



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,056 Newsy Stuff

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

March 30 2014



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USA, MS, WEST SHIP ISLAND, MARCH 22 2014. 300 POUNDS OF TAR BALLS FROM BP SPILL DISCOVERED ON SHIP, HORN ISLANDS

Mary margaret halford



crews work to remove tar balls and patties that washed ashore in Long Beach in 2010. The Department of Environmental Quality is investigating reports of tar balls related to the 2010 spill being found on Horn and Ship islands.

As many as 300 pounds of tar balls were discovered on the Mississippi Barrier Islands on Friday by a team from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and the department says that oil is related to the 2010 BP oil spill. About 10 pounds of tar balls were found on West Ship Island, and as many as 300 pounds were discovered on Horn Island, the release said. BP contract workers were expected to begin cleaning up the tar balls Friday. "At the Coast Guard's direction, we removed material on Horn Island today and will begin removal activity on West Ship tomorrow," Jason Ryan, press officer for BP America Inc. said Friday. "The material has been visually identified as possible residual

Macondo oil and will be fingerprinted to confirm this identification." The oil substance was found by a team made up of MDEQ, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Park Service, the state Department of Archives & History and BP contractors. On Wednesday, the Coast Guard removed about 97 pounds of oil were from East Ship Island. The tar was most likely uncovered by low tides and wind at this time of year, according to MDEQ. "Even though the BP oil spill occurred nearly four years ago, it is evident from the material found this week why we remain diligent to find and remove any oil that is found," said Richard Harrell, director of MDEQ's Office of Pollution Control. "As we promised from the beginning, we would hold BP accountable for the largest man-made disaster in history, and that includes not only our restoration efforts to make 'Mississippi Whole', but working to see that our Barrier Islands and coastline remain uncontaminated." Ryan said BP remains committed and prepared to respond at the direction of the Coast Guard if potential Macondo oil is identified through the National Response Center process and requires removal. "Ever since the Coast Guard transitioned Mississippi back to the National Response Center reporting system in June 2013, BP has kept resources in place to quickly respond if necessary," Ryan said.

<http://www.sunherald.com/2014/03/21/5434500/tar-balls-discovered-on-ship-horn.html>

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, DAHANU, MARCH 23 2014. EIGHT CHARRED TO DEATH AS TANKER EXPLODES IN DAHANU

ram parmar



Several vehicles were damaged after the driver of a tanker lost control and rammed into them. 17 vehicles burnt, hotel severely damaged as speeding fuel tanker skids 200 mts, bursts into flames at busy naka on Mumbai Ahmedabad Highway on Saturday afternoon.

Eight people, including two children, were burnt to death and as many others injured when a tanker carrying inflammable liquid skidded and exploded near Charoti Naka in Dahanu, on the Mumbai Ahmedabad Highway No 8, on Saturday afternoon. Around 2.30 pm, the speeding tanker (GJ 6 ZZ 7918) of Reliance Group from Jamnagar, was proceeding to Mumbai when the driver lost control and it skidded 200 metres, ramming a number of vehicles parked close to a hotel near the naka, before bursting into flames. Within seconds the fire enveloped the parking area and 17 vehicles were damaged, including a jeep, three Tata Magic taxi vans, three autorickshaws, and 10 motorcycles. Hotel

Apsara, a restaurant-cum-beer bar near which where the vehicles were parked, was also severely damaged in the blaze. "We informed Reliance Thermal Power Fire Brigade, and fire brigades from nearby Sarigam, in Umargaon (Gujarat), also rushed to the spot to douse the flames which took four hours to control," said Deputy Superintendent of Police, Jawhar, Pradip Jadhav. While only four of the dead were identified at the time of going to press, DySP Jadhav confirmed eight deaths, including the tanker driver, cleaner and an occupant, and three adults and two kids seated in Tata Magic cabs awaiting other share-a-taxi passengers. The four victims identified are Reena Umbarasada, 30, Seeta Gupta, 30, Tejal 11, and Payal, 10. "We could not identify the others and will have DNA tests conducted on the bodies. We will also have to wait until the burnt vehicles cool



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down to ascertain if any more people are trapped inside, and to get an exact figure of the victims," he said. Around eight other people suffered burn injuries and were taken first to Kasa Rural Hospital and later shifted to Wockhardt Hospital at Mulund. The injured are Ram Yadav, 42, Ramu Ravte, 35, Baby Begum Rasal, 45, Anjali Laxman Boba, 14, Sangita Bujad, 10, Gyaneshwar Chavan, 55, Bhushan Sankhe, 40 and Sunil Umbarsada, 25, the official said. Of the injured, Bhushan Sankhe is a constable attached to the Kasa Police Station. He pulled to safety a girl, Sachita Dhagda, 6, who was standing close to the tanker which exploded, and suffered burn injuries to his hand in the process. Due to the massive blaze, around 100 residents of Walivpada Village, located behind Hotel Apsara, abandoned their homes and fled as they feared the fire would spread. Several customers, mostly truck drivers, who were trapped in the hotel were rescued after the fire was brought under control. Charoti Naka is a highly congested junction of four roads leading to Mumbai, Kasa, Dahanu city and Ahmedabad. Traffic on the highway was halted for three hours until the blaze was brought under control. "We have registered a case under Section 304 (a) (negligence) of the IPC against the tanker driver and are waiting for Reliance officials to turn up at the police station for questioning," DySP Jadhav added.

<http://www.mumbaimirror.com/mumbai/others/Eight-charred-to-death-as-tanker-explodes-in-Dahanu/articleshow/32508867.cms>

PAKISTAN, BALUCHISTAN PROVINCE, HUB, MARCH 23 2014. BUSES SMASH INTO TANKER, 35 KILLED



Wreckage... Onlookers inspect the burnt remains of a passenger bus in the Baluchistan province of Pakistan.

A collision between two passenger buses and a petrol tanker has killed 35 people in southwest Pakistan, officials said, with many of the victims burning to death. A bus travelling to Karachi collided with the tanker in the early hours of Saturday morning in Gadani district on the coast of Baluchistan province, senior administration official Akber Haripal told AFP. "The bus and the tanker had a head-on collision and the oil tanker turned over, but the situation got worse when a second passenger bus coming from behind rammed into the first bus as it skidded on the oil spilled on the road," he said. The first bus then caught fire,

he said, adding that 35 people were killed, most burning to death while trapped inside the bus, and 30 were injured. Amir Sultan, another senior administration official confirmed the incident and toll and said the dead bodies were "beyond recognition". "These passengers buses travelling between Baluchistan and Karachi have automatic hydraulic doors and their windows are sealed because the buses are air conditioned, so most of the passengers were trapped inside," he said. Sultan said the injured were being taken to Karachi after receiving first aid at a government-run medical dispensary because there was no hospital in the area. Pakistan has one of the world's worst records for fatal traffic accidents, blamed on poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.

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- [35 killed in Pakistan vehicle pile-up as smuggled fuel catches fire](#)

<http://www.news.com.au/world/buses-smash-into-tanker-in-baluchistan-province-of-pakistan-35-killed/story-fndir2ev-1226862260171>

BRAZIL, SAO PAULO, MARCH 23 2014. SCANDAL INVOLVING REFINERY HITS BRAZIL'S PETROBRAS

stan lehman

The directors of Brazil's state-run oil company Petrobras gathered Friday for a special board meeting amid a scandal over the company's 2006 purchase of a Texas oil refinery that threatens to involve President Dilma Rousseff. A Petrobras official confirmed the meeting, but did not provide further details. She declined to be identified because she was not authorized to speak to the press. In 2006, Petrobras paid Belgium's Astra Oil \$360 million for a 50 percent stake of the Pasadena Refining System. One year later, Astra Oil exercised a so-called "put option" to get Petrobras to buy the remaining 50 percent stake. The Brazilian company refused, but in 2012 it lost an arbitration case in the United States. Interest payments and legal fees



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brought the price tag for the remaining stake in the refinery to \$820.5 million. In the end, Petrobras paid \$1.18 billion for a refinery that had cost Astra \$42.5 million in 2005. Rousseff was the chairwoman of the Petrobras board of directors at the time of the initial purchase and the O Estado de S. Paulo newspaper reported this week that she authorized it. Rousseff's office said in a statement that her decision was based on a "technically and legally flawed summary" of the document drawn up for the purchase by Nestor Cervero, currently the financial director Petrobras' fuel distribution subsidiary. The statement said the summary made no mention of the put option and that if she had known, she and the board would never have approved the purchase. A put option is the opportunity to sell a certain number of shares at a certain price and date in exchange for an upfront fee. Congressman Rubens Bueno of the opposition Popular Socialist Party told reporters that the ruling Workers Party is "using Petrobras for shady deals that now involve the president." "You cannot preside over the board of directors of a company like Petrobras and say you have been duped," he said. The Federal Police and prosecutors are investigating whether illegal remittances and overbilling were involved in the acquisition of the refinery. On Friday, neither the presidency nor Petrobras would comment on the matter. Authorities are also investigating recently surfaced allegations that, several years ago, Petrobras officials accepted bribes from SBM Offshore, a Netherlands-based supplier of offshore oil vessels. And on Thursday federal police arrested Paulo Roberto Costa, a former director of downstream operations at Petrobras suspected of involvement in a money-laundering scheme. Police said his arrest was not related to the oil refinery investigation.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/03/21/4905767/scandal-involving-refinery-hits.html>

USA, ILL, CARBONDALE, MARCH 23 2014. POLICE: MAN COMMITTED SUICIDE WITH HAZARDOUS GAS

Police are investigating the death of a man who apparently killed himself by poisonous gas late last night. Police were called at 10:34 p.m. to 1003 S Mechanic St. for a report that a sign was on the inside of a vehicle indicating a poisonous gas was used, according to a Marion police news release. The Marion Fire Department's Hazardous Material Team also responded. The area was quarantined for a short time and all hazardous materials were removed. No other injuries occurred as a result of the incident. A male subject was found deceased inside the vehicle of an apparent suicide. It was determined that hydrogen sulfide was the poisonous gas. The victim is not being identified at this time, pending notification of family. The investigation is continuing.

http://thesouthern.com/news/local/communities/marion/police-man-committed-suicide-with-hazardous-gas/article_5ec07612-e3f8-5eba-ba45-4b4ee4a61e1c.html

