where cow and goat skins caked in salt were stacked in piles. Activists are also frustrated by murky supply chains in Hazaribagh that make it difficult to link specific tanneries to individual top Western retailers, and possibly shame them into action.

### **Waste dumped in river**

In Hazaribagh, the environmental and public health costs of the growing industry are on full display. Every day, the tanneries collectively dump 22,000 cubic litres of toxic waste, including cancer-causing chromium, into the Buriganga -- Dhaka's main river and a key water supply -- according to the environment ministry. Nearly 200,000 people live in Hazaribagh including on the banks of the Buriganga, recently voted one of the world's most contaminated rivers by a New York-based environmental group. The area, once a pleasant, semi-rural district, has been transformed into a patchwork of toxic swamps, garbage landfills and mountains of decomposing leather scraps. Dozens of small recycling plants burn the scraps to produce fish and poultry feed -- a flourishing offshoot of the industry. Black smoke covers the sky and there is a stench in the air. "It is worse than hell. But we don't have any choice," said Munia, 19, who uses one name, adding that she has developed breathing problems from her job at one of the recycling plants. Activist Hasan has been embroiled in a long legal battle to get the tanneries relocated outside of Dhaka and equipped with waste treatment plants. She blames close links between government and powerful owners of the tanneries, a vital source of employment, for the lack of action. "The department of environment, the department of labour inspectors hardly make any inspection there. The reasons could be political as the government doesn't want to upset the business community." The government concedes tanneries are breaking environmental laws, but favours persuading, rather than forcing them, to improve, while debate drags on about who would bear the cost of any move. "The tanners do not want to relocate, they want to stay here. They make excuses so that the relocation is delayed," Munir Chowdhury, a former director at the department of environment, told AFP.

### **Business booming**

As the stalemate continues, business booms in Hazaribagh thanks to growing global demand for leather and hiked manufacturing costs in China that have been driving Western buyers to Bangladesh. Leather and leather goods, including shoes, are the impoverished country's fastest growing exports, and combined shipments grew 35 percent in the last half of the financial year ending December, compared to the same period last year, export bureau figures show. "Both the Western buyers and the tanners are addicted to Hazaribagh's cheap labour and lax environmental enforcement standards. It won't go away unless we have pressure from all sides," said Hasan. But there are signs of improvements in the industry where some tanneries, at least, have shunned the lowest-cost formula. Apex Adelchi, which supplies to retailers such as Macy's in the United States, and UK-based Jones Bootmaker which owns Clarks, have set up environmental-friendly tanneries to woo high-end chains. "We are seeing much higher levels of consciousness and awareness (from foreign buyers) in terms of environmental compliance," said Apex's chief executive Nasim Manzur. He said it was in Bangladesh's "long-term interest to improve working standards and environmental standards" despite the extra costs for tanneries and buyers that reforms would bring.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/business/world/a/21780324/reforms-slow-in-bangladeshs-toxic-tanneries/>

### **NEW ZEALAND, CHRISTCHURCH, MARCH 3 2014. CHEMICAL SPILL IN CHRISTCHURCH**

Four people have been transported to hospital after a chemical spill at a freight-forwarding company in Wigram, Christchurch. A drum containing chemicals was damaged at the yard of logistic company Mainstream on Jipcho Road about 10am on Sunday, Fire Service communications shift manager Andrew Norris said. A hazmat crew cleaned up the spill using sand. Four people were taken by ambulance to Christchurch Hospital to be checked and kept under observation. "They called for an ambulance for one person but ended up transporting four," Mr Norris said.

<http://home.nzcity.co.nz/news/article.aspx?id=182969&fm=newsmain%2Cnrhl>

### **NIGERIA, KADUNA, MARCH 3 2014, DPR SHUTS 17 PETROL STATIONS IN KADUNA**

*hassan ibrahim*

The Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) in Kaduna State has shut 17 filling stations across the state for hoarding petrol and selling the product above the official pump price. DPR also attributed the long queues in many filling stations in the state to shortage of product from the Petroleum Pipeline Marketing Company (PPMC), a subsidiary of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). The Kaduna Zonal Public Relations Officer of the DPR, Rabiun Bello, disclosed this to



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journalists in Kaduna on Friday. He said the Director of DPR, Abuja, George Osahon, had come to Kaduna to monitor the sales of petrol in the state.

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/news2013/index.php/en/news/news-headlines/item/34571-dpr-shuts-17-petrol-stations-in-kaduna.html>

### INDONESIA, MUNTOK, BANGKA BELITUNG, MARCH 3 2014. INDONESIAN NAVY INVESTIGATING MONGOLIAN TANKER FOR CARRYING ILLEGAL CRUDE

The Indonesian Navy (TNI AL) is investigating a Mongolian-registered tanker impounded in the Bangka Strait last Saturday for allegedly carrying crude oil to Singapore. "The case is still being investigated. We assume the crude oil came from Sumatra and was to be sent to Singapore," sea battle group commander of the Indonesian Western Fleet Command Commodore Harjo Susmoro, said during a press conference here on Saturday. He added that he did not know where the 485 tons of crude oil, worth about Rp2 billion, originated from. "Over the past week we have questioned six crew members of the MT Zonda, who are all Indonesian citizens. Based on the investigation, the crude oil was transferred from another ship to the Singapore-bound tanker," he said. He added that he was unsuccessful in contacting the owner of the tanker, who is a Singapore resident. MT Zonda was impounded when its crew members failed to present a loading permit, business permit and shipping permit. Also, authorities said the ship's automatic identifying system (AIS), used to automatically detect its position, had malfunctioned. Further, the tanker's crew members were not carrying proper shipping documents, he said. "We will investigate the case thoroughly. We have been coordinating with the public prosecutors office and the police to learn more about the embezzlement of the crude oil," he said.

<http://www.antaranews.com/en/news/92951/indonesian-navy-investigating-mongolian-tanker-for-carrying-illegal-crude>

### USA, VA, ALEXANDRIA, MARCH 3 2014. WHY ROYAL DUTCH SHELL IS SELLING DOWNSTREAM ASSETS

Royal Dutch Shell has finally found a buyer for its downstream assets in Australia, as the Anglo-Dutch oil major embarks on a major restructuring of its global refining business and plans to sell billions of dollars worth of assets over the next two years.

#### Shell Sells Australian Refinery & Retail Network

Shell today announced that it has reached a binding agreement to sell its 120,000 barrel-per-day Geelong oil refinery and network of some 870 Australian retail outlets to Vitol, one of the world's largest energy and commodity trading firms, for approximately A\$2.9 billion (U.S. \$2.6 billion). The company had been seeking a buyer for the underperforming refinery since April 2012. Refineries in Australia, many of which are older and smaller, are simply not generating sufficient returns for Shell and other oil majors because of weak margins and intense competition from newer, larger refineries in other regions. Geelong, for instance, had extremely thin margins because it was designed to process more expensive light crude oil from the nearby Bass Strait. The only option to revive Geelong's competitiveness would have been to upgrade the facility to process cheaper heavy crude oil -- a highly expensive alternative whose costs simply didn't outweigh the potential returns.

#### Refining Weakness Common among Oil Majors

Shell is not the only oil major suffering from an underperforming downstream segment. In fact, all of its peers, including Total, ExxonMobil, Chevron, and BP, blamed weak refining margins for disappointing financial performances last year. Exxon's fourth-quarter downstream earnings plunged by \$852 million to \$916 million, while Chevron's international downstream earnings plunged by nearly 80% to \$125 million. Refining margins have deteriorated because of global refining overcapacity and weaker demand for gasoline and diesel in the developed world, especially in Europe, where demand for refined products has fallen by nearly 2 million barrels per day since 2008. At the same time, the construction of newer and larger refineries in Asia and the Middle East has put intense pressure on older, smaller plants in places such as Australia and Europe. As a result, many oil majors are scaling back their downstream operations in these regions. BP, for instance, is considering selling its network of Australian petrol stations, as well as its refineries in Queensland and western Australia, as the British oil giant seeks to raise \$10 billion in asset sale proceeds over the next two years.

