

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The Steel Tank Institute is unable to guarantee the accuracy of any information. Every effort has been undertaken to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this publication but it is not intended to be comprehensive or to render advice. Websites may be current at the time of release, however may become inaccessible.

The newsletter may be copied and distributed subject to:

- *All text being copied without modification*
- *Containing the copyright notice or any other notice provided therein*
- *Not distributed for profit*

By learning about the misfortunes of others, it is STI's hope to educate the public by creating a greater awareness of the hazards with storage and use of petroleum and chemicals. Please refer to the many industry standards and to the fire and building codes for further guidance on the safe operating practices with hazardous liquids. Thanks and credit for content are given to Dangerous Goods-Hazmat Group Network.

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

USA, DE, WILMINGTON

APRIL 23 2012.

DIESEL SPILL AT PORT OF WILMINGTON

Michelle Provencher

More than a thousand gallons of diesel fuel accidentally spilled into the Port of Wilmington in the early hours of Sunday morning. 1,300 gallons of diesel spewed from a storage tank of a crane onto the terminal and into the Christina River adjacent to berths three and four. The Diamond State Port Corporation says the leak is likely due to an electrical malfunction of a fuel tank fill pump. No further leakage is expected. Containment and clean-up crews are expected to be working throughout the day, U.S. Coast Guard officials are on the scene.

<http://www.wdel.com/story.php?id=42313>

PAKISTAN, KARACHI

APRIL 23 2012.

ANOTHER SOURCE OF KEENJHAR LAKE TOXICITY EXPOSED OIL CONTAMINANTS BEING RELEASED BY AN OIL DEPOT

According to sources, the high level of lead in a section of the lake is due to oil contaminants being released by an oil depot and has nothing to do with the recent incident of toxicity in the drain.

Speaking to Dawn, Dr Mohammad Ahsan Siddiqui, a senior expert on water analysis carrying out the tests on the request of the Sindh Environment Protection Agency (Sepa), said that water samples were taken from a windmill project site, the mouth of the drain and a portion of the lake from where water was supplied to the Jhimpir town.

"Initially, we have determined the levels of arsenic, chromium, lead and mercury compounds at these three points as they existed on April 18 when the incident was reported," he said, adding that a detailed analysis was under way and complete findings would be available by next week.

According to Dr Siddiqui, chromium, lead and mercury levels at the windmill project site was found to be at 43.52ppb (parts per billion), 13.89ppb and 5.32ppb respectively.

Levels of chromium and lead were found to be at 1.88ppb and 9.46ppb respectively at the mouth of the drain. The level of lead in a section of the lake located about one and a half kilometre away from the drain was found to be at 333.33ppb. No traces of mercury were detected at both these sites whereas samples taken from the latter site didn't show any trace of mercury.

The World Health Organisation's recommended value for these compounds for drinking water is: lead (10ppb), chromium (50ppb) and mercury (1ppb).

"As one can see, the values are abnormal if compared with the WHO's standards. However, a technically sound analysis of the situation could only be made with the help of complete results," Dr Siddiqui said.

He expressed surprise over the high level of lead found in the lake (333.33ppb) as its level at the drain's mouth was low (9.46ppb) and said that there was an urgent need for an investigation as this contamination had nothing to do with the recent incident of toxicity in the drain.

Immediate temporary arrangements, he said, should be made to prevent the drain's water from entering the lake and that he had advised the same to the authorities concerned in a meeting on Saturday.

"I have also recommended suspension of water from the lake to Jhimpir town on emergency basis as well as a significant increase in supply of freshwater to the Keenjhar Lake. Hopefully, we would have good rains in coming days

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

and if that happens the toxicity level at the drain would automatically reduce," he concluded.

It is important to mention here that water supply from the lake to Jhimpir town, according to irrigation department officials, was suspended just a few day ago when the news of the drain contamination and animal's deaths surfaced. And before the incidents, the contaminated water was being supplied to the town.

However, the irrigation department and the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board have so far been denying contamination of the lake with drain's toxic water.

High levels of lead in the human body can cause serious health problems, including kidney failure and brain damage, Dr Siddiqui said.

