



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,114 Newsy Stuff

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ENGLAND, SOMERSERT, YEOVIL, NOVEMBER 6 2014. ASDA PETROL STATION IN YEOVIL CLOSED AS A "PRECAUTION" AFTER FUEL TANKER "INCIDENT"

wg drudge

The petrol station at the ASDA store in Preston Road was temporarily closed this afternoon while staff investigated a suspected "malfunction" involving a petrol tanker. The station was already closed to allow re-fuelling to take place but it remained shut for an extra ten minutes while the issue was investigated. Two fire response vehicles also attended. An ASDA spokeswoman said: "There is no fuel leakage and the station has re-opened. There was an incident when fuel was being delivered. There was thought to be a technical error with a tanker so they closed the station off as a precaution for about ten minutes. "Everything was fine and there was no malfunction. Staff asked people to move away from the area while the issue was investigated. The store remained open throughout."

<http://www.westerngazette.co.uk/ASDA-petrol-station-Yeovil-closed-precaution-fuel/story-24038659-detail/story.html>

USA, GA, HARRIS CO, NOVEMBER 6 2014. I-185 NORTH IS CLOSED AFTER EXPLOSION

dave miller

 [Watch the Video I-185 North Closed after Explosion](#)



A tanker truck is the source of a large explosion on Interstate 185, near Columbus. The truck has produced two explosions, and motorists are trying to help an injured person in the median of the highway. The area is around mile marker 19, inside Harris County. The fire is out, but Northbound lanes will be closed another six hours, about 8:30PM, and one lane is open southbound. Georgia DOT crews are on the scene assisting Harris County Police and Fire, GSP and EMS. A Hazardous Materials Clean-Up crew has arrived to assess the incident. Motorists travelling between LaGrange and Columbus are asked to avoid the I-185 corridor near SR 315. A detour is in place to assist motorists through the area. All northbound traffic is being detoured at Smith Road, to Fortson Road, north to SR 315 and returning to enter I-185.

<http://www.wmcactionnews5.com/story/27286118/tanker-truck-explosion-shuts-down-interstate>

EGYPT, DAMANHUR, NOVEMBER 6 2014. EGYPT SCHOOL BUS COLLIDES WITH TANKER, 18 DEAD



Egyptians look at a burnt bus after it collided with three other vehicles, including a tanker truck, in Egypt's Nile Delta city of Damanhur on November 5, 2014.

At least 18 people were killed when a bus packed with high school students collided with three other vehicles, including a tanker truck, in northern Egypt on Wednesday, medics said. The crash, near the Nile Delta city of Damanhur, 160 kilometres (100 miles) north of Cairo, also injured 18 people, some of them seriously, police and hospital officials said. Medics were not immediately able to say how many of the dead were children because the bodies were so badly burned after the vehicles burst into flames. The fire completely gutted the bus which had been transporting the teenagers to school. Scorched text books were

scattered near the wreckage, shown in footage aired by Egyptian television. Medics said three charred bodies, including that of a police officer, were pulled out of a sedan which was also involved in the crash. Provincial governor Mustafa Hadhud told Egyptian television that the bus had skidded after torrential rains struck the region. One of the pupils who survived the crash said that the bus had arrived late and that the driver had explained "there had been a problem" with the vehicle. "I was sitting in the back of the bus when the accident happened, and I jumped out of a window," the child told the private Egyptian CBC Extra in a telephone call from hospital. Roads in Egypt are often poorly maintained and traffic regulations little enforced. On Sunday, 11 female university students were killed in a collision in the south of Egypt. That accident sparked protests by fellow students in Sohag province. Road accidents are responsible for an average of nearly 12,000 deaths a year in Egypt, according to the World Health Organization. Some of the deadliest accidents have sparked protests and accusations of government negligence. After Wednesday's crash, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ordered the prime minister to visit the scene. He also



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gave instructions for the injured to be treated in military hospitals. A cabinet statement promised "decisive measures to confront road accidents."

<http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-school-bus-collides-tanker-18-dead-101755067.html>

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 6 2014. MAN DEAD AFTER BIZARRE INCIDENT INVOLVING GAS TANKER

A man who was riding between two segments of a fuel tanker as it drove through the Tenderloin Tuesday night was run over by the truck after he lost his grasp and fell beneath its wheels. Today, police are seeking the driver of the truck, saying that it's unlikely that he or she is aware that they ran over this man. According to San Francisco Police Department spokesperson officer Gordon Shyy, a 35-year-old man "for unknown reason was hanging onto a double gas tanker truck, in the space between the two gas tanks" at 11:50 Tuesday night. As the tanker's driver turned from [Mason to Turk Streets](#), Shyy says, the man "fell and was struck by the gas tanker." He was pronounced dead at the scene, found, [KRON4 reports](#), "in the middle of the street with a San Francisco Giants cap lying next to him." According to Shyy, the strange circumstances of the incident were "gathered from independent witnesses," but no one is sure why the man, who has yet to be publicly identified by the San Francisco Medical Examiner, was riding between the tanks, or what caused him to fall. Shyy says that due to the odd circumstances of this collision, the driver probably doesn't know the role they inadvertently played in this man's death. [According to the Chron](#), the truck "had two silver tanks and a dark cab," and "may have offloaded fuel at a rental car company on O'Farrell Street shortly before the crash." Investigators are working to locate the tanker, Shyy says, and are seeking area surveillance tape and other witnesses to the incident. Anyone with information is asked to call SFPD's anonymous tip line at (415) 575-4444 or text a tip to "SFPD" at TIP411.

http://sfist.com/2014/11/05/man_dead_after_bizarre_incident_inv.php

USA, PA, FAWN TWP, NOVEMBER 6 2014. MAN SEVERELY INJURED AFTER BARREL EXPLODES IN FAWN TWP. GARAGE

christine d'antonio

 **Watch the Video** [Man Severely Injured after Barrel Explodes](#)



Emergency responders were called to a dangerous explosion in Fawn Township Tuesday evening. It happened around 4:30 p.m. along State Route 908 in the back of Graff Trucking's garage, where a barrel exploded. Emergency dispatchers report that one person has been injured. The victim reportedly has severe lacerations to his face — and that part of his face is missing. He was flown to Allegheny General Hospital. The victim has not been identified, but is said to be in his 50s and not an employee. "He was outside the garage area doing some work," said Fawn Township Police Chief Timothy Mayberry. "An explosion happened, I believe it was a 55-gallon drum. We don't know what kind of fuel was in it, all we know was there was an explosion." "We just heard a real

loud explosion. We knew something was bad. I come out to check, I didn't see anything I came out the house and waited until we saw life flight come down to his driveway," James Keys, a neighbor, said. Police say he was just visiting the owner, who is a friend. They also added they don't know if he'll be able to make it given the extent of his injuries. The county fire marshal is trying to determine the cause of the explosion. Graff Trucking's owner, Mike Graff, was not in the office Wednesday, according to office personnel.

<http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2014/11/04/explosion-in-fawn-township-injures-1/>

USA, WA, EDMONDS, NOVEMBER 6 2014. CITY CREWS REPORT RESPONSE TO LEAKING HEATING-OIL TANK IN DOWNTOWN EDMONDS

City of Edmonds Department of Public Works crews responded last week to a report of a privately-owned underground heating oil tank located in the parking lot behind 326 4th Ave S., that apparently had been leaking for some time into the soil below. Here's the information provided from the city:

With one of the rainiest Octobers on record, a rise in the groundwater level mobilized the oil in the soil and it found its way to the surface near the tank's fill port. This mixture of heating oil and water flowed out of the privately-owned parking lot onto the city street then flowed south down 4th Avenue South and entered the City's storm system just north of Dayton Street. The oil/water mixture followed the City's storm system in westerly direction on Dayton, then south on 3rd Avenue South,



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discharging into Shellabarger Creek north of Howell Street. A sheen was seen in the creek but no "free product" was seen. It takes very little product to make a noticeable coloration on the street and on standing water. A representative of the Department of Ecology's spill response team was on site and evaluated the spill and its effect on the Creek. The Ecology representative indicated that the vegetation in the creek would help remove the sheen and reduce the amount that entered the Edmonds marsh and that it really didn't look like a lot got in the creek. The owner of the property was notified by the City not long after the spill came to our attention on Monday, October 27th. The owner was surprised to learn of an oil tank on his property and was very cooperative. He immediately called a tank removal/spill response firm. Meanwhile City personnel put oil collection material in some City catch basins and strung an oil boom across the entrance to Shellabarger Creek culverts that go under SR104 into Edmonds marsh. Late that same day, Monday October 27th, the owner's tank removal firm pumped the oil from the tank. The next day the tank was removed and the contaminated soil around the tank was excavated and hauled offsite for disposal. This is a very quick response by an owner. This firm also power-washed the street that was stained with the oil/water mixture and cleaned out the catch basins on 4th Avenue South that had been impacted by the spill. The nature of the oil (oil, weathered oil) and the fact that it probably had been leaking over the weekend prior to its discovery, is the reason the road gutter appears to still have oil on it. The concrete is likely stained and the stain cannot be removed without damaging the concrete.

<http://myedmondsnews.com/2014/11/city-crews-report-response-leaking-heating-oil-tank-downtown-edmonds/>

CANADA, SASK, LA RONGE, NOVEMBER 6 2014. SASKATCHEWAN EXPLORATION FIRM FINED \$172,000 FOR 2013 FUEL SPILL

Investigators determined tank had not been serviced by certified installer and connection point failure resulted in release of diesel fuel. Saskatchewan-based gold and exploration firm [Claude Resources Inc.](http://www.clauderesources.com) has been ordered to pay \$172,000 after pleading guilty to a 2013 diesel fuel spill in northern Saskatchewan. Claude Resources Inc. pled guilty to one charge under the federal Fisheries Act and one charge under Saskatchewan's Environmental Management and Protection Act in provincial court in La Ronge, Sask. The charges stem from an investigation into a spill of approximately 24,000 litres of diesel fuel from a storage tank at the Seabee Mine in January 2013. "It is very important that owners and operators of fuel storage tanks in our province abide by the regulations under the Environmental Management and Protection Act," said Ken Aube, Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment Compliance and Enforcement Director. "The ministry strictly regulates the operation of fuel tanks in Saskatchewan to protect human health and our environment. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada conducted a joint investigation into the cause of the spill. Enforcement officials discovered that the diesel fuel storage tank was located on the north shore of Laonil Lake, 35 metres from the shoreline. Investigators determined that the tank had not been serviced by a certified installer and that a connection point failure resulted in the release of the diesel fuel. Enforcement Officials concluded that, given the circumstances in the case, the release was preventable and Claude Resources Inc. was subsequently charged.

