



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,099 Newsy Stuff

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

**September 18 2014**



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### USA, IA, STRUBLE, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. ALTON, IOWA, MAN CITED IN TANKER CRASH

One person was ticketed when a fuel tanker crashed into farm equipment near Struble, Iowa. Roger Droog, 68, of Alton, Iowa, was cited for misdemeanor failure to stop within an assured clear distance. The Peterbilt semitrailer Droog was driving collided with a piece of Caterpillar farm equipment in the 3400 block of County Road C-12 about 6:35 a.m. Wednesday, according to the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office. A 38-year-old man driving the farm equipment was taken to a local hospital by an acquaintance or friend. His injuries did not appear to be severe. The crash did \$50,000 damage to the semitrailer and \$30,000 to the farm equipment. The tanker of fuel oil pulled by the semitrailer did not rupture.

[http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/briefs/alton-iowa-man-cited-in-tanker-crash/article\\_132a4d52-aa26-5b5f-929e-2feba6f2c516.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/briefs/alton-iowa-man-cited-in-tanker-crash/article_132a4d52-aa26-5b5f-929e-2feba6f2c516.html)

### USA, FLA, TAMPA, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. FHP DASH CAM VIDEO SHOWS CRASH AFTERMATH

 **Watch the Video:** [Dash Cam Captures the Scene just after a Fatal Collision involving a Car and Fuel Tanker.](#)



Dash cam video from a Florida Highway Patrol cruiser shows the wreckage left behind after a car headed the wrong way and struck a gasoline tanker head-on about 6 a.m. Sunday on Interstate 275 just south of Bearss Avenue. The trooper was driving northbound behind the fuel tanker, but the trooper did not see the crash. But, as the trooper approached, he saw the wreckage and smoke from the collision. The crash killed the three people in the car -- sisters Gabrielle and Lakeitra Lanier, and their friend John Pierson. The truck driver was not hurt. "You're looking at closure speeds anywhere from 120 to 140 miles per hour impact between the two vehicles coming together," said FHP Sgt. Steve Gaskins. Gaskins said it's the fourth wrong way crash with fatalities on I-275 since February of this year. In February, four USF students were killed by a wrong way driver near Busch Boulevard. Two weeks later, one person was killed driving the wrong way near Bearss. In July, a wrong way driver was killed in St. Pete near 5th Avenue North. Then in August, there was a deadly wrong way crash near Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. "There are wrong way signs especially at the ramps," Gaskins said. "Up and down the interstates especially since they have the reflectors on the roadway so if you're travelling opposing traffic you're seeing a lot of red signals."

<http://www.wtsp.com/story/news/local/2014/09/09/fhp-dash-cam/15365943/>

### USA, IA, LE MARS, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. TANKER STRIKES MACHINE, NO FUEL SPILL



*A tractor trailer loaded with 7,500 gallons of fuel pushed a piece of farm equipment off the road in the 3400 block of C-12 this morning. One driver suffered non-life threatening injuries.*

The driver of a Caterpillar telehandler was injured after a collision with a tractor trailer today (Wednesday). Jose Ruiz, 38, of Sioux Center, was taken by private vehicle to Floyd Valley Hospital following the 6:35 a.m. accident. Ruiz was treated and released, according to a hospital spokeswoman. The accident occurred in the 3400 block of C-12 when a tanker trailer, carrying 7,500 gallons of fuel, struck the telehandler. The telehandler, similar to a forklift, was pushed off the road by the tractor trailer, according to Le Mars Fire-Rescue Chief David Schipper. The machine was pushed into some trees in the south ditch of C-12, he said in a press release. It knocked down trees and was laying on the driver's side with a tree across it upon firefighters' arrival, Schipper reported. Firefighters rendered the telehandler safe and evaluated the tanker trailer, loaded with 7,500 gallons of fuel, he said. There was no release of fuel from the tanker, according to a press release from the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office. Firefighters stood

by until the fuel was pumped to another tanker trailer, Schipper said. Sioux Tank Line, of Alton, owned the fuel. The telehandler was owned by Dykstra Dairy, 34450 C-12. Droog was cited into court for failure to stop within the assured clear distance, the sheriff's press release stated. The 2006 Peterbilt incurred about \$50,000 in damage and the 2007 Caterpillar



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about \$30,000, the release stated. The Iowa State Patrol, Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement and Le Mars Police Department assisted at the scene.

<http://www.lemarssentinel.com/story/2117489.html>

### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, FOXDALE, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. FUEL TANKER COLLIDES WITH CANE TRAIN

Emergency services were called to the Bruce Highway at Foxdale after an empty B-double fuel tanker collided with a cane train on Saturday night. Officer in Charge of the Proserpine Police Station, Sergeant Nathan Blain, said it was fortunate that neither the 29-year-old truck driver, nor the two locomotive drivers were injured in the crash. "However extensive damage was caused to the truck and cane bins, with the highway closed to all traffic for a number of hours," Sgt Blain said. Proserpine Cane Supply Manager Ron Worth said the locomotive was pushing 16 empty bins through the crossing, into the nearby Harry Biggs' Siding, when the crash happened. He said the impact caused three bins to derail. "The locomotive and some bins sustained minor damage, while one bin was damaged beyond repair and the fuel tanker had to be towed from the scene," he said. Proserpine resident Trish Clarke was on the highway behind the fuel tanker when the accident occurred. Ms Clarke, who was returning home from Bowen with her partner and six-year-old son, said for some reason she wasn't comfortable with overtaking the truck and decided to "sit back behind him". "I could see the train lights going and I started to slow down [but] I saw that it [the truck] was not braking," she said. "It happened so fast - before I knew it he'd locked up the brakes but it was far too late - probably only three metres from the track." Sgt Blain said investigations revealed that the truck driver was distracted from driving while reaching for a bottle of water and consequently did not see the loco crossing the highway. He said the driver was issued with a Notice to Appear in court for driving without due care and attention. Mr Worth said this incident had potential to end in tragedy "[and] it highlights the importance for motorists to approach all cane railway crossings with caution" "They should obey all signs and signals and always give way to oncoming cane trains," he said.

<http://www.whitsundaytimes.com.au/news/fuel-tanker-collides-with-cane-train/2382170/>

### USA, KS, CATHERINE, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. CRUDE OIL EXPLOSION SENDS ONE TO HOSPITAL

A 57-year-old man was injured Wednesday after an explosion at a crude oil storage tank in the northwest part of Catherine. Ellis County Sheriff and fire personnel determined that a hose from a tank truck may have come in contact with a heating element causing the explosion and fire. The victim was flown from the scene to a Wichita hospital. The Ellis County Sheriff will provide updates to us as they become available.

<http://ksn.com/2014/09/10/crude-oil-explosion-sends-one-to-hospital/>

### NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. TEEN 'ON FIRE' AFTER EXPLOSION

*simon day & anna loren*

One teen was set on fire by a blast which occurred when three youths were huffing from an aerosol can, police believe. A witness described flames shooting out a window when the explosion rocked a South Auckland house where the teens were huffing last night. The three - two girls, aged 14 and 15, and a boy aged 17, were due to be transferred to the burns unit after spending time in intensive care at Middlemore Hospital following the blast. The teens had soft tissue damage, trauma from the explosion and burn injuries, Inspector Dave Glossop said. "One of the reports we had was that one of them was actually on fire. That's our understanding." Emergency services were called at 11.11pm to an address in Ferguson St, Mangere East. Firefighters arrived to find a small fire in the bedroom, though police said the explosion was so strong it blew curtains from the bedroom over to a neighbour's property.

#### 'It Just Went Up'

The witness, a neighbour, said she had been sitting outside having a cigarette when she saw the explosion just metres away. "It just went up - the window blew open and the fire and flames blew out the window. It was freaky." The curtains from the blown-open window flew across the driveway separating the properties and ended up on her roof, she said. Another neighbour had been asleep and was woken up by the explosion. He said he saw a teenager jump out of the window and run down the driveway. He couldn't tell how badly the boy was injured. The woman's two youngest children - twin boys aged "about 5 or 6" - were also sleeping in the house at the time of the explosion.

#### Worrying Incident

"This is a trend that used to exist and it had pretty much dried up because it is so stupid. So for us to see this again is worrying. We're very much hoping this is an isolated incident," Glossop said. Police were still piecing together what happened and will be interviewing other people and trying to find out where the aerosols came from. They were taking the matter



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seriously and would be interviewing witnesses to establish exactly what happened at the address, before deciding if any charges would be laid.

### 'Insidious Activity'

Sixty-three deaths between 2000 and 2012, were related to huffing, the inhalation of butane-based substances, Coroner's Court files show. Chief Coroner Neil MacLean issued a report on huffing in 2012, saying it was an "insidious and extremely dangerous activity that is predominantly killing young males. "It is a sad reflection of our society that so many people are losing their lives for the sake of being briefly intoxicated." The coroner began a review of the coronial records after two Dunedin teenagers were seriously injured after an LPG canister they were huffing from exploded. Of the 63 deaths since 2000, more than 75 per cent were male, almost half were Maori and more than 87 per cent were aged under 24 years. The youngest death was a 12-year-old boy, while the oldest was a 76-year-old man. The coroner said his case study included summaries of coroners' recommendations from some of the 63 findings. "Several coroners have expressed concerns regarding the availability of inhalants from retailers and have commented on the need for regulation," he said. "The difficulty is that most of the common inhalants are everyday household products." In the mid-2000s, after inquests into six huffing deaths, the Christchurch and Wellington coroners urged the Government to take a series of actions to deter young people from huffing, including taking a combined approach by the ministries of youth development, health and education. In 2012, coroner Wallace Bain said too many young people were dying from huffing. An education programme was probably the most instructive way to get the necessary messages through. Wellington Coroner Tim Scott this year issued a finding into the death of Dane Alfred Daniel, 24, who died of "acute butane toxicity". The coroner commented that huffing caused Daniel to collapse quickly and, despite prompt rescue attempts by friends and paramedics, to die. "The facts speak for themselves," he said. "I do not need to make any comment." On the day Daniel died, he and friend Travis Cruise John had gone to visit another friend. When that friend left for work, Daniel bought two cans of butane lighter fluid at a dairy - one for himself and one for John, who did not want one. Daniel began huffing. After up to three minutes, he collapsed and fell face down. John, who at first thought it was a joke, ran over to Daniel. He turned him on his side and saw his pupils were dilated, he was struggling to breathe, and his lips were blue. The National Poisons Centre in Dunedin includes huffing under the title of solvent abuse. Most inhalants were legal, everyday products that had a useful purpose, but could be misused because they were inexpensive and easy to obtain, it said. "Solvent abuse is often referred to as bagging, huffing or sniffing depending on the method used to obtain a high," the centre said. About 30 common products can be abused including air freshener, flyspray, fuels like petrol and turpentine and gases such as LPG and lighter fluid. "The most common age group to abuse solvents is thought to be 13 to 15 year olds, with the frequency of use declining by 17 to 19 years," the centre said. People abused solvents as a result of experimentation, peer pressure, boredom or to shock, it said. "Signs of solvent abuse may be difficult to distinguish from 'normal' adolescent behaviour." However, indications to look out for included a chemical smell on the breath or clothing and empty aerosol, butane or glue containers left where the child has been. Drunken behaviour such as a dazed or dizzy appearance could also be an indication or suddenly mixing with a new group of friends, especially if they hung out in secluded places. "A persistently runny nose or eye irritation" was also a warning sign. "Sometimes rashes and pimples around the nose and mouth can be signs of abuse, but it is important to note that these only occur with the use of specific products, and can be confused with acne." Solvents can kill instantly. The poisons centre said causes of death included heart failure, suffocation, explosions, choking on vomit and fatal accidents such as drowning. "Nearly all abused products produce effects similar to anaesthetics, which slow down the body's function. Depending on the amount inhaled, the user can experience slight stimulation, feelings of inhibition or loss of consciousness." The centre lists in grim detail the way solvents can kill and points out that many solvents can kill brain cells. "Solvents can also cause short-term memory loss, and numerous other learning and social function effects."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/10485055/Teen-on-fire-after-explosion>

