

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

USA, MI, COPEMISH

MAY 27 2006.

FUEL TANK EXPLOSION KILLS BEAR LAKE MAN

Ian C. Storey

Officials continue to investigate a fuel tank explosion that killed a Bear Lake man and created a shock wave that shattered windows of neighboring houses near a well site in Manistee County's Cleon Township.

State police said Jessie Hernandez, 38, was cutting fittings and valves from the top of a large fuel storage tank off Harlan Road around 3 p.m. Wednesday when the tank exploded.

State police Sgt. John Hansen of the Manistee post said Hernandez was using a power cutting saw on the top of the tank when the explosion occurred. The blast launched Hernandez 700 feet through the air.

"This was a significant, significant explosion," he said.

Hansen said the blast was so strong it blew the top off the 40-foot high fuel tank — a 30-foot diameter cap was hurled 200 feet — and shattered windows of neighboring homes.

"We had a report that a couple of neighboring houses had windows shattered and several pictures fell off the walls," he said. "One fireman that lives five miles away heard the blast from his home."

Hansen said state Department of Environmental Quality and Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration officials came to the scene Wednesday.

Hansen said Hernandez worked for Quick-Site, a salvage company out of Manistee apparently hired to dismantle the tanks.

"We haven't gotten all the reports back ourselves," said a woman who answered the telephone at Quick-Site. "We want to make sure we have all the facts in order before we make any statements."

Officials said the tank was in flames when emergency crews arrived. A trail of debris led them to Hernandez's body.

"There was a debris field that went from the site of the explosion to where he was found," he said.

Bob Versical, a geologist with the DEQ's office of geological survey, said the property is owned by Omnimex Energy of Ludington.

"The tanks were empty, but there was probably some residual in the bottom or sludge," he said. "With the warm weather that could have built up some vapors, but right now that is speculation."

No one else was injured. The fatality is being investigated by the state police fire marshal in Gladwin.

<http://www.record-eagle.com/2006/may/26explosion.htm>

USA, NJ, ATLANTIC CITY, OCEAN CITY

MAY 26 2006.

O.C. GROCERS TO APPEAL \$50,000 DEP OIL TANK LEAK FINE

Michael Miller

Owners of a north-end grocery store plan to appeal \$50,000 in state fines stemming from a long-forgotten oil tank that leaked.

Steve Palermo and his brother, Joseph, run Palermo's Thriftway Market on Fourth Street. It's a family business their father, Charles, and uncle, Fred, started in 1946.

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In 1994, the store's neighbors complained about oil contamination they found around their Asbury Avenue home. The state Department of Environmental Protection investigated whether the nearby store was to blame. Ultimately, a state mediator ruled that the store was not responsible.

The DEP asked the grocers if they had any underground tanks on their property. At the time, the grocers said no. They recalled removing one oil tank when they converted the store's heating system to natural gas in 1980.

In 1999, the grocers uncovered a 250-gallon tank buried beneath the floor in a meat room. It had not been used for decades.

The Palermos hired consultants, removed the tank along with 22 tons of soil and installed monitoring wells around the store. They hired specialists to treat the affected area, successfully defended a lawsuit brought by the neighbors over contamination and paid administrative costs.

Steve Palermo said underground oil tanks once were common in his neighborhood. There was a gas station nearby, and many homeowners used them.

At one point, the brothers proposed selling the building and having the contamination removed when the store was razed for new homes. But the Palermos on Wednesday said they no longer intend to sell their store.

The grocers estimate they spent nearly \$150,000 on well drillers, environmental consultants, lab tests, engineering reports and contractors. The grocers hired an engineering firm in 2000 that submitted a formal cleanup plan and installed a system to treat whatever oil remained beneath the store.

"We did a remediation process that uses a biodegradable product they put in the ground," Steve Palermo said. "It eats it up."

The chemicals degrade the petroleum. But according to court papers, the DEP was not satisfied with this solution. The DEP also said the store's remediation proposal was incomplete because it was missing things such as a tidal study.

What contamination remained still violated the state Spill Act, the agency said.

Last month, Administrative Law Judge John R. Tassini ruled in the DEP's favor and upheld the \$50,000 fine. The judge also ordered the grocery to remove the remaining contamination.

The DEP has until Tuesday to determine whether it will levy the fines as permitted by the courts. A DEP spokeswoman on Wednesday said no decision had been made.

"A motor vehicle and boat in the water puts out more pollution than we ever did. You have boats spewing oil and gas every minute, and you're bugging me about this? It's ridiculous," Steve Palermo said.

Ocean City has public water, so there is no risk of the oil contaminating local drinking supplies. The store's well tests suggest the oil is not migrating off their property. The DEP disputes that finding.

The business would have to take out loans to do the work the DEP is asking. Meanwhile, the fines threaten the business's future, Steve Palermo said.

"They're relentless with this. They're putting us out of business. It's out of control," he said.

What the DEP is asking is unreasonable, the brothers said, and the fines are excessive considering everything they have done to fix an unintentional problem. The grocers plan to take the case to an appeals court.

"We're going to fight this all the way," Joseph Palermo said.

<http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/story/6384965p-6240931c.html>

CANADA, ON, BROCKVILLE

MAY 27 2006.

D.L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LTD. FINED \$50,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

D.L. Construction & Roofing Ltd., a Prescott, Ont.-based roofing company that installs roofs and formerly sold scrap metal collected from its various roofing jobs, was fined \$50,000 on May 25, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in burns to an employee.

On July 28, 2004, a worker was using a lighter to test for the presence of flammable vapours at an opening of an upside-down steel tank when the vapours ignited causing a large flash fire. Caught up in the ensuing fireball, the worker was pushed backwards away from the tank and suffered first-degree burns to the face and second-degree burns to the upper arms and fingers. Just prior to the incident, the worker had been kneeling down in front of the 757-litre (200-gallon) tank after smelling possible fumes. The worker had been preparing to cut up the tank for scrap metal when the fumes were detected. The incident occurred at the company's scrap yard at 1624 Merwin Lane in the Township of Augusta, about 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of Ottawa.

D.L. Construction & Roofing Ltd. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure the tank was drained and cleaned or otherwise rendered free of any explosive, flammable or harmful substance prior to being cut up for scrap metal. This was contrary to Section 78(1)(b) of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments and Section 25(1)(c) of the act.

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The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace John Doran of the Ontario Court of Justice in Brockville. In addition, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/May2006/26/c7971.html>

INDIA, MUMBAI

MAY 27 2006.

50 INJURED IN ANTOP HILL BLAST - LPG CYLINDER LEAK CAUSED EXPLOSION; INJURED RUSHED TO SION, KEM HOSPITALS

Fifty people, including 10 children, were injured in a gas cylinder blast which occurred at Acharya Atreya Nagar opposite the Antop Hill post office at around 8.30 am yesterday morning. No deaths were reported till last evening when this report was filed.

It all started when Mahesh Mahadeo's wife turned on her gas stove and realised that there was some leakage in the cylinder. Her husband unplugged the cylinder and carried it outside on the street to avert any accident. Some locals who had gathered around suggested to Mahadeo that he should keep the cylinder in water.

However, no sooner was it put into a water tank than it burst, injuring most onlookers. No damages to property were reported.

The injured were rushed to KEM Hospital and Sion Hospital. The rising number of injured persons baffled doctors at Sion hospital where a majority of patients were taken. Among the 37 admitted to Sion hospital, six are seriously injured, including a child with more than 80 per cent burns.

What doctors say...

Dr Golam, acting dean of Sion hospital said, "We have provided all facilities to the injured and their relatives. As soon as we got the message about the blast, we informed all our doctors to be on alert and arranged beds for the patients. I am in constant touch with doctors treating the injured."

The critically injured have been admitted to ward no.1 and others at wards 2 and 3.

Dr Anil More, Assistant Medical Officer of the hospital said, "There were many patients who were brought to the hospital. An 18-month-old child who was brought to the hospital was later taken back by his father.

Patients in the hospital...

Relatives of injured patients were seen weeping outside ward no.1 of the hospital, as hospital authorities forbade them from meeting patients.

Among the patients and their relatives at ward no.3, Rupesh Hatekar sat beside his brother-in-law, Mahesh Mahadeo who received 30-35 per cent burns. Rupesh, a resident of Sagum near Ratnagiri, rushed to Mumbai as soon as he was informed about Mahesh's condition. "I received a call from my relatives in Mumbai and they said that Mahesh had been injured in a blast. Doctors say that he is out of danger," said Rupesh.

Another patient, 46-year-old Sushila Pawar received 20 per cent burns and her daughter, Swati Pawar sat beside her, weeping. "She had also gone to help the person whose cylinder was leaking. But the blast happened so suddenly that no one could do anything," she informed, with tears in her eyes.

The police version...

Police officials at the Antop Hill police station who are investigating the case said that they have yet to ascertain the proper cause of the blast. Speaking to this newspaper, Police Sub Inspector Garde said, "We have recorded statements from patients and people who witnessed the blast. Soon, we will have details of the cause of the blast."

http://www.cybernoon.com/DisplayArticle.asp?section=fromthepress&subsection=inbombay&xfile=May2006_inbombay_standard9793

USA, HI, HONOLULU

MAY 29 2006.

LIHU'E INDUSTRIAL PARK II EVACUATED AFTER BAD VALVE CAUSES CHEMICAL LEAK

Dennis Fujimoto and Ford Gunter

A chemical leak in a Lihu'e warehouse yesterday morning led to the evacuation of all businesses in Lihu'e Industrial Park II.

A press release from Mayor Bryan Baptiste's office said the leak occurred around 8:30 a.m. when an employee of Trex Hawai'i was transferring methyltrichlorosilane from a storage tank to a process tank in the company's Aukele Street warehouse.

In the press release, Dave Kane, vice president of Kaua'i operations for Trex Hawai'i, says the tank sprang a leak due a faulty valve on the storage tank.