#### What's Next for Shell?

The sale of Shell's Geelong refinery and local retail network in Australia is part of The Hague-based oil major's broader asset sale strategy to raise much-needed cash in order to offset its high level of spending. The company expects to sell about \$15 billion worth of assets through 2015. New CEO Ben van Beurden has identified the company's global downstream business as one of two key business segments -- along with its North American shale oil and gas business -- that will be restructured in coming years. The company has vowed to concentrate only on its most profitable businesses, while restructuring those that have been chronic underperformers. As Shell scales back its global refining business, divests noncore assets, and focuses on



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its highest-value opportunities over the next few years, its return on capital and financial performance should gradually improve. Furthermore, the start-up of several high-margin oil projects, such as Mars B and Cardamom in the Gulf of Mexico, should provide a big boost to cash flow over the next couple of years, which could mean additional dividend increases. The energy landscape is changing radically. Oil exports from America continue to rise as our country gains energy independence. <http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2014/03/02/why-royal-dutch-shell-plc-is-selling-downstream-as.aspx>

### USA, HI, HONOLULU, MARCH 4 2014. INVESTIGATORS WERE LOOKING INTO AN FUEL LEAK AT SAND ISLAND MONDAY MORNING.

 **Watch the Video** [Click here to watch a live report by Ashley Moser.](#)

A security guard who patrols the area at Rolloffs Hawaii on Ulupono Street at Sand Island says he smelled something at around 11 p.m. Sunday. When the guard came back around 2 a.m. Monday, he noticed fuel leaking from the property onto the streets. Apparently, a fuel tank was leaking diesel fuel. An employee from Rolloffs Hawaii turned off the valve on the tank. That employee said the leak was a stream of fuel, but rather a sprinkling. Fire crews arrived at around 3 a.m. laying down sand to prevent fuel from entering the storm drain. Firefighters left the scene about an hour later.

<http://www.kitv.com/news/hawaii/investigators-probe-fuel-leak-at-sand-island/24776020>

### ENGLAND, NORFOLK, GORLESTON, MARCH 4 2014. HOW MUCH OIL IS BURIED UNDER NORFOLK'S BEACHES 35 YEARS AFTER ELENİ V DISASTER?

*liz coates*



*Flashback to the stricken Eleni V. With HMS Plymouth close by, the ship's helicopter ferries explosives across to the tankers hulk (31/05/1978).*

A £25,000 investigation is underway to assess the continuing impact and level of threat posed by an historic oil slick that blackened the beaches of Gorleston and Hopton more than 35 years ago. Experts are combing a 4km stretch of beach, focusing on trenches that were exposed by severe erosion last year, in a bid to find out how much oil was buried under the beaches in 1978 and what to do with it today. A spokesman for Great Yarmouth Borough Council, which has commissioned the survey, stressed that although the oil posed a low risk to human health, people were urged to avoid the area and keep their pets at a distance. The thick deposits are the aftermath of the Eleni V shipping disaster - the worst marine oil slick to have hit the east coast. The Greek oil tanker was sailing in thick fog when she was struck by the French bulk carrier Roseline six miles off Winterton spilling more than 5000 tonnes of oil along 35km of the east coast from Winterton to Aldeburgh. A £2m mop up operation was a race against time with wildlife and birds badly affected, the oil even reaching the seals huddled together on Scroby Sands. Among other measures it saw boreholes drilled to sink oil well below popular tourist beaches thinking it was

biodegradable and would disappear. However, now stretches of beach have been much depleted the substance has begun to resurface. The spokesman added: "Where washed up oil could not be accessed by machinery to be removed to landfill, oil was removed by hand and buried in trenches that had been dug at the back of beaches, which was an approved method of disposal at that time. "There are no known maps indicating the exact location of the trenches. Last winter, easterly storms exposed five trenches on a relatively isolated part of the beach between Gorleston and Hopton, where the sand level has dropped in recent years due to erosion. "Following discussions with the Environment Agency and other partners, the borough council has commissioned a specialist firm to drill test holes to determine the depth of the exposed trenches, as well as the depth and location of any other hitherto unexposed trenches. "The firm's resultant report, expected to be finished in the spring, will include an accurate estimate of the location and volume of oil, plus an options appraisal of ways to deal with the oil and the potential costs. "However, it is thought that no oil was buried on the most popular part of Gorleston beach, as there was good access for machinery. Furthermore the sand at this part of Gorleston has built up over the last few years, further burying any potential trenches. "The tests cover a 4km stretch, centring around the trenches that were exposed last year. "The £25,000 investigation is being part-funded with £7,000 from the Environment Agency, with the rest coming from the borough council. "Ensuring that any oil is located, quantified and dealt with appropriately is important to reduce the risk of pollution as a result of



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oil washing backing into the sea, and to maintain a pleasant environment at these beautiful beaches, which bring millions of tourists to the borough every year. Signs were erected last year and are in the process of being renewed, he added. Work started last week and is expected to be completed within the next couple of weeks. At the time the heavy diesel was said to have a powerful smell that made people feel sick, attacked the throat and caused headaches. Although a boom was put across the harbour at Yarmouth it gave way and oil entered Breydon Water, the gateway to the Broads.

[http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/how\\_much\\_oil\\_is\\_buried\\_under\\_norfolk\\_s\\_beaches\\_35\\_years\\_after\\_eleni\\_v\\_disaster\\_1\\_3392468](http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/how_much_oil_is_buried_under_norfolk_s_beaches_35_years_after_eleni_v_disaster_1_3392468)

### UKRAINE, KIEV, MARCH 4 2014. RUSSIA'S ROSNEFT MIGHT BUY UKRAINE'S ODESSA REFINERY: NEWSPAPER pavel polityuk



*The company logo of Rosneft is seen outside a service station in Moscow November 12, 2013.*

Russia's largest oil company, Rosneft, could buy Ukraine's Odessa oil refinery, which has been secured by Russian state bank VTB due to the outstanding debts of the former owner, Kommersant newspaper said on Monday. Russia has triggered an international crisis after deploying forces in Ukraine's Crimea region, prompting Ukrainian forces to go on highest alert and calls from Western leaders for Moscow to respect Ukraine's sovereignty. Rosneft already controls Ukraine's second-largest Lisichansk refinery. The Odessa refinery was sold by Russia's No.2 crude producer Lukoil to Ukraine's Vetek Group last year. Vetek, owned by Ukrainian multi-millionaire Serhiy Kurchenko, grew rapidly under the presidency

of Viktor Yanukovich, who was removed from power last month. Kommersant said an agreement on selling the refinery, designed to process 3.6 million tonnes of crude oil per year (70,000 barrels per day), had been reached last week and the deal could be closed in the near future. It said that Kurchenko, who left Ukraine last month, had been unable to repay the VTB loan which he had received to buy the refinery and that he had transferred the asset to the bank. Calls by Reuters to the refinery and Vetek were not answered. The refinery last week said the plant might suspend work for maintenance in March. It also said the plant was processing oil from [stocks](#) and did not expect new supply in the near future.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/03/us-ukraine-refinery-russia-idUSBREA220IX20140303>

### CHINA, GUANGDONG PROVINCE, DONGGUANG, MARCH 4 2014. GAS TANK EXPLODES IN CHINA RESTAURANT, ONE KILLED

One person was killed and another 13 were injured when a gas tank exploded in a [restaurant](#) today in south China's Guangdong Province, local authorities said. The blast occurred in Dongguang City in the kitchen of the restaurant on Qifeng Street at 12:10 pm (local time). According to preliminary investigation, a gas tank in the kitchen exploded and the ceiling collapsed. All the injured people have been sent to a nearby hospital. Some of them are severely wounded, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/gas-tank-explodes-in-china-restaurant-one-killed\\_915392.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/gas-tank-explodes-in-china-restaurant-one-killed_915392.html)

### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, HATTON VALE, MARCH 4 2014. WOMAN KILLED AS CAR IS CRUSHED BETWEEN TRUCK AND TANKER



A woman was killed as she drove to Gatton for blood tests after she slowed for roadworks on the Warrego Highway. Laidley police Senior Sergeant Jim McDonald said the crash was on the westbound side of the highway at Hatton Vale about 8am yesterday. Senior Sergeant McDonald said the crash was being investigated but the woman's car was crushed between a truck she was following and a B-double fuel tanker. "The Forensic Crash Unit is investigating but the scene indicates both car and truck slowed down for road works," Snr Sgt McDonald said. "The B-double ran into the back of the car and drove it into the other truck." The crash happened near Rusty's Oz Fuel service station. The 33-year-old woman, who was alone in the car, died at the scene, he said. Police

and Queensland Ambulance Service paramedics treated the B-double driver for shock. Snr Sgt McDonald said the woman,



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from Hatton Vale, was on her way to Gatton for routine blood tests. He said the woman had lived in the area for nine or 10 years. Yesterday, her family was told the terrible news. The Warrego Hwy was completely blocked after the crash and diversions for eastbound traffic were set up via Niemeyer Rd. Yesterday afternoon, the highway was still heavily congested around the crash scene as the Forensic Crash Unit started investigating. Gatton police officer-in-charge Senior Sergeant Tom Missingham said the driver of the truck in front of the woman's car continued for about 200m after the collision until he could leave the road safely. Traffic congestion eased after an hour when a detour for westbound traffic was organised through Summerholm.

### Related Stories

- [One dead in three-vehicle smash which has closed Warrego Highway](#)
- [One dead after Warrego Highway crash](#)
- [Police investigate horror Warrego crash that killed woman](#)
- [One person dead in three vehicle crash on Warrego Highway](#)
- [Three-vehicle crash, a woman has killed at Hattonvale](#)

<http://www.qt.com.au/news/woman-crushed-between-trucks-at-hwy-roadworks/2187385/>

### USA, WA, SPOKANE, MARCH 4 2014. STORAGE TANKS MAY LEAK, REPORT SAYS

While one of the newer double-walled nuclear-waste storage tanks at a Washington state complex has leaked, six others have "significant construction flaws" that could lead to additional leaks, according to documents obtained by the Associated Press. The 28 double-walled tanks at the Hanford nuclear-waste complex hold some of the worst radioactive waste at the nation's most-contaminated nuclear-weapons site. One of those giant tanks was found to be leaking in 2012. But subsequent surveys of the other double-walled tanks performed for the U.S. Department of Energy found at least six shared defects with the leaking tank that could lead to future leaks, the documents said. Thirteen additional tanks also might be compromised, according to the documents. Questions about the storage tanks jeopardize efforts to clean up radioactive waste at the southeastern Washington site. The Hanford cleanup already costs taxpayers about \$2 billion a year. "It is time for the Department (of Energy) to stop hiding the ball and pretending that the situation at Hanford is being effectively managed," Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., wrote in a letter on Friday to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. Energy Department officials in Richland said the agency continues to make thorough inspections of the tanks and has increased the frequency of those inspections. Hanford contains 53 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste from the production of plutonium for nuclear weapons. The waste is stored in 177 underground tanks, many of which date to World War II and are single-walled models that have leaked. The 28 double-walled tanks were built from the 1960s to the '80s.

[http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/national\\_world/2014/03/03/storage-tanks-may-leak-report-says.html](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/national_world/2014/03/03/storage-tanks-may-leak-report-says.html)

### SINGAPORE, MARCH 4 2014. VITOL GETS MORE THAN IT WANTS WITH SHELL AUSTRALIA DEAL: CLYDE RUSSELL

It's relatively easy to see Royal Dutch Shell's motivation in selling its Australian refinery and retail network, but somewhat more difficult to work out Vitol SA's reasons for buying. Shell agreed on Feb. 21 to sell its refinery in Geelong, near Melbourne, as well as fuel terminals and 870 service stations to Swiss-based Vitol for about \$2.6 billion. For Shell, the deal means it gets much-needed cash and manages to dispose of an asset it was planning to close down. The Anglo-Dutch major had previously flagged shutting down the 60-year old, 120,000 barrels-per-day (bpd) refinery by 2015, unless a buyer could be found. Shell had already closed its 90,000 bpd Clyde refinery in Sydney, converting what had been the nation's oldest plant into an import and storage terminal. Shell wasn't unique in having problems in Australia, with virtually all the oil majors that used to dominate the fuel industry making moves to rationalise their businesses. Caltex Australia is closing its 124,500 bpd Sydney refinery, leaving it with one plant in Brisbane, while Exxon Mobil closed its Port Stanvac refinery in Adelaide in 2003, while still operating the 80,000 bpd Altona plant near Melbourne. BP operates two refineries, in Brisbane and south of Perth, but they may be up for sale as well, with Vitol Chief Executive Ian Taylor not ruling out an interest in acquiring the plants. The problem for all Australia's refineries is that they are old and small, especially when compared to the giant, modern complex refineries that have been built in the past decade across Asia. The youngest plants, both in Brisbane and both started in 1965, are coming up for their 50th birthdays, and while they have been upgraded over time, they are well short of the scope and efficiency of export-focused plants such as Reliance Industries' 1.2 million bpd complex on India's west coast. The question is why would Vitol decide to invest in a [business](#) in Australia that an established player couldn't run profitably, and in an industry subject to enormous competitive pressures from well-resourced global players?



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#### Terminals, Distribution the Key

The key isn't the Geelong refinery, even though Vitol has said it plans to continue operating and investing in the plant. Vitol may also be able to run the refinery a bit harder than Shell, which tends to be a conservative operator, and it may also be able to use its trading nous to source crude at more competitive prices. But the real advantage is in the import, storage and distribution network that comes with the refinery. Australia's refining capacity stands at just over 500,000 bpd, but demand is closer to 1.1 million bpd. The country also tends to be a higher user of diesel than other countries with a similar size [economy](#), given the reliance of mining and agriculture on the fuel. Owning import, storage and distribution networks gives Vitol a leg up in accessing what it believes will be a growing market, especially as Australia's resource sector continues to grow even as China's demand growth for commodities slows. New iron ore mines in Western Australia and liquefied natural gas plants in the east and northwest will lead Australian diesel demand higher, while immigration-fueled population growth means [retail](#) fuel demand should also grow at a faster pace than in many developed economies. Up until recently Australia's refined products sector had been a comfortable market dominated by the international majors. Vitol's deal changes this, and continues a process started by rival trader Trafigura, whose Puma Energy unit bought three fuel distributors and retailers in separate deals early last year. Macquarie Group, Australia's largest investment bank, and Glencore Xstrata were also believed to be interested in buying Shell's Australian assets. This makes it more likely that any decision by BP or Caltex Australia to exit the country will attract buying interest. While Vitol clearly believes there is value in the storage and distribution sector in Australia, and may be able to run the Geelong refinery profitably, the challenge is likely to be the retail station network. Fuel retailing is highly competitive in Australia, with prices seldom varying between the major sellers. Margins are seldom more than a few cents per litre, meaning that the real profits in service stations is in the attached convenience stores. This may well prove to be the hardest part of the Shell deal to get right for Vitol.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/03/column-russell-refineries-australia-idUSL3N0M01LP20140303>

