

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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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, KS, COFFEVILLE

OCTOBER 1 2010.

RESIDENTS STILL ANGRY EVEN THOUGH THEY NOW KNOW WHAT CAUSED EXPLOSION THAT ROCKED COFFEYVILLE

Coffeyville, Kansas residents unite their complaints after an explosion at a local oil refinery.

Several Coffeyville, Kansas residents are developing health problems that they say are a direct result of the explosion two weeks ago.

While city officials stay away, several citizens and representatives from the refinery gathered for a meeting on Saturday.

The refinery says the incident was an unexpected explosion of pressure emitting urea and anhydrous ammonia.

They say they do not know the exact cause.

Residents say they want the refinery to increase the buffer zone around the plant.

"People over here firmly believe, and I'm not saying it is or it isn't, it's a possibility, that a lot of health problems are due to emissions from the refinery," says Coffeyville resident Carol Carroll.

"Here on this side of the tracks, if you will, we are still here, still fighting them to do the right thing, if you will," says Wilbert Colbert, Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church. "Move us. Buy us out. Let us set up another home somewhere else other than under the tyranny and the threat of this plant."

The representatives from the refinery refused to comment.

Reverend Colbert says he plans to get the word out to the community and also get legislators involved.

Updated October 1, 2010 6:10 PM CST:

More details about an explosion at a southeast Kansas fertilizer plant. Residents are telling us what they saw and what is left behind.

"I heard a loud explosion, looked out the window, seen a big ol' cloud of yellow stuff flying up in the air," says Dana Calonder.

Many like Dana immediately left the area in fear of their safety. Others came home to find out what happened.

"After standing out here for a while you could feel it was just on your skin, it was just dirty, and then breathing it in - uh oh," says Christinia Calonder.

The city says while it was not called to help Thursday, it is prepared to help and has responders who are trained to deal with haz-mat disasters.

The plant says the explosion came from a rupture in a high-pressure container during the liquid fertilizer process.

Residents may now know the cause but they say they won't forget.

"The scent stayed in the air most of the night - it was horrible," Christinia says. "Shortly after the blast the stuff was falling out of the sky. It was white. It started out as the small white specks - they're still inside of my window in the creases. But when the heat hit my car, either that or it's the reaction it has on metal, it melted. It's like a film, where it is, it's crystallizing."

Some residents say they are worried about the health of their children and plan have them seen by physicians.

Others say they want to move out of the neighborhood or out of Coffeyville all together.

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Those living in the area who had the film from the explosion on their vehicles say they plan to send pictures to the plant.

Updated October 1, 2010 02:10 PM CST:

CVR Energy issued the following news release Friday afternoon regarding Thursday evening's incident:

Coffeyville Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant Adjusts Turnaround Dates

COFFEYVILLE, Kan. (Oct. 1, 2010) – Coffeyville Resources Nitrogen Fertilizers announced today that it will move up its planned turnaround program at production facilities here after a rupture occurred in a high-pressure Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) vessel.

A biannual turnaround had been planned to begin on Tuesday, Oct. 5, and run in stages through Wednesday, Oct. 27. Part of that work will now be pulled forward to minimize impact on production schedules.

The incident occurred shortly after 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30. No employees were injured.

Although the incident was heard throughout the area surrounding the plant, no major impacts were reported beyond the facility's fence line. The remainder of the plant was brought down in an orderly fashion subsequent to the rupture. Damage was centered at the UAN facility, but no damage estimates were immediately available. Early indications suggest that the gasification and ammonia synthesis plants were not materially impacted.

The adjacent Coffeyville Resources Refining & Marketing 115,000 barrel per day refinery continues to operate normally.

Coffeyville Resources Nitrogen Fertilizers, LLC, and Coffeyville Resources Refining & Marketing, LLC, are subsidiaries of CVR Energy, Inc.

Updated October 1, 2010 01:10 PM CST:

A Coffeyville, Kansas resident says a blast Thursday evening at the CVR Energy plant was louder than a sonic boom. Fire officials say an anhydrous ammonia explosion occurred at around 7 p.m. and no injuries were reported. Plant employees were evacuated and returned an hour later.

But a resident we spoke with says he does not feel safe and wants to sell his house.

"Just get on up the street or somewhere, I mean it's hard just knowing it's in your backyard," Darrell Blair says. "It's just literally two or three blocks up, so it's hard to know you're in the shadow of that and when you get those little reminders of how quick something could happen, it makes you rethink where you're staying."

"They've been testing their intercoms and they can speak loudly on these things - you can hear every word they say," Blair says. "It's throughout the whole east side of the whole neighborhood over here. They've been testing them for two days and they work fine. Then the explosion happened and there wasn't a peep coming out of them intercoms. Not an alarm, nobody telling you what happened, all of a sudden they wanted to act like it didn't happen. I guess I don't know. That angers you."

We will have the latest information on the incident as it becomes available.

Updated September 30, 2010 8:25 PM CST:

The Coffeyville Fire Department tells us that the CVR Energy plant was evacuated around 7 p.m. after an anhydrous ammonia explosion.

Employees returned an hour later.

No injuries were reported.

The cause is under investigation.

Original - September 30, 2010 07:58 PM CST

A loud explosion has been heard in Coffeyville, Kansas this evening.

There has been an explosion at a nitrogen plant at the Coffeyville Resources refinery.

A resident tells us she lives more than a mile from the refinery and when it happened around 7 p.m. Thursday.

It not only shook the entire house, the resident says it shook her to her core. She called it a feeling like any other.

A neighbor went to the site when it happened and they were telling everyone on the east side of town to evacuate.

Residents on the east side of town say the explosion blew out windows.

Residents tell us there are no reports of any injuries.

We have a crew en route.

<http://www.koamtv.com/story/13249082/coffeyville-boom>

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USA, OH, COLUMBUS

OCTOBER 2 2010.

