



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,070 Newsy Stuff

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May 25 2014



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ECUADOR, GALÁPAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, SAN CRISTÓBAL ISLAND, MAY 12 2014. OIL TANKER RUNS AGROUND IN GALÁPAGOS



The Galapaface I aground in Wreck Bay.

Galápagos authorities are working to minimize environmental damage after the cargo ship Galapaface I ran aground Friday morning at 3:15 a.m. off Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on San Cristóbal, the easternmost of the archipelago's inhabited islands. The Galápagos National Park reported that the vessel was carrying approximately 16,000 gallons of fuel but there appeared to be no imminent threat of a major spill. The 266 foot long vessel, built in 1979 and registered in Ecuador, was grounded at Wreck Bay, near the entrance to the harbor at Baquerizo Moreno, the park said in a news release. A local source reported to [Galapagos Digital](#) that the captain of the Galapaface I first made a radio distress call to report that water was flooding the ship's engine room and then in a later call, revealed that he had run aground. The company that owns

the freighter is not offering any comments at this time. For some San Cristóbal residents, the grounding of the Galapaface I brings back memories of the Jessica, an oil tanker that ran aground in the appropriately named Wreck Bay in 2001, spilling 175,000 gallons of diesel and fuel oil. It was ranked as one of the worst environmental disasters in Galápagos history. This time, authorities are confident they can avoid a repeat occurrence as they work on unloading and freeing the Galapaface I. In addition to the fuel, the freighter carries 10 tons of cargo. According to a government news release, crews have placed containment booms around the vessel to stop any fuel spillages and have begun operations to unload the cargo and empty the fuel tanks.

Related Stories

- [Stranded Galapagos oil tanker 'does not represent an environmental threat.](#)
- [Ecuador Freighter Runs Aground Off Galapagos Islands](#)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cecilia-alvear/ship-runs-aground-in-gala_b_5298278.html

USA, WASHINGTON DC, MAY 13 2014. FED GOVT FAILED TO INSPECT HIGHER RISK OIL WELLS

The government has failed to inspect thousands of oil and gas wells it considers potentially high risks for water contamination and other environmental damage, congressional investigators say. The report, obtained by The Associated Press before its public release, highlights substantial gaps in oversight by the agency that manages oil and gas development on federal and Indian lands. Investigators said weak control by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management resulted from policies based on outdated science and from incomplete monitoring data. The findings from the Government Accountability Office come amid an energy boom in the country and the increasing use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. That process involves pumping huge volumes of water, sand and chemicals underground to split open rocks to allow oil and gas to flow. It has produced major economic benefits, but also raised fears that the chemicals could spread to water supplies. The audit also said the BLM did not coordinate effectively with state regulators in New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Utah. The bureau has become a symbol of federal overreach to industry groups opposed to government regulations related to oil and gas drilling. Environmental groups say the Obama administration needs to do more to guard against environmental damage. In the coming months, the administration is expected to issue rules on fracking and methane gas emissions. The report said the agency "cannot accurately and efficiently identify whether federal and Indian resources are properly protected or that federal and Indian resources are at risk of being extracted without agency approval." In response to the report, Tommy Beaudreau, a principal deputy assistant interior secretary, wrote that he generally agreed with the recommendations for improved state coordination and updated regulations. The report makes clear in many instances that the BLM's failure to inspect high-priority oil and gas wells is due to limited money and staff. BLM officials said they were in the process of updating several of its policies later this year. Investigators reviewed 14 states in full or part: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming. In Ohio, Pennsylvania and elsewhere, fracking has become increasingly prevalent. The report said the BLM had failed to conduct inspections on more than 2,100 of the 3,702 wells that it had specified as "high priority" and drilled from 2009 through 2012. The agency considers a well "high priority" based on a greater need to protect against possible water contamination and other environmental safety issues. The agency had yet to indicate whether another 1,784 wells were high priority or not. The BLM has developed agreements with some states, which also have jurisdiction over well inspections on federal lands. According to



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the GAO, it had reached agreements with regulators in California, Colorado, Nevada and Wyoming. The report said BLM has not reviewed or updated many of its oil and gas rules to reflect technological advances, as required by a 2011 executive order. They include guidance on spacing of wells, which the report said could help maximize oil and gas production. The bureau acknowledged it had not updated its guidance on oil and gas drainage since 1999 or its guidance on mineral trespass - interference of drilling or mining activity - since 2003. Congressional investigators found the BLM did not monitor inspection activities at its state and field offices and thus could not provide "reasonable assurance" that those offices were completing the required inspections. In Pennsylvania, for instance, an Associated Press investigation found the state received 398 complaints in 2013 alleging that oil or natural gas drilling polluted or otherwise affected private water wells. More than 100 cases of pollution were confirmed over the past five years. "This report reaffirms our concern that the government needs to pay attention to the environment and protect public health and drinking sources from the risks of oil and gas development," said Amy Mall of the Natural Resources Defense Council. But Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government and public affairs at the Western Energy Alliance, a trade group representing energy companies, said the report's findings show that states are better positioned to regulate oil and gas drilling.

<http://www.uticaod.com/article/20140511/NEWS/140519928>

USA, CA, HUNTINGTON BEACH, MAY 13 2014. MAN CRASHES TRUCK INTO GAS PUMP IN HUNTINGTON BEACH

 **Watch the Video** [Pickup Truck Slams Into Huntington Beach Gas Station](#)

A man was injured Sunday when the pickup truck he was driving slammed into a gas pump at a service station in Huntington Beach and overturned, police said. The driver had to be cut from the vehicle, according to Huntington Beach police Lt. Bo Svendsbo, who said the crash happened about 8:40 p.m. at the intersection of Adams Avenue and Magnolia Street. Video broadcast by KCAL9 showed a dislodged gas pump on its side and the pickup truck on its roof. The driver was taken to a hospital, but his injuries did not appear to be significant, Svendsbo said. Police were investigating if alcohol or drugs were involved in the crash, Svendsbo said. Prior to the crash, the pickup truck was involved in a minor, non-injury collision with another vehicle not far from the gas station, according to Svendsbo. It was unclear if the driver was fleeing the first crash when the second one occurred, he said. The service station crash did not spark a fire, authorities said.

<http://www.presstelegram.com/general-news/20140512/man-crashes-truck-into-gas-pump-in-huntington-beach>

USA, S.C, ANDERSON CO, MAY 13 2014. MASSIVE LEAK SPEWS GAS 100 FEET IN AIR



A massive gas leak at an Anderson County distribution center spewed gasoline more than 100 feet in the air. Crews were performing regular maintenance on a 27-inch main distribution line, when the line burst, shooting the gas into the air. Three workers were transported to the hospital with minor injuries. Emergency response crews poured a foam blanket over the area, which may have prevented the leak from exploding. "There's always that potential, but thank goodness that didn't happen. We've got teams and crews in here who were fast to the scene and that can make a real difference. That foam blanket is what's key to keeping those vapors suppressed," says Anderson County Emergency Manager Taylor Jones. Anderson County Emergency Management has asked citizens within a 1/2 mile radius of Pipeline Plantation on Broadway Lake Road to shelter in place.

http://www.wlos.com/shared/news/features/top-stories/stories/wlos_massive-leak-spews-gas-100-feet-air-16205.shtml

USA, GUAM, HAGATÑA, MAY 13 2014. SENATOR TOM ADA INTRODUCES BILL TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT FROM UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK LEAKS

kevin kerrigan

Senator Tom Ada has introduced a measure that would increase fines for improper storage of regulated substances in underground storage tanks and pipes. Bill #337 would increase the maximum fines for violations from \$11,000 to \$16,000 per tank per day. The proposal also makes the first three violations civil, instead of classifying them as misdemeanors. Senator Ada explains that would allow GEPA to expedite enforcement efforts, instead of waiting for the Courts to process misdemeanors. However Ada says the penalties are progressive, "so repeat offenders will still be ultimately subject to misdemeanor charges; but for the first three offenses, we are confident in GEPA's administrative enforcement procedures."



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There are over 300 regulated storage tanks and over 50 miles of underground pipeline on Guam and, combined, they have the capacity to store 93 million gallons of oil, gasoline and diesel, according to a release from the Senator. Between 2000 to 2013, GEPA reported 139 releases from these underground tanks and pipelines. Of these releases, 118 have been completely cleaned up, the remaining 21 are subject to ongoing cleanup.

Read the release from Senator Tom Ada below:

Senator Tom Ada Introduces Bill to Protect Environment from Underground Storage Tanks Leaks
Hagåtña, Guam: On Friday, May 9, 2014, Senator Tom Ada introduced Bill 337-32, An act relative to the Underground Storage Tank (UST): Management Fund, Closure and Penalties.

Senator Ada said, "currently, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) estimates that there are over 300 regulated storage tanks and over 50 miles of underground pipeline throughout the island with a capacity to store 93 million gallons of oil, gasoline and diesel." Senator Respicio, a co-sponsor for Bill 337-32, added "because of the over 93 million gallons of potential storage and the risk of leaks or releases from these tanks and pipelines, GEPA's regulatory efforts are essential to assuring our island's environment is protected. During the period from 2000 to 2013, GEPA reported 139 releases from various underground tanks. Of these releases, 118 have been completely cleaned up, the remaining 21 are subject to ongoing cleanup, remediation or monitoring until conditions improve and any threat to the environment is mitigated to the best extent possible. According to Senator Respicio, "GEPA should be commended for their enforcement efforts, but the provisions of this Bill update the disincentives GEPA wields to proactively address potential UST issues before they become incidents." Bill 337-32 aims to increase GEPA's regulatory framework to give the Agency more teeth in the penalties they can levy for improper maintenance, or noncompliance with the regulations for storing regulated substances in USTs. If passed, the Bill would increase the maximum fines for violations from \$11,000 to \$16,000 per tank per day. "The \$16,000 penalty is aligned with the federal penalty standards for non-compliant USTs", added Senator Ada. In addition, the Bill establishes that the first three violations relating to USTs by a party shall be classified as civil violations. This will allow GEPA to expedite enforcement efforts instead of waiting for the Courts to adjudicate proceedings for misdemeanors, as is currently the case. Ada also added that "the violation penalty is progressive, so repeat offenders will still be ultimately subject to misdemeanor charges; but for the first three offenses, we are confident in GEPA's administrative enforcement procedures." Senator Ada added in closing, "Our environment is a precious finite resource which must be protected and restored in the event of a leak. Bill 337-32 will help GEPA to ensure the USTs that store regulated substances in close proximity to our aquifer are maintained and operated in a manner that minimizes the threats they pose to our environment." A copy of Bill 337-32 (COR) may be downloaded from the Official Guam Legislature website (www.guamlegislature.org). For more information, please contact Senator Tom Ada's office at 473-3301.