### USA, CT, NORWICH, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. CHEMICALS SPILL INTO YANTIC RIVER AFTER TANK LEAK

tina detelj

 **Watch the Video:** [Chemicals Spill into Yantic River](#)

The DEEP was alerted to the spill when someone noticed the Yantic River was discolored Wednesday morning. Investigators were able to track the source of that spill back to the Freeport McMoRan continuous copper rod facility. The DEEP estimates hundreds of gallons of product flowed into the Yantic river. Two kinds chemicals, an emulsifier and a machine lube oil used at the plant, were reportedly in tanks which leaked on the Norwich property. Harry O'Keefe of Norwich says, "I'm hoping they're responsible and I have no reason to think they're not." News 8 called the company and was told to leave a message but we haven't gotten a call back. We did walk along the river to find clean up efforts underway. The DEEP tells News 8 there was no



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way to recapture the chemicals but the leak was stopped and the spill contained. Now contaminants along the bank need to be removed and the bank rebuilt. O'Keefe says "I'm going to hesitate before I eat anything out of here because I don't know what's in the river." We added, "And you do fish out of it." O'Keefe said, "Yeah I do." O'Keefe grew up swimming on the Yantic. He says over the past thirty years he has seen the crabs come back along with other marine life. Once he heard about the spill he came down to the Yantic to see if any damage was done. The DEEP says the water has cleared and doesn't know of any fish kills or other casualties from the contamination. "Now people can crab right in Norwich Harbor. So the river's been getting healthier every year and we don't need this," says O'Keefe. While the river is expected to cleanse itself the company is responsible for cleaning up the contaminated soil and rock right along the river.

<http://wtnh.com/2014/09/11/chemicals-spill-into-yantic-river-after-tank-leak/>

### MEXICO, MEXICO CITY, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. GRUPO MEXICO TO SET ASIDE \$150 MILLION FOR MINE SPILL CLEANUP



*In this Aug. 12 photo, the contaminated Sonora River makes its way through the hills near the town of Mazocahui in Sonora, Mexico.*

The Mining Company Also Faces Millions in Fines After Acid Spill Contaminated Two Rivers. Mining giant Grupo Mexico has agreed to set aside at least \$150 million to pay for damages after an acid spill from its biggest mine led to the industry's worst environmental disaster on record in the country. The company reached an agreement with Mexico's government to create a trust to pay for any environmental and human damage caused by the spill, government officials said Thursday. A special committee at the trust will define the exact amount to be paid by the company, which could go beyond the initial amount. The cleanup costs appear to be manageable for one of the world's largest copper producers, which last year had \$9.3 billion in revenue. The company, which confirmed the

creation of the trust in a statement, also [faces fines of around \\$3.4 million](#) for violating some environmental laws. The decision allows the government to avoid a legal process that could take years and gets resources from the company to the region and the people affected immediately. "The company totally accepted the requests made by the government," said Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo at a news conference. The Aug. 6 spill of 40,000 cubic meters of copper sulfate acid solution from the Buenavista mine in the northwestern state of Sonora contaminated two rivers and left thousands of residents without clean water. Mexican officials say it was the worst environmental disaster on record caused by the mining industry. The Buenavista mine, about 25 miles south of Mexico's border with Arizona, produces 200,000 tons of copper a year, making it the world's fourth largest copper mine by output. The company plans to invest \$4 billion in the facility to raise production to 510,000 tons by 2016. Grupo Mexico, controlled by Mexican billionaire German Larrea, produced 55% of Mexico's copper last year. The company also has operations in the U.S. and Peru. The government's decision was seen by some as a resolution that fails to impose exemplary sanctions on the company. "The price to pay for having caused this huge disaster are 2 billion pesos? It's clearly insufficient," said David Pérez, a Green Party lawmaker who recently visited the mine to investigate the spill. The agreement comes after a special committee of Congress proposed closing the mine and withdrawing the concession after it determined that Grupo Mexico violated several laws at the mine over the years. "The dams to contain any possible spill didn't comply with the standards required by law," said Mr. Pérez. He said Grupo Mexico failed to notify authorities about the spill for five days and that authorities learned of the disaster only after the mayor or Arizpe, a town affected, let them know. Grupo Mexico denies it delayed notifying authorities. The company has said it reacted quickly to stem the spill, including undertaking construction of a retaining wall to reinforce a reservoir it said had overflowed. The company first blamed the incident on heavy rains, but later acknowledged that there were several maintenance flaws in the tank containing the acid. The company has said it would pay all cleanup costs and damages. Officials ruled out the possibility of withdrawing the mining concession. "With the agreement, we guarantee that the company will pay the damages according to the law and also the operations of a mine that creates wealth," said Mr. Guajardo, the economy minister. The spill affected an estimated 24,000 people in seven communities around the Sonora and Bacanuchi rivers. Authorities shut down hundreds water wells and distributed millions of liters of water in trucks and bottles in the aftermath. Dozens of farmers lacked water for their crops. At least five people have sought medical attention after allegedly coming into contact with the polluted waters. A 50-year-old woman had scaly skin on her face and feet after washing herself in the river, according to the Sonora State Health Department. The spill was the latest



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setback for the company's reputation. In 2006, an explosion inside the Pasta de Conchos coal mine that it operated 100 kilometers south of the Texas border, killed 65 miners. Only two bodies were recovered.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/grupo-mexico-to-set-aside-150-million-for-mine-spill-cleanup-1410468455>

### QATAR, DOHA, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. CABINET PANEL TO CHECK SAFETY OF PETROL STATIONS

The State Cabinet has decided to set up a committee to assess and regularly monitor the safety of petrol filling and service stations. Strict monitoring will be done of how these stations store fuel and how they fill up petrol in customers' vehicles, Qatar News Agency (QNA) reported yesterday. More importantly, the committee will be deciding which commercial activities should be housed within the precincts of a petrol station and which one should be removed. Presently, many petrol stations double as commercial complexes with people crowding them as they boast eateries, supermarkets and even laundries. The committee is to be set up at the Ministry of Energy and Industry and will be tasked with upgrading standards and specifications for petrol filling and service stations. The panel will check how far the existing stations are complying with the upgraded standards and specifications involving health and safety. Non-compliance is to be dealt with seriously. How far petrol stations are polluting the environment is also to be checked and made sure that doesn't happen anymore. The Cabinet had actually issued a draft decision earlier ordering the formation of the above-mentioned committee and the State Cabinet, at its weekly meeting yesterday, endorsed it. The committee is to be a permanent feature as a petrol station monitoring agency, it is understood. The government's move to form the committee follows media reports that not all petrol stations in the country are safe. Local newspapers have been talking of the need to upgrade safety standards for petrol stations and ensure compliance by all of them after a devastating incident took place at one of them late in February this year. After the incident, restaurants and cafeterias within the precincts of a petrol station have been barred from using LPG cylinders and tanks. They must instead use electric ovens. The sale of transparent cooking gas cylinders was also banned by supermarkets operating within the precinct of a petrol station. The decision was, however, revoked in respect of some petrol stations later. Members of the Central Municipal Council (CMC) raised the issue of safety of petrol stations in the aftermath of the late February incident and demanded strict monitoring by the authorities concerned. They said that the licence of those petrol stations that are not safe should be cancelled and the eateries be removed from the premises of all filling and service stations without any exception.

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/qatar/299751/cabinet-panel-to-check-safety-of-petrol-stations>

### ENGLAND, LONDON, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. RESEARCH TO DETERMINE THE INCIDENCE, PREVALENCE AND RELATIVE RISK OF ILL HEALTH DUE TO CHEMICAL EXPOSURE IN THE CHEMICAL AND DOWNSTREAM OIL INDUSTRY SECTOR

[PDF Document Download Report](#)

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr1013.pdf>

### USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. FRACKING WORKERS EXPOSED TO DANGEROUS AMOUNTS OF BENZENE, STUDY SAYS



*Oil field technician gauging a flowback tank, during which many are exposed to potentially dangerous amounts of the carcinogen benzene. (NIOSH)*

#### Key Points:

- Workers at fracking operations may breathe dangerous amounts of benzene, study says
- Measurements of air above open tanks at fracking sites reveal more benzene than NIOSH says is safe

Some workers at oil and gas sites where fracking occurs are routinely exposed to high levels of benzene, a colorless gas that can cause cancer, according to a study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The agency,

which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recommends that people limit their benzene exposure to an average of 0.1 of a part per million during their shift. But when NIOSH researchers measured the amount of airborne benzene that oil and gas workers were exposed to when they opened hatches atop tanks at well sites, 15 out of 17 samples were over that amount. Workers must open these hatches to inspect the contents of these tanks, which could include oil, waste water or chemicals used in high-volume hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. The real-time readings taken by researchers show that benzene levels at the wells "reached concentrations that, depending on the length of exposure, potentially pose health risks for