<http://dawn.com/2012/04/22/another-source-of-keenjhar-lake-toxicity-exposed/>

RUSSIAN ARCTIC, NENETS AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT, USINSK, APRIL 24 2012. UP TO 2,000 TONS OF CRUDE OIL MAY HAVE SPILLED FROM OIL FIELD IN RUSSIA'S NORTH

Up to 2,000 tons of oil have spilled from a major field in northern Russia after workers struggled to contain the leak for two days, officials said.

The accident happened at the Trebs oil field in the Nenets Autonomous District on Friday following work on an exploratory well. The oil had been gushing for nearly two days before the workers finally capped the well Sunday morning, Emergency Ministry officials said.

Vladimir Bezumov, chief of the Russian Environmental Agency in the area, said the weekend spill could have produced between 800 and 2,000 tons and contaminated at least 8,000 square meters (86,100 square feet) of land. Another 6,000 square meters (64,600 square feet) of land are believed to have been slightly damaged.

Bezumov said it was too early to speak of the causes of the accident, but he said it was likely a combination of technical issues and human error.

The oil field is developed by a joint venture between Russia's largest private company Lukoil and another Russian oil major Bashneft. It holds some 153 million tons of oil.

Russian environmental officials will be preparing a lawsuit against the oil companies after the clean-up is over, Bezumov said.

The area around the oil field is largely unpopulated but the oil spill has damaged pastures used by local reindeer herdsman.

Russia has not seen major oil spills for years. But maintenance of pipelines in old fields is poor, and oil leaks from rusty pipes and poorly sealed wells daily, experts say. An AP investigation last year showed that at least 1 percent of Russia's annual oil production, or 5 million tons, is spilled into the environment every year.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/up-to-2000-tons-of-crude-oil-may-have-spilled-from-oil-field-in-russias-north/2012/04/23/gIQA1bknBT_story.html

USA, MN, ST PAUL PARK

APRIL 23 2012.

ILLEGAL BENZENE DUMP RESULTS IN \$700,000 FINE

Marathon Petroleum Corp. has paid a \$700,000 fine for dumping benzene into an unlined lagoon near the Mississippi River in 2010. Benzene is a known carcinogen. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency alleges Marathon lacked the proper permits to dispose of the benzene and had already exceeded its permit limits for ammonia, nitrogen and sulfides at the time of the dump. Since the incident, Marathon has sold the facility located in St. Paul Park to the St. Paul Park Refining Company.

Note: The fine comes at the end of a long investigation that surely included employee interviews. When government investigators come calling, you must make employees available to them. Trying to stonewall or, worse, muzzle whistle-blowers will only make the situation worse.

<http://www.businessmanagementdaily.com/30033/illegal-benzene-dump-results-in-700000-fine>

USA, OH, SANDY TWP

MAY 2 2012.

LIGHTNING SUSPECTED IN TANK EXPLOSION, FIRE

A lightning strike or static electricity is believed to have caused an explosion and fire at an oil field storage tank Monday morning.

Witnesses reported the explosion could be heard for several miles, Waynesburg Fire Chief Jim Marraccini said. The blast blew the lid off the tank. It was found about 400 feet away along the side of state Route 183, Marraccini said.

Firefighters were called at 10:22 a.m. and crews arrived within six minutes. The storage tank is in a field south

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

of state Route 183 and east of Greer Avenue SE, behind the Asbury Chapel AME Church.

Marraccini said there was a small fire in the tank, which was extinguished quickly. The tank had split, allowing oil and brine inside the tank to leak.

Witnesses reported a storm had passed through the Waynesburg area just before the explosion was heard, Marraccini said, leading to speculation that lightening or static electricity ignited gas near the well. There was no electrical service at the storage tank, he said.

Marraccini said the Ohio Environmental Protection agency was called to the scene. State EPA employees consulted with well owners on a clean-up plan for the site.

Firefighters with the Waynesburg, Sandy Township and Magnolia volunteer fire departments responded. Marraccini said Waynesburg firefighters remained at the scene until about 1 p.m. after the clean up had started.