<http://www.hazmatmag.com/features/sask-exploration-firm-dinged-172000-2013-oil-spill>

USA, WA, AUBURN, NOVEMBER 6 2014. RENTON MAN GETS 27 MONTHS IN TANKER TRUCKER'S DEATH

mark klaas



Stephen Jamal Palmer apologizes to the Bartkowski family for his actions that led to the death of Joe Bartkowski. Palmer was sentenced to 27 months in prison for vehicular homicide and reckless endangerment.

He was a quiet, unassuming man who loved his wife and family, enjoyed his friends and supported his community. A trucker, a longtime Auburn businessman, and an active volunteer who helped others, especially the underprivileged. Joe Bartkowski was many things to many people. But on Nov. 4, 2012 a freeway crash cut short the life of this big-hearted man, who gave so much of himself and had so much more to give. On Thursday, in a courtroom at the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center, the man responsible for Bartkowski's death – Stephen Jamal Palmer – learned of his punishment for his careless actions on that day, when he triggered a chain-reaction crash on southbound Interstate 5 near Federal Way. King County Superior Court Judge Julia Garratt sentenced Palmer, 22, of Renton, to 27 months in prison for vehicular homicide and reckless endangerment. Palmer was driving under the influence of alcohol and marijuana at the time of the accident, according to charging papers. He had no prior criminal convictions. Palmer's sentencing



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brought some closure to the Bartkowski family. "It was justice," Joe's widow, Sharon Bartkowski, said afterward. "He made a mistake and needs to be held responsible for it." Earlier, describing to the court her husband of 40 years, Sharon Bartkowski choked back tears. "My husband was everything to me. ... He loved me more than anything. My heart is broken because Joe is not here with me every day," she said. "Joe had a joyful spirit. He showed that to me every day. My life was blessed with Joe. My time with Joe wasn't long enough. Nothing can bring Joe back, nothing can fill my emptiness," she said. She then looked at Palmer. "I hate the choice you made that killed my husband," she said. Palmer later apologized to the Bartkowski family. "I am truly, truly sorry for your loss ... if I could bring him back, I would," he said. The State Patrol said Palmer was driving impaired at 2:32 a.m., when he lost control of his Nissan Altima, struck a guardrail and came to rest on the freeway. Palmer and three passengers got out of the vehicle and moved to the right shoulder of the freeway. A Toyota Camry then hit Palmer's car before Bartkowski's truck, carrying 9,000 gallons of aviation fuel, struck the Altima, swerved off the road and rolled down an embankment, where it collided with a soundwall and burst into flames. Authorities said Bartkowski was able to avoid hitting Palmer's car and maintain enough control to keep his truck on the freeway before he left the road and slammed into the wall. Four young adults sustained minor injuries. Bartkowski, days from retirement, was killed instantly. Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rod Scarr lauded Bartkowski for his quick actions. "He truly was a hero," Scarr told the court. "... Joe had to more or less thread a needle to get between those two cars, barely clipping one, and indeed likely saved many, many lives." Joe Bartkowski was a big part of the Auburn community. He and Sharon owned The Print Shop in Auburn for several years before he returned to his passion — driving trucks. A longtime member of the Auburn Noon Lions Club, he served for many years on the Miss Auburn Scholarship Program board of directors. His generosity was well known throughout the community. At the sentencing, former Auburn mayor Pete Lewis spoke of the Bartkowskis' big hearts and unselfish ways. "Everybody knew Joe and Sharon. Everybody knew that if they needed some help, they could go to Joe and Sharon and get that help," he said. "Joe would be the first to volunteer, not to get credit. ... He would get the job done and quietly leave. "There are few people who make up a community, who make up the soul of that community, and Joe was one of those people," Lewis said.

<http://www.auburn-reporter.com/news/281115922.html>

CURACAO, WILLEMSTAD, NOVEMBER 7 2014. GAS BLAST AT VENEZUELAN REFINERY INJURES 3 WORKERS

The 335-Mbpd Isla refinery is located on an island. The cause for the explosion is unknown along with the true impact on the accident on the Curacao refinery's daily operations. A gas-plant explosion at the Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA's Curacao refinery resulted in injuries to three refinery workers. The 335-Mbpd Isla refinery is located on an island. The cause for the explosion is unknown along with the true impact on the accident on the Curacao refinery's daily operations. This refinery provides refined products to the US, Central America and the Caribbean markets. The incident took place as workers were preparing to carry out planned maintenance at a butane unit, PDVSA said according to news agency Reuters. The company noted that two contractors and a refinery fireman suffered burns. Sources indicate that the refinery had been operating at low utilization rates due to insufficient power and other resources and services. The Curacao's accident follows another supply interruption in PDVSA's refining network. The 645-Mbpd Amuay refinery was shut down due to a blackout over six days ago. This refinery is said to be in the process of restarting operations soon.

Related Stories

- [PDVSA Says Controls Fire at Curacao's Isla Refinery, 3 Injured](#)
- [Explosion at Curacao's Isla Refinery Injures 2: Workers](#)
- [Explosion hits Curacao's Isla Refinery, 2 Injured: Workers](#)
- [Venezuela's Amuay Refinery Ops seen normal within next 6 Days](#)

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3398110/Latest-News/Gas-blast-at-Venezuelan-refinery-injures-workers.html>

USA, CA, RICHMOND, NOVEMBER 7 2014. CHEVRON'S \$3 MILLION BACKFIRES IN RICHMOND ELECTION

carolyn jones

Richmond voters handed Chevron a resounding rejection in Tuesday's election, defeating all four candidates supported by the oil giant despite Chevron outspending its opponents by a 20-to-1 margin. Voters elected City Councilman [Tom Butt](#) as mayor and outgoing mayor [Gayle McLaughlin](#), incumbent [Jovanka Beckles](#) and retired teacher [Eduardo Martinez](#) to the City Council, giving the panel a potential 6-1 left-leaning majority. "It's extraordinary. This is a celebration of democracy," said San Francisco State political science Professor [Robert Smith](#), who studies Richmond politics. "This means that big money doesn't always win, that ordinary people can defeat huge corporate power." Chevron spent more than \$3 million supporting [Charles Ramsey](#), [Donna Powers](#) and [Albert Martinez](#) for council, and longtime Councilman [Nat Bates](#) for mayor. Butt won with 51.4 percent of



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the votes, with Bates trailing at 35.5 percent. Incumbents [Jim Rogers](#) and Corky Boozé also lost. Boozé, who had previously been supported with Chevron money, had been in the news for his ongoing disputes with the city over his salvage yard, as well as his frequent clashes with Beckles, who was a target of harassment during council meetings because she is a lesbian. Butt, 70, said he was "as surprised as anyone" at the results, noting that in the 2012 council race Bates — with heavy support from Chevron — finished first, nearly 2,000 votes ahead of Butt, who finished second. "I'll be honest. When I got in this race, I wasn't sure I could win it," Butt said Wednesday. "But I felt I needed to give people a choice ... and it looks like Chevron shot themselves in the foot." Chevron carpeted the working-class city of 107,000 with television advertisements, billboards and mailers, spending about \$72 per registered voter. The stakes were high for the corporation based in San Ramon. It faces a lawsuit from Richmond over the 2012 refinery fire that could cost the company hundreds of millions, and it must wrangle with the city over ongoing plans to modernize the century-old refinery. A Chevron spokesman noted that provisional ballots are still being counted, but acknowledged the company's defeat. "The voters have spoken, and Chevron will work hard to find common ground with this City Council to push for sound policies that allow Richmond to grow and thrive," said spokesman [Braden Reddell](#). "This city, which we have proudly called home for more than a century, has far more opportunities than challenges. The council should remain focused on all those opportunities, and Chevron will continue to work to create economic opportunities for all residents." The key to defeating Chevron was an aggressive get-out-the-vote campaign by the left-leaning [Richmond Progressive Alliance](#), Smith and others said. And ultimately, voters were turned off by the excessive spending and the publicity it attracted, they said. "This was an all-out attempt to destroy the (Richmond Progressive Alliance), and people just said, 'This is too much.' They were repulsed by it," Smith said. "That was coupled with an unrivaled effort by the RPA to get out the vote." Butt, who is not part of the Richmond Progressive Alliance but shares many of its supporters, said of Chevron: "The amount of money they spent, the national publicity, the obscene amount of mailers, the stupid hit pieces ... it all just backfired." Bates, 83, will remain on the council and is expected to be the lone dissenter among the left-leaning majority. He did not answer phone calls Wednesday. With the council's new makeup, infighting and rancor should decline and the council is likely to be more efficient, Smith said. But the overall agenda probably won't change much, he said. Butt plans to stick with the council's current priorities, which have been crime reduction, job creation and public health improvements, he said. Beckles, who was the second-place vote-getter in the race for three four-year council seats, was ecstatic Wednesday. "It's pretty phenomenal. The people spoke loudly, telling Chevron to stay out of our government," she said. "We were aware, we were awake, and we fought back against the lies and corporate greed. It's a beautiful day in Richmond."

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Chevron-s-3-million-backfires-in-Richmond-5873779.php>

USA, TX, DEWITT CO, NOVEMBER 6 2014. FIRE DAMAGES OIL TANK CONTAINER; NO INJURIES REPORTED

Firefighters battled a blaze early Tuesday that ignited a tank container on an oil rig site near Westhoff. DeWitt County officials said the fire near Westhoff Cemetery Road and U.S. Highway 87 was extinguished in about two hours. No injuries were reported. A spokeswoman with the sheriff's office said the fire was reported to the Westhoff Volunteer Fire Department at 8:44 a.m. The tank container is on a site owned by Devon Energy, she said. The Cuero Fire Department assisted in extinguishing the blaze. The fire was on an enclosed container and did not cause any explosion, a fire official said.