#### USA, KY, CORBIN, MARCH 4 2014. TANKER TRUCK CRASHES THROUGH GUARDRAIL STATE HIGHWAY 6 SHUT DOWN FOR HOURS AFTER WRECK



*The driver of this 2001 Mack cargo tanker wasn't injured in a crash Friday along State Highway 6 near Barbourville. The tanker broke through the guardrail while traveling up a hill and came to rest on its side.*

State Highway 6 between Woodbine and Barbourville was shut down for hours Friday after a small tanker truck crashed through a guardrail and landed on its side on a steep hillside. The crash happened in the Paint Hill area near the 10 mile marker as Casey Vaughn, 29, of Barbourville, drove east in a 2001 Mack cargo tanker owned by United Well Services of Gray, according to Kentucky State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Public Affairs Officer Steven Douglas. Vaughn wasn't injured. The tanker contained about 3,450 pounds of petroleum crude oil, which was transferred to another tanker on scene. There

was no leak. Although traffic was initially restricted to one lane, both lanes were later shut down to allow emergency crews the chance to haul the tanker up the steep hillside. Drug and alcohol usage are not suspected factors in the crash and Vaughn was wearing his seat belt. Douglas said it is possible speed and a shifting cargo may have led to the crash. Vehicle Enforcement Officer Mark Scott continues his investigation. Assisting at the scene were the Knox County Sheriff's Department and Knox County Emergency Management.

<http://www.thetimestribune.com/x1783698963/Tanker-truck-crashes-through-guardrail>

#### USA, MI, TRAVERSE CITY, MARCH 4 2014. IS THERE AN OIL SPILL TIME BOMB BENEATH THE MIGHTY MAC?

A freshwater channel that separates Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas is a premier Midwestern tourist attraction and a photographer's delight, offering spectacular vistas of two Great Lakes, several islands and one of the world's longest suspension bridges. But nowadays the Straits of Mackinac is drawing attention for something that is out of sight and usually out of mind, and which some consider a symbol of the dangers lurking in the nation's sprawling web of buried oil and natural gas pipelines. Stretched across the bottom of the waterway at depths reaching 270 feet are two 20-inch pipes that carry nearly 23 million gallons of crude oil daily. They are part of the 1,900-mile Lakehead network, which originates in North Dakota near the Canadian border. A segment known as Line 5 slices through northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula before ducking beneath the Straits of Mackinac and winding up in Sarnia, Ontario. The pipes were laid in 1953. They've never leaked,



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according to the system's owner, Enbridge Energy Partners LP, which says the lines are in good shape and pose no threat. But a growing chorus of activists and members of Congress is demanding closer scrutiny as stepped-up production in North Dakota's Bakken region and Canada's Alberta tar sands boosts the amount of oil coursing through pipelines crossing the nation's heartland. Concern has risen in the past year following serious spills in Arkansas and North Dakota, and as the government weighs the proposed Keystone pipeline project that would stretch from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. The issue is especially sensitive in Michigan, where another Enbridge line ruptured in 2010, spewing more than 840,000 gallons of crude into the Kalamazoo River and a tributary creek. The Straits of Mackinac epitomizes a potential worst-case scenario for a pipeline accident: an iconic waterway, ecologically and economically significant, that could be fiendishly hard to clean up because of swift currents and deep water that's often covered with ice several months a year. The 5-mile-wide straits link Lakes Huron and Michigan and flow near Mackinac Island, which is famed for its horse-drawn carriages and fudge shops. Several villages draw drinking water from the straits and cargo freighters and passenger ferries use it as a passageway. Sport anglers chase salmon and trout, while commercial crews harvest whitefish and perch for restaurants. Hundreds of activists attended a rally to protest the pipeline last summer. Local residents haven't paid it much attention over the years, but a packed crowd grilled Enbridge representatives at a community meeting this month. "It's a huge pipeline carrying oil in one of the most ecologically beneficial and sensitive places in the world," said Andy Buchsbaum, director of the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes office. "A massive oil spill there would have dire and irreversible consequences." The Senate's second-ranking Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, and Michigan Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow sent a letter of concern to the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in December. Agency head Cynthia Quarterman said Enbridge has agreed to step up its inspections of the Lakehead system since the Kalamazoo River spill. "We've invested a lot of money, time and resources to ensure that we're using the best available technology to operate our pipelines with the utmost integrity," said Jackie Guthrie, spokeswoman for the company, based in Calgary, Alberta. Now, line 5's segment beneath the straits is getting extra attention. Enbridge has reached an agreement with Michigan Technological University to deploy a newly developed "autonomous underwater vehicle" to provide digital images of the pipeline eight times in the next two years. The device resembles a 7-foot-long missile with a tiny, whirring propeller and will be fitted with sonar devices, cameras and computers. The equipment probably isn't capable of detecting cracks, but "never before have you been able to see this kind of detail," said Guy Meadows, a director of the university's Great Lakes Research Center. The National Wildlife Federation maintains it's time to replace the lines. The group posted a short video taken by divers that appears to show broken supports and sections suspended above the bottom or covered with debris. Critics also complain the company won't release enough data from its inspections of the pipelines and note that above-ground sections of Line 5 have ruptured in numerous spots on land, spilling hundreds of thousands of gallons. But Guthrie said the underwater section is sound. "It's been operating there for decades and operating safely," she said. The U.S. Coast Guard has conducted spill-response exercises in the straits the past three years. Some have taken place in winter to test technology for tracing oil beneath ice, said Steve Keck, a contingency specialist based in Saul Ste. Marie. Dean Reid, planning commission chairman in Mackinac County who organized the community meeting, said locals needed more information about the pipelines, which many didn't know existed until recently. "We tend to take for granted what's here," Reid said, "and sometimes don't know what's here."

<http://www.connecttristates.com/news/story.aspx?id=1014185#.UxU3qNhDHX4>

### CANADA, MB, ST. JAMES, MARCH 4 2014. EXPLOSIONS ROCK GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT



*Firefighters on the scene of an explosion in the parking lot of Superstore on Sargent Avenue. A man in his 70s was taken to the hospital suffering from burns. It is believed propane tanks caused the explosion about 11:45 a.m. today.*

A man believed to be in his 70s is being treated in hospital for burns after his van caught fire in a grocery store parking lot in St. James this morning. Police say the man was rushed to hospital in critical condition but has since been upgraded to stable condition. There were a series of explosions that rocked the van in the parking lot of the Real Canadian Superstore on Sargent Avenue around 11:45 a.m. Witnesses say there was one large explosion, followed by one or two smaller ones. It's believed several propane tanks were being transported in the van.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/Explosions-rock-grocery-store-parking-lot-248240511.html>



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#### USA, MI, DETROIT, MARCH 4 2014. SHELL OIL TO PAY \$4 MILLION FOR TAKING DOUBLE PROFITS IN OIL SPILL CLEANUP

*alisha mims*



Shell Oil Company has been ordered to pay \$4 million to settle False Claim Act allegations that it requested double reimbursements for a hazardous waste cleanup in Massachusetts. The company sought payment from the Massachusetts tank cleanup fund as well as from private insurers, Law360 reports. Shell and Motiva Enterprises LLC requested reimbursements from Massachusetts' Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Product Cleanup Fund program for more than 100 gas stations throughout the state. The companies did not reveal to state authorities that it also requested and received reimbursements from insurers, according to the state Attorney General Martha Coakley. The scheme of major oil companies profiting from oil spill cleanups recently came to light after it was reported that a former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) engineer and an environmental and

civil rights attorney partnered with a team of lawyers, investigators, and experts to conduct an ongoing investigation into the "double-dipping" practice. Thomas Schruben, a Maryland environmental engineer and former EPA employee who specializes in storage tanks had long suspected companies of profiting off of oil spill cleanups. Along with attorney Dennis Pantazis and their team, Schruben has brought 20 such cases to state governments, demonstrating how oil companies defraud states in order to make a profit from underground storage tank spills. "State governments set aside tank cleanup funds to cover the costs of replacing old tanks and extracting polluted soil and dirty groundwater, not so that multibillion-dollar oil companies can profit by double-dipping," said Christopher Paulos an attorney with the Levin, Papantonio law firm who practices in the areas of qui tam or whistleblower and False Claims Act litigation. "Shell oil and other companies have essentially defrauded state governments by collecting both state special funds and insurance money for the same cleanup efforts." In 1993, Shell sued insurers seeking coverage for remediating environmental damage caused by leaking underground storage tanks at its gas stations across the state of Massachusetts, according to Law360. The company settled with insurers but did not disclose the settlement to the Massachusetts' underground storage tank fund program until February 2012. Other major oil companies including BP, Chevron, and ExxonMobil have used the scheme to defraud states and make a profit. Recently, BP was sued by the state of Minnesota for double-dipping. The state alleged that BP violated the Minnesota False Claims Act by collecting more than \$25 million from the state tank fund as well as being reimbursed by insurers.