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The employee, who was wearing protective gear and was not harmed, exited the bunker and closed the door immediately after the incident, Kane says.

"When you're dealing with hazardous chemicals, you have to be very careful in how you proceed after an incident of this nature," Kaua'i Fire Department Battalion Chief Sean Hosaka states in the release. "Evacuating the affected area is part of the standard procedure."

Following the 8:32 a.m. arrival of the initial response team, an incident command was set up near the scene with Hosaka in charge of the operations.

Five Hazardous Material technicians and several firefighters from around the island were among the first on the scene, the release states.

A state health official was also at the scene.

"You need a lot of people to deal with all the different aspects of the incident," Hosaka says.

Officials from the mayor's office said shortly after 11 a.m., a team of Hazmat technicians entered the bunker and sprayed foam in the structure to prevent vapors from escaping.

At around 2 p.m., Hazmat technicians ran tests to determine the flammability and health hazards in three different areas of the warehouse. Less than an hour later, fire department officials deemed it safe for Trex officials to enter the warehouse and assume responsibility of the situation.

Dr. John Bowen, a Hazmat expert from the Big Island, and officials from PENCO, an O'ahu-based environmental cleanup firm, arrived on scene yesterday evening to handle the neutralization of the hazardous material.

Lihu'e Industrial Park II was still closed at press time, and county public information officer Mary Daubert said it will remain closed until it is safe for the public to return.

At the time of the spill, many area business owners had no idea what was going on.

"We don't know what happened," said Carla Matsushima, sales manager at Kuhio Motors said. "All we know was that we had to leave."

Kaua'i Police Department set up a roadblock at the Kapule Highway intersection to keep visitors and motorists out of the affected area.

"You could see them in the Hazmat suits almost all morning," said a Gaspro staff member. "They had the green ones, the blue ones and the white ones."

As a major point of entry for imported foods, the lock-down wreaked havoc with local restaurant owners as well. Koa Trading, Kaua'i Growers Exchange and a fish wholesaler were all closed because of the evacuation.

"There's a lot of not-so-happy people out there," said a Hopaco Warehouse Direct employee. "They're all trying to get to Koa Trading for their food.

They're from the restaurants, and a lot of them have to get stuff for this weekend."

By 12:30 p.m., four hours after the area was closed off, police officers were still on duty turning people away, but the Hazmat team appeared to be packing up.

"I guess it must be all right since they don't have the suits on," the Gaspro employee said. "They're just washing down the equipment."

For several hours, people parked at Kuhio Motors to watch the scene.

<http://www.kauaiworld.com/articles/2006/05/28/news/news01.txt>

AUSTRALIA, NSW, SYDNEY, YAGOONA

MAY 30 2006.

PETROL STATION TANK EXPLODES: TWO HURT

Dylan Welch

An underground petrol tank previously said to be safe to work around exploded today, injuring two contractors.

The two men were working on a building site at an old petrol station in Yagoona in Sydney's west, building a footbridge across the Hume Highway, near the corner of Cooper Road.

The managing director of the company contracted by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority [RTA] to complete the \$1.7m bridge, Mick Boyle, said he didn't know how the explosion occurred and denied there had been any fire involved, saying the explosion was an "air-shock".

"Maybe a spark [got] into the tank," he said. "There was no fire or gas or anything, it was just a sort of air-shock explosion."

Both the NSW ambulance service and Liverpool hospital described one of the contractors injuries as "burns" to his face and hands.

Mr Boyle said the the tank had been discovered at the site two weeks ago.

"It was tested and deemed clear, and then work continued on Saturday and today there was a small explosion."

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The two workers were taken to Liverpool hospital, where one was treated for burns and the other for a back injury.

The 11.30am blast scattered debris over the Hume Highway and startled some 400 students at nearby Yagoona Public School.

"We have a 20 foot concrete sound wall and our children don't play in that area, thank the Lord, they play down the back [of the school, 200 metres away from the explosion]," said principal Graeme Wood. "We didn't see, we only heard it."

He said the school did not need to be evacuated, and after a couple of uncertain minutes things returned to normal.

The RTA released a statement saying WorkCover would investigate today's incident, but hoped to still finish the bridge.

"The bridge will provide a safer crossing for the high number of Yagoona Public School students who cross the Hume Highway each day."

Two citybound lanes on the Hume Highway were closed as a result of the explosion, but all have since been reopened and traffic has returned to normal, the RTA said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/petrol-station-tank-explodes-two-hurt/2006/05/29/1148754915582.html>

CANADA, ONT, PRESCOTT

MAY 30 2006.

AREA FIRM FINED \$50,000 AFTER WORKER BURNED

Derek Abma

D.L. Construction and Roofing Limited, located just outside of Prescott, has been fined \$50,000 in relation to an incident nearly two years ago in which a worker was severely burned.

The Ministry of Labour said the company pleaded guilty to failing to ensure a steel tank was "drained and cleaned or otherwise free of an explosive, flammable or harmful substance prior to being cut up for scrap metal."

D.L. Construction was fined under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

It was also ordered to pay a 25 per cent victim fine surcharge, amounting to \$12,500, which goes into a fund for victims of crime.

Summarizing the incident, the ministry said on July 28, 2004, an employee used a lighter to check for flammable vapours in a steel tank that was to be cut for scrap metal.

This caused the vapours to ignite, the ministry said, creating a ball of fire that caused the worker second-degree burns to his upper arms and fingers, and first-degree burns to his face.

D.L. Construction is located at 1624 Merwin Lane, just west of Prescott.

Robin Dukelow, an official with the company, declined to comment on the situation other than to say the employee injured is still working there and returned to the job two weeks after the accident.

Shantanu Roy, a lawyer with the ministry, said other than some scarring to his fingers and upper arms, this employee was left with no permanent effects from his injuries.

"He's a very lucky man," Roy said.

Roy said a previous conviction for the company under the Occupational Health and Safety Act influenced the size of the fine.

The ministry lawyer referred to an incident on July 24, 1992 in which a worker somehow got covered with hot tar after falling down. The company was convicted in 1994.

[http://newsfeed.recorder.ca/cgi-bin/LiveIQue.acgi\\$rec=18124](http://newsfeed.recorder.ca/cgi-bin/LiveIQue.acgi$rec=18124)

IRELAND, BELFAST

MAY 31 2006.

FUEL DEPOT BLAZE IS UNDER CONTROL

Fuel depot blaze is under control

A major fire at a fuel depot on the outskirts of north Belfast has been brought under control.

Fire crews worked during the night to tackle the blaze at Hayes Fuel Depot in Ligoneil, after it broke out at about 2100 BST on Monday.

Three fuel containers and a portacabin were destroyed in the flames. The Fire and Rescue Service said it was too early to tell how the fire had started.

At one stage, thick black clouds of smoke could be seen for several miles.

At the height of the fire, up to 60 fire officers and eight fire engines were at the scene.

Martin Cassidy from the Fire and Rescue Service said bringing the fire under control was a difficult operation.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

"We had, at the height of the blaze, in the region of 25,000 to 30,000 litres of kerosene fully involved in the fire, as well as several tonnes of other fossil fuels including coal and peat briquettes," he said.

"With fires involving large quantities of kerosene, what we are faced with is extremely high temperatures and also the production of extremely thick and toxic plumes of smoke.

"At the height of the fire, the plumes of smoke could have been seen for many miles around the Belfast fire area."

The fire was under control, but was still alight on Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, police are treating a fire at the Whiterock Leisure Centre in west Belfast as arson.

A number of gas cylinders were set alight at the rear of the building on the Ballyutoag Road on Monday night.

The outside of the building was damaged.

Meanwhile, 50 firefighters have tackled a blaze at a chipboard factory on the outskirts of Coleraine.

The fire broke out in a pressing room and spread under the roof of the building.

Staff at Spanboard, which employs 120 people, fought the fire until crews arrived from Coleraine, Portrush and Portstewart.

Extra care had to be taken because of the asbestos present in some of the roof material.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/5028666.stm

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES

JUNE 2 2006.

FUEL STORAGE TANK AT LAX CATCHES FIRE

A million-gallon jet fuel storage tank is burning at Los Angeles International Airport but authorities say there's no immediate threat to planes. Fire department spokesman Ron Myers says the fire was reported shortly before 8:30 this morning. Airport authorities say no flights were disrupted, but smoke could be seen coming from the tank. News reports say the tank was nearly empty and was being welded when a spark ignited residual fuel but Myers says he can't immediately confirm that. No injuries or evacuations have been reported.

<http://www.kesq.com/Global/story.asp?S=4975593&nav=9grx>

USA, ND, BISMARCK

JUNE 3 2006.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAYS GASOLINE LEAK FIXED; WAITING FOR REPORT

Health officials are awaiting a consultant's report on a gasoline leak near Garrison last fall and plan to hook up rural water for a man who says it forced him out of his home.

Don Kerzmann said he and four others who live near the Cenex station where the leak was found last September are preparing a lawsuit.

Gary Berreth, a state Health Department environmental engineer, said the leak came from the station's pipe system and followed a coal vein. His estimate was "somewhere upwards of 30,000 gallons."

"Mr. Kerzmann's well happens to be a relatively shallow well. In the deeper wells, we haven't picked up any indication of contamination," Berreth said Friday.

The station stopped the leak toward the end of September, and a consultant is investigating the cause, Berreth said. The consultant's report on the leak is expected within a month.

"It seems to have gone pretty much straight down and then it hit this coal vein," Berreth said. "It's kind of a unique geology. It seems to have hit that highly fractured coal vein and just followed the fractures."

The Health Department has been testing for benzene, a component of gasoline, because exposure over a long period of time has been linked to cancer, Berreth said. Kerzmann said a doctor had ordered him to leave his home because of the contamination.

Berreth said samples were taken in the area Thursday but the results will not be known for a couple of weeks.

