

# 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, MD, MARION STATION**

**OCTOBER 22 2012.**

### **MAN SEVERELY BURNED WHEN OIL TANK EXPLODES**

Fire officials say a Virginia man was severely burned when an oil tank he was using a cutting torch on exploded in Somerset County.

It happened about 1 p.m. Saturday in Marion Station. The Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office says the 21-year-old man from Tasley, Va. and his father were using an acetylene torch to cut an oil tank which had previously been used to store gasoline. The tank exploded and ignited nearby building.

WBOC-TV ( <http://bit.ly/Ttqb1g>) reports that the younger man was flown to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center Burn Unit in Baltimore with second-and-third degree burns to more than 90 percent of his body. His father was taken to Bayview Medical Center.

<http://www.wtop.com/46/3088738/Man-severely-burned-when-oil-tank-explodes>

## **CANADA, QUEBEC, MONTRÉAL**

**OCTOBER 23 2012.**

### **FIRE AT FORMER EAST END SHELL REFINERY**

Twenty-five firefighters made quick work of a small, but smoky fire at the former Shell refinery at 10501 Sherbrooke East.

The fire started around 2:35 p.m., inside an old oil tank during demolition.

Workers using a welding torch most probably sparked the fire on some wood scraps.

Fire chief Mario Trottier says there was no immediate danger to firefighters or the public because there was no oil or gas in the tanks.

No injuries were reported.

<http://www.cjad.com/CJADLocalNews/entry.aspx?BlogEntryID=10455125>

## **USA, TEXAS, MARTIN COUNTY**

**OCTOBER 30, 2012**

### **TRUCKING COMPANY WORKER INJURED IN OILFIELD EXPLOSION**

An oilfield worker suffered severe burns after a tank battery exploded in Martin County on Monday night.

The man was flown to a Lubbock hospital by helicopter. His identity had not been released Tuesday afternoon, but a Martin County Sheriff's Deputy said he worked for Musslewhite Trucking, which lists its headquarters in Levelland.

The cause of the explosion remained under investigation Tuesday.

The tanker battery, off FM 1212 about 3 miles south of Highway 176, belonged to Pioneer Natural Resources, said Deputy Chance Rainer.

Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of the fire at about 11:15 p.m., the deputy said. The burned man was the only person at the scene. Emergency responders left at about 2:30 a.m.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration would not confirm whether it was investigating on Tuesday.

[http://www.oaoa.com/news/crime\\_justice/law\\_enforcement/article\\_aad4201c-2301-11e2-bbb3-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.oaoa.com/news/crime_justice/law_enforcement/article_aad4201c-2301-11e2-bbb3-0019bb30f31a.html)

## **USA, IA, DES MOINES**

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**OCTOBER 20 2012.**

## **THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF FUEL SPILLS IN DSM RIVER**

*Lisa Martone*

A faulty generator on top of Hy-Vee hall caused more than 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel to pour into the Des Moines River Thursday morning. It's hard to miss it in the water. "You walk over there you could see purple water," said passer-by Joe Yang of Des Moines. "It is kind of reddish in the corner over there, you can see a lot of red, you can definitely smell it." Bright patches of red and the sheen of oil cover areas of the Des Moines River, near the pedestrian bridge on Second Street all the way to the Southeast 14th Street Bridge. The cause: red diesel fuel. "There was some type of an issue that caused the back up, which caused the diesel fuel to go into the river," said Chris Connolly of the Iowa Event Center. "We are going to investigate what happened." What we do know so far is a generator on the roof of Hy-Vee Hall backed up, causing the diesel fuel to overflow, flood the roof, get into the storm system and then make its way into the river. Approximately 2,500 gallons made its way into the water system before it was controlled. "The positive, is we found out about this early, caught it early on and were able to contain it," Connolly said. "Now we are just going through the cleanup measures." The spill is below the city's intake for our drinking water so that should not be affected. A private HazMat team was on site the entire afternoon cleaning up. The Department of Natural Resources is telling people to avoid contact with the fuel. If it does get on your hands wash them immediately. They also say it should not be harmful for most wildlife because the concentration of the fuel in the river is low.