The tank collected oil, gas and brine from a vertical well that is several hundred feet southeast in the field. Another set of storage tanks about 1,000 feet away also collects oil, gas and brine produced by the well.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/news/x1942600690/Lightning-suspected-in-tank-explosion-fire>

USA, MA, FALMOUTH

MAY 3 2012.

FALMOUTH FUEL COMPANY TO PAY \$28K FOR OIL SPILL

Mathea Morais

Loud Fuel Company, based in Falmouth and its manager Kabraul Tasha, will pay the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection \$28,000 in fines per the order of Dukes County Superior Court judge. Tasha spilled 50 gallons of gasoline in Oak Bluffs, and didn't tell anybody about it.

According to an article in the Martha's Vineyard Times, on Monday, April 23rd, Tasha plead guilty to failure to report a fuel spill and environmental endangerment.

Judge C.J. Moriarty ordered Loud Fuel to pay \$25,000 to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and fined Tasha \$3,000.

The event took place on June 19, 2009, when "Tasha delivered gasoline to the pumps at Jim's Package Store. He attached the fuel hose to a tank that was already full by mistake, started pumping fuel, then left the area. Surveillance video showed fuel spraying out of the filler pipe for about six minutes," reported the Times.

However, it was not until employees at the nearby Nancy's Restaurant noticed a strong smell of gasoline four days later that the spill was discovered.

"These defendants failed to immediately report a release of gasoline, causing damage to nearby businesses and also putting customers and employees at risk of a dangerous explosion," Massachusetts attorney general Martha Coakley said in a news release. "It is important to hold those accountable who do not comply with the environmental laws regarding oil spills so that the community and the public are not put at risk."

Judge Moriarty continued the case against Tasha without a finding for two years, and ordered him to get training on spill prevention and reporting.

Loud Fuel was also placed on three years probation by Judge Moriarty and company employees will have to participate in annual spill prevention and reporting training. Loud will also have to pay for annual environmental audits and reimburse Nancy's Restaurant for the property damage caused by the spill.

<http://marthasvineyard.patch.com/articles/falmouth-fuel-company-to-pay-28k-for-oil-spill>

USA, CA, EMERYVILLE

MAY 10 2012.

HYDROGEN LEAK OCCURS AT LINDE'S EMERYVILLE FUEL CELL BUS FILLING STATION

A hydrogen fuel tank leak occurred at a Linde-operated AC Transit fuel cell bus refueling station in Emeryville, California on Friday (4th May 2012) morning. A pressure valve in a hydrogen storage tank malfunctioned, causing it to leak. This resulted in an explosion and small fire, which quickly burned itself out; the exact reason why the valve malfunctioned is currently unknown. The explosion and fire led to the precautionary evacuation of several surrounding businesses and a nearby secondary school by local authorities.

There were no injuries during the event, in which local residents are said to have heard a loud pop and seen a fireball rise in the sky at the bus yard. There are inherent risks in handling any compressed flammable gas or liquid, and it is important to note that automatic safety procedures initiated as soon as the leak began, including the shut-off of hydrogen lines. Hydrogen is lighter than air and although explosive, quickly escapes upwards when released, meaning that fires typically begin with an explosion but quickly run out of fuel. This is unlike petrol or diesel, which are flammable liquids that result in longer-lasting and typically more dangerous fires when leaked.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

To add some context, the US NFPA reports that between 2004 and 2008, on average, one in every thirteen conventional service stations experienced a fire. These fires caused an annual average of two civilian deaths, 48 civilian injuries and \$20 million in property damage. 61% of these fires were vehicle fires, most commonly started by gasoline ignition. A 2001 study undertaken by Dr Michael Swain of the University of Miami used two test vehicles to simulate two car fires, one created by a 1/16th inch puncture in a gasoline fuel line, the other by a leaking hydrogen connector. Images from his video recording of the experiment, shown below, demonstrate the comparative safety of hydrogen vehicles, and indeed refueling. No infrastructure will ever operate fault-free and the Linde Emeryville incident is a reminder of both the many safety systems built into hydrogen stations and the reason for their existence. <http://www.fuelcelltoday.com/news-events/news-archive/2012/may/hydrogen-leak-occurs-at-linde's-emeryville-fuel-cell-bus-filling-station>

USA, WYO, CHEYENNE

MAY 13 2012.