OSHA FINES HEARTLAND REFINERY FOR EXPOSING WORKERS TO FIRE HAZARDS

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Heartland Refinery in Columbus, Ohio, with one alleged serious safety violation for failing to control the release of flammable liquids and vapors resulting in a July 17, 2010, fire at the facility. The refinery also has been cited with two repeat violations for problems that existed in March 2010 and were found in July 2010 not to have been corrected, as well as one failure-to-abate violation first brought to the company's attention by OSHA in 2009. Proposed penalties total \$68,900.

"Failing to follow proper procedures to prevent the unintentional release of flammable vapors and liquids in an area where a known ignition source exists creates a serious safety risk to workers, and as this case shows, a high risk of fire in the workplace," said OSHA area director Deborah Zubaty in Columbus. "There is no excuse for this type of complacency, and OSHA will do all it can to protect employees in the workplace."

The fire occurred when a flange or fitting in the process area failed to contain flammable liquids, which then leaked to an ignition source. The serious violation carries a penalty of \$4,900. An OSHA violation is serious if death or serious physical harm can result from a hazard an employer knew or should have known exists.

Heartland Refinery also has been issued two repeat safety violations for failing to identify piping containing flammable or combustible liquids, and to develop and document hazardous energy control procedures for refinery processes. A repeat violation is issued when an employer previously was cited for the same or similar violation of any standard, regulation, rule or order at any other facility in federal enforcement states within the last five years. Those penalties carry fines of \$14,000.

The company, which re-refines motor oil through a hydrogenation process resulting in reusable clean base oil, also has been cited for failing to abate a 2009 violation, which required the development of an arc flash analysis program for workers exposed to energized electrical equipment exceeding 480 volts. The penalty accompanying this failure-to-abate violation is \$50,000.

The company has 15 business days from receipt of its current citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

<http://www.reliableplant.com/Read/26826/Heartland-Refinery-fire-hazards>

USA, KY, WHITESBURG

OCTOBER 2 2010.

CHILDERS OIL TO PAY \$500,000 IN SETTLEMENT FOR LETCHER SPILL

LETCHER MISHAP AFFECTED 7,500

Dori Hjalmarson

Childers Oil will pay \$500,000 to settle a state lawsuit over an October 2008 diesel fuel spill that contaminated the North Fork of the Kentucky River in Letcher County.

The spill, followed four months later by a similar spill from a second Childers Oil site, damaged the Whitesburg water plant, shutting off service for days to 7,500 customers, including clinics, schools and a hospital. No injuries were reported, but dozens of people, businesses and the city sued the company for damages after dealing with oily water coming out of taps for days at a time.

Whitesburg Mayor James Craft said Friday that he was surprised and pleased to hear the city would recover some of the costs it incurred after the 2008 spill and a second caused by old leaking storage tanks owned by Childers Oil in February 2009.

"Did it make us whole? No," he said. "Settlements are always some give, always some take."

The first spill, caused by the company's unpermitted disposal of diesel fuel waste into the North Fork floodplain about a mile upstream from the city's water treatment plant intake point, damaged the plant's carbon filtering system, Craft said. The city paid around \$125,000 to replace and upgrade it, Craft said. The city also sued Childers Oil over about \$50,000 in water testing laboratory bills; that suit was settled confidentially a few months ago, he said.

Craft said he thought the crisis was eye-opening for the oil company and said he wanted to credit Childers for responding with charitable help, such as bottled water that was distributed to residents.

An official at Childers Oil said Friday that no one would comment on the settlement.

Last year, Childers Oil vice president Missy Childers, daughter of Whitesburg entrepreneur and company owner Don Childers, acknowledged in an interview that the company had taken a public relations hit. She said the

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company would never intentionally hurt its neighbors.

"We are more conscious of things now, more aware of things now," she said in March 2009.

Under a consent judgment signed by Franklin Circuit Judge Phillip Shepherd on Sept. 23, Childers Oil and its sister, Mountain Rail Properties, which owns dozens of Double Kwik gas stations across southeast Kentucky, agreed to pay \$240,000 to local governments for water plant rehabilitation and sewer line extensions; \$10,000 to River Sweep, an annual volunteer river cleanup project organized by the state; \$159,854.23 to the state Energy and Environment Cabinet for restitution of laboratory costs and overtime for testing Whitesburg's drinking water that was fouled in the spill; and \$90,145 in penalties to the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund, another state program.

State officials said last year that a criminal investigation was pending, causing a delay in settling the 2008 citations. The status of that criminal investigation couldn't be determined Friday. It isn't being conducted by the state Division of Water, spokeswoman Allison Fleck said, and the state attorney general's office as policy does not confirm or deny ongoing investigations.

Three other lawsuits were filed by individuals and businesses whose water was shut off for days or weeks after the two spills. Two of those suits have been consolidated in Letcher Circuit Court and are pending. Another, filed by a kidney dialysis clinic, is pending in federal court.

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<http://www.kentucky.com/2010/10/02/1460212/childers-oil-to-pay-500000-in.html>

USA, CA, SAN JOSE

OCTOBER 4 2010.

AT&T BUILDING LEAKS 1,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL

About one thousand gallons of diesel fuel have spilled from a ten-story building and into a storm drain and surrounding concrete in San Jose Saturday evening, a fire captain said. Firefighters responded to a 5:15 p.m. call that fuel had been leaking out of an AT&T Corp. building at South Almaden Blvd., San Jose fire Captain Barry Stallard said. On the building's roof, arriving crews discovered an engine -- meant to power the building in the event of an outage -- was inexplicably leaking diesel fuel into the roof's drain and down to the street, Stallard said. The drain has leaked fuel into the nearby sewage system and onto a surrounding concrete recreational area where people jog. The engine has a fuel capacity of about 100 gallons, Stallard said, but is connected to tanks in the building parking lot that hold about 50,000 gallons. The building operates AT&T's 911 hub, which is used to route residents' emergency calls to local dispatchers. It also operates standard phone service. Service has not been affected by the spill, Stallard said. Almaden Boulevard is closed between West San Fernando and West Santa Clara streets, Stallard said. No injuries have been reported. Crews are continuing to respond to the incident with no estimation of when the oil will stop leaking or when the roads will be reopened.