<http://www.woi-tv.com/story/19857812/thousands-of-gallons-of-fuel-spills-in-dsm-river>

**USA, N.Y, NEW YORK**

**OCTOBER 21 2012.**

## **OIL SPILL CAUSES HEADACHES ON WEST 56TH STREET**

Tenants are fuming after an oil spill released thousands of gallons of heating oil in the basement of a West 56th Street building — and days of cleanup have brought loud, idling trucks with smelly fumes.

The spill happened on Monday, when a crew was pumping No. 4 heating oil into the rear sub-basement of the Sheffield Building at 322 W. 57th St.

The building was in the process of converting its heating system from No. 6 heating oil to No. 4, which is cleaner, but its system was not ready to accept the huge load of fuel, according to a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which is overseeing the cleanup.

"It wasn't really built to catch as much as was coming in, so a bunch got into the basement floor itself," said the spokesman, Rodney Rivera.

Rivera said "a few thousand gallons" had been spilled and the cleanup was ongoing, but there was no immediate danger to neighbors.

Rivera added that some of the oil overflowed into the sewer system, but that it would be cleaned out by the city's water purification system.

"With the exception of inconvenience and a dirty sub-basement, there's nothing that's going to be of any concern to any residents in the immediate area," he said.

But neighbors said the cleanup has been nothing but a mess, with loud trucks outside their windows and crews working 24 hours a day.

"Trucks have been here nonstop since Monday," said Molly Wulkowicz, who lives across the street from the spill, on West 56th Street between Eighth and Ninth avenues.

That means hours of nonstop fumes and both the exhaust of the trucks and the fuel."

Wulkowicz said her 6-year-old daughter, who has asthma, had been suffering from a hacking cough since the spill.

"There's a filter in her room, but there's only so much we can do," she said.

According to the DEC, three companies were involved in the spill and its cleanup: Leardon Boiler Works was converting the fuel tanks, Rite Way Tank Maintenance was cleaning them, and the oil itself came from the Hess Corporation.

Rite Way has since been involved in the spill cleanup. This is not the first time residents on West 56th Street has had trouble with the company. Over the summer, the company often had trucks idling for eight hours or more on the block, residents said.

The problem got so bad that Councilwoman Gale Brewer's office wrote to the city's Department of Environmental Protection in hope that it would investigate.

"The fumes and smokes have been terrible since then," since Wulkowicz.

"The first day it came in August, there were plumes of smoke and the entire block emptied out.

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A spokesman for the Sheffield's management said that its staff were cooperating with the DEC and DEP to the best of their ability.

According to a spokesman, the DEP issued a cleanup order to the Sheffield's management and issued a violation because oil leaked into the sewer.

As of Friday, the DEC was still investigating the spill, but did not assign blame to any of the companies involved.

"There was no real fault, it was just a couple of bad mishaps, but just because it was such an egregious amount spilled, we're still looking into it," Rivera said.

Brewer's office said they are looking into the spill, and that it was concerned that so few neighbors had been informed by city agencies and the Sheffield itself.

Rivera said the cleanup should be done by Monday, and for the time being the constant noise and fumes is just an unpleasant reality of a much-needed cleanup.

"You want to get it done as quickly as possible so there's nothing lingering around," he said.

"The longer you let it sit there, the more potential is there for things to get worse."

<http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20121019/hells-kitchen-clinton/oil-spill-causes-headaches-on-west-56th-street>

## NEBRASKA

**OCTOBER 10, 2012**

### RAIL YARD TANK POPS A LID

*George Gill*

A fire inside a 6,000-gallon lube oil tank led to an explosion at the Union Pacific Railroad's Bailey Yard facility in Nebraska on Oct. 4.