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workers," the researchers [reported](#) in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene. The study examined exposure risks for oil and gas workers during a phase of oil and gas extraction known as flowback. After a well is drilled in a tight geological formation such as shale and then hydraulically fractured to encourage the flow of hydrocarbons, fluids return up the well bore over the course of a month. The flowback contains fracking fluid, waste water, sand, oil and gas dissolved in water. The liquids are separated into constituent substances, including valuable fracking chemicals that can be reused, oil and gas that are stored in production tanks, and waste fluids that are held in flowback tanks. Workers measure the volume of liquids in flowback and production tanks by opening top hatches and inserting so-called gauging sticks into flowback tanks. If the tanks are very deep, workers use hand-cranked gauging tapes to make their measurements. Researchers visited six oil and gas sites in Colorado and Wyoming in the spring and summer of 2013, spending about two days at each site. They outfitted 16 workers at flowback tanks with small devices attached to their shirt collars that sampled the air throughout the day. The key measurements were taken when these workers were standing above the hatch. Over the course of a 12-hour shift, workers open the hatches and stand above them one to four times per hour, breathing in the fumes for two to five minutes each time. This could add up to dangerous levels of exposure to various volatile organic compounds from the chemicals used in fracking, or from the hydrocarbons themselves. Benzene, a component of crude oil, "is of major concern because it can be acutely toxic to the nervous system, liver, and kidneys at high concentrations," the study authors wrote. As the CDC explains, [benzene](#) interferes with the normal workings of cells. "It can cause bone marrow not to produce enough red blood cells, which can lead to anemia," according to the CDC. "Also, it can damage the immune system by changing blood levels of antibodies and causing the loss of white blood cells." Although all but two of the samples recorded average daily benzene exposure above the NIOSH limit, the amounts were still below the far higher limit of 1 part per million set by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The OSHA limit is "the only legally applicable limit," said John Snawder, a NIOSH toxicologist who worked on the study. OSHA limits often tend to be higher than NIOSH standards, in part because of input from industry and other stakeholders. About 562,000 people worked in the domestic oil and gas extraction sector in 2012, and nearly half of them worked for companies that perform fracking and flowback operations, the study said. Little is known about the long-term effects of benzene exposure on oil and gas workers, said Dr. Robert Harrison, director of Occupational Health Services at UC San Francisco. "With the rapid expansion of oil and gas production in the U.S.," the risks posed by benzene are ones "that we would want to pay attention to," he said. NIOSH's research on benzene is part of an ongoing project that it launched in 2005 to assess the scope and variety of chemical exposure risks for oil and gas workers at the extraction phase of industry. Much of the research on oil and gas development's effects on worker health is from the 1980s and 1990s and doesn't take into account new risks that workers might face amid an energy boom spreading through the country, driven by fracking. "Industry has changed and is changing very rapidly," Snawder said. "This is an updated base line of where we stand at this moment." The benzene study follows research NIOSH issued in 2012 indicating that workers were exposed to crystalline silica from sand used at fracking sites. Exposure to crystalline silica can lead to a deadly lung disease called silicosis, lung cancer and other respiratory ailments. OSHA is in the process of finalizing a new silica rule after years of delay, but its tougher standards are being fought by a range of industries. Katie Brown, a spokeswoman with the trade group Energy In Depth, said that the oil and gas industry was committed to worker safety and had worked with NIOSH to allow them on well pads to test workers' exposure risks. The oil and gas sector also has fewer injuries than other industries, she said. "The number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses in the oil and gas industry has significantly declined while production has ramped up to unprecedented levels," Brown said. The oil and gas industry, however, has a fatality rate "of 27.5 per 100,000 workers (2003-2009) – more than seven times higher than the rate for all U.S. workers," according to NIOSH. Most fatalities are the result of accidents. "At least four workers have died since 2010 from what appears to be acute chemical exposures during flowback operations at well sites in the Williston Basin (North Dakota and Montana)," NIOSH reported on its blog. The NIOSH scientists cautioned that the results of their new study were "preliminary," given the small number of workers involved. But despite the limitations, they recommended comprehensive measures to address exposure to benzene, including the development of alternative tank gauging procedures to limit exposure and outfitting workers with respirators. The breadth of the recommendations indicate how serious NIOSH believes the benzene threat to be, said Miriam Rotkin-Ellman, a health scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, which has spotlighted the environmental effects of fracking but is not opposed to it altogether. "Their recommendations are pretty pointed," Rotkin-Ellman said. "They aren't saying we need to study this issue at 15 more places before making these recommendations. These measures are warranted based on these investigations. You read their recommendations, and they say, 'Get these people out of the way of benzene.'"

 **Related Stories** [EPA drastically underestimates methane released at drilling sites](#)

<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-fracking-benzene-worker-health-20140910-story.html#page=1>



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### USA, PA, PITTSBURGH, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. DEP RELEASES UPDATED DETAILS ON WATER CONTAMINATION NEAR DRILLING SITES >> SOME 240 PRIVATE SUPPLIES DAMAGED BY DRILLING IN PAST 7 YEARS

*laura legere*



*Water samples from Hawk Run near Philipsburg will help the Department of Environmental Protection determine the quality of ground water in the area before Marcellus Shale drilling begins.*

Pennsylvania regulators found an array of contaminants in the roughly 240 private water supplies they said were damaged by oil and gas operations during the past seven years. Most were the usual culprits: methane, metals and salt that had apparently seeped from well sites or been stirred up by the activity of extracting fossil fuels from the earth. But on May 14, after the Department of Environmental Protection responded to a Susquehanna County resident's complaint of rank, foamy water, inspectors said they found [something else](#). The water contained volatile organic compounds, ethylene glycol and 2-butoxyethanol — chemicals regulators said were consistent with the surfactant Air Foam that was used to drill a natural gas well 1,500 feet away. That discovery is contained in records DEP released on Aug. 28, when the department posted for the first time an [official tally](#) and supporting documents of water supplies that were damaged by oil and gas activities since the end of 2007. It is the only case where DEP explicitly linked a

drilling operation to the presence of industrial chemicals in drinking water. DEP spokeswoman Colleen Connolly said the chemicals were introduced to the groundwater during the drilling process, not hydraulic fracturing, or fracking — the method of freeing oil or gas from deep rock by cracking it with a high-pressure injection of water, sand and chemicals. The most recent sampling event did not detect the chemicals in the water, she said, and the company presumed responsible for the contamination, Chief Oil and Gas, is providing the home with a temporary replacement water supply. A Chief spokeswoman said the company “worked closely and immediately with the landowner and DEP to investigate the cause of the temporary impact to the individual water well and to resolve it in a timely manner.” But the state and the company do not yet know how the drilling chemicals got into the aquifer that feeds the residential water well. “That’s what we’re trying to determine,” Ms. Connolly said.

#### Details Released

DEP’s list of water supply impacts reveals interesting if inconsistent details about the types of disruptions that have affected homes, businesses, a church camp, even an orchard with 15 goats, as well as how long those problems last and who is blamed. Regulators are required by law to determine within 45 days of getting a drilling-related water complaint if oil and gas operations caused contamination or diminished the flow of water. DEP reports its findings in letters to property owners. On some occasions, it also issues orders to companies to fix the damage when the agency determines — or presumes, based on proximity — that a company was responsible for causing the problems. According to a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette analysis of the letters and enforcement orders detailing the 243 incidents, oil and gas activities degraded water quality in 234 of the cases, either by introducing compounds that weren’t there before or by raising them above standards set for reasons of health, safety, taste or appearance. Sixteen water supplies diminished in flow or went dry because of nearby drilling activities, and seven of the water supplies were affected by both pollution and diminution. Fewer than 200 of the letters and orders identify which compounds were found in the water above drinking water standards or the background levels measured in the water supply before drilling began. The drilling chemicals found this year in the Susquehanna County water well may be the most alarming contaminants on the list, but by far, the most common pollutant is methane, which was reported in 115 of the damaged water supplies. As DEP describes in the letters, methane can be hazardous when it escapes from water and concentrates in confined spaces, creating a danger of fire or explosion. After methane, the most commonly elevated compounds are iron (79 water supplies) and manganese (76 water supplies), followed by two markers of salinity: total dissolved solids (29) and chlorides (25). DEP says many of the complaints have been resolved and the list does not necessarily reflect ongoing impacts. Records for 86 of the incidents specify when the water supply was restored, either on its own or through a remedy provided by a drilling company. Many other letters report steps that operators will or have taken — installing treatment systems, drilling new water wells, paying settlements, patching leaking gas wells. The letters describe 44 of the disturbances as temporary. Only three-quarters of the letters and orders name a company in connection with a disruption, but 47 different oil and gas well operators are represented on the list. Chesapeake Energy is named in the most letters and orders (25), followed by Cabot Oil



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and Gas (23), Catalyst Energy (17), Schreiner Oil and Gas (14) and U.S. Energy Development Corp. (12). Nearly 40 of the letters and orders note that oil and gas operations are presumed — not proven — liable for the problems based on the distance from a water well and the time of the impact. Few of the documents describe what exactly went wrong, but some provide a glimpse of recurring problems: Methane channels through flawed well bores and abandoned wells or is displaced from shallow pockets during drilling to sputter out of faucets, infiltrate basements and bubble up in streams. Sediment from road, pipeline and pit construction clogs spring boxes. The briny fluids and rock waste that are a byproduct of oil and gas extraction seep into shallow water sources from spills, breached pits or other pathways left undefined.

### Number of Well Impacts Fell

A spokesman for the Marcellus Shale Coalition, an industry trade group, identified other trends, including a decrease in the number of water well impacts between 2010 and 2014. "We believe this is attributable to the collaboration between state regulators and the industry to strengthen the regulations that govern oil and natural gas development, including well construction and cementing standards," spokesman Patrick Creighton said. More Pennsylvanians rely on private water wells than residents of all but one other state, but the water wells are largely unregulated, and they often fail at least one drinking water standard. All of the most commonly elevated compounds DEP associated with drilling-related disruptions are also frequently present in Pennsylvania groundwater under natural conditions. Given the number of private water wells — more than 1 million — and the number of conventional and shale oil and gas wells drilled during the time frame covered by DEP's list — 20,000 — "the percentage of water wells impacted is statistically very low," Mr. Creighton said. "First and foremost, as an industry (both conventional and unconventional), we're working towards zero events and continually refine and improve practices to achieve that goal," he said.