OIL FIRE ERUPTS EAST OF TOWN; NONE HURT

A fire with flames 100 to 200 feet high erupted Friday at an oil well east of Cheyenne owned by SM Energy.

The fire at 1781 County Road 136 started in an oil treater containing 20 to 250 gallons of an oil and water mixture, Laramie County Fire District 2 spokesman Lew Simpson said. The treater overflowed and was ignited.

An oil treater removes sediment and water from crude oil before it is transported to refineries.

"It ignited, and it was threatening about 42,000 gallons of other oil fuel stored nearby," Simpson said. "We managed to control it n we shut off the fuel to the fire."

About 60 firefighters responded to the scene from several agencies, including six Laramie County fire districts, the Torrington Fire Department and F.E. Warren Air Force Base. Firefighters from the local Frontier Oil refinery also helped out.

The fire was extinguished in about an hour. No injuries were reported.

As of 2 p.m., firefighters were still on the scene pouring water on the main storage tank to cool it down.

"We're just doing some preventative stuff and assisting with the investigation," Simpson said. "It should take a couple of hours. We're starting to release units and change out personnel."

Simpson said a call was received at about 10 a.m., and crews arrived about 20 minutes later.

"We had trouble trying to get to the location because it is remote," he said.

Laramie County planning director Gary Kranse said the county tries to map out the location of the wells so first-responders know their exact location.

But he said the county is unable to record the location of all the wells.

"Not all the companies have been real good about getting us the addresses," he said.

Kransé did not know if SM Energy's well address was listed.

He added that the county's database also does not include some of the older wells.

According to the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's database, the well was completed in November 2010. It has been producing oil and gas since then.

According to SM Energy's 2011 fourth-quarter earnings report, the well was producing an average of 280 barrels of oil equivalent per day.

The spilled oil was contained in storage dykes around the tanks, so none of the oil leaked.

James Edward, manager of investor relations for SM Energy, said the company does not yet know the cause of the fire.

"At this time we are just making sure we are handling everything from an environmental and safety standpoint," he said.

He said the company is investigating the incident, but he did not have a timeframe for when they would know more.

http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2012/05/12/news/01top_05-12-12.txt

USA, WA, SEATTLE

MAY 14 2012.

MAN BREAKS LEG IN FALL FROM OLD GASWORKS PARK STORAGE TANK

Seattle firefighters rescued a man who fell from an old gas storage tank and fractured his leg at Gasworks Parks early Saturday.

At about 2 a.m., the man in his 20s apparently jumped a barbed wire fence, walked past two no trespassing signs, climbed up the structure, then fell 15-to-20 feet onto an iron platform.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

"There's a reason these fences are up. There's a reason there are trespassing signs up. This a dangerous place and unfortunately, this gentlemen suffered some injuries for avoiding those signs which were there to protect him," said Kyle Moore with the Seattle Fire Dept.

Firefighters put the injured man in a basket and lowered him 50-feet to the ground.

Paramedics transported the man to Harborview Medical Center, where he's listed in stable condition.

<http://www.nwcn.com/home/?fid=151261595&fPath=/news/local&fDomain=10212>

SINGAPORE

MAY 19 2012.

FERRARI CATCHES FIRE AT PETROL STATION

The car was slightly burnt and had to be towed away from the Havelock Road kiosk. The driver, said to be in his 30s, escaped unscathed.

Amid the attention on Ferraris this week, one burst into flames at a petrol kiosk on Thursday night. The car was slightly burnt and had to be towed away, while the pump station was damaged and had to be shut down for three hours. The driver of the Ferrari, described as plump and in his 30s, escaped unscathed as he managed to put out the small flames on his pants quickly with a nearby fire extinguisher.

Speaking to The Straits Times at the Singapore Petroleum Company kiosk in Havelock Road, pump attendant Prakash, who goes by only one name, said he usually lays a towel under the petrol tank before filling it up to prevent any leakage.

http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory_800655.html

CANADA, NL, COME BY CHANCE

MAY 20 2012.