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/25257655/detail.htm>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MANSFIELD

OCTOBER 5 2010.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT ON DSE AFTER TANK EXPLOSION

WorkSafe is demanding safety improvements from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) after a fuel tank explosion last year left a worker with serious burn injuries.

The April 2009 incident occurred when a 31 year-old DSE worker at the organisation's Alexandra depot was instructed to weld a leak in a 400-litre tank used to store fuel used in controlled burning operations.

"The unsupervised worker was told the tank needed to be ready by the following day -- he wasn't told that he would need to clean the tank or remove any fuel," Executive Director for Health and Safety Ian Forsyth said.

"When he began to weld the tank, it exploded. He suffered second degree and superficial burns to around 8% of his body, as well as other injuries from the force of the blast."

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DSE is entering into an enforceable undertaking with WorkSafe, requiring it to create a senior full-time health and safety leadership role to work across the organisation's regional depots.

The undertaking sets out that DSE will also invest \$120,000 in a safety leadership program – half of which will be allocated to dangerous goods training and half to training managers and supervisors in health and safety.

DSE will also spend \$10,000 advertising an alert in regional papers around Victoria - to publicise the dangers of welding fuel drums and best-practice for this work.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 provides for enforceable undertakings as an alternative to prosecution. An undertaking is a legal agreement where an organisation is required to carry out specific activities to improve health and safety for employees, which will benefit the wider community.

WorkSafe has entered into 13 enforceable undertakings since 2004, two of which are with government departments.

"As this situation clearly shows, welding or cutting a container which contains traces of flammable substances can be extremely dangerous," Mr Forsyth said.

"The worker wasn't given any instructions to help him carry out the work safely, nor was he warned that there was a risk of explosion.

"Even if there's a suspicion of flammable substances, hazard identification and cleaning procedures need to be carried out by someone who is trained to do this kind of work," he said.

WorkSafe will monitor DSE's progress to ensure the conditions of the undertaking are met.

<http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/wsinternet/worksafe/sitetools/news/safety+spotlight+on+dse+aft+er+tank+explosion>

USA, WA, ANACORTES

OCTOBER 5 2010.

TEXAS REFINER'S FINE A RECORD IN WASHINGTON STATE BLAST

TESORO MUST PAY \$2.4 MILLION OVER EXPLOSION THAT LEFT 7 DEAD

Vicki Vaughan

Washington state officials hit Tesoro Corp. with a \$2.4 million fine Monday — the highest penalty ever issued by the state's workplace safety regulators - after an investigation of an April 2 explosion that killed seven at the company's plant north of Seattle.

The deaths could have been prevented at the company's Anacortes, Wash., refinery had the San Antonio-based company followed standard industry procedures and its own policies, regulators said.

"One conclusion stands out among all others: The seven deaths could have been prevented and should have been prevented," said Michael Silverstein, assistant director of the Washington Department of Labor & Industries' occupational safety division. "It wasn't a question of whether (equipment) would blow up; it was a question of when."

After a six-month investigation, the agency sharply criticized the refiner for sending poorly trained, unprotected workers into an area where 40-year-old equipment had been inadequately tested. When a vessel cracked, it spewed vapors that ignited and led to a fiery explosion that killed seven.

Washington regulators cited Tesoro for 39 "willful" violations for being indifferent to fixing hazards and five "serious" violations for which there was a high probability of serious injury or death. The company has 15 working days to appeal the citations.

"The most important thing is for Tesoro to correct the hazards identified in the investigation," regulators said.

Tesoro spokesman Lynn Westfall said the company "is in the process of reviewing the results of the inspection and cannot comment further until this review is complete." Tesoro cooperated during the agency's inspection, he said.

"Safety is our top priority," he added. "In connection with our own investigation of the accident and the resumption of operations, we have undertaken a review of equipment and piping at the refinery. We are working hard for a safe resumption of operations at Anacortes."

Tesoro earlier had said it would start up some units at the plant on Monday and have all units operating by Oct. 15. It's unclear how state's ruling would affect those plans.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/7231847.html>

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USA, MASS, BRIDGEWATER

OCTOBER 5 2010.

EXPLOSION LAUNCHES PROPANE TANK INTO HOME

Ron Sanders

A 200-pound tank of compressed natural gas accidentally exploded at a Bridgewater auto salvage yard and was launched 600 to 700 feet through the air into the roof and bedroom ceiling of a home, narrowly missing a woman standing beneath that part of the ceiling. "I was kneeling down on the floor and there was a huge explosion. It shook the whole house. I didn't know what it was. Scared to death," said Beth Maraglia.

Bridgewater firefighters got a 911 call from Maraglia just after the tank blew through the roof about 10:30 a.m. "An explosion and something just fell on the house. It came through the bedroom," she told the dispatcher.

Maraglia was still shaken several hours later. "I jumped out of the way in time and the ceiling came down right where I was standing," she explained.

Maraglia and fire investigators say solar panels on the roof prevented the tank from landing on her. "Probably would have killed me. Scariest thing that ever happened to me in my life," she said.

Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Levy said part of the 30 inch tank was still missing after the explosion, which happened when a machine cutting apart a truck for scrap evidently cut into the tank, caused a spark and the blast. That left a 4-foot crater in the ground at Chuckran's Auto Parts.