### Some Lasting Effects

For property owners, the effect of a water supply disruption can linger years past the date when DEP approves a plan to fix it. David Buck, who runs Endless Mountain Outfitters along the Susquehanna River in Bradford County, saw the naturally present methane in water wells at two of his rental properties increased after gas wells were drilled nearby. DEP eventually listed his wells among 17 water supplies tainted with methane that Chesapeake Energy was responsible to restore under the terms of a 2011 enforcement agreement that carried a record fine. The company installed and maintains complex treatment systems on the properties, he said, and the methane levels, though still elevated, have decreased. But he can't say he's completely satisfied with the solution. The properties are for sale and the treatment systems — which, he estimated, cover a 6-by-4-foot area — "are not just like a little filter down in the basement." "I'm just trying to figure out what the loss in value of a property is that's got a water treatment system on it," he said. "That effect? I have no idea."

### List to be Revised

The number of affected water supplies has shifted and it will shift again. In July, DEP gave an early version of its official list to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette with 209 entries. By the time it posted its list to its website on Aug. 28, DEP had added 34 cases to reflect new determinations it had made and old determinations that had been overlooked during its first search of its files. DEP now plans to revise the list to remove five duplicate entries related to a 2010 gas migration case in McKean County, spokeswoman Morgan Wagner said. It also plans to keep the list updated with new water supply impacts as they are confirmed and add further detail to the list by designating which cases are related to unconventional, shale gas operations versus traditional, conventional operations. "This interactive spreadsheet represents the first statewide effort to create a dynamic, comprehensive list of all private water supply impacts from oil and gas activities," Ms. Wagner said. "While the department is confident in the thoroughness of its review, efforts will continue in our regional offices to ensure the information is accurate and up-to-date." What the list doesn't include, except on rare occasions, are records of private agreements reached between drilling companies and landowners to resolve water complaints, even when DEP is aware of them. Three cases on the list, in Washington County [last year](#) and Bradford County [in February](#), describe a damage release agreement and a waiver of additional water tests that residents signed with gas well operators after DEP opened its investigations. DEP officials have acknowledged that the agency doesn't typically issue violation notices or determination letters or assess fines when water contamination complaints are privately settled. That practice was sharply criticized in a special audit of the oil and gas program released by the Auditor General in July, which said it gives the impression, whether real or not, that companies can "make a deal" and avoid a blemish on their record. It also risks undercounting the actual incidence of harm. In an interview, Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said that without records of those private settlements, "it's not an accurate total, and it's certainly not open and transparent." Ms. Wagner said the department is currently revising its compliance and enforcement policy to address privately reached agreements. The policy is expected to be published for public comment soon. The department is also creating a standard template across regional offices to establish required information and improve



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consistency in its determination letters and records, she said. Mr. DePasquale commended DEP for making those improvements and for releasing the information, but he questioned the completeness of the list. His audit studied 15 instances when DEP made water supply impact determinations, but his office found only eight of those cases on the list posted on DEP's website. He said the changing totals reveal the depth of the record-keeping problems he identified in the audit. "A month ago it was 209. Today it's 243," he said. "That, to me, is very clear that DEP has a lot of work to do to get full and accurate information."

### Related Stories

- [Yale study cites health risks for those living near shale gas wells](#)
- [Shale drillers' landfill records don't match those of Pennsylvania DEP](#)
- [DEP aims to put abandoned oil and gas wells on the map](#)

<http://powersource.post-gazette.com/powersource/consumers-powersource/2014/09/09/Marcellus-Shale-boom-is-triggering-land-wars/stories/201409070032>

### **NIGERIA, LAGOS, SEPTEMBER 12 2014. GRIDLOCK IN LAGOS AS PETROL TANKER OVERTURNS**

*bose adelaja*

A 33,000-litretanker, fully loaded with petrol, fell at Anthony bus-stop on Ikorodu road, spilling its content in the process and causing serious gridlock along the axis. According to eye witnesses, the tanker was heading for Ikorodu from Apapa when the accident occurred around 5.05 am. The resultant traffic gridlock lasted for hours although the timely intervention of fire fighters; Lagos State Transport Management Agency, LASTMA, officials and other law enforcement agents prevented a fire outbreak in the area. The tanker with number plate, XE187KRD, belonging to a major marketer, was said to be heading for Ikorodu when it fell and spilled its content such that street urchins popularly called Area boys took advantage of the situation to scoop fuel. The driver of the tanker whose name could not be ascertained, was said to have been rescued by sympathisers. When Vanguard arrived the scene yesterday, the service lane of the road had been condoned off while many road users made frantic calls to their neighbours asking them to avoid the route. Anthony Zonal Commander of LASTMA, Ayuba Akinpelu, said the gridlock would have been worse if it had occurred on the inner axis of the road. "It prevented vehicles on the expressway to link Anthony, so we diverted traffic to the main carriageway. Those from Anthony bridge linking Ikorodu Road to inward Maryland were making use of both lanes on the carriageways of the express road. If the incident had occurred in the evening, we would have found it difficult to control the traffic," he said. Director, Lagos State Fire Services, Razaq Fadipe, said the situation was put under control at about 7.30 am.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201409110096.html>

### **USA, KY, LOUISVILLE, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. CUSTOMERS OF NEW ALBANY GAS STATION END UP WITH MORE WATER THAN GAS**

 **Watch the Video:** [Customers End Up with More Water than Gas](#)

Customers at a southern Indiana gas station thought they were filling up their cars with gas, but instead got mostly water. The Shell Station-Circle K on Grant Line Road, near Daisy Lane in New Albany, says heavy rains Wednesday night and early Thursday flooded its tanks. They were not aware of the problem until the station started receiving complaints from customers who were having problems with their engines because of water in the gas tank. The station, which is still open, says the problem was fixed on Thursday, and is now asking customers having engine problems to call or stop by and ask for a manager. The company says it's dealing with insurance claims.

<http://www.wdrb.com/story/26517198/customers-of-new-albany-gas-station-end-up-with-more-water-than-gas>

### **USA, WASHINGTON DC, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. FAA PENALIZES FIVE COMPANIES FOR SAFETY, HAZMAT VIOLATIONS**

*jeffrey dastin*

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration proposed a combined total of more than \$430,000 in penalties for five companies on Friday, including FedEx Corp, British Airways and a unit of American Airlines Group, for alleged violations of safety and hazardous material regulations. The FAA proposed that British Airways pay a \$195,000 (150,590 pounds) penalty for allegedly asking its partner American Airlines to ship a highly flammable oxygen generator, forbidden as cargo on passenger flights, from London to Dallas on Aug. 14, 2012. Separately, the FAA recommended a fine of \$65,000 for FedEx for supposedly failing to inspect a package with two paint cans, one of which leaked during transit, in violation of rules on transporting hazardous



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materials. It also proposed a \$60,000 penalty for American Eagle Airlines, part of American Airlines Group, for not following approved de-icing procedures for certain flights from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The other two companies were not air carriers, but were accused of not declaring flammable liquids that were shipped by air, and they faced combined penalties of \$111,600. Each company has either scheduled or requested a meeting with the FAA to discuss the fines, the FAA said. "Our goal is 100 (percent) compliance," Bonny Harrison, a FedEx spokesperson, said in an emailed statement. "FedEx Express made the proper notification to the FAA when the incident occurred. At no time was the safety of the public or our team members at risk." A spokesperson for American Airlines Group said in an email that the company is reviewing the notice and will meet with the FAA soon. British Airways was not immediately available for comment.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/12/uk-faa-airlines-fines-idUKKBN0H72I920140912>

### USA, CA, SAN DIEGO, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. FUEL TANKER STUCK ON HILLSIDE OFF SR-905

*matt rascon & r. stickney*

 **Watch the Video:** [Fuel Tanker Stuck On Hillside](#)

 **Watch the Video:** [Full Gas Tanker Careens off Highway near Otay Mesa](#)

NBC 7's Matt Rascon reports on the challenging situation for CHP and hazmat crews after a fuel tanker crash-lands on a hillside off the highway. A fuel tanker drove off a San Diego area highway, knocked out a power pole and landed on a hillside. The tanker drove off the eastbound State Route 905 in Otay Mesa near the U.S.- Mexico border around 10 p.m. Thursday. The fact that the tanker is carrying 8700 gallons of fuel and was in such a precarious position created a challenge for emergency crews. "It's been out here on the scene has been surprised that it hasn't overturned," said CHP Sgt. Sofia Mosqueda. "It's pretty amazing. The tanker drove off the highway and into a ditch before resting on the embankment near Caliente Avenue. The first step was to bring in another fuel tanker and offload most of the combustible fuel inside the damaged truck. Then, crews worked to remove fencing at the top of the embankment. By 8 a.m., the tanker had been removed from the hillside. Two lanes were reopened to traffic heading eastbound along the highway that runs just north of San Ysidro High School.

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Fuel-Tanker-Otay-Mesa-San-Diego-Ysidro-Crash-SR-905-Truck-274883771.html>

### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. NSW TO BAN PETROL-POWERED BICYCLES

Petrol-powered bicycles will be outlawed under a new plan to curb deaths on NSW's roads, the state government says. The ban comes after three people died while riding petrol-powered bikes in NSW last year, including a 14-year-old boy in Sydney's west. Another 40 were injured. The ban will begin on October 1. Under the government's new rules all bikes with internal combustion engines will be banned, with fines of up to \$2500 for those breaking the law. The electric pedelec bikes still be allowed. Roads minister Duncan Gay said many of the petrol-powered bikes were "backyard jobs", which weren't built safely. "We've seen too many injuries and lives lost because of these bikes," Mr Gay said on Friday. "These bikes can travel at high speeds but their brakes and other safety components are only designed for standard bikes. "This means they take much longer to stop than a standard bike." The new laws close a loophole that allowed petrol-powered bikes to be on NSW roads while petrol-powered skateboards and scooters were banned. The rules follow restrictions already in place in Queensland.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/a/24978356/nsw-to-ban-petrol-powered-bicycles/>

### USA, S.C, WEST ASHLEY, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. COMPLAINTS FILED AFTER MIX-UP AT WEST ASHLEY GAS STATION



A West Ashley gas station is accepting claims from drivers who believe their vehicles were damaged by a gas line mistake. Unleaded fuel was present in the diesel fuel tank at the Kangaroo Express store at 904 St. Andrews Blvd. for a period of several days, according to a spokeswoman. The mix-up happened from August 28th through September 2nd of this year. "This was an isolated incident and we're working closely with the vendor to ensure it does not happen again," Spokeswoman Sarah Haas said. Customers who believe their vehicles can submit a claim at [www.kangarooexpress.com/fuelguarantee](http://www.kangarooexpress.com/fuelguarantee) or by calling 1-800-476-7574. One family told Live 5 News they were alerted of the problem after their truck began to make unusual sounds. They say a mechanic told them repairs would cost up to \$17,000.