CANADA, ONT, TECUMSEH, MARCH 23 2014. EXPLOSION KILLS MIDWEST FARMERS WAVERLY CO-OP WORKER

jonathan edwards

An agricultural worker died Thursday night after tanks holding anhydrous ammonia exploded in Tecumseh, the Johnson County attorney said. The explosion happened about 6 p.m. Thursday at the Midwest Farmers Cooperative elevator, attorney Julie Smith said. Tecumseh Fire and Rescue crews took two co-op workers to the hospital, and one of them died at 10:45 p.m. from breathing too much ammonia, Smith said. Co-op employees said the man who died was John Bennet. "There's no doubt in my mind we're gonna miss him," said Denny Lane, manager at the Tecumseh branch. "He always had a kind word. John was a part of our family. Our whole company runs as a family. "It's a tragedy. It's a tragedy on everyone." Bennet drove a truck for the cooperative, President Dale Piper said, declining to comment further until investigators know more. Two others, including a Johnson County Sheriff's deputy, were treated for non-life-threatening injuries not related to anhydrous ammonia exposure, Smith said. Anhydrous ammonia is a clear, colorless and odorless gas that farmers use as a fertilizer, according to the Centers for Disease Control website. It is explosive, corrodes tissue on contact and can kill. Breathing mild to moderate amounts of the gas causes nausea, vomiting, stomach pain and burns to the mouth, throat and stomach, according to the website.

http://journalstar.com/news/local/911/explosion-kills-midwest-farmers-waverly-co-op-worker/article_5b3937c8-65b8-5fd9-a747-3a652f1924ec.html

ARGENTINA, MENDOZA, MARCH 23 2014. FIRE, EXPLOSION AT ARGENTINE OIL PLANT AFFECTS OUTPUT, NO VICTIMS

An oil tank exploded at a treatment plant run by state energy company YPF on Saturday, affecting more than 3 percent of the firm's total output of crude but leaving no fatalities, the company said. YPF said its nearby Lujan de Cuyo refinery, which produces 106,000 barrels of oil per day, was drawing on oil from back-up deposits and operating normally. Local TV broadcast images of a large oil tank ablaze at the Cerro Divisadero treatment plant in the province of Mendoza, around 1,400 kilometers



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(870 miles) southwest of Buenos Aires. The company said the fire and explosion affected the entire treatment complex, forcing the closure of ten deposits that produce 1,460 cubic meters (51,559 cubic feet) of crude per day. The ten tanks make up 3.8 percent of YPF's total output. "The fire started midday on Friday in one of the plant's oil tanks," YPF said in a statement. "The company activated its contingency plan and told provincial and national authorities and is at this time working with them to control the situation."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/22/argentina-ypf-fire-idUSL2N0MJ0MN20140322>

USA, TX, TEXAS CITY, MARCH 23 2014. OIL SPILL PRODUCT OF BARGE, SHIP COLLISION IN TEXAS CITY DIKE >> 2 INJURED IN COLLISION

dawn brooks

 **Watch the Video** [Oil Spill Product of Barge, Ship Collision in Texas City Dike](#)

Several state, federal and local agencies are on scene of an oil spill that resulted from a collision off of the Texas City Dike. The Coast Guard and its state and local partners responded after the accident happened at around 12:35 p.m. at approximately 400-500 yards off of the Dike. The captain of the 585-foot bulk carrier, Summer Wind, called the Coast Guard Sector Houston/Galveston to report the collision between the Summer Wind and a barge that contained 924,000 gallons of fuel oil, towed by the motor vessel Miss Susan. According to Bruce Clawson, Texas City's Emergency Manager, the barge is partially sunk. "It has a type of bunker fuel, a very heavy oil," Bruce Clawson. "Some of it has leaked out, it has not been contained. They are working on that now. We anticipate it will move around for the next day or day and a half before it actually comes ashore." Clawson said containment booms are being used to prevent the oil from spreading to sensitive areas. It's still unknown just how much oil has leaked, but Clawson said only one of the barge's four tanks is leaking. "Certainly we are always concerned when oil is in the water," Clawson said. "We're concerned for the environment and humans. I'd say this is a moderate incident." According to Clawson, two people were injured during the initial incident after being overcome by hydrogen sulfide fumes. They have been taken to a hospital. Officials are monitoring the air in the area but said there no reports of problems in Texas City. The U.S. Coast Guard said the Houston Ship Channel is currently closed to traffic due to the incident and an assessment is underway.

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/barge-ship-collide-in-texas-city-dike/25107670>

USA, LA, LAKE CHARLES, MARCH 23 2014. PROSECUTORS ASK \$197M FINE FOR 2006 SPILL



The Justice Department wants a federal judge to fine Citgo Petroleum at least \$197 million in a Clean Water Act enforcement lawsuit filed in a 2006 oil spill at the company's Lake Charles refinery. The Advocate reports the Justice Department argued in court filings this month that the legal maximum penalty hovers around \$232 million and an appropriate penalty for Houston-based Citgo should be no less than \$197 million. The case went to trial in 2011, but the penalty amount is back in play after the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last year ordered U.S. District Judge Richard Haik to reconsider a \$6 million penalty, giving more attention to the company's past environmental violations and its decision to delay upgrades that might have prevented the oil spill. No new court date has been set. Justice Department attorneys wrote that Haik's original \$6 million penalty is "an amount scarcely more than one day's profit for Citgo at the time of the spill." The June 2006 oil spill happened when heavy rains caused two

"slop oil" tanks at the refinery to overflow, sending a mixture of oily waste water and other pollutants from the refinery into the Calcasieu River and other nearby waterways. Estimates for the spill ranged from 54,000 barrels to 76,800 barrels. At issue in the 2011 bench trial before Haik was how much money the company should pay. Haik wrote in his 2011 ruling that there was a need to balance the seriousness of the oil spill with the oil company's response efforts and the environmental impact, "which could have been much worse under the circumstances." The appeals court ruling that overturned Haik's \$6 million penalty states that he "discounted the seriousness of Citgo's multi-year wait before it began taking the corrective measures required at this plant." According to the appellate court's ruling, Citgo had been aware of the need for environmental upgrades but had put off doing the work despite the recommendations of its own employees and consultants. Citgo has argued that any penalty should be offset by the \$13 million fine the company paid in a related criminal Clean Water Act charge and by the more than \$130 million the company paid in clean-up costs and legal settlements with local businesses. In addition to the \$6 million



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federal penalty, Haik mandated several measures to prevent future spills at the refinery and imposed an additional \$3 million penalty to be paid to the state Department of Environmental Quality. Citgo did not appeal the state penalty and has paid it.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/03/22/prosecutors-ask-197m-fine-for-citgo-in-2006-spill/6739705/>

USA, ARK, CONWAY, MARCH 23 2014. OVERTURNED DIESEL TANKER CLOSES OAK STREET SATURDAY

courtney spradlin

 [Photo's Slideshow: Overturned diesel tanker on Oak Street](#)



The driver of a diesel tanker was transported to a Little Rock hospital in stable condition after the truck he was driving rolled and came to rest on its side on the eastbound side of Oak Street near Interstate 40 Saturday. Oak Street was closed in both directions at the interstate overpass from the time of the accident, about 8:30 a.m., to about 3 p.m., as crews unloaded the truck's contents into another tanker. Officials on scene said the tanker, a "Thomas" company truck, carried 5,200 gallons of off-road diesel. As the truck rested on its side, the top caps on the tank leaked, and responders worked to tighten the caps to keep more diesel from draining into the ditch. Responders were the Office of Emergency Management, Conway Police Department and the Conway Fire Department. MEMS transported the injured driver and was on standby for medical through the incident and cleanup. Due to the contents and size of the

load, the truck could not be uprighted until most of the fuel had been siphoned into another Thomas company truck that was brought in from Center Ridge. Three wreckers pulled the truck over as the payload was transferred to the other truck, and the wrecker service used inflatable air bags to give the truck lift as it was uprighted. No other vehicles were involved in the incident.

<http://thecabin.net/news/local/2014-03-22/overturned-diesel-tanker-closes-oak-street-saturday#.Uy5CP8Zmim4>

USA, MA, ABINGTON, MARCH 23 2014. STATE INVESTIGATING FIREWORKS EXPLOSION THAT SEVERELY INJURED TEEN

joseph markman

Two men were injured Thursday night when a firework exploded inside an Abington apartment. A teenager was recovering from severe hand injuries Friday at Massachusetts General Hospital after a consumer-grade firework exploded inside an Abington apartment. The 17-year-old boy and 31-year-old man were injured at 10 p.m. Thursday when the golf ball-sized firework they were handling exploded just outside a bedroom at the older man's Woodlands Way apartment, Abington Fire Chief John Nuttal said. The firework was believed to have been ignited accidentally, Nuttal said. "They tried to get it out of the building but it exploded as they were trying to do so," Nuttal said. "It appears it was just a tragic mistake." The 31-year-old suffered superficial injuries and was treated and released from Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital Thursday night, Nuttal said. Neither victim's identity has been released. Residents were evacuated from the surrounding apartments in the 24-unit building while the state police bomb squad safely removed a remaining unexploded firework of similar size. The state fire marshal was investigating the incident Friday afternoon, spokeswoman Jennifer Mieth said. A crew was cleaning the ground-floor apartment Friday morning. Woodlands Way management declined to comment on the incident or whether there would be disciplinary action against the resident. Fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts. Yet public safety officials respond all-too-often to fireworks-related fires and injuries, Mieth said, typically during the summer. "They are illegal in Massachusetts for this very reason, for how dangerous they are," Mieth said. Abington Police Chief David Majenski did not respond to requests for comment. There was no fire or structural damage to the apartment. Mieth said that is not unusual for an explosion. "Explosions don't always cause ensuing fires," she said. "What you had here was a blunt trauma injury."

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/article/20140321/NEWS/140329122>

PAKISTAN, POTHOHAR, RAWALPINDI, MARCH 23 2014. VEHICLES CARRYING FIREWORKS DAMAGED

Two vehicles carrying fireworks exploded after catching fire in the limit of the Gunjmandi police on Thursday night. The fire erupted in a carry van transporting the contraband fireworks which was followed by an explosion. All of a sudden, the flames engulfed a rickshaw that was also transporting fireworks. In addition to the two vehicles, three nearby shops were also damaged in the fire. Shortly afterwards, the fire fighters and ambulances from Rescue Services 1122 reached the spot and put



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out the flames after an hour. The police said the fire was caused by an electric short circuiting in the van. The driver of the van, however, escaped from the scene after the incident. But the police have arrested the owner/driver of the rickshaw and are investigating him. The government has already imposed a ban on the sale and use of fireworks. But even then, a large quantity of fireworks smuggled into the city and stored in different localities.