30,000 BARRELS LEAK AT COME BY CHANCE; OIL CONTAINED

There has been a major leak of oil at the Come by Chance refinery. No oil has entered the water, officials say, and the leak has been contained. It is currently being cleaned up. Refinery official Gloria Warren-Slade says 30,000 barrels of crude spilled. The problem is a leak in one of the 45 holding tanks on site. The company says there's no threat to the environment. And the spill hasn't interrupted operations at Come by Chance. The oil is the type commonly referred to as bunker oil. Warren-Slade says the leaked oil has been contained by the berm system known as an impounding basin that surrounds each of the 45 storage tanks. She says the system is an emergency mechanism — like a trenching system or a ditch — that performed as designed in this case, containing and controlling the oil. The oil will be reprocessed at the refinery, according to Warren-Slade. Refinery officials are now investigating the reason for the leak.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2012/05/18/nl-come-by-chance-spill-518.html>

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE

MAY 20 2012.

HILCORP LOOKS TO RESUME OIL STORAGE IN SHADOW OF VOLCANO

HILCORP ALASKA TOOK OVER DRIFT RIVER TERMINAL AND APPLIED FOR PLAN RENEWAL.

Wesley Loy

Hilcorp Alaska plans to resume storing oil at the Drift River tank farm on the west side of Cook Inlet. In fact, the company already has obtained interim permission to fill one of the enormous tanks at Drift River.

Hilcorp has told state officials it's important to bring Drift River storage capacity back online to avoid production shut-ins. But the state is requiring Hilcorp to make certain improvements to safeguard the remote property from flooding that could result from an eruption of nearby Redoubt volcano.

An eruption in 2009 forced an evacuation of the Drift River terminal and an emergency drawdown of stored oil. The tank farm since has been essentially mothballed.

Because of the proximity to an active volcano, not everyone is pleased to see the tank farm come back into service.

The Drift River terminal is where tankers load west Cook Inlet crude for delivery to refineries, chiefly Tesoro's refinery on the opposite side of the inlet.

The Redoubt eruption sent mud flows known as lahars down the Drift River. Berms built around the tank farm saved it from a potentially disastrous inundation and spill.

Hilcorp took over the terminal Jan. 1 as part of its purchase of Chevron's Cook Inlet properties. A Hilcorp subsidiary, Cook Inlet Pipe Line Co., or CIPL, operates the terminal.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Hilcorp has applied to the state for renewal of the oil spill prevention and response plan for the terminal and the 42-mile pipeline that feeds into it from fields to the north. The company proposes using two of the terminal's seven storage tanks as a way to improve handling of west Inlet oil production.

Hilcorp plans a public workshop on the Drift River terminal reopening on May 23 at the Soldotna Sports Center. Hilcorp hopes to have a range of people on hand to answer questions, including representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the Alaska Volcano Observatory. Also expected at the workshop is Jim Aldrich of Fairbanks, who helped design the flood control system after Redoubt's 1989-90 eruption produced a lahar that partially flooded the Drift River terminal.

Redoubt is 106 miles southwest of Anchorage. It rises to 10,198 feet above sea level. The Drift River terminal is about 22 miles northeast of the volcano.

The Drift River is on one side of the tank farm, with an offshoot called Rust Slough running along the other side. The river currently is sediment-filled and dry, said DEC environmental program specialist Shannon DeWandel.

Hilcorp spokeswoman Lori Nelson said Hilcorp is planning summer construction to improve the fortifications around the tank farm. But it's unclear exactly what that work will entail. The company is still awaiting a final engineering report from Aldrich, Nelson said.

The 2009 lahars deposited a lot of material up against the tank farm berms, reducing their "freeboard," so the barriers will have to be raised a few feet. This will involve building up the earthen berms, or installing sheet piling.

"We've already ordered the sheet pipe," Nelson said.

The engineering report, she said, will help determine the height needed and what forces the barriers will need to withstand.

"We're hoping to have the project completed by early fall. Oct. 1 is the deadline we're shooting for," Nelson said.

Brice Construction, which helped install the original tank farm protections after the 1989-90 volcanic event, will be involved in making the improvements, she said.

The original fortifications worked well to protect the tank farm in 2009, Nelson said.

"It was a non-incident. There was not a single drop of oil spilled," she said, and no one was hurt.

DEC on April 27 approved CIPL's request to use Drift River Tank 3 for oil storage. The approval is good until Sept. 30. The company cited a number of circumstances as the basis for its April 24 request, including a disruption in tanker arrivals at the terminal.

Since the tank farm shutdown, operators have used a "tight line" technique to pipe crude from upstream producers directly onto tankers. But due to unscheduled maintenance on one of the ships hauling for Tesoro -- the tanker Overseas Boston -- west Cook Inlet oil producers were facing shut-ins for lack of storage and tankers calling often enough at Drift River.

Not only was Hilcorp's production subject to shut-in but also that of Cook Inlet Energy and Exxon Mobil, CIPL said.

The company also noted it had lost 40,000 barrels of storage capacity due to tank maintenance at the Trading Bay production facility.

Finally, CIPL said having Drift River storage available would alleviate problems in trying to pig its pipeline during tight line operations. A pig is a device that slides through a pipeline to test for anomalies such as corrosion. CIPL said it has a regulatory obligation to conduct a pig run by August.

In granting approval to use Tank 3, DEC is requiring CIPL to schedule a tanker to respond right away to drain the tank should the volcano observatory raise the Redoubt alert level. And the tank may be used "only as needed to avoid shutting in the producing wells."

Resuming regular storage operations at the Drift River terminal would have significant benefits. Tight lining requires tankers to call at Drift River more often. Arrivals now average one vessel every two weeks. Storage availability would reduce tanker visits.

Further, ships can load faster by withdrawing oil from Drift River storage rather than tight lining. This has the benefit of shortening tanker berthing times at the Christy Lee offshore loading platform, which currently is somewhat hobbled as it awaits replacement of a "fender" damaged by Cook Inlet ice, DeWandel said.

The Drift River terminal was constructed in 1966, and sits in a floodplain.

Bob Shavelson, with the Homer-based nonprofit Cook Inletkeeper, said he believes it's a poor idea to revive the tank farm, given what he considers the facility's poorly chosen location.

It's good to reduce the number of tankers calling at Drift River, he said, but "the fact remains that putting an oil storage facility at the base of a volcano is one of the stupidest things you could ever do."

Shavelson believes the real solution is to lay a subsea pipeline to carry west Cook Inlet oil to the refinery.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

John Barnes, Hilcorp's senior vice president for Alaska, addressed the pipeline idea in a May 10 talk to the Alaska Support Industry Alliance.

With Hilcorp just now embarking on efforts to increase Inlet oil production, he said, it's not yet clear how to size a pipeline that obviously would be quite a cost commitment.

<http://www.adn.com/2012/05/19/2471782/hilcorp-looks-to-resume-oil-storage.html#storylink=cpy>

INDIA, JAIPUR

MAY 21 2012.

OIL SPILL AT INDIAN OIL CORPORATION DEPOT, SWIFT ACTION AVERTS MAJOR DISASTER

A major disaster was averted at the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) depot in Sitapura on Sunday when thousands of litres of oil spilled on to the premises after a "gasket failure". However, swift action by company officials averted a major tragedy.

The nearby factories also witnessed a shower of oil, which created panic among the labourers. They moved out of their units immediately fearing that this could lead to a major inferno like the last one. An FIR has been registered against IOC officials by some owners of nearby factories for putting their life in danger. In October 2009, a devastating fire that broke out at the same depot killed many people, including IOC employees. The Sunday incident brought back the memories of the ghastly incident.

"This type of gasket failure is a rare incident. However, timely intervention and immediate deactivation of the line prevented a mishap," an IOC release said later in the day.

A nearby factory official, Vivek Lodha, said, "The incident took place early on Sunday. The labourers rushed out of the factories."

The district officials, fire-fighters, ambulances, disaster management teams and police teams rushed to the IOC depot.

Sanganer sub-divisional magistrate Shyam Singh Shekhawat, said: "Initially, there was panic in the area but within a few minutes, situation was brought under control."

Deputy general manager, IOC (Chaksu), S K Jain, said, "The incident happened because of the mechanical failure. The malfunction of a gasket which connects two pipelines led to the incident. However, the oil spill was controlled on time. The two engineers shut down the pipeline which prevented further oil spilling."

This is the second incident of oil spilling from IOC pipelines. On Saturday, some miscreants damaged the Mundra-Panipat pipelines at Jataon Ka Bass in Jaisinghpura Khor in Jaipur district. Since other officials were busy in repairing the pipelines at Jaisinghpura Khor, there were only two engineers at Sitapura IOC depot, sources said.

According to police, Raghvendra Srivastava, manager, JVS Food Products, near the depot has registered an FIR against IOC officials under Sections 285, 336 and 427 of the IPC saying that oil had spilled on food products stored in his company.

"We will fix the liability of negligence. Officials found negligent will be mentioned in the FIR in course of investigation," said a police officer.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-05-21/jaipur/31800239_1_ioc-officials-ioc-pipelines-oil-spill

ENGLAND, LANCASHIRE

MAY 21 2012.

FIRE CREW TELL OF MOMENT THEY WERE NEARLY 'OBLITERATED' BY GAS BLAST

Firefighters have spoken of the moment they were almost "obliterated" by a massive gas explosion.

Four firefighters from Farnworth fire station's White Watch were working just yards from a concealed acetylene cylinder when it blew up, causing a blast that rocked houses up to a mile away.

Now the crew members have spoken about their terrifying experience in a bid to warn people of the dangers of leaving cylinders in the open and setting fire to rubbish not knowing what is hidden beneath it.

The warning comes after another fire crew dealt with a second blaze at the weekend involving an acetylene gas cylinder — which could also have exploded.

In the first incident, White Watch was called to a blaze in Cross Street, Farnworth, where someone had set fire to a pile of rubbish next to a derelict factory.

Watch commander Ben Cartwright and firefighter Mark Gillard climbed ladders to look over a seven foot wall and were discussing a plan of action.

They had just climbed down to put on more protective clothing when they were hit by a blast that was "like a bomb going off", leaving the four men closest to it deaf for about 45 minutes.

Mr Gillard and Mr Cartwright, aged 49, said the first thing they did was check if they still had their own arms

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

and legs.

Mr Cartwright, who has 27 years' experience in the fire service, said: "I have never experienced anything like that — it was so close.

"Although it was night time, the scene lit up like daylight and Tony said it started raining fire, with bits of tyres, mattresses and debris coming down.

"My legs went and I lost my balance because of the shock and I slid down the wall. Mark thought I was dead.

"We are just thanking our lucky stars that we are still here and that no-one was seriously hurt.

"It was surreal, like being in a film or something."

Firefighter Jason Snowden was nearest to the cylinder during the incident just after 1am last Saturday. He was about five metres away, while crew commander Tony Loftus was sat on top of a wall above the yard.

Mr Snowden, aged 41, who has been a firefighter for 16 years, said: "We see gory stuff and things that are hard to get out of your mind, but nothing has shaken me up as much as this.

"If it had have blown in my direction, I would have been obliterated.

"We saw what it did to the wall — and it is amazing that no-one was injured by the debris either."

The solid double-layered wall, which had been built just six months ago, was pushed out six inches by the blast.

The other four crew members, who were a bit further away, feared the worst for their colleagues.

Adam Freer, aged 30, frantically smashed through a gate to get to his colleagues, while Daz Green, who was a bit further away, said: "When it went off, I thought there is no way they would have survived that.

"We had to go in not knowing what we would run into, and we were expecting the worst."

The fire service is now warning people not to leave gas cylinders in the open and not to start fires at derelict sites or on wasteland.

Mr Cartwright added: "The consequences of these actions could have been so much worse — it could almost certainly have resulted in deaths."

[http://www.thisislancashire.co.uk/news/9717091.Fire crew tell of moment they were nearly obliterated by gas blast/](http://www.thisislancashire.co.uk/news/9717091.Fire%20crew%20tell%20of%20moment%20they%20were%20nearly%20obliterated%20by%20gas%20blast/)

USA, ARKANSAS, EL DORADO

MAY 22 2012

EL DORADO TANK EXPLOSION CLAIMS THREE LIVES

Three workers are dead as a result of a tank explosion at an abandoned oil well near El Dorado in south Arkansas.

The Long Brothers Oil Co. workers were taking apart a metal tank used to hold crude oil when something ignited vapors inside, sparking the blast Monday, Union County, Ark., emergency manager Jerry Thomas said. The names of those killed were withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The fire in the tank was extinguished, but not before it spread to nearby woods, Thomas said. Forestry crews had the fire out by Monday night.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency are investigating the blast.

No one answered a telephone number listed for the company, which is based in Norphlet, Ark.

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20120522/NEWS/120522020/El-Dorado-tank-explosion-claims-three-lives>

USA, ARKANSAS, EL DORADO

MAY 22 2012

ARKANSAS BLAST FATALLY BURNS 3 BEYOND RECOGNITION

A three-man oil crew was killed in an explosion in El Dorado, Arkansas, while dismantling an abandoned containment vessel filled with residual oil vapors, the Arkansas Emergency Management said Monday.

The crew was working for the Long Brothers Oil Co. at the abandoned site when the blast occurred about 4 p.m., Arkansas EMS spokesman Chad Stover said.

"During the dismantling, there was an ignition of vapors inside one of the tanks," Stover said. "All three were killed. They were burned beyond recognition."

It was not immediately clear whether the site had an owner and what the Long Brothers' relationship was to the site, he added.

Calls to Long Brothers from CNN went unanswered.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The El Dorado Fire Department initially responded to the explosion and had since controlled the fire, Stover said.

Flames from the blast ignited a separate fire in a wooded area near the abandoned oil site, he added. The Arkansas Forestry Department was dispatched to contain the fire, which was still burning as of 6:30 p.m. EST. <http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/21/us/arkansas-fatal-blast/index.html>

USA, WASHINGTON DC

MAY 22 2012.

CSB DEPLOYS TEAM TO EL DORADO, ARKANSAS TO INVESTIGATE FATAL HOT WORK EXPLOSION

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today deployed a four-person investigation team to El Dorado, Arkansas to determine the cause of an explosion and fire that severely burned and killed three workers.

The accident occurred yesterday, May 21, 2012, mid-afternoon on an oil tank site operated by Long Brothers Oil Company on land the company leased near El Dorado, in the southernmost part of the state. Preliminary information gathered by the CSB indicates workers were conducting hot work – defined as any burning, cutting, welding or other operation that is capable of initiating fires or explosions – on one of the tanks. The CSB team is expected to begin its investigation on site tomorrow morning.

CSB Chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso said, “This unfortunate tragedy in Arkansas involving the deaths of three workers is the kind of hot work accident that occurs much too frequently. The CSB has investigated too many of these accidents which can be prevented by carefully monitoring for flammable vapor before and during hot work. We have released a safety bulletin and safety video on the hazards of welding or cutting around piping and tanks that have not been tested or monitored to see if they contain flammable hydrocarbons.”

The bulletin, released in February 2010, is entitled, “Seven Key Lessons to Prevent Worker Deaths During Hot Work In and Around Tanks: Effective Hazard Assessment and Use of Combustible Gas Monitoring Will Save Lives.”

The video, “Hot Work: Hidden Hazards,” is available at www.CSB.gov or at www.YouTube.com/uscsb. It was released along with the final report on the DuPont Buffalo, New York facility explosion and fire that occurred November 9, 2010, killing a contract worker and injuring another. The CSB determined the explosion was caused by sparks in a welding operation taking place atop a storage tank that contained flammable vinyl chloride. While the atmosphere above the tank was tested for flammable vapor, the CSB said a root cause of the accident was the failure to monitor the interior of the tank.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating serious 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 regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

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.

For more information, contact CSB Communications Manager Hillary Cohen, cell 202-441-2980 or Sandy Gilmour, cell 202-251.5496. NOTE: Ms. Cohen is deploying with the team and will be on site in El Dorado.