"About 12:30 p.m. in the afternoon we had a fire that resulted in an explosion," Union Pacific spokesman Mark Davis told Lube Report. "The explosion blew the top off the tank but the cylinder structure remained intact."

The incident didn't result in any chemical releases, according to Davis. "Emergency responders showed up with foam and put out the fire at about 1:36 p.m.," he said. "There were no injuries." The cause is under investigation.

According to Union-Pacific's web site, Bailey yard covers 2,850 acres, reaching a total length of eight miles. The fueling and service center processes more than 8,500 locomotives each month.

"Where this occurred is at what we call a run-through track, which would be a service station where you get fuel and, if there's any need for lube oil, they also apply lube oil," Davis noted.

[http://www.imakenews.com/eletra/mod\\_print\\_view.cfm?this\\_id=2534572&u=lng&show\\_issue\\_date=F&issue\\_id=000613573&lid=blDGk2b&uid=bgF87TW](http://www.imakenews.com/eletra/mod_print_view.cfm?this_id=2534572&u=lng&show_issue_date=F&issue_id=000613573&lid=blDGk2b&uid=bgF87TW)

## USA, WI, JEFFERSON

**OCTOBER 25 2012.**

### DIESEL FUEL SPILL GOES INTO RIVER

*Steve Sharp*

The city of Jefferson, the county, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the trucking company that may have created the environmental hazard have been working to remediate a diesel fuel spill that occurred late Monday afternoon just north of downtown Jefferson.

A large amount of diesel fuel, an amount yet to be determined, found its way to the east bank of the Rock River Monday, where it entered the body of water. The source of the spill is believed to have been an overflow of a diesel tank at the Jefferson County Highway Department.

"Monday at about 6:15 p.m. the Jefferson Fire Department was dispatched and responded to the smell of a diesel fuel spill," Jefferson City Administrator Tim Freitag told the Daily Times Tuesday. "The department backtracked the spill to right around the Jefferson County Highway Department and that is the suspected source."

City leaders said a highway department tank was likely overfilled during a delivery and the fuel drained into the Rock River.

"The fuel migrated to the river, so pretty much through the night the fire department worked on containment. They did have a call in for an environmental services company, Enbridge of Fort Atkinson, to help with the containment," Freitag said.

There are now three booms across the Rock River from the north down to the wastewater treatment plant and the focus is on cleanup, according to Freitag.

"(It is thought) that the source is the highway department and their supplier, who overfilled a tank. This isn't going to be cheap to clean up," he said.

Freitag said the volume of the spill is unknown, but a sheen can be seen on the water, accompanied by a

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strong odor.

"It's not five gallons, I can say that. But I have not heard an estimate on the size of the spill. I don't think anyone really knows how big it is," Freitag said.

A boom is located between the downtown pedestrian bridge and the city dam. A second is situated by the Jefferson wastewater treatment plant. A third is located farther down County Highway N on the river, according to city officials.

"They went that far down the river to try to get ahead of the spill," Freitag said. "That's a large stretch. It seems to collect at the wastewater treatment plant and that is where it is then skimmed."

The Daily Times met via conference call this morning with Jefferson County Highway Commissioner Bill Kern, Jefferson fire Chief Ron Wegner and Freitag.

"We determined the source of the spill was at the highway department when a vendor was putting fuel in a fuel tank," Kern said. "We think it occurred at approximately 3 p.m. Monday."

The vendor that likely made the spill is MOC Trucking, based out of Waunakee, according to Wegner.

Wegner said a Jefferson police officer detected an odor and located the spill around the highway department diesel tanks. Wegner said he joined the officer and they made contact with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department dispatch after hours. At that point the group consulted with DNR Conservation Warden Ryan Ellifson, who is based in Helenville, and under direction of the DNR a response was undertaken.

The Jefferson Fire Department was at the spill scene until 2 a.m. Tuesday.

"We had contacted Enbridge in Fort Atkinson and they provided equipment and resources for us to put booms across the river in two places," Wegner said, adding the county highway department shop personnel monitored the situation and other environmental remediation personnel arrived on scene shortly after 8 a.m. Tuesday. Another boom was then placed north of the downtown dam.