The deputy says the salvage company was in full compliance with all regulations but someone had left the tank in the truck before it was delivered to the yard. "We're probably never going to find out who placed that device inside the metals. It could have been there a while," he said.

Maraglia's boyfriend, Bill Woodman, said someone must have been watching over her. "I have a guardian angel or something watching over me," she surmised.

The deputy chief said the compressed natural gas tank is the type that might be found on a bus that uses alternative fuel. He said since this is Fire Prevention Week, he urges all salvage yards and companies that handle scrap materials to be extra vigilant about what they may contain.

<http://boston.cbslocal.com/2010/10/04/explosion-launches-propane-tank-into-home/>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE

OCTOBER 6 2010.

MAN CRITICAL AFTER TANK EXPLOSION AT BIODIESEL FACILITY

Shannon Deery

A 75-year-old man was put into an induced coma and remains in a critical condition at Alfred Hospital following the explosion at a factory in Aylward Ave, Thomastown this afternoon. Advanced life support paramedics from the north Melbourne suburb and intensive care paramedics from Campbellfield were called to the scene just after 12.30pm.

Paramedic group manager Tony Elliott said crews found the elderly man with serious burns to about half of his body.

"The man had apparently been welding a large cylinder-type vat estimated to be 10 to 20m tall," Mr Elliott said.

"For some reason there was explosion. There was enough force in the blast to propel the cylinder a considerable distance up the road.

"The blast seriously burnt the man's upper body. Intensive care paramedics also held concerns that the man's airway had suffered burns.

"Airway burns carry the risk of swelling and that can restrict the patient's breathing. With that in mind, the man was placed into a coma and a breathing tube was fed down his airway so that paramedics could control his breathing."

An MFB spokesperson said crews heard the explosion from the station, 500m down the road.

The spokesperson said it was believed the explosion was caused by the hazardous material glycerol - a bio-diesel refiner.

Mr Elliott said the blast propelled the vat about 100m up the road.

"It was incredible more people were not injured in the blast," he said.

"Steel pipes dropped onto cars leaving an extensive trail of damage. Thankfully no one in the street was hit by the flying debris."

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A 68-year-old man who was wasn't directly exposed to the blast was taken to the Royal Melbourne Hospital in a stable condition.

"He was some distance away but was thrown to the ground and suffered minor injuries," Mr Elliott said.
<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/man-critical-after-factory-explosion/story-e6frf7kx-1225934873475>

USA, ILL, CHICAGO

OCTOBER 8 2010.

STATE, COUNTY FILE SUIT OVER 6,000-GALLON ROMEVILLE OIL SPILL

THE LINE THAT BROKE IN ROMEVILLE LAST MONTH ALSO CROSSES BENEATH THE NORTHERN PORTION OF PLAINFIELD.

Robyn Monaghan

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow filed an eight-count lawsuit today demanding that Enbridge Energy pay all costs related to cleaning up a 6,000-gallon oil spill in Romeville last month.

The lawsuit alleges the Sept. 9 spill endangered the public's health and welfare, violated state water and air pollution laws, and created a public nuisance. The estimated clean-up price tag is \$60 million.

Madigan and Glasgow want Enbridge to inspect all water supply mains, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and private wells and groundwater within a half mile of the break near 719 Parkwood Ave. to ensure that all contamination has been removed.

The pipeline in question also runs directly under Plainfield, a fact not lost on Romeville Mayor John Noak, who joined Madigan and Glasgow at a press conference announcing the complaint.

"There's no telling where this kind of thing can happen," Noak said. "It's not just us. It could be just about anyone."

Enbridge's Line 6A runs under portions of northern Plainfield. The 34-inch line moves 670,000 barrels of crude oil per day, following a path south along 252nd Street, east between 119th and 127th streets and then jogging just south of Plainfield East High School.

"This (lawsuit) is to make sure that Enbridge, and not the taxpayers, will pay for the clean up," Madigan said.

Enbridge recently agreed to pay \$460 million to clean up an oil spill in Michigan, one of the largest in U.S. history, and closed down a section of a suspicious pipe in New York.

"This isn't like, 'Oh, look what's bubbling up out of the ground,' like on the 'Beverly Hillbillies,'" Glasgow said. "If they have \$460 million to put into clean-up, why not put \$460 million into prevention?"

In addition to the complaint, state and county officials filed an "agreed interim order" requiring that Enbridge:

- Submit a plan within seven days to evaluate the impact of the leak on private wells and the Romeville Nature Preserve;
- Identify and conduct inspections within 15 days on community water lines, storm sewers and service lines that may have been impacted;
- Reimburse the state of Illinois for the cost of responding to the leak and related oversight costs.

Enbridge officials anticipate the estimated \$60 million clean-up cost will also cover fines that will be levied -- but have not yet been determined -- by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Madigan said.

Line 6A carries heavy and medium crude oil from Superior, Wis., to Griffith, Ind. It is part of Enbridge Energy Partners' 1,900-mile Lakehead System, the U.S. leg of the world's longest petroleum pipeline. It's about 60 years old.

The next court date for the case is Nov. 10.

<http://plainfield.patch.com/articles/state-county-demand-enbridge-pay-60-mil-to-romeville-oil-spill>

CANADA, VANCOUVER

OCTOBER 8 2010.

ALBINA FUEL ORDERED TO REDUCE ODOR AT VANCOUVER FACILITY

CLEAN AIR AGENCY BEGAN PROBE AFTER COMPLAINTS

ALBINA FUEL TANKS IN WEST VANCOUVER HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ODOR COMPLAINTS.

Andrea Damewood

After nine months of investigation into noxious fumes coming from Albina Fuel, Southwest Clean Air Agency issued a consent order Thursday requiring Albina to clean up its act.