<http://www.live5news.com/story/26512998/complaints-filed-after-mix-up-at-west-ashley-gas-station>



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### IRELAND, CO LOUTH, DROGHEDAIN, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. SHOCK AS MUM OF THREE DIES IN FIREWORKS EXPLOSION

*hubert murphy*

A Drogheda man and his three young children have been left devastated after the death of Polly Connor (46) in England last week. Mum of three Polly, married former jockey Damien Connor in 2011 and they lived in Kendal, Cumbria for the last 10 years. She met her 46-year-old husband while working in the racing industry. The couple have three children, Molly, 15, Daisy, 13, and Oscar, 10. Mrs Connor died while making preparations for a fireworks display at Ecclerigg, near Windermere. It was part of a wedding celebration. It is believed there was going to be a big fireworks display later in the evening at the grand finale of the reception. She was working in an official capacity at the time. Guests at the reception on the shores of Lake Windermere fled in terror when they heard the explosion and then saw smoke and fireworks. They reported hearing a 'massive explosion' after the fireworks went off in a nearby outbuilding. It sparked a huge fire. The celebrations were cancelled as fire crews rushed to the scene just a few yards from the edge of the famed lake. Polly's mother, Penny, said their daughter 'was our sunshine and now she's disappeared. You always felt better for seeing her. Words simply cannot adequately describe our loss, particularly that of her husband Damien and children who she absolutely adored and was so incredibly proud of.' Mrs Connor was a plumber by trade and worked around the world, having also been clerk of the course for the Macau Jockey Club at one stage. Police and the fire service are investigating the circumstances that led to the fire. A man working with her on the fireworks show was also killed.

<http://www.independent.ie/regionals/droghedaindependent/news/shock-as-mum-of-three-dies-in-fireworks-explosion-30575761.html>

### USA, FLA, SARASOTA CO, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. TANKER TRUCK DRIVER WHO CRASHED ON I-75 DIES

 **Watch the Video:** [Tanker Truck Driver Dies](#)



Hazardous materials personnel sprayed a suppression foam over the area where a tanker overturned on Interstate 75 in Sarasota County Wednesday, south of the Fruitville Road exit, leaking more than 7,000 gallons of gasoline. The driver who crashed a tanker last month on Interstate 75 has died. Thomas Grattan, 71, of Brooksville, died at 12:20 a.m. Friday at Blake Medical Center from injuries sustained in the crash, according to the Florida Highway Patrol. Grattan was driving southbound on Aug. 27 near mile marker 209 early that morning, when the tanker veered through the median and across the northbound lanes, crashing into a ditch. Northbound lanes were closed to traffic for 11 hours as crews worked to clean up gas leaked from the tanker. The cause of the crash is still under investigation

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20140912/BREAKING/140919886/-1/news?Title=Tanker-truck-driver-who-crashed-on-I-75-dies->

### USA, W.VA, FRAMETOWN, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. WV DEP INSPECTOR REVIEWING SITE OF TANKER SPILL IN BRAXTON COUNTY

*jeffrey a. morris & taisha walker*

 **Watch the Video:** [WV Dep Inspector Reviewing Site of Tanker Spill](#)

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection said its inspector was at the site of an Interstate 79 accident that occurred Thursday where a tanker on a semi ruptured. The DEP doesn't believe any of the spilled condensate made it to the stream, according to a news release from the DEP. Booms are in place just in case. About 4:15 p.m. Thursday, a tanker truck owned by Spirit Services (the same outfit that had an incident a few weeks ago at its facility in Nitro) went through a guardrail and over an embankment at southbound mile marker 53 of I-79 in Braxton County, the DEP said. The driver sustained some bruises and needed stitches, but DEP was informed his injuries did not appear to be serious. The truck was carrying about 4,500 gallons of condensate from a well pad. A company representative told the DEP the material was from a dehydration unit. The water is removed from the natural gas and then distilled before it is transported. There could be some hydrocarbons and chlorides but not as much as would be expected to find in brine. Even though the tanker was placarded as flammable, the material wasn't as hazardous as originally thought since it was mostly water, the DEP said. The tanker was punctured and most of the condensate spilled and was in danger of entering a tributary of the Elk River. As a precaution, water utilities with



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intakes downstream on the Elk – including Clay, Prociuous and West Virginia American Water – were notified. DEP had an inspector on site and also sent an emergency response unit. Based on his observations, the inspector doesn't believe any of the spilled material reached the stream, the agency said. Booms were put in place just in case and an underflow dam was constructed. This type of dam uses a tube to allow water beneath the surface to flow through the dam while the material floating on top is trapped. The material from the truck that didn't spill was removed. As of midnight, the site was environmentally secure and everyone had rolled out. The plan on Friday is to remove the wreckage and begin soil remediation. The truck also spilled about 80 gallons of diesel fuel, but it was contained to the site.

<http://www.wchstv.com/news/features/eyewitness-news/stories/WV-DEP-Inspector-Reviewing-Site-Of-Tanker-Spill-In-Braxton-County-38367.shtml#.VBPjysanrww>

### USA, MT, MISSOULA CO, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. FIRE CREWS RESPOND TO FUEL SPILL AFTER CAR ROLLS INTO GAS PUMP

Fire crews responded to a call this morning at around 7:10 a.m., after a car rolled into a gas pump. The accident happened at the junction of I-90 and Highway 93 North at the Town Pump. Around 50 to 100 gallons of gas spilled out in the parking lot. The spill has since been cleaned up. The driver was inside the gas station at the time of the accident. The car had minor damage to the trunk of the car. The Frenchtown Rural Fire District crew responded to the spill.

<http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/fire-crews-respond-to-spill-after-car-rolls-into-gas-pump/28028552>

### USA, W,VA, BRANCLAND, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. DRIVER DIES FROM INJURIES IN LINCOLN TANKER TRUCK WRECK

State Police said a driver has died from his injuries after being ejected from a truck that was hauling a tanker in Branchland in Lincoln County. The driver was identified by State Police as Laverne Gillete, 47, of Grayson, Ky.. Lincoln 911 said the wreck occurred about 6 a.m. Friday on McClellan Highway in Branchland. One lane of the road was open about 12:15 p.m.

**Update:** A driver was ejected from a truck hauling a tanker in a wreck in Lincoln County, and the tanker leaked thousands of gallons of petroleum asphalt. Lincoln County 911 said the accident occurred about 6 a.m. Friday on McClellan Highway in Branchland. One lane of traffic was flowing about 11 a.m. The accident initially closed the road. The driver's condition was not available.

<http://www.wchstv.com/news/features/eyewitness-news/stories/Driver-Ejected-From-Vehicle-In-Lincoln-Tanker-Truck-Wreck-38455.shtml#.VBpMkManrww>

### ENGLAND, PLYMOUTH, SEPTEMBER 14 2014. OIL POLLUTION OFF THE PLYMOUTH COAST INVESTIGATED BY EMERGENCY SERVICES



Emergency services have investigated a number of reports of an oil slick off the coast of Plymouth. Calls were made to organisations including the Coastguard at around midday on Saturday. They report oil pollution close to the site of the popular dive wreck the James Eagan Lane. The SS James Eagan Layne was a Liberty ship beached and sunk off Whitsand Bay during World War Two. It is not known where the oil originated in the busy stretch of coast, with a large number of fishing vessels, pleasure craft and at least one large tanker currently in the stretch. A spokesman for Brixham Coastguard said: "We had reports from numerous dive rhibs of oil pollution in the area of the wreck of the James Eagan Layne. "The pollution is not likely to reach the shore and should break up in the water."

<http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/Oil-pollution-Plymouth-coast-investigated/story-22921085-detail/story.html>

### IRAQ, BAGHDAD, SEPTEMBER 14 2014. ISLAMIC STATE BOMBS IRAQ OIL REFINERY AS U.S. HARDENS STANCE

*kadhim Ajrash & Khalid Al-Ansary*

Islamic State militants set fire to an oil storage tank at Iraq's largest refinery as the U.S. prepares to escalate the campaign against the extremist group. Militants fired mortar rounds at the Baiji refinery, 130 miles north of Baghdad, causing a crude storage tank to catch fire and emit a plume of smoke visible from miles away, the police said in a statement read over the phone by an officer. "The fire could go on for two or three days as there is no civil defense to put it out," police said in the



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statement, without indicating how much oil the tank contained. "The situation in the refinery's perimeter is quiet now." Islamic State militants have attacked the refinery several times since June as they seek to secure fuel and funding for a so-called caliphate they proclaimed in areas stretching over the Iraqi-Syrian border. They already control oil producing regions in eastern Syria. The Baiji refinery has an installed capacity of 310,000 barrels a day and the storage tank that came under attack belongs to a group that typically contain 100,000 barrels each, Saad Al-Obaidi, a protection force personnel at the plant, said by phone. The plant stopped working in June. The U.S. appointed John R. Allen, a retired Marine general who served in Afghanistan and in Iraq, to coordinate the international effort against the IS, the New York Times said Sept. 11, citing administration officials.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-13/islamic-state-bombs-iraq-oil-refinery-tank-catches-fire.html>

### USA, W VA, BRAXTON CO, SEPTEMBER 13 2014. CHEMICAL LEAK REPORTED FOLLOWING TANKER ACCIDENT ALONG INTERSTATE 79

 **Watch the Video:** [Chemical Leak Reported Following Tanker Accident](#)

According to Carrie Bly, spokesperson with the WV Department of Transportation, one southbound lane has been reopened, and that there will be a lane closure throughout the rest of the night and early Friday morning, September 12. Bly also says that cleanup crews will return sometime Friday morning to resume work.

Update 10:00 p.m.

According to Kelley Gillenwater, "the material that didn't spill from the truck has been removed and dam construction is underway. That work is expected to last a couple hours." Gillenwater goes on to say that "the plan is to open at least one lane of the interstate after the dam construction is complete and to try to keep one lane open during the wreckage removal and site remediation."

<http://www.wowktv.com/story/26511819/chemical-leak-reported-following-tanker-accident-along-interstate-79>

### USA, ORE, SALEM, SEPTEMBER 14 2014. FUEL LEAKS INTO PRINGLE CREEK IN TRAIN ENGINE ACCIDENT

*jocce dewitt*

An engine accident on Union Pacific railroad tracks north of Madrona Avenue caused a rupture in a 2,500 gallon fuel tank. Fuel from the tank has leaked into nearby Pringle Creek. Mike Gotterba, spokesman for City of Salem Public Works, said that multiple agencies, including a regional HAZMAT team are at the scene. "There is some activity going on to contain this to see how far down the stream it has gone," Gotterba said. The train involved was a switch engine with no passengers. There were no injuries reported. Gotterba said that traffic has not been impacted by the incident.