The water is stagnant in that area and we thought we should capture it up there rather than wait for it to come to the other boom," Wegner said.

Wegner said the cost of cleaning up the spill will lie with the trucking company that created it and enforcement of payment of this cost will come through the Wisconsin DNR and Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Commission.

There were no injuries incurred by those conducting the investigation and remediation, and Wegner said he believes the spill has not caused damage to wildlife or fish in the river. The Fort Atkinson Fire Department provided absorbent materials to the cleanup project.

A time for completion of the cleanup has yet to be determined.

"We will be meeting with the DNR and the local emergency planning commission and other decisions will be made as we progress," Wegner said.

"I appreciate the responses of Ron Wegner and Jefferson police Chief Gary Bleecker," Freitag said. "I can't tell you how helpful it is to have good, competent and experienced persons who can handle this. I also appreciate the effort of the county."

[http://www.wdtimes.com/news/article\\_d5617f26-1df9-11e2-b56b-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.wdtimes.com/news/article_d5617f26-1df9-11e2-b56b-001a4bcf887a.html)

### **USA, FLA, TAMPA BAY**

**OCTOBER 25 2012.**

#### **SMALL FUEL SPILL AT USF CONTAINED**

Hazardous materials teams worked to clean up 100 gallons of diesel fuel that leaked from a storage container at the University of South Florida BullRun Transportation Center Wednesday night. Tampa Fire Rescue stopped the leak at 13327 USF Plumb Drive after receiving a call at 8:57 p.m. Fire Rescue contained the spill and contacted contractors to clean up the fuel. The university did not announce if the spill would interrupt any transportation Thursday.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/small-fuel-spill-at-usf-contained/1258247>

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## **SOUTH AFRICA, KLERKSOORD**

**OCTOBER 26 2012.**

### **BIOFUEL FACTORY EXPLOSION SPREADS OIL FIRE THROUGH FACTORIES**

*Yolande Du Preez*

A massive explosion at a biofuel factory in Pretoria North on Wednesday sent about 200 000 litres of burning oil in a lava-like stream into neighbouring factories, destroying everything in their path.

A cloud of black smoke could be seen from kilometres away as Tshwane Emergency Services personnel worked tirelessly to extinguish the rapidly spreading fire, which broke out at Marleda Oil.

Foreman Claude van Niekerk stood shaking his head as the last of the flames were extinguished.

He had inhaled some of the smoke and said his chest and throat were "on fire".

"I'm struggling to talk and would prefer not to say too much. I have no idea what happened. One minute there was smoke and the next this massive explosion. It is a miracle no one was injured," he said.

Tshwane emergency services spokesman Johan Pieterse said the fire began at about 2.30pm.

The cause was unclear but it was suspected a burner caught fire, leading to the explosion, he said.

Pieterse explained oil freely flowed from the containers after the explosion. The fire spread quickly, destroying several other factories as well as cars and a flatbed truck.

"As the oil spread, it caught fire and it was difficult to contain. We had seven fire trucks and three water tankers attending," Pieterse said.

Gilbert Bosch, of Mountain View, said he was returning from a meeting when he saw black smoke.

"I decided to take a closer look and when I arrived I could see something was wrong," he said.

"While I was speaking to the fire brigade, the explosion happened."

Bosch said the flames were huge and the fire so intense he could feel the heat from the opposite side of the R566, the old Rosslyn road.

Adri van Staden, an employee of L&L Bakery nearby, said she heard a loud bang.

"I ran outside and saw massive flames. I could feel the heat. The first thing my colleagues and I did was to run back to the bakery, remove all the gas bottles, place them in our cars and move the cars across the road," she said.

Pieterse said large parts of Montana and Rosslyn were without power because power cables had snapped in the fire.

"Fire safety will conduct an investigation into the cause of the fire," he said.