The agency launched the investigation in January into Albina's liquid asphalt storage facility at 1300 W. Eighth St. Between complaints called into the agency and those left with staff at the nearby Amtrak station, 135 people said

646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653

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that smells coming from Albina were overpowering and sometimes causing nausea, and burning sensations in their eyes and throats.

Investigators found numerous potential sources of the odors on the Albina site, including rail cars, loading trucks and storage tanks. Workers were leaving tanks and cars containing liquid asphalt open while they transferred the asphalt, creating visible gas clouds that often drifted directly into the Amtrak terminal at 1301 W. 11th St.

The smells, SWCAA said, are beyond a “reasonable minimum” and “unreasonably interfere with any other property owner’s use and enjoyment of” their property.

Albina must begin using activated carbon filtration caps when opening rail car or other hatches; install a much larger mist eliminator; install a better suction system to capture gasses; and train its employees to properly use the equipment.

All the work must be done by March 1. The agreement does not include penalties beyond the cost of installing the new equipment on site, Southwest Clean Air Agency Executive Director Bob Elliott said. The cost is expected to be around \$136,000.

“There were things wrong with the controls they were using, and their practices were in vast need of improvement,” Elliott said. “I’m very optimistic there will be a significant reduction in odors.”

The gasses coming from Albina contain hydrogen sulfide, which is the scent that is causing Amtrak passengers and even those as far away as downtown’s Vancouvercenter to complain.

It does not pose a health risk at its concentration, but is a nuisance odor, the report concluded. One Amtrak employee, however, did go to the hospital last year as a reaction to overpowering fumes.

Jeff Arntson, director of Albina Fuels in Vancouver, declined to comment Thursday.

When the agency opened the investigation in January, Elliott had said it should take 60 to 90 days. But he said it quickly became the “biggest undertaking” at Southwest Clean Air in at least a decade.

A consultant, paid for by Albina, researched technology used by other petroleum storage facilities on the West Coast, to see if Albina was up to standards.

A SWCAA inspection in 2009 noted that as asphalt is unloaded from railcars to tanks, emissions are vented into and “partially captured” a mist eliminator that was installed in 1987. The eliminator was “barely” large enough when Albina put it in and as Albina expanded its facilities over time, became too small to handle all the fumes, Elliott said.

“We feel its the company’s responsibility to be on top of those kinds of things,”

Elliott said. “To be proactive and preventative as an opportunity to be a good neighbor.”

The Amtrak employee who went to the hospital due to the fumes read the report Thursday and said she was optimistic that conditions would improve. She said she’s plagued by sinus problems, nausea and diarrhea when Albina opens its fuel tanks.

“I’m not happy with that corporation at all,” said the employee, who did not wish to be named because she is not authorized by Amtrak to speak to the media. “I know its necessary for jobs, and the asphalt is necessary to do a lot of things in things in this world. As far as their nonchalant, uncaring attitude, it makes me sick.”

Others had raised concerns that the fumes would affect prospects on the nearby waterfront development, where developers recently began selling land for a planned \$1.2 billion in condos, restaurants and office space.

“It’s important that as our downtown continues revitalizing and redeveloping, that we have compatible neighbors, so everyone can enjoy our downtown whether they’re living, working or playing,” Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt said. “It sounds like Albina understands it’s important for them to be a good partner and neighbor.”

Albina outdates much of the development around it — the facility has been used to store petroleum products for more than 80 years, and Albina has used it as a bulk asphalt terminal since 1991.

The company’s headquarters are located on Eighth and Main Streets in downtown Vancouver. A family-owned company, it also has operations in Klamath Falls and Madras, Ore., as well as fueling sites in Tacoma and Aurora in Washington.

The consent order is a more collaborative agreement between the clean air authority and the company than a more one-sided order of mandate would have been, Elliott said.

But if employees fail to use the carbon tank caps or do not change them as they fill with particulates, the consent order notes Albina could face penalties of up to \$10,000.

“I think (Albina director Arntson) completely understands if they aren’t vigilant in maintaining this equipment, that’s where further penalties could occur,” Elliott said.

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2010/oct/07/albina-fuel-odor-vancouver-facility/>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, CA, LONG BEACH

OCTOBER 8 2010.

OIL TANKER RUPTURE SPILLS 6,800 GALLONS IN COMPTON

Kristopher Hanson

A ruptured oil tank spilled nearly 6,800 gallons of heavy-grade diesel early Thursday in an industrial yard on Santa Fe Avenue, though crews were able to recover about 4,800 gallons by nightfall.

The accident occurred after an oil tank being hauled by a big rig apparently came loose, sending the trailer crashing to the pavement and busting a hole in the tank, which was carrying marine diesel oil shortly before 4 a.m.

Marine diesel oil is a less-refined fuel used in furnaces, boilers and freight ships, which use a blend known as bunker fuel.

The spilled liquid quickly gushed onto the grounds of Asbury Environmental Services at 1241 S. Santa Fe Ave., and then into a storm drain and small concrete stream nearby, though crews were able to largely contain the spill by diking the waterways, said a Compton Fire Department dispatcher.

Within a few hours, much of the spill had been removed from the parking lot, but an environmental disaster response contractor was hired to ensure the oil didn't slip into storm drains leading to the harbor a few miles south.

A preliminary report issued by the California Emergency Management Agency indicated the overflow had been contained by late morning, though crews were stationed downstream to ensure the leak didn't reach the ocean.

Ashbury is one of California's largest transporters of waste oil and hazardous liquid materials, operating a fleet of more than 400 trucks statewide. The company is also federally licensed to operate a highly advanced antifreeze recycling program, according to the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency.

Officials with Ashbury could not be reached for comment.

http://www.pressetelegram.com/breakingnews/ci_16282900

USA, CA, MARTINEZ

OCTOBER 11 2010.

