

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, WELSHPOOL

NOVEMBER 30 2010.

OIL DRUM EXPLODES, KILLS FACTORY WORKER AT DIAMOND POWDER COATERS IN PERTH

A 28-year-old Sri Lankan man has died after suffering severe head injuries when an oil drum exploded at a Perth factory. Police said the man died in hospital following the accident at Diamond Powder Coaters at Welshpool in Perth's south this morning. It's believed the man was trying to cut the lid off the drum using an angle grinder, creating sparks which ignited fumes from solvents still inside the drum, a police spokesman said. The lid of the drum was reportedly blown 30m by the explosion. The man had been working with the company for several weeks. Workplace WA are investigating the accident and police will prepare a report for the coroner. <http://www.news.com.au/breaking-news/oil-drum-explodes-kills-factory-worker-at-diamond-powder-coaters-in-perth/storye6frku0-1225962929951>

USA, LA, BATON ROUGE

DECEMBER 2 2010.

DEQ: TEXAS MAN LIED ABOUT FIXING TANK PROBLEMS

Louisiana's Department of Environmental Quality accuses a Texas man of falsely claiming he fixed problems with underground fuel storage tanks at a DeRidder store. DEQ spokesman Tim Beckstrom says 45-year-old Karam Shamsuddin Ali of Port Arthur was arrested in DeRidder on one count of filing false public records about three tanks at Sunshine Grocery No. 2. East Baton Rouge Parish sheriff's spokeswoman Kellie Engels (ING-elz) says Ali was booked in Baton Rouge and is free on \$10,000 bond. Ali could not be reached Wednesday for comment. Beckstrom says that in February 2009, Ali paid a \$1,550 fine for failing to install overfill preventers or preventing rust. At the same time, he says, Ali certified that he had fixed both problems. Beckstrom says an August inspection found that neither had been fixed.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/7319833.html>

NIGERIA, BAYELSA STATE, YENAGOA

DECEMBER 4 2010.

WOMAN POURING FUEL INTO GENERATOR SETS 20 HOUSES ABLAZE, KILLING PREGNANT WOMAN, SON

Soji Ajibola

Soji Ajibola writes that a woman filling the tank of a running generating set inadvertently set a whole building ablaze and took to her heel, leaving behind deaths and damaged property running into several millions of naira.

MEMBERS of the Olotu family in Onopa community, Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, are yet to come to terms with the fate that befell them last Sunday, as an inferno cut short the life of an unborn baby, its mother and three other people, while property worth thousands of naira were lost.

It was a sad day as sympathisers, most especially relations of Mrs. Benita Olotu, who was said to have just returned from a burial outing in the neighbouring Delta State before her death, gathered to bemoan their loss.

The deceased, expected to be delivered of a baby a few weeks from now, retired to bed alongside her four-year-old son, waiting for the arrival of her husband who was not at home when tragedy struck.

While Benita was sleeping in her apartment, one of her neighbours, a lady, was trying to refill the tank of her generator with fuel while it was on.

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Saturday Tribune learnt that the jerry can containing the fuel caught fire and subsequently set the whole building ablaze. However, the woman whose identity could not be obtained as of the time of filing this report escaped with her kid, and refused to alert other neighbours, including Benita, of the problem she had caused.

By the time she arose from her sleep, her entire room had been taken over by smoke, leaving her to battle for life. She eventually lost the battle.

Returning from an outing, her husband found himself confronted with a crowd of sympathisers. He was in shock and helpless by the time the reality of the loss of his pregnant wife and son dawned on him. He gazed into the sky, hoping that his wife and four-year-old son would be released from the claws of death.

Aside the lives lost, business outlets were also affected as one Igbo trader was seen lamenting the loss of his entire fortune to the incident.

Also, a lady clad in wrapper, who gave her name as Charity John, disclosed that she lost N280,000 to the incident, stating that she withdrew the money from the bank just before the incident.

"I went to the bank on Friday, hoping to travel to Aba, Abia State, on Monday. I kept the money in the house, not knowing this would happen. Where do I go from here? I am finished," she lamented.

Over 20 buildings accommodating policemen in the area were said to have been razed too. A policeman who spoke under the condition of anonymity told Saturday Tribune: "that place is more or less a police barracks. Many of our men were living there with their motorbikes."

One of the victims who identified himself as Corporal Arikpo Efut said, "I lost all my property to the inferno."

During his visit to the place, Governor Timipre Sylva, accompanied by his Deputy, Chief Werinipre Seibarugu and other top government functionaries, condoled with the victims, assuring them of government support.

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/sat/index.php/features/2659-woman-pouring-fuel-into-generator-sets-20-houses-ablaze-killingpregnant-woman-son.html>

GERMANY, OSNABRUECK

DECEMBER 6 2010.