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1094738/vehicles-carrying-fireworks-damaged>

CZECH REPUBLIC, PRAGUE, MARCH 23 2014. EXPLOSION IN CZECH REPUBLIC KILLS 1, INJURES 3

Czech officials say an explosion of unknown ammunition in an eastern town has killed one man and seriously injured three other people. Lukas Humpl, a spokesman for the regional rescue service, says rescuers unsuccessfully tried for 45 minutes to save the life of a 34-year-old man who sustained numerous injuries in the explosion on Saturday night in the town of Vitkov. In a Sunday statement, Humpl says three other people — men aged 36 and 27, and a 26-year-old woman — were hospitalized in the regional capital of Ostrava in very serious condition. Police spokesman Rene Cernohorsky says the four were handling the ammunition when the explosion occurred. Czech public radio says they likely found it in a nearby military area

<http://www.fireengineering.com/ap-news/2014/03/23/explosion-in-czech-republic-kills-1-injures-3.html>

ARGENTINA, MENDOZA, MARCH 23 2014. BLAST AT OIL DEPOT IN ARGENTINA INJURES 14

State-controlled oil company YPF said an explosion at a tank farm in the western Argentine province of Mendoza injured 14 people. Media reports, however, said 17 people were injured in Saturday's explosion. The explosion was caused by a fire that started on Friday night at the Cerro Divisadero complex, located about 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) west of Buenos Aires. Firefighters continued working on Saturday evening to put out the blaze and barriers were erected to keep crude from flowing into the Rio Grande. The cause of the fire in the tank, which contained 10,000 cubic meters of petroleum, is under investigation, YPF said in a statement.

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/03/23/blast-at-oil-depot-in-argentina-injures-14/>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, MARCH 23 2014. SAFETY DEFECTS FOUND ON ONE IN 14 HEAVY TRUCKS DURING CHECKS ON MELBOURNE STREETS

peter mickelburgh



A Cootes truck is inspected last year.

Major safety defects have been discovered on one in 14 heavy trucks inspected - including fuel and chemical transporters - during checks on Melbourne streets in the past nine months. VicRoads revealed the figure after documents obtained by the Herald Sun using Freedom of Information laws showed the authority failed for a year to identify hundreds of potentially deadly faults with tankers run by the country's biggest fuel transporter, Cootes Transport. The Victorian-based company has twice been forced to take its fleet off the road since a horror crash last year that killed two and left five injured. The RACV said VicRoads' inspection regime must be strengthened to keep all road users safe. "It is of concern that

VicRoads' vehicle inspection processes do not appear to be keeping track of the number of fuel and chemical transport vehicles that are checked," RACV general manager public policy Brian Negus said. "When the Cootes safety issues arose, RACV stressed that VicRoads needed to address the systematic safety issues that were revealed at the company and to take steps to reassure the community that adequate safety and inspection procedures were in place," he said. "RACV again calls on VicRoads to strengthen its vehicle inspection procedures to ensure the safety of all Victorian road users." VicRoads said it was intensifying its focus on heavy vehicles carrying dangerous goods and was confident the system was working. "The majority of heavy vehicle operators take their responsibilities seriously," acting chief executive David Shelton said. "Inspections since July 2013 back this up, with only 3 per cent of inspected vehicles in rural areas found to have major defects and 7 per cent in metropolitan areas." Mr Shelton said 40,000 heavy trucks and trailers were checked each year, helping Victoria record the nation's lowest rate of crashes for heavy vehicles and the percentage of fatalities involving articulated trucks falling each year since 2005. Records obtained by the Herald Sun after a six-month FoI battle show VicRoads' checks uncovered problems with just 23 fuel and chemical transporters in the year to September 30 last year and none of those faulty vehicles were operated by Cootes. The following month, Cootes was issued with hundreds of defect notices after a suspected brake failure caused one of its fuel tankers to career out of control and explode in Sydney. Last month, Cootes was again forced to



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take its Victorian fleet off the road after VicRoads found 25 of 32 trucks still had "significant defects". VicRoads was unable to say how many fuel and chemical tankers it checks, saying it only records a vehicle type when a problem is found. The documents show VicRoads detected 15 noncompliant fuel tankers in the year to September 30 last year, resulting in four offences and 11 defect notices. The faults included an overweight jet fuel tanker travelling from Spotswood to the Sale RAAF base and a B-double tanker carrying fuel from Hastings to Morwell that were deemed a "substantial risk" and fined for carrying a load more than 5 per cent in excess of its limit. Two other fuel carriers were fined for insecure loads and 24 major and minor defects were detected on 11 fuel tankers including unroadworthy brakes, unroadworthy tyres, faulty shock absorbers, broken lights and indicators, rust, cracked windscreens, an oil leak, missing numberplates, missing marking plates, pedal rubbers and drag linkage. Eight noncompliant vehicles carrying chemicals were issued with seven defect notices for 15 defects including cracked mounting plates, poorly adjusted brakes, unroadworthy tyres, worn out torsion rubbers and marker plates, loose door hinges, a power steering oil leak, and inoperative brake, tail and numberplate lights.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/safety-defects-found-on-one-in-14-heavy-trucks-during-checks-on-melbourne-streets/story-fni0fi3-1226862637700>

USA, MN, MANKATO, MARCH 24 2014. FORMER SA SITE HEAVILY CONTAMINATED, NEW OWNER SEEKS LOAN, GRANT

tim krohn

The former site of Super America on Madison Avenue, which sat vacant for several years, has contaminated soil that is far worse than originally thought. The corner lot of the former gas station, across Madison Avenue from Charley's restaurant was purchased by Jon Kietzer, who plans to construct a building for his Century 21 Landmark Realtors business as well as leasing out other space. While the old fuel tanks had long been removed from the site and some soil contamination was expected, the contamination was found to be far more extensive once excavation began. The Mankato City Council, acting as the Economic Development Authority, is being asked to provide a low interest loan of up to \$152,000 and a grant of up to \$50,000 to Kietzer to help cover the added costs of cleaning up and building on the site. City staff is recommending the EDA approve the loan at its 6 p.m. meeting on Monday. The soil had been contaminated by leaks from the tanks before they were removed and a plume of gasoline remained on the site. Kietzer has limited options in going after Super America. The former owner is responsible for contamination on the site if it impacts other properties, but Kietzer's contract to purchase the property contained no warranties or representations of a "clean site," only that the underground tanks had been removed. One way to clean up the site would have been to excavate all soil to a depth of at least 11 feet, which would add a \$325,000 cost to the project. A cheaper route, which Kietzer plans, is to use a helical pier foundation system that would require less excavation. That system is estimated at \$152,000. Proper disposal of contaminated soil is estimated at \$50,000. The EDA loan would be at 3 percent interest for 15 years. The loan will be secured by the ability to specially assess the property should a default occur.

<http://www.mankatofreepress.com/local/x1387881902/Former-SA-site-heavily-contaminated>

INDIA, THANE, KASA, MARCH 25 2014. OIL TANKER ACCIDENT: COPS QUIZ OWNER OF TRANSPORT FIRM



Summary

The tanker was transporting Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), a butane derivative used as a fuel component.

The accident on March 22 claimed 10 lives and left five persons injured. The tanker belonged to Randhawa Transport Service, based in Vadodara and owned by Ranjit Singh Randhawa. The Kasa police, probing an accident on Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway on March 22 in which a tanker exploded after turning turtle, on Monday questioned the owner of the logistics company that owned the tanker. The accident claimed ten lives and left five persons injured. The tanker belonged to Randhawa Transport Service, based in Vadodara and owned by

Ranjit Singh Randhawa. The tanker was transporting Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), a butane derivative used as a fuel component in fuel for gasoline engines. The MTBE was sold by Reliance Chemicals to a company known as Vinati Organics, said a Reliance spokesperson. The tanker, carrying over 35,000 litres of the flammable chemical, was on its way to Ratnagiri when the driver lost control over the vehicle near Charoti toll naka in Dahanu. The driver was posthumously booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and the police are probing whether there was any negligence involved in the filling



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or transport of the chemical. "We have questioned Randhawa and he will give us details of the client the butane was being transported for. The paperwork of the transaction was destroyed when the tanker exploded. We have asked for copies," said assistant police inspector Ravindra Magar. "I was given a contract by Vinati Organics to transport the chemical. My tanker picked it up from Hajira port in Gujarat and was taking it to the company's plant in Lote Parshuram, Ratnagiri when the accident occurred," Randhawa told Newsline. "I knew the driver, Bahadur Singh, well and there had never been a complaint against him in the past. He had been working for me for the past seven-eight months." Vinati Organics could not be reached for comment. "The cargo was sold by Reliance Chemicals to Vinati Organics. Our liability in the matter is zero," said a Reliance spokesperson. "We are probing whether there was any negligence on part of the transporter or the company. We will decide on further action after our inquiries are complete," Magar said. Meanwhile, seven of the ten deceased are yet to be identified. The bodies would be sent to Kalina forensic laboratory Tuesday for DNA tests, police said.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/maharashtra/oil-tanker-accident-cops-quiz-owner-of-transport-firm/>

USA, CA, NORTH BAY, MARCH 25 2014. UNDERGROUND FUEL TANK LOAN PROGRAM GETS BOOST FROM STATE - SPECIAL LOANS, GRANTS FOR REMOVAL AND MODERNIZATION