CREWS CONTAIN TANK FIRE AT TESORO REFINERY

Jonathan Morales

A holding tank fire at the Tesoro Golden Eagle refinery sent one employee to the hospital Sunday afternoon, a refinery official said. At about 12:20 p.m., a contractor performing maintenance work on a tank containing diesel fuel on top of processing water reported the diesel had caught fire, said refinery spokesman Mike Marcy. Twenty-seven Tesoro firefighters responded to the fire, Marcy said, which was extinguished by about 3 p.m. One employee was taken to the hospital for smoke inhalation and was expected to be released later on Sunday, according to Marcy. At the fire's peak, the smoke rose about 200 feet into the air, he said, and although nearby communities were not at risk, the refinery notified the county office of emergency service of the fire. Officials with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the refinery's own specialists drove through neighboring communities and could not detect an odor from the fire, Marcy said. The county fire department was also notified of the incident and had two battalion chiefs on scene in an advisory capacity, according to Marcy. The cause of the fire is under investigation. The refinery is located near the Highway 4-Interstate 680 junction in the unincorporated Contra Costa Community of Avon.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_16305338?nclick_check=1

UK, LANCASHIRE

OCTOBER 13 2010.

THREE HURT IN LANCASHIRE CHEMICAL 'EXPLOSION'

Three people suffered serious burns in a major fire at a waste management plant in West Lancashire.

Up to 60 firefighters were called to reports of an explosion at PHS waste management in Tollgate Road, Burscough, at about 1000 BST.

A 52-year-old man was airlifted to the Royal Preston Hospital and two others were taken to Whiston Hospital.

They are being treated for burns to their faces and hands. The fire is now out and crews are damping down.

An investigation is under way into the cause of the fire.

It is not yet clear what kind of chemicals were involved in the explosion but gas tests on the smoke found it was low toxicity.

At the fire's height, plumes of thick black smoke were billowing from the building and could be seen six miles (9.7km) away.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

'Like an earthquake'

Police cordoned off the estate and advised people to avoid the area and close their windows and doors.

Philip Hattersley, who works nearby, said: "There was a really loud bang and then everything just shook - it was like an earthquake really.

"I went outside and there were really big mounds of smoke just coming out of the building which is about 100yds away."

Other eyewitnesses described the noise like "popping fireworks" with visible high flames and smoke with an acrid smell.

Barry Graham, from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, said crews had managed to stop the fire spreading to two adjacent buildings.

He said specialist teams had been brought in to assess the scene and its safety for those fighting the blaze.

A PHS spokeswoman said: "Lancashire Fire and Rescue has confirmed the fire has been put out and the clean-up operation is now underway.

"All other operations on site have been shut down and safely isolated.

"A full internal investigation will be launched shortly and we are committed to cooperating with any external investigations to establish how this incident occurred so that it does not happen again."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-11522245>

USA, NY, JAMESTOWN, LAKEWOOD

OCTOBER 13 2010.

GAS SPILL IN LAKEWOOD

EMERGENCY PERSONNEL CONTAIN FUEL BEFORE IT REACHES CHAUTAUQUA LAKE

Andrew Carr

A fuel spill at the Arrowmart gas station at 4469 W. Fairmount Ave., near Smith Boys Marina, was the result of a fuel delivery overflow, said Kurt Hallberg, Lakewood fire chief.

The spill began around 6:30 a.m. when tanker trucks attempted to deliver and fill the underground tanks at the station, said John Bentley, Lakewood-Busti police chief.

"This morning they had a fuel delivery down there and sometime while the fuel was being delivered it appears there was an overflow from one tank to another and then through the overflow device that is at the ground level," Bentley said.

An alarm was triggered and the district manager at the store responded, but did not arrive until 8:30 a.m., Bentley said.

At that time, "he realizes there is a gas spill and he calls 911," he said. "We dispatched a car down there to check on it and the fire department went as well."

When the firefighters arrived, they started looking through all the storm grates and tried to get the spill isolated, Hallberg said. The county HAZMAT team was then called in to deal with the spill. An undetermined amount of gasoline was found to have seeped out of the ground at the overflow tank and entered the storm drain system, said Hallberg.

"We aren't sure how many gallons actually got spilled," said Hallberg. "There is almost 500 gallons that is missing, but there is an overflow measure into the other tank so some of it may have gone into that. We are not sure how much really got spilled. But there was quite a bit here."

The gasoline seeped into the storm drain and also out into the tributary leading out into the lake, Hallberg said. The HAZMAT team began containment measures to keep the fuel from entering the lake, he said.

"There is some water going into the canal towards the lake, and HAZMAT were trying to put in a containment boom to try to stop it," Bentley said.

The small "tributary" was able to be contained, and officials believe that none of the fuel reached the lake.

"It hasn't gotten any further out into the lake then right by where it goes under the road at (routes) 494 and 374," Hallberg said. "We stopped it before it got really far into this tributary leading to the lake, so I don't foresee it being an issue."

HAZMAT was released from the scene and the Department of Environmental Conservation responded. Reid Petroleum, the company that was delivering the fuel, is currently trying to contact a cleanup organization, Hallberg said.

<http://www.post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/573368/Gas-Spill-In-Lakewood.html>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, TX, BAYTOWN

OCTOBER 13 2010.

EXXON REPORTS OIL LEAK FROM TANK AT BAYTOWN REFINERY

Samantha Zee

Exxon Mobil Corp. reported a crude oil spill yesterday at its Baytown, Texas, refinery in a filing with state regulators. A leak at the tank mixer seal led to the spill, according to the filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The mixer seal was isolated and absorbents were applied to the spilled liquid, the filing showed. "The incident lasted from about 3:30 p.m. local time to 3:45 p.m. yesterday. —There was no impact to refinery operations," said Neely Nelson, a spokeswoman for Exxon. The plant can process 572,500 barrels of crude a day, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-12/exxon-reports-oil-leak-from-tank-at-baytown-refinery-update1-.html>

CHINA, YUNNAN PROVINCE, KUNMING

OCTOBER 16 2010.

OIL TANK EXPLOSION IN SW CHINA INJURES 4

Four workers were wounded in a blaze after an oil storage exploded in southwest China's city of Kunming, capital of Yunnan province, Friday night, a local official said. The explosion occurred in an industrial zone located at the east suburbs of Kunming at about 7 p.m., said Wen Zhiping, an official of the industrial zone. Twenty four fire engines rushed to the scene. The blaze was put out at about 8 p.m..The injured are being hospitalized, doctors said, adding that the wounds are not life-threatening. An initial probe shows that the explosion was caused by the ignition of residual oil in an oil tank while the workers were welding it. The oil storage was owned by China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation, or Sinopec, one of the country's largest oil refiners, but had been rent to a local private operator.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/7168056.html>

USA, TX, GRAND PRAIRIE, OCTOBER 21 2010. PIPELINE 'PIG' CRASHES THROUGH TEXAS HOME

Brett Ship

Those worried about the growing number of gas pipelines in North Texas may have new justification for their concerns.

This time, it's not a leak or an explosion, but a pipeline testing device that was launched into the air like a missile.

Some say the end result could have been just as deadly.

To Grand Prairie residents living near a pipeline construction project at Arkansas Lane and Highway 161, the equipment and activities had been little more than a eyesore.

Until last Friday, that is, when a device called a "pig" — being used to pressure test a pipeline under construction — was launched like a missile out of the end of a pipe, straight toward a house 500 feet away.

As the photographs provided to News 8 showed, it was a direct hit — right into Robert Heredia's bedroom.

"It looked like a war zone in here when it hit, it was really bad," Heredia said.

He and his wife were not at home at the time, but his daughter Christina was. While she was in another part of the house, he realizes the incident could easily have had tragic consequences.

"If it would have been 20 minutes later, she probably would have been in here getting ready to go to work," Heredia said. "That's what gets me as a dad... you know what could have happened."

The 150 lb. flying object was retrieved by its owners, DFW Midstream. They admit their mistake and have offered to pay for damages to two homes.

"It's an isolated incident that occurred during a standard pipeline test... conducted more than 600 times in the area," said Brett Wiggs, President of DFW Midstream.

"DFW Midstream is committed to learning from this incident and working diligently to ensure the safest construction and operation practices possible," Wiggs added.

Heredia questions the company's sincerity.

"It could have killed somebody," he said. "Still I haven't heard from anybody since Friday, the day it happened."

Heredia feels that by just paying for his damages, the company avoids paying a price for endangering lives.

Even though the accident took place on Friday, the incident was not officially reported to the Texas Railroad Commission until Wednesday after News 8 began inquiring about what happened.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Reportable incidents are supposed to be brought to the attention of Railroad Commission investigators within two hours.

<http://www.wfaa.com/home/related/Pipeline-pig-crashes-through-Texas-home-105446583.html>

CHINA, DALIAN

OCTOBER 25 2010.

OIL TANK FIRE EXTINGUISHED AT NORTHEAST CHINA PORT

Fire has been put out at the scene of a July 16 blast involving two oil pipelines in Dalian, a port city in northeast China's Liaoning Province, by 2 a.m. Monday, the contingency headquarter said. The contingency headquarter said no crude oil has been found spilled over into the sea, and no ocean pollution has been detected. The fire was caused by the remaining oil in a tank which had been emptied before workers tried to remove it at 4:10 p.m. No casualties have been reported. The tank, owned by China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC), caught fire on July 16 when two pipelines at Dalian Xingang Harbor exploded.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-10/25/c_13573252.htm

CHINA, DALIAN, XINGANG PORT

OCTOBER 25 2010.

CHINA'S OIL SPILL FLARES UP AGAIN

Leslie Hook

China suffered its largest-ever oil spill in July and the danger it poses has not yet gone away: problems flared up again at the weekend when an oil tank caught on fire during ongoing cleanup efforts at the Xingang port in Dalian.

The newspaper headlines and front-page images of the inferno blaze, which was put out Sunday night, have brought the disaster back into public view. And for some in China, the public attention will be welcome.

Nearby fisherman who have been unable to work since the oil spill have yet to receive any compensation after attempting several lawsuits, and media attention on their cause is on the wane.

At the site of the accident, even the security guards are sympathetic. "The accident hasn't made a big difference to our work as security guards, but for the country it is a huge loss," says the younger of two guards at the oil tank field, as they eat dinner out of styrofoam boxes.

The greatest losers are the fishermen and aquafarmers nearby who have yet to receive any compensation, says the guard, waving a cigarette toward a fishing village down the road. "The oil spill has cost China at least Rmb 10bn, and that's a conservative estimate."

At the end of the row of massive oil tanks they are guarding, the lights of a construction site glimmer through the dusk. The guards confirm that that's where the original explosion took place on July 16, and every so often they look up from their food to wave a fresh batch of construction workers through the gate.

The total amount of oil spilled during the July isn't known; the government says 1,500 tonnes while Greenpeace puts the figure at between 60,000 and 90,000 tonnes. No damages have been awarded yet to anyone affected.

Unless the weekend blaze continues to spark, the spill in Dalian will likely slip farther from public view, with none of the public backlash or fingerpointing of other recent disasters like the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico.

In the case of Dalian, it's hard to tell even who the finger should be pointed at. After all, the pipelines and oil tank field where the explosion occurred are run by a state-owned company, the China National Petroleum Corporation, further blurring the lines of responsibility. A government investigation concluded that human error at the site had led to explosion, but CNPC has yet to be fined.

And judging from Sunday's blaze, safety standards have yet to improve much, either.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2010/10/25/chinas-oil-spill-flares-up-again/>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

BURMA, MYANMAR, PAKKOKU

OCTOBER 26 2010.

14 DIE, HUNDREDS INJURED IN PIPELINE FIRE

RESIDENTS SPEAKING ANONYMOUSLY SAID THERE WAS A HUGE EXPLOSION WHEN A VILLAGER STRUCK A MATCH TO SEE HOW MUCH OIL HAD BEEN COLLECTED IN DRUMS NEAR THE PIPELINE.

More than a dozen people die and nearly 100 are injured in a explosion and fire near an oil pipeline near a village in Pakoku Township in central Burma on Sunday, according to local residents.

The blaze took place when local villagers were collecting oil leaking from the pipeline.

"While the villagers were skimming the oil, the fire broke out. Eight people were killed and about 70 were injured," said a local resident. Accounts of the number of dead and injured varied.

A doctor at a local hospital told The Irrawaddy that he knew of two people dead and 21 people injured in the accident who were are being treated at the hospital.

Many of the injured were from Kyaunchaung and Myit Chaykyar villages in Pakoku, said local sources, who added that many of the injured refused to go to a hospital because of fear the authorities would take action against them.

The Agency France Presse news agency reported that 14 people died and more than 100 were injured in the fire. About 200 villagers were collecting oil from the leaking state-owned pipeline when someone lit a flame to see in the dark, said a local resident.

Authorities shut down the 20-mile long pipeline after the fire ignited.

http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=19816

CHINA, LIAONING PROVINCE, XINGANG PORT

OCTOBER 26 2010.

OIL TANK BLAZE FUELS ANXIETY

Lin Meilian and Li Woke

After the oil tank fire Sunday, residents living near the Xingang Port in Liaoning Province said they are worried about their safety and want the oil giant that owns the facility to take steps to avoid future accidents.

The fire occurred at the same site where an explosion damaged two oil pipelines three months ago. The accident and oil spill made headlines around the world.

"Ever since the massive fire happened in July, we have been worried about living near the oil tanks. Who knows when another explosion would happen," a resident surnamed Gao told the Global Times Monday.

"To ensure people's safety, the government should relocate those oil tanks that have potential safety problems," he said.

The blaze broke out at around 4:10 pm Sunday and was under control Monday at 2 am, according to the local command center. They said no crude oil spilled into the sea, and no water pollution was detected.

"The public must raise safety questions for PetroChina and the Xingang Port as two blasts happened in such a short period of time," said Lin Boqiang, director of the China Center for Energy Economic Research at Xiamen University in Fujian Province.

Bai Xiangying, director of publicity at Dalian Port Oil Terminal Company, which has a fire service team, told the Global Times that the blaze started when workers tried to remove an oil tank that had some leftover oil inside.

"The strong winds Monday made it harder to extinguish the fire," Bai said. More than 370 firefighters with 37 fire trucks battled the fire overnight.

CNPC said in a statement that there were no casualties or risk of pollution.

A police officer at the Xingang police station who did not want to be identified told the Global Times that such accidents are hard to prevent.

"It was hard to completely clean out the oil left inside the tank, any welding spark could cause a fire," he said, adding that the Xingang Port was operating normally.

Bai, the fire official, disagreed, saying the accident was caused by lack of proper safety measures.

"They should not have worked in such strong winds," he said. "If they had taken safety into consideration, the accident could have been prevented."

The explosion at the Xingang Port three months ago resulted in 1,500 metric tons of oil spilling into the Yellow Sea, but some experts said it was more like 60,000 tons.

July's accident forced the closure of the oil terminal at the Xingang Port and delayed oil deliveries to local refineries.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Chinese analysts said the two security problems would have limited impact on PetroChina, the listed subsidiary of CNPC.

"July's blast had little impact on PetroChina's shares," said Gu Yu, an analyst with the Shenzhen-based Guotai Junan Securities. "This time, the impact on the listed giant should be less as it is a much smaller accident."

<http://china.globaltimes.cn/society/2010-10/585570.html>

USA, PA, PITTSBURGH

OCTOBER 27 2010.

DEP PENALIZES MONROEVILLE COMPANY IN FATAL TANK EXPLOSION

The state Department of Environmental Protection announced Tuesday that it has imposed a \$32,000 penalty against Huntley & Huntley Inc. of Monroeville, for the July 23 tank explosion at a gas well in which two people died.

The civil penalty is part of a consent order and agreement to resolve violations of the Oil and Gas Act and the Solid Waste Management Act, according to a news release.

An oil storage tank at a company gas well site in Indiana Township exploded, releasing small amounts of oil and other liquids and causing the well head and nearby production facilities to catch fire. The tank that exploded was propelled into the air, landing about 150 feet away.

Killed were Andy Yosurack Jr., 56, of Creekside, Indiana County, and Kevin Henry, 46, of New Florence. They were employees of Northeast Energy Management Inc. of Indiana, Pa., who were performing welding repairs on the 210-barrel oil storage tank.

Northeast Energy Management was under contract to perform the repairs.

DEP Secretary John Hanger said Huntley & Huntley led a prompt and effective emergency response by marshalling local fire, emergency management and industry response teams to the scene and flying in a specialty well control company from Texas the day of the accident. These actions, he said in the release, helped to limit the environmental impact of the explosion and return the site to a safe condition.

Huntley & Huntley today issued a statement noting that the county fire marshal concluded the accident was caused by the two Northeast Energy Management employees.

Although Huntley officials deny the company itself caused any violations, "solely to avoid the expense and distraction of litigation with the DEP, Huntley has agreed to reimburse the department's out-of-pocket costs of approximately \$7,000 and pay a penalty of \$25,000. The company is in the process of seeking reimbursement for the full \$32,000" from the contractor.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10300/1098279-56.stm>