 **Document** [read Bill #337](http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=45081:senator-tom-ada-introduces-bill-to-protect-environment-from-underground-storage-tank-leaks&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156)

http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=45081:senator-tom-ada-introduces-bill-to-protect-environment-from-underground-storage-tank-leaks&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156

USA, CA, FRESNO, MAY 13 2014. SCHOOL BUS, DIESEL TANKER CRASH SOUTH OF FRESNO

 **Watch the Video** [School Bus, Diesel Tanker Crash South of Fresno](http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=45081:senator-tom-ada-introduces-bill-to-protect-environment-from-underground-storage-tank-leaks&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156)

About 20 elementary school kids were taken to the hospital after being injured when a diesel tanker crashed into their school bus south of Fresno. The crash happened around 2 p.m. Monday on Central and Elm avenues in Fresno County. A witness says he was driving westbound right behind the tanker that did stop at the intersection for the posted stop sign. But as the bus approached, that witness says the tanker pulled into the intersection and was struck by the school bus. There is no stop sign posted in the northbound lanes of Elm, where the school bus was traveling. About 35 to 40 students were on board the bus at the time of the crash. The fire department and California Highway Patrol are working to clean up this dangerous crash scene. The 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel will be transferred over to another tanker. "The tow truck is going to stabilize the overturned tanker so it doesn't move during the offload process. They'll pump the fuel off and then once it's empty they'll up-right it," said CHP Sgt. Joseph Bianchi. The students who were transported to the hospital sustained minor to moderate injuries, according to the CHP. Multiple students complained of neck, arm and back pain. School district officials say many of the kids have been released from the hospital. Investigators say the tanker truck driver was taken to the hospital with moderate injuries. So far, the driver of the overturned tanker has not been cited by the Highway Patrol. But if they find he is in fact at fault for illegally pulling in front of the bus, he will be cited. The school bus belongs to the Orange Center School District. It's an elementary school about a mile away from the crash scene. The intersection at Elm and Central is expected to remain closed for a few hours.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=9535359>



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USA, TX, RHOME, MAY 13 2014. TANK BATTERY FIRE SPARKED BY LIGHTNING

 **Photo's [14]** [Tank Battery Fire Sparked by Lightning](#)

The Rhome Fire Department is battling a tank battery fire believed to have been caused by lightning Monday afternoon. Rhome dispatchers told NBC 5 it's a natural gas tank battery along [Long Branch Drive south of Farm-to-Market Road 2264](#). It happened just after 4 p.m. Monday. No injuries were reported. NBC 5 viewers and an NBC 5 Storm Tracker sent in photos that showed major damage. Wise County dispatchers say there are three fire departments on the scene as of 5 p.m.

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/weather/stories/Tank-Battery-Fire-Sparked-by-Lightning-258969631.html>

ENGLAND, BRISTOL, MAY 13 2014. MAN WHO WAS BLINDED AND ALMOST KILLED WHEN HUGE FIREWORK EXPLODED IN HIS FACE GETS HIS LOOKS BACK THANKS TO PIONEERING PLASTIC SURGERY

willis robinson

- A professional display mortar exploded in Chris Hignell's face in 2008
- Doctors at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, feared he would not survive the night
- Face was effectively tattooed with hundreds of black burn marks
- Six years on his face has been reconstructed using punch biopsies
- Procedure has never been used on such a large scale before



Before: Chris Hignell, 54, from Yate near Bristol, was left with a series of horrific burn marks on his face after a professional display firework exploded in his face. When a firework exploded in Chris Hignell's face, he was blinded in one eye and doctors feared he would not survive. The 54-year-old from Yate near Bristol thought his life would never be the same, but years of pioneering plastic surgery has seen him get his looks back. In 2008, Mr Hignell was learning how to put on a fireworks display at a wedding, but the man teaching him, Jason Edgecombe, was uninsured and unqualified.

When the professional display mortar went off - without the planned time delay - he was rushed to Frenchay Hospital, and surgeons doubted whether he would survive the night. He was not wearing goggles, ear defenders or gloves when he lit the fuse and he immediately hit the floor. But he managed to pull through, and six years after the ordeal has made significant progress. In the early stages of his treatment, Mr Hignell's injuries were so severe that mirrors in hospital and

home were initially covered up to prevent him seeing the extent of his disfigurement. Despite still being blind in one eye, reconstructive surgery has transformed his life. In the split second of the accident, his skin had been effectively tattooed by hundreds of black burning sparks. Eight sessions of more traditional laser therapy did not remove them. But Julia Sarginson, a clinical fellow at North Bristol NHS Trust, and consultant Timothy Burge, used punch biopsies - which puncture small holes in the skin - to remove the minute marks. They removed up to 80 marks in a session. Normally, punch biopsies are used for one or two marks - for example, to remove tumours. But the idea of using them on such a large scale is now being talked about by plastic surgeons all over the world. Miss Sarginson, who worked on Mr Hignell, has released a research paper about it, and is flying to the United States to present the idea there. It could be used in the future to help other victims of blast injuries, including soldiers. Mr Hignell said: 'When the accident first happened, I didn't think my life would ever be the same. I didn't think I would work, or go on holiday or anything - the first two years were very grim. 'But now it is truly a transformation. The surgeons have changed my life and my face looks incredible by comparison. 'Punch biopsies have never been used like this before. 'I have had about 24 procedures in all, everything from putting a titanium plate into my eye to make it the right shape, to burning my eyelashes off because they were growing the wrong way. It's all been rebuilt. 'The most amazing one was the titanium. That kind of procedure used to take hours in theatre while they put the metal together, but they used a scan to make a resin model of my head, and built the eye plate on there. 'Then all they had to do was make a slit in my skin and slide it in, which frees up surgery time and saves thousands.' The last of the surgery finished last year, and saw Mr Hignell having his eyelids rebuilt from skin grafts at Bristol Eye Hospital, as well as the end of his nose and corner of his lip being put back onto his face. Mr Hignell and his wife, Wendy, run a wholesale tea and coffee business. He is left with a constant headache due to nerve damage, which he manages with painkillers, and his treatment is ongoing. He said: 'I was honoured to get this treatment. It's going to go global, and I am so glad someone else won't have to suffer as much, thanks to what they managed to achieve with me. 'Bristol is so lucky to have a world-class plastics facility here.' Edgecombe was given a nine-month



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suspended prison sentence after the incident. He was ordered to pay Mr Hignell £50,000 in compensation and was banned from organising a fireworks display for two years.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2626082/Man-blinded-killed-huge-firework-exploded-face-gets-looks-thanks-pioneering-plastic-surgery.html>

USA, UT, VERNAL, MAY 13 2014. 2 WOMEN ESCAPE SERIOUS INJURY IN CRASH WITH TANKER TRUCK



A Duchesne woman suffered minor injuries Sunday, May 11, 2014, after she attempted a U-turn on U.S. 40 near Vernal and her car was hit by a tanker truck, according to Uintah County sheriff's deputies. A passenger in the car also sustained minor injuries and the truck driver was uninjured, deputies said.

A car carrying two Duchesne County women in their 70s was hit by a tanker truck Sunday after the driver of the car attempted to make a U-turn on U.S. 40 west of Vernal, according to Uintah County sheriff's deputies. Two Duchesne County women in their 70s received minor injuries Sunday in a crash with a tanker truck, according to Uintah County sheriff's deputies. Deputy John Fairey said the women were heading west on U.S. 40 just outside Vernal about 4 p.m. when the 70-year-old driver attempted a U-turn. The driver of an oncoming

tanker truck tried to avoid the car, but hit the rear fender on the passenger side and spun the car around into traffic, the deputy said. The driver of the car and her 74-year-old passenger were taken by ambulance to Ashley Regional Medical Center as a precaution, Fairey said. The driver of the tanker truck did not report any injuries. The names of those involved in the crash have not been released and no citations have been issued. The crash remains under investigation.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865602988/2-women-escape-serious-injury-in-crash-with-tanker-truck.html>

USA, WA, BANGOR, MAY 13 2014. FEBRUARY BANGOR SPILL PUMPED 800 GALLONS OF OIL INTO HOOD CANAL

kipp Robertson



About 800 gallons of oil was discharged into Hood Canal after equipment malfunction at Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor, Feb. 12.

An Ecology investigation into an oil spill at Naval Base Kitsap — Bangor determined that 805 gallons of oil spilled into Hood Canal Feb. 10. The state Department of Ecology estimates the U.S. Navy recovered 385 gallons of oil from the water within 24 hours of the spill, according to information from Ecology spokesman Larry Altose. The Navy continued to clean up oil for four days, until it could no longer be recovered. The Department of Ecology does not have information as to how much oil was recovered after the first 24 hours, "but we can at least say that more than 385 gallons was recovered," according to Altose. The Navy cannot be fined. However, the Department of Ecology expects a Natural Resource Damage Assessment, or NRDA, to be conducted, which could still be a few months out, according to Altose. An assessment would

evaluate the environmental impact caused by the amount of oil spilled and the amount of time it was in the environment. Then a financial conversion is done, and money is collected to fund restoration projects. In the past, the Navy has done in-house projects of equivalent value to satisfy the assessment, according to Altose. An NRDA is done for oil spills of at least 25 gallons. Ecology estimates a total of 1,400 gallons of oil and bilge water was discharged in the seven minutes that a tank malfunctioned while a vessel was pumping out its bilge or ballast tank. The outflow of the tank's contents was 200 gallons per minute. "There was a significant amount of oil in the tank from many previous uses," according to the Department of Ecology. The Navy estimated the oil substance to be about two-thirds diesel and one-third lubricating oil. The spill resulted in a multi-agency response, and shellfish harvesting closures on Hood Canal. According to the Department of Ecology, a sheen on the water was visible over a nine-mile stretch. The Navy deployed a boom and other spill response materials to confine the contents of the tank. What was seen up to the Hood Canal Bridge was what was discharged before the boom were in place, and some water that made it past the boom. Recovery of oil continued until Feb. 16, when no more oil could be removed from the water or cleaned off structures. According to information from the Navy, when "oil spreads too thinly on the water surface it can be seen, but not recovered." The oil needs to be several molecules thick for the oil to be absorbed by pads and skimmers,



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the Navy reported. When Ecology closed the case, the Navy was evaluating its pumping system to determine future spill prevention.