eric gneckow

California lawmakers have bolstered a state-sponsored program to finance the upgrade and removal of underground petroleum storage tanks and related systems, highlighting an ongoing need for that work in areas including the North Bay, according to the program's regional administrator and others. Known as "RUST" — short for "Replacing, Removing or Upgrading Underground Storage Tanks" — the program offers low interest-rate loans and grants generally tailored for smaller, independent gas retailers who cannot otherwise afford those requirements. While RUST's interest rates ticked upward when steps to support the fund's long-term viability took effect on Jan. 1, the program continues to offer relatively low rates for smaller firms facing steep costs to upgrade their systems, said Mary Jo Dutra, chief executive of the program's regional administrator, SAFE-BIDCO. "The reason this program is so great is that it allows you to continue your operation in a more competitive way. It gives them the ability to stay open, and it helps the environment," said Ms. Dutra, whose Santa Rosa-based firm underwrites and administers a number of specialty financing programs throughout the state. Launched in 1989 and currently operated under the State Water Resources Control Board, the RUST loan program has funded 658 loans valued at more than \$123.5 million across California through June 2012, according to the latest annual report from the water board. Borrowers in the six-county North Bay area have accounted for more than 6 percent of those loans by number, with further funding approved through smaller-value grant programs launched in 2000 and 2004. More than 78 percent of that borrowing by dollar volume was prior to 2004, when small gas retailers and similar businesses faced a significant expansion of regulation designed to fortify underground storage systems against leaks. The California State Legislature has expanded the program a total of four times, typically in step with the approval of new federal and state regulations concerning water and air quality. "The program had a real big value at the time the state was changing the rules for a lot of small tank owners," said Hans Herb, whose Santa Rosa-based law practice specializes in fuel industry issues in California, Washington and Arizona. Consolidation throughout the industry, including the advent of large-scale "hypermarket" purchasing and selling huge volumes of fuel at a discount, is among the factors that lowered the usage of RUST in recent years, Mr. Herb said. An independent analysis prepared on behalf of the water board in 2012 found lower borrowing levels versus grant awards to be steadily eroding the program's capital reserve, projected to be fully depleted around the time of the planned sunset of the program in 2016. Yet the California Legislature and others argued that the program has demonstrated a continued usefulness, approving the shift of \$8 million in funding to recapitalize the RUST fund and a tweak to prioritize loans over grants made effective on Jan. 1. The program will now sunset in 2022. One area where the program stands to make a continued impact is in California's remote rural communities, where a gas station project could well represent the single largest construction effort in the region. Many of those facilities have put off those projects as new regulations loom, risking a shutdown, Mr. Herb said. "If you cut off fuel to these small towns because they can't afford air quality and, in some cases, water regulations — it's a big problem," Mr. Herb said. "You may literally have to drive 100 miles to visit the nearest gas station." For SAFE-BIDCO, which joins other "financial development corporations" around the state that administer RUST loans, that continuing usefulness was also made evident through program's role in funding necessary work identified during a recent wave of gas station acquisitions, Ms. Dutra said. "There was an increase a couple years ago in its use, because a lot of operators sold to get out of the business," said Ms. Dutra, whose firm did initial underwriting and packaging for a dozen loans cross its service area in a single year. "All of those 12 needed work." A single borrower is eligible for up to \$750,000 in financing through RUST, offered at a fixed rate for either 10 or 20-year terms. Interest rates are now half of the state's general obligation fund rate — around 2 percent — versus a



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previous rate that ranged from below half-a-percent to around 1 percent. Those with 20 or fewer employees and sales under 900,000 gallons are eligible for up to \$50,000 in grant funding through RUST, with the recent changes reducing the total fund volume eligible for grants from 33 to 22 percent. "It covers just about everything from the storage of the fuel to out of the nozzle," said J.T. Marcell, loan analyst with the state water board. It is no longer a necessity that borrowers fail to qualify for traditional bank financing, though Mr. Marcell said that the ability of a small operator to obtain a typical loan for underground storage tank-related work was already tenuous. "You're dealing with something that nobody wants to deal with — chemicals. But it's something we need on a daily basis," he said. "That's not the sort of loan you'd be able to get easily from BofA." There are 1,235 permitted underground storage tanks in the six-county North Bay and 455 active cleanup sites, according to information from the water board. More than half of those cases are in Sonoma County, where the Department of Environmental Health and Safety oversees cases requiring cleanup. "They can cause a potential threat to water quality — groundwater is a huge resource for drinking water in Sonoma County," said Christine Sosko, the county's environmental health and safety director. Underground storage tanks were once a common practice for a variety of commercial uses, and discovery of old tanks by a new property owner is not uncommon. Borrowers — including residential property owners — are eligible for RUST loans to fund removal and remediation if those tanks were used to store petroleum products such as fuel or oil, Mr. Marcell said. Yet other uses can also be eligible for RUST financing or grants, including a case in which a printing company whose historic underground storage of non-petroleum ink was found to have a petroleum product elsewhere in the production process, he said. "The program is very accommodating," he said. "It's not just a loan for small business — it's a way to protect our natural resources and the environment."

<http://www.northbaybusinessjournal.com/89240/underground-fuel-tank-loan-program-gets-boost-from-state/>

USA, VA, GLOUCESTER, MARCH 25 2014. TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS IN GLOUCESTER

A tanker truck overturned in Gloucester Monday afternoon, affecting traffic for hours. A WAVY viewer sent in a picture from the scene, which showed the yellow tanker on its side in the middle of the 2700 block of George Washington Highway. Sgt. Michelle Anaya with Virginia State Police said no one was injured. She also confirmed the contents did not leak from the truck. The southbound lanes were shut down while crews cleared the scene. There's no word on what caused the truck to flip.

<http://wavy.com/2014/03/24/tanker-truck-overturms-in-gloucester/>

NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, MARCH 25 2014. CHEMICAL CLEAN-UP ALMOST OVER

The clean-up of a large chemical spill at an Auckland worksite is nearly complete. A forklift driver punctured a container of hydrochloric acid at the Waterview Road project just after 5.30 on Tuesday morning. 800 litres of the acid spilled out. Fire crews applied caustic soda to neutralise the acid, creating a steam cloud. However, the Fire Service said the cloud was no threat to public health. It said residents were no longer being urged to stay inside and its 15 trucks still at the site should be finished in the next couple of hours. Waterview road project manager John Burden said the workers reacted just as they'd been trained. He said the driver had been interviewed, and the incident was being investigated. Transport Agency Waterview communications adviser Helen Cook said the spill was well contained as the acid, which was used for cleaning waste water from the roading project, was housed in a purpose-built hazardous substances building.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/regional/239734/chemical-clean-up-almost-over>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, PERUNDURAI TOWN, MARCH 25 2014. NHRC ISSUES NOTICE TO TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT ON REPORTS OF 7 WORKERS' DEATH, DUE TO ASPHYXIATION

The National Human Rights Commission has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports that seven workers of a private dyeing unit located in the Erode Industrial Complex of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu died of asphyxiation and several others were taken ill on the 18th March, 2014 after inhaling toxic gas from a waste treatment tank. Reportedly, the incident took place when a mechanic went inside the tank to work on a faulty pump, but he fell as he was climbing down. Others followed him for his rescue and fell prey to the toxic gas. The Commission has observed that the contents of the report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victims and issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, calling for report within four weeks. He has also been directed to inform whether any interim relief has been provided to the next of kin of the deceased workers.

 **Related Stories** [Seven killed while cleaning factory tank in Tamil Nadu](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/nhrc-issues-notice-to-tamil-nadu-government-on-reports-of-seven-workers-death-due-to-asphyxiation-114032401170_1.html)

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/nhrc-issues-notice-to-tamil-nadu-government-on-reports-of-seven-workers-death-due-to-asphyxiation-114032401170_1.html



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INDIA, RAJASTHAN, SANGANER, MARCH 25 2014. THREE PERSONS KILLED IN PAPER MILL TANK MISHAP

Three persons, including an owner of a cardboard and paper factory, were today killed when they fell in a tank of pulp after losing consciousness due to suspected poisonous gas during an inspection in Sanganer area here. The deceased were identified as Naeemudeen (owner), Daulat Ram Meena and Majeed (both workers), police said. Due to suffocation, the three fell into the tank and were found dead when the cops reached there this afternoon, they said. The bodies were taken out and sent for postmortem, they said. The factory was closed for some time and the three had gone to examine the machines and material when the mishap occurred, police said.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/three-persons-killed-in-paper-mill-mishap-114032400565_1.html

USA, AKA, SOLDOTNA, MARCH 25 2014. NO INJURIES AFTER GAS TANKER COLLISION

dan balmer

Two vehicles collided and struck a commercial fuel truck at the Tesoro gas station on the Sterling Highway approximately 10:15 a.m. Monday in Soldotna. A woman driving a Jeep Cherokee turned out in front of a Roto-Rooter truck in the gas station parking lot and pushed the Jeep into a gas tanker in the process of filling the station tanks, said Soldotna Police Officer Tobin Brennan. Central Emergency Services arrived on scene shortly after and checked out the driver of the Jeep and reported no injuries, said CES firefighter Josh Thompson. No damage to the gas station is reported and business has returned to normal after Soldotna police cleared the scene in 45 minutes, Brennan said. The driver of the Jeep was issued a citation for failing to yield after she pulled into the gas station coming from the Peninsula Center Mall when the truck collided with her front-end corner panel, Brennan said. No fire explosion occurred and the tanker and truck received minor damage, Brennan said.

<http://peninsulaclarion.com/news/2014-03-24/no-injuries-after-gas-tanker-collision>

USA, CA, GORMAN, MARCH 26 2014. MAN KILLED IN JET FUEL TANKER CRASH NEAR GORMAN

A box truck and a tanker fully loaded with jet fuel collided on Interstate 5 near Gorman on Tuesday, killing the tanker truck driver. The crash resulted in no fire, no explosion and no leak of jet fuel, said Los Angeles County Fire Department Inspector Keith Mora. Firefighters were called to the collision about 6:40 a.m. in the northbound lanes of Interstate 5 just south of Highway 138, he said. The driver of the tanker was pronounced dead at the scene and the coroner's office was called, Mora said. The driver of the box truck, identified as 55-year-old Dominador B. Oropilla of Mesa, Arizona, was taken to Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, said California Highway Patrol Officer John Lutz. Oropilla was traveling northbound in the interstate's right-most lane just south of Highway 138 "at a slow rate of speed carrying approximately 70,000 pounds of tomatoes," Lutz said. The loaded tanker trailer, traveling northbound in the same lane, approached the rear of Oropilla's truck at "an unknown rate of speed," Lutz said. "For unknown reasons at this time, the tanker driver allowed his vehicle to collide with the rear of Oropilla's vehicle," the CHP officer said. "As a result of the collision, several gallons of diesel fuel were spilled onto the roadway and into an adjacent property east of the roadway," Lutz said. Officials with the Office of Emergency Services and Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation were notified. At 6:51 a.m., paramedics and members of the Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Unit were dispatched to the scene. "We got a 911 call from a passerby on the other side of the freeway who saw the accident," Mora said. "It took quite an amount of time to extricate the (box truck) driver," he said. About 40 gallons of diesel fuel and "a little bit of oil" spilled from one of the damaged trucks, Mora said. "We diked and dammed the spill pretty quickly," he said. The tanker containing the fuel was not compromised and was not leaking, he said. "Only the (diesel) fuel from the truck fuel reservoir was leaking," Mora said. Officers with the California Highway Patrol are investigating the collision. "Alcohol and/or drugs do not appear to be a factor to this collision at this time," Lutz said. "However, this investigation is continuing," Lutz said. All northbound lanes but one were closed for several hours for vehicle recovery and trailer off-loading, CHP officers said.

<http://www.signalscv.com/section/36/article/116906/>

CANADA, B.C, DAWSON CREEK, MARCH 26 2014. SEMI ROLLOVER ON SOUTH TAYLOR HILL

The South Taylor Hill has been closed in both directions due to a tanker truck rollover which occurred around 10:30 this morning. The single vehicle accident involves a truck with a pup trailer that was carrying diesel fuel. The trailer is now leaking fuel and the cab of the truck has flared up as well. The Taylor Fire Department is now on scene and the Provincial Emergency Program has been alerted regarding the spilled diesel fuel. The driver of the tanker was injured in the collision and has been taken to the Fort St. John Hospital by ambulance.