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/local/2014/09/12/multiple-agencies-on-scene-but-no-injuries-reported/15539891/>

### CANADA, AB, ST ALBERT, SEPTEMBER 14 2014. OVERFILLED TANK CAUSES DIESEL SPILL AT CITADEL CARE CENTRE >> LOW RISK TO ENVIRONMENT, CITY

*amy crofts*



**Spill** – Firefighters were called out to 25 Erin Ridge Road around 2 p.m. on Sept. 11 to contain an estimated 200 to 300 litres of diesel fuel which spilled from a generator.

Human error was the cause of a diesel spill in the basement of Citadel Care Centre on Thursday. Firefighters were called out to 25 Erin Ridge Road around 2 p.m. on Sept. 11 to contain an estimated 200 to 300 litres of diesel fuel. A new contractor was filling the building's back up generator with diesel and might not have been familiar with the system, said Mike Boss, fire investigator with the City of St. Albert. "There is a safeguard in place, but ... the operator made an error when filling and overfilled substantially. A fair amount did go down into the sanitary sewer." The generator's tank can hold up to 1,200 litres. Firefighters mopped up as much as they could and contained the spill using Hazmat absorbent socks and pillows. The ventilation system was also re-directed so the

odour would not permeate the rest of the building, explained Boss. The building was deemed safe enough so that no Citadel residents or staff were evacuated. Public works and personnel from the city's office of environment were also called in. Staff went to the closest inspection manhole for the sanitary line and observed an oily sheen over the water, said Jeff Yanew,



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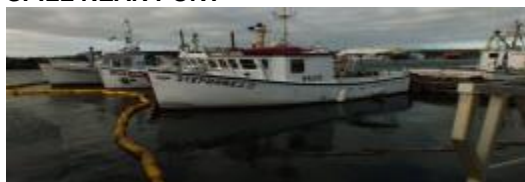
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environmental co-ordinator with the city. It is difficult to know how much fuel flowed into the sanitary collection system, he said. Staff immediately put out a hydrocarbon absorbent boom in the channel to catch any residual diesel. Petroleum hydrocarbons products such as diesel float on top of water and can be skimmed off. Overall, risk to the environment is low, said Yanew. The sanitary sewer system is a "closed loop system" that delivers water straight to the Alberta and Capital Regional Wastewater Commission Plant. "It (won't) leach out and effect soil, ground water or storm water," he explained. "From the environment standpoint, we're pretty lucky that it did go into the sanitary system. It going into the sanitary system is a lot better than it going into the storm system, which goes right to the river." The spill was reported to Alberta Environment and city staff will continue to monitor the inspection manhole outside Citadel, said Yanew. The owner or party responsible will be billed for the cost of clean-up materials and fire services response, added Boss. Quantum Murray, an environmental and industrial services company, was called in to dispose of the resultant hazardous waste.

<http://www.stalbertgazette.com/article/20140913/SAG0801/309139986>

### CANADA, QC, LES ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE, SEPTEMBER 14 2014. MAGDALEN ISLANDS CLEANING UP DIESEL SPILL NEAR PORT




*Booms line the port waters in Cap-aux-Meules in the Magdalen Islands in an effort to contain spilled diesel that might have leaked into the port.*

Spill happened along pipeline connecting Cap-aux-Meules port and Hydro-Québec station. Authorities are working to contain a diesel spill along a pipeline near the harbour of Cap-aux-Meules in the Magdalen Islands. Hydro-Québec emergency teams and Coast Guard environmental response personnel are at the site trying to clean up the spill, which

authorities say could involve up to 50,000 litres of diesel fuel. Jonathan Lapierre, the mayor of the Magdalen Islands, said the leak happened somewhere along a pipeline connecting the port to a Hydro-Québec station. "We've closed all the valves along the line to stop the flow of diesel between the two places," he said. Most of the fuel spilled on land near the harbour, and Lapierre said it's believed only a minimal amount entered the water. Excavators were at work along the line to try to find the source of the leak. "It's a serious situation, but all the equipment and teams are in place to ensure it's cleaned without delay and with as little impact on the environment as possible," Lapierre said.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/magdalen-islands-cleaning-up-diesel-spill-near-port-1.2765388>

### BRAZIL, SÃO PAULO, SEPTEMBER 14 2014. FIRE INJURES SIX AT PETROBRAS REFINERY IN BRAZIL

 **Watch the Video:** [Fire at Brazil's third-largest refinery injures six people](#)

A fire at a refinery operated by Brazil's state-run oil company Petrobras left six workers injured in Sao Paulo state on Thursday but operations were continuing normally, the company said. The petroleum workers' union has warned of deteriorating conditions at Petroleo Brasileiro SA, as the company is formally known. On Aug. 20, a worker died by severe burning at a refinery in the city of Manaus. The Henrique Lage refinery, known as Revap, has the capacity to process 252,000 barrels per day in the city of São José dos Campos, making it the country's third largest refinery. The Brazilian union for petroleum workers, or FUP, has said Petrobras' refineries are operating at more than 95 percent of capacity in an effort to reduce money-losing imports, with maintenance being cut back to dangerously low levels. Petrobras said the fire was under control and the firm would provide assistance to the workers and their families. A spokesman for the local health department in São José dos Campos said that two men who suffered burns were in serious condition at the local hospital but were not at risk of death.

#### Related Stories

- [Fire at Brazil's third-largest refinery injures six people](#)
- [Fire at Brazil Third-Largest Refinery Injures Six](#)
- [Petrobras Worker Dies from Burns in Refinery Explosion](#)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL1N0RC2B720140911>

### USA, PA, PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER 14 2014. NAVY SETTLES ALLEGED ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS AT NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY HAMPTON ROADS

roy seneca

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reached a settlement with the U.S. Navy over alleged environmental violations at the Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads in Chesapeake, Va. The settlement will help reduce potentially harmful



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discharges and protect the public and environment from exposure to potentially harmful substances. Under the settlement over violations of the Clean Air Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Navy will pay a \$49,500 penalty and implement procedures to ensure the proper handling of its hazardous wastes. The Clean Air Act violations pertained to regulations designed to reduce discharges of ozone-depleting substances used as coolants in air conditioning units. EPA alleged that the facility did not perform leak rate calculations when it serviced those units. In addition, EPA alleged that the facility did not have a CAA permit to operate a diesel-fired boiler, which meant that the boiler was not subject to required emissions limits. The RCRA violations pertained to regulations that require the safe, environmentally-sound storage and disposal of hazardous waste and prevention of spills from underground storage tanks. The Navy has upgraded its underground storage tanks, which should help protect waters in the nearby Great Dismal Swamp.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/5fd02ae62bf8211085257d51004fee2e!openDocument>

### PHILIPPINES, MINDANAO, DAVAO CITY, SEPTEMBER 14 2014. DENR-EMB TO SUMMON PARTIES IN DAVAO CITY CHEMICAL SPILL

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau will summon for questioning the parties involved in a chemical spill that forced the suspension of classes at a school in Davao City last week. Among those summoned to a technical conference are the consignee and broker of the hazardous formic acid that spilled near Kapitan Tomas Monteverde Central Elementary School, MindaNews reported. [EMB toxic, chemical, hazardous waste](#) management staff Romina Legal identified those invited to the meeting as Amado Dee, the owner of the chemicals; and broker Fely Morata. They are to meet with the Bureau of Fire Protection, Business Bureau, and officials of Barangay 3-A to discuss the spill. City Council environment committee chair Leonardo Avila III said the chemical spill raised questions about how the city dealt with hazardous materials and how they are transported. Avila called for an inter-agency quick response team that would address such situations. "I found out that the spill happened as early as 1 a.m., and the people there didn't know who to call," Avila said. According to the MindaNews report, seven workers of the consignee were treated at the City Health Office for dizziness after they inhaled the chemical while cleaning the mess. Investigation by the City Health Office showed the container truck carrying the plastic containers overturned because it was parked on a loose part of the road. The EMB's initial findings also showed the spill happened around 1:45 a.m. of September 4, when the truck with 800 plastic containers overturned. Only three of the 20-liter containers spilled their contents. The cargo was picked up from the Sasa wharf September 3, at around 4 p.m. The cargo was imported from Xingang, China. Driver Regildo Tigdo was instructed to transport the container van to Ponciano Reyes Street and to park in front of Matitot Eatery, across the Kapitan Tomas Elementary School.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/379008/news/regions/denr-emb-to-summon-parties-in-davao-city-chemical-spill>

### ISRAEL, TEL AVIV, SEPTEMBER 14 2014. CONTAMINATED LAND AWAITS A CLEANUP IN ISRAEL

*nimrod bousso*

Lots of sites that could be used for badly needed housing are too dangerous. But who's going to pay the \$2.5 billion bill to clean them up?

Near the border between Tel Aviv and Givatayim sits a large plot of land that has stood unused for 17 years. For nearly half a century until 1997, a plant belonging to state-owned Israel Military Industries operated on the 44-dunam (11-acre) site. Normally, such a large chunk of government-owned land in such a sought-after area wouldn't remain unsold and undeveloped for long. The problem is that the plant, named Magen, used hazardous materials like heavy metals and cyanide. For years, most of the plant's hazardous waste flowed untreated into cesspools at the site, contaminating the land and groundwater. The ruined soil had to be removed to the Ramat Hovav disposal site in the Negev, and wells in the area were closed. But, ad hoc, hazardous waste was buried in pits at the site; the exact location is still unknown. To make matters worse, 14 years ago, the water authorities discovered high levels of pollution of the underground reservoirs caused by chemicals, some of them cancer-causing. Some of these chemicals have leaked into the coastal aquifer. It's impossible to do much with such badly poisoned land, even in the current red-hot property market. The story of the IMI Magen plant, like that of IMI's Sharon complex east of Ramat Hasharon and Herzliya, has received lots of media attention amid the government's plans to sell the land for residential construction. But new research conducted for the Environmental Protection Ministry by LDD Advanced Technologies, a consulting firm that specializes in soil and groundwater issues, shows that much more land is probably contaminated. All told, there are 23,100 potentially contaminated sites in Israel covering 4,069 dunams (1,005 acres), not including fuel pipelines. According to the report, the estimated cost for cleaning this up is 8.9 billion shekels (\$2.5 billion).