Kerzmann told the Minot Daily News the amount of gasoline spilled could be as high as 700,000 gallons but later told the newspaper he misspoke and the estimate was closer to 70,000 gallons. Cenex station manager Paul Schlichting told the newspaper he thought the spill was between 30,000 gallons and 40,000 gallons.

Schlichting said earlier that the station tried to reach an agreement with Kerzmann and hook him up to a rural water system. Kerzmann said he would not agree because it would bar him from trying to collect for damages.

"The state is going to hook him up to rural water since they can't come to an agreement," Berreth said. "He needs to get back to us in writing.

"Really, the only route of exposure to his residence is through that well," Berreth said. "Once the well is disconnected and rural water is provided, that should eliminate any entrance of this."

<http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/14726782.htm>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, MISS, SMITH CO, RALEIGH

JUNE 7 2006.

THREE DIE IN SMITH CO. EXPLOSION - OIL FIELD STORAGE TANKS ERUPT AT SITE SOUTHWEST OF RALEIGH

Brian Livingston

Two explosions in quick succession Monday at an oil field storage facility near Raleigh killed three men and seriously injured a fourth.

The workers were on a catwalk connecting four storage tanks at the time of the explosion, said Gary Wray, one of the owners of Partridge-Raleigh Inc., which owns the 280-acre oil field located about six miles southwest of Raleigh in Smith County.

Two died in the blast. A third worker was pronounced dead at Magee General Hospital, said spokeswoman Althea Crumpton.

Deputy Marty Patterson, with the Smith County Sheriff's Department, identified the victims as Toby Scarbrough and Nicholas Wayne Pounds of Foxworth and George B. Jefferson of Columbia. Patterson did not know the ages of the men or Scarbrough's hometown.

The fourth worker, identified by authorities as Huey Duncan of Columbia, was moved from the Magee hospital to Wesley Medical Center in Hattiesburg. Lisa Slay, a hospital spokeswoman, said Duncan was in stable condition Monday afternoon.

John Parker of Laurel, an official with the Mississippi State Oil and Gas Board was on the scene for most of the day. He said the two tanks that exploded had both their tops completely blown off.

"It looked like someone took a huge can opener and just peeled the tops off," said Parker. "One of the tops landed about 40 feet from the tanks, while the other one was blown across the access road and into trees next to a creek, a distance of about 50 yards."

The Stringer Oil Field Services employees were preparing the tank to receive oil from a new pump they had installed on a well, Wray said.

One of the workers was using a welding torch on a tank, said Lea Stokes, spokeswoman for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

Parker said the investigation into what actually happened is still ongoing, but he suspected the culprit to be built-up fumes from the two center tanks becoming ignited by sparks from the welder as the likely cause of the blast. The larger tank of the four was vented, and the man-way on the bottom of the tank was open. But the tank being worked on was still connected by piping from near the tops of the other three. It is thought fumes from these other tanks are what leaked into the tank being worked on, thereby causing the ignition.

An oil field worker on the scene late Monday pointed out twisted four-inch pipe that had connected the tanks and showed the steel catwalk, mangled by the force of the blast, that barely hung next to the tanks. "I've just never seen anything quite like this," said Parker.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board planned to send a team today, spokeswoman Kara Wenzel said. The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The team will gather information today to determine if the agency will conduct a formal investigation, Wenzel said. The field has eight to nine producing oil wells.

http://www.leadercall.com/cnhi/leadercall/homepage/local_story_157092505.html?keyword=leadpicturestory

USA, MINN, ST PAUL

JUNE 7 2006.

MAN BURNED IN BLAST AFTER PUTTING GAS IN WASHING MACHINE

A man was injured by an explosion after he put gasoline instead of detergent into a washing machine, police said.

The explosion Saturday blew off the door to a laundry room in the man's apartment in the Summit-University neighborhood, Deputy Chief Mike Hogan said. There was no damage to the six apartment units in the building or other injuries.

The 49-year-old man had what appeared to be second-degree burns on up to 5 percent of his lower legs, Hogan said. Paramedics took him to Regions Hospital.

Described by neighbors as a "backyard mechanic," the man was using gasoline to wash his grease-soaked clothes for some reason and "didn't think anything of it," Hogan said. The hot water heater or another source ignited a fire that led to the explosion, he said.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,198167,00.html>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, TX, PASADENA

JUNE 3 2006.

FIRE ERUPTED WHEN LIGHTENING STRUCK PASADENA NAPHTHA TANK

Fire erupted when lightning struck a large storage tank filled with 170,000 barrels of naphtha used as a blending agent in gasoline, at Kinder Morgan Energy Partners' terminal in Pasadena about 11:40 a.m. on 1st June. Naphtha is highly flammable liquid which is also the main component of lighter fluid.

No injuries or threat to the area has been reported. Morgan emergency personnel with help from Channel Industrial Mutual Aid fire fighters had applied foam and water to the blaze. The tank also had a built-in suppression system that allowed fire fighters to pipe the water or foam directly onto the fire.

Operations were halted or very limited at the terminal where 100 tanks store up to 14.5 million barrels of volatile petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel as a safety precaution.

http://yarnsandfibers.com/news/index_fullstory.php?id=9349&p_type=Naphtha

USA, TX

JUNE 3 2006.

CORPUS OIL CLEANUP PROGRESSES

Vicki Vaughan

A part of Corpus Christi's Inner Harbor reopened late Friday as teams continued to work to contain oil spills from two refineries, including one from Valero Energy Corp.'s refining complex.

The spills occurred early Thursday after storms hammered the region with as much as 12 inches of rain. Officials closed the channel after the spills.

John Valls, a spokesman for the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, said the oil spill had been contained, but cleanup operations continue. A section of the harbor near Valero's plant is expected to reopen today, he said.

Coast Guard officials were checking the hulls of ships Friday to see if they were oily.

The channel's closure has prevented several ships from leaving and about seven ships have been at anchor waiting to come in, Valls said.

Valero spokeswoman Mary Rose Brown said a team from Valero had recovered about 1,000 barrels of oil by Friday afternoon. But "the bulk is easier to clean up than all the little traces" of oil, "so we'll be at this for a while until we get things completely cleaned up again."

The spill at the Valero plant occurred when rain pelted a 40,000-barrel storm-water tank. The vessel went from being about 20 percent full to completely full in about an hour, Brown said. Because oil is lighter than water, the oil floated to the top of the tank. Then lightning struck, starting a fire in the tank. When firefighters sprayed water to put it out, the storm-water tank overflowed into a containment dike. But the dike soon overflowed too, and waste oil spilled into the channel.

Initially, the Coast Guard estimated the damage at Valero's plant spilled as much as 168,000 gallons of waste oil into the harbor, but after flying over the area twice, the Coast Guard estimated that the spill was close to 1,500 barrels, or about 63,000 gallons, Brown said.

Gasoline and diesel production was cut after the storm, but Valero's plant is expected to return to regular production levels this weekend.

The storm also damaged a refinery owned by Citgo Petroleum Corp., causing an estimated 4,200 gallons to leak into the harbor.

At a third plant, owned by Flint Hills Resources, about 10 barrels spilled out of a tank but was contained by dikes, spokeswoman Katie Stavinoha said.

Officials were hoping for placid weather. "If we get another storm tonight, it'll undo all that's been done," Valls said.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/business/stories/MYSA060306.4D.OilSpill.25bcb92.html>

NIGERIA, NIGER

JUNE 3 2006.

SHELL CUTS OUTPUT BY 50,000 BPD OVER SPILLAGE

Oil major, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) has cut production in Nigeria by 50,000 barrels per day as a result of a major oil spill caused by one of its damaged trunk line in the Niger Delta area.

The company's spokesman, Mr. Bisi Ojedinran told THISDAY yesterday that the company closed down four flowstations as a result of the spill at its Nembe Creek trunk line which has affected about 50,000 barrels of crude which have been shut in.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

He said though the company is already investigating the real cause of the damaged trunk line, it had however dispatched experts to contain the spill to reduce its impact on the immediate environment.

Although he could not immediately say if the spill had been an accident but he ruled out the possibilities of an attack on the trunk line.

"We are already investigating the spill but I can assure you that it was not an attack. It could be anything but we have ruled out an attack on the company", Ojediran said.

Shell accounts for half of Nigeria's daily exports of 2.6 million barrels per day but militant attacks on rigs and pipelines in the Niger Delta swamps since January has cut production by 20 percent, with Shell shutting some oil pumping stations and supply pipelines.

Meanwhile, Summit Environmental Corporation has reported that its remediation efforts of a severely contaminated former oil drilling site called Eledenwa 1 near Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200606020660.html>

USA, FLA, GAINESVILLE

JUNE 7 2006.

GRU FLUSHES BIG OIL SPILL INTO ITS DRAINAGE SYSTEM

Jack Stripling

Some 25,000 gallons of fuel overflowed into a containment area at Deerhaven Generation Plant on Sunday, and as much as 10,000 gallons of the oil was accidentally flushed into the property's storm-water drainage system, Gainesville Regional Utilities officials said Monday.

"Nothing has gotten off the property, but it did get out of our containment area," said Chip Allen, GRU assistant general manager of energy supply.

A contracted cleanup crew was on site Sunday and Monday, extracting the spilled oil from a drainage system that flows into a wooded area populated by turkey and deer.

The spill was discovered around 2 p.m. Sunday, and state and local environmental regulatory agencies were contacted, said Regina Embry, electric utility engineer for GRU. Since the spill did not drain off the property at 10001 NW 13th St., or pose a threat to the public water supply, GRU officials did not inform news media outlets or issue a public statement Sunday, Embry said.

Chris Bird, Alachua County's top environmental regulator, said it was fortunate the spill happened after weekend rains - and not before. If there had been a lot of rain after the spill, it could have pushed the fuel farther into state-regulated wetlands, Bird said. Even without rain, some of the spill did reach wetlands, he said, because the "drainage ditch" where the fuel was diverted is actually a tributary of Turkey Creek.