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2014/nov/04/fire-damages-oil-tank-container-no-injuries-report/>

NEW ZEALAND, WORKPLACE COMMUNICATOR BLOG, NOVEMBER 7 2014. ARE AIR NEW ZEALAND SAFETY VIDEOS MAGICAL?

marie-claire ross

 [Watch the Video The Most Epic Safety Video Ever Made ... - YouTube](#)

 [Watch the Video An Unexpected Briefing - YouTube](#)

Well, it's only been a little over six months and Air New Zealand has decided it's time to change their onboard safety video. I wasn't a fan of the last one (Safety in Paradise - [Can Air New Zealand make Safety Sexy?](#)), but I love the new The Most Epic Safety Video Ever. It's a cross promotion of both The Hobbit and New Zealand tourism that seamlessly merges together with safety. It follows on from the safety training video that was made two years ago (An Unexpected Briefing) that was also inspired by The Hobbit movie (which is actually my favourite out of all of them). The movie starts with two real-life Hobbit Fans rushing to board their plane and then freaking out once boarded, when they realise they are sitting near The Hobbit actor Elijah Wood. They then start watching the onboard flight video and are quickly transposed to the The Hobbit set that really features the beauty of New Zealand. We are then guided through the safety process by an Air New Zealand flight attendant in complete Hobbit style apparel including pointy ears and using Hobbit language ("cease your rabble-rousing"). It turns the



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whole concept of a training video on it's head being more movie trailer interspersed with safety information. To test the efficacy of the safety video, I thought it best to assess it based on our 4 Step Safety Communication Blueprint. This has been designed to work with how the brain processes information to make decisions, in order to change behaviours. Let's see how the new onflight video measures up.

More at:

<http://www.digicast.com.au/blog/bid/104210/Are-Air-New-Zealand-Safety-Videos-Magical>

USA, CA, MIRAMAR, NOVEMBER 7 2014. CAR SPEWS FUMES IN MIRAMAR, BODY FOUND INSIDE

 **Watch the Video** [Car Spews Fumes in Miramar, Body Found inside](#)

A car with a body inside prompted a hazmat callout early Thursday morning after witnesses reported fumes coming from the parked vehicle in Miramar. San Diego police report a man was discovered at about 4 a.m. slumped over in a car in the area of Miramar Road and Production Avenue. There appeared to be fumes coming from the vehicle. There were signs posted on the car windows that read "danger, do not open doors." Police responded and closed off the intersection as a precaution. They also cleared out a nearby Starbucks. A San Diego Fire-Rescue Department hazmat crew responded, and the victim was declared dead from what may have been a suicide, police said. The roadway and Starbucks were reopened before 6 a.m. after hazmat determined the fumes were no longer posing a threat. Police did not confirm if the fumes were in fact toxic.

<http://www.10news.com/news/body-found-in-car-with-fumes-hazmat-crews-called>

USA, VA, GREAT FALLS, NOVEMBER 7 2014. TOXIC GAS PLUME MOVES SOUTH >> CITIZENS ASSOCIATION ASKING FOR TWO MORE CLEANUP PUMPS.

reena singh



The former Exxon station at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker road is the cause behind a growing Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether plume making its way south.

The former Exxon station at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road is the cause behind a growing Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether plume making its way south. Mike Terpak is worried about his well becoming contaminated. Like about 80 percent of village residents, his home runs on a well system. Terpak is a resident of the Oliver Estates, a neighborhood that the gas plume concentrated near the old Exxon station with known carcinogen Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether [MTBE] is creeping towards. He plans to go to Great Falls Citizen Association's town hall meeting 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 11 in the library to hopefully hear whether the state Department of Environmental Quality and environmental consultant Kleinfelder plan on adding additional pumps to make sure MTBE does not ruin crucial well water for him and his neighbors. "It worries me," said Terpak. "I'm on the leading edge of this and you would think there would be some direct communication with us about it," he said. The Meeting, in which the citizen's association requested representatives from Kleinfelder and Fairfax Petroleum Company to be present, asks for an alternate plan to accommodate for the side of the plume reaching for Oliver Estates to be presented. Representatives from Fairfax Petroleum did not return a phone call to their office. Representatives from Kleinfelder do plan to be at the meeting. "I cannot speak to you about this matter," said Program Manager Mark Steele when asked whether he is considering building another pump. According to GFCA Groundwater Contamination co-

chair Glen Sjoblom, the citizen's association also sent information to Dranesville Supervisor John Foust about their cause and the town hall meeting. There has not been a lot of research done on the effects of MTBE in drinking water, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website. "The majority of the human health-related research conducted to date on MTBE has focused on effects associated with the inhalation of the chemical," stated the agency's website. "When research animals inhaled high concentrations of MTBE, some developed cancers or experienced other non-cancerous health effects." Like GFCA, Terpak has not heard from DEQ or Kleinfelder about any updates with the situation. He said his family has relied on the media for leading information so far. All he wants, he said, is for more communication between those who will be affected and the consultants. As a resident of 21 years who has raised a family, he and his wife have no plans to leave any time soon. "This has been going on for years and years, and in the past few months, there has been a push to do something," he said. That push that he noticed was the letter with GFCA's request for the plume to be checked recently. When the plume



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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,114 Newsy Stuff

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

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was found to be heading towards the Oliver Estates neighborhood, members of GFCA sent their letter calling for an additional pump to be added for the cleanup effort. "As such it is difficult to draw the contamination hundreds of feet underground to the well and processing system on the Exxon site," states the letter signed by GFCA President Eric Knudsen. "Therefore, we believe it could be advantageous to install pumps at two additional locations, one to the southeast, and one to the south, in the vicinity of the leading edges of the plume in these directions." Sjoblom hopes to see residents voicing their opinion at the meeting. "We feel it is very important for Great Falls residents to be at this meeting, and voice their strong support for a thorough cleanup of the MTBE in the groundwater, so it will not get into our well water," he said.

More information about MTBE cleanup update meeting as well as future town hall meetings can be found at <http://gfca.org>.

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2014/nov/05/toxic-gas-plume-moves-south/>

USA, ME, SOUTH BRISTOL, NOVEMBER 7 2014. MORE THAN 100 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL LEAK FROM GENERATOR INTO SOUTH BRISTOL COVE

michelle switzer



Workers secure the oil-absorbent booms in Poorhouse Cove in South Bristol on Nov. 5.

More than 100 gallons of fuel seeped into Poorhouse Cove on Wednesday after a fuel return line in a diesel generator leaked. "The [owners of the generator] had been without power since Sunday because of the storm, and they had their diesel generator on since then," South Bristol Fire Chief Mark Carrothers said. "The generator's return line leaked," Carrothers said. "The leak saturated the floor of the house, and the saturation got into their drain, which empties into the cove. We're estimating over 100 gallons of fuel is lost." Fire departments from South Bristol, Bristol, Newcastle and Boothbay responded to the scene. The Lincoln County hazardous materials strike team used extra sponge-like booms to contain the fuel in the water. Maine Department of Environmental spokesman Karl Wilkins said the next steps will be to flush out the floor drain where the fuel leaked into the cove, power-wash any hard surfaces where the oil may have spilled, and ventilate the area in the house where the leak occurred. "We are also continuing to clean the fuel in the cove itself with the absorbent booms,"

Wilkins said. DEP also notified the Maine Marine Patrol, Wilkins said, and Maine Marine Patrol Sgt. Daniel White conducted a shoreline survey of Poorhouse Cove on Thursday. "The survey showed no sheen on the water anywhere other than what was contained by the booms," White said. According to White, the results of the survey were sent to a state biologist, who will then recommend whether Poorhouse Cove should be shut down for harvesting shellfish. "There has been no official recommendation yet, though it doesn't look like it will be shut down. The cove will continue to be monitored, but it's in the process of getting cleaned up," White said.

<https://bangordailynews.com/2014/11/06/news/midcoast/more-than-100-gallons-of-diesel-fuel-leaks-from-generator-into-south-bristol-cove/>

USA, N.J, BERGEN CO, BOGOTA, NOVEMBER 7 2014. BOGOTA'S HESS TANK FARM ACQUIRED BY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

mark krulish



A New Jersey-based development company recently purchased the Hess Tank Farm site in Bogota.

New development could be on the horizon for Bogota as a New Jersey-based development company recently purchased the five-acre parcel on West Fort Lee Road that was once home to the Hess Tank Farm. River Development is now in control of the Hess Property as well as the site of the former Sifford Pontiac car dealership next door and the firm plans to combine the two pieces of property for a development project that includes a public recreation area and an apartment complex. The borough recently passed a resolution declaring that property as an area in need of redevelopment on the recommendation of the planning board, which allows for new uses for the previously designated commercial area, said



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Borough Administrator Chip Greiner. This declaration allows the planning board to work with a clean slate in terms of exploring the possibility of turning it into a residential area and allows the developer to hire a planner to come up with a plan for the site. However, residents should not expect a brand new, large-scale development to pop up in the near future as soil and environmental testing must be done at the site before moving forward with presenting floor plans to the borough. The property will also have to go through extensive remediation before construction can begin. Warren Waters, the principal at River Development, estimated that this project can be completed within the next 24 to 36 months and can start as soon as they are able to move forward with the borough. "Logistically, you can't do this in 12 months," Waters said. "I would say the most challenging part is getting the utilities right, because you can't go back. The construction of the building is something I can move quickly on, but utilities are of another nature." River Development will install a large sanitary system including a main line and a pump house, and add new electric, gas and sewer lines to upgrade the current utilities at the site. Remediation will also be performed to ensure that any future development will not be affected by the current flooding problems that occur on West Fort Lee Road during heavy rainstorms. Once the development company is able to ascertain the type of service that can be provided from a utility standpoint, then plans can be finalized and presented to the planning board and the governing body, Waters said. The main components of the project are a river walk built along the Hackensack River, and a public recreation area, which Waters said is a very expensive component. An apartment complex consisting of approximately 300 units has been discussed in the past, but the number of apartments would be subject to identifying the limitations of the water system's capacity. "We have to have a massive utility upgrade before anything else gets decided," said Waters. Waters has also been understanding of the current political climate in Bogota. The borough's current major development, the apartment complex on Palisade Avenue, has been the subject of constant scrutiny by some resident and officials since a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement was authorized by the council in September 2013. Waters has attended several council meetings in the past year to keep the governing body apprised of his progress. "The council and the planning board have been very fair to me," Waters said. "I have heard from the public, they have reached out to me and have asked me to hang in there, because many people in the borough feel that this is a defining project for Bogota. No one feels that way more than I do because I took a very big risk and paid it forward in getting the two properties under contract, doing testing and taking a huge risk without any guarantees. That's how important I think this is."