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#### Military Bases, Landfills and More

The worst offenders, both historically and today, are private businesses. The report says the private sector is responsible for about 3 billion shekels of the clean-up costs, almost one-third of the total, covering 1,168 dunams. The second worst offender is the defense industry. Even though companies in this sector polluted just 365 dunams, they did much more damage, putting the cleanup cost at around 1.5 billion shekels. Another major polluter is the military, which over the years has contaminated more than 1,000 dunams. Here the estimated price tag is 795 million shekels. Other guilty sectors also have hefty estimated cleanup costs: landfills at 1.43 billion shekels, industrial settling and treatment ponds at 600 million shekels, gas stations at 556 million shekels, oil depots at 414 million shekels, fuel pipelines at 335 million shekels and refineries at 322 million shekels. The survey was conducted as part of the Environmental Protection Ministry's efforts to pass legislation banning land pollution and restoring whatever is contaminated. A bill gained traction in the Knesset in 2011 but has since gotten stuck. The ministry hopes to bring the bill up for discussion in the Knesset Interior and Environment Committee after parliament reopens on October 26, but to do so all ministries involved must agree. Otherwise, the legislative process will restart from the very beginning. If the bill reaches the committee quickly, it will be because officials realize that contamination is a main barrier to releasing available land for construction in the center of the country, says Shuli Nezer, a deputy director general of the Environmental Protection Ministry. "It's something the government will have to deal with if it wants to lead and create housing quickly and cheaply. Most of the main actors have understood this," Nezer says. "The treasury has understood it, and we're working with the [Finance Ministry's] budgets division and the Government Companies Authority to complete the legislative process."

#### Creative Financing

If the bill passes, the costs for the government will be heavy too. The central government will be responsible for at least a quarter of the burden, or 2.3 billion shekels. State-owned companies will be responsible for another 1.1 billion shekels, and local authorities 1.4 billion shekels. All told, the government will be responsible for 4.8 billion shekels, over half the total. Private entities will be responsible for 2.6 billion shekels, but there's no address for the remaining 1.1 billion shekels. In these cases, the polluters no longer exist; for example, the companies might have gone bankrupt years ago. Or it's simply not clear who's responsible. The secret to funding the cleanup is creative financing. An example is the IMI complex in Ramat Hasharon, where money from the sale of land for residential projects will cover the costs, Nezer says. She says there's a window of opportunity to decontaminate the polluted land. The two main ways are privatization and the sale of the contaminated land for construction, in which case the buyer must pay for the cleanup. Another way is the military's transfer of large bases to the Negev, which is expected to free up a land that is probably contaminated. This includes the Tel Hashomer, Tzrifin and Sirkin bases in the center of the country. But Nezer says the ministry isn't happy that an ad hoc solution has been found for each polluted site, so the ministry is keen to get the bill passed. Of course, there will be opposition to a law with such a steep price. To get the treasury on board, one idea is to spread out the government's costs over 25 years. But such a step would make it harder for the government to demand action from the private sector, which is demanding the same financing conditions as the state for implementing the law.

<http://www.haaretz.com/business/1.615416>

#### HERO SAVES MAN'S LIFE AFTER CRASHING INTO GAS STATION PUMP

- *Anyone have any history or location of this incident ? [Ed]*
- *[Wonders why no fire extinguishers were accessed or used?]*

 **Watch the Video:** [Watch the Hero in Action.](#)

The driver is damn lucky to be alive.... Who knows what caused this driver to crash into a fuel pump at top speed. From the angle of the security camera all we see is the approach to the pump and him just crushing it. Hard. A fire immediately erupts and a very brave, plain-clothed cop rushes in to pull him out of the car despite the imminent danger. Shortly after, our hero grabs the unconscious driver as the blaze gets seriously out of control. Had he not been there this man would almost certainly have been killed. Hats off to the officer just doing his job, keeping the public safe. Watch the hero in action here.

<http://www.carbuzz.com/news/2014/9/13/Hero-Saves-Man-s-Life-After-Crashing-Into-Gas-Station-Pump-7722537/>

#### USA, AZ, KINGMAN, SEPTEMBER 15 2014. KINGMAN PROPERTIES TO GET TESTING FOR CONTAMINATION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it will begin studying hundreds of residential properties in Kingman that may have been contaminated by World War II Army shooting ranges. The Kingman Daily Miner reported Corps officials announced the plan Tuesday during a meeting at Mohave Community College. Officials will investigate approximately 284 residential lots



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starting next month and the study is expected to last two years. According to engineers, more than 36,000 soldiers trained at 15 skeet ranges between 1943 and 1946. The soldiers used clay pigeons that possibly contained some toxic material as well as lead bullets. A 2010 Corps inspection found 59 properties were contaminated. The Corps said more funding will be needed if further cleanup is necessary.

[http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/kingman-properties-to-get-testing-for-contamination/article\\_4a06dc3e-3be1-11e4-9aca-03ba90ea3a23.html](http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/kingman-properties-to-get-testing-for-contamination/article_4a06dc3e-3be1-11e4-9aca-03ba90ea3a23.html)

### ENGLAND, TORBAY, BRIXHAM, SEPTEMBER 15 2014. BRIXHAM COASTGUARD INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF OIL SLICK >> COASTGUARD INVESTIGATED REPORTS OF AN OIL SLICK OFF SOUTH DEVON

Brixham coastguards were alerted after numerous people reported an oil slick off the South Devon coast. Calls were made to organisations including the Coastguard at around midday on Saturday. They report oil pollution close to the site of the popular dive wreck the James Eagan Lane. The SS James Eagan Layne was a Liberty ship beached and sunk off Whitsand Bay near Plymouth during World War Two. Emergency services have investigated the matter but it is thought the slick will break up before it reaches the coast. It is not known where the oil originated in the busy stretch of coast, with a large number of fishing vessels, pleasure craft and at least one large tanker currently in the stretch. A spokesman for Brixham Coastguard said: "We had reports from numerous dive rhibs of oil pollution in the area of the wreck of the James Eagan Layne. "The pollution is not likely to reach the shore and should break up in the water."

<http://www.torquayheraldexpress.co.uk/Brixham-coastguard-investigate-reports-oil-slick/story-22921185-detail/story.html>

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, SEPTEMBER 15 2014. PETROTRIN IGNORED OIL TANK WARNINGS ...\$70 MILLION IN OIL SPILL COSTS

camini marajh head



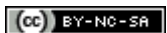
*Flashback: 2010 Petrotrin image of the leaky rooftop of tank MP6*

Contrary to claims made by the company's top brass about a 2010 inspection checklist slipping through the cracks, state oil giant Petrotrin had knowledge that its slop oil storage tank MP6 had corrosion and integrity issues and did nothing about it, Sunday Express investigations have found. Repeated warnings about MP6's perforated roof and corrosion problems went unheeded for 19 months as several departments and layers of technical and management personnel at the State-owned-and-managed refinery failed to respond to identified MP6 work orders logged into the company's computerised maintenance system - SAP. Systems-wide checks and balances, including daily-structured operator rounds and a package of Shell-bought Risk Based Inspection (RBI) tools to prevent what happened from happening were also ignored. Continuing Sunday Express

investigations into the company found that serious maintenance problems were overlooked and that managers failed to follow the proper protocols that would have prevented the July 29 accident.

#### MP6 Leak Overlooked

The company which is yet to come clean about how an under-maintained storage slop tank kept in continuous service was allowed to deteriorate without intervention and spill its brew of deadly contaminants into the environment, acknowledged partial blame for an accident it admitted: "should not have happened". Top executive Khalid Hassanali and company chairman, Lindsay Gillette conceded at an August 3 news conference that the Inspection Department was in receipt of a May 2010 report which flagged a minor tank leak on MP6 but claimed that the problem was overlooked because the information was not entered into Petrotrin's computerised maintenance system. There was nothing from the company's top brass about how or why key departments and plant personnel failed to maintain or monitor Tank MP 6 or why two scheduled inspections recommended 23 years ago when the tank was in a non-corrosive service were skipped. What the company leadership offered instead was an excuse that the company was in the dark about the problems raised in the 2010 inspection report because it was sat on by the Inspection Department. "The information is supposed to be entered into our computerised maintenance system and action taken. There was no entry into our computerised system," said Hassanali, declaring, "that is most unfortunate". What Hassanali and his chairman omitted to tell the country was that computer generated work orders relating to holes on MP6's roof and other tank integrity issues had been mouldering in the company's SAP system since December 2012.



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## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,099 Newsy Stuff

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

**September 18 2014**



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### Seeking Cover

The company's top officials, who have come under increasing scrutiny in the wake of Petrotrin's latest industrial disaster, took cover behind its ongoing investigation into the tank failure to avoid questions about its failed risk assessment process and poor safety and operating procedures. "These matters are being investigated by the independent auditor. We are unable to comment as you would appreciate that to do so may compromise the ongoing investigation," was the stock response to a list of Sunday Express submitted questions. Petrotrin which has repeatedly been caught lying about the December oil spill by a series of investigative articles published over a three-month period in this newspaper, returned to its old pattern of behaviour and lied again to the national community when it said it did not know that Tank MP6 was in distress. Its own documents and company information paint a very different story. Documents obtained by the Sunday Express show that computer generated work orders for slop oil tanks MP5 and MP6 were entered into the company's maintenance database in December 2012 for action but as with sealine No10 and other at-risk refinery assets which failed dramatically over the last year, Petrotrin failed to follow its own integrity management plan.

### Multiple Warnings

The December 2012 work order which was repeated in Petrotrin's SAP system carried the header "corrective maintenance" and clearly identified the need to, "carry out repairs to the roofs of MP5 and MP6 and ensure there is adequate overpressure protection to receive flare condensate ex ULSD (Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel)" or a pressure safety valve for what is an atmospheric tank. The work order to "repair leaks on roof" of Tank MP6 was repeated again in Petrotrin's SAP system last October. The company overlooked the multiple warnings including its own 1991 inspection recommendations for an external for MP6 in March of 1992 and an ultrasonic in March 1996. The company also switched service from lube oil to the more corrosive service of oil slops without a "fitness for service" test or the standard Management of Change (MOC) review in 2000. How or why the company has repeatedly ignored its own refinery safety standards or taken measures to address serious integrity issues flagged for attention in the aftermath of the catastrophic December spill is unclear. The Petrotrin response to most questions was the standard: "We are unable to provide a conclusive statement with respect to the query as the matter is presently being investigated."