<http://www.kingstoncommunitynews.com/news/258949301.html>

CANADA, QC, MONTREAL, MAY 13 2014. RAILWAY, 3 EMPLOYEES TO BE CHARGED IN LAC-MÉGANTIC TRAIN DERAILMENT

monique beaudin

 **Photo's [7]** [3 Employees to be Charged in Lac-Mégantic Train Derailment](#)



Smoke and fire rises over train cars as firefighters inspect the area after a train carrying crude oil derailed and exploded in the town of Lac-Mégantic, 100 kilometres east of Sherbrooke on Saturday, July 6, 2013.

Montreal, Maine and Atlantic and three of its employees are to be charged Tuesday with criminal negligence causing death in connection with the Lac-Mégantic derailment. Forty-seven people died after a runaway MMA crude oil train derailed and exploded there on July 6, 2013. Millions of litres of crude oil spilled in the accident. Thomas Harding, the lone engineer in charge of the train, was arrested Monday, along with MMA employees Jean Demaître and Richard Labrie, said Jean Pascal Boucher, a spokesperson for Quebec's director of criminal and penal prosecutions. The three men detained by the Sûreté du Québec are to appear at the courthouse in Lac-Mégantic Tuesday afternoon to be formally charged, Boucher said. According to a search warrant obtained by the SQ in July, Demaître was MMA's manager of train operations and Labrie was MMA's railway-traffic controller at the time of the accident. The three men and the company each face 47 counts of criminal negligence causing death, said René Verret, also of the provincial prosecutor's office. The maximum sentence, if convicted, for that offence for a person is life in prison. Fines could also be imposed, Verret said. For a company, if convicted, there are no minimum or maximum fines, Verret said. A judge would decide the amount of the fine imposed. MMA filed for bankruptcy protection in August. The company is in the process of being sold to Railroad Acquisition Holdings LLC, an affiliate of New York-based Fortress Investment Group. The sale is expected to be completed next week. Verret said the police investigation is ongoing. He did not rule out the possibility that other charges could be laid in connection with the derailment. Harding's lawyer could not be reached for comment Monday night. A fire broke out in the train's locomotive around 11:30 p.m. on July 5 when it was parked unattended near the town of Nantes, about 13 kilometres uphill from Lac-Mégantic. Local firefighters turned off the locomotive. While that is standard protocol, the move allowed pressure to the train's air brakes. to slowly bleed off. The Transportation Safety Board said an insufficient number of hand brakes had been set on the train. Verret said his office had hoped to announce the charges earlier, but had many steps to go through first. "We had to do so much today — we had to get warrants for three people and for the company and then we had to find these people," Verret said. "And of course we had to also inform the families in Lac-Mégantic and the person in charge there." A news conference is also planned in Lac-Mégantic on Tuesday for the rebuilding of the Musi-Café, the establishment in the heart of town where many people perished. Mayor Colette Roy Laroche and Musi-Café owner Yannick Gagné are expected to attend.

Related Stories

- [Lac-Mégantic timeline](#)
- [911 tapes offer glimpse into the panic that gripped Lac-Mégantic on the night of the train disaster](#)
- [Lac Megantic example of the danger of transporting oil: Greenpeace](#)
- [What is Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway?](#)
- [Photos: Lac-Mégantic Day 5](#)
- [Photos: Lac-Mégantic, Day 4](#)
- [Photos: Lac-Mégantic, Day 3](#)
- [Photos: Lac-Mégantic, Day 2](#)
- [Photos: Lac-Mégantic, Day 1](#)
- [Interactive: MMA accidents](#)

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Railway+employees+will+charged+Mégantic+train+derailment/9831977/story.html>



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CANADA, ALBA, BALZAC, MAY 13 2014. TANKER SPILL BRINGS TRAFFIC TO A CRAWL ON HIGHWAY 2

matt duman



Traffic in the southbound lanes of Highway 2 was slowed to a crawl on May 2 after a tanker truck overturned and leaked oil onto the road. A two-vehicle collision involving an Acura and a tanker truck occurred in the southbound lanes of Highway 2 near Balzac at around 1 p.m. after the driver of the Acura made an unsafe lane change, according to Cpl. Darrin Turnbull of the Airdrie Integrated Traffic Unit (ITU). "The driver of the Acura attempted to cut in between the tanker and another vehicle and he misjudged the distance," said Turnbull. "It was raining at the time so roads were slick and visibility was reduced." The back end of the Acura collided with the front of the tanker, causing the car to careen into the centre median that divides the north and southbound lanes. After hitting the median, the car bounced back into traffic and caused the driver of the tanker to swerve to avoid a collision, which resulted in the tanker tipping on its side and puncturing a hole in the tank, spilling oil onto the road. Alberta Environment was called to the scene to assist with the cleanup to ensure the road was safe, but traffic was slowed significantly while clean-up was taking place. Alberta Highway Services put sand over the oil to reduce the risk of other vehicles slipping and causing further collisions. Traffic was reduced to one lane on Highway 2 while cleanup crews were on scene, with one lane re-opening an hour after the collision and a second an hour later. "Alberta Environment was still on the scene at around 6 p.m. cleaning up oil that had spilled onto the median," said Turnbull. "They had to keep the left lane closed while they were cleaning up." Both the driver of the Acura and tanker truck were wearing seatbelts at the time of the collision and no injuries were reported. "Thankfully no one was hurt in this collision," said Turnbull. "When you're talking about a collision between a small car and a truck, things could've been a lot worse." The driver of the Acura, a 20-year-old man from Canmore, has been charged with making an unsafe lane change.

<http://www.rockyviewweekly.com/article/20140512/RVW0801/305129986/tanker-spill-brings-traffic-to-a-crawl-on-highway-2>

USA, HI, KAPOLEI, MAY 13 2014. FIRE CREWS RESCUE MAN FROM CEMENT TRUCK >> MAN FELT TOO WEAK TO CLIMB BACK OUT OF TANK

Thanks to Paul Fox in Hawaii for the 'Heads-Up'



A man was rescued from a cement truck tanker in Kapolei Friday morning, according to fire officials. The middle-aged man was performing routine work inside the tank when he felt too weak to climb back out, possibly due to the heat. Fire officials say the temperature inside was 107 degrees Fahrenheit. "He was very weak. Definitely unable to climb out on his own. He wasn't feeling too great," Honolulu Fire Battalion Chief Ken Lee. "Before rescue even came, we were able to drop oxygen down to him with a mask and instantly he said he felt better." Firefighters set up a type of pulley system to hoist the man out of the tank. He was transported to a local hospital to be checked out.

Additional Notes:

This happened during a week of high temperatures (upper 80s), high humidity, and Vog. Vog is a local term for Volcanic Haze. Kilauea is still an active volcano on the Big Island. It emits 2,000–4,000 tons of sulfur dioxide every day. When

the wind blows from the South, the other Hawaiian Islands are affected by it. Some people are very susceptible to it and suffer with sore throats, headaches, weakness, etc.

<http://www.kitv.com/news/fire-crews-rescue-man-from-cement-truck/25905750>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, MAY 14 2014. WHS (MINES) LEGISLATION CONSULTATION - HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW WHS (MINES) REGULATION

NSW Trade & Investment is now seeking written submissions on the draft NSW Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014. A discussion paper is available that highlights particular issues for comment. It is strongly recommended that you review the discussion paper as well as the draft regulation, as it will help provide context around the development of the new legislative framework. Keep an eye on this consultation webpage for further information and updates during the public



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

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consultation period, including topical issues and discussion. [Draft WHS \(Mines\) Regulation 2014 PDF, 1160.54 KB](#) [Discussion paper PDF, 682.02 KB](#)

How to Make a Submission

NSW Trade & Investment is seeking written submissions on the draft NSW Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014. You can provide a submission or comment as an individual or you may wish to contribute to a joint submission through your employer or union organisation, professional association, safety group or community forum. Submissions must be received by 27 June 2014. Please send submissions by email to consult.minesafety@trade.nsw.gov.au. If you do not have access to email, please send submissions to: Mail: Manager Mine Safety Policy and Legislation, Mine Safety Performance, NSW Trade & Investment, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310, Fax: 02 4931 6790. All submissions will be made publicly available on the website as they are received. If you do not want your name released, please indicate this clearly in your submission. Any information that you do not wish to be made available to the public should be clearly marked 'IN CONFIDENCE'. Submissions are subject to all relevant laws such as the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. NSW Trade & Investment may provide extracts of submissions to other stakeholders for comment during the review of public submissions. Templates are available below to create your submission, in word and excel. [Submission template - word DOC, 202 KB](#) [Submission template - excel XLS, 48 KB](#)

Have your say on Draft Mining Codes of Practice

Approved mining codes of practice are practical guides to achieving the standards of health, safety and welfare required under the WHS (Mines) Act 2013 and the WHS (Mines) Regulation 2014. Mining specific codes of practice are being developed in consultation between governments, unions and employer organisations. They will then be approved by the Minister for Resources and Energy to apply to mining operations under the WHS (Mines) Act 2013. Comment will be invited shortly on the following draft codes of practice:

- Safety management systems in mines
- Strata control in underground coal mines
- Emergency planning for mines
- Inundation and Inrush Hazard Management
- Mechanical engineering control plan
- Electrical engineering control plan

A cover page included with each code will provide background to the development of the code and highlights specific issues for comment. If you would like to be advised when each code of practice is available for comment, please [subscribe](#) to mine safety news.