<http://www.thepost.co.za/explosion-spreads-oil-fire-through-factories-1.1410717>

## **USA, N.Y, QUEENS**

**OCTOBER 27 2012.**

### **2,700 GALLONS OF GAS SPILL NEAR LAGUARDIA, TREATMENT PLANT EVACUATED**

Thousands of gallons of fuel spewed out of a car rental near LaGuardia Airport this morning with enough of it pouring into the local sewers to cause a nearby wastewater treatment plant to shut down, sources tell us. It all started earlier this morning when a gas pump at the Enterprise Rent-a-car across from the airport was damaged. Though the NYPD has yet to comment on the incident, we are told it is being treated as an act of vandalism.

A source tells us that 2,700 gallons of gasoline then poured out on the street and into the sidewalk this morning just before 5 a.m. (we've heard from other sources the number of gallons lost may be much higher). Worse, a portion of the fuel made its way into the sewer system and from there into the nearby Bowery Bay Wastewater Treatment plant. Luckily the system quickly detected the volatile substance and set off alarms. The plant was briefly evacuated but wastewater treatment continued, according to officials.

The FDNY soon flushed the sewer system by opening up fire hydrants and kept the remaining fuel in check with sandbags. Officials believe that 80 percent of the gasoline evaporated.

When we called the Enterprise for more information, an operator there told us "he really didn't know anything" but that the NYPD, the FDNY and National Gas were all on the scene investigating. His manager Melissa then picked up and told us only that "if we are releasing any statements we will, but not at this time."

[http://gothamist.com/2012/10/26/2700\\_gallons\\_of\\_gas\\_spill\\_near\\_laga.php](http://gothamist.com/2012/10/26/2700_gallons_of_gas_spill_near_laga.php)

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**USA, N.M, ALBUQUERQUE**

**OCTOBER 27 2012.**

## **NM OIL REFINERY TO PAY \$400K FINE OVER EXPLOSION**

An oil refinery in New Mexico will pay a \$400,000 fine in a settlement over safety violations stemming from an explosion that killed two employees and injured two others in 2010, authorities said Friday.

The New Mexico Environment Department and Navajo Refining of Artesia entered a settlement agreement for citations issued by the department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The explosion occurred on March 2, 2010, when employees of Northwest Insulation of Texas were performing welding operations on top of a storage tank at the refinery in the southeastern New Mexico community of Artesia. A welder ignited vapors from flammable liquids within the tank, according to investigators.

The resulting explosion ripped open the top of the tank. The ensuing fire burned for more than an hour before it was extinguished.

Authorities said all four victims were Northwest employees and the two workers killed were Texas men.

OSHA officials said Navajo Refining doesn't admit fault, but agreed to settle for the fine. A call to Navajo Refinery's parent company in Dallas for comment wasn't immediately returned Friday.

"The hazards of welding on or near petroleum storage tanks, as well as methods for preventing associated accidents, are well known within the industry," Robert Genoway, acting bureau chief for New Mexico OSHA, said in a statement. "This type of hazard has resulted in far too many inexcusable accidents and deaths in New Mexico and nationwide."

New Mexico OSHA cited both Navajo Refining and Northwest Insulation for violations that included failing to properly inspect the work area prior to welding, failing to instruct employees on methods for determining the presence of flammables, and permitting the employees to weld in an area where flammable liquids and vapors were present.

The state's case against Northwest was settled in January 2011. Both companies have provided documentation of actions taken to abate all violations.

The refinery is subject to a follow-up inspection.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/texas/article/NM-oil-refinery-to-pay-400K-fine-over-explosion-3985045.php#ixzz2ChYoBVo3>

**USA, N.Y, VALHALLA**

**OCTOBER 27 2012.**

## **HEATING OIL SPILLS INTO BRONX RIVER**

A broken fuel line between two heating oil tanks is blamed for a Bronx River spill that extended more than a mile from a brook feeding into the river at Railroad Avenue in Valhalla to Virginia Road in North White Plains.