### But Business as Usual

And as this Sunday Express investigation has found, the underlying thread throughout the Petrotrin narrative is to proceed with business as usual. The company proffered the standard "unable to respond comment" to key questions about why it outsourced a flurry of inspection work to South-based firm InCorrTech Ltd, who was minding the store tracking data in the Inspection Department, why the circle of persons associated with the May 2010 inspections failed to do any follow up on the findings of the InCorrTech report, why were scheduled inspections skipped and how was it possible that MP6 could continue to leak slop oil without notice for four years before it eventually ruptured? The man who signed off on the InCorrTech two dozen visual tank inspections conducted over five days in May 2010, Ian Haynes, Petrotrin's then Supervisor of Inspectors (SOI), said 2010 was a long time ago. Reached for comment on what happened to the MP6 inspection checklist or why there was no follow-up to what was described as a "minor leak, settlement of the tank on the eastern side and a bulge", Haynes said: "It's been a couple of years since I left the company, I would have to get back to you."

### Nobody Minding the Store

In a later response to a text message, Haynes said he had no comment to make on the matter. Ronald Grant, the then acting Head of Inspection, said he had no knowledge of the 24 inspections and/or their findings. According to him, nothing relating to those inspections crossed his desk. And while the company was quick to rule out safety lapses at the refinery, the growing pile of evidence relating to equipment failure, delayed plant turnarounds, unscheduled plant shutdowns, declining revenues, near zero profit margins and systems-wide failure suggests otherwise. On the question of whether the company has a policy for keeping equipment with known mechanical defects in temporary service pending repairs, Petrotrin's leadership said: "The company would not knowingly allow critically damaged equipment with the potential to cause emergency events to be in operation. The company has implemented proactive measures including its preventive maintenance programme to manage aging and damaged equipment."

### The Evidence on Record Suggests Differently.

Petrotrin had known that its sealine No 10 had serious mechanical integrity issues, it knew that its 2000-converted slop tank MP6 had a leaky roof; it knew that the tank contained a witch's brew of toxic chemicals; it knew that the levels of spilled hydrocarbons were harmful to human health yet failed to tell hundreds of residents in neighbouring communities that their air had been poisoned even as they were falling ill with respiratory-related problems, it knew that the rupture of tank MP6 took



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place before the 12.45 p.m. start time it said the incident happened and it knew that it was 19,512 barrels of toxic waste that spilled into the environment and not 17,844 as it reported.

#### **\$70 Million & Counting**

The energy giant which took a near \$60 million hit in the pocket on the sealine No 10 accident has already spent over \$10 million on the MP6 spill, according to Petrotrin insiders, who disclosed that all of the company's fail-safe measures, including a poorly-designed and built bund wall and three Guard Basin-installed pumps that were all simultaneously down - all failed.

As reported in last Sunday's Express, the company's emergency response was slow on several counts including its internal emergency alarm system which it failed to activate and the setting up of emergency shelters for residents impacted by the spill. Senior plant personnel and Petrotrin's fire services were not immediately notified, according to sources. The failure of Tank MP6 originated at the bottom eastern side of the tank, the same place identified as having a leak in the InCorrTech inspection report four year ago.

#### **Slow Response**

And contrary to company claims that all emergency responders and workers were equipped with the appropriate respiratory masks, Petrotrin workers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that was not the case. They disputed Petrotrin's account of events which was reported in last Sunday's Express. Persons with knowledge of the situation say initial attempts to dam the fallen bund area and surrounding drains were unsuccessful. The company's top brass has refused to take ownership of Petrotrin's spills, near misses and maintenance problems and has held up the tired defence of aged assets nearing the end of life and worker negligence but it is aged infrastructure that the company knows about and has kept in continuous operation without the requisite safety checks and service. Workers' union representative Ancel Roget questioned why there was a 19-year gap between inspections for Tank MP6 and what was the health and condition of the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery. He said it was "troubling" that the least critical assets have failed.

#### **New Man in Town**

The company has recently hired British national Jonathan Barden as its new refinery manager. Barden, who was previously with Petroplus BP in Australia, is currently acting vice president, Refining and Marketing. The incumbent VP, Mado Bachan, as one of the casualties, suspended pending an audit by PricewaterhouseCoopers refinery expert, Von Gusa from PWC's Texas office. Petrotrin has held up its ongoing PWC audit as an independent investigation into the July 29 incident but the consultant is Petrotrin-hired and his terms of reference are Petrotrin-issued. It is a Petrotrin-paid-for brief.

#### **Side Effects of Exposure**

Persons exposed to high concentrations of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) including benzene can develop chronic illnesses, including cancer, respiratory-related problems and allergies. Slop oil contains a mix of VOCs, some of which are known carcinogens as well as being toxic to the liver, kidney and immune systems.

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Petrotrin-ignored-oil-tank-warnings-275030631.html>

#### **MALAYSIA, LIMBANG SARAWAK, SEPTEMBER 15 2014. VILLAGERS SEE RED OVER TAR-SPILL IN RIVER**

*salena pail*



*Tar spilling from the workshops has turned the river at Kampung Sungai Poyan to brown.*

More than 200 residents of Kampung Poyan and nearby areas are concerned about pollution caused to their river by tar spilling from nearby workshops since a week ago. They said the strong smell of the oil was causing nausea and headache to them. What was more worrying, they said, was that the pollution might kill fish and other forms of life in the river, from which they also draw water for irrigation. Kampung Poyan village chief Yusup Dullah said although no one from the village was yet to be inflicted by the pollution, they were worried the situation might worsen. "It's almost a week that we smell the pollution and now the river has turned brown in colour due to the tar spilling from the nearby workshops," he said when contacted yesterday. Yusup said he made a police report regarding the matter last Monday night. "The next day, we also reported

the matter to the related agencies including District Office, Sarawak Rivers Board, Department of Environment, Limbang District Council and Health Department," he added. Following that, he said personnel from the Fire and Rescue Department and other agencies had come to check the river. "The agencies have taken sample from the river for further investigation and



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to be sent to Kota Kinabalu for analysis," he said. It is his hope that the river pollution will be solved immediately for the safety of the residents.

<http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/09/15/villagers-see-red-over-tar-spill-in-river/>

### USA, WA, LIBERTY LAKE, SEPTEMBER 15 2014. LEAKY CHEMICAL TRUCK PROMPTS EMERGENCY ALERT FOR NEARBY RESIDENTS



*Firefighters with the Spokane Fire Department's Hazmat unit, work to contain a tanker truck leaking vapors from a load of anhydrous trimethylamine parked at the Port of Entry scalehouse 4 miles east of Liberty Lake. The Washington State Patrol has closed Interstate 90 in both directions as the incident is being resolved.*

A tanker truck leaking a hazardous chemical shut down Interstate 90 near the Washington-Idaho state line for hours today and released fumes that sickened two police officers and prompted officials to advise nearby residents to stay indoors. A six-mile stretch of I-90 from Liberty Lake to Post Falls was closed before 2 p.m. and remained deserted into the night. Officials also closed the Centennial Trail along the Spokane River and later shut down East Appleway Avenue, a detour route, as fumes from the truck spread. All freeway traffic then was diverted to East Wellesley Avenue to the north. The truck was parked at the Washington State Patrol weigh station and Port of Entry just east of Liberty Lake. At 9 p.m. an emergency alert was issued advising anyone within a half mile of there to take shelter indoors with their windows closed and air conditioning off. The warning was prompted by two police officers south of the interstate who complained of throat irritation and headaches, said Andy Hail, deputy chief of the Spokane Valley Fire Department. The measure is a precaution, Hail added. "We don't feel there's any imminent public risk at this time," he said. The Florida-based truck is carrying 7,000 gallons of anhydrous trimethylamine, a flammable substance used in making solvents, animal feed supplements and products consumed by the paper, oil and gas industries. The rare decision to shut down the freeway in both directions was intended to keep drivers away from the truck, parked just along the westbound lanes. Traffic backed up for miles at detours in Liberty Lake and Post Falls. "It's a minor event that has major potential" to turn serious, Hail said earlier in the day. The truck was westbound on I-90, approaching Washington, when a motorist traveling in the same direction called 911 to report an odor coming from the tanker shortly before 1 p.m. Anhydrous trimethylamine almost instantly turns into a gas when exposed to air. The colorless gas has a strong fishy odor in low concentrations and smells like ammonia at higher concentrations. The truck was pulled over at the Port of Entry just east of Liberty Lake, and fire crews set up a perimeter around it. One concern was that passing vehicles could ignite the vapors, causing the tanker to explode, Hail said. Also, the gas posed a potential health risk, he said. Hazardous materials crews from Spokane and Fairchild Air Force Base were trying to remove a small amount of the liquid that got into a vapor recovery line on the truck, Hail said. Technicians waited several hours while crews tracked down a compatible hose fitting for the job. "They're going to stop at a store and see if they can come up with a coupling system that might work," Hail said. "You've got to be resourceful in this business." The hazmat workers who approached the truck wore total containment suits and had to plan their moves carefully, he said. "That's what hazmat is – very methodical." Complicating matters further, hazmat technicians were not getting reliable readings on air monitoring equipment, he said. Hail said it's rare to close the interstate and divert traffic for a hazardous material response. "Very unusual, and state patrol does not like to do it, and we understand exactly why," he said. "The supervisor here was nervous, because that's a big call. It's really a big call," he said. "The governor has to be notified, and then they have to notify the feds because it's interstate transport." This chemical requires a 350-foot isolation area in the event of a leak, Hail said. "We didn't really have any choice." The shutdown, though a hassle for drivers, did allow crews to deal with the problem away from more densely populated areas down the road, Hail said. The truck driver was Robert Staab, 59, from Milton, Fla. The trucking company is Taminco U.S. Inc. of Pace, Fla. Taminco describes itself as the world's leading producer of alkylamines and derivatives. Detours were set up at the Harvard Road interchange in Liberty Lake and, in Post Falls, at the Beck Road interchange initially, then at the Pleasant View Road interchange. Eastbound traffic was diverted onto East Appleway Avenue, until that street was closed, and westbound drivers were detoured onto East Wellesley Avenue. About two dozen firefighters were on the scene as well as the state patrol, Washington Department of Ecology and Washington State Parks. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Idaho State Police and Liberty Lake Police assisted in Sunday's response. The Spokane Emergency Coordination Center was activated to support the multi-agency response.

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2014/sep/14/breaking-hazmat-leak-closes-i-90-near-stateline/>



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