<http://www.ringoffireradio.com/2014/03/shell-oil-pay-4-million-making-double-profits-oil-spill-cleanup/>

#### USA, MI, AUBURN HILLS, MARCH 4 2014.. 4,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL SPILL INTO STORM DRAIN IN AUBURN HILLS

Fire crews are on scene of a diesel fuel spill at an office building in Auburn Hills. 7 Actions News has learned that a backup generator with a diesel fuel tank leaked about 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the company's private storm drain that leads to a retention pond on their property. There is no evidence the fuel leaked into the public sanitary systems, and the threat of fire is reduced because of the frigid temperatures. The Oakland County Hazardous Materials team responded, along with representatives from the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oakland County Resources Commission. A private environmental clean up company has been contacted to clean up the spill. The leak happened over the weekend, and crews just found out about it now. The building is located at 2800 Taylor Road, near I-75 and Lapeer Road.

<http://www.wxyz.com/news/region/oakland-county/4000-gallons-of-diesel-fuel-spill-into-storm-drain-in-auburn-hills?autoplay=true>

#### USA, R.I, PROVIDENCE, MARCH 4 2014. EAST PROVIDENCE PLANT BEING CITED AFTER EXPLOSION



After an explosion last August, an East Providence wood pellet plant is being cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). On August 20, a worker was injured and the Inferno Wood Pellet building on Ferris Ave. was completely demolished after wood dust ignited and caused an explosion and fire. An investigation found that employees at the plant were exposed to wood dust explosions, deflagrations, or rapid combustion, and other fire hazards, and that there were not adequate protective measures in place. Because of the hazards found during the investigation, OSHA cited Inferno Wood Pellet Inc. with 11 serious violations of workplace safety standards and has proposed \$43,400 in



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finer. Inferno has 15 business days to comply, meet with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the a review commission.

<http://www.abc6.com/story/24872078/east-providence-plant-being-cited-after-explosion>

### CANADA, B.C. VANCOUVER, MARCH 4 2014. MAJOR B.C. FOREST COMPANIES NAMED IN STOP-WORK ORDERS >> SAWMILLS CITED FOR WOOD-DUST BUILDUP IN WORKSAFEBC INSPECTIONS

*gordon hoekstra*



*S & R Sawmills in Surrey was one of the plants issued with a stop-work order during a recent WorkSafeBC safety blitz.*

Some of B.C.'s biggest forest companies continued to violate wood dust safety rules at their sawmills this winter, two years after a pair of deadly wood-dust fuelled explosions. Canfor, Tolko, Weyerhaeuser and Western Forest Products were among a list of 11 companies ordered to shut down portions of their sawmills because of excessive wood dust accumulations considered a risk for fire or explosion. WorkSafeBC issued 13 stop-work orders during inspections between November 2013 and January 2014, according to WorkSafeBC inspection reports obtained by The Vancouver Sun through a freedom-of-information request. In some cases, WorkSafeBC considered the circumstances

so serious there are grounds for monetary penalties, the documents state. The excessive wood-dust accumulations took place despite widespread attention to the two deadly explosions at sawmills in northern B.C., increased enforcement by safety agencies and promises by industry to invest in cleanup crews, equipment and internal audits. Soon after the explosions, WorkSafeBC started an inspection blitz to check for dust. During followup inspections a year after the explosions, WorkSafeBC found 20 per cent of 150 sawmills inspected had dangerous dust levels. The agency issued warnings and cleanup orders to them all. Despite the warnings, problems are still being found today. Just recently, the Crown rejected charges in the first explosion at Babine Forest Products in Burns Lake, which raised the ire of workers and their families. Workers and families in Prince George are bracing for a similar Crown decision, which is due by April 22 in the Lakeland Mills explosion. Both explosions killed two workers and injured dozens of others, some with severe burns. During the latest round of inspections, two stop-work orders were also issued to Sigurdson Forest Products (Williams Lake), and single orders to S & R Sawmills (Surrey), Galloway Lumber (near Fernie), Vaagen Fibre (Midway), Hunky Dory Sawmills (Houston) and Skeena Sawmills (Terrace). United Steelworkers western director Steve Hunt said unfortunately he is not surprised by the continuing non-compliance. Tougher regulations need to be introduced that allow any worker with safety concerns to shut down an area of a mill because of unsafe dust levels, and make it mandatory for companies to install dust-control equipment, he said. "When it comes to protecting the lives of workers, (WorkSafeBC) can't get there," said Hunt. WorkSafeBC's strategy of using inspection blitzes to get companies to keep their mills clear of dust is not working, added Hunt. That's because it's like a speed-trap, where motorists speed up as soon as the police are gone, he said. WorkSafeBC officials were not available for comment Monday. Forestry giant Weyerhaeuser was issued a stop work order on Nov. 19, 2013 for its Princeton sawmill. Excessive levels of wood dust were found throughout the debarker and cutoff saw building, sawmill operating floor and sawmill basement. The company was ordered to immediately stop all work in these mill areas. "The board (WorkSafeBC) has reasonable grounds for believing the condition described above presents an immediate danger that would likely result in serious injury, serious illness, or death to a workers," WorkSafeBC officer Ken Blair said in his inspection report. Weyerhaeuser spokesman Wayne Roznowsky said they complied immediately with the stop-work order and cleanup, bringing in a vacuum truck from Kamloops, which put the mill down for 38 hours. "The key is for us, you don't want anything to happen. We thought we were compliant in the areas that needed to be. We were told we weren't. We fixed it," he said. Roznowsky noted that because the debarker and cutoff saw area has no walls, they didn't believe it was an explosion hazard area. Roznowsky said they are waiting for a final report from a dust control and mitigation expert they hired before making any decisions on process or equipment changes. Canfor, one of B.C.'s largest lumber producers, was ordered to immediately shut down several areas of its operating floor and the basement of its sawmill in Chetwynd on Nov. 7. It immediately complied and cleaned up the area before the inspector left. Portions of Tolko's sawmills in Williams Lake (Nov. 27) and Soda Creek (Nov. 6) were also ordered shut down because of wood dust levels. Western Forest Products' mills were also cited for dust accumulation and issued stop-work orders at their value-added operations in Chemainus on Vancouver Island. On Dec. 4, a WorkSafeBC inspection found unacceptable accumulations of fine secondary dust at one of its locations in a semi-enclosed



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crawl space under a planer. There was dust of 2.5 to three inches under a conveyor and on horizontal surfaces including piping and the top of an electrical transformer. "It is apparent that this location has not been cleaned for several months," said the inspection report.

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/Major+forest+companies+named+stop+work+orders/9574807/story.html>

### SOUTH AFRICA, CAPE TOWN, MARCH 4 2014. PENGUINS MONITORED AFTER DIESEL SPILL



*The penguin colony at Stony Point is one of four mainland colonies.*

Penguins in the Stony Point Penguin Colony near Betty's Bay will be monitored this week after 10 000 litres of diesel spilt from a wrecked boat threatened the colony. About 4 000 penguins and 400 nests of various seabirds were exposed to contamination when the fishing trawler Connect, carrying 10 000 litres of diesel and 80 litres of engine oil, ran aground 5km from the Betty's Bay Marine Protected Area last Thursday. The area was closed as authorities prepared to examine the penguin and seabirds for diesel contamination. CapeNature spokesperson Justin Lawrence said although the diesel was not visible and authorities were unable to determine how far it had spread, the colony had been reopened and penguins and seabirds were back in the water. SA Maritime Safety Authority principal officer Gustav Louw said his team of surveyors responsible for the clean-up of the Connect said they were met by a strong diesel stench when they went out to the wreck last week. "Fortunately diesel will

eventually evaporate and disintegrate. It won't be a threat to the environment forever," said Louw. Nicky Stander, rehabilitation manager at SA National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (Sanccob), said because the water was not 100 percent diesel-free, Sanccob and officials of the Overberg Municipality would visually inspect the birds this week. "The white parts of their bodies would turn a yellowish colour from the diesel. If a rescuer spots a penguin that cannot move its wings or it appears fragile, they would immediately try to catch the bird and then treat it," Stander said. She said seabirds were more difficult to monitor because their nests were scattered high above sea level. "Unfortunately, we would most likely only be able to spot whether a bird has been contaminated long after it has gotten sick. Diesel would cause the bird to lose its appetite and become frail," Stander said. She added that rescuers were not just dealing with the birds from the Stony Point area, but others, too, as might come to feed at the area. "We are not only dealing with the birds from this colony, but will have to monitor those from other colonies as well," said Stander. The Connect had eight crew aboard when it ran aground last week. NSRI spokesman Craig Lambinon said five of the boat's crew had jumped to safety aboard a life raft, while three others stayed on board. They later tried to jump to safety, but one of the men, a 43-year-old believed to be from Strandfontein, went missing. Rescuers in a Skyred helicopter later spotted his body washed up on rocks. Louw said the SA Maritime Safety Authority and the Connect's crew would this week continue to salvage as much of the boat as possible.

#### Related Stories

- [Diesel spill threatens protected area](#)
- ['Every last chick counts'](#)
- [Seabirds as good as new after spill](#)

<http://www.iol.co.za/scitech/science/environment/penguins-monitored-after-diesel-spill-1.1655797#.UxhMaNhDHX4>

### ENGLAND, STAFFORDSHIRE, BURTON UPON TRENT, MARCH 4 2014. FIREFIGHTERS BATTLED TO CONTROL FIRE AFTER BIG EXPLOSION AT GAS WORKS

Firefighters from Burton battled for more than an hour after a build up of pressure resulted in an explosion at a disused gas works. The fire crews sprayed water on to the sides and top of a gas holder at the Wetmore Road site in a bid to ward off a pressure build and further explosions on Tuesday, June 22. During the operation, clouds of smoke and steam hung over the gasworks. The site was being demolished by contractors using oxy-acetylene cutting torches. It was considered too risky at the time to put anyone on the top of the building and, instead, firemen had to use a ladder to deal with the blaze. The gas cylinders used by the contractors were left on top of the gas holder and it is believed that these exploded from the build up of heat. Firefighters and three fire engines worked to get the blaze under control and did so in under one hour.

<http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/News/Mail-Remembers/Firefighters-battled-to-control-fire-after-big-explosion-at-gas-works-20140303100021.htm>



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### **QATAR, MARCH 4 2014. EATERIES AT FUEL STATIONS TOLD TO STOP LPG USE**



DOHA: Authorities have asked eateries in petrol station premises to immediately stop use of gas cylinders and tanks for cooking food and replace them with electric burners or ovens, reportedly in 10 days. The move follows the gas tank explosion in Istanbul Restaurant in a petrol station complex near Landmark Mall last Thursday that killed 11 people and injured 35 others. A source at a Turkish restaurant in Abu Hamour petrol station, which houses more than a dozen eateries, told this daily yesterday that all these outlets have been asked to stop use of cooking gas. "We have been asked to replace gas with electricity in 10 days. The order came on Sunday. Now we are serving only barbeque (cooked on charcoal)," said the source. He said for changing to electricity, the process has to be completed through the Qatar General Electricity and

Water Corporation (Kahramaa). Sources from another popular restaurant at West Bay Petrol Station said eateries there had also received similar instructions. Thursdays' blast led to a public outcry over the safety of restaurants in petrol station premises. A senior official of the Doha Municipality told this daily that a higher committee has been appointed to study safety issues arising from the existence of too many eateries and fast food outlets in petrol station premises. Asked if the municipal authorities had any plans to relocate eateries from petrol station premises, in the wake of the Istanbul Restaurant blast, Mohammed Al Sayed, director of the Doha Municipality said: "The accident is under investigation but regarding the existence of restaurants and other outlets at petrol stations, we understand people's concerns and we are deeply concerned about their safety. Currently, a study is underway, in collaboration with other bodies concerned to decide what measures are to be taken in this regard. Based on this study, it will be decided whether to relocate such facilities or not." Another official, Mohammed Sayed, who is head of the health monitoring section at the Doha Municipality, added that the higher committee would consider various options — cancelling the licence, relocating the facilities or forcing them to shift to electricity-powered stoves. He said a decision would be taken, without ignoring the importance of having such outlets in easily accessible locations. Al Sayed said his section had provided the municipality with information about the number of petrol stations and the food outlets there. "As the health monitoring section, our job is to inspect the eateries and other food outlets from inside, how they prepare and store food, whether they meet the health requirements, facilities, hygiene etc. Monitoring gas cylinders and safety aspects is the responsibility of the Civil Defence and Woqod and they are doing that," he added. He said the amended food monitoring law will be enforced once the executive regulations are issued. The erring food outlets will face closure straight away up to 60 days, according to the amended law.

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/qatar>

### **AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, RUTHERFORD, MARCH 5 2014. CALTEX TANKER, BUS CRASH NEAR HIGHWAY AT RUTHERFORD**



Traffic on the New England Highway near Rutherford is at a crawl this morning after a crash between a bus and a fuel tanker. The incident on the corner of Harvey Rd and the highway has cut westbound traffic to a single lane. Fire and Rescue NSW as well as paramedics are on the scene. It is believed both drivers were treated for shock.

<http://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/2126182/tanker-bus-crash-near-highway-at-rutherford/?cs=12#slide=2>

### **NEW ZEALAND, RUAPEHU, MARCH 5 2014. COUNCIL INVESTIGATING WATER OPTIONS FOR WAIMARINO**

Raetihi is now back drawing its drinking water from the Makotuku River that was contaminated by a diesel spill from the Turoa ski field in October last year. The diesel spill from a faulty tank leaked 19,000 litres of diesel into the Makotuku River forcing Ruapehu District Council (RDC) to switch the water source for Raetihi township to the Makara Stream. RDC Chief Executive, Peter Till, said that returning to the Makotuku River for Raetihi's drinking water is the best option available to the community at this time. "Council would not have returned to the Makotuku for Raetihi's water supply unless we able to meet our



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responsibilities to provide safe drinkable water according to government and World Health Organisation standards," he said. "The Makara Stream was never a long term option as a water supply source due to its smaller size and path through more open farm land making it more susceptible to run-off and algae blooms." "Over the next week as the supply in the system from the Makara is used up residents should start noticing an improvement in the taste and odour of their tap water." Mr Till noted that reaching this point is a notable milestone but it is not the end of the line by any means." "The contamination of the Makotuku has focused the local community on the wider questions and issues over a long term, economically viable solution to water supply for Raetihi and the wider Waimarino area." "Council is continuing to investigate options for meeting Waimarino's future water supply needs including alternative water sources." "This will be progressed as part of our strategic infrastructure planning over the coming year." Mr Till added that throughout the response and recovery efforts to the diesel spill council has had fantastic input and feedback from the local community. "We would encourage the community to continue to engage with council through our planning and consultation process as we identify and investigate possible long term options for Waimarino water," he said. "Getting to a final decision for a long term solution will take some time and involve significant research and analysis." "Whatever decision is made for Waimarino all users on the water supply network will need to contribute to its development."

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/council-investigating-water-options-waimarino/5/183333>

#### USA, N.Y, HOGANSBURG, MARCH 5 2014. PRELIMINARY REPORT SAYS SPILL CAUSED NO GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION



Preliminary findings have determined a February gas spill at the Bear's Den fuel depot and restaurant on Route 37 in Hogsburg did not contaminate groundwater in the immediate area. Nearly 700 gallons of unleaded gasoline spilled from a fuel tank that was over-filled February 1 but not reported to authorities until two days later. The investigation by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environmental Division found that a combination of operator error and equipment malfunction resulted in the spill. Director Ken Jock told 7 News "the on-site containment system did what it was suppose to do and all of the gas tanks are above ground so the contamination was all surface water." OpTech Environmental Services of Massena did the clean up and disposal of the contamination.

 **Related Stories** [See our earlier report](#)

<http://www.wnnytv.com/news/local/Preliminary-Report-Says-Spill-Caused-No-Groundwater-Contamination-248423851.html>

#### NEW ZEALAND, CHRISTCHURCH, MARCH 6 2014. FIRE SERVICE WORKS TO CLEAR A MILLION LITRES OF LEAKED FUEL

 **Watch the Video** [Resident: Lyttelton Flooding, Landslide 'Complete Chaos'](#)



*Firefighters clear oil at Lyttelton Port.*

A massive fuel leak in Lyttelton will take a long time to clear, the Fire Service says. Police evacuated 19 households in Cressy Terrace, Park Terrace and Brittan Terrace after a cliff collapsed causing damage to a fuel storage tank at the port. The Fire Service says the landslip dislodged the valve of the tank, spilling fuel into a surrounding catchment area and leaving the strong smell of diesel wafting through the portside suburb. The Fire Service's Steve Kennedy, who is at the site of the leak this morning, said the majority of the fuel has now been contained. The assistant area commander said they were setting up operations this morning to transfer the leaked fuel into tanks. "The operation is going to take some time because we're looking in excess of probably a million litres of fuel that we need to transfer," he told TV ONE's Breakfast. He said if people do smell fuel fumes in the area they should close their doors and windows. Council engineers will be assessing the damage to the hillside and

affected homes today. Police say the evacuations were precautionary, and were in response to the possibility of further slips in the area. The cliff collapse comes after Christchurch was battered with a heavy deluge of rain.



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- [Response to fuel leak at Lyttelton Terminal](#)
- [Fire crews watch Lyttelton fuel spill](#)
- [Fire Service says no danger to public at Lyttelton Port](#)
- [Lyttelton Port bulk fuel incident being monitored](#)
- [Evacuations after cliff collapse in Lyttelton](#)
- [Close watch after Lyttelton cliff collapses](#)
- [Gas fears force out Lyttelton residents](#)

<http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/fire-service-works-clear-million-litres-leaked-fuel-5858738>

### CANADA, B.C, VANCOUVER, MARCH 6 2014. DIESEL SPILLS INTO SEMIAHMOO BAY AT WHITE ROCK BEACH

*christopher poon*



*Fire crews put out absorbent booms in an attempt to soak up diesel spilling into Semiahmoo Bay Tuesday morning.*

Around 20 litres of diesel fuel was emptied into Semiahmoo Bay early Tuesday following an oversight that left a city worker driving around with an open fuel tank. According to the city's Director of Engineering and Operations Greg St. Louis, a city recycling truck driver fuelled up early Tuesday and forgot to replace the cap on his vehicle's fuel tank before starting his collection route, leading to just under 20 litres of fuel being spilled onto city streets. That diesel was then washed into the storm drains by the rain, eventually emptying into Semiahmoo Bay right by the pier. "So we tracked it down and right now on the roads, what we're doing is trying to contain it with some

absorb-all and we have our sucker truck out trying to prevent it from getting into the bay, but due to the rain it's problematic, so that's why we have White Rock fire and rescue down there putting in the absorbent booms trying to prevent it from getting out into the bay," said St. Louis. Asked about the driver, St. Louis said the driver noticed the fuel spilling after about an hour of driving his route and notified the city immediately. Eyewitness Mark Awan said he was down at the waterfront at around 9 a.m. when the tide was in and noticed a large slick of diesel on the water. "There was a sheen about 150 feet long by about 50 to 80 feet wide and you could smell the diesel," he said. "We just live across the road and we could smell it from Vidal Street." Fire Chief Phil Lemire said with something like diesel, the spread always looks worse than the actual amount spilled. "With diesel, with just a little amount, a teaspoon's worth in a puddle it would spread all over," he said at the scene. "So with the properties of diesel it looks more dramatic than what it is. If you take 20 litres spread over three kilometres of roadway and then being washed down, it covers a fairly large area but it's actually a minor spill." St. Louis noted that the Ministry of Environment had been notified of the spill as per protocol, but the ministry had deemed it to be too minor to send out officials. Now, the city and fire and rescue are just focusing on absorbing as much of the diesel as possible and waiting for the tide to wash the rest away. "By the next tide, we probably won't see it at all," said Lemire.

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Diesel+spills+into+Semiahmoo+White+Rock+beach/9579109/story.html>

### ENGLAND, SALSIBURY, MARCH 6 2014. RINGWOOD CONTRACTOR FINED AFTER EXPLOSION INJURES WORKER

*miranda robertson*



*Ringwood contractor fined after explosion injures worker*

A Ringwood contractor has been ordered to pay £5,000 after a worker suffered burns to his face and wrist when sparks from the disc cutter he was using ignited fuel vapour in a tank. Laurence Greenland, 54, of Forest Side Gardens, trading as Fuel Pump and Tank Services, had employed the worker, also from Ringwood, to help remove two 20,000-litre fuel tanks from the site of a former filling station in Iwerne Minster near Blandford Forum. Before removing the tank that exploded, fuel was emptied and the tank de-gassed so it appeared there was no flammable material or vapour left. The tank atmosphere was monitored using a gas detector until a zero gas reading was given. Despite his concerns, the worker used a disc cutter, brought by Greenland for this specific task, to cut the tank into sections so it could be removed more easily from the site. But shortly after he started to cut the petrol end of the tank, it exploded. As well as injuring the worker a number of nearby properties and vehicles



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

**March 13 2014**



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were damaged by flying debris. The worker, aged in his 20s, was in intensive care for two days but has since made a full recovery. Greenland was prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive at Bournemouth Crown Court after the incident on March 13, 2012. The HSE's investigation uncovered a number of safety failings, including an inadequate safety assessment carried out before the work started and no safe system of work in place. The gas detector used to monitor the atmosphere had also not been suitably calibrated and may have given false readings. The tank had not been properly cleaned and flammable residues remained, and the HSE says although it would not have completely eliminated the risk of explosion, cold cutting techniques should have been used rather than a disc cutter, which generated heat and sparks. Greenland pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmosphere Regulations 2002. He was fined £4,000 and ordered to pay £1,000 in costs. Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector James Powell said: "A number of failings led to this incident, which was entirely preventable. "It was only a matter of good fortune that the worker was not killed and other workers and members of the public not seriously injured."