"It was definitely accidental," Mount Pleasant Police Chief Louis Alagno said.

The spill was discovered Friday afternoon at the Legion Drive bridge near the Valhalla business district.

First responders traced it to a building at 5 Railroad Ave., where a crossover pipe between two 275-gallon tanks had broken. The property is the site of several industrial businesses.

Authorities do not know how much heating oil was in the tanks, but Alagno said fuel went into a sump pump, filled the basement with oil and then began seeping into the brook.

Police from Mount Pleasant and Westchester County were on the scene, along with Valhalla firefighters and workers from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Booms were placed at several points along the river to contain the oil. The last booms were placed near Virginia Road by North White Plains fire volunteers to prevent oil from moving farther south.

Caren Halbfinger, spokeswoman for the Westchester County Health Department, said the property owner has hired an environmental contractor to clean up the spill. She said investigators do not know how much oil entered the river, but the tanks had not yet been filled for the winter.

No summonses were issued.

<http://www.lohud.com/article/20121026/NEWS/310260104/Heating-oil-spills-into-Bronx-River-Valhalla?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CNews>

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**USA, WI, JEFFERSON**

**NOVEMBER 1 2012.**

## **RIVER RETURNING TO NORMAL AFTER SPILL**

*Steve Sharp*

It appears a diesel fuel spill that occurred Oct. 22 in the Rock River at Jefferson has been, for the most part, remediated and the river is returning to normal.

According to Jefferson City Administrator Tim Freitag, fuel-collecting booms placed at various points in the river as it runs through Jefferson were removed as of Friday and Mike Schmoller, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources spill-response coordinator, said the river appears to have returned to its original state.

"I think it's fine," Schmoller said today of the condition of the Rock at Jefferson. "We had lines of booms out the evening of the spill to collect fuel oil that was spread out, and in addition, we put some booms at different spots along the river near the highway fuel oil storage tanks. We had some booms up there that may collect some runoff over the long term and those were taken out last week Friday. So having been in the water that long, they collected what they could collect."

Schmoller said persons performing remediation didn't gather a large volume of product, but there is no longer residue in the river from the original spill.

An undetermined amount of diesel fuel found its way to the east bank of the Rock River at the county highway department shop Oct. 22, where it entered the water. The source of the spill is believed to have been an overflow of a diesel tank at the highway department. Meffert Oil Company of Waunakee is being held responsible for the spill.

The fuel migrated to the river with the Jefferson Fire Department working on initial containment. Environmental services company Enbridge of Fort Atkinson was called to help.

Three fuel collection booms were placed across the Rock River from the north down to the wastewater treatment plant to the south and below. A fuel sheen could be seen on the water the night of the spill and afterward, accompanied by a strong odor.

Schmoller said he doesn't think the spill affected fish or wildlife.

"We don't think there was a lot in there in terms of fish species anyway," he said. "That was a question I had of our warden from that area and he didn't see any dead fish. The spill was on the surface and not overly toxic, so I don't think there were any fish or birds harmed."

Schmoller said there is likely some contaminated soil near the parking lot of the highway department and there is probably some fuel residue in soil at that location.

"We have done some soil testing there and there will have to be some contaminated soil removed," he said.

Schmoller said Meffert Oil and the Jefferson County Highway Department are coordinating the final stages of cleanup and will likely be sharing the cost. Schmoller said he is responsible for enforcing the cleanup.

"In the future, if there is more impact, the responsibility of enforcement would fall on me," Schmoller said. "Right now, we have a warden out there (who is watching the situation) and I may go out there to take a look at the soil digging that will be occurring. I have a good idea of what is going on."

Schmoller said the volume of the spill is unknown.

"We have not heard how much was spilled," he said. "We have no handle on that right now. (Meffert Oil and the county) are still trying to reconcile their records about volume."

Schmoller said the spill will probably not have a measurable impact on the river or the overall environment in the long run.

"It's a little bigger than usual in terms of such a spill in a comparable area. On a scale of one to 10, with 10 being an environmental disaster, it's about a two or three," he said.