NINE HURT AS MULLED WINE TANK EXPLODES AT GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

A pressurized tank containing mulled wine exploded Sunday at a Christmas market in Germany, showering debris on 50 people and injuring nine, police said. The liquid was in a stainless steel tank at the market in the northern city of Osnabrueck. The tank first deformed, then ruptured. A wooden counter above it was shattered by the blast. The nine injured were treated at a hospital for bruises, cuts and trauma from the explosion. Made with red wine, cinnamon, cloves, aniseed and lemon-juice, mulled wine is traditional drink to ward off the winter temperatures at Christmas markets.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/europe/news/article_1603529.php/Nine-hurt-as-mulled-wine-tank-explodes-at-German-Christmas-market

CHINA, SHANDONG PROVINCE, LIAOCHENG CITY

DECEMBER 9 2010.

7 INJURED, THOUSANDS FLEE AFTER PLANT EXPLODES

An explosion caused by careless handling of chemicals ripped through a pesticide factory in east China's Shandong Province Wednesday, raising pollution fears that resulted in authorities evacuating 8,000 residents from nearby villages.

The explosion occurred in the factory of Shandong Yanggu Zhongshi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. at 5:40 am.

One person broke his leg while six others suffered slight injuries in the blast, said Zhou Qing, head of the emergency response office of Yanggu County, Liaocheng City.

About 30 workers on the assembly line fled after smelling something unusual, Zhou said.

"I heard a huge 'bang' around 5 am and the windows broke. Then I saw the blaze at the plant," said a villager who lived nearby.

Fire from the blast ignited tanks of flammable chemicals in the factory and the flames have not yet been extinguished as of Wednesday night, according to officials.

A fire-fighter told Xinhua that he heard several minor explosions from the factory in the afternoon. The facilities on fire include a tank containing 200 tons of alcohol.

A couple of fire engines parked outside the factory compound as thick black smoke continued to rise.

Though air quality tests show no pollution, 8,000 residents in nine villages close to the factory were evacuated. More than 1,500 of them who could not return home on Wednesday night were given cash compensations - ranging

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from 20 to 60 yuan (\$3.3 to \$9.9) per person.

http://www.china.org.cn/china/2010-12/09/content_21506113.htm

USA, W.VA, NEW CUMBERLAND

DECEMBER 10 2010.

TWO BROTHERS KILLED IN WEST VIRGINIA PLANT EXPLOSION

An explosion ripped through the New Cumberland A.L. Solutions titanium plant Thursday afternoon killing at least two and injuring two more. Police said when they got there, it was already a dire situation.

There were two people outside with other employees, said police. One was on fire, and another was burned.

Employee Steven Swain, 27, was burned badly and flown to a hospital in Pittsburgh where he is in critical condition. Dave Williams, an outside contractor, was taken by ambulance to a local hospital. He had burns to his hands and face.

Inside the building, brothers and co-workers Jeffery Fish, 39, and James Fish, 38, were pronounced dead at the scene. Fire crews were unable to recover the bodies for a few hours until the hot spots inside the building were cooled.

Inside, there were at least eight drums smoldering with titanium inside. Just before 1:30 p.m., the workers were processing titanium powder, which is highly flammable. Crews were just starting the investigation Thursday night, so it's unclear whether the titanium caught fire and then exploded or exploded and then started the fire.

"As soon as they get the smoke out of the building and the fire down enough, we're going to go on and try to figure out why it happened or how," said New Cumberland police Chief Lester Skinner.

The plant will be closed Friday to remember the workers lost Thursday.

In a statement, A.L. Solutions had this to say: "A.L. Solutions has experienced an explosion at its production facility in New Cumberland, West Virginia. The explosion occurred about 1:30 this afternoon. Cause of the explosion is unknown at this time. We confirm one worker injured and transported from the grounds for medical treatment. We also confirm two fatalities of other workers that were in the building at the time of the explosion. Our immediate concern is for our employees and their families. We are deferring further comment until emergency responders and investigators do their work and we have more information from that investigation."

<http://www.wkbn.com/content/news/local/story/Two-Brothers-Killed-in-West-Virginia-Plant/4Jld7pvtFU-3VF3ISShqgw.csp>

USA, PA, GETTYSBURG

DECEMBER 13 2010.

BLAZE DESTROYS BIODIESEL PLANT

Firefighters were forced to stand by and watch a three-alarm blaze at the Soy Energy warehouse in Tyrone Township as they waited for the state Department of Environmental Protection to advise them what to do about the potentially hazardous runoff. The fire, at 2259 Oxford Road, was reported at around 2 p.m. Saturday and firefighters began battling the blaze in the back corner of the warehouse. United Hook & Ladder Fire Co. No. 33 Chief Steve Rabine said the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency told them to call off fire-fighting efforts around 4 p.m. until DEP arrived.

The concern was over the biodiesel that Soy Energy makes, and whether or not runoff into the nearby Conewago Creek could be dangerous.

So firefighters from 16 companies across Adams County and few from York County sat by as the blaze lit the biodiesel on fire and continued to spread throughout the building.

Throughout the afternoon and well into the night, small explosions kept occurring. Biodiesel, which is mostly composed of soybean oil, in addition to methylene and sodium methylate is flammable, but not believed to be toxic despite some of the chemicals in it.

Many firefighters said they were frustrated that they could no longer combat the flame -- the job that they are trained to do.

"It's agitating," said Heidelberg firefighter Kevin Crook. "It's such a shame."

Biglerville Fire Lt. Dennis Freed, too, was discouraged.

Freed rushed from a holiday charity event where he was dressed as Santa to help battle the blaze. He remained in his bright red and white Santa suit mingling with the others as they waited.

"Some days it's frustrating," he said. But added that sometimes you just have to do what you're told.

Under the DEP's advice, firefighters worked with an Adams County haz-mat team using sandbags to contain the chemicals from flowing into Conewago Creek, said Steve Heidecker, the public information officer for Adams County

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Office of Emergency Services.

Once that was taken care of, firefighters resumed battling the fire. Toward the end of the night, they started using an excavator to break apart the wreckage to avoid any other parts from flaring up, Heidecker said.

But at around 8 p.m., the dam blocking the water flow broke, and some firefighters had to assist in rebuilding it, Rabine said.

Firefighters were expected to be fighting the blaze until 2 a.m. today.

No one was inside the warehouse at the time of the fire, and no firefighters were injured, Heidecker said. But the York-Adams Chapter American Red Cross did provide housing assistance to the homeowners living next door to the warehouse.

Heidecker said he did not know if the owners of the Soy Energy warehouse have insurance.

A fire marshal was expected to conduct a "cause and origin investigation" when the fire was out, possibly this morning, Heidecker said.

It was unclear Saturday night if anyone would be looking into the biodiesel spill and its potential effects.

But Heidecker said no harmful vapors were released into the air. Sherri Haines, the EMA for Tyrone Township, said she believed the chemicals released in the water is "not an impertinent issue" and that it will likely dilute in the water.

Heidecker said it was too early to tell how much of the chemicals were released into the water.

In addition to helping the nearby homeowners, the Red Cross expected to stay through the night with food and drinks for firefighters and a place for them keep warm as temperatures were expected to dip into the low 30s.

<http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-us.cfm?articleID=87906>

INDIA, NAGPUR

DECEMBER 13 2010.

MAN DIES IN WELDING UNIT BLAST

One person died in a blast while working in a welding unit, Laxmi Engineering Works, at Dipti Signal on Sunday afternoon. The worker, Pandurang Deotale (45), a resident of Wathoda, had been admitted to Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Hospital (IGGMCH), where he died.

Police said a water tank that was leaking had been brought for welding to the unit. The blast took place when Pandurang was sitting on top of the tank and welding a patch to the tank in an open godown in the shop. Though the exact reason for the blast is not yet known, cops suspect some kind of gas leaking from the machine might have led to the explosion.

Since it was a Sunday, only Pandurang and a security guard were present in the unit. The security guard had gone to buy something from the nearby shop and Pandurang was alone in the unit when the blast took place. A major tragedy was averted as the security guard's two daughters, who were playing nearby, had just gone into the house.

Neighbours said that a loud bang was heard at around 4pm. The explosion had thrown Pandurang to the top of the shop's roof, some 15 feet high. "We were sleeping when the loud blast sound shook us out of our slumber. We immediately reached the spot and saw Pandurang bleeding profusely and unconscious on the cement floor," said a neighbour.

He added that the blast was so strong that the tank was shattered into hundreds of pieces. The pieces of the tank flying away from the explosion also bent a nearby electric pole.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/Man-dies-in-welding-unit-blast/articleshow/7089575.cms>

USA, CA, TAFT

DECEMBER 14 2010.

ELK HILLS TANK FIRE IS OUT

Firefighters have extinguished a fire burning at Elk Hills. The fire broke out about 5:30 a.m. Monday and Capt. Brandon Smith announced at 11:15 a.m. that the fire was out. Two people suffered minor injuries in the incident, but both refused hospital treatment, Smith said. The fire was burning in two 500-barrel tanks containing drilling fluids, Smith said, and there was an open two-inch natural gas line next to the burning tanks. Firefighters poured water on the tanks to cool them and poured foam on the top to smother the fire. Smith said crews will continue to cool the tanks and inject foam to prevent re-ignition of the flames. When the tanks are cool enough, he said, crews will manually shut off the gas line so cleanup can begin. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Firefighters from several west Kern County stations responded to the fire as well as the KCFD's hazardous materials team and the Kern County Department

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of Environmental Health. The incident was located about two miles northwest of Gate 2.
<http://www.taftmidwaydriller.com/breaking/x1714280758/Update-Elk-Hills-tank-fire-is-out>

USA, AKA, UNALAKEET

DECEMBER 19 2010.

DEC RESPONDS TO DIESEL FUEL TANK SPILL IN UNALAKEET

According to the DEC about a thousand gallons of diesel fuel spilled when a tank overflowed at the Unalakleet Valley Electric Co-op tank farm on Sunday. Wednesday, the State Department of Environmental Conservation worked to clean up a diesel fuel spill in Unalakleet in western Alaska tonight. According to the DEC about a thousand gallons of diesel fuel spilled when a tank overflowed at the Unalakleet Valley Electric Co-op tank farm on Sunday; the fuel was caught by a secondary containment system. A DEC spill responder was dispatched Wednesday to the community to help with the cleanup process. Final clean up of the contamination likely won't happen until next spring or summer.

http://www.ktva.com/topalaskanews/ci_16875549

USA, WI, KRONENWETTER

DECEMBER 19 2010.

KRONENWETTER GAS SPILL CLEANUP NEARS FINISH

Jeff Starck

The pipeline company responsible for a 35,000-gallon gasoline spill a year ago says 82 percent, or about 28,700 gallons, has been recovered as of this week.

The gasoline leaked over the course of 30 days from a half-inch, corroded pipe buried below a fuel-loading terminal owned by Magellan Midstream Partners on Old Highway 51. The leak was discovered Dec. 4, 2009.

Monitoring wells show the gasoline has stayed on Magellan's property and the cleanup effort is exceeding the company's expectations, said company spokesman Bruce Heine. Tests on three private homeowners' wells this summer also indicated the gasoline had not spread.

While the cleanup effort will continue into 2011, the concern about the effect on property values will linger longer.

"Everyone figures their property is worthless," said Harold Lyon, 77, who has lived in the neighborhood near the gasoline spill since 1960. "(The spill) is a stigma and doesn't go away."

Residents raised the issue of property value decline at informational meetings Magellan held in February and August. Kronenwetter Village Board President Judi Akey said only two people have approached her outside the meetings with concerns over property values, but she is sure others are worried about it.

Akey said it's difficult to quantify the effect the spill -- as opposed to other economic factors -- has had on neighboring property values.

"Whether it's a perception or (the neighborhood's) reputation that property values are in decline rather than fact, it is still a very real concern to residents," Akey said.

Despite the concern about property values, Akey and Lyon couldn't be more appreciative of Magellan's cleanup efforts.

"They have done a pretty commendable job of attacking this problem," Akey said of Magellan. "(But) we didn't want this to happen, period."

The broken pipeline was fixed within weeks after the leak's discovery. Dozens of specialized wells are removing gasoline from groundwater and sucking gasoline vapors from contaminated soil.

The spill was the second spill at the site. Hundreds of residents' drinking water was discovered in February 1998 to have been contaminated from a 1970s fuel spill when Williams Pipe Line Co. owned the property.

Lyon was skeptical about Magellan until he attended the August open house and company officials showed him how the company was cleaning up the spill.

"They put a lot of effort to make it right, as much as they could," Lyon said.

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20101219/WDH0101/12190476/Kronenwetter-gas-spill-cleanup-nears-finish>

MEXICO, PUEBLA STATE, SAN MARTIN TEXMELUCAN

DECEMBER 20 2010.

DEADLY BLAST ON MEXICAN OIL PIPELINE

At least 28 people have been killed and many others injured in an oil pipeline explosion in central Mexico, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674

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officials say.

The blast in a town in Puebla state was apparently caused by thieves attempting to steal fuel from the pipeline.

Oil gushed through the streets and caught fire, destroying homes and cars and forcing hundreds of people to flee.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon has visited the scene and promised to launch an investigation.

Puebla State Secretary Valentin Meneses said the explosion injured 52 people as well as destroying 32 houses and damaging scores more in San Martin Texmelucan - a small community about 80km (50 miles) east of Mexico City.

He said that according to early indications, a criminal gang had punctured the pipeline.

"They lost control because of the high pressure with which the fuel exits the pipeline. The streets began to flood, then came a spark and we saw rivers of fire in the streets," he said.

'Inferno'

One local resident said she awoke at about 0530 local time to a strange, overpowering smell, like petrol.

Minutes later, her street looked as if it was flowing in tar, and then it erupted in flames. Her husband knocked down a wall, allowing them to escape from the back of their home.

"It was like we were living in an inferno. Everything was covered in smoke," she said, quoted by AP news agency.

The fire was brought under control by midday, and the state oil monopoly Pemex said it had shut the pipeline down.

President Calderon arrived in the town later on Sunday to survey the damage and visit the injured.

He offered his condolences to the victims' families and said those responsible for the incident would be brought to justice.

Pemex says that theft of oil from its pipelines is a chronic problem, costing it hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-12034038>

MEXICO, MEXICO CITY

DECEMBER 20 2010.

THIEVES BLAMED FOR DEADLY PIPELINE BLAST

MEXICAN OIL EXPLOSION LEAVES 'RIVER OF FIRE,' KILLS 28 — 13 OF THEM CHILDREN

A pre-dawn petroleum pipeline explosion blamed on oil thieves filled the streets with "rivers of fire," killing at least 28 people, 13 of them children, and injuring more than four dozen others Sunday in the southern Mexican state of Puebla.

The death toll was likely to rise as the searchers combed houses destroyed by the fire and others damaged, officials said. Relatives sobbed as firefighters pulled charred bodies from the incinerated homes, some of the remains barely more than piles of ashes and bones.

Housewife Zoyla Perez Cortes, 27, said she awoke about 5:30 a.m. to a strange, overpowering smell, like gasoline. Minutes later, her street erupted in flames. Her husband knocked down a wall, allowing them to escape out the back of their two-story, cement-brick home with their three children.

Her brother-in-law is being treated for burns in a hospital, but she doesn't know the fate of his wife and two children.

"It was like we were living in an inferno," she said, her eyes red from crying. "Everything was covered in smoke."

Officials blamed thieves siphoning from the pipeline for the disaster that struck a crowded neighborhood before 6 a.m. in San Martin Texmelucan, a working class town 55 miles east of Mexico City.

'Then came a spark'

The thieves were tapping the highly pressurized 30-inch pipeline at a pumping station when thousands of gallons of crude oil spewed into the surrounding neighborhood, Valentin Meneses, a ranking state official, told the Milenio television network.

"Several streets began to be flooded with the fuel," Meneses said. "Then came a spark, and we had rivers of fire in the streets."

Photographs of the scene showed fire-gutted homes and dozens of burned cars. Soldiers and police, concerned about the threat of further fires, evacuated some 5,000 people from the neighborhoods within a three-mile radius of the explosion. Those killed included children as young as 5 years old, officials said. Five of those injured were in

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serious condition.

"These are just preliminary figures and are likely to rise as the search goes on," Mexican Interior Minister Francisco Blake said.

Several bodies were found in cars near the location of the leak, but authorities didn't know if the dead were involved in the theft or just there by coincidence. The rupture occurred in an elevated part of the city, sending the crude running down a river bed more than a half mile, said Laura Gurza, chief of the federal Civil Protection emergency response agency.

Pipeline siphoning has been a major headache for Pemex, Mexican government's petroleum monopoly, with hundreds of millions of dollars worth of oil and refined products stolen each year across Mexico. Pemex officials blame illegal tapping for the frequent explosions and oil spills that plague its pipeline network.

Organized crime groups have become deeply involved in petroleum theft in recent years. A small leftist guerrilla group claimed credit for eight bombings of pipelines in central Mexico three years ago.

Government help

President Felipe Calderon arrived late Sunday afternoon to talk with displaced people in a shelter and to survey damage on the main street where the fuel exploded.

Mexico's attorney general's office announced that it was taking over the investigation of the theft suspected of causing Sunday's disaster. No one had been detained.

Blake mobilized several federal ministries to help victims with medical care, shelter and recovering their lost homes and property.

Government authorities said the fire was under control by midday, and fires were burning the remaining crude. The area was without electricity or water.

Pemex said in a statement that it had shut down the pipeline, which carries crude produced from the offshore fields in the lower Gulf of Mexico to a large refinery at Tula, north of Mexico City.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/world/7346958.html>

USA, IN, SOUTH BEND

DECEMBER 21 2010.

FLAMMABLE RESIDUE BLAMED IN SOUTH BEND EXPLOSION

Investigators say flammable residue inside a fuel tank was to blame for a small explosion at a South Bend recycling center that killed one man and left two others with injuries. Fire Marshal Federico Rodriguez tells the South Bend Tribune that Jonathan Atkinson was welding handles onto a 75-gallon fuel tank Dec. 14 when residue inside the tank ignited, causing the explosion at Green Tech Transfer & Recycling Station. An autopsy showed Atkinson had burns and smoke and soot inhalation. Green Tech has said the other two men were injured while attempting to rescue Atkinson.

<http://www.wthr.com/story/13717354/flammable-residue-blamed-in-south-bend-explosion>

USA, VA, FAIRFAX CO

DECEMBER 22 2010.

LEGISLATORS TACKLE TANK FARM

RECENT OIL SPILLS HAVE RAISED ALARMS ABOUT STORAGE FACILITY.

Julia O'Donoghue

Elected officials are pursuing new regulations and tighter restrictions from the state and federal governments for a gasoline storage facility near the southeast border of the City of Fairfax and Fairfax County.

The facility, often called the tank farm, has long drawn the ire of local residents. An oil leak from the farm, where several companies store gasoline, contaminated a large swath of the Mantua community in Fairfax County during the early 1990s.

More recently, a tanker truck associated with the farm overturned corner of Pickett Road and Main Street/Route 236 and spilled approximately 4,000 gallons of oil into a local sewer drain at the end of August.

Most of the oil was cleaned up, though not before it made its way into a local creek that runs through Mantua.

A smaller spill, again involving an accident with a tanker truck, occurred about a month later in September. Earlier in 2010, the tank farm also had problems with an underground leak, during which 14,000 gallons of diesel fuel escaped into the ground.

"We are brainstorming about what we can do to make that tank farm safer. It is just not OK for these things to be happening. It is located right in the middle of a dense residential area," said Fairfax County Chairwoman Sharon

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Bulova (D-At-large).

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) is seeking the assistance of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to clamp down on the facility.

"Any owner of a tank farm with this many oil spills should have either cleaned up its act or shut down, but this tank farm continues to endanger our neighborhood," wrote Connolly in a letter to Lisa Jackson, the Environmental Protection Agency's administrator, on Nov. 18.

The congressman lives in Mantua and was president of the local Mantua Citizens Association in the early 1990s, when the farm's oil leak contaminated his neighborhood.

The congressman asked Jackson to investigate the tank farm and "take all possible steps" to prevent future oil spills. If possible, the Environmental Protection Agency should try to shut the tank farm down permanently.

"The negligence of the tank farm's owner continues to endanger the health of everyone who lives near the tank farm, in addition to the health of the Accotink Creek watershed," wrote Connolly in his letter.

He also welcomed any suggestions for legislation he could introduce on Capitol Hill that might help get the tank farm shuttered.

According to City of Fairfax tax records, the tank farm is made up several parcels, which are each owned by different corporations. The owners of record are: TransMontaigne Products, Product Services Inc. of Denver, Colo.; Citgo Petroleum Corp., of Tulsa, Okla.; TransMontaigne Operating Company, L.P.; American Oil Company; and TRMI Holdings Inc., in care of Motiva Enterprises L.L.C.

Jim Hinkle, current president of the Manuta Citizens Association, said he was appreciative of Connolly's efforts, particularly the congressman's focus on wanting to shut down the tank farm permanently.

"We have just had multiple spills recently. During one, some of the oil ran over into our neighborhood and into people's backyards," said Hinkle.

"The fact that they have had these multiple accidents means that they need to concentrate more on what they are doing over there," he said.

Del. David Bulova (D-36) also plans to introduce legislation during the 2011 Virginia General Assembly session that would give the community more safeguards against the tank farm.

David Bulova's first bill would call for increased penalties on tanker truck drivers that speed or engage in other reckless behavior. Bulova said several of his constituents regularly complain of tanker trucks driving too fast and running red lights along Little River Turnpike/Route 236.

"The tank farm is less than quarter of a mile away from Frost [Middle School] and Woodson [High School]. When we have an accident, it can put the students in jeopardy," said David Bulova.

The delegate also submitted another bill that would require all above-ground storage tanks at tank farms in Virginia to be upgraded.

After the Mantua spill in the early 1990s, the state required all new tank farms to use the latest technology but, ironically older tank farms, including the one in the City of Fairfax, were not obligated to purchase new equipment, he said.

According to David Bulova, the above-ground tanks at the Fairfax facility have not been improved significantly since they were first installed in the 1960s and 1970s. They also only get inspected once every 10 years.

"The capacity for those storage tanks is a million gallons or more," said David Bulova.

Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality is also in negotiations with the tank farm owner to impose new penalties when a leak, spill or other type of incident occurs, said Sharon Bulova.

In addition to fines, the tank farm would have to make expensive upgrades to its equipment if there was another accident.

According to Sharon Bulova, the tank farm should move all of its valves above ground, which would make it easier to tell if a leak or a spill occurs. Currently, some of its valves are below ground.

"It is a costly thing for them to make that sort of change," said Sharon Bulova.

Both county and city officials think the tank farm should be responsible for reimbursing the localities for clean up and emergency response related to an oil spill, she said.

The City of Fairfax has committed to trying to maximize the taxes and fees it can impose on the tank farm.

That money would then be used to pay for state-of-art equipment needed for tank farm-related hazards and accidents. The city would also use the revenue to step up enforcement at the facility, said Mayor Robert Lederer.

"We are looking at what the city's ability is to maximize user fees at the tank farm," he said.

"We want to make the tank farm as safe as possible," said Lederer.

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=347143&paper=63&cat=104>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

SCOTLAND, EAST LoTHJIAN

DECEMBER 23 2010.

MASSIVE OIL SPILL THREATENS WILDLIFE

Kirsty Gibbons

Wildlife at an internationally important county nature reserve is threatened by a suspected 1,000-litre diesel leak from a well-known business after thieves damaged a fuel tank.

A massive clean-up operation has been under way for more than a week after a four-mile stretch between the Peffer Burn, north of Drem, and Aberlady Bay Nature Reserve was polluted by red diesel, spilling from a 4,000-litre tank belonging to Fenton Barns' food producer Monaghan Mushrooms.

Aberlady Bay is owned and managed by East Lothian Council and grant-aided by Scottish Natural Heritage.

A spokeswoman for the local authority confirmed that "casualties" were expected among wildlife there.

Monaghan Mush-rooms says the leak occurred after thieves broke into its premises on December 12 and vandalised a diesel tank to steal the contents.

The remaining diesel within the damaged unit is believed to have leaked into land drains at the site and spilled over into the Peffer Burn, a spokesman for Monaghan Mushrooms said.

"On Monday, December 13, immediately after site management became aware of the problem, steps were taken to mitigate the damage," he added.

"Working closely with Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Fenton Barns contracted spillage specialists TG Industrial Services Ltd to advise and manage a major clean-up operation."

Aberlady Bay was designated Britain's first Local Nature Reserve in 1952 and is best known for its international ornithological importance. The reserve is also part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its botanical and geomorphologic significance. The aim of the reserve is to conserve the habitats, flora and fauna found within the area and the landscape.

An East Lothian Council spokeswoman said: "It's too early for evidence of affected birds at this stage. However, we feel it's likely there will be some casualties and this is potentially a serious threat to the environment.

"This is not like a crude oil spill but what red diesel can do is affect the food chain within the nature reserve by coming into contact with the insects and invertebrates that are then eaten by the birds.

"The toxins will then build up and that may cause fatalities. Of course there are also other animals within the reserve that may be affected, mammals such as seals. And if the diesel reaches the salt marsh it could have a devastating effect on the plant life there.

"If people are in that area and see birds or animals distressed or injured the best thing for them to do is contact the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

Members of the public also reported a "sheen" on the water at the reserve and a strong smell of diesel to East Lothian Council last week, though that had subsided in recent days.

Aberlady Bay warden John Harrison told the Courier he had been carrying out daily checks on the reserve for evidence of birds in distress or with visible marks of diesel contamination. He said it could be "weeks or even months" before the full effect of the spill was known.

"There's still lots of diesel in the ice on the edge of the burn that releases more toxins into the environment as it breaks up," he explained. "There was a similar incident in West Lothian in February and they're still seeing the effects of that now."

SEPA has been in attendance at the reserve over the past week investigating the leak and its potential impact.

Simon Cole, Edinburgh and Lothians unit manager for SEPA, said on Tuesday: "Two officers were on site again today and investigations are continuing. An oil spill contractor is on site and a clean-up operation is still under way.

"SEPA is continuing to work with all organisations involved to minimise the impact on the surrounding water environment."

SEPA confirmed the leak appeared to have finally stopped on Tuesday afternoon. However, as the diesel had seeped into the ground the clean-up was expected to continue while experts tried to remove the existing "pockets" of fuel.

Aberlady Bay is a site of significant ornithological importance. In the winter, nationally important populations of several species of wader and duck roost or feed in the area while at dusk up to 15,000 pink-footed geese fly in from surrounding farmland.

Spring sees the arrival of summer migrants and the start of the breeding season. There are abundant colonies of several birds whose numbers are in serious decline nationally, with about 45 pairs each of skylark and reed bunting

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nesting annually.

Other breeding species include eider, shelduck, lapwing, lesser whitethroat and redshank in small numbers, while willow and sedge warblers are common in most years.

Summer is often a quiet time for birds but by autumn up to 10,000 waders may be present, with Lapwing and golden plover most numerous.

Several hundred Widgeon feed in the bay, while one or two short-eared owls may be hunting over the marsh.

Ian Rennick, Scottish Natural Heritage manager for Forth & Borders, said: "We were alerted to this incident by East Lothian Council on Monday, December 13. SEPA is the lead organisation as this is a pollution incident and we understand from them that diesel has flowed down the Peffer Burn to Aberlady Bay.

"We have offered to provide advice on the habitats and species which may be potentially affected at Aberlady Bay.

"As well as being a much-loved local nature reserve, Aberlady Bay is an internationally important site. Under European regulations it's part of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area which protects the large bird populations which visit the firth each year.

"At this time of year there are thousands of geese, ducks and wading birds using the bay so it's important to protect them and the intertidal habitats that draw them to the area. We understand booms put in place to contain the diesel within the burn and prevent it reaching the bay have been largely effective.

"We have not had any reports of birds being affected by the diesel. SEPA and East Lothian Council will continue to monitor the situation. We're standing by to give further advice to SEPA should they need it."

The Monaghan Mushrooms spokesman added: "We continue to liaise closely with SEPA and to take the necessary actions to ensure the clean-up operation is quick, efficient and successful.

"We are committed to helping mitigate this serious and unfortunate incident in any practical way it can."

He added that site security had been increased following the incident.

A SEPA spokeswoman confirmed the organisation would also be investigating whether the leak had contravened any legislation.

If so, a case will be put together and passed to the procurator fiscal.

A Lothian and Borders Police spokesman said: "I can confirm we are investigating reports of damage to a red diesel tank at business premises in Fenton Barns.

"Enquiries are ongoing and we would ask anyone with information to contact us."

<http://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/roundup/articles/2010/12/23/408526-massive-oil-spill-threatens-wildlife/>

USA, CA, BAKERSFIELD

DECEMBER 24 2010.

FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE BLAZE AT SAN JOAQUIN REFINING

James Burger

Flames from a burning oil tanker truck buckled the wall of a 42,000 gallon standing tank holding heavy oil in the early hours of Thursday morning, threatening to breach the tank, set its contents ablaze and spread the fire across a San Joaquin Refining Co. complex in a heavy industrial area north of Rosedale Highway.

Firefighters from Kern County and the city of Bakersfield mobbed the blaze, 40strong, just after 4:28 a.m. and used water to cool the walls of the large standing oil tank enough to prevent a catastrophe, said Kern County Fire Department spokesman Sean Collins.

He said that if the walls had gotten hot enough, the sides of the tank would have started to melt, the tank would have leaked and thousands of gallons of oil would have spilled and caught fire.

Six nearby tanks, part of a large complex at the refinery, would also have been at risk, Collins said.

That's why, Collins said, firefighters concentrated their initial attack on the large standing oil tank.

Portions of the 7,000 gallon tanker truck, which was empty or just beginning to be filled when the blaze started, exploded several times during the battle with the blaze, sending debris flying. Two refinery workers received minor injuries from the flying debris, Collins said.

The tanker truck and a nearby flatbed truck "consumed their fuel" and burned themselves out, Collins said, leaving twisted piles of melted, warped and shredded steel.

The cause of the blaze, at the San Joaquin Refining, Co. facility at Standard and Shell streets north of Rosedale Highway and west of Highway 99, is under investigation, Collins said.

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x1089549831/Firefighters-battle-blaze-at-San-Joaquin-Refining>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

CANADA, ONT, PORT STANLEY

DECEMBER 24 2010.

TANK LEAKS ASPHALT

A storage tank ruptured at the McAsphalt Industries plant at Port Stanley harbour early Wednesday prompting a hurried cleanup to prevent the escaped material from hardening.

A company official said the leak of liquid asphalt is the first to occur on the site and was unexpected from the relatively new, thick-walled tank. Several tanks are located between the harbour along Kettle Creek and main beach.

"The safety containment system did its job," said McAsphalt spokesperson Joel Gardner, who had been on scene, from his Toronto office.

He said no material left the site and Ontario's Environment Ministry was alerted to the spill and cleanup effort.

Gardner said the cause of the rupture was unknown and the cost won't be known until it is determined how much material can be salvaged with pumps and trucks before becoming hard.

A company employee discovered the leak about 7 a.m., he said.

One villager said the goo that seeped from the tank was more than two feet deep.

<http://www.stthomastimesjournal.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=2903592>

USA, KY, LOUISVILLE

DECEMBER 24 2010.

PARKING LOT COLLAPSES AFTER BLAST AT CLOSED-DOWN GAS STATION ON DIXIE HIGHWAY

Debby Yetter, James Bruggers and Sean Rose

A man working with a power saw apparently triggered an explosion Thursday at a shutdown gas station in western Louisville that caused a partial collapse of the parking lot.

No one was injured in the early afternoon blast at Standard Avenue and Dixie Highway and no other property was damaged except for a red pickup that fell into the crater caused by the explosion, said Maj. Jim Frederick of Louisville Fire & Rescue.

Frederick said the man using the saw was not hurt.

"He is very fortunate to walk away with no injuries," Frederick said.

That man, Steven Askew, 48, of the 6800 block of Strawberry Lane, was arrested after police said they determined he was trying to steal piping from the gas station. He was charged with first-degree wanton endangerment and first-degree criminal mischief, said Louisville Metro Police spokesman Carey Klain.

Askew was being held at Metro Corrections Thursday evening. His bond had not yet been set.

State officials said the man was trying to cut off a vent pipe to the tank in an apparent effort to steal it — something they described as very risky.

"Anybody trained to work on this equipment would not do that," said Robert Goodwin, a senior deputy state fire marshal. Goodwin said he'd likely send an inspector to the site, at 1420 Dixie Highway, on Monday to check on the status of the business and the tank and to make sure it had been properly drained and is not a continuing safety hazard.

The explosion occurred after sparks from the saw apparently ignited fumes in the underground gas tank, which had been drained, Frederick said. He said the gas station had been closed for about two years.

A sign on the property lists it as for sale.

Frederick said firefighters and officials with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness inspected the site and determined the gas vapors had dissipated and do not pose a safety hazard.

Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection officials, who also regulate underground petroleum storage tanks, sent an inspector and will follow up next week with a records check on the business, said Rodney Polly, a response coordinator with the state agency.

Operating tanks are inspected to make sure they aren't leaking every three years, said R. Bruce Scott, commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection. When a gas station closes, the station or tank owner is responsible for removing it and cleaning up any contamination, he said.

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20101223/NEWS01/312230055/1008/rss01>

USA, IN, WARRICK CO, NEWBURGH

DECEMBER 28 2010.

BIODIESEL STORAGE TANK CAUSES FIRE AT NEWBURGH BUSINESS

Firefighters and an Evansville HAZMAT team responded to a Newburgh business fire around 1:00 p.m.

Monday. Fire crews rushed to Southern Indiana Biofuels, located on Prospect Drive in Newburgh, that's near Vann

664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674

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Avenue. Fire crews say most of the damage was to an oil storage tank where the fire started. When those crews arrived on scene they didn't know what they were dealing with. Since the company produces fuel, the HAZMAT team was called in just in case those chemicals were hazardous. That storage tank was right outside the building. Fire crews were on scene for about three hours putting water on the tank and making sure it was cooled down. We now know it was the oil inside of that tank that started the fire. There is some minor damage to the Southern Indiana Biofuels building. Fortunately there was no environmental danger. The tank contained heating oil that the company pumps into the building to keep its biodiesel supply warm. No employees were inside the building at the time of the fire. Fire officials say there were some workers outside of the building early Monday afternoon, but no one was injured.

<http://www.14wfi.com/story/13745447/crews-fighting-newburgh-business-fire>