"(GRU officials) were trying to tell us it's a ditch, and we corrected them," said Bird, environmental protection director for Alachua County. "It's a historical creek that connects to wetlands in the area."

Because there has been no rain since the spill, there's no reason to believe the fuel reached Turkey Creek, Bird said. Turkey Creek flows into the Floridan Aquifer, which supplies drinking water to the area.

To prevent the fuel from flowing off the property, GRU workers placed "berms" or barriers in the drainage area. Robert Klemans, GRU's interim environmental resource coordinator, said he is confident the fuel has been contained.

"None of the oil has left the property," he said. "That's a fact."

By late Monday afternoon, GRU officials said they had recovered about 15,000 gallons of fuel, mostly from the containment area. That leaves about 10,000 gallons, which may have been released into the drainage area, according to GRU officials' preliminary estimates.

"The size of the spill is very significant," Bird said. "This is unusual to have this much material spill on the ground. Very unusual."

It's unclear whether operator error or a mechanical malfunction caused the tank to overflow some 25,000 gallons, Allen said.

Immediately following the overflow, the plant's fail-safes worked, Allen said. All of the oil was diverted into the containment area, he said, which is much like a large swimming pool designed to catch overflow. The problem arose, however, when GRU workers drained the containment area of rainwater without realizing fuel was also in the mixture, Allen said.

It's unclear how long workers were draining oil from the containment area before they realized they were flushing fuel into the storm-water drains, Allen said.

"We're going to have a very thorough investigation," he said.

County regulations specify that the contents of any containment area have to be examined before being released, Bird said. Given the amount of fuel that overflowed into the containment area, Bird said even a cursory examination would have revealed the "visual sheen" of oil inside.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Based on GRU's characterization of Sunday's events, it seems clear that workers failed to examine the containment area before emptying it, Bird said. Furthermore, they failed to notice the tank had overflowed in the first place, he said.

"Was it poor training in terms of their operator? It's just hard to understand how they would do that," he said.

Fines could be levied by the county against GRU after the matter is investigated, Bird said.

The cleanup could take weeks, according to Brand Frenchman, general manager for Petrotech Southeast Inc. Petrotech, an Ocoee-based environmental services group, was contracted by GRU to do the cleanup. He said he could not speculate on the cost of the cleanup.

No GRU services will be interrupted during the cleanup, Allen said. The No. 6 fuel oil, which was spilled, is used as a backup to natural gas for firing the plant, he said. Lately, however, GRU has not been using the oil because of the high cost of fuel, Allen said.

<http://www.gainesville.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060606/LOCAL/60606007/1078/APS>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JUNE 7 2006.

CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD ON 2004 EXPLOSION CALLS ON HOUSTON TO ENACT STRICTER PRESSURE VESSEL REGULATIONS

In its final investigation report on a December 2004 chemical plant explosion in southwest Houston, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today called on the city to adopt new safety regulations governing the construction and modification of pressure vessels - industrial process and storage containers that hold pressurized gases or liquids. The case study report issued at a news conference this morning describes the violent explosion of a 50,000-pound steel pressure vessel on the evening of December 3, 2004, at the Marcus Oil and Chemical facility on Minetta Street in southwest Houston. The explosion was felt over a wide area in Houston and ignited a fire that burned for seven hours. Three Houston firefighters were slightly injured during the response to the blaze. Several residents sustained cuts from flying glass, and steel fragments from the explosion were thrown up to a quarter-mile from the plant. Building and car windows were shattered, and nearby buildings experienced significant structural and interior damage.

The Marcus Oil facility, which was established in 1987, refines polyethylene waxes for industrial use. The crude waxes, which are obtained as a byproduct from the petrochemical industry, contain flammable hydrocarbons such as hexane. At Marcus Oil, the waxes are processed and purified inside a variety of steel process vessels. The vessel that exploded was a horizontal tank 12 feet in diameter, 50 feet long, and operated at a pressure of approximately 67 pounds per square inch.

CSB investigators determined that the failed vessel, known as Tank No. 7, had been modified by Marcus Oil to install internal heating coils, as were several other pressure vessels at the facility. Following installation of the coils, each vessel was resealed by welding a steel plate over the two-foot diameter temporary opening. The repair welds did not meet accepted industry quality standards for pressure vessels. Marcus Oil did not use a qualified welder or proper welding procedure to reseat the vessels and did not pressure-test the vessels after the welding was completed.

On the evening of December 3, the repair weld on Tank No. 7 failed under pressure, ejecting molten wax and flammable hydrocarbons. Marcus Oil used air instead of nitrogen to boost the pressure of the vessel, and the oxygen inside the tank allowed the ignition of the flammable material. The material was likely ignited by sparks from the metal fragments. The fire spread back into the damaged tank causing a violent explosion, which propelled the 25-ton vessel more than 150 feet, where it came to rest against a warehouse on an adjacent property. CSB investigators later found a variety of large metal fragments in the surrounding community, including a 120-pound steel plate located in a field 900 feet away.

Lead Investigator John Vorderbrueggen said, "Marcus Oil could not provide our team with any documentation concerning the design, construction, or safe operating pressure of the vessels. The CSB estimated that the defective welds had decreased the strength of the vessels by more than 75%. It is likely that the welds were further weakened by metal fatigue from hundreds of operating cycles over many years. The weld on Tank #7 finally failed catastrophically during a routine production run."

Mr. Vorderbrueggen noted that substantial amounts of documentary and physical evidence were lost the Saturday morning immediately following the incident when the city demolished the fire-damaged building where Marcus Oil records were stored. CSB investigators from Washington, DC, arrived at the scene later that day.

The CSB report pointed out that Texas is one of 11 states that have not adopted national safety standards for pressure vessels. First developed in 1915, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code provides rules for pressure vessel design, fabrication, weld procedures, welder qualifications, and pressure testing. In addition, the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors has established rules for pressure vessel repairs and alterations, the National Board Inspection Code. However, Texas is one of 17 states

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

that do not require adherence to the National Board Inspection Code. The code requires alterations to pressure vessels to be inspected, tested, certified, and stamped.

"If the provisions of internationally recognized pressure vessel safety codes had been required and enforced, this accident would almost certainly not have occurred," CSB Board Member John S. Bresland said. "Pressure vessels potentially contain huge amounts of stored energy, and if they fail they can pose a grave danger to lives and property, as clearly demonstrated by the accident at Marcus Oil. The presence of unregulated, uninspected, and improperly maintained pressure vessels within an urban area like Houston is a serious concern."

The Board called on the City of Houston to expand the current building ordinance to require mandatory compliance with both the ASME Code for all new pressure vessels and the National Board Inspection Code for all pressure vessel repairs and alterations. The Board separately recommended that Marcus Oil repair all modified pressure vessels to conform to the National Board Inspection Code requirements, install relief devices on all pressure vessels, and avoid the contamination of its nitrogen supply with air to prevent fires.

The case study report and accompanying safety recommendations have been posted to the agency's website, www.csb.gov.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's Board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in safety management systems, regulations, and industry standards. The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, www.csb.gov.

http://www.csb.gov/index.cfm?folder=news_releases&page=news&NEWS_ID=294

USA, FLA, MIAMI

JUNE 7 2006.

STORING GAS PUTS HOME IN HARM'S WAY

Michael Hibblen

Evan Hollander is like many who want to make sure they've got plenty of fuel on-hand this year so they don't have to stand in long gas lines after a hurricane.

Hollander had a 500-gallon underground propane tank installed in the backyard of his Hollywood home, which feeds directly into a powerful generator.

But he also keeps 50 gallons of gasoline loaded in five-gallon containers in his garage for the entire season. He said the gasoline is to power a backup generator, cars or for family members.

Fire officials, however, are concerned that a growing number of people keeping large amounts of fuel in homes could lead to fires and explosions.

Hollander, who works as a general contractor, said he realizes there is an increased danger. But he said he's careful and keeps away anything that could spark a fire. Hollander said that's also why he sprang for the underground tank while doing renovations at his house.

"It's more conducive to safety and long run times," he said.

Hollander is certainly not alone in wanting alternatives once the power goes out.

John Bragansa, also of Hollywood, bought a generator over the weekend, along with two 15-gallon metal gas cans.

"I spent almost two weeks without power [after Hurricane Wilma] and said to myself, 'Just prepare because it could be like last year or even worse I suppose.'"

While Bragansa is taking the more cautious step of waiting until a storm threatens before filling up the containers, fire officials still worry about people storing gas during a storm. And with generators being a hot item this year, the demand for gasoline is likely to rise.

"Gasoline stockpiles go up and your potential [for explosions] goes up as well," said Hollywood Fire Marshal Robert Aspinall.

"I don't believe we had any real incidents last season or the season before. We've been pretty lucky, but the potential is there, that's for sure."

He says that a backyard shed is a less dangerous place to store gas and that a garage should be the last option. Under no circumstances should it be kept indoors.

The key danger, said Jim Goodloe, Florida's chief of fire prevention, is that gas cans tend to expand when they get warm, which allows fumes to leak out.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

“Unfortunately if you get a large supply of fuel and have damage to your home as a result of the storm, then you have a good possibility of triggering a fire from several sources: sparks from refrigerators that may be in garages, gas-fired hot water heaters that have open flames.”

There is also the concern that such fuel reserves are unmarked.

“God forbid if you do have an emergency within your home, and firefighters come to deal with that. They are not expecting to find 60 to 70 gallons of gasoline in your garage,” Goodloe said.

Fire officials are limited in their ability to enforce safety standards for the storage of gas, because, Goodloe said, guidelines mostly apply to businesses and large buildings, not single-family homes. But he said with more people loading up on fuel, that may need to be changed.