<http://www.northjersey.com/news/hess-tank-farm-acquired-by-development-company-1.1128440>

ENGLAND, BIRMINGHAM, NOVEMBER 7 2014. THREE INCLUDING SEVEN YEAR OLD GIRL INJURED AT FIREWORKS DISPLAY

katy hallam



Three injured at Brunswick Park fireworks display

Brunswick Park display Wednesbury sees young girl treated by ambulance staff for leg injuries after a firework went into the crowd. Three people - including a seven-year-old girl - were injured after a rogue firework went into the crowd at a display in [Wednesbury](#) last night. A 23-year-old man was taken to hospital after he suffered ear injuries in the incident at Brunswick Park Firework Display. A seven-year-old girl was treated at the scene by paramedics for minor leg injuries, along with a 47-year-old man. In total, nine people were treated by paramedics at the event, although only three were injured by the rogue firework. [West Midlands Ambulance Service](#) were called to the scene shortly before 8.10pm. A spokesman said: "On arrival, crews treated a 23-year-old man for an ear injury after a firework went into the crowd. "He was then taken to Walsall Manor Hospital for precautionary checks and his condition is not thought to be serious. "Two further patients, a seven-year-old girl and a 47-year-old man, were treated by St John Ambulance staff for minor leg injuries but did not require hospital treatment. "In total, nine patients required treatment throughout the course of the event, but only three were as a result of the firework going into the crowd. "The remaining six patients were all treated by [St John Ambulance](#) staff for minor injuries sustained through slips and trips." A spokesperson for [Sandwell Council](#) said a "thorough investigation" would take place. They added: "This is the first incident of its kind we have had in many years of putting on community fireworks displays. "Our thoughts are with the people injured and their families." On Twitter people suggested the display had been badly organised.

<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/brunswick-park-three-including-seven-8058835>



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NIGERIA, LAGOS, NOVEMBER 7 2014. NSCDC SEIZES 26,000 LITRES OF PETROL IN LAGOS

afeez hanafi

The Lagos State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps has impounded 26,000 litres of petrol on a high sea in the state. Contained in jerrycans and drums, the fuel was said to have been recovered along Iwoko Adjido, Ebute Olofin in the Badagry area of the state from some suspected vandals, who took to their heels on sighting the operatives. Our correspondent learnt that the product was billed to be transported to Benin Republic and Togo, before it was intercepted. The state's Commandant, Mr. Ikemefuna Donatus, confirmed the seizure while handing over the product to a representative of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. Donatus also promised that the corps would continue to protect lives and facilities in the country. He said, "The security of lives and properties of the citizens of this nation in particular and the critical infrastructures at large is the prime focus of the NSCDC. "In doing justice to this statutory act which established the corps, the NSCDC Lagos State Command has handed over 700 jerrycans each of 30 litres; and 20 drums each of 250 litres of petrol to the NNPC. The product was impounded on the high sea along Iwoko Adjido, Ebute Olofin area of Badagry between the months of July and October 2014. It was loaded at the Escravos Apapa for onward movement to neighbouring countries of Benin Republic and Togo." The commandant added that the intelligence gathered by the corps' undercover officers made the operations to be successful. He appealed to the public to always provide the corps with useful information on illegal activities. The Public Relations Officer of the corps, Mefor Chibuzo, said the information desk of the corps was always open, adding that any information divulged to the corps would be treated with utmost secrecy.

<http://www.punchng.com/news/nscdc-seizes-26000-litres-of-petrol-in-lagos/>

NEW ZEALAND, NOVEMBER 7 2014. MASSIVE FINE OVER DIESEL SPILL THAT LEFT TOWN WITHOUT WATER



A water truck parked on the main street of Raetihi Ruapehu Alpine Lifts has received one of New Zealand's heaviest fines for industrial pollution after being convicted of four charges by the Environment Court. The company was fined a total of \$300,000 for the diesel spill that [left Raetihi residents without water](#) for more than two weeks in October last year. It was not fully restored for 20 days. The central North Island town's water supply had to be turned off after about 19,000 litres of diesel from the Turoa skifield was spilled, contaminating the Makotuku stream which supplies Raetihi with water. Water had to be delivered to residents in tankers. Ruapehu Alpine Lifts was prosecuted by Horizons Regional Council and WorkSafe New Zealand and convicted on four charges by the Environment Court sitting in Ohakune. The council says it is pleased the case has come to a close and that key lessons have been learned in terms of fuel storage on Mt Ruapehu. "The incident could have been avoided with better maintenance

and management of equipment and a better spill response immediately after the incident by RAL," spokesman Nic Peet said.

Related Stories

- [Lifts Firm Fears for its Brand Damage](#)
- [Taps turned back on in Raetihi -video](#)
- [Company fined for diesel spill](#)

<http://tvnz.co.nz/business-news/massive-fine-over-diesel-spill-left-town-without-water-6124510>

USA, ILL, METROPOLIS, NOVEMBER 7 2014. HONEYWELL MISCLASSIFIED ILLINOIS URANIUM PLANT LEAK, REGULATORS SAY

lewis krauskopf

[Honeywell International Inc](#) did not properly classify a uranium hexafluoride leak at its Metropolis, Illinois, plant last month, according to a U.S. regulatory event report on Thursday. According to the report, Honeywell should have classified the Oct. 26 incident as an "alert," the less serious of two official emergency event designations by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, instead of declaring it a "plant emergency," which is an internal company classification. An "alert" classification would have required Honeywell to make certain notifications, including informing the NRC, about the leak, agency spokesman Roger Hannah said. Instead, the NRC found out about the leak after a member of the public called the regulator, which then contacted Honeywell, Hannah said. A Honeywell spokesman said that the company did notify local authorities, and that the change in classification would not have altered how it responded to the leak, only its notification procedures. Honeywell's



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Metropolis plant is the only U.S. facility that converts uranium oxide into to uranium hexafluoride, or UF₆, which is then enriched to be used as fuel in [nuclear power](#) plants. Uranium hexafluoride is radioactive, and if released into the air can be chemically toxic. Honeywell has said no one at the plant was hurt by the leak, which it said was caused by an equipment failure. According to the company, while a small amount equivalent to a pint's worth of uranium hexafluoride was released, there was no indication that the surrounding community was endangered. NRC inspectors are continuing their probe, including reviewing a company calculation of how much of the substance was released and checking off-site vegetation samples. Hannah said the agency had not yet found anything that suggests the surrounding community was put at risk by the leak. "It's always concerning when a facility doesn't recognize the potential seriousness of an event," Hannah said. "In this case, it was fortunate there were not more serious consequences." The incident has come amid a labor dispute between Honeywell and its workforce. About 135 members of United Steelworkers Local 7-669 have been locked out from the plant since the start of August, after a three-year contract expired, and the union on Thursday seized on Honeywell's misclassification of the leak. "It's a big deal because the community is depending on Honeywell's classification of the event for their safety," said John Smith, a spokesman for USW Local 7-669.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/06/honeywell-intl-uranium-idUSL1N0SW2BR20141106>

USA, OH, NORTH OLMSTED, NOVEMBER 7 2014. TANKER SPILLS DIESEL FUEL ON INTERSTATE 480 NEAR CLAGUE ROAD; TWO LANES CLOSED

nikki ferrell

A fuel spill on Interstate 480 has closed two lanes while crews clean up, the Ohio Department of Transportation reports. The spill happened on the eastbound lanes near Clague Road. The Clague Road entrance ramp to I-480 east is also closed. Crews expect to finish clean up early this afternoon, but warned at 11:30 a.m. that the road is expected to be closed for two to three more hours.

<http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/oh-cuyahoga/tanker-spills-diesel-fuel-on-interstate-480-near-clague-road-two-lanes-closed>

CANADA. QUE, SEPT-ÎLES, NOVEMBER 7 2014. ENGINEER MISSING AFTER QUEBEC FREIGHT TRAIN DERAILS INTO MOISIE RIVER, LANDSLIDE

 **Watch the Video** [Quebec Freight Train Derails into Moisie River](#)



Emergency crews work to contain the diesel that spilled into the Moisie River.

A train engineer is missing after a derailment sent a locomotive plunging into a river about 20 kilometres north of Sept-Îles, Que. The freight train derailed 20 kilometres north of Sept-Îles, Que. Preliminary reports suggest a landslide forced the locomotive off the tracks, which run along the Moisie River. The freight train was towing three locomotives and 240 railcars, many of them empty. The [Iron Ore Company of Canada](#) (IOC) confirmed that the train locomotive, which was transporting empty railcars, was found submerged in the river. "The [engineer] is unaccounted for and his family has been notified. Our first priority is locating our employee," said a statement released by the

company. The engineer was the only person on board the train. The freight train was being operated by the Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway (QNS&L). Diesel Spilled into Moisie River The Quebec Environment Ministry's emergency team said the train spilled diesel into the Moisie River for hours after it ran off the tracks. The locomotive's reservoir could contain up to 18,000 litres of fuel, although it is not clear how much diesel was in the tank at the time of the derailment. The ministry said officials will take all steps necessary to protect the population and the environment, and is employing containment methods to try to capture as much diesel as possible. Quebec provincial police said the train derailed shortly before 7:30 a.m. The remote location made it difficult for emergency crews to reach the site immediately. Sgt. Claude Doiron said officials arrived on the scene around noon. A team of investigators with the Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) also rushed to the scene.

Residents Stranded

The train tracks also serve as an important link for commuter rail passengers coming from Schefferville, Que. With the train cars blocking passage and the railbed washed out, the line is currently out of commission. Schefferville is an isolated mining town, about a 12-hour train ride from Sept-Îles. Resident Marion Inish said that without rail access, the only way in or out is by air. Inish said a one-way ticket on the 90-minute flight can cost up to \$400. "Even to go to Sept-Îles by stand-by, it's very



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expensive," she said. She said the train line is used to transport produce into Schefferville. Luckily, the train bringing in food arrived Wednesday night, but it could be a week before the line is up and running again. "I'm worried about groceries. The price is going to increase, the vegetables are not fresh," she said. Town administrator Paul Joncas said a shipment of produce was due in Schefferville by Thursday evening, but he expects the price of food in the town to increase by about 30 per cent if no alternative transportation is found. "We're going to see with Air Inuit, and the governments of Quebec or Newfoundland, about what we can do about that," Joncas said.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/engineer-missing-after-quebec-freight-train-derails-in-landslide-1.2825969>

ISRAEL, EMEK HEFER, NOVEMBER 7 2014. POLICE GIVE ALL CLEAR AFTER AMMONIA LEAK IN EMEK HEFER KILLS 1



Scene of ammonia leak in Emek Hefer.

20 injured from inhaling toxic gases from leak reportedly caused by factory workers accidentally severing pipes connected to ammonia tank. Authorities announced a little after 12 a.m. Friday that an ammonia leak in the Emek Hefer industrial park was under control and that nearby residents previously ordered to stay indoors were permitted to leave their homes. The leak broke out the Hod Hefer factory in the central Israeli region Thursday night, leaving one firefighter dead and 20 others injured, including six other firefighters. Sixteen of those injured from inhaling toxic gases were evacuated to hospitals for medical treatment. One of the injured sustained moderate wounds while the others were lightly hurt, according to Israel Radio. At least eight tons of ammonia leaked. Police asked people who live near the industrial area, south of Hadera, to

remain in their homes and close their windows and doors to avoid the poisonous substance. According to Israel Radio, the cause of the leak was suspected to have been caused by factory workers accidentally cutting two pipes linked to the ammonia tank that leaked. Police closed a section of Route 4 near the site during the incident.

<http://www.ipost.com/Israel-News/Police-give-all-clear-for-residents-to-return-home-after-ammonia-leak-in-Emek-Hefer-kills-1-381077>

USA, MI, LAPEER, NOVEMBER 7 2014. DEADLY LAPEER EXPLOSION CAUSED BY PROTOTYPE GAS TANK FAILURE, STATE AGENCY SAYS

gary ridley



Bradley Davis

A preliminary investigation has revealed that the victims of a fatal Lapeer machine shop explosion were testing a prototype fuel tank at the time of the incident. The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration released information Wednesday, Nov. 5, showing that 34-year-old Bradley Davis, of Millington, died when a prototype fuel tank failed a pressure test and exploded. Emergency crews [were dispatched](#) around 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, to Lapeer Industries, 400 McCormick Drive, after an explosion was reported behind the business. Davis was killed and three others were injured in the blast. MIOSHA reports that two people injured in the explosion were employees. A customer was the third person injured in the blast. All three people were hospitalized for their injuries. Police have not released their status. Nicole Davis, Bradley Davis' wife, [said the two married](#) 15 years ago and just recently celebrated their anniversary in October. The two graduated from Millington High School in 1998. "He was a good man," Nicole Davis said of her husband. "He died doing what he

was good at: providing for his family." He worked at Lapeer Industries for the past five years. Alan Przekora, chief financial officer of Lapeer Industries, said the company offered its condolences to all the victims involved and is fully compliant with the ongoing investigation. He declined to comment further due to the investigation. The company manufactures materials for automotive and military uses. Davis was the 32nd person in the state this year to die while on the job, according to MIOSHA.

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2014/11/prototype_gas_tank_failure_led.html



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CHINA, GUANGDONG PROVINCE, NOVEMBER 7 2014. GUANGDONG GIRL LIT ON FIRE AFTER FATHER USES GASOLINE TO CLEAN WOUND

 **Watch the Video** [Watch the Tomo News video report:](#)

A young girl from Guangdong province suffered third-degree burns over 60 percent of her body after her father wrongheadedly used gasoline to clean a wound on her leg and she caught fire. In September, the young girl had been preparing for a bath when she spilled hot water on her foot. A neighbor in the village had for some reason convinced the parents that gasoline was good for burn wounds. Her father collected some gasoline from his scooter so that the girl's mom could rub it on the leg. Heat from a nearby furnace then ignited the gasoline fumes, setting the young girl's lower half ablaze. By the time the girl's father put out the flames, she had sustained severe burns on all four of her limbs and lower torso. The mother suffered second-degree burns on her calf, and was able to walk again in a week. The girl, however, will need around five months recovery time until she's able to walk again.

http://shanghaiist.com/2014/11/06/guangdong_girl_lit_on_fire_after_fa.php

ENGLAND, LANCASHIRE, SKELMERSDALE, NOVEMBER 7 2014. BONFIRE EXPLOSION PUTS SKELMERSDALE TEENAGER IN HOSPITAL >> 17-YEAR-OLD SUFFERING FROM BURNS TO FACE AND HEAD

sophie mccoid

A teenager has been hospitalised following an explosion at a bonfire in Skelmersdale. Police were called at about 9pm yesterday to reports of an explosion at a bonfire at Cornbrook in Skelmersdale. A 17-year-old boy from the local area was taken to Whiston Hospital in Merseyside suffering from burns to his head and face. He is currently in a serious condition, but his injuries are not thought to be life threatening. Police have launched an investigation which is in its early stages. One possibility is that something was placed on the bonfire which subsequently exploded causing the injuries. Two men, a 36-year-old and a 42-year-old from Skelmersdale, have been arrested on suspicion of causing an explosion likely to endanger life. They are both in custody. DI Marc Nasser said: "The investigation is at an early stage. A joint police and fire service investigation team are seeking to establish the cause of the explosion. "A number of witnesses have been established and we ask that if you saw the incident that you contact the Skelmersdale CID team."

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/bonfire-explosion-puts-skelmersdale-teenager-8062277>

USA, OH, NORTH OLMSTED, NOVEMBER 7 2014. TANKER LEAKS FUEL ONTO EASTBOUND INTERSTATE 480 IN NORTH OLMSTED

patrick cooley

A tractor trailer leaking fuel on the eastbound lane of Interstate 480 delayed traffic Thursday morning. Firefighters from the West Shore dispatch center reported said at 9:15 a.m. that a hazardous materials team was on its way to clear the fuel from the highway near the Clague Road exit in North Olmsted. The North Olmsted Fire Department sent trucks to the scene early Thursday. No injuries were reported and the cause of the accident that started the leak is unclear.

http://www.cleveland.com/north-olmsted/index.ssf/2014/11/tanker_leaks_fuel_onto_i.html

CANADA, B.C, KAMLOOPS, NOVEMBER 7 2014. TRUCK HAULING AMMONIUM NITRATE CAUGHT FIRE IN B.C.

tim petruk



Homes were being evacuated near a stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway west Kamloops, B.C., because a semi-trailer hauling the highly explosive ammonium nitrate caught on fire.

Trailers carrying about 40,000 kilograms of highly explosive ammonium nitrate have been hauled away from the scene of a truck fire that forced the evacuation of homes along the Trans-Canada Highway near Kamloops, B.C. The stretch of highway, about a 20-minute drive west of the city's downtown core, was closed for several hours Thursday over concerns for public safety, but reopened at night after the flames in the truck died down without spreading to the cargo. Driver Rod Cardinal said he was hauling the ammonium nitrate, which can be used in explosives, from Alberta to the Gibraltar Mine near Williams Lake, B.C., on Thursday afternoon when he noticed smoke was coming from underneath his carpet. "I got pulled over as quickly as I could and I hit it with both my fire extinguishers, and it did absolutely nothing to it," he



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said. "That's when I stopped, hopped out, dropped the trailer, pulled the tractor as far as I could." "I got it about 50 feet away." Kamloops Fire Rescue did not respond to the call because the incident occurred outside its coverage range. RCMP Cpl. Cheryl Bush said police extended an evacuation order to a 1,600-metre radius of the fire by 3:45 p.m. "out of an abundance of caution," and residents were taken to a nearby facility. Kamloops-Thompson School District Supt. Karl de Bruijn said the accident also delayed homeward-bound students aboard three buses. He said they were safe and under the care of the drivers. The RCMP reported the fire began dying down by the early evening and had not spread to the trailers. Local media were reporting the evacuation order had been rescinded. The Ministry of Transportation's DriveBC website reported the highway had reopened before 6:30 p.m.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1658369/truck-hauling-ammonium-nitrate-caught-fire-in-b-c/>

USA, CA, VERNON, NOVEMBER 8 2014. EXIDE ORDERED TO CLEAN UP HOMES TAINTED BY BATTERY PLANT

bettina boxall



The California Department of Toxic Substances Control has ordered Exide Technologies to pay for the cleanup of homes and yards contaminated by the company's battery recycling operation in Vernon. Exide Technologies to set up \$9-million trust fund to clean homes and yards tainted by Vernon battery plant.

The state Thursday ordered Exide Technologies to pay for the cleanup of homes and yards contaminated by the company's battery recycling operation in Vernon. The order, issued by the Department of Toxic Substances Control, also fines Exide \$526,000 for improperly managing hazardous waste. The plant was idled in March amid growing concerns about its lead and arsenic emissions, which state regulators have said posed a health risk to more than 100,000 residents.

Elevated lead levels were found in the soil of numerous residential yards in nearby Boyle Heights and Maywood. Under the directive, Exide must set up a \$9-million trust fund to remove the contaminated soil and rid home interiors of lead-tainted dust. Incomplete test results from 104 homes sampled for lead pollution have determined that 62 require some level of cleanup. "This is an important enforcement order for the community and for the department," said Miriam Ingenito, acting director of the toxic substances agency. Exide needs to obtain a full hazardous waste facility permit from the department by the end of next year to avoid being shut down. The plant also has to meet strict new arsenic emissions standards adopted by local air quality officials in January. Exide Vice President Thomas Strang said the company will comply with Thursday's order. "We realize this is a first step of many," he said. "We're comfortable we're going to do what we need to do to get the place permitted so we can run it properly."