<http://www.cjdccountry.com/News/Story.aspx?ID=2143960>



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USA, MD, WILLIAMSPORT, MARCH 26 2014. RUPTURED FUEL TANK BELIEVED TO HAVE CAUSED DEATH OF FALLING WATERS COUPLE IN I-81 CRASH

dan dearth

 **Watch the Video** [Remembering the DiGiovannis](#)



Jeep Liberty involved in I-81 crash.

In this Herald-Mail file photo, rescue workers cover a vehicle on Interstate 81 northbound at Williamsport following a three-car accident that resulted in the death of Joseph A. Digiovanni, 69, and his wife, Esther, 68. Jeep Liberty vehicles similar to this one were the subject of a 2013 voluntary safety recall by Chrysler due to fuel tanks that the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration said were at risk for failure in a rear-impact collision. A fuel tank that ruptured and caused gasoline to ignite during a rear-end collision is suspected to have caused the deaths of a Falling Waters, W.Va., couple earlier this month on Interstate 81 near Williamsport, according to Maryland State

Police. Lt. Michael Fluharty said Tuesday that investigators suspect that Joseph Digiovanni, 69, and his wife, Esther Digiovanni, 68, were killed in a fire and an explosion that occurred when the fuel tank of their Jeep Liberty ruptured after the vehicle was struck in the rear by a Ford pickup truck on March 11. Fluharty said investigators were in the process of trying to determine the speed estimates at the time of impact. Troopers said earlier this month that the crash occurred shortly after 11:20 a.m. on March 11, when a 2010 Ford pickup being driven by Joshua P. Largent of Martinsburg, W.Va., struck the Jeep in the rear. The Jeep immediately burst into flames, police said. The pickup also was scorched, and a third vehicle, a 1994 Chevrolet Blazer being driven by Eric F. Funk of Hagerstown, left the roadway and came to rest between two trees. Funk and Largent declined to be taken to the hospital, according to police. Jeep Liberty vehicles similar to the one involved in the crash were the subject of a 2013 voluntary safety recall by Chrysler due to fuel tanks that the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration said were at risk for failure in a rear-impact collision. A day after the accident, Eric Mayne, Chrysler's media relations manager for engineering, powertrain, safety and regulatory issues, said: "Chrysler Group has finalized replacement-part design and has initiated the tooling process to deliver the required volume." He said customers would be "advised by mail" when they could schedule service.

Related Stories

- [Jeep Liberty vehicles recalled in 2013 for fuel tank risks in rear end collisions](#)
- [Victims of I-81 crash came to the U.S. from Italy for a year, and stayed for a lifetime](#)
- [Esther DiGiovanni, 68](#)
- [Joseph A. DiGiovanni, 69](#)

http://www.heraldmillmedia.com/news/local/ruptured-fuel-tank-believed-to-have-caused-death-of-falling/article_46e414ce-b471-11e3-a9f6-001a4bcf6878.html

USA, CT, FAIRFIELD, MARCH 26 2014. CAR CRASH LEAVES GAS STATION SEVERELY DAMAGED; 4 PEOPLE INJURED

joseph wenzel iv

 **Watch the Video** [Car Crash Leaves Gas Station Severely Damaged; 4 People Injured](#)

Twisted metal and broken glass remained at a gas station in Fairfield after a crash involving six motor vehicles Monday night. According to police, 31-year-old Rosa Blanca Chavarria-Medina, of Bridgeport, was in her Nissan Maxima alone and driving on Interstate 95 around 9 p.m. Police said Chavarria-Medina had a suspended license. They also said more charges could come. Police said Chavarria-Medina lost control of the Maxima while coming off I-95 and struck the Cumberland Farms on Kings Highway. The Maxima smashed straight into other cars and forced them into the gas station, police told Eyewitness News. A total of six motor vehicles were badly damaged, according to police. Firefighters said they had to use the jaws of life to cut Chavarria-Medina out of the Maxima. Four people were taken to the hospital, however police said all injuries including the driver's were non-life-threatening. Several signs of the crash were left behind Tuesday morning at the store even after the scene was cleared. A nearby Red Box kiosk was smashed in, and several concrete barriers in front of the building were damaged as a result of the crash. Customers said they're stunned to see all the damage left by the crash. "People slow down," said Stu Rosenberg. "This is pretty unusual." The investigation into the crash is ongoing.

<http://www.wfsb.com/story/25068856/car-crash-leaves-gas-station-severely-damaged-4-people-injured>



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USA, UT, PROVO, MARCH 26 2014. CHEMICAL LEAK PROMPTS EVACUATION OF PROVO PARK

jim dalrymple ii

A collision involving a Provo police car and a semi-truck Tuesday morning spilled flammable liquid and prompted the temporary evacuation of a downtown Provo park. The accident happened about 11:10 a.m., when the police car was heading south through the intersection of 500 West and Center Street, according to Provo Lt. Mathew Siufanua. At the same time, a Sherman-Williams paint truck was heading east on Center Street. The police car had its lights and sirens on, but the truck driver didn't see the police car and the two vehicles collided. The truck was carrying highly flammable paint and acetone, about a gallon of which leaked out onto the ground. By about 11:15 a.m., police were evacuating nearby Pioneer Park, located at 500 West Center Street. The evacuation lasted until about 12:30 p.m. Siufanua said there were about a dozen people in the park at the time of the accident. He added that the fumes from the liquid were very strong, but the leak did not cause any injuries. Both the police officer and the semi-truck driver were okay after the accident. The Utah Highway Patrol Troopers was investigating the accident.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57728668-78/police-accident-park-truck.html.csp>

USA, LA, LAFAYETTE, MARCH 27 2014. EXXON MOBIL TESTING GASOLINE BECAUSE OF "POORLY RUNNING" VEHICLES

letitia walker

The Department of Agriculture says Exxon Mobil has informed them there is a problem with the gasoline they have been shipping out. State officials says the company is still trying to determine exactly what is wrong. Drivers throughout Lafayette and Baton Rouge have been reporting problems with "poorly running" vehicles. The state office says tests they've run don't indicate there is a problem with the gasoline, so they aren't sure what's wrong. "Upon learning of the issue, we immediately began an investigation," said Lana Venable, Exxon's Public & Government Affairs Advisor. Exxon Mobil issued the following statement Wednesday afternoon: "We have been made aware of a potential issue with gasoline purchased at select locations in the Baton Rouge area. Upon learning of the issue, we immediately began an investigation. We have shut down the Baton Rouge terminal gasoline loading racks while the investigation continues. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our customers and motorists. We will continue to work with our customers and monitor the situation closely," Venable's official statement read. "If customers have questions or concerns regarding the fuel they may have purchased they should contact the station where they purchased the fuel or contact you can ExxonMobil North America Customer Care toll free at 855-300-2659," Venable added. KATC reached out to Exxon to find out if "select stations within the Baton Rouge area" includes Lafayette. KATC is still awaiting Exxon's official response.

<http://www.katc.com/news/exxon-mobil-testing-gasoline-because-of-poorly-running-vehicles/>

INDIA, KERALA, VENNUR, MARCH 26 2014. ANOTHER EXPLOSION IN A CRACKER UNIT

As many as 18 people had a providential escape as a major blast occurred at a cracker manufacturing unit at Vennur near Pazhayannur in Thrissur district on Wednesday. The cracker unit, licensed by Mekkanath Prajil, 24 of Vennur exploded around 1 pm after the labours at the unit had left for lunch. According to Santhosh Kumar, Chelakkara Circle Inspector, the cracker unit caught fire from unknown sources and exploded with a deafening sound, triggering panic in the area. None were injured in the accident as everyone had gone out for lunch. It is suspected that the explosives kept at the unit exploded due to high atmospheric temperature. The exact cause of the fire can only be ascertained only after detailed investigation, he said. Following the explosion, five fire tenders from Wadakanchery, Vadakkamchery and Alathur fire units rushed to the spot to douse the fire and the fire was brought under control by 3.30 pm. According to the labourers at the unit, the sound of the explosion reverberated in three kilometre area around the unit. "Normally, we used to leave for lunch at 1 pm but today we left the unit 15 minutes earlier", they said heaving a sigh of relief. There were two major explosions followed by some minor explosions. Many buildings including five houses, Vennur LP school and Muniyankavu temple, all situated about 700 m away from the cracker unit, were damaged in the blast," said locals. "Since it is the peak time of the festival season, a handsome cache of explosives was stored in the unit. "Though Prajil possesses a valid license, he had shifted the spot of the cracker unit from the permitted spot violating the rule. The police will arrest Prajil at the earliest and will register a case of negligence against him," CI said. Following the incident, tahsildar V Bavutty, village officer and others visited the spot. Earlier in the beginning of this month, another major cracker unit blast was averted at Erumapetty in Thrissur on February 28 midnight.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/Another-Explosion-in-a-Cracker-Unit/2014/03/27/article2132557.ece#.UzVHccZmim4>



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MALAYSIA, KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 27 2014. DIESEL LEAK FROM TANKER CAUSES TRAFFIC CHAOS IN JALAN DUTA

Three motorists and 20 motorcyclists skidded, one after the other when a diesel-laden tanker lorry sprung a leak, leaving a kilometre-long trail of diesel in Jalan Duta this evening. A Kuala Lumpur Fire and Rescue Department spokesman said the three-tonne tanker lorry's spillage left the motorists and motorcyclists sustaining mild injuries. The incident occurred about 2.20pm. Eleven firemen were involved in a clean-up operation after sealing off a section of Jalan Duta.

<http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v7/ge/newsgeneral.php?id=1025197>

USA, N.J, LEONIA, MARCH 28 2014. CHEMICAL SPILL AT LEONIA COMPANY SENDS WORKER TO HOSPITAL

kathryn brenzel

An employee at a Leonia company was hospitalized Wednesday morning after suffering burns and cuts from a chemical spill, according to officials. A container of liquid potassium hydroxide broke at Kulite Semiconductor Products Inc., a semiconductor manufacturing company on 1 Willow Tree Road, said Jeanne Baratta, the Bergen County Executive's Office Chief of Staff. A worker, who Baratta was unable to identify, was transported to the hospital for burns and cuts. The Bergen County Hazardous Materials Unit is still onsite cleaning up the spill, Baratta said. Calls to Leonia police and Kulite representatives were not immediately returned. Potassium hydroxide is an odorless, white or yellow solid typically used in a water solution. Contact with the chemical can cause skin and eye irritation. The state Department of Health describes the chemical as presenting a serious health hazard.

http://www.nj.com/bergen/index.ssf/2014/03/chemical_spill_at_leonia_company_sends_worker_to_hospital.html

THAILAND, PHUKET, MARCH 27 2014. FOUR WORKERS SUFFOCATE IN PHUKET SEWER



Rescuers work to retrieve the bodies of the dead workers.