[http://www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/11047115.Ringwood\\_contractor\\_fined\\_after\\_explosion\\_injures\\_worker/](http://www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/11047115.Ringwood_contractor_fined_after_explosion_injures_worker/)

### USA, PA, LAKE ARIEL, MARCH 5 2014. CLEANUP UNDERWAY IN NE PA.

State environmental officials are investigating a home heating oil leak in a northeastern Pennsylvania lake. [Department of Environmental Protection](#) spokeswoman [Colleen Connolly](#) said Tuesday that an undetermined amount of No. 2 fuel oil leaked into Lake Ariel in Wayne County from a nearby oil storage tank that overfilled on Friday. The spill caused a red-colored slick and strong fumes. A hazmat team chipped through thick ice Tuesday to place materials in the water to stop the oil from spreading. Connolly said the DEP is continuing to investigate exactly how the spill happened and why the department wasn't immediately notified. Lake Ariel is a 300-acre spring-fed lake with four miles of shoreline. The spill comes about eight months after 10,000 fish died in Lake Ariel from incorrect use of algae-control chemicals.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Cleanup-underway-in-NE-Pa-lake-after-oil-spill-5288831.php>

### USA, TX, EAST TEXAS, MARCH 5 2014. TANK WORKER SUES OIL AND GAS COMPANY AFTER BEING INJURED

*whitney brakken*

An Alabama man is suing after being injured while working on an oil and gas tank. Jeff Overton filed a lawsuit Feb. 21 in the Marshall Division of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas against Bluestone Natural Resources LLC, Bluestone Natural Resources II LLC, Bluestone Natural Resources Holdings II LLC and Buccaneer Energy Co., citing negligence and gross negligence. The complaint states on Feb. 23, 2013, Overton was injured while working on a oil and gas tank owned by Bluestone at a location owned by Buccaneer Energy. According to the lawsuit, the defendants were negligent for failing to act as a reasonably prudent person, failing to provide a safe work environment, failing to properly maintain equipment, failing to protect the plaintiff from work hazards and failing to implement safety policies. Overton is seeking damages in excess of the jurisdictional minimum. The plaintiff is being represented in the case by attorneys Benton G. Ross and Douglas C. Monsour of The Monsour Law Firm.

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas Case No. 2:14-CV-00105-JRG

<http://setexasrecord.com/news/294648-tank-worker-sues-oil-and-gas-company-after-being-injured>

### CANADA, AB, CALGARY, MARCH 5 2014. ALBERTA OIL SPILL WAS PREVENTABLE, REGULATOR'S REPORT FINDS

*kelly cryderman*

A pipeline break that saw 3,200 barrels of crude spill into Alberta's Red Deer River in 2012 came as a result of company failures and a river flow many times higher than the seasonal norm, according to a report released by Alberta's energy regulator Tuesday. The oil release from Plains Midstream Canada ULC's Rangeland pipeline on June 7 affected landowners, farms, and rafting tour and recreational fishing operators as far as 40 kilometres downstream near the central Alberta community of Sundre – and prompted a visit of concern by Alberta Premier Alison Redford. According to the report from the Alberta Energy Regulator, the rupture to a pipeline weld was likely caused by river flow vibrations, but came after the company failed to do annual inspections of the 48-year-old pipeline, or appropriately mitigate erosion of the riverbed under the pipe. The report also said Plains could have prevented the spill, or lessened its damage, if it had checked that the pipeline was safe following the province's high-stream flow advisories and flood warnings issued June 5 and 6. The usual river flow of 20 to 30 cubic metres per second was up to 1,000 cubic metres the day before the spill, and at the time of the break, up to 600 cubic metres per second. Darin Barter, a spokesman for the regulator, said the energy watchdog is keeping a close eye on Plains.



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He noted that the company's Alberta operations have been cited in 19 high-risk enforcement actions – or directives from the energy regulator – since 2011. Last year, the Alberta government laid environmental charges against Plains for the company's 2011 Rainbow pipeline rupture that resulted in the province's largest oil spill in 36 years. Last July, the energy regulator ordered a full-scale audit of the company's pipeline operations. It also directed Plains to update its emergency response plan in the Sundre area, and to conduct a resident awareness program. Further, it ordered Plains to submit an "action plan" to the Alberta Energy Regulator detailing what it will do to prevent future regulatory non-compliance. Although environmental groups such as Greenpeace have criticized Alberta for not being tougher on polluters, Mr. Barter said the directives come at a significant financial cost to Plains. "We are coming down very hard on the company," he said, noting that the company also faces extra scrutiny in the course of any project applications. The company issued a news release Tuesday saying it is reviewing the energy regulator's findings. "In the two years since the Rangeland Pipeline incident, Plains has worked diligently to fulfill our commitment to clean up the release and mitigate impacts," the statement said. "Plains has taken significant steps since the incident to reduce the potential for further incidents to occur." The Rangeland pipeline was built in 1966 and originally licensed to Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Co. Plains acquired the pipeline in 2006. The damaged stretch of the pipeline is no longer in operation.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/alberta-oil-spill-was-preventable-regulators-report-finds/article17303950/>

### USA, LA, NATCHITOCHES, MARCH 5 2014. I-49 IN NATCHITOCHES BACK OPEN AFTER HAZMAT SPILL & FIRE

*allison landry*

Multiple emergency response agencies are working to clear an overturned tractor trailer that was carrying several thousand gallons of flammable, hazardous materials on Interstate 49 just south of Natchitoches. Firefighters contained a fire caused by the crash before pulling back at a safe distance for State Police HazMat to take over. There are no evacuations or any immediate threat to residents in the area, according to NPSO public information officer, Captain Tony Moran. He tells KSLA News 12 the cleanup will take a while. According to the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's office, an 18-wheeler overturned around 1:00 a.m. Tuesday near the Natchitoches exit along the southbound lanes of I-49. The driver is reportedly ok. No injuries were reported. Traffic is back open but reduced to one lane on both sides of the interstate near the scene of the crash. The 18-wheeler trailer remains overturned. A 10 mile stretch of both lanes on the interstate were temporarily closed early Tuesday morning but reopened just before 3:30 a.m. Responding agencies include Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Deputies, Louisiana State Police, Louisiana State Police Hazardous Material Units, Natchitoches Fire Department Hazardous Material Units, Natchitoches Fire District-5, Natchitoches EMS Paramedics, La. Department of Transportation and Development, Natchitoches City Police, and Natchitoches Fire District-6.

<http://www.ksla.com/story/24877158/part-of-i-49-closed-after-tanker-with-flammable-material-overturns>

### INDIA, CHENNAI, VAYYAAVOOR, MARCH 5 2014. DEATH TOLL IN CRACKER FACTORY FIRE RISES TO 4



Kancheepuram taluk police have registered a case holding the unit owner as the prime accused. The death toll in the fire accident at a cracker factory in Vayyaavoor near here on Tuesday afternoon rose to four, with two more persons succumbing to their injuries on Wednesday. According to the police, nine workers of the fireworks manufacturing unit — Thanigaimalai, Manonmani, Venkatesan, Manimozhi, Sankar, Manimegalai, Saraswathi, Sujatha and Kala — sustained burns in the fire that broke out around 1 p.m. on Tuesday. They were rushed to District Government Headquarters Hospital, Kancheepuram, from where Manimozhi was shifted to Chengalpattu Medical College Hospital and the others to Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital (KMC). While Thanigaimalai and Manonmani died at KMC on Tuesday, Manimozhi passed

away at the Chengalpattu hospital and Venkatesan at KMC on Wednesday. The Kancheepuram taluk police have registered a case holding the unit owner, C. Senthilnathan of Kancheepuram, as the prime accused. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Meanwhile, the district administration has constituted a committee, headed by revenue divisional officer, Kancheepuram, D. Chandran, to conduct an inquiry into the cause of the accident.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/death-toll-in-cracker-factory-fire-rises-to-4/article5754301.ece>



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