Freitag said today that with the slick having dissipated to the point of not being visible, the city will be attempting to recapture its costs for the cleanup.

"The city has expenses for which it will certainly attempt to obtain reimbursement," Freitag said. "We had persons for response and we used considerable absorbent material."

Freitag acknowledged the spill could have been much worse.

"And I appreciate the fire department's response, and the responses of fire Chief Ron Wegner and police Chief Gary Blecker," he said. "Something like this is never an easy task on a cold, dark, foggy evening and it was midnight when the collective booms were stretched across the water, and I appreciate everyone's quick response."

Jefferson County Highway Commissioner Bill Kern told the Daily Times the highway department is simply awaiting results of DNR soil testing at its highway shop site.

"The (residual) fuel that is there is in a small area on land near the river," Kern said. "The DNR has requested soil samples and they make the decision if any soil needs removal. We are waiting for word on that. We don't know

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how big this all is. As I see it, the area we are talking about measures probably 50 feet wide and maybe 200 feet down to the river. That is the area in which they pulled soil samples.”

Kern said there is no defined timeline for cleanup of the spill to occur on the county’s property.

“Right now we are waiting on the DNR and expecting results this week,” he said of the next steps in the remediation process. “In the first three days after the spill, (those performing remediation) felt they captured everything and now we are just waiting on soil sample results to see if anything needs removal.”

Officials involved in the matter said they are hoping to find out just how much fuel was spilled.

“We will sit down with the company that came in to do the cleanup and try to put what they have found together with our information and then come up with something (in terms of the volume of the spill),” Kern said.

Kern said in the county’s view, the cost of cleanup will likely be shouldered by Meffert Oil Company and the driver who allowed the spill to occur.

“Meffert has been cooperative,” Kern said. “I won’t get into the details about this because there is still information being exchanged, but Meffert took responsibility last week for the spill and they started working with the cleanup crews and the DNR to make sure things are taken care of. They have been working to get to the end of the process.”

Kern also said he was thankful for the quick responses of the Jefferson Fire Department and Wegner, who he said were “very proactive.”

“They made the call that night of the spill to get the booms out there and the fuel was captured,” Kern said. “They did a really good job and I think we were very successful at addressing what got into the river.”

[http://www.wdtimes.com/news/local/article\\_119c1abc-2379-11e2-b542-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.wdtimes.com/news/local/article_119c1abc-2379-11e2-b542-001a4bcf887a.html)

## **USA, N.Y., KINGSTON**

**NOVEMBER 1 2012.**

### **KINGSTON'S RONDOUT CREEK STAINED BY FUEL OIL SPILL**

*Paul Kirby*

Cleanup crews were at the banks of the Rondout Creek on Wednesday, mopping up fuel oil that apparently leaked from a nearby building, according to a city official.

Fire Chief John Reinhardt said initial reports indicated water had ruptured a 265-gallon heating fuel tank in a building along the creek.

Reinhardt said the state Department of Environmental Conservation was at the scene conducting the cleanup. A fire dispatcher said the building was located at 50 North St., which is near where the Rondout empties into the Hudson River.

Reinhardt said that “in no way, shape or form” was the spill major. But Capt. Dave Thompson, who works on a boat docked near the Hudson River Maritime Museum, and Dan Shapley, of the environmental group Riverkeeper, said they believe an oil slick from another, unknown source blanketed the Rondout Creek early in Hurricane Sandy’s assault on the area.

Thompson said he noticed a 100-yard slick about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday and that it appeared to be fuel oil.

Some of the oil, he said, remained at the bank of the creek near the Maritime Museum on Wednesday.

Shapley said he does not believe that oil came from the North Street building.

<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2012/11/01/news/doc5091deccd8af3898550534.txt>

## **MALAYSIA, KELANTAN, KOTA BAHARU**

**NOVEMBER 5 2012.**

### **10 FIREMEN INJURED AFