

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

USA, CO, WELD CO

SEPTEMBER 15 2015.

HOW SHALE OIL CAN KILL

Mike Soraghan

When Joe Morales found him, Jim Freemyer was standing over the hatch, dazed and miming the gestures of measuring the crude oil tank with nothing in his hands.

Later, Freemyer wouldn't even remember Morales guiding him off the catwalk. All he recalled was smelling something like gasoline and getting dizzy.

After that, Freemyer, a truck driver from nearby Evans, Colo., demanded a mask to protect him from the fumes.

But it didn't. He was wearing the mask three weeks later, when another co-worker found him face down over a different hatch. This time, he was dead.

Advertisement

Vapors from the crude oil killed him, according to authorities in Weld County, Colo., where Freemyer died in July 2014. The coroner said the 59-year-old suffered "sudden cardiac death" when his already weakened heart was overwhelmed by inhalation of toxic gases and lack of oxygen.

Freemyer is one of at least nine oil workers to have died this way since 2010, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) ([EnergyWire](#), April 13). The deaths occurred from Texas to North Dakota. Three were in Colorado, including the deaths of Freemyer and a driver from the same company, Now or Never Trucking.

The danger of vapors from storage tanks has been poorly understood in the oil field, even flatly denied at times. But documents from the litigation that followed Freemyer's death map out in chilling detail just how toxic gases from oil field storage tanks can kill people.

All crude oil has toxic compounds called volatile hydrocarbons, such as benzene, butane and propane. Shale oil, such as that from Colorado's Niobrara formation, has more than conventional crude. It's related to why trains loaded with shale crude explode when they derail.

Lighter than the rest of the oil, the vapors bubble up in storage tanks and collect above the liquid. They can burst out of the tank with enough force to knock off a worker's hard hat.

And at high concentrations, the hydrocarbons can displace so much oxygen that they asphyxiate victims, even outdoors. At the same time, the chemicals get in the blood and disrupt the heart. In a cruel twist, they disorient the brain so victims often don't try to escape the fumes.

Earlier this year, NIOSH, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and an industry safety group issued an alert warning of the dangers posed by crude oil vapors ([EnergyWire](#), April 27).

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In some of the other cases identified by NIOSH, authorities missed key details. The workers' deaths were written off as heart problems. Employers hinted that the men were intentionally inhaling oil fumes to get "high." Supervisors and medical officials dismissed the idea that oil fumes could kill anybody ([EnergyWire](#), Oct. 27, 2014).

But by the time Freemyer died, federal worker safety officials had identified deaths from tank fumes as an alarming trend in the oil field. Freemyer's death became possibly the best-investigated example of that trend.

A stream of vapors

Freemyer was a long-haul trucker who had recently found work closer to home in the oil field. He'd been driving trucks on overnight runs for several years when a family member told him about the money to be made working in Colorado's booming Niobrara Shale.

He got hired in May 2014 by Now or Never Trucking for a job that paid \$1,007 a week. Beyond the money, the hours were better.

"He could be home on weekends, and it wasn't a night job," said his son, Mike Freemyer.

Freemyer and his wife, Connie, had settled in Weld County, a sprawling patch of high plains that stretches northeast from the Denver suburbs to the Wyoming line.

Weld is the heart of the Niobrara Shale boom. You can see the Rockies from the eastern edge of the county, but it looks more like Kansas -- flat and full of cows. Increasingly, in the past few years, the cows have been joined in the fields by the bobbing heads of pumpjacks, where deep holes were fracked to jar loose oil.

Freemyer was preparing to haul a load of oil from a Weld County well site on the outskirts of Denver when Morales found him in June 2014. Details of the episode, about three weeks before his death, give an unsettling look at how he and the other victims might have died.

Before they can haul off their loads, oil field truck drivers sample oil in the tanks for water content and measure the volume. The methods seem remarkably low-tech in the smartphone era. They climb stairs to a catwalk and pop open the "thief hatch" to drop in glass vials and tape measures.

Drivers are told to stand upwind, away from the fumes, when opening tanks. But in the rush to get the job done, sometimes the advice gets forgotten. And sometimes there's no wind.

Morales, who also drove a truck for Now or Never, testified in May that the wind wasn't blowing the day he found Freemyer.

"You could see the fumes hitting directly in his face," Morales said.

Freemyer's nose was running profusely, and his gas monitor was beeping. He was leaning over the hatch, moving his hands, as if to reel in his gauge. But his hands were empty.

When Freemyer emerged from his daze, Lee Mulkey, Now or Never's operations manager, came and took him to the hospital. He was released and cleared to work the next day. Mulkey said he figured Freemyer, a diabetic, was having blood-sugar problems because he hadn't eaten.

But Mulkey already had experience with deaths atop tanks. He'd been on-site in March 2014 when OSHA came to investigate the death of another Now or Never employee, Joe Ray Sherman, also found dead on a catwalk at a well site in the same county.

Workers told the OSHA inspector looking into Sherman's death that "they have been known to get light-headed or dizzy from the vapors coming out of the sample tanks," according to the inspection report. But the coroner deemed Sherman's death to be natural. OSHA cited the company for using headlamps that could ignite the vapors around the tanks, but not for respiratory hazards.

On the day before Morales found Freemyer dazed on the catwalk, John McNulty, 57, who drove a truck for another company, was found dead on a catwalk at a well site near Gill, Colo.

The Weld County coroner also classified McNulty's death as natural. But NIOSH includes the circumstances of McNulty and Sherman's deaths in its list of workers felled by fumes. And Sherman's family has hired an attorney to investigate the circumstances of his death.

After Sherman's death on the catwalk, Now or Never upgraded its employees' monitors to detect

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methane and gas in addition to hydrogen sulfide.

But Mulkey was dismissive when Freemyer said he wanted a mask to wear when gauging tanks. Mulkey took Freemyer to a safety equipment store in Greeley to get one, but told him the expense was coming out of his next paycheck.

He told Freemyer "he could not stop him from wearing a mask," according to the coroner's investigation, and noted that OSHA and the company didn't require it.

"They told him he didn't need a respirator. They said, 'just stay upwind,'" said Brett Busch, attorney for the Freemyers. "My client was scared."

'The sudden bullet'

Sunday, July 13, 2014, was a warm, dry day in Weld County. Stan Linker pulled his rig up to PDC Energy Inc.'s Gaddis pad outside Johnstown shortly after 1 p.m. After doing some paperwork, he climbed the catwalk and saw another driver at the other end.

It was Jim Freemyer. He was leaning over the hatch, with his face partially in the tank. Linker felt for a pulse and couldn't find one. He put Freemyer on his back, noticing large amounts of mucus inside the mask Freemyer was wearing. In vain, he tried CPR.

According to the coroner's investigative report, Freemyer's gas monitor showed that each time he stopped at a well site on the day of his death, his breathing was hindered by the air he was taking in. It had as little as a third the normal amount of oxygen.

A normal oxygen level is 21 percent. But the monitor showed it dipped below 7 percent at one point. An atmosphere that scarce with oxygen can render you unconscious in half a minute -- probably faster on the high plains 5,000 feet above sea level where Freemyer died.

The oxygen in the air was replaced with an explosive mix of airborne petroleum vapors. The methane alarm on his gas monitor went off constantly that day, records show. He turned it off, perhaps given a false sense of security by his new mask.

But the mask was the wrong kind, worker safety experts said. It filtered the air, but it didn't supply oxygen. Instructions said it was not for use in low-oxygen environments, which is exactly what Freemyer was working in.

It didn't help that Freemyer had hypertension, coronary artery disease and diabetes. But he didn't suffer a heart attack that day, or a diabetic episode. Medical experts said he likely wouldn't have died outside the toxic atmosphere on the catwalk. Jeffrey Rubinstein, a Denver cardiologist, testified when the case went to court that there was no other reason for him to have died that day.

"I kind of see this case as a patient goes to autopsy, and he has two blocked arteries like this fellow does, but he has a bullet in his brain," Rubinstein said. "When we have this guy's head sitting above toxic fumes, that is the sudden bullet in his brain."

OSHA hit Now or Never Trucking with a \$19,600 fine for violations, including providing inadequate protection from the petroleum fumes. The amount has been negotiated down to \$12,500 in a settlement, and the case is still pending.

Bitter court battle

When workers are conducting sampling directly over thief hatches, they should be equipped with "supplied-air respirators" that supply an adequate amount of clean oxygen via a hose or a tank, said Michael Kosnett, a medical toxicologist with the University of Colorado School of Medicine who testified for the family.

"To the extent it's being done by people without supplied air respirators, they are at a significant risk," Kosnett said.

Beyond that, Kosnett thinks the industry really needs to figure out a way to sample and measure the tanks without people standing over tank hatches. But in the meantime, they need respirators that supply clean air.

But Now or Never managers disagree. They say respirators are not needed. Instead, the company has an air-testing program.

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"We will not put in a respirator program, because we don't need them," Mulkey testified in May. Now or Never's workers' compensation provider, Pinnacol Assurance, said that it doesn't recommend the use of respirators as a standard practice in the oil field. Company spokeswoman Edie Sonn said OSHA and NIOSH do not require respirators at well sites.

"It is very complex to manage a respirator program. It requires physician clearance and hygiene protocols, as well as proper storage of the respirators," Sonn said. "However, there are circumstances that dictate the need after consideration of a job hazard analysis and appropriate testing."

Now or Never and Pinnacol denied Connie Freemyer's claim for benefits. They cited her husband's existing health problems, alleged that he didn't follow procedures for reducing pressure in the tanks and said that he should have known to get away from the tank.

The denial sparked a bitter court battle. Busch said he spent \$25,000 investigating and preparing the case, many times what it usually takes him to protest a denial.

In July, an administrative law judge (ALJ) in Colorado brushed aside the companies' arguments and awarded workers' compensation death benefits to Connie Freemyer (EnergyWire, July 30). She'll get \$671 a week, which will later decline to \$530 for the rest of her life. The cost of the court fight comes out of her benefits.

Administrative Law Judge Peter Cannici wrote that "Freemyer's job duties and work environment aggravated, accelerated or combined with his pre-existing coronary artery disease to cause his death."

To family members such as Mike Freemyer, that's proof that his father wasn't violating safety protocols.

"My dad did everything right," he said.

Sonn for Pinnacol Assurance said the decision will not be appealed.

"This was a very complex case," she said, noting Freemyer's health problems and the companies' concerns about safety protocols. "However, we respect the ALJ's finding."

"Our priority right now is taking care of Ms. Freemyer and making sure that she receives her compensation promptly," Sonn added.

The insurance company and Freemyer's attorney say they now share a goal -- ensuring that companies improve protections for workers in the oil field.

Sonn said Pinnacol is working to alert its policyholders about dangers from toxic fumes while tank gauging, sharing materials from NIOSH, and having the company's internal oil and gas expert develop materials. But, given the complexities of respirator programs for employers, it does not recommend respirators as a standard practice at oil and gas sites. Busch said they should. He said he hopes the Freemyer case will show oil companies and workers that when it comes to toxic vapors, it's not enough to simply stand upwind.

"It's not a big deal for them to wear this supplied air," Busch said. "It was so preventable."

Click here to read the ALJ's ruling in the Freemyer case.

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060024589>

USA, CT, WINDSOR LOCKS

SEPTEMBER 18 2015.

LARGE VOLUME OF JET FUEL SPILLS AT BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

State officials are responding to Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks after jet fuel spilled from a pipeline Wednesday, according to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The section of pipeline in question about half a mile long and runs from a bulk storage fuel terminal to a loading rack at the airport, DEEP officials said. It's not clear what caused the fuel to seep out.

Authorities said about 2,500 gallons of fuel filled a valve pit on Schoephoester Road, causing the pit to overflow.

Most of the fuel was contained in the valve pit, but some bubbled up over the pavement and flowed along the curb for about an eighth of a mile.

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No waterways or catch basins were affected, according to the DEEP.

The westbound lanes of Schoephoester Road are closed while emergency crews respond. State police are rerouting traffic to and from the airport, according to Bradley officials.

Aircraft Services International Group, which leases the pipeline, is bringing in an environmental contractor to recover the spilled fuel and clean the area with help from DEEP, authorities said.

According to DEEP, the liquid fuel will be pumped from the pit and the street will be cleaned.

Crews will then check to see if soil between the valve pit and the street has been contaminated, DEEP said. The amount of possible contamination is unknown.

Airport officials said no flights are affected.

<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Emergency-Vehicles-Respond-in-Windsor-Locks--328069561.html>

CANADA, ON, OTTAWA, CUMBERLAND

SEPTEMBER 19 2015.

MAN SUFFERS SERIOUS BURNS IN FUEL TANK FIRE IN CUMBERLAND

Metal on or near fuel tank was being cut when tank caught fire, paramedics say. A man suffered burns on 30 per cent of his body when a fuel tank he was working on or near caught fire on Thursday morning, paramedics say. It happened at 7:30 a.m. at a gas station on Cameron Street in Cumberland, paramedics said in a media release issued Thursday morning. The 34-year-old man "was cutting metal on or near a fuel tank when a fuel source caught fire," paramedics said. He suffered first- and second-degree burns to 30 per cent of his body, and was taken to hospital in serious but stable condition.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/man-suffers-serious-burns-in-fuel-tank-fire-in-cumberland-1.3231781>

USA, HI, HONOLULU

SEPTEMBER 19 2015.

EXCLUSIVE: 5 MILLION GALLON OIL PLUME BENEATH PEARL HARBOR

Rick Daysog

For decades, leaks from Pearl Harbor's fuel tanks and other sources have been collecting beneath the ground near the naval base's Halawa gate.

Hawaii News Now has obtained records issued by the Navy that indicate that the subsurface oil plume there now contains more than 5 million gallons of fuel.

That's roughly half the volume of Alaska's Exxon Valdez spill in 1989 and nearly 200 times the size of last year's leak at the Navy's Red Hill underground fuel facility.

"This is the most egregious, the most harmful environmental issue there is," said environmental activist Carroll Cox.

"Oil should not be in the ground, diesel should not be in the ground because they are contaminants."

The plume lies under a maze of utility lines, making access extremely difficult. Estimates for the clean up costs run in the tens of millions of dollars.

Details about this massive oil reservoir have been leaking out slowly. State Rep. Chris Lee, chair of the House Environmental Protection Committee, said this is the first time he's heard of the Pearl Harbor plume.

"I think the most important thing is transparency. This is something that has been happening for years both for this incident and others," said Lee, D-Kailua.

"We need to know if there is a risk posed by these tanks and others around the state because we need to stop this before (another) leak happens."

One of the leaks is well documented. In 2007, a tank at the base lost nearly 360,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

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The Navy deployed oil containment booms and dug more than a dozen monitoring wells and collection trenches. None of the diesel reached the shoreline.

The Pearl Harbor plume is mostly bunker fuel, which is a heavy, tar-like substance that's used by ships. It also contains weathered jet fuel and diesel.

Because bunker fuel is so heavy, the state Health Department doesn't think the oil is moving and won't seep into the water soon. But if it does, it could cause significant environmental and marine damage.

Unlike lighter products like gasoline or kerosene which float to the surface, bunker fuel sinks and can cover marine life and coral, just like the 2013 molasses spill in Honolulu Harbor.

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/30060416/exclusive-5-m-gallon-oil-plume-beneath-pearl-harbor>

ZAMBIA, MAZABUKA

SEPTEMBER 20 2015.

AN UNDERGROUND FUEL TANK AT A FILLING STATION IN MAZABUKA EXPLODES

An underground fuel tank at Vuma Filling Station in the central business district of Mazabuka has exploded. The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has since been informed about the incident and the filling station has temporarily been shut down until investigations are concluded. Southern Province Police Chief Joseph Mutale confirmed the incident which happened in the early hours of Thursday. Mr Mutale said in an interview that at the time of the incident, among other motor vehicles that were refuelling was a police vehicle. Mr Mutale, however, said that no death or injury was recorded and the Energy Regulation Board was informed about the explosion of the tank. "The fuel tank which is underground exploded, but there was no fire except some smoke which was seen coming out and was immediately put off," he said. He said the preliminary investigations had revealed that the subversive fuel tank could have had a fault leading to the explosion. He said that the filling station has temporarily been shut down to prevent any similar occurrence until investigations were concluded. Mr Mutale, however, said the situation at the filling station was normal.

<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2015/09/19/an-underground-fuel-tank-at-a-filling-station-in-mazabuka-explodes/>

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTOWN

SEPTEMBER 22 2015.

BAYER CROPSCIENCE TO ENHANCE SAFEGUARDS AT CHEMICAL FACILITIES IN FOUR STATES TO SETTLE VIOLATIONS AT W. VA. PLANT

Bonnie Smith

The Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced a \$5.6 million settlement with Bayer CropScience LP to resolve violations of federal chemical accident prevention laws at its facility in Institute, West Virginia, where an explosion killed two people in 2008. Under the settlement, Bayer CropScience committed to spending \$4.23 million to improve emergency preparedness and response in Institute and protect the Kanawha River, pay a \$975,000 penalty, and spending approximately \$452,000 to implement a series of measures to improve safety at chemical storage facilities across the United States.

"Failures by a chemical manufacturer to comply with safety, accident prevention, and response requirements can have catastrophic consequences," said Assistant Attorney General John C. Cruden for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "The Department of Justice is committed to worker safety. Under this judicially enforceable settlement, Bayer Crop Science will not only pay a penalty but commits to significant improvements in preparedness and response capabilities at its facilities across the country."

"The tragic accident at the Bayer CropScience facility in West Virginia underscores the need for hazardous chemicals to be stored and handled in accordance with the law to protect worker health and the environment," said Assistant Administrator Cynthia Giles for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance

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Assurance. "This settlement will establish important safeguards at its facilities across the country and improve emergency response capabilities in the Institute, West Virginia community."

Under the settlement, Bayer CropScience will implement a series of steps to prevent future chemical releases at its facilities in West Virginia, Texas, Missouri and Michigan by improving inspections to identify potential safety issues and standardize facility safety operating procedures. At the facility in Institute, the company will conduct emergency response exercises with local responders and ensure proper certification of facility environmental management systems. Bayer must complete the majority of these actions within three years.

The nearly \$4.23 million for environmental projects will benefit the Institute community by improving mobile communications for local first responders, providing emergency response equipment and training for local fire and police departments, shelter-in-place training and hazardous waste collections at local public schools and installing equipment to prevent pollution from water used in Bayer CropScience's manufacturing process from reaching the Kanawha River. Local emergency responders may start receiving equipment as early as December 2015.

The complaint details numerous problems that arose at the pesticide manufacturing facility where the company did not comply with its standard operating procedures designed to prevent accidental releases. In 2008, a new digital control system was installed, but safety interlock associated with the control system was not properly engaged at startup. Employees were not fully trained to understand or operate the system and failed to follow procedures for sampling, temperature control and flow safeguards. The result was an uncontrollable buildup in a treatment unit causing a chemical reaction resulting in the explosion, fire and loss of life. During the incident, the company delayed emergency officials trying to access the plant, and failed to provide adequate information to 911 operators.

The consent decree, lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, is subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by the federal court. For a copy of the consent decree, go to <http://www.justice.gov/enrd/consent-decrees>. <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/bayer-cropscience-enhance-safeguards-chemical-facilities-four-states-settle-violations-west>

USA, ILL, EFFINGHAM CO

SEPTEMBER 22 2015.

OIL TANK EXPLOSION IN SOUTH PART OF COUNTY

Greg Sapp

Authorities are investigating after an oil tank explosion in the south part of Effingham County Sunday night. There is some concern that someone caused a second explosion. Watson Fire Chief Matt Kulesza said the incident occurred at 14015 East 150th Avenue, just south of the Mason-Eberle Road and to the west. Firefighters got a report of an explosion at 6:47pm. Witnesses saw 80-foot-high flames that could be seen 15 miles away. Kulesza said the tank farm is a Nelson lease and run by MDM Energy, Inc. of Addison, Texas. The owner was in the area and showed up at the scene. Kulesza said there was about 20 barrels of oil in the tank that exploded. Firefighters used a foam attack to blanket the oil and smother the flames. The Effingham Fire Department brought the MABAS foam trailer to assist, and North Clay firefighters assisted at the scene. Crews used 75 gallons of foam to extinguish the area, and were on scene for about 1-1/2 hours. Firefighters were paged back out at 9:22pm for a rekindle at the same location. When crews reached the scene, two more tanks were fully involved in flames. Effingham County Sheriff's Department was called to the scene as Kulesza said authorities believe someone caused the rekindle. The oil company has security cameras in place; the videos are being reviewed today in an effort to determine a suspect. 31 firefighters assisted at the scene. No one was injured. Firefighters were on the scene about 45 minutes for the rekindle.

<http://www.thexradio.com/news/78-local-news/18858-oil-tank-explosion-in-south-part-of-county>

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SPAIN, ALMERIA

SEPTEMBER 22 2015.

ONE DEAD AND THREE WOUNDED IN AN EXPLOSION AT A PITA COMPANY IN ALMERÍA

One of the workers belonging to a subcontractor who was in the company Hintes Oil Europe, which has been affected by the huge explosion that has occurred in the company located in the Technological Park of Almería (PITA), died while being transferred state very serious burns to the intensive care unit (ICU) of the Virgen del Rocio hospital in Seville. This was stated to the media the delegate of the Junta de Andalucía in Almería, Sonia Ferrer, who has performed at the scene shortly after the blast registered at 9.30 am on Monday. Among the first hypothesis, the detonation is due to the practice of some welding work which would have ignited a can with traces of flammable material Sources close to the investigation have indicated that, among the first hypothesis, the detonation is due to the a practice of welding in which a drum would fire with traces of flammable material. Although the building was occupied at that time by nearly a dozen workers, the most affected would be two welders and an official of the company FERGON who were welding an empty tank at the time of the facts. This point has been ratified by the delegate, who in any case pointed out that the investigation is circumstantial phase, so that the causes of the accident , which has claimed at least two others seriously injured, have to be investigated . The Court of Instruction No. 1 of Almería has taken up the case so that the court has come to the site to proceed to the removal of the corpse. Ferrer noted that the other two injured , who were taken to hospital, one of them Torrecárdenas by the manager of the company-, will be referred to the burn unit of the Virgen del Rocio Hospital to your health, to be valued. As for the third wounded, this has been addressed a few meters from the scene for smoke inhalation , so did not need transportation to a medical facility. PITA president, Antonio Domene, explained that minutes after the blast went to the headquarters of Hintes Oil Europe and saw two people in the car park attached to the building, so that while one of them was lying on the floor with burns, the other calling for help , so he called 112. The explosion was followed by a second explosion a few minutes after the accident even moved three trucks of firefighters who have managed to smother the flames, which are tasks of soda. At 10.20 hours it gave extinguished, so that it has used a drone to inspect the condition of the ship, which at first seems not suffer structural damage. They have also come to Richmond Park and 061 two ambulances and two other conventional ambulances , besides medical helicopter evacuation proceeded. To technopolis they have also shifted some authorities as the commissioner of the National Police, Adolfo Brown, and several members of the Judicial Police, interviewing company employees. The explosion, which led to some adjoining dependencies vacate the building affected was followed by a second blast a few minutes later. However, employees of other more remote locations remain in their jobs.

<http://www.20minutos.es/noticia/2560885/0/fallece/trabajador/explosion-almeria/#xtor=AD-15&xts=467263>

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 24 2015.

EPA TAKES ACTION AGAINST UNDERGROUND PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK VIOLATIONS IN MONMOUTH COUNTY, MIDDLESEX COUNTY AND PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

John Martin

In separate agreements with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Monmouth and Middlesex counties in New Jersey have settled alleged violations of federal laws regarding the proper maintenance and operation of underground petroleum storage tank systems. When not properly maintained, underground storage tanks can leak petroleum and other hazardous substances, threatening soil and water quality.

"Owners of underground storage tanks have a responsibility to follow rules that prevent petroleum from polluting our environment," said EPA Regional Administrator Judith A. Enck. "When these tanks are not properly maintained, people and the environment are at risk."

Under a legal agreement with the EPA, Monmouth County will spend an estimated \$275,000 to

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install a 20,000 gallon above-ground tank to replace three underground tanks at its reclamation center in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. EPA inspections and a subsequent investigation revealed several alleged violations at the Tinton Falls site and at two other county facilities. The EPA cited Monmouth County for failing to keep adequate records of release detection for pressurized piping, and failing to conduct monthly monitoring of an underground storage tank. The County has recently come into compliance with these requirements.

Monmouth County will also pay a \$3,660 penalty for past violations, a penalty that was reduced due to the money the county will expend to build the new tank.

Under a legal agreement with the EPA, Middlesex County will pay a \$51,100 penalty under their agreement with the EPA. The agency's inspections and a subsequent investigation revealed several alleged violations at the county's four underground storage tank facilities. The EPA cited Middlesex County for: failing to keep adequate records of release detection monitoring; failing to keep adequate records of release detection for pressurized piping; and failing to perform annual tests of automatic line leak detector systems. As part of its agreement with the EPA, Middlesex County has installed electronic release detection monitoring equipment to ensure compliance at all of its underground storage tank facilities.

Earlier this year, the EPA reached an agreement with the City of Paterson to settle alleged violations involving underground storage tanks at three locations throughout the city. Under the terms of that agreement, Paterson paid an \$11,480 fine and agreed to operate its underground tanks in full compliance with the law.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/a709876cd2bd10fd85257ec9005e8e5f!opendocument>

NETHERLANDS, ZEELAND, BORSELE

SEPTEMBER 24 2015. EXPLOSIONS AT BIOMASS POWER PLANT INJURES FOUR

At least four people were injured Wednesday morning when two different explosions occurred in a biomass power plant in Borssele, Zeeland, the regional safety office reported. The office says all four were hospitalized, however broadcaster Omroep Zeeland says two people received serious injuries and were rushed to an area hospital and the others were treated at the scene. The blasts rocked the small town at about 9:25 a.m. First responders were dispatched by 9:28 a.m., and an air ambulance helicopter was sent to the scene less than five minutes later. "It was really a loud explosion. Like a thunderstorm," one witness told broadcaster Omroep Zeeland. Public safety workers said the force of the explosions had ripped off much of the cladding from the side of the building, and several flaps were still hanging loose. The explosions reportedly took place during preparations for the plant's closure, scheduled for next January. By 9:55 a.m. the incident was reportedly under control. Firefighters were in the building using thermal imaging cameras to find possible flare-ups, the safety region said at about 11:20 a.m.

<http://www.nltimes.nl/2015/09/23/video-explosions-at-biomass-power-plant-injures-four>

USA, WA, SPOKANE

SEPTEMBER 30 2015.

EPA FINDS SOURCE OF TANK THAT TRIGGERED MASSIVE CHLORINE GAS LEAK

Jeff Humphrey

Investigators from the Environmental Protection Agency now know the source of a tank that released a toxic cloud of chlorine gas at Pacific Steel and Recycling, which killed one person and left numerous others injured.

The spill triggered Spokane's largest hazardous materials spill in more than a decade.

The tank which was under pressure and filled with chlorine gas was crushed the same day it was brought in, and that expediency may be one of the reasons important safety rules at Pacific Steel and Recycling may have been overlooked. The company won't even accept tanks under pressure; tanks can only come in with their valves removed so how it bypassed the screening process remains a mystery.

Where the tank came from, however, is no longer a mystery.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The tank had been sitting in an industrial park for years where Ibex Construction stored various pieces of metal it had recovered from its projects. When the company's owner decided it was time to retire, he hired someone to clean it up.

Back on August 12 a subcontractor was using an excavator to load the scrap on a trailer. Once the tank arrived at Pacific Steel and Recycling it was taken directly to the crusher. Once inside the press the tank ruptured, spewing out a toxic cloud of chlorine gas. One worker died of his injuries and several more needed treatment at local hospitals.

After the spill, the man who was hired to transfer the tank from Hillyard abandoned his excavator and hasn't returned to claim it. That still unidentified contractor was a regular customer at Pacific Steel and investigators want to know why his load wasn't more carefully inspected or spotted by surveillance cameras.

Officials with the EPA refused to say Monday how they were able to track that tank back to the Ibex Construction yard. The office there is locked and the phone disconnected.

Information about this fatal accident is very hard to come by because all of the players have retained attorneys to represent them in this fatal accident. The good news is the Department of Labor and Industries has to issue the findings of its worker safety investigation within six months.

<http://www.kxly.com/news/spokane-news/epa-finds-source-of-tank-that-triggered-massive-chlorine-gas-leak/35541358>

USA, OH, CLEVELAND

SEPTEMBER 30 2015.

STORAGE TANK CATCHES FIRE ON CLE'S WEST SIDE

A large storage tank on Mahoning Avenue caught on fire twice Monday afternoon. The tank is located near West 3rd Street. The fire was put out with foam, due to the chemicals. The fire reignited later that evening. Larry Gray with the Cleveland Fire Department says a 2.5 million gallon tank filled with liquid asphalt was overfilled, causing the contents to spill onto the sides of the tank. The spilled materials caught on fire from heat generated inside the tank, sending plumes of smoke into the air. Firefighters doing practice exercises nearby were quickly called to the scene. No one was injured in the fire. About 500 to 1000 gallons of liquid asphalt were spilled, but it was confined to safety dikes below the tanks. The EPA will inspect the scene Tuesday and make sure none of the chemicals went into the lake. The company faces a fine for another incident that happened over the weekend, where they failed to report a safety incident to the proper authorities.

<http://www.wkyc.com/story/news/local/cleveland/2015/09/28/storage-tank-catches-fire-cles-west-side/72993336/>