“We’re emerging into a new area that we were not this deeply involved in say three years ago.”

http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/local/states/florida/counties/broward_county/14741667.htm

UK, NORTH WALES

JUNE 12 2006.

MAN SUFFERS BURNS IN TANK EXPLOSION

A man who was cutting up an old diesel tank with a blow torch has been injured in an explosion at a scrap yard.

North Wales Fire Service said the tank at the yard in Garden City on Deeside contained another chemical which ignited and then exploded.

The man has been taken to the Countess of Chester hospital suffering from burns on his back, head and hands.

Crews said the fire was out by the time they got there. The Health and Safety Executive is investigating.

Ian Williams, county operations manager with the fire service, issued a warning about the dangers of cutting up old fuel tanks.

He said: “Companies often buy old tanks and they don’t know what has been stored in them previously.”

“We are advising everyone who buys waste scrap materials to seek advice from the fire and rescue service before starting cutting any of them up with blow torches as certain chemicals can react with the heat and the consequences could be devastating.”

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/north_east/5069144.stm

USA, OKLAHOMA, GLENPOOL

JUNE 14 2006.

LIGHTNING IGNITES FIRE AT TANK FARM – GASOLINE IN FLAMES NEAR GLENPOOL

Lightning struck a petroleum tank containing thousands of gallons of unleaded gasoline Monday morning, sending massive plumes of black smoke into the sky and endangering a surrounding tank farm.

Eleven hours after the huge fire ignited, emergency officials deemed it to be “effectively out” and under control about 8 p.m. after firefighters used a blanket of foam to smother the blaze, Tulsa Fire Capt. Larry Bowles said.

Fire crews planned to monitor the remains overnight for any flare-ups of the 87-octane fuel from beneath the foam layer.

No injuries were reported as a result of the fire, which was caused by a bolt of lightning that struck just after 9 a.m. at Explorer Pipeline’s Glenpool terminal, officials said.

Members of five families evacuated their homes just east of U.S. 75 between 121st and 131st streets, as a precautionary measure, officials said.

Travis Meyer, meteorologist for KOTV, channel 6, was looking out the window at his Glenpool ranch, lamenting the lack of rain, when the bolt of lightning pounded a tank less than one-eighth of a mile away.

“It was one of those that kind of blinds you,” said Meyer, who evacuated his family of six to a hotel. “One minute I’m looking at a (petroleum) tank, the next minute I’m looking at a fire.”

He later returned to retrieve some personal items and commented that “the heat coming off this fire is incredible.”

The Glenpool facility is part of a network of Explorer tank farms that send petroleum products from the Texas Gulf Coast to the Chicago area, said John Godfrey, the company’s pipeline integrity administrator.

The blaze initially burned straight upward through the cone-shaped steel roof of the tank.

But the fiery drama heightened about 11 a.m., when an upper portion of the tank’s north side buckled, allowing for some of the gasoline to spill out into a huge dike surrounding the tank and ignite there.

The flames greatly intensified, shooting up to 200 feet and more in the air as emergency officials scrambled to move firefighters and others from near the fire scene.

The fire did not spread, however, even as winds grew stronger and rain fell on multiple occasions at the site, where Explorer can store about 3 million barrels of oil in more than 30 tanks.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Three unmanned fire hoses installed at the facility shot water at the sides of the tank, cooling it in an effort to maintain the tank's structural integrity and avoid further collapse.

Firefighters from Glenpool, Jenks, Bixby and Tulsa battled the blaze, as well as workers from Sun Refinery and Williams Fire Control of Beaumont, Texas, in the foam effort.

For Meyer, the scene was eerily reminiscent of the April 2003 ConocoPhillips Co. tank farm fire, a site adjacent to Explorer's, where static electricity caused fires that burned for more than 20 hours near his home and he was forced to evacuate.

"After last time, I don't trust it, and I said, 'Let's get out of here,' " he said of his voluntary move.

The earthen dam worked as designed, Godfrey said, containing the overflow from the 48-foot tall tank, which was nearly full with about 125,000 barrels of liquid.

The dike for this tank is capable of holding up to 230,000 barrels, Godfrey said.

"If it was going to happen, this was the tank for it," added Bowles, stressing that this dike contained one tank, while others at the facility held up to three tanks.

Explorer's pipeline was shut down for a couple of hours as a precaution, Godfrey said, but petroleum began flowing again after the wall collapse.

Explorer began pumping out fuel -- from the tank's bottom, below the blaze -- at a rate of 30,000 barrels an hour, with about 19,000 barrels reportedly moving through the pipeline and bound for the St. Louis area.

The other 11,000 barrels were being transferred to another tank at the facility, Godfrey said, lowering the fuel level below the collapsed area.

About 30,000 barrels of petroleum remained inside when the transfer stopped, officials said.

The temperature of the fuel rose as the fire line lowered in the tank, Godfrey said, forcing the stoppage and mandating the foam extinguishment.

Swirling, gusting winds pushed the smoke plume in every direction during the day, offending those with upper respiratory issues throughout south Tulsa County.

For much of the morning, a smoky rainbow formed over U.S. 75, where the tank farm is located on the east side of the highway at about 126th Street.

Highway traffic moved slowly throughout the day as smoke billowed thousands of feet into the air. Motorists gawked at the sight and swerved to road shoulders between 121st and 131st streets to record the event with video cameras.

Smoke could be seen up to 20 miles away from the site. Fireballs were visible on U.S. 75 from eight miles away.

Susan Todd was standing outside a home in the Coal Creek Landing addition, about a half-mile north of the tank farm, when she saw a bolt of lightning strike the tank.

"There was this big 'boom' and flames shot out, and I said 'uh-oh,' " Todd said.

Hours later, she was not concerned about the fire, of which she had a brilliant and frightening view.

The smoke, however, was a different matter.

"The worst damage, other than for the people who own the tank, is for the birds and people who have to breathe that in," she said of the odor. "I might leave and go stay with family until this is all done, because I don't want to breathe this in all night long."

Buddy Lindsey was on his way to a class at Tulsa Community College when he saw the initial explosion from U.S. 75, describing it as a mushroom cloud filled with flames.

Lindsey said the explosion sounded like a "hollow clap of thunder."

Glenpool officials went door-to-door near the tank farm, notifying residents of the fire conditions, City Manager John Rogers said.

The American Red Cross set up at Glenpool High School, serving food to a couple of affected families and about 120 emergency workers, spokeswoman Nellie Kelly of the Tulsa chapter said.

Explorer Pipeline officials had made no estimate on the company's losses, Godfrey said.

As for the nearby residents, "Explorer is going to take care of the people affected by this," Godfrey said. "We're going to do the right thing for the community."

http://www.tulsaworld.com/NewsStory.asp?ID=060613_Ne_A1_Light75563

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

SOUTH AFRICA, SASOLBURG

JUNE 8 2006.

SASOL'S SAFETY RECORD IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Siseko Njobeni

An accident at a Sasol plant in Sasolburg in which 13 workers were injured on Tuesday has put the spotlight on the company's safety record, with the labour department expressing its concern about the spate of accidents that has recently dogged the company.

In a move that effectively lays the blame for Tuesday's blast at Sasol's door, department spokesman Mokgadi Pela said government's patience was wearing thin with companies that put profits before the safety of employees.

However, the petrochemicals group has moved to defend its safety measures at its plants. Sasol spokesman Andre Botha said yesterday safety was a priority for the company, and that they had put in place "numerous" safety measures and monitoring mechanisms.

"We have documented measures to be followed by our employees. We have taken a number of steps to avoid accidents. We believe the measures are effective," Botha said.

"It is most unfortunate that there are accidents like this," he said.

The group's investigation into the blast was continuing, and the results were expected "within the next week", according to Botha.

The labour department is conducting its own inquiry into the cause of the accident.

According to trade union Solidarity, Sasol has had 11 accidents since June 2004, excluding the one this week.

Tuesday's accident happened only days after Sasol and trade unions Chemical, Energy, Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union and Solidarity agreed on compensation payments to the victims of the September 2004 Sasol Secunda blast.

In terms of the agreement, a trust for the benefit of the injured workers and dependants of the deceased workers was set up.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) called this week for a "thorough" investigation into cause of the blast.

Cosatu said that the probe should determine whether there had been any negligence by the company. "In particular we want to know if any of the work at the plant had been outsourced, and whether this played any part in the accident, as it did in the Secunda blast in 2004," Cosatu said.

Solidarity spokesman Jaco Kleynhans said that the union would be involved in the investigation into the latest incident.

It is believed that Tuesday's accident happened while TMS Group — a company doing work for Sasol at a site adjacent the Sasolburg premises — was transferring chemicals sealed in a stationary container to a chemical waste carrier.

Nineteen workers at the plant were taken to Sasol's medical centre for observation. One of the contract workers, Andrew Molefe, suffered third- and second-degree burns from the blast, and was transferred to a Johannesburg hospital.

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/national.aspx?ID=BD4A212895>

USA, LA, VENICE

JUNE 12 2006.

TANKS OF DIESEL FUEL BURN

Eight storage tanks for diesel fuel burned Sunday morning, but the blaze was extinguished about an hour and a half later. The fire in the tanks was reported to the Coast Guard at 9 a.m. The fire started in one tank capable of holding 27,000 barrels of oil, but it contained only 8,300 barrels — or 348,600 gallons — at the time. Because of the proximity, the Coast Guard evacuated its Venice facility, said Petty Officer Nyx Cangemi. "The tanks are right next to the Coast Guard station," Cangemi said. Helicopters dumped foam on the tanks to put out the blaze, Cangemi said. The Coast Guard was involved because Venice sits along the Mississippi River in extreme southeastern Louisiana. The tanks belonged to John Stone Oil, according to Col. Charles Guey of the Plaquemine Parish Sheriff's Office. He did not know what started the fire. No one was injured, Guey said.

<http://www.nola.com/newsflash/louisiana/index.ssf?/base/news-25/1150043050234160.xml&storylist=louisiana>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, NJ, CHERRY HILL

JUNE 12 2006.

OIL CLEANUP NEARS END, FINALLY

Jeanne Ridgway

After spending more than \$107,000 to hire a company to dig out and haul 942 tons of oil-tainted soil from his yard, Charlie Monteleone is looking forward to the day that he may kiss the project goodbye.

It's been a two-year ordeal that the Lower Landing Road homeowner wouldn't wish on his worst enemy.

An employee of the Courier-Post in the retail advertising department, Monteleone was ready to sell his 60-year-old four-bedroom Cape Cod, here, in March 2004 when a routine presale inspection uncovered a danger in his yard.

Monteleone's huge 500-gallon underground heating oil tank had been oozing petroleum for years, posing an environmental threat to public waterways.

When a heating oil tank leaks, New Jersey law requires a property owner to clean up the mess.

Real estate sales of affected properties are generally stalled until the project is complete, a process that can take years. Also, many mortgage companies require sellers of affected properties to present a no-further-action letter at settlement. The document, received from the state Department of Environmental Protection, certifies that the property has been remediated to state specifications.

"It's a huge problem for New Jersey homeowners because the cost (for remediation) is so high, and it's not within the average person's ability to pay," said Amy Trojecki, Monteleone's environmental attorney, who is handling six similar cases for other homeowners.

Generally, homeowners insurance will not pay for environmental cleanups unless the spill affects a third party or a public waterway. Special oil tank insurance is available, however, to cover such costs.

In Trojecki's experience, most cleanups cost homeowners between \$40,000 and \$150,000. New Jersey has established a grant program to help affected homeowners up to \$500,000.

"There's lots of state money available, but people don't know about it. And the eligibility requirements are not that strict," said Trojecki, who is with the Voorhees law firm Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll.

Last year, the fund awarded a total of \$1.5 million to New Jersey property owners in the form of grants, according to Len Romino, director of the Division of Remedial Support at the state DEP.

"Homeowners are eligible if they have a taxable income of under \$200,000 and a net worth of under \$200,000, not counting their residence and pension," Romino said. "There is a bill pending in the Legislature that will raise those limits."

Receiving the grant money takes time.

"We are not able to provide something overnight. It takes months from the time they apply and receive money," said Romino. "Very often contractors will front the money, and don't require people to pay until they receive their grant money."

Monteleone waited two months.

Most of the grant will be used to pay Fran Folcher of Folcher Associates, Deptford, the contractor Monteleone hired to dig out and dispose of the polluted soil and replace it with clean fill.

Folcher removed 669 tons of oily soil from the yard and another 273 tons from under the homeowner's basement. During the excavation under the basement, the house was shored up on pilings driven 30 feet into the ground.

"You have to be careful and go slow. You don't want the house to cave in," said Folcher.

For a while, Folcher couldn't find a dump site, and the smelly oil-soaked soil remained piled up along the property's perimeter for months. The stuff finally made its way to the Pennsauken landfill.

Monteleone has become acquainted with many professionals who deal with dirt for a living. These include officials at the state Department of Environmental Protection, a site contractor, a structural engineer, an environmental lab, and even a pier company.

The homeowner has a word of advice to others faced with similar daunting cleanup tasks: find professionals to guide you through the bureaucracy.

"Get yourself a good environmental attorney. Because they know the ins and outs of dealing with the state with this cleanup," Monteleone said. Also, "expect some downtime between work and progressing to the next step."

Most of all, be patient, attorney Trojecki advises homeowners.

"Charlie has been very patient with it and understanding that it takes time. It's a lot to deal with for a homeowner, and I try to remember that. Hopefully, now it's wrapping up and he'll get his no-further-action letter from the state."

Old oil storage tanks are a problem everywhere in New Jersey. While modern tanks are made to withstand leaks and may be safely buried underground, containers put into service 40 and 50 years ago are less reliable.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

For property owners worried that their old tank may leak in the future, the state Senate is considering legislation that would provide money to people who wish to remove them, according to Romino. Removal of an old tank that is not leaking typically costs under \$2,000.

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060611/BUSINESS/606110371/1003>

USA, ILL, HARRISTOWN

JUNE 14 2006.

CLEANUP CONTINUES AT CENTRAL ILLINOIS GAS LEAK SITE

Cleanup work continued Tuesday at the site of a gasoline leak at the Buckeye Partners LP petroleum terminal in central Illinois that spilled at least 85,000 gallons of fuel.

So far, there is no sign that any public or private sources of drinking water have been contaminated, Buckeye Partners spokesman John Teriet said.

The great majority of the gasoline was recovered relatively quickly from a containment area, Teriet said. The remaining material escaped into a drainage ditch, and cleaning up that area is more time-consuming because the gasoline has mixed with water in the ditch, he said.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency workers collected water samples Tuesday, and the agency said initial assessments indicated wells were not contaminated.

"We don't feel the ground water has been impacted where public or private supply wells are concerned," agency spokeswoman Maggie Carson told the (Decatur) Herald & Review.

No injuries were reported, but one family who lived within half a mile of the Macon County petroleum terminal was evacuated after Monday morning's leak. The family was scheduled to return home Tuesday evening, Teriet said.

Company officials originally said about 71,000 gallons had leaked out of the premium gasoline storage tank. But on Tuesday, Teriet said that number was an initial assessment, and about 85,000 gallons had been recovered by Tuesday morning.

He said the company would not issue another estimate for the total amount of gasoline spilled while the focus is on cleanup work.

A Buckeye employee noticed the leak at 7:10 a.m. Monday. The terminal is served by Buckeye pipelines; diesel and gasoline are stored there in tanks for distribution by tanker trucks to area fuel stations.

Officials are trying to determine the cause of the spill and testing the integrity of the tanks and pipes, Teriet said.

Once the initial cleanup work is finished, Teriet said the company would be developing and implementing a longer-term, government-approved remediation plan for the spill site.

<http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/state/14803219.htm>

USA, MI, DODGEVILLE

JUNE 14 2006.

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP REPLACING TANKS AFTER OIL LEAK AT LIFT STATION

Garrett Neese

A slow leak in an underground oil tank at the Portage Township lift station in Dodgeville led to an aboveground oil spill last week.

The Department of Environmental Quality first noticed the five-gallon spill while investigating the source of a gas smell in three Dodgeville homes. Supervisor Bill Bingham said a foreign substance was poured into a nearby culvert, the smell of which wafted up to those homes without traps under their basement floor.

The lift station is used to pump sewage during power outages. The leak could have been ongoing for a year or more before detection, Bingham said. "It just surfaced and came to the top," he said.

Testing done by U.P. Engineers & Architects revealed minimal impact from the leak.

"No areas got any contamination other than maybe a four-foot diameter area around the oil tank," Bingham said.

Keweenaw Petroleum drained and dug up both the 110-gallon tank and its companion, which date back to the 1970s.

"If you have one tank with 30-odd years with a leak, chances are that the other one has a leak," Bingham said.

Bingham put the bill at about \$700 to \$800. Curiously, he said, neither the DEQ or Coleman Engineering has a record of either tank being installed.

The board discussed placing the replacement tanks aboveground on a concrete slab.

A ring of tires headed by a pylon now holds a tarp over the hole.

The township will deliver the affected soil to Waste Management in Ontonagon on Wednesday.

<http://www.mininggazette.com/stories/articles.asp?articleID=2351>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, KS, TOPEKA

JUNE 14 2006.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROVIDES UPDATE ON GAS LEAK CLEAN-UP

Kris Vera-Phillips

Tuesday, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will be at Lawrence City Hall and they will answer questions on the agency's clean-up efforts at Ninth and Louisiana. The KDHE has been de-contaminating the soil in the area after an underground gas leak helped fuel the fire that burnt down one home in April. They traced the leak back to a tank at a nearby gas station. They expect to have most of the spilled fuel removed within a year. http://www.49abcnews.com/news/2006/jun/13/health_department_provides_update_gas_leak_clean/

USA, ILL, HARRISTOWN

JUNE 17 2006.

AT 148,000 GALLONS, BUCKEYE TERMINAL GASOLINE SPILL MUCH LARGER THAN FIRST THOUGHT

Ron Ingram

Far more gasoline spilled from the Buckeye Partners LP terminal west of Harristown on Monday than originally estimated, the company discovered once its personnel were able to safely access and evaluate tanks at the site.

About 148,000 of gasoline spilled directly into the facility's containment area, of which about 84,000 gallons had not been recovered as of noon Thursday, said John Teriet, a company spokesman at the site.

"Preliminary calculations indicate that most of the unrecovered gasoline has evaporated," Teriet said in a news release. "In the coming days and weeks, Buckeye will aggressively investigate the area affected by the spill to locate and recover any remaining gasoline."

The leak was discovered about 7 a.m. Monday, but it continued until about 11 a.m. that day, Teriet said. Dozens of area firefighters and emergency response personnel stood by while the gasoline was vacuumed into tank trucks and returned to an undamaged storage tank. Initial cleanup of the spill continued until early Tuesday.

There were no injuries from the leak, and only one family about a half mile away was evacuated as a precautionary measure.

Buckeye's investigation into the leak's cause is ongoing and will not be completed for some time, Teriet said. Preliminary findings are that the gasoline leaked from interconnecting piping between storage tanks, he said.

That piping has been physically isolated from the terminal storage and distribution system to prevent any further release of gasoline, Teriet said.

"Buckeye truly regrets this incident and the inconvenience it has caused to our neighbors and the surrounding community," Teriet said. "We are committed to the remediation of any gasoline contamination that remains. Buckeye will undertake a thorough review of all piping at the Harristown terminal to ensure that an incident like this cannot happen again."

The company had containment dikes built around the storage tanks, and they largely were successful in minimizing the amount of gasoline that escaped the site, Teriet said. An undetermined amount of gasoline did escape to an adjacent drainage ditch west of the terminal, he said.

"It was discovered (Wednesday) that this gasoline migrated underground from the containment area to a subsurface storm-water drainage tile located in an adjacent field," Teriet said. "Measures have been taken to prevent any further migration of gasoline."

Results were negative when the area's private wells were tested to determine if gasoline had contaminated them, said Melaney Arnold, a spokeswoman for the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Public wells also are clean, said Maggie Carson, spokeswoman for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

"We have some preliminary results from surface waster samples that indicate gasoline may have gone downstream about two miles," Carson said. "This is not anything that is going to be resolved quickly. We're looking at this as a cleanup project."

The Illinois EPA and Buckeye's environmental personnel and consultants are assessing the area affected by the spill, Teriet said. Once that is done, Buckeye will develop a site-specific remediation plan that must be approved by the EPA, he said.

The plan then will be implemented to monitor and remediate any affected soil and ground water, Teriet said.

http://www.herald-review.com/articles/2006/06/16/news/local_news/1015848.txt

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, ALA, ANCHORAGE

JUNE 17 2006.

ELMENDORF OIL SPILL

ali reed

An oil spill on Elmendorf has left contractors hard at work, cleaning up the mess. Officials say about 4,000 gallons of transformer oil was spilled on Tuesday evening at the old power plant demolition site.

The oil leak was caused by a piece of debris that struck and ruptured the transformer. Contaminated soil removal has already begun.

"The efforts consisted of digging up the soil, which of course, the contaminant went into. And they tried to subdue the leak and then they pumped out the transformers," said Bill Day, Third Wing Public Affairs Office, Elmendorf.

They say, as of now, there hasn't been a detected impact on groundwater. The full impact of this spill is being investigated.

http://www.ktva.com/topstory/ci_3942388

USA, KY, SHIVELY

JUNE 19 2006.

TWO WORKERS TREATED FOR BURNS AFTER FIRE AT SHIVELY ETHANOL PLANT

Caton Bredar

A flash fire at an ethanol plant in Shively sent two men to the hospital Thursday with severe burns. WAVE 3's Caton Bredar has more on the fire that was out almost as quickly as it started.

The 'flash fire' happened about 7:30 a.m. Thursday at Parallel Products on Bernheim Lane just off Seventh Street during some routine maintenance work. The blaze itself only lasted a minute or two, but for the workers, the scars may last a lot longer.

Company spokesman Hal Parks says the fire started as two contract maintenance workers were replacing a section of old pipe in the filling station area of the facility.

"There was a small amount of fuel came out of the pipe," Parks said. "This was a pipe that really had not been used for several months."

As workers moved the lift they were working on, firefighters believe some sparks from a motor may have ignited the fuel and caused a flash fire.

Parks says the fire "was short lived, less than a minute or two at the most."

Chief Wendall Vincent with Shively Fire & Rescue told us "there doesn't appear to be any liquid or residuals on the ground or anything. It probably was consumed in the flash fire. It appears to be just a small amount, just enough to cause the flash."

Parks added: "There was no release of fumes or dangerous chemicals at this time; whatever was released was completely contained."

The workers were burned on their hands and face, but their injuries are not considered life-threatening.

Parallel Products refines outdated sugar-based and alcohol-based products like perfume and soap and distills them into ethanol. The company says the accident was caused by a denaturant.

Fire officials were still trying to pinpoint the exact cause of the blaze.

<http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=5035831>

USA, HI, HONOLULU

JUNE 22 2006.

INVESTIGATION OF ASPHALT STORAGE TANK FIRE MAY BEGIN SOON - LAST WEEK'S FIRE THREATENS THE SUPPLY OF MATERIAL USED TO REPAIR ISLE ROADS

B.J. Reyes

Tesoro Hawaii officials expect it to be at least one more day before investigators can get inside the company's lone liquid asphalt storage tank at Campbell Industrial Park and determine what caused a fire in the container last week.

The extent of the damage cannot be determined until investigators can get inside the tank, which is being drained of its existing supply, said Nathan Hokama, a spokesman for Tesoro in Hawaii.

Hokama said the company expects to have a better idea tomorrow on when the investigation can begin into the fire that broke out last Tuesday afternoon. The fire occurred less than a week after the company restarted production of liquid asphalt, threatening the state's supply of the material that is used to repair isle roads.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Hokama said Tesoro is continuing to distribute asphalt from the tank to its regular customers, noting that the container was "pretty full prior to the incident."

Recognizing the limited supply, the state has made it a priority to work on one of the three taxiways at Honolulu Airport, which need repairs, Department of Transportation spokesman Scott Ishikawa said.

"With the increase in summer travel, we are looking at more planes coming in at the airport," Ishikawa said. "To have one of our taxiways out takes a little more time for arrivals and departures."

While there is enough asphalt for some projects, others, such as improvements to Farrington Highway, are being put on hold until next month, he said.

For other projects, the state is asking contractors to perform as much non-asphalt-related work as possible until Tesoro has a better idea on how the fire damage will affect production, he said.

<http://starbulletin.com/2006/06/21/business/story02.html>

USA, IN, FORT BRANCH

JUNE 24 2006.

LIGHTNING SPARKS OIL TANK FIRE

A fire erupted near a field Thursday night when lightning brought by storms struck and ignited a tank battery on Ind. 168, about a mile east of U.S. 41.

Gibson County Sheriff Allen Harmon said fire departments were called from Princeton, Owensville, Patoka, Columbia Twp., Haubstadt, Fort Branch and Somerville.

Firefighters worked to attempt to contain the blaze from spreading to other nearby tank batteries. But firefighters had the situation under control by about 9 p.m.

Crews from the nearby Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana plant were also called in to apply fire retardant foam, as water had yet to completely extinguish the fire.

Harmon said officials from the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources were on their way to the scene to check for any pollutants that may have entered nearby waterways from runoff created by rain and fire hoses.

Officials were trying to contact the tank's owner to try to determine just how much oil the tank contained before it ignited.

Thunderstorms with strong winds, heavy rain and hail moved across much of Indiana on Thursday, with a lightning strike in Indianapolis sending six firefighter trainees to a hospital.

The storms moved across in waves mid-afternoon and again in the evening, causing flash flood warnings from the National Weather Service and leaving behind widespread reports of damaged homes, downed trees and blown over semitrailers.

The only injuries immediately reported were from the firefighter training session in northwestern Indianapolis. Pike Township Deputy Fire Chief Martin Wilkey said those taking part in the outdoor session saw the storm approaching.

None of the shocked trainees appeared seriously injured, but Wilkey said they all were taken to hospitals for evaluations.

The evening wave of storms had wind gusts of nearly 60 mph as it moved through the Vincennes area, where many trees and power lines were blown down. More than 3 inches of rainfall in the Terre Haute area was reported to the weather service.

A flash flood warning was issued Thursday night for much of western and southwestern Indiana, with police reporting water over state highways in Vigo and Greene counties.

A portion of the Grant County courthouse square in Marion was blocked off after a portion of a building's facade fell in during the afternoon storm, which also blew over six semitrailers in the area about midway between Fort Wayne and Indianapolis. Numerous trees and power lines were knocked down in neighboring Huntington County.

An uprooted sign flew through the air and broke a state trooper's car window in northern Indiana's Miami County, but the trooper was not injured, state police said. Trees also fell on five homes in Cass County, northeast of Lafayette.

In Indianapolis, the site of the U.S. track and field championships was evacuated twice as storms moved through the downtown area. Fans and competitors huddled in parking garages and other structures until the storms passed.

<http://www.tristate-media.com/articles/2006/06/23/pdclarion/news/news1.txt>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, ORE, CANBY

JUNE 25 2006.

FIRE DESTROYS PART OF CANBY BIODIESEL PLANT

Kristina Brenneman

A major fire erupted at a biodiesel manufacturing plant Friday afternoon in Canby, destroying one of its production buildings, firefighters said.

A Canby firefighters sprays still smoking beams at a Canby biodiesel manufacturing facility.

The 275-gallon plastic tanks holding nearly 500 gallons of biodiesel melted in the fire, causing the combustible liquid to spill and freely burn, said Division Chief Troy Buzalsky of the Canby Fire District.

"When we arrived it looked like a fuel refinery fire," said Captain Val Codino of Canby Fire. "Once we found out that we were battling Biodiesel, all the black smoke and intense heat we were encountering made since."

The chemicals made it extremely difficult to fight the fire, he said. "We kept sweeping the fire down, and it kept flaring right back," said Codino. "The fire was burning with tremendous intensity, more so than would normally be encounter in a typical structure fire."

It took firefighters about 45 minutes to control the blaze, which heavily burned one barn and at one point, threatened a barn 30 feet to the south of the South Heinze Road location, Buzalsky said.

Jeff Bryant, owner and operator of Sunbreak Biofuels, manufactures biodiesel and brokers biodiesel at the site.

Firefighters believe there were approximately 1,000 gallons of biodiesel at the location, and as much as 300 gallons of methanol, Buzalsky said.

None of the methanol was ignited in the fire, he said.

The firefighters later determined the biodiesel did not pose much environmental risk since it is 100 percent biodegradable.

Fire investigators do not believe the biodiesel manufacturing process started the blaze.

http://www.kgw.com/news-local/stories/kgw_062406_news_canby_fire.ba34d768.html

USA, TX, TROUP

JUNE 26 2006.

NO INJURIES IN OIL TANK EXPLOSION

An empty oil tank exploded Saturday morning as welders were attempting to connect it to a well.

No one was injured in the blast.

Southwestern Energy Production Co. was installing the tank and well, located on a patch of land on County Road 2138, off Texas Highway 110.

The welders were in a trench near the tank, trying to connect the pipes to the well, when a spark ignited the gases that had accumulated in the tank, causing the explosion, said Assistant Smith County Fire Marshall Oren Hale.

The blast blew the lid off the tank and it landed only 10 feet from the welders, Hale said. He said the welders were lucky to walk away uninjured.

No one from the company could be reached for comment.

On Saturday, more than 20 oil field workers in white hard hats looked on as firefighters from Troup and Whitehouse doused the charred tank with water. Hale said firefighters arrived just six minutes after they received the call about the blast around 10:15 a.m. They remained on the scene for more than an hour to monitor the tank.

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16834071&BRD=1994&PAG=461&dept_id=341384&rft=6

CANADA, ONTARIO, BURLINGTON,

JUNE 27 2006.

OAKVILLE WORKERS INJURED CLEANING TANK

Prokleen Washing Services (Oakville) Inc., an Aurora, Ont.-based cleaning company which owns and operates an industrial establishment in Oakville that specializes in the cleaning of tanker trucks, was fined \$60,000 on June 6, 2006, for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in chemical burns to two employees, reports Canada NewsWire.

On May 16, 2005, two workers were on the outside of a tank cleaning the inside when one of the workers decided to enter the tank to clean some dirty spots. The worker climbed inside and proceeded to use a chemical cleaner without putting on any protective equipment such as respiratory equipment, coveralls, gloves, safety glasses, hardhat, five-point harness and lifeline. All of this equipment was available for the worker's use at the workplace.

The cleaner emitted strong fumes and the worker inside the tank soon became disoriented and fell down unconscious in the tank, knocking over the pail of cleaner. When yells from the second worker, who was outside, failed to awaken the first worker, who was inside, the second worker called out "man down" and entered the tank.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The second worker wore no respiratory equipment, but tried to refrain from breathing while attempting to get the first worker into a five-point harness for extrication from the tank. The second worker then fell unconscious too.

Other workers managed to remove the second worker who suffered chemical burns to the face, right arm and buttock, abdomen and chest. Firefighters extricated the first worker who received chemical burns to the legs, buttocks and back. The incident occurred at the company's tanker truck cleaning facility at 2378 Royal Windsor Drive in Oakville.

Prokleen Washing Services (Oakville) Inc. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to:

- failing to provide information, instruction and supervision to the first worker on the cleaning of a confined space with a chemical stripper and
- failing to provide current information, instruction and supervision to the second worker on the removal from a confined space of a worker that required assistance.

This charge was contrary to Section 25(2)(a) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Barry Quinn of the Ontario Court of Justice in Burlington. In addition, the court imposed a 25% victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

<http://www.mromagazine.com/issues/ISArticle.asp?id=57032&issue=06162006>

NORTHERN IRELAND, BELFAST

JUNE 28 2006.

OIL TANK FIRE DAMAGES HOMES

A fire has caused damage to a number of properties in north Belfast.

It is understood that the fire spread from an oil tank at the rear of a house in Alliance Avenue at around 7am today.

The fuel is understood to have flowed from the backyard and then spread to another property in Stratford Gardens, which backs onto the house.

It then spread along a wall to the adjacent house.

The fire burnt through the roof above a rear bedroom on the house in Stratford Gardens, however no-one was injured during the blaze.

A number of other properties nearby sustained smoke and scorch damage.

The Fire and Rescue Service are currently investigating the cause of the blaze.

Meanwhile, an area in County Tyrone was sealed off this morning due to a leakage from an oil tanker.

Police cordoned off the Mill Street area, Craigavon Road and Ecclesville Way areas of Fintona town centre and residents were asked to vacate homes close to the scene.

The fire service attended the scene of the spillage, after being alerted shortly before 10am today.

<http://www.4ni.co.uk/news.asp?id=52878>

USA, LA, LAKE CHARLES

JUNE 28 2006.

PUTTING CITGO'S OIL SPILL IN PERSPECTIVE

Rhonda Kitchens

The United States Coast Guard says several Southwest Louisiana waterways are now affected by oil spilled from CITGO's Lake Charles facility.

"You have the Calcasieu River, the primary ship channel which has been affected, also Prien Lake, Moss Lake, and Lake Calcasieu, extending pretty much all the way down to the nine mile cut," USCG Operations Team member Chris Kimrey said.

And he says it may continue to flow even farther south. "It's hard to tell," he said. "These things are tricky."

Many call the spill a man-made devastation rivaling Hurricane Rita. The difference, however, is this time Mother Nature has been on our side.

"The weather's actually been very cooperative," Kimrey said but even under the best circumstances clean-up is a slow process. And now into day eight it remains slow-going for barges and ships attempting to navigate the area.

"The ship channel is still currently closed," he said, "however we are making an attempt to facilitate commerce and as ops permit we are allowing some movement on a case by case basis."

But CITGO admits massive amounts of oil, up to 18,000 barrels, are involved. To put the amount into some perspective, each barrel holds 42 gallons of oil so if 18,000 spilled out into Southwest Louisiana waterways you're talking about 756,000 gallons.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

"We have operations crews spotting from the skies and also the waterways, determining where the oil is forecast to head and we're trying to stay one step ahead of the game," Kimrey said.

A game that may take some time to play itself out.

<http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=5086955&nav=0nqx>

USA, ILL, SPRINGFIELD

JUNE 28 2006.

GAS SPILL CASE SENT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Chris Dettro

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has asked the state attorney general's office to look into possible enforcement action against a Pennsylvania company after the release of 148,680 gallons of gasoline from a storage tank in western Macon County on June 12.

Buckeye Partners LP, which operates the Harristown fuel distribution terminal about 25 miles east of Springfield, said June 14 that a preliminary investigation indicated faulty piping connecting above-ground storage tanks was to blame for the spill.

The company told the IEPA last week that an estimated 66,304 gallons of released gasoline hadn't been recovered and that its consultants were attempting to locate the fuel, much of which is thought to have evaporated.

The IEPA routinely refers cases to the attorney general's office if it believes action may be required beyond what the IEPA's compliance-based enforcement process can accomplish, agency spokeswoman Maggie Carson said Monday.

Scott Mulford, spokesman for Attorney General Lisa Madigan said the office's environmental bureau has received the referral, and the case is being examined for any violations of the state's Environmental Protection Act. Violations can result in a civil complaint calling for fines and compliance, Mulford said.

The decision to request enforcement assistance is based on the large volume of gasoline released and its potential to contaminate soil and groundwater, which could affect nearby private and public drinking water supplies, Carson said.

Buckeye employees on June 12 discovered a drainage tile discharging gasoline into a tributary of Long Point Slough, which flows into the Sangamon River.

It originally was reported that 71,400 gallons of gasoline were released from the storage tank. The spill caused the closing of Old Route 36 and the Norfolk Southern rail line for a day.

Absorbent booms were placed downstream from the tile in an attempt to recover the gasoline, much of which was confined to a containment ditch that surrounded the tank. However, the IEPA's emergency operations staff responded and saw that gasoline was continuing to leak into the slough both on June 12 and June 13.

Workers discovered gasoline in a nearby drainage ditch as well.

The company said in a press release that the source of the leak was located and stopped a few hours after the gasoline was discovered.

Soil samples taken by the IEPA showed the leaking gasoline spread about two miles from the site, but further testing determined that the public drinking water supply for the two nearest communities, Harristown and Niantic, were safe, Carson said last week, and a spokeswoman for the Macon County Department of Public Health said nearby private wells also were deemed safe.

The IEPA also learned that benzene, toluene and other substances found in gasoline have been detected in samples taken as close as one-quarter of a mile from the recharge area for Harristown's water supply, Carson said.

The company said that upon completion of a comprehensive assessment, Buckeye will develop a site-specific remediation plan that, once approved by the IEPA, will be implemented to monitor and remediate any affected soil and groundwater.

The attorney general's office also is reviewing other IEPA referrals concerning smaller amounts of gasoline and diesel fuel that leaked from other Buckeye Partners facilities in the state. Those leaks allegedly have occurred over the past few years.

The Harristown terminal services gasoline tankers, which then transport the fuel to gas stations.

<http://www.sj-r.com/sections/news/stories/89511.asp>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, ILL, CHICAGO

JUNE 29 2006.

CSB TO INVESTIGATE FATAL EXPLOSION AND FIRE AT UNIVERSAL FORM CLAMP CO. IN BELLWOOD, ILLINOIS

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today announced it will pursue an investigation of the fatal explosion and fire at Universal Form Clamp Company in Bellwood, Illinois, a Chicago suburb.

Shortly after 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 14, 2006, an explosion and fire occurred in a mixing room at the facility, causing one fatality and five injuries.

The incident occurred while workers were heating and mixing flammable solvents in an open tank. At the time of the incident there were approximately 11,000 pounds of a mixture of heptane and mineral spirits in the open-top tank. Heptane is a highly flammable and volatile liquid that is a component of gasoline.

During the heating process there was a sudden evolution of flammable vapors from the tank. The vapors ignited, causing an explosion and fire. Combustible chemicals stored nearby also caught fire and burned for two hours until the blaze was extinguished by local firefighters.

CSB investigators arrived at the facility on Thursday, June 15, 2006, to assess the incident, interview witnesses and employees, and examine the site. According to eyewitness interviews, the injured workers were not in the mixing room, but in adjacent work areas. CSB interviews indicate that the fatally injured worker was a delivery driver who was not employed by Universal Form Clamp Company.

Universal Form Clamp Co. is a manufacturer and supplier of construction products and chemicals. The facility changed ownership about six weeks prior to the incident. The company has been cooperating fully with the investigation.

CSB Board Member John Bresland said, "The Board is concerned about the practice of mixing and heating flammable liquids in open tanks without appropriate safeguards. Our investigation will examine facility procedures as well as the adequacy of fire codes, standards, and local permitting and enforcement."

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA.

The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in safety management systems, regulations, and industry standards. Visit our website www.csb.gov.

<http://www.csb.gov>