<http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/safety-and-health/legislation/whs-mines/consultation>

SULTANATE OF OMAN, AL DAKHILIYAH, TAWI AL AQIBA, MAY 14 2014. ASPHYXIATION LED TO DEATH OF TWO ASIANS IN IZKI, SAYS ROP

IZKI Royal Oman Police (ROP) unravelled the mystery behind the death of two Asian nationals inside their vehicle in Tawi Al Aqiba area in the Wilayat of Izki in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah. An official source at the ROP said that a police patrol had spotted a vehicle parked under suspicious circumstance at 3.30am near a shop. When the police personnel inspected the car they found two people sleeping inside the car with doors locked. The patrol team tried to wake them up but without any success. Both of them were found dead when the door was opened. The preliminary investigation indicated that the inhalation of carbon monoxide from the exhaust of the vehicle led to the deaths. The source asked the citizens and residents to take precautionary measures to avoid such incidents.

<http://www.omantribune.com/index.php?page=news&id=167601&heading=Oman>

USA, GA, DALTON, MAY 14 2014. ADHESIVE TANK BLOWS, BUT NO INJURIES IN GA. NEIGHBORHOOD >> 500-GALLON TANK OF CARPET ADHESIVE EXPLODED AFTER A WEAK AREA.

rachel brown

Leslie Kinsey was sitting in her car three doors down from Advanced Adhesive Technology on Spencer Street when she was startled by a loud boom. "And you could hear what sounded like vapors escaping from something," the Dalton resident said. That was around 8:45 a.m. on Monday. Dalton Fire Department Deputy Chief Gary Baggett said the explosion was from an outdoor tank that could hold roughly 500 gallons of carpet adhesive giving way and exploding. Officials believe there was a



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weak area in the bottom of the tank or that the relief valve failed. No one was hurt. The tank went in the air at 424 S. Spencer St., Baggett said, but no one was nearby at the time. "Had someone been there, they would have been hurt or killed, but luckily no employee was in that part of the building," he said. Baggett said no harmful chemicals were released into the environment, and the tank was not full. No one had to be evacuated. Kinsey said the outcome is a relief. "I'm just really glad that nobody was hurt," she said.

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11457688/carpet-adhesive-tank-explodes-in-dalton-ga>

TURKEY, MANISA, SOMA, MAY 14 2014. MINE EXPLOSION LEAVES MORE THAN 200 DEAD AND HUNDREDS TRAPPED

ben quinn & constanze letsch

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Deadly Turkey Mine Collapse Leaves Hundreds Trapped](#)
- [Mine Explosion Leaves Several Dead, Hundreds Trapped](#)
- [Deadly Turkey Mine Blasting 'Traps Hundreds'](#)
- [Turkey Mine Explosion Leaves more than 200 Dead & Hundreds Trapped](#)

 **Photo's [5] Hundreds Dead 8or Trapped in Turkish Coal Mine**



Disaster management agency says authorities are preparing for possibility that death toll in Soma disaster could rise sharply.

A miner is carried by rescuers following an explosion in Soma, Turkey.

A large rescue operation is under way to free hundreds of coal miners trapped underground after an explosion and fire in western [Turkey](#) left hundreds of their colleagues dead. Early on Wednesday Turkey's energy minister, Taner Yildiz, said the death toll had risen above 200. Hundreds more were believed to be still trapped inside the mine, while more than 360 had been evacuated. As rescue teams made their way from neighbouring regions, fresh air was being pumped into the mine in Soma, about 75 miles north-east of the Aegean coastal city of Izmir. Twenty people initially made it out of the privately owned mine, where a power distribution unit was said to have exploded, but local authorities in the western province of Manisa said that between 200 and 300 workers were still

underground. The blast in the power unit of the mine triggered an electricity cut, making the lifts unusable and leaving hundreds of miners stranded underground. The disaster management agency said authorities were making arrangements to set up a cold storage facility to hold the corpses of miners recovered from the site. The accident happened about 2km inside the mine, according to Turkey's NTV television, while the rescue efforts were being hampered by the length of the tunnels. Determining how many workers were trapped underground was made more difficult by the fact that the accident occurred during a shift change. Yildiz said about 780 people had been working inside at the time of the accident. Television footage showed people cheering and applauding as some trapped workers emerged out of the mine, helped by rescuers, their faces and hard hats covered in soot. One wiped away tears on his jacket, another smiled, waved and gave a "thumbs up" sign to onlookers. Meanwhile, hundreds of relatives of miners who were working at the site gathered outside the mine and at the hospital in Soma, which is at the centre of a coal-mining community. Yildiz said earlier that rescue efforts "must be completed by the morning". "Time is working against us," he said, adding that about 400 rescuers were involved in the operation. "We are faced with carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide poisoning." Yildiz, who opened the mine 10 months ago, said some of the workers were 420 metres deep inside the mine. "They are pumping oxygen into the mine but the fire is still burning. They say it is an electrical fault but it could be that coal is burning as well," Tamer Küçükgençay, chairman of the regional labour union, told Reuters. The Turkish miner's union president, Vedat Ünal, said: "Every worker has a gas mask. Those masks provide oxygen. But we don't know how long they will last." The office of the Turkish prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said that a planned one-day visit by him to Albania on Wednesday had been cancelled and that he would be going to Soma. Erdogan said in televised comments: "Evacuation efforts are under way. I hope that we are able to rescue them." Miners' representatives said that accidents such as the latest one would increase due to privatisations, the increasing employment of subcontractors and a lack of strong unions, all of which they said had led to massive pressure on workers to produce as much as possible for as little cost as possible. "And because of weak unions it is impossible to counter this pressure," said Tayfun Görgün, the head of one of the mining unions. Soma Komur İşletmeleri AS, which owns the mine, confirmed that a number of



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its workers were killed but did not say how many. It said the accident occurred despite "[the] highest safety measures and constant controls" and an investigation was being launched. Turkey's main opposition Republican People's party sought to establish a parliamentary inquiry last year about safety issues in relation to the mining company, but the bid was rejected. Mining accidents are common in Turkey, which is plagued by poor safety conditions. Turkey's worst mining disaster was a 1992 gas explosion that killed 263 workers near the Black Sea port of Zonguldak. In May 2010 another gas explosion killed 30 miners, again in the same northern province.

Related Stories

- [Over 200 dead, many trapped in Turkish coal mine](#)
- [Turkey mine explosion: At least 201 dead and more trapped](#)
- [Death toll in Turkey mine blast rises to 201](#)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/13/turkey-mine-blast-people-killed-trapped-rescue-operation>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SWOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, MAY 14 2014. LARGE EVACUATION AFTER GAS LEAK DETECTED AT CALTEX OIL REFINERY AT KURNELL

naomi white



Fire and Rescue evacuated about 100 people from Caltex's Kurnell refinery.

About 100 people had to be evacuated from the Caltex Oil Refinery at Kurnell this afternoon after a gas leak. Fire and Rescue NSW and police crews were called to the Solander St refinery with reports of the leak about 2.45pm. A spokeswoman for NSW Fire and Rescue said six crews responded and were quick to isolate the leak. "Crews were called to the refinery shortly before 3pm to reports of a gas leak at the plant," she said. "100 people were evacuated as a precaution." The gas leak has now been isolated and Fire and Rescue crews remain on scene monitoring the area. There have been no reports of injuries.

Related Stories [Large evacuation after gas leak detected at Caltex Oil Refinery](#)

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/large-evacuation-after-gas-leak-detected-at-caltex-oil-refinery-at-kurnell/story-fnii5s41-1226916156529>

USA, S.C, TOWNVILLE, MAY 14 2014. ACID CLEANUP ON I-85 TO RESUME WEDNESDAY; NO THREAT TO THE PUBLIC

casey vaughn

 **Watch the Video** [Acid Cleanup on I-85 to Resume Wednesday](#)



More dry ice is brought in for the leaking tanker.

Anderson County Emergency Management crews are working to clean up a hydrogen chloride leak from a tractor-trailer more than 24 hours after it was reported. The leak was reported at a weigh station along Interstate 85 near mile marker 9 in Anderson County, not far from Penny Lane Monday morning. A passing motorist noticed the tanker leaking and was able to notify the driver, who stopped at the weigh station to assess the damage, Capt. Matthew Littleton said. He said authorities were notified about 8:30 a.m. Monday. Crews determined the leak is from a valve on the tank they cannot shut off. While they waited for the new truck to arrive, they took care of the tanker, ensuring there is

no threat to the public. Crews will work to transfer the acid between the two tankers sometime Wednesday morning, according to the South Carolina Highway Patrol. Troopers are warning drivers that traffic will be delayed between mile markers 1 and 14 along I-85 on both the north and southbound sides during the process. Initially the slowdown was slated for 1:20 p.m. on Tuesday but troopers said it was pushed back until Wednesday because of the hot weather. Officials said crews were only able to work in 10 minute increments and because of the heat it became a safety issue. They are planning to make the acid transfer on Wednesday morning, possible around 7:30 p.m. Crews will be monitoring the leak overnight. Crews are keeping



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the tanker cool by covering it with dry ice. At some point, they will offload the acid, which is in liquid form inside the tank. The acid could be seen evaporating out of tank in small plumes Monday, appearing white when it's mixed with the dry ice. The leak's vapor is not flammable, but emergency crews said they are prepared to shut down the interstate if the need arises. Firefighters and HAZMAT crews had to wait for a specialized tanker from Houston to arrive to help offload the acid, Littleton said. The specialized truck arrived about 8:30 a.m. Tuesday but crews do not yet know how long it will take to transfer the load. Littleton said the gas is corrosive and could make people sick if inhaled. The safety zone is 300 feet. He said eight homes were evacuated Monday, and several other residents were given the option to evacuate, but have since returned home. "I smelled a bad smell," said Evay Freeman. "It smelled like sewer, and it was really bad." Freeman was evacuated for several hours Monday as she lives close to the station. She said she went to the Red Cross shelter where she was fed until crews said it was safe to return home. The Red Cross of the Western Carolinas said they will reopen the shelter at Double Springs Baptist Church in Townville at 2 p.m. as a precaution for residents in the area while crews transfer the chemical from one truck to the other. They said the shelter will remain open as long as it is necessary. Red Cross officials said they will continue to assess the situation to see if additional support is needed. According to the Centers for Disease Control, hydrochloric acid is a colorless to slightly yellow gas with a pungent, irritating odor, but it is shipped as a liquefied compressed gas. FOX Carolina's crew at the scene said little puffs of gas could be seen evaporating from the tanker truck. The CDC said symptoms of exposure to the gas include irritation of the nose, throat, larynx; coughing or choking; and dermatitis. Read more [here](#). The State Transport Police is investigating the incident. Additionally, Anderson County has help from Oconee, Pickens, and Greenville counties, the Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Environmental Protection Agency during the transfer to ensure its success and safety for those involved and in the area. Littleton said though the interstate is open, drivers may experience some delays during transfer period. A representative of the sheriff's office said there is no threat to the public at this time.

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/25490674/leak-at-i-85-weigh-station-prompts-evacuations>

USA, W.VA, MORGAN CO, MAY 14 2014. HAZMAT CREW ON SCENE OF SPILL IN MORGAN COUNTY

kirstin garriss



According to Morgan County Fire and Rescue dispatch, Rt. 522 was briefly shut down Tuesday afternoon from Washington County, Md., to the town limits of Bath due to a large hazmat spill. Hazmat crews arrived on the scene, and declared it was safe to have the roadway open unless potential bad weather affects the spill. The call came in at 2:42 p.m. along 2946 Hancock Road at U.S. Silica. Dispatch says there is a large leak in a building involving three different types of hazardous material, "sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide and petroleum sulfonate." They say approximately 53,000 lbs could potentially spill. Crews on scene say they're working on an action plan to determine if this can be deemed as a safe area, or if they plan to bring in a clean-up contractor to help resolve the situation. They say there's no safety hazard to the surrounding community, and the incident is in an isolated area. They're biggest concern is keeping first responders, the hazmat crew, and plant personnel safe. Fire and Hazmat crews

are on scene. Crews from Berkeley County, W.Va., Allegany County, Md., and Washington County, Md., responded.

<http://www.your4state.com/story/d/story/rt-522-open-hazmat-crew-on-scene-of-large-spill/29158/6y4qI-a4Vk-pEDbJY1er5A>

USA, OH, NEW PHILADELPHIA, MAY 14 2014. WORKER KILLED WHEN TANK EXPLODES

joe mizer

A 29-year-old New Philadelphia-area man died about 4 p.m. Monday in Akron General Hospital after he was seriously injured when an oilfield bulk-storage tank exploded inside a metal building at Sutton Pump and Supply Co. at 2892 state Route 39 NE. Michael C. Cottrell, of 2413 Tabor Ridge Road NE, was standing on top of the tank and welding a hook onto it when the explosion occurred, New Philadelphia Fire Chief Jim Parrish said. Sgt. Eric Houze of the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Department said the tank exploded due to the work being done on it. He noted that Cottrell and the tank went upward and hit the roof of the building, then fell about 20 feet to the concrete floor. Parrish said the incident was reported at 2:35 p.m. to his department as a structure fire from an explosion. When firefighters arrived, they found Cottrell's co-workers spraying the fire with extinguishers, and Cottrell wedged between the burning tank and an inside wall of the building. When enough of the fire



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was extinguished to get to Cottrell, co-workers and firefighters took him out of the building and he was flown by helicopter to Akron from a nearby landing site. Another man who was welding on the side of the tank at the time was blown against the wall, and went to Union Hospital in Dover to be checked out, Parrish said. His name was not available Monday night. Houze said his department will assist the state fire marshal's office, which had an investigator on site Monday afternoon, and others in the investigation.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20140512/NEWS/140519822>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, NORTH LAKES, MAY 14 2014. COSTCO'S FIRST QUEENSLAND PETROL STATION AT NORTH LAKES TO OPEN ON MAY 15

peter marsh



Costco's 16-bowser petrol station at North Lakes.

Costco will open its first highly-anticipated petrol station in Queensland on Thursday at 6am. The retail warehouse is putting the finishing touches on its first Queensland store at North Lakes and is due to open on May 29. Costco is well known in the US for its deep discounts on fuel and the North Lakes station will be just the second in Australia after the chain opened a petrol station at its Ringwood store in New South Wales late last year.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/costcos-first-queensland-petrol-station-at-north-lakes-to-open-on-may-15/story-e6frq6n6-1226916173531>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, MAY 14 2014. PETROL RAIL TANKER CLEANING INSPECTIONS LACKING

Federal inspectors responsible for workplace safety appear to be nearly clueless about who and how many firms clean the inside of railroad tankers that carry petrochemicals around the country. The Houston Chronicle reports the Occupational Safety and Health Administration can't say how many of the companies it's inspected because federal Labor Department codes for tracking the firms are inconsistent. An OSHA compliance officer tells the newspaper federal officials have no way to find the companies. The newspaper's investigation also shows officials can't say how many people have been killed while doing the dangerous work scrubbing the tanker interiors or suffer illnesses related to chemical exposure from the cleaning process. The paper reported Sunday its examination of records shows at least 51 deaths over the past 15 years.

<http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/southcentral/2014/05/13/248780.htm>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, MAY 14 2014. TRAFFIC DELAYS AS PETROL TANKER ROLLS ON COMPTON RD

tom snowdon

 **Watch the Video** [Petrol Tanker Rolls on Compton Rd](#)

Brisbane commuters can expect significant delays this morning while emergency services secure a fuel tanker that rolled south of the city. The incident occurred at Compton Rd, which runs from Calamvale in the west to Springwood in the east, at about 6am. There have been no spills, but one lane of the on-ramp to the M1 has been closed while emergency services extract the fuel. Police expect delays to continue until around 8am. Nobody was hurt.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/traffic-delays-as-petrol-tanker-rolls-on-compton-rd/story-fnkbjxqk-1226916892470>

CANADA, MB, BRANDON, MAY 14 2014. FLIPPED TANKER GUSHES FUEL

charles tweed

A collision involving two semi-trucks and tankers resulted in more than 10,000 litres of diesel fuel spilling onto the ground near a creek in Brandon Monday afternoon. Shortly after 2 p.m., police received a 911 call after a semi-truck hauling two tankers southbound on Highway 110 smashed into another semi-truck hauling one tanker travelling eastbound on Richmond Avenue East.

<http://www.brandonsun.com/breaking-news/flipped-tanker-gushes-fuel-259040781.html?thx=y>



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USA, TX, HOUSTON, MAY 14 2014. OVERTURNED TANKER TRUCK SPILLS OIL ON BUSY EAST HOUSTON ROADWAY



Clinton Drive was blocked in both directions shortly before 11 a.m. In addition, the southbound ramp from the East Loop to Clinton was shut down.

A tanker truck overturned and leaked motor oil onto a busy east Houston roadway early Tuesday. Clinton Drive was blocked in both directions shortly before 11 a.m. In addition, the southbound ramp from the East Loop to Clinton was shut down. There was no immediate word on what caused the crash. A hazmat team with the Houston Fire Department was called in to start cleaning up the mess, but there was no word on how long the cleanup would take. Closures are expected to remain in place through the afternoon.

<http://www.khou.com/news/local/Overtuned-tanker-truck-spills-oil-on-busy-east-Houston-roadway-259086281.html>

USA, TX, CORPUS CHRISTI, MAY 14 2014. OIL GIANT CITGO GETS OFF EASY IN CRIMINAL CASE

priscila mosqueda



Residents of the Hillcrest neighborhood near the Citgo refinery in Corpus Christi have been hit hard by respiratory problems, burning eyes and noses, scratchy throats, nausea, and sometimes vomiting and severe headaches.

A foreign oil company convicted of polluting a Texas community's air with dangerous chemicals has gotten off easy in a criminal case that could undercut the prosecution of environmental crimes in the United States. The case revolves around Venezuelan-owned Citgo Petroleum's decade-long violation of the federal Clean Air Act at its refinery in Corpus Christi. In 2007, the Citgo refinery became the first to be criminally [convicted](#) of violating the Clean Air Act by a U.S. jury. The refinery had spent a decade illegally operating two giant oil-water separator tanks without any emission controls. Every day for 10 years, nearby residents breathed noxious fumes emitted from the roofless tanks, including the

carcinogen benzene. It took another seven years, until February, before the judge in the case finally sentenced the company. U.S. District Judge John D. Rainey fined Citgo a little more than \$2 million — a penalty prosecutors said would not deter Citgo from committing future crimes since, they argued, the company made \$1 billion in profit as a result of its illegal operation. Corpus Christi residents were disappointed with the fine, but disappointment quickly turned into fear and confusion when the judge refused to announce in court that day his ruling on how much restitution must be paid to the refinery's neighbors. On April 30, people who had been [awaiting a decision](#) for years finally found out what they would receive from Citgo: absolutely nothing. "When I walked out of [the courtroom] I knew what it was gonna be: he was going in Citgo's favor," says Thelma Morgan, who lived two blocks away from Citgo for more than 35 years and whose husband and son were also exposed to toxic chemicals. "When he said 'I'll notify you all by letter' I said then, 'You're against us, so we can forget it.'" Morgan, 79, says she was regularly sick during the time she lived near Citgo, but her husband got the worst of it. A host of health problems forced him into early retirement, so he was home more than she was. One day he was gardening when he suddenly broke out in blisters. Doctors asked if he'd been exposed to any chemicals. He later developed colon cancer and died in 2003, just two years after the family moved out of the Hillcrest neighborhood bordering the refinery. On one occasion, Morgan says, Citgo paid her after she was exposed to a chemical that came from the refinery. She says she couldn't stop vomiting and thought she had the flu until she was diagnosed with pneumonia. She doesn't remember the amount Citgo offered her but thinks it was about \$450. People who live in the Hillcrest and Oak Park neighborhoods nearest the refinery have been hit hardest. Many have stories about exposures that led to respiratory problems, burning eyes and noses, scratchy throats, nausea, and sometimes vomiting and severe headaches. Foul odors penetrate their homes and can linger for days. Residents say the worst episodes happen at night: that's when the strongest odors come, sometimes following explosions or flares. A [2009 blast](#) nearly sent a cloud of hydrogen fluoride, a deadly gas, into the neighborhoods. Residents' complaints to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality — more than 200 of them during the 10-year period — led the agency to inspect Citgo repeatedly, but the company covered its tracks. During the conviction phase of the federal trial, the Justice Department showed that Citgo employees removed the oil from the uncovered tanks each time the refinery was due for an inspection, so that by the time an investigator arrived, the company was operating legally. It wasn't until a TCEQ investigator arrived



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unannounced that the agency realized Citgo was operating the tanks illegally. The Justice Department proved that Corpus Christi residents' ailments occurred as a result of Citgo's actions. It was the first time sufferers of effects from air pollution had ever been recognized as crime victims in the United States. Bill Miller, a former Environmental Protection Agency lawyer who worked with the Justice Department on the Citgo prosecution and has since retired, says air pollution cases are much harder to prove than water contamination cases. It's difficult to establish that a company's emissions caused specific people's health problems and deaths, he says, even if courts broadly acknowledge that exposure to toxic chemicals is harmful to human health. Following that line of thought, Judge Rainey initially denied 20 victims' request to be granted restitution under the Crime Victims' Rights Act, but the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered him to reconsider. Eventually, Rainey granted crime victim status to more than 800 residents, which allowed them to give oral testimony in court at the beginning of the sentencing hearing last fall. Morgan was one of about 160 people who shared their stories. Experts say the judge's refusal to grant the victims restitution last month sets a dangerous precedent for similar cases, particularly if the government doesn't appeal the ruling. "I think it's clear that the judge never wanted to consider them victims in the first place," says Melissa Jarrell, a criminal justice professor at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi who studies environmental crime. "Why that's concerning to me is that ultimately the judge was the victims' safety net — he was the one that could really help them and he didn't."

Too Big to Punish

Rainey, a former director of the Angleton, Texas, Chamber of Commerce, was appointed to federal judgeship by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. He was recommended for the position by Phil Gramm, the former Texas senator who was instrumental in engineering the "Enron loophole" that deregulated electronic energy trading, and whose wife served on the board of Houston-based Enron, an energy-trading company that collapsed in the wake of an accounting scandal in 2001. Rainey rejected the residents' and the government's requests for restitution, which would have included funding for annual cancer screenings and other diseases linked to chemical exposure. The Justice Department also had asked that Citgo set up one trust fund to cover property buyouts and relocation costs and another for victims' future medical expenses, attorney's fees and other administrative costs, at a total cost of \$55 million. In [an April 30 statement](#) that baffled many, Rainey wrote that victims would be better off receiving nothing from Citgo than waiting for the court to determine what they are owed. That echoed his earlier decision to fine Citgo only \$2 million for four violations of the Clean Air Act, a fraction of the potential penalty. The Justice Department had argued that the Corpus Christi refinery made \$1 billion as a direct result of illegally operating the tanks. It wanted to fine the company using a provision that allows punishment of twice the "gross, pecuniary gain" realized by violating the law, which would have allowed for a fine of up to \$2 billion. But Rainey — after nearly seven years of delays in sentencing — ruled that empaneling a jury to determine Citgo's exact profits would "unduly prolong" the sentencing process. The Crime Victims' Rights Act allows the residents to appeal the judge's ruling on restitution, but only 20 have legal representation. Their lawyers say they plan to file their appeal this week. It's up to the government to appeal the sentence on behalf of the more than 800 other victims. The Justice Department declined to comment on the matter. "It doesn't look like the Department of Justice has any intention of appealing the sentencing of Citgo, which is a crime in itself in my opinion," Miller says. "It basically emasculates environmental crime prosecution in the United States completely." If the Justice Department doesn't appeal Citgo's sentence by the end of the month, Miller says, it will send the message that some corporations are too big to punish. Environmental crime cases rarely go to trial because most corporations settle out of court. When the government succeeds in prosecuting them — and, even more seldom, secures a conviction — it should take that opportunity to show that it will aggressively punish environmental violators, Miller says. "If you're not going to do anything about it then it behooves every large corporation who gets caught violating a complex statute like Clean Air Act to go to trial and hide behind complexity of it," he says. "If I was a company like Citgo and I got caught doing something like this again, I'd litigate it."

Continued Violations

The Justice Department offered evidence during the sentencing hearing that Citgo made \$150 billion in profits during the 10 years its Corpus Christi refinery was violating the law. The 165,000-barrel-per-day refinery stands in stark contrast to the low-income, mostly minority neighborhoods in its shadow. People simply can't afford to move out — most of the homes there are appraised at \$30,000 to \$40,000 and residents say to move even a few miles away from the refinery would cost them upwards of \$100,000. Citgo didn't respond to requests for comment, but has previously said that it is proud of its environmental record and its role in the Corpus Christi community. Residents say they don't feel safe around a company that continues to expose them to harmful chemicals. Citgo may have covered the oil-water separator tanks years ago, but the company has had a less-than-stellar track record since. In July 2009, an explosion at the refinery alerted residents that something was terribly wrong. An equipment failure in the alkylation unit had caused a release of hydrogen fluoride — a highly corrosive and potentially



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deadly chemical that about 50 U.S. refineries still use, despite safer alternatives. The release triggered a fire that burned for more than two days and severely burned a worker, who lost an arm in the explosion. Citgo and local authorities alerted only about 15 to 20 households of the release, even though a 1986 industry-funded test found that hydrogen fluoride — also known as hydrofluoric acid, or HF — can travel up to five miles in lethal concentrations. The company claimed in the local newspaper that the release had never posed any harm to the community and insisted the chemical didn't cross the plant's fence line. "They have this make-believe fence that [they say] nothing goes over, under or through," says Connie Gonzalez, who lives about three miles from the refinery. "When they have a release you can smell it and you can see it sometimes and then they put out in the news, 'The neighborhood was never in harm's way.'" Gonzalez's husband worked at Citgo for 20 years; for a time she took him lunch every day and sometimes dropped him off or picked him up from work. Gonzalez developed breast cancer — she's now in remission — and has nerve damage in her feet that makes her feel as though she's constantly walking on rocks. Her husband has prostate cancer and heart problems; the couple traces their conditions to the refinery's emissions. Before Gonzalez found out she had breast cancer, she says, a blood test revealed she had benzene in her blood. At the time of the HF release, Citgo claimed only 30 pounds of the chemical had escaped the refinery. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board, which [investigated the accident](#), later estimated that about 4,000 of the 46,091 pounds released inside the facility had gone off site. The TCEQ imposed a fine of \$303,294. The federal government never prosecuted Citgo for the incident. The HF release isn't the only problem Citgo has had in Corpus Christi. Since the company's federal conviction, the TCEQ has fined it seven times, sometimes for multiple violations, for a total of \$87,201. Those violations included "emissions events" that released thousands of pounds of volatile organic compounds, particulate matter and other pollutants. It's unclear how much of this pollution stayed inside the plant, but in at least a few cases the TCEQ made it clear that some of the emissions drifted into nearby neighborhoods. "Never does anything escape from the plant," Gonzalez says. "And yet everybody has allergies and people are dying of cancer."

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/2014/05/14/14752/oil-giant-citgo-gets-easy-criminal-case>

USA, N.M, ALBUQUERQUE, MAY 14 2014. DOES DECADES-LONG FUEL LEAK THREATEN DRINKING WATER SAFETY IN ALBUQUERQUE?

 **Watch the Video** [Does Decades-Long Fuel Leak Threaten Drinking Water](#)

At Kirtland Air Force Base on the outskirts of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a hole in a pipeline allowed fuel containing toxic chemicals to ooze into the soil, undetected for more than four decades. Special correspondent Kathleen McCleery reports on the efforts to clean up the leak, and the serious concerns that remain about drinking water contamination.

Transcript

Gwen Ifill: Next: the story of a massive spill of jet fuel at a military base. Officials have known about it for at least 15 years, but there's still a debate about its size, where it's going, and what to do about it.

Kathleen McCleery: The trouble started here at [Kirtland Air Force Base](#) more than six decades ago. The sprawling base, about the size of Washington, D.C., sits on the southeast border of Albuquerque, the state's largest city. It's home to the Air Force's Nuclear Weapons Center, as well as a special operations wing. Colonel Jeff Lanning is commander of the mission support group at the base.

Col. Jeff Lanning: Kirtland Air Force Base: It was in this area we found fuel actually coming to the surface, and we knew we had some kind of a problem at that point.

Kathleen McCleery: That problem was a leak dating to the 1950s, when railcars and trucks delivered fuel to pipelines, powering planes at the growing base.

Col. Jeff Lanning: We found a hole in the pipe. And I have a piece of the pipe here, which is where the — the hole that we actually discovered. As fuel would sit in this pipe, it was able to escape the pipe and into the soil and drain into the — into the soil and migrate 500 feet down, eventually reaching the water table.

Kathleen McCleery: Some fuel is mixed with soil near the surface, and much more is headed down where it rests on top of the groundwater. Tom Blaine at New Mexico's Environment Department uses an ant farm to explain.

Tom Blaine: New Mexico Environment Department: And so I'm going to inject some dye that will represent the fuel, so you can see the migration of that fuel, how it spreads out and really the uncertainty of where it's going and how it's going to get to the groundwater table.

Kathleen McCleery: The oozing fuel wasn't detected for more than four decades. At first, the size of the spill was put at about 157,000 gallons. Over the years though, that number ticked up as high as 24 million, the latest estimate, about six million



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gallons. Dave McCoy is an attorney and director of [Citizen Action](#), an advocacy group. He worries about where the fuel is headed, northeast, toward municipal drinking wells.

Dave McCoy, Citizen Action New Mexico: The boundary of the base is down here. But you can see that 80 percent of the plume has gone off the base now.

Kathleen McCleery: Even more worrisome: The fuel contained a cocktail of toxic chemicals. Among the compounds found was ethylene dibromide, or EDB, a no-knock agent once added to aviation gas. The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) calls the chemical extremely toxic, because it can cause liver and kidney problems, damage sperm cells, and increase the risk of cancer.

Dave McCoy: It's toxic if it touches your skin. It's toxic if you breathe it. You're going to breathe it, you're going to get it on your skin if you're taking a shower with this stuff. If you're drinking it, it's toxic that way.

Tom Blaine: It's in a developed residential neighborhood.

Kathleen McCleery: The EPA has given regulatory authority to New Mexico's Environment Department, which has set a limit of 50 parts per trillion for EDB in drinking water. But the city water authority is adamant about keeping any EDB out of the water.

Chief operating officer John Stomp:

John Stomp, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority: We want to prevent this from further contaminating the aquifer. For contamination for us is, it's no EDB or EDB. It's not EDB at drinking water standards. It's not EDB, because that's what our customers are accustomed to.

Col. Jeff Lanning: In this area, a large concentration of contaminants were identified.

Kathleen McCleery: Concern in the city is on the rise. More than 100 residents crowded into a community center recently and gave Colonel Lanning a grilling.

Man: They can't characterize how far, how wide, how deep, how fast this plume is moving.

Kathleen McCleery: Lanning said the city water isn't in immediate danger, and cited recent studies showing there's time to for a fix, as long as 30 years before EDB reaches city wells. But McCoy and others dispute that estimate, and charge the Air Force with not being truthful and dragging its boots on the cleanup, charges Colonel Lanning denies.

Col. Jeff Lanning: I represent the government. A lot of people are holding up signs even. Before I even start saying anything, they're telling me I'm lying. But I'm not. I am dedicated to keeping the water for the people of Albuquerque clean, and the Air Force is dedicated to that.

Kathleen McCleery: At the meeting was retired sociology Professor Beverly Burris. She and her husband live a mile-and-a-half from the base. They drink mostly bottled water these days and are considering moving after 25 years in the city.

Beverly Burris: This is the largest ever to threaten a municipal water supply in the whole history of the country, so, by anyone's standards, this is an enormous spill. It is an exceptionally large spill.

Kathleen McCleery: More than 100 monitoring wells dot the landscape on and off the base, at a cost of about a quarter-million dollars each, paid for by the Air Force. They sample soil and groundwater for contaminants. Activists want more of them, and want them placed closer to city wells. Less than a mile from the spill site are two municipal wells. The Water Authority's contingency plan is to shut them down if they show contamination. But John Stomp would hate to have to do that, because the wells are among the most productive and the lowest in naturally occurring arsenic.

Johns Stomp: Those two wells provide 10 million gallons a day. So, if our average daily use is about 100 million, that's about 10 percent of our supply. This is what we call the sweet spot of the aquifer, because the water quality is so good and we get good yield on the wells.

Kathleen McCleery: Stomp and others say a prolonged drought in this arid state makes cleaning up the toxic leak even more urgent. Meanwhile, the Air Force has put interim measures into place, first, attacking the problem closest to the surface.

This machine, much like the catalytic converter in cars, extracts fuel vapors from the soil. Colonel Lanning says the method has removed about a half-million gallons so far.

Col. Jeff Lanning: As we pull the soil vapor out of the soil, anywhere where the fuel is sitting on top of the water table, it's able to off gas, if you will, into the soil above it. It would be sort of like hooking up a large Shop-Vac to where you put the gas in your car. You're not actually going to pull any liquid fuel out, but you could pull enough fuel vapor out that at some point the gas tank would be empty.

Kathleen McCleery: Getting EDB out of the groundwater is harder, because EDB dissolves in water. One option, pump the toxic water out and treat it. That's worked for smaller leaks like this one dating back to the '80s at the site of an electrical generating plant in Santa Fe.



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Tom Blaine: You drop the water down through a column in a tube, and you blow air past it. And then you pass that water through that charcoal bed, which removes the rest of the EDB from the groundwater, from the drinking water.

Kathleen McCleery: This is not so different from what I might do to filter my water at home?

Tom Blaine: Oh, absolutely. You have a Brita filter on your tap, same thing. It's an activated, granulated charcoal.

Kathleen McCleery: But the Kirtland spill is far larger than the one in Santa Fe, which makes treatment much more difficult.

Col. Jeff Lanning: Pump and treat is generally not very efficient. You have to pump millions of gallons of water in order to scrub out very small amounts of a contaminant. And the issue that we have is that you then have to do something with those millions of gallons of water. And, in the West, what you do with water is very, very important.

Kathleen McCleery: The leaks have long stopped, and trucks now deliver to a spanking new facility built last year with above-ground pipes and high-tech monitoring of the fuel. But Tom Blaine recently criticized the Air Force's progress cleaning up the groundwater. And in a letter to the base commander, he threatened to impose fines of up to \$10,000 per day if a June 30 deadline for implementation of a new work plan isn't met. Beverly Burris believes it will take decades before the spill is cleaned up. And officials at the base, the Environment Department and the Water Authority all concur. As for the cost, the Air Force has already spent \$50 million and believes that figure will double, at least.

Related Stories

- [Kirtland Air Force Base jet fuel plume remediation efforts](#)
- [Citizen Action New Mexico on Kirtland Air Force Base jet fuel spill](#)
- [Health concerns heighten as oil spill spreads](#)

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/decades-long-fuel-leak-threaten-drinking-water-safety-albuquerque/>

USA, N.D, WILLISTON, MAY 14 2014. SPILL CONTINUES AT OIL WELL NEAR TIOGA

josh wood

An oil well near the town of Tioga continued to leak oil, gas and fracking fluid on Monday, days after authorities learned about the problem, a local official said. Williams County emergency coordinator Mike Hallesy said he was notified Friday evening of the spill in the western North Dakota's oil patch and that the leak hadn't stopped. The Department of Mineral Resources said the incident occurred at the Ron Burgundy 3-23-14H well, around eight miles northwest of Tioga. The well is owned by Denver-based Emerald Oil. Hallesy said that the site's wellhead failed during hydraulic fracturing, the process of a pressurized mix of water, sand and chemicals into a well to fracture rocks and promote the flow of oil and gas. Alison Ritter, a spokeswoman for the Department of Mineral Resources, said the well is protected by a confidentiality agreement. As a result, she said, her office could disclose only the name of the well, its general location, its owner and that a spill had occurred. Information about confidential wells is withheld from the public for up to six months. Hallesy said that a reading taken 10 feet from the wellhead showed hydrogen sulfide levels of 20 parts per million. Hydrogen sulfide at levels of 100 parts per million can be life-threatening, he said. Two farms located more than a quarter-mile from the site of the incident have been notified of the spill and about the hydrogen sulfide, Hallesy said. He added that a perimeter has been set up and the roads near the site have been closed down. Hallesy said the spill had so far been contained with berms and that excess liquid was being trucked out of the area to disposal sites. He said he didn't have any immediate information about the size of the spill. Halliburton subsidiary Boots and Coots, a well control company, has been called to the well to try to stop the flow.

http://bismarcktribune.com/bakken/spill-continues-at-oil-well-near-tioga/article_8297f2e0-da02-11e3-8f0e-001a4bcf887a.html

USA, GA, CHATTOOGA CO, MAY 14 2014. FUEL SPILL IN CHATTOOGA COUNTY CLOSSES AREA FREQUENTED BY CHILDREN



Update: The probable cause of a diesel spill in a Chattooga County creek has been located. A drain, near an empty facility, was covered in debris. Fuel was leaking into the debris, going down the drain, into the creek. The Fire Department in helping the EPA clean out the drain. The area is still considered off-limits for the next couple of days.

Crews in Chattooga County are cleaning up a fuel spill that has contaminated a creek frequented by children. EMA director Eddie Henderson tells Channel 3 that the spill was discovered Monday night around 8:00. It is located on Lyerly Street near the Old Mohawk Mill. Members of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, the EPA and Chattooga

County's EMA contractor are investigating the cause of the spill, at this time it is unknown. Henderson says the spill is a significant amount. Chattooga EMA sent out a reverse 911 to alert the community not to play in or near the water. This water



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does not flow into the system that provides drinking water. Crews are using an underflow dam to clean up the spill. The underflow dam is built in a stream with pipes allowing the water to flow and the diesel to float. Crews will then take a vacuum truck and soak up the fuel. Henderson says it could be a couple of days before the area is completely cleaned up.

<http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/25506825/fuel-spill-in-chattooga-county-closes-area-frequented-by-children>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, MAY 14 2014. EPA FINES CHEVRON \$875,000 FOR UTAH SPILLS OF OIL, DIESEL FUEL



The EPA is fining Chevron \$875,000 for two spills in Utah involving diesel fuel and oil.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is levying an \$875,000 penalty against Chevron Pipe Line Company, a division of Chevron Corp., for spills involving oil and diesel fuel in Utah. Cynthia Peterson, EPA community involvement coordinator, says the settlement is for the Red Butte Creek spill in 2010 in Salt Lake City, which involved 800 barrels of oil, and also for the 2013 spill of about 500 barrels of diesel fuel near Willard Bay in Box Elder County. "Every case is different," Peterson says, "but this penalty is significant, and it reflects the seriousness of the violations. It also takes into account other factors, such as penalties paid to other entities for the spills." Peterson says the \$875,000 will be deposited into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which is used by federal

agencies to respond to oil spills. She adds that oil from the Red Butte Creek spill flowed into Liberty Lake, which is the centerpiece of Liberty Park in downtown Salt Lake City. The lake was closed for nearly a year during the cleanup. The diesel spill at Willard Bay caused soil, surface water and groundwater contamination, she says, which required extensive clean-up work, adding that it also caused Willard Bay State Park to close temporarily and affected local wildlife. "There were wildlife impacts at Willard Bay. Six beavers were soaked in diesel fuel during the spill," she says. "They were, to my understanding, taken to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in northern Utah." Peterson says the Chevron settlement follows several recent penalties and compliance actions linked to the Red Butte Creek oil spill. It includes agreements between Chevron and the state of Utah, Salt Lake City and the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-05-13/budget-policy-and-priorities/epa-fines-chevron-875-000-for-utah-spills-of-oil-diesel-fuel/a39333-1>

USA, CA, FRESNO, MAY 14 2014. ORANGE CENTER SCHOOL BUS, FUEL TRUCK COLLIDE SOUTH OF FRESNO

 **Watch the Video** [School Bus, Fuel Truck Collide](#)

 **Photo's [10]** [School Bus, Fuel Truck Collide](#)



A school bus bringing home children from Orange Center Elementary School District collided with a fuel truck south of Fresno.

A fuel truck smashed into a school bus carrying about three dozen children south of Fresno on Monday afternoon -- but, luckily, there were no critical injuries reported. There were 35 to 40 students on the bus from Orange Center Elementary School District, said California Highway Patrol Sgt. Joseph Bianchi. About 25 students sustained minor to moderate injuries, as did the two drivers, officials said. The students ranged in age from 6 to 14, said Daniel Lynch, Fresno County Emergency Medical Services director. The crash happened just before 2 p.m. near Central and Elm avenues. Bianchi said the tanker was westbound on Central when it came to a stop sign at Elm. After coming to a halt,

the tanker, carrying about 3,000 gallons of diesel, pulled in front of the bus, which was northbound on Elm and did not have a stop. The intersection was closed for a quarter-mile in each direction while the fuel was siphoned into another tanker. The intersection was reopened about 9 p.m. Monday. Linda Dominguez, business manager at Orange Center Elementary School District, said the bus was carrying Orange Center students home. She said parents were notified and some went to the scene. "The bus looks pretty mangled and the truck that was involved looked pretty damaged," she said. Dominguez said the bus is one of two used by the district -- and the only one equipped with seat belts. It was not clear Monday afternoon whether any of the students were wearing seat belts. Bianchi said the most serious injuries were cuts from glass and bruising. Less serious



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injuries were pain complaints and scratches. Fifteen people were taken by ambulance to various hospitals in Fresno and 12 others were released at the scene, according to Fresno County Emergency Medical Services officials. Of those injured, four had moderate injuries and 11 were hospitalized with minor injuries. They were taken to Community Regional Medical Center, Saint Agnes Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Children's Hospital Central California and Clovis Community Medical Center, Lynch said.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/05/12/3923262/truck-school-bus-collide-south.html?sp=/99/406/>

USA, DE, WILMINGTON, MAY 14 2014. RYDER PAYS \$22,500 SETTLEMENT

Ryder Truck Rental has agreed to pay a \$22,500 penalty to settle alleged violations of underground storage tank (UST) regulations at a company facility in Wilmington, Del. The EPA cited Ryder for not complying with safeguards designed to prevent, detect and control leaks of petroleum and other hazardous substances from USTs. The alleged violations involved two diesel fuel USTs, each with a 12,000 gallon capacity. According to the EPA, Ryder failed to conduct required leak detection measures for various periods totaling more than six months, and failed to respond in a timely manner to a suspected fuel leak in 2009. As part of the settlement, Ryder did not admit liability for the alleged violations. The settlement penalty reflects the company's cooperation with the EPA in correcting the alleged non-compliance and resolving this matter, the agency says.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/05/12/ryder-pays-22500-settlement/>

MALAYSIA, SELANGOR, SUBANG JAYA, MAY 15 2014. CHEMICAL TANKER CAUGHT FIRE AT ELITE HIGHWAY

A tanker carrying argon chemicals suddenly caught fire at Elite Highway, yesterday. It was learnt that the tanker was engulfed in fire at KM12.6 of the Elite highway, nearby Putra Heights junction. Selangor Fire and Rescue Department operations director Mohammad Sani Harul said they received a distress call at 9.17pm, yesterday. "The first team with seven firemen arrived 13 minutes later. "Hazardous Material (Hazmat) Unit was deployed to the scene to deal with the materials in ensuring the scene was cleared," he said. It was learnt that the argon liquids were used particularly in the welding industries. The fire was under control at about 9.40pm and the scene was cleared by Hazmat team around 11pm. Sani said no injuries were recorded.

<http://www.nst.com.my/latest/chemical-tanker-caught-fire-at-elite-highway-1.597134>

USA, N.Y, YONKERS, MAY 15 2014. FIRE BURNS YONKERS GAS STATION ON EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD

 **Watch the Video** [Fire Burns Yonkers Gas Station on Executive Boulevard](#)

There were some intense moments at a Yonkers gas station this morning after a fire broke out near some gas pumps. Fire officials say the flames broke out around 11:30 a.m. at the Shell gas station along Executive Boulevard. They think the blaze was sparked in the electrical panel of the repair shop at the station only about 30 feet away from the gas pumps. When the flames broke out there were two employees and two customers in the mini-mart along with a woman pumping gas. No one was injured. The station's owner tells News 12 that the gas pumps reopened as soon the fire department left. The repair shop where the fire originated will have to wait to reopen after a Con Ed inspection.

<http://westchester.news12.com/news/fire-burns-yonkers-gas-station-on-executive-boulevard-1.8007624>

USA, W.VA, WHARTON, MAY 14 2014. OFFICIALS: 2 KILLED AT WEST VIRGINIA COAL MINE

Two workers died after they were trapped as the ground failed at a West Virginia coal mine with a history of safety violations, federal and state officials said Tuesday. The ground failure occurred just about 8:45 p.m. Monday, trapping the workers, safety agency officials told The Associated Press in emails. The miners' bodies were recovered, and safety personnel were on the site of Brody Mine No. 1 in Boone County, about 50 miles south of Charleston. No additional injuries or trapped workers were reported, spokeswoman Leslie Fitzwater Smithson of the West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training said in an email. Preliminary indications show that a coal burst was responsible, according to state officials and mine owner Patriot Coal. Coal bursts are violent failures of ribs, roofs or floors in underground mines, according to descriptions from the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Monday's incident involved the ground, MSHA spokeswoman Amy Louviere told The Associated Press in an email. The bursts — a hazard in mining for decades, according to the CDC — cause coal to be ejected into the mine with enough energy to injure or kill miners. St. Louis-based Patriot said in an emailed statement that Monday's burst occurred during retreat mining operations — when pillars that support the roof are collapsed and removed from a completed area of work. In October, the federal safety agency designated Brody



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

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Mine as a pattern violator, meaning it had repeatedly broken federal health and safety regulations in the previous year. Patriot said in a statement at the time that it believed the mine didn't qualify for the status and that it intended to contest it. The statement did not address the mine's safety record. During MSHA's most recent review period from April 1, 2013, to March 31, the mine was cited for 192 safety violations, including 33 for high or reckless disregard for miners' health and safety. The mine also received four citations this month for violations including damaged rollers or other conveyor belt components. Since January, six accidents have occurred at the mine, including one incident in which a miner's finger was caught in machinery and a portion had to be amputated, according to MSHA's online records. On March 11, gas ignited in an entry of a section of the mine as workers were extracting coal, according to MSHA. No miners were injured. The remaining four accidents involved muscle strains and other minor incidents. The mine produced 954,741 tons of coal in 2013, MSHA records show, and it employs about 270 workers. Among them were the two killed Monday: Eric D. Legg, 48, of Twilight and Gary P. Hensley, 46, of Chapmanville. Robert Rash, chief of the Wharton-Barrett Volunteer Fire Department, said he grew up with Legg in the Wharton area. He said Legg became a coal miner after he graduated from high school. "That's all that's around here, actually. Deep mine and strip mine," said Rash, whose department was among the responders to the accident. "I was sick to my stomach" after learning about the incident, he said. He said Legg was always laughing and joking. "He was a good guy. A real good guy," Rash said.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/05/13/officials-2-killed-at-west-virginia-coal-mine/>

HUNGARY, BUDAPEST., MAY 14 2014. MOL GROUP ACQUIRES 208 FILLING STATIONS IN CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA AND ROMANIA



MOL acquires 208 filling stations.

MOL Group's retail network grows to almost 2,000 service stations across 11 countries. The Group's market presence expands significantly in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania. Retail network expansion further strengthens MOL Group's role in CEE. MOL Group announced the sale-purchase agreement with Eni for its downstream businesses in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania, including retail network (currently under Agip brand). This step contributes greatly to the Group's Downstream strategy of increasing retail market presence, country coverage and customer base. The take-over of Eni's wholesale business in the given countries is also part of the agreement. In line

with its growth strategy, MOL Group announces the acquisition of Eni's retail network in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania. By the integration of these networks, MOL Group targets further pronounced wholesale and retail synergies, quality enhancements in products and services, as well as operational excellence. "This acquisition is a milestone in our retail growth strategy in CEE. The average throughput of the acquired service stations is in the top three among branded players in the Czech fuel retail market. Moreover, MOL Group becomes the second largest retail player in terms of network share on the Czech market. The group significantly increases its retail coverage in Romania and makes a great step to further enhance Slovnaft's brand perception in Slovakia." – said Lars Höglund, Senior Vice President of MOL Group Retail. MOL Group's position in the Czech Republic will be greatly strengthened by this acquisition: 125 new service stations together with Slovnaft's 24 and PAP Oil's 125 stations, will grant MOL Group a retail market share exceeding 10%. Furthermore the average throughput of the total acquired network is almost twice as high as the national average. In Slovakia, the total network size will reach 253 stations. Additionally, the newly acquired 41 service stations further improve Slovnaft's average throughput and customer value proposition. In Romania, the acquisition is a major step for MOL Group in achieving its strategic plan to increase its market share. As a result of integrating the 42 acquired service stations, MOL Romania will reach a network of 189 units, placed in high traffic and premium locations, thus the Group will realize its growth targets in the Romanian fuel retail market and will further increase its network coverage. The acquisition package also includes the wholesale activities as well as taking over the management of the headquarters. MOL has also agreed to purchase Eni's stake in Ceska Rafinerska (CRC); however, Unipetrol the majority owner of CRC possesses pre-emption right connected to the sale of the CRC shares.

<http://www.friedlnews.com/article/mol-group-acquires-208-filling-stations-in-three-cee-countries>



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