Four Thai workmen died this morning (March 26) from suffocation after they went down into a sewer on Srisuthat Rd on the edge of Phuket Town to clean out the pipe. Kusondharm rescuers are on the scene and it is understood one of those, too, had to be pulled out after he succumbed to the fumes. Rescuers using breathing apparatus are now retrieving the bodies of the workers, who were working on a contract for Eastern Thai Co.

<http://www.thephuketnews.com/four-workers-suffocate-in-phuket-sewer-45362.php>

USA, N.Y, BUFFALO, MARCH 27 2014. DEC HITS SERVICE STATION WITH PAGES OF VIOLATIONS

al vaughters

 **Watch the Video** [DEC Hits Service Station with Pages of Violations](#)

The service station at William Street and Fillmore Avenue has been hit with five pages of state and federal environmental violations. This followed News 4's report of the station allegedly selling watered down gas. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation inspected the station. Deborah Dennis says her engine ran quiet and smooth until she filled up with gas from a former Citgo station, now registered with the state as the Metro Food Mart. Dennis said, "To me, it sounds like a truck, and I can, then it 'putts', and cuts off." At least two dozen drivers have filed claims with the operators of the gas station, who claim the water in the tank is not their fault. However last week, the State Department of Environmental Conservation inspected the station and issued a list of violations, nine state citations, three federal. This includes an unreported spill during the inspection itself with a monitoring port full of water and ice, during the inspection. No leak detection monitoring records were even available for the inspection, neither were inventory records. Until now, the station operators were checking their surveillance video to make sure they weren't getting ripped off, but agreed to cover the cost of getting the water out of customers' tanks. Deborah Dennis says they told her to call their insurance carrier.

<http://wivb.com/2014/03/25/dec-hits-service-station-with-pages-of-violations/>



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AUSTRALIA, N.S.W, SYDNEY, MARCH 28 2014. COOTES COPS CORRECTIVE ACTION

Following on from a show-cause notice served on Cootes Transport a fortnight ago, the company has provided the NSW Government agency Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) with its corrective action plan, which includes decommissioning 50 older trucks. The Cootes corrective action plan and commitment – following an RMS investigation prompted by a fatal crash involving a Cootes tanker in October last year – means it will be allowed to continue operations within NSW for the time being. In its corrective action plan, Cootes will:

- Decommission 50 older trucks, which will also be removed from its licence to transport dangerous goods.
- Purchase or bring in new prime movers and tankers for its NSW fleet.
- Review and implement an improved maintenance capability and function, increasing the focus on brake, steering and suspension components.
- Have in-house maintenance reviewed by an independent third party approved by RMS.
- Have externally serviced and repaired vehicles undergo a final check by Cootes' workshops, including checks on brakes, suspension and steering components, and oil leaks.
- Retrofit electronic stability control to all vehicles five years ahead of the NSW Environmental Protection Authority deadline.
- Implement feedback processes for maintenance systems to ensure quality expectations are met.
- Increase 'on-road' checks of vehicles by drivers and operators, such as soapy water leak tests on LPG tankers for each shift.
- Implement new training and standard operating procedures to ensure staff are aware of their obligations in detecting and reporting defects.

NSW Minister for Roads and Ports Duncan Gay said he was encouraged to learn the company had taken sensible action to address the issues. "I am particularly encouraged by the [Cootes] board's commitment to ensuring the company carries out the agreed program of corrective works," he said. "But it is not a time to be complacent. The company is aware that should compliance issues continue to be detected, action will be reinstated to ensure the safety of all road users."

http://retailmedia.com.au/resources/CW_eNews

USA, N.Y, QUEENSBURY, MARCH 28 2014. OIL SPILLS IN TOWN PLAZA

amanda may metzger

Oil booms are seen Wednesday at the base of an apparent spill site of transformer oil that ran down a hill on the property where Hobby Lobby intends to locate in Northway Plaza on Route 9 in Queensbury.



A crew is cleaning up a spill of hundreds of gallons of oil from a utility transformer that was improperly moved on the new Hobby Lobby craft store site in Northway Plaza. The spill was located behind the building and won't affect the store's opening. Work on the interior of the building and the exterior, with the new vestibule, are progressing and the store is on track for a mid-May opening. On March 20, National Grid sent a crew to the site for other work when workers noticed an old padmount transformer — which looks like a green box mounted on the ground — had been moved, resulting in a 242-gallon transformer oil spill. Initially, there were fears the spill could contain toxic PCB oil, but the conductor oil in the transformer is more like a mineral oil, said National Grid spokesman Patrick Stella. The oil spilled over the hill to the parking lot in front of Per Se Technologies. Queensbury Supervisor John Strough said the oil may have flowed into a special rotary cyclical drain that "swirls the water and cascades it to

a holding area of sand, sediment and any floatables," he explained. "It does have tablets that are supposed to absorb any hydrocarbon contaminate, but in any event, they (property owners) have to keep that maintained and we frequently ask for their maintenance records on that," Strough said. He said the drain leads to springs that rise into a wetland area and feed the pond at Pine View Cemetery. That water is a tributary to Halfway Brook, which feeds Hovey Pond and the pond at Crandall Park and empties into Wood Creek. "Upon hearing (about the spill) I was very angry because something like this did not have to happen and it should not happen," Strough said. It wasn't known Wednesday whether any oil had seeped into the drain. Stella said an environmental team is checking to see if oil soaked onto the ground. "We haven't found any evidence of that,



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mainly because the ground is so frozen. They have absorbent material they put out when they find the oil, and it absorbs it like a sponge," Stella said. Stella said the remains of the old transformer were found in a dumpster. There's a new transformer there now. Stella said National Grid cut service off to the old transformer in early March. If it had been active, Stella said, the situation could have been much worse. "We didn't know it had been moved, and we were there doing other work and saw it in the dumpster" on March 20, Stella said. National Grid reported the spill to DEC when the workers found it, and DEC listed it on the Spill Incidents Database online as a "transformer oil" spill. The resource affected is listed as "unknown" and the cause is listed as "human error." The record is not yet closed. An inquiry for more information from DEC had not been answered as of Wednesday. Stella said National Grid has a contractor crew on the site that is about 90 percent done with the cleanup. He said they plan to finish next week. Stella said the cleanup's cost hasn't been determined because the work isn't finished. The results of the investigation will help National Grid determine who will pay for it. About 10 contractors are doing work at the large site, Stella said, and the investigation should reveal why the transformer was moved. National Grid should have been called to move it, he said. The Hobby Lobby website last month showed an April estimated opening date for the Queensbury store, but now the date listed is May 9. A spokesman for the Oklahoma-City-based craft store chain said all of his paperwork has shown a mid-May opening date.

http://poststar.com/news/local/oil-spills-in-town-plaza/article_654b87d2-b53c-11e3-b938-001a4bcf887a.html

USA, N.C, WAKE CO, HOLLY SPRINGS, MARCH 28 2014. GASOLINE LEAK CLOSSES DOWNTOWN HOLLY SPRINGS INTERSECTION

andrew kenney

The intersection of North Main Street and Holly Springs Road is closed after a gasoline leak Wednesday afternoon, according to the town. A fiber-optic crew accidentally may have caused or worsened the gas leak, according to the town. The crew was boring underneath pavement at the intersection when it apparently hit or came near underground equipment connected to an Exxon gas station, according to town spokesman Mark Andrews. Police are redirecting traffic at the intersection. The crew was boring in the public right-of-way, where there should not be a gas tank, Andrews said. It's possible that the tank was in the way anyway, or that the tank already was leaking and the bore disturbed the soil enough to cause a more significant leak. The release seemed to have stopped by about 5 p.m. Gasoline was visible at the bottom of the hole drilled by the fiber-optic crew, and the smell of fuel was in the air, Andrews said. "There's still some gasoline in the bottom of the (underground) tank, but the leak doesn't seem to be continuing right now, so we're in a holding pattern," Andrews said. The town was waiting on an environmental inspection team, he said. The town did not have an estimate of the amount of gasoline spilled, but Andrews said that about 1,300 gallons of gasoline remained in the tank. The town didn't know the maximum capacity of the tank as of 5 p.m., but Andrews said one estimate was 10,000 gallons; it is not clear how much gasoline was in the tank. Three businesses in two building were evacuated, including a laundromat, the gas station and a Walgreens store, Andrews said. The fiber-optic crew was laying line for the town's municipal broadband project.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/03/26/3735319/fiber-optic-project-causes-gasoline.html>

USA, CA, PASADENA, MARCH 28 2014. CANDLE-EXPLOSION SUIT MAY SINGE MANUFACTURER

rose bouboushian

A woman who claims that a Bath & Body Works candle flared up, exploded and severely burned her may have a negligence case, a federal judge ruled. Placida Marte had lit a three-wick, 14.5-ounce Slatkin & Co. candle bought at Bath & Body Works and placed it on a shelf in her bathroom before taking a shower in July 2012, according to the complaint. Having left the room at one point, Marte returned upon hearing the fire alarm and allegedly found that the candle's flame had "enlarged and extended a large distance" above the jar. It looked "like a torch, with the flame and smoke searing against the walls and nearly to the ceiling," Marte's complaint states. To extinguish the flame, Marte allegedly picked up the candle and began moving it toward the sink, but the glass jar broke before she made it there. When the candle exploded, hot wax splattered onto Marte's torso and arms, giving her third-degree burns needing immediate and continuing medical attention, according to the complaint. Marte sued Bath & Body Works and Slatkin in New Jersey, alleging defective design and failure to warn. In dismissing the punitive damages claims last year, a federal judge rejected claims that Bath & Body Works and Slatkin should have known of the product's hazards, based on an alleged web database of consumer complaints about several of the defendants' candles. Marte then moved to add manufacturer Global Tech Industries Inc. as a defendant and to plead her claim for punitive damages, relying on 10 consumer complaints allegedly found on www.saferproducts.gov dealing with similar candle incidents. A Slatkin or Bath & Body Works representative replied to each complaint that the products were tested and met safety



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standards, and often requested feedback, Marte claims. Four of the complaints allegedly relate to the same type of product and incident as Marte's, while the six others involve candles burning through their containers prior to her injury. U.S. District Judge James Clark found last week that Marte had not waited too long to add a new party. "Plaintiff filed her proposed FAC on Dec. 13, 2013, the date set by the court for amendments, and motion papers four days later," Clark wrote, abbreviating first amended complaint. "Furthermore, Global Tech was not discovered until December 2013. Accordingly, the court finds there is no undue delay or unfair prejudice in joining Global Tech at this stage, and grants plaintiff leave to amend to add defendant Global Tech." But the judge rejected Marte's attempt to replead her claim for punitive damages. "In the first instance, nowhere except paragraph 28 of the FAC, does plaintiff allege defendants act with 'actual malice' nor does plaintiff even raise the specter of any 'evil-minded' acts," Clark wrote. "Instead, the majority of plaintiff's claims are geared towards wanton and willful disregard - that defendants were aware of the dangers and ignored them, continuing to sell a hazardous product. However, the complaints themselves show that defendants responded to complaints and asked for more information. What is missing from plaintiff's FAC is the element of egregious disregard for the safety of others. This is not to say that a party may simply acknowledge a complaint and be forever protected from punitive damages. Merely, the court finds that as pleaded, plaintiff alleges no set of facts through which the court may infer the level of callousness necessary for punitive damages. Thus, the court finds plaintiff's proposed amendment for punitive damages futile."

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2014/03/27/66530.htm>

FRANCE, PARIS, MARCH 28 2014. LYONDELLBASELL RECEIVES OFFER FOR MOTHBALLLED FRENCH REFINERY

Monaco-based oil products trading company Sotragem has made an offer to buy LyondellBasell's mothballed Berre refinery in southeastern France, the company said on Wednesday. Sotragem declined to say how much the offer was worth, but French industry minister Arnaud Montebourg said in a statement that it included plans for 400 million euros (\$551.4 million) of investment in the plant over three years, which he said could lead to the creation of more than 200 jobs. LyondellBasell mothballed the refinery in January 2012, having failed to find a buyer since putting it up for sale in May 2011. If the deal goes through, it would run against the recent trend of European refinery closures in the face of vast overcapacity.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/26/france-refinery-idUSL5N0MN55E20140326>

USA, TX, GALVESTON, MARCH 28 2014. OIL SPILL THREATENS GALVESTON BAY'S FISHING INDUSTRY

neena satija

 **Watch the Video** [Oil Spill Threatens Wildlife & Local Economy](#)



A tern picks at possible food at the Bolivar Flats Bird Sanctuary Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in Bolivar, Texas. Environmental groups are concerned about shore birds eating oil covered food along the beaches. Up to 170,000 gallons of tar-like oil spilled into the major U.S. shipping channel after a barge ran into a ship Saturday.

Oiled birds and stranded boats have been some of the most compelling visual images of the devastation in Galveston Bay in the wake of an oil tanker collision that might have released up to 168,000 gallons of fuel oil into the Gulf of Mexico on Saturday. But marine scientists and fishing industry officials worry that the spill poses longer-term dangers beneath the surface of the bay's waters, which are among the most productive in the world and a key resource for a multibillion-dollar recreational and commercial fishing industry. "An awful lot of things that

are the most at risk are in the water" and out of sight to most observers, said Doug Rader, chief oceans scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund. "The health of the (seafood) populations is intimately tied to the health of the bay." In 2012, the most recent year for which data is available, nearly 5.8 million pounds of fish were commercially harvested from Galveston Bay, at a combined wholesale value of \$16.4 million. More than a tenth of that income comes from shrimp, which are among the most vulnerable species to the oil spill, in part because the brown shrimp's spawning season is already underway, beginning in earnest near the end of March. The spawning happens in the Gulf of Mexico, but soon afterward the new shrimp larvae will spend days, if not weeks, drifting in the water toward the bay and shoreline marshes. That's where they will metamorphose into baby shrimp, eventually maturing into adults and returning to the Gulf after several months. During that journey, many shrimp may encounter clumps of the black, sticky oil that has sunk beneath the water's surface. An even bigger concern to Greg Stunz, a biologist at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus



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Christi, is what might happen when the shrimp larvae reach their destination, where even more of the difficult-to-remove oil is likely to have washed up. "Once they start using the marshes, that is the defining moment of when everything's got to be just right," Stunz said. "The marshes are their homes and grocery stores. And if your home's polluted, you're not going to survive." Many other species that go through a similar process are also threatened, including blue crab and menhaden, a small fish that is valuable for fish oil products and as prey for other species. If they end up ingesting oil and surviving, the effects will continue up the food chain, potentially affecting human consumers. (Oysters are also a major product from Galveston Bay, but oystering has already been closed there for two weeks because of an algal bloom that could contaminate those fish.) It could be years before the extent of the consequences to the food chain become clear, because scientists will have to wait for future spawning seasons and will have to test the current populations once they mature. Researchers will have to monitor the possible effects for as long as a decade into the future, Rader said. In the meantime, fishing activity has been severely curtailed. While state health inspectors have not yet said fish harvested from Galveston Bay cannot be consumed, access to large portions of the bay are cut off, and those wishing to harvest fish farther offshore have no way to get to the Gulf. Recreational charter boats are unable to operate during the peak spring break season, and a number of charter boat business owners have already filed a class-action lawsuit against the operators of the oil barge and bulk carrier that collided, causing the spill. Buddy Guindon, owner of a wholesale and retail seafood market in the Galveston Harbor, said his offshore boats were forced to reroute to Freeport, about 50 inland miles away. "That's quite inconvenient and expensive," he said. Guindon said he won't harvest shrimp from Galveston Bay for now, and will buy more from Louisiana shrimpers. "I just want to make sure that the all-clear is given to this stuff before we put seafood in the chain that's contaminated," he said. He employs 35 shrimpers, and business was ramping up as temperatures warmed up along the Gulf after a long, cold and unproductive winter season. Consumers' perceptions can also play a major role in determining how much the fishing industry suffers from the incident. After the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010, Guindon said he tested hundreds of harvested fish to prove they were safe, but the market shrank from concerns about the spill. His business lost hundreds of thousands of dollars, and he is still waiting on claims from BP. It won't help that a study with negative findings about the effects of that 2010 oil spill was released this week by an international group of marine scientists. The researchers found that the salmon, tuna and other species' embryos were deformed by the spill, contributing to heart defects later in their lives. Rader said the lessons from that study can be easily applied to the current oil spill. Scientists said the defects in the tuna and other fish occurred because they were spawning in the area where the spill occurred — a parallel situation to what could develop in Galveston Bay today. "You have sensitive early life history stages that are being exposed to toxins," he said. In fact, the species in Galveston Bay could be even more vulnerable than those studied in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, Rader said. That's because the crude oil that spilled in 2010 does not persist in the environment as long; its toxicity is more acute, but short-lived. The fuel oil that spilled last weekend could have much longer-term effects, he said.

<http://lubbockonline.com/texas/2014-03-27/oil-spill-threatens-galveston-bays-fishing-industry#.UzUIYMZmim4>

USA, IN, WHITING, MARCH 28 2014. LAKE MICHIGAN SPILL AT BP REFINERY AFFECTED HALF-MILE OF LAKE



Lake Michigan spill: The spill reported Monday afternoon by BP appears to have been contained by company crew members who deployed absorbent booms around the spill site. Workers comb the beach in Whiting, Ind., Tues. Crews for oil giant BP worked Tuesday to clean up an undetermined amount of crude oil that spilled into Lake Michigan and affected about a half-mile section of shoreline near Chicago following a malfunction at BP's northwestern Indiana refinery, officials said.

Crews for oil giant BP worked Tuesday to clean up an undetermined amount of crude oil that spilled into Lake Michigan and affected about a half-mile (kilometer) section of shoreline near Chicago following a malfunction at BP's northwestern Indiana refinery, officials said. The spill reported Monday afternoon by BP appears to have been contained by company crew members who

deployed absorbent booms around the spill site, said Mike Beslow, on-scene coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. BP spokesman Scott Dean said the area affected by the spill was a cove along the Lake Michigan at the company's sprawling Whiting refinery, which covers about 1,400 acres (566 hectares). The spill is about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southeast of downtown Chicago but was not expected to pose any threat to municipal water supplies that draw on the lake's water, Beslow said. A Coast Guard flyover of the area Tuesday did not reveal any oil outside the containment booms, Beslow



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said during a Tuesday afternoon media briefing, "but there is oil on the beach that is being addressed." Beslow said BP crews were using vacuum trucks to suck up the corralled oil and were cleaning up oil along 2,700 feet (820 meters) of private shoreline the company owns at the Whiting site, he said. The EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard were supervising that work, Beslow said. Beslow said the Coast Guard was working with BP officials to determine how much oil had been discharged into the Lake. BP said in a statement Tuesday evening that it believes that "an upset at a crude distillation unit may have sent crude oil into the refinery's cooling water outfall and then into the lake." The company said it has taken steps to prevent another discharge and might have an estimate Wednesday on how much oil was spilled.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Latest-News-Wires/2014/0326/Lake-Michigan-spill-at-BP-refinery-affected-half-mile-of-lake>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MORANBAH, MARCH 28 2014. WOMAN KILLED IN CRASH ON PEAK DOWNS HWY NEAR MORANBAH

cade mooney

Police have confirmed a woman died in the car accident on the Peak Downs Hwy.

Update:

Police have confirmed a woman died in the car accident on the Peak Downs Hwy earlier this morning. The accident involved a car and a fuel tanker truck. A police spokeswoman said they didn't yet have details relating to the woman's age or where she was from.

11am:

Police are unable to confirm if someone died in this morning's accident on the Peak Downs Hwy. A police spokesman said one lane of the highway was still closed while the scene was being cleared. Emergency services were still on scene, he said. A Queensland Ambulance spokeswoman said the accident occurred about 5km past the Isaac Plains turnout, 20km from Moranbah. She said the 45-year-old man, who was driving the fuel tanker, was taken to Moranbah District Hospital with minor injuries. It is believed he self-extracted himself from the vehicle. In regards to the injuries the female driver of the car sustained, the spokeswoman referred the Daily Mercury to police. However, police couldn't [confirm](#) if the crash is a fatality.

Earlier:

One lane of the Peak Downs Hwy is currently closed following a crash between a car and truck. A police media spokeswoman said the crash occurred at 5.45am this morning on the Peak Downs Hwy near the Isaac Plains turnoff. The male driver of the B-Double fuel tanker has minor injuries. The injuries of the woman driving the Ford sedan are still unknown. While it has been reported this crash is a fatality Queensland Police Media could not confirm it. Emergency crews are on scene and Forensic Crash Unit are investigating.

<http://www.cqnews.com.au/news/crash-between-car-and-fuel-tanker-peak-downs-hwy/2211663/>

USA, N.H, PORTSMOUTH, MARCH 28 2014. NH, MAINE, TANKER OWNER SETTLE ON BRIDGE CRASH

The owners of a tanker that struck a bridge connecting New Hampshire and Maine have reached a \$1.3 million settlement on cost reimbursement. The departments of transportation for both states announced the settlement Wednesday. Bill Boynton of the New Hampshire department said the settlement represents a full reimbursement of construction costs associated with repair of the bridge and recovery of additional expenses incurred by the states. The vessel struck the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge on April 1 last year. The states sued the owners, saying the crew didn't secure the tanker properly. The owners of the Portuguese oil tanker MV Harbor Feature had said the two states were guilty of negligence. A trial would have scheduled for next year if the parties couldn't reach an agreement.

<http://www.boston.com/news/local/new-hampshire/2014/03/26/maine-tanker-owner-settle-bridge-crash/v3xcwJXO8YJV9FVdCFB4AO/story.html>

USA, UT, ESCALANTE, MARCH 28 2014. HIKERS FIND UNREPORTED OIL SPILL INTO GRAND STAIRCASE MONUMENT

brian maffly

 **Photo's [7]** [Hikers Find Unreported Oil Spill](#)

BLM says spill could be years old, but recent floods have moved the oil, causing additional damage. Federal officials are investigating an apparent spill from an aging Garfield County oil field that has contaminated a wash flowing into Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. The Bureau of Land Management's Utah state office, which administers the



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monument, sent a team to examine the leak Wednesday, a day after receiving photographs from hikers who discovered oil damage over a 4-mile stretch of Little Valley Wash. The spill, which may have occurred years ago, is the second time in as many years officials have looked into oil escaping the Upper Valley oil field, operated by Citation Oil and Gas Corp. The hikers took several photographs on Saturday of the wash's sandstone walls, sandy beds and areas where water flows over rocks or small ledges, all covered with a black substance. The oil appears to have been flushed down the wash months ago, but the photographs were the first time BLM was alerted to the problem, according to agency spokesman Megan Crandall. BLM's state office dispatched a petroleum engineer and other inspectors to the site on Wednesday. "We are putting the people in place to get our hands around it. Until we have an idea of what we are dealing with, it's difficult to know what's going on," Crandall said. "We can't be on every acre all the time. It's important for folks to let us know." But late Wednesday she learned from the field team that the oil could have been released years ago, possibly before Citation acquired the wells. "It looks like this spill is very old," Crandall said. "With recent flooding it has turned all back up and moved around." Even if the spill is years old, subsequent flooding could pick up the oil and move it, contaminating surface water and causing further environmental damage. Whether it was old or recent, the spill should have been reported to BLM officials, but apparently was not. Under contracts enabling companies to extract publicly owned minerals, they are obligated to report "undesirable events" as soon as practical, because of their potential to undermine public health and safety, oil production accountability and the environment.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57728795-78/oil-spill-citation-field.html.csp>

ENGLAND, LONDON, MARCH 28 2014. MURPHY OIL NEARS \$500 MLN SALE OF UK REFINING ASSETS

- Greybull Capital to buy refinery, service stations
- Deal to be completed in mid-April, sources say
- Milford Haven plant to keep operating under terms of deal
- Its around 450 jobs to be preserved

Murphy Oil is ready to exit British refining next month with the sale of its Milford Haven plant and retail assets to private equity fund Greybull Capital for over \$500 million, sources close to the talks told Reuters. Murco, a Murphy Oil subsidiary, is expected to sell its 135,000 barrels-per-day (bpd) refinery in Wales, oil inventories, storage facilities and hundreds of petrol stations across Britain, the sources said. European refiners have struggled in recent years with shrinking domestic demand and increased overseas competition, which have forced a number of painful closures. The deal, which is expected to be signed in mid-April, could ensure Milford Haven's short-term survival despite its recent low profit margins. Also Arkansas-based Murphy Oil, which bought its initial stake in Milford Haven in 1981, would be exiting British refining after a four-year search for a buyer. Crude oil and oil product inventories held by Murco were expected to account for more than half of the \$500 million price tag, while the 400 service stations would account for most of the remainder, a source familiar with the deal said. The price put on the plant would represent a small fraction of the cost of the deal. One of the sources said Greybull planned to keep the refinery in operation despite weak and often negative profit margins. Last year, its refining margin averaged 75 cents per barrel of crude processed, according to Murphy Oil's annual presentation. London-based Greybull Capital has mostly avoided the limelight since the family capital [investment](#) fund was created in 2008 by brothers Nathaniel and Marc Meyohas and Richard Perlhagen. It specialises in long-term investments in companies and has invested in the retail, biotech, energy and manufacturing sectors in Europe, Israel and the United States. The fund has agreed to back the refinery's existing management and committed to maintaining the refinery's current work force of around 450 people, the sources said. Greybull, identified as a potential buyer earlier this month, intends to carry out routine maintenance that was already planned for Milford Haven in 2015 on schedule at an estimated cost of less than \$75 million, sources have said. A spokesman for Greybull Capital declined to comment. Greybull is expected to partner with a trading house to raise capital for the transaction and to sell the refined products. Murco spokeswoman Emma Murphy confirmed that talks for the sale of the company's assets "are ongoing and are at an advanced stage", but would not comment on the price or expected completion day.

Refining Crisis

A deal that keeps Milford Haven operating would be welcomed by workers, who have worried about their jobs since the closure of Coryton in the east of England in 2012. Last year, Petrolneous was at the brink of closing its Grangemouth plant in Scotland after a bitter industrial dispute. It survived after workers agreed to cuts in terms and conditions, the British government made a pledge to provide a loan guarantee, and the Scottish government promised a grant. The deal comes at the height of one of the biggest crises faced by Europe's refining industry. Another 2 million bpd of capacity, more than 10 percent of Europe's total, is expected to shut over the next five years, analysts at Vienna-based JBC Energy said. Milford Haven was the smallest and among the least complex of Britain's seven refineries in 2012, according to a report produced by



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Purvin & Gertz for the UK Petroleum Industry Association. The refinery has undergone upgrades in recent years to increase its high-value diesel yield. The site also has deep water berths that allow large tankers to be loaded and discharged. "Like all refineries, Murco has its advantages and disadvantages, but it is a well invested refinery and comprises irreplaceable assets for the location," an industry source said. "The sector is challenged, but if you can finance, trade and manage it properly, these are viable assets," the source added.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/03/27/uk-refineries-idINL5N0MM4K520140327>

USA, CT, FAIRFIELD, MARCH 28 2014. DRAMATIC HIGH SPEED CRASH INTO PETROL STATION

 **Watch the Video** [Woman survives high speed off-ramp crash](#)

A woman in the United States is facing a number of driving charges after her vehicle rocketed through a petrol station and slammed into several parked cars. Authorities in Fairfield, Connecticut, are amazed no-one was seriously hurt in the crash they say was caused by 31-year-old Rosa Blanca Chavarria-Medina. Security camera footage of the spectacular crash was released by the Fairfield Police Department. "Everyone involved in this horrific mess is lucky to be alive and the bollards [steel poles] really helped save a lot of lives by absorbing the impact of all the cars and preventing them from going inside the store," Fairfield police spokesman Lieutenant Jim Perez told the Minuteman News Centre website. "Had either of the pumps gone off or the cars breached the front of the building, we would certainly have had at least serious injuries and possibly deaths." Chavarria-Medina's car careened down the motorway off-ramp, striking its first car at the entrance to the petrol station, then a taxi at the pumps before ricocheting into two parked cars and slamming into the station's store building. A man in the first parked car suffered a broken vertebrae and possible eye damage, while the other parked car had a mother and young baby inside but both escaped unharmed. Fire service personnel had to use the jaws of life to extract Chavarria-Medina from her vehicle but she suffered only minor injuries. She has, however, been charged with drink-driving and driving with a suspended licence.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/motoring/videos/9873974/Dramatic-high-speed-crash-into-petrol-station>

AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, KAKADU, MARCH 28 2014. TANK LINING CAUSE OF SLURRY LEAK IN NT

An investigation commissioned by the Ranger mine in Kakadu has found a worn out rubber tank lining was the cause of a major leak of radioactive acidic slurry almost four months ago. Leach Tank 1 collapsed on December 7 last year, releasing about one million cubic litres at the mine site, located within the boundaries of Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory. The rubber lining inside the tank, which protects it from corrosion, had been damaged as a result of wear from a partially failed baffle, or flow director, the investigation found. "The damaged rubber lining allowed the acidic slurry mixture to come into contact with the tank's steel wall, which subsequently corroded and ultimately led to the failure of the tank," mine operator Energy Resources Australia (ERA) said in a statement on Thursday. The tank was the only one of seven which had been modified to process laterite ore, and the change in ore type involved modifications to Leach Tank 1 that included the addition of a higher powered agitator, to which the partial failure of the baffle has been attributed. Inspections are underway of the other six leach tanks, ERA says, and metal fatigue has been detected in the baffle supports in Tank 6. Although its baffles were operative, ERA will redesign and replace the baffle supports in all of the leach tanks before they are returned to service, CEO Andrea Sutton said in a statement. Seven critical actions have been identified which ERA must address before processing resumes at the site, relating to tank inspections and thickness testing for all leach tanks and other processing plant tanks. A further 28 actions - all accepted by ERA - were recommended to be undertaken on specific assets or systems before they are returned to service. The investigation commissioned by ERA is separate from the joint investigation being undertaken by a government-appointed taskforce charged with overseeing the regulatory response to the leak. ERA maintains that the spillage was fully contained on site, with no impact on Kakadu National Park. The Gundjeihmi Corporation, which represents traditional owners the Mirarr people, is awaiting the regulators' response, said CEO Justin O'Brien. "It would be premature to consider the statement as conclusive," he told AAP. The Environment Centre NT has called on regulators to close the mine to prevent another major incident. "It's alarming that ERA's own appointed investigators found that alongside the failed leach tank, Ranger mine had another 35 pieces of critical plant infrastructure and equipment on the brink of failure that were unsafe to be in operation," said Lauren Mellor, spokeswoman for the Environment Centre NT. "It's clear that there was a complete absence of routine periodic equipment inspections, and that existing mine regulations are insufficient to prevent this type of accident from happening again." She said Ranger's plant infrastructure and equipment is well past its intended design life, and if allowed to continue operations will increasingly be putting workers, local communities and the environment at risk.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/tank-lining-cause-of-slurry-leak-in-nt/story-fn3dxiwe-1226866715492>



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