Related Stories

- [Exide hazardous waste dripped onto roads from trucks, records show](#)
- [Few residents near Exide plant undergo testing for lead levels](#)

<http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-exide-20141107-story.html>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, NOVEMBER 7 2014. NEW FEDERAL REGULATION COMING FOR OIL AND GAS WELL POLLUTION

dave fehling

The federal government says the oil & gas industry is the [largest industrial source of pollution](#) that creates smog. In coming months, Texas drillers could learn what the government plans to do about it. New pollution rules could mean that thousands of oil & gas wells in Texas will have to have their leaks fixed. "It's an issue because we're now drilling in heavily populated areas," said Melanie Sattler, a researcher at the University of Texas in Arlington. She's directed research projects in North Texas where thousands of new gas wells have been drilled in recent years. Some of the air pollution is coming from all the diesel trucks and generators needed to drill and service wells. But other toxic vapors and [greenhouse gases including methane](#) are leaking from the well sites and pipelines themselves. In the North Texas city of Denton, wells have been drilled near schools and parks. At a Denton [public meeting earlier this summer](#), resident and industry-opponent Cathy McMullen read from a phone log of complaints called into the state's drilling regulator: "Caller is responding to a haze over the neighborhood and thinks it's related to gas well flaring. Caller is experiencing headaches." What's in that haze? One major component of air pollution at drill sites is the natural gas itself which is made up mostly of methane. "Which is a highly potent greenhouse gas, it's kind of a super-pollutant," said Matt Watson, with the group Environmental Defense Fund. "Texas has led other states when it comes to



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regulating the oil and gas industry but when it comes to methane emissions, we're trailing behind." EDF is asking Texas to mimic states like [Colorado, which earlier this year passed the nation's first](#) regulations aimed at reducing methane losses from drill sites and pipelines. In Texas, the Commission on Environmental Quality said in an emailed response to us that it has no plans to enact such rules. But the federal Environmental Protection Agency does and Texas drillers would have to comply. The EPA tells us that in the next couple of months it will announce how it might proceed with nationwide [regulations to reduce methane leaks](#). The EPA also says it will announce updates to [regulations put in place in 2012 that were aimed at reducing other toxic releases](#) from drilling; releases that include smelly sulfur dioxide and the potential cancer causer benzene. Those rules too have come under fire from Texas regulators. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality said the [new rules would cost the Texas energy](#) industry far more than the EPA estimated. For example, the TCEQ said just one of the many new requirements would mean oil & gas wells statewide would have to be fitted with three-quarters of a million new valves. But the researcher say there's a good reason old valves need replacing. "The pneumatic valves in particular are actually designed to leak methane when they operate," said Melanie Sattler at UT. She said new, higher-tech ones leak a lot less and could make a smaller contribution to global warming and smog. And environmental groups including EDF have pointed out that many of the [companies that supply such valves and other methane-controls are based in Texas](#).

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2014/11/06/new-federal-regulation-coming-for-oil-gas-well-pollution/>

USA, CA, ARVIN, NOVEMBER 7 2014. PIPELINE OWNER TO STOP PAYING TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR ARVIN RESIDENTS

diana aguilara



One of the eight homes evacuated in March on Nelson Court.

Arvin residents who were forced out of their homes in March because of a toxic gas leak are now facing a new dilemma. This time it's dealing with housing. The oil company that owns the leaking pipeline told eight Arvin families on Tuesday that they will stop paying for their temporary housing at the end of this month. That means residents will either have to return home or pay out of pocket to live elsewhere. Since the evacuation, Petro Capital Resources has been paying for residents to live in an apartment complex in Bakersfield. Their homes had been contaminated with explosive and toxic gases after the leaking pipeline was discovered in March. The company's announcement comes less than a week after Kern County officials lifted a mandatory evacuation order for the neighborhood, saying there were no longer threats of explosive gases in the homes. But some residents including Yesenia Lara say they're still worried about the presence of toxic chemicals. Kern County is in the middle of conducting

further tests for toxic chemicals. And state experts will review the results when they're released. As of now, Lara says she will not move back to her house until she knows it's safe. And as far her housing situation, she says she can't afford to stay at the apartment. Petro Capital Resources could not be reached for comment on Thursday. Meanwhile, residents say they expect to meet with county officials on Friday.

<http://kvpr.org/post/pipeline-owner-stop-paying-temporary-housing-arvin-residents>

SOUTH KOREA, SEOUL, NOVEMBER 7 2014. TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS, SPILLING SULFURIC ACID INTO RIVER

A tanker truck carrying sulfuric acid hit a guardrail along a local road Wednesday and overturned, spilling some of the acid into Nakdong River, South Korea's longest river, firefighters and police said. The truck, which had a load capacity of 25 tons, was carrying about 20,000 liters of sulfuric acid. About 200 liters of the acid spilled into the river, which passes through Gyeongsang Provinces in the country's southeast, they added. The 53-year-old driver of the truck suffered a minor injury. The firefighters said they are trying to contain the spill by building an embankment to prevent more acid from flowing into the river. Authorities said they are inspecting water from the river to determine whether the leaked sulfuric acid has negatively affected living things in the river. Sulfuric acid, which is highly corrosive, can be fatal to fish. Residents who live near the site of the accident said that dozens of dead fish were found in the lower region of the river. The authorities said that they plan to further inspect the water in the region to figure out the extent of the damage. At first, they said that as the acid that has spilled into the river has been diluted, it seemed that the accident would have little effect.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20141106000187>



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AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, NEWCASTLE, NOVEMBER 7 2014. NEWCASTLE RESIDENTS BLAST AMMONIUM NITRATE FACILITY

The Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) held a hearing on October 29 to allow the community to express their views on Incitec's proposal to build an ammonium nitrate production facility in Newcastle. All 18 speakers slammed the proposal as presenting an unacceptable risk of a catastrophic explosion that could threaten the lives of thousands of people in the city. Speakers ranged from explosives expert Tony Richards to the Socialist Alliance, the Greens, and several community groups from Stockton and Mayfield, as well as members of the public. A common theme for many speakers was that Incitec had avoided answering the community's concerns in its "response to submissions" document. Niko Leka from Socialist Alliance pointed out that people wanted to know the blast contours, but Incitec's response had been to explain how it had calculated "risk contours". "That's not what we asked for," said Leka. "We want to know the blast contours." Several other speakers expressed surprise that despite Incitec having had several years to provide a fire safety plan and to work out cooperative arrangements with chemical company Orica, these had either not been done, or had not been presented for viewing. David Croft, from Stockton said that having Incitec located next to Orica, doubling the ammonium nitrate storage to 21,500 tonnes a year, had doubled the risk. He also discussed the risk of ammonium nitrate trucks being involved in an accident. Stockton Community Action group spokesperson Kate Johnson said that after a hexavalent chromium spill from the Orica plant, former environment minister Robyn Parker had said that approval for a facility like Orica to be located so close to a big city, would never be given. "Yet here we are. And since then we've had approval for storage of 600 megalitres of diesel next door to it as well." John McKenzie of the Hunter Community Environment Centre said it was the public perception of risk that should be considered by the PAC, rather than Incitec's estimates of what the actual risk of explosion may or may not be. Caleb Rees, a local resident, pointed out that Incitec had not considered the community at all in proposing to build its facility in Newcastle. "They can put it anywhere," he said. "The only reason they are putting it here is to make easy money. Don't make the same mistakes our grandparents made, of letting the community bear the cost." The PAC will consider the additional responses, and there will be a right of appeal.

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/node/57729>

ARGENTINA, CORDOBA, NOVEMBER 8 2014. FACTORY EXPLOSION LEAVES 66 INJURED IN ARGENTINE CITY OF CORDOBA

An explosion at a chemical factory in the central Argentine city of Cordoba left a total of 66 injured, with two of them in critical condition, officials told Efe on Friday. The blast occurred around 9:00 p.m. Thursday evening just minutes after a small fire was reported inside the plant of the local Quimicos Rigoni company, located in the residential neighborhood of Alta Cordoba on the north side of the city. A total of 66 people were injured but only two have severe injuries, officials of the Cordoba provincial government told Efe. Those in critical condition are a 15-year-old youth and a woman in her 70s. Both remain hospitalized. Police and firefighters are investigating the causes of the explosion, while local authorities evaluate the material damages, which extend to several blocks around the factory.

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/07/factory-explosion-leaves-66-injured-in-argentine-city-cordoba/>

SRI LANKA, HAMBANTOTA, NOVEMBER 9 2014. HAMBANTOTA FUEL STORAGE FACILITY DEFECTS



Dislocated pile support and Damaged concrete floor

The UNP parliamentarian Ravi Karunanayake raised the issue of the Hambantota Port SLPA Aviation Fuel Tank farm site in parliament last Friday subsequent to the visit to the site by a group of UNP members on the July 10, 2014. He revealed some of the observations on the prevailing condition of the facility, before taking over by the CPC. According to the report, continuous ground settlements in excess of more than 400 mm have been observed at locations where piling has not been done. The UNP team observed defects due to continuous ground settlement will continue to grow, until a permanent solution for the ground settling is identified through a consultant and implemented. They strongly emphasized that this Aviation fuel storage tank farm constructed by the

SLPA is far below the acceptable industry standards and even by physical appearance. It is a fact that any Aviation fuel storage and handling facility conform to the most stringent requirements of JIG, API, NFPA and other international standards due to the most critical nature of this industry, which has not been adopted in the design and construction of this facility.



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Karunanayake said that a typical example of a dislocated pipe support at the Hambantota Aviation tank farm was seen on July 10, 2014 by them, due to continuous ground settlement. He said that temporary arrangements have been made by the SLPA/Contractor in the past on several occasions by increasing the height of the concrete support and using metal plates. However a small gap is still visible due to subsequent settlements. The team had also observed that the pipelines are hanging on to the tank nozzle and shell, over stressing the piping and tank shell, which will have severe consequences in the long run paving the way for a catastrophic failure. The team had also observed that after a detail assessment and evaluation, the total facility constructed by the SLPA is not in a suitable condition for the usage by CPC for the storage and handling for JetA1 without finding proper and permanent remedies to the continuous ground settlement and defects present at every location in the facility as clearly shown by photographic evidence taken by them during their visit to the facility. Karunanayake said that the CPC will never be able to obtain JIG approval and concurrence to operate this facility for Jet A1 as an intermediate storage terminal in the future, without proper rectification which is doubtful. "However in the meeting it was mentioned that the SLPA will hand over this sub standard Jet A1 import and storage facility at the Hambantota port to the CPC in the near future in the same condition. We have been highly embarrassed as professional Engineers who have successfully completed the Aviation Refueling Terminal at the MRIA, to be a World class facility and a valuable asset for the CPC, by assigning the responsibility to make assessment and recommendations for a facility nowhere comparable to the CPC constructed facility," he added. Karunanayake further stated that it was mentioned in the meeting by SLPA, that as per the agreement with the contractor, all the defects will be rectified by the contractor before the 18th of July 2014 except for implementing a permanent solution to the ground settling problem. "However as per our observations it is not possible to rectify all the defects within such a short period and also without solving the ground settling issue which contributes for most of the defects. There is no point in repairing it as it will only be a temporary solution. It was also mentioned in the meeting that the contractor has been given until the end of November 2014 to find and implement a permanent solution to the continuous ground settling problem. However the SLPA representative stated that an assurance cannot be given to the CPC that ground settling will not continue after that." He said that the CPC suggested to monitor the ground settlement until November 2014, weekly with 20 reference points to see the level of settlement. SLPA agreed to this and the CPC agreed to inspect and get the readings with SLPA. Meanwhile the CPC officials informed that the soil layer underneath the concrete may have been washed away as the man hole within the yard had sunk. Therefore the CPC suggested to perform a load test at the site, to which the SLPA agreed. Since the Hambantota port has been constructed at a strategic location close to international shipping routes, to have a properly built and operated Jet A1 storage facility conforming to international standards is very advantages economically consistent with refueling operations at the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport. "We sincerely believe that SLPA should take immediate action to find a permanent solutions to the prevailing conditions. We forwarded our observations with pictures as proof with our sincere engineering comments, for the consideration by the Management of the CPC when taking a decision for taking over of this facility by CPC for operation in the future," said Karunanayake.

<http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2014/11/09/hambantota-fuel-storage-facility-defects/>

NEW ZEALAND, NAPIER, NOVEMBER 9 2014. FIREWORKS EXPLOSION RAINS GLASS DOWN ON TODDLER



Hurt tot Caleb.

The mother of a 2-year-old says it is a miracle her son was not more badly injured after the boom from loud fireworks shattered her bedroom window and rained glass down on him. Caleb Sheehan was cut on his hand and foot as well as hit on the head during the incident at his Tamatea home in Napier, about 9pm on Friday. The toddler was in bed with his mother Marie Stephens, who was trying to keep him calm during the loud explosions from nearby fireworks. "I got up to have a look and I pulled the curtain back at the same time as a huge one went off and I heard a crack and the glass broke." Ms Stephens thought the explosion could have come from two fireworks being set off at the same time on either side of the property. She dropped the curtain as the glass fell, but Caleb had already wandered over to her. The cut on his hand was minor, but the cut on his foot was quite deep, she said. "It could have been so much worse, it could have killed him." Ms Stephens called police, but they were busy and were not able to get to the house until this morning. They were not

able to do anything about the incident because it was considered an accident. The broken window would not be fixed until tomorrow (Monday) when the landlord could sort it out. Ms Stephens urged other revellers to stay away from houses and "go to the beach" if they wanted to set off fireworks.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11355723



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PANAMA, COLÓN, BAHÍA LAS MINAS, NOVEMBER 9 2014. DURO FELGUERA SUBSIDIARY TO DEVELOP FUEL SUPPLY AND HYDROCARBON STORAGE TERMINAL IN PANAMA

Duro Felguera (DF), via its subsidiary Felguera IHI, has won a contract to develop a fuel supply terminal for ships and hydrocarbon storage in Bahía las Minas (in the province of Colón), on the Atlantic coast of Panama. Vopak has been announced as the client. The project will be jointly executed with FCC for a total amount of \$99.6 million (€79.7 million), of which \$70 million (€56 million) corresponds to the scope of the work to be carried out by the DF subsidiary. More specifically, Felguera IHI will construct the whole terminal on a turnkey basis except for the maritime and civil work which includes the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning of the facility. The new terminal will be located on land where Chevron's Panama Refinery was located, and will have nine storage tanks for marine diesel oil and fuel oil, as well as clean oil products (low sulphur gas oil, 95 octane gasoline and Jet A). The aggregate capacity will be 376,000 m³. A mooring dock for loading and unloading vessels will also be built. The project will be completed with a product piping and transfer system, a fire-fighting system, an electrical and supervision system and the equipment for the stored product quality control laboratory. Work is planned to start in spring next year and the deadline is 24 months. The Bahía las Minas terminal is strategically located just 10km from the entrance to the Panama Canal and is a benchmark centre for regional hydrocarbon distribution.

http://www.tankstoragemag.com/industry_news.php?item_id=8495

DENMARK, COPENHAGEN, NOVEMBER 9 2014. OW BUNKER, WORLD'S LARGEST SHIP FUEL SUPPLIER, FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY AMID FRAUD ALLEGATIONS

Danish company OW Bunker, the world's largest ship fuel supplier, has declared bankruptcy and reported two employees at its Singapore subsidiary to the police following fraud allegations. The company, based in Aalborg, northern Denmark, said Wednesday it had lost around \$275 million through a combination of poor risk management and fraud committed by senior executives at its unit Dynamic Oil Trading in Singapore. It didn't immediately provide more details about the fraud allegations. OW Bunker owes 13 banks \$750 million and cannot survive without new credit, which banks have refused to provide. Company chairman Niels Henrik Jensen said late Friday the company filed for bankruptcy at a court in Aalborg after it was established that it was "not possible to save the remaining business."

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/11/08/ow-bunker-world-largest-ship-fuel-supplier-files-for-bankruptcy-amid-fraud/>

USA, MA, CAPE COD, NOVEMBER 9 2014. COAST GUARD INVESTIGATES SANDWICH MARINA FUEL SHEEN >> SOURCE OF THE SHEEN UNKNOWN

The United States Coast Guard is investigating a fuel sheen discovered at Sandwich Marina Friday morning. Coast Guard officials, Sandwich firefighters and a private contractor all responded to the marina for the fuel spill. A section of the marina was cordoned off and USCG crew members used absorbent booms to prevent the sheen from spreading. The source of the fuel spill that caused the sheen is unknown.

<http://www.capecodtoday.com/article/2014/11/08/27799-coast-guard-investigates-sandwich-marina-fuel-sheen>

CANADA, ALBA, CALGARY, NOVEMBER 9 2014. CHINESE COMPANY FINED OVER ALBERTA PIPELINE SPILL

A Chinese-owned company has been fined after a contractor's mistake led to a pipeline spill that contaminated a creek flowing into the Athabasca River in northern Alberta. Sinopec Daylight Energy is to pay \$150,000 for a spill near Fox Creek in northwestern Alberta between Feb. 2 and Feb. 4, 2012. According to an agreed statement of facts, the spill happened as a result of a contractor's attempts to restart compressors at two wells, which produced a mix of natural gas, hydrocarbon liquids and salty, contaminated water. In order to restart compressors at the second well, the contractor had to temporarily bypass emergency shutdown devices, which stop production if internal pressure exceeds the pipeline's capacity to safely handle it. The contractor then forgot to reset the device, leaving it in a bypass state, the statement says. Two days later, the contractor realized that no water was flowing into a disposal well, despite the fact the well was producing. "(He) then realized the pipeline must be leaking," the statement says. "He immediately shut the pipeline down and notified his foreman." The spill sent 391,000 litres of contaminated, salty water into Marsh Head Creek, a tributary of the Athabasca River. That was enough to exceed allowable levels of those contaminants 7.4 kilometres downstream of the spill. "No dead fish were actually observed because Marsh Head Creek was covered with snow and ice at the time of the release," says the statement. The Alberta Energy Regulator said the cleanup took until March. Final remediation wasn't complete until June 2013. The cleanup cost nearly \$10 million, the regulator said.

<http://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/chinese-company-fined-over-alberta-pipeline-spill/ar-AA73NO0>



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USA, ME, ORRINGTON, NOVEMBER 9 2014. ORRINGTON MAN INJURED WHEN USING GASOLINE TO START FIRE

Firefighters in Orrington say a man was injured last night when he used gasoline to light a brush pile. According to the fire department report, the man's efforts to start the permitted fire were hampered by snow and water. He was taken to a hospital with first and second degree burns. Fire officials say you should never use accelerant to start a fire. You can call your local fire department for safety tips.

<http://wabi.tv/2014/11/07/orrington-man-injured-when-using-gasoline-to-start-fire/>

IRELAND, DUBLIN, NOVEMBER 9 2014. MOTORISTS WARNED OVER CONTAMINATED FUEL

 **Watch the Video** [Motorists warned over contaminated fuel](#)

Motorists are being advised to only purchase fuel from trusted sources to minimise the risk posed by petrol stretching. Contaminated fuel has damaged hundreds of cars around the country in recent weeks. The Society of the Irish Motor Industry has said the majority of problems arise in Co Mayo, but problems have been reported in Westmeath, Roscommon, Galway, Cavan, Meath and elsewhere. It is advising motorists that price alone does not guarantee value for money and it is urging people to purchase petrol from trusted retailers. Estimates suggest up to 400 cars have developed engine problems in Co Mayo, with one garage repairing around 80 vehicles in recent weeks. It is understood similar numbers of repairs are being carried out at other workshops around the county. While it is suspected that kerosene has been mixed with petrol, Revenue said an analysis of 50 samples from filling stations around the country has only revealed two incidents of fuel being interfered with. Further testing is being carried out by the State laboratory. Stretched petrol causes a carbon build-up on the piston mechanism, causing it to seize up in time. Mechanics say the scale of damage varies from car to car, depending on age and usage patterns. In many cases, engines have to be replaced, at costs in the region of €5,000. Motorists with third-party insurance policies are not covered for repairs and the damage caused to engines would not normally be covered by a manufacturer's warranty. Public meetings in Co Mayo in recent weeks have attracted hundreds of people, concerned about the impact the compromised fuel has on their cars and their potential resale value. Petrol stretching is described as the illegal addition of a low-tax commodity to defraud the State. A Revenue spokesman said fuel samples would be analysed extensively to ensure that any additional mix was identified. The supply of petrol to a number of stations in recent months is also being investigated. Motorists affected have reported a lack or loss of engine power, failure to accelerate or a knocking sound coming from the engine.

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2014/1106/657341-petrol-fuel/>

ENGLAND, SUNDERLAND, NOVEMBER 9 2014. FOUR-MONTH-OLD BABY LEFT WITH SHOCKING BURN INJURY AFTER FIREWORKS DEBRIS LANDED ON HER



Painful: Dad Daniel shows the burns injury on the back of Ellie-Rose's head which was caused by a red-hot piece of a firework at a Bonfire Night display in Sunderland.

The parents of Lillie-Rose Emery are demanding answers after a red hot ember burnt their child's head. A four-month-old baby was burnt on her head when part of a red-hot firework landed in her sleepsuit hood. Lillie-Rose Emery was at an organised Bonfire Night display when she was hurt, but her parents didn't realise until they got home. Mum-of-two Serena Elson, 21, said: "I was in tears straight away, I had never seen a burn like that before, let alone on my own baby." She added: "When we were on our way home we noticed that her sleep suit had been burnt and we were saying how lucky it was that it hadn't caught fire or burned through. "Then when we got back I pulled down her hood. She had a 1.5cm burn

on her head and I could smell her burnt hair." When Lillie-Rose cried hysterically at the event, Serena and the tot's dad Daniel Emery thought she had been scared by the fireworks and soothed her until she calmed down. The family had been at a fireworks display at Town End Academy in Sunderland. She was later taken to the city's hospital where she was treated with creams and antibiotics. Serena added: "She was so brave to not even have kept crying and I'm furious that she has had to suffer where she should have been safe. "I remember thinking that the fireworks were quite low and seeing some bits flying off but I had no idea that she could be so badly hurt." The young family, from Southwick, has had to attend an appointment at Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary to discuss plastic surgery. Serena added: "She's going to be scarred for life. "I believe that the crowd were allowed to stand far too close to the fireworks at Wednesday's event." They met with the school's headteacher



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to discuss what happened. Serena said: "They say they're sorry, but that's not going to make up for what's happened. "They said they would pay for her clothes, but it's not about her clothes, it's about my daughter. "I feel so awful that we didn't realise what was wrong until we got home. "Obviously the smoky, loud and dark environment meant that it was impossible for us to know what had really happened." Dad Daniel, 22, who is currently unemployed, said: "The fireworks were right over our heads and sticks and debris was falling around us. "There were newborns and ones smaller than her in the crowd. "We've been told it might take her years to recover. "She is lucky she's a girl so she can grow her hair over it, but it looks like it'll be permanent." A spokesman for Town End Academy said: "We sympathise with the family and hope Lillie-Rose is feeling better. "Town End Academy has successfully organised this hugely popular firework display for the past four years with no reported incidents, and they follow all safety guidelines with trained first-aid staff on hand. "If the incident had been reported to us at the time, we could have administered first aid immediately. "These events are subject to rigorous planning procedures and yearly approval by Multi Agency Events Group, which includes police and fire officer representatives."

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/four-month-old-baby-left-shocking-burn-4590832>

USA, CA, RICHMOND, NOVEMBER 9 2014. CHEVRON'S ONE-MAN NEWSROOM DEFENDS HIS WORK: 'THEY CONSIDER ME VOLDEMORT'



Mike Aldax, the sole editor and writer of the Richmond Standard, which is funded entirely by Chevron.

Edited and written by one man and funded entirely by the oil giant Chevron, the Richmond Standard runs stories hostile to environmental advocates. Mike Aldax has been called a corporate prostitute, a propagandist for big oil, an apologist for pollution, Voldemort and more. But he'd rather you call him a journalist. Every morning, after all, he drives across the Golden Gate bridge to Richmond, a gritty town on San Francisco bay, and spends the day seeking out local stories, interviewing people, attending events and then writing them up for a news site called the [Richmond Standard](#). He casts his net wide: a renovated baseball field, an ice cream store's award-winning marijuana-infused edible, a burglary suspect

shot by police, a city hall debate, a pumpkin carving contest. Aldax, 36, who previously worked as a reporter at the San Francisco Examiner and Bay City News, is a one-man news operation: he is the sole writer and editor of the Richmond Standard, which launched in January. "I've always loved hyper-local news," he said, perched over his laptop in a Starbucks which doubles up as his office. "It's about finding stories that matter to the community." There's a catch. The \$240bn oil giant Chevron entirely funds the site, and Aldax is employed by a public relations firm, Singer Associates, which is paid to improve Chevron's image. Critics say the site is an audacious attempt to disguise propaganda as news and manipulate public opinion. Chevron has run a big and at times controversial refinery in Richmond for over a century. In 2012 [it blew up](#). Smoke billowed over the city, prompting 15,000 residents to seek medical treatment. The green-tinged Progressive Alliance which runs the city council is suing Chevron, citing neglect and lax oversight. Relations between the company and city hall are toxic. The company waged a \$3m effort to replace its critics with pro-Chevron candidates in this week's elections – an unprecedented amount for this city of 107,000 people. It didn't work: [progressives won the four council seats](#), including the mayorship, which were up for grabs. The Richmond Standard played a controversial role in the election and is set to continue as a unique voice in the community. In addition to other news, Aldax covers Chevron donations to schools and community projects, takes swipes at Chevron foes, and has a special section for company announcements called Chevron Speaks. "If you're looking for criticism of Chevron you're not going to find it in the Richmond Standard," said Aldax, with the directness of one used to newsrooms, not press offices. "When I took this on I gathered that this would not be a website where I challenged the refinery." It did, however, let him cover other topics of interest and importance to his readers. "I do what I do. I'm not embarrassed about it. I'm proud of it." What Aldax does, exactly, is a source of contention which shines a light on the decline of traditional media in the United States and the role of corporate money in public life. US newsrooms have [shed thousands of jobs](#) over the past decade, according to the American Society of News Editors. Public relations, on the other hand has thrived: for every working journalist [there are now 4.6 PR people](#), according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, up from 3.2 a decade ago. Some credit the Richmond Standard with filling a news void left by the decline of the likes of the San Francisco Chronicle, which has cut local news reporting. "The Standard produces content that would not exist otherwise, and which has some benefit to the community," said Robert Rogers, who edits [Richmond Confidential](#), an online news service produced by UC Berkeley graduate journalism students. "But it's a site that takes the form of a straight news product. And that's not what it is."



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Richmond's vice-mayor, Jovanka Beckles, a member of the Progressive Alliance, gave a harsher verdict: "It's solely a marketing strategy to distort and distract from the real news. It's part of the way Chevron bullies this city." The refinery was built by Standard Oil in 1902 and contributed jobs, taxes, infrastructure – and pollution – which created an ambivalent relationship with the largely African American and Latino population. Beckles accused Chevron of "dropping a metaphorical nuclear bomb" in its failed attempt to install a friendlier council. The Richmond Confidential [tracked the lavish spending](#) on billboards, mailers and television and online advertising. Braden Reddall, a Reuters energy correspondent-turned Chevron spokesman, said the company backed pro-growth candidates. "Chevron supports leaders that share the company's commitment to policies that foster an economic environment where businesses can thrive." Reddall rejected accusations that the Richmond Standard was a Trojan horse. "It's producing community-driven news and is funded by Chevron and that's never been hidden." The site declares on its front page that it is "brought to you by Chevron Richmond" and aims to provide "important information about what's going on in the community, and to provide a voice for Chevron Richmond on civic issues". Some commentators [say that is insufficient warning](#), and that readers can mistake the site as an independent news outlet. The progressives view it as a nefarious corporate prong. "They consider me Voldemort," said Aldax. The former San Francisco Examiner reporter still considers himself a journalist and feels stung by attacks from [other media outlets](#) which, he said, did not visit Richmond nor ask him for comment. Married with a young son, he describes himself as politically liberal and an environmentalist who recycles, makes compost and worries about global warming. Aldax said he took the Richmond job not for what he termed a modest salary improvement but for the chance to cover local news better than shrivelled newspapers, which rely on agency copy and homogenous, click-bait stories to win advertising. "Richmond is a fascinating place and I can cover stories that are heartwarming and useful to the community without worrying about advertising. I saw gigantic holes that could be easily filled. It's incredibly freeing." Of almost 1000 published news stories, 90% made no mention of Chevron, he said. Aldax works from his car and cafes and says he feels proud to present a more rounded portrait of a community which often appears only as a crime story in other media outlets. He denied masking spin as news. The site explicitly stated its identity and separated news from company statements, which appeared in the Chevron Speaks section. To suggest readers were misled or confused was patronising, said Aldax. "They're not stupid." Other outlets such as Richmond Confidential, Richmond Pulse and La Voz de Richmond regularly bashed Chevron, he said. "They're anti-Chevron and that's fine. That's their voice." A pro-Chevron voice enriched plurality and allowed him, or the company, to challenge inaccuracies, such as the claim that 15,000 people were hospitalised – as opposed to sought medical treatment – after the refinery explosion, he said. Critics accuse Aldax of inaccuracies, or worse. He wrote that Beckles, the vice-mayor, made a "verbal assault" on homophobic hecklers during a council meeting. Other outlets cast her as the victim. [Another of Aldax's pieces](#) depicted climate change activists as rowdy bong-smokers. During Tuesday's election he [ran a story](#), citing several sources, about "widespread reports of voter intimidation" by Green party representatives. Aldax said there was a tradition of companies bankrolling newspapers dating back to the railway barons. That would not mollify critics, he lamented. "Being called a prostitute is hard. It can make you wonder about your career."

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2014/nov/07/chevron-richmond-standard-news-oil-california-refinery-election>

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, QUEENS, NOVEMBER 9 2014. 2 HURT AFTER SUV SLAMS INTO GAS STATION

erin calabrese



Scene where an SUV crashed into a gas station in Queens.

Two people were hurt when a Queens driver slammed into a gas station on the Long Island Expressway service road, police said. Driver Muhammad Izhar, 55, was low on gas and heading home to Livingston, NJ, when he exited the LIE and headed toward the BP gas station at 99-49 Horace Harding Expressway, he told The Post. "There was a car on the service road behind me, I thought he was going to slow down," Izhar said. Izhar said he signaled and tried to enter the service road only to be hit from behind, which pushed his car into a parked vehicle. "The next thing after that, I was in the store in the car. It happened very fast, two seconds," he said. The two people hurt were treated for serious but not life threatening injuries at Elmhurst Hospital.

<http://nypost.com/2014/11/08/2-hurt-after-suv-slams-into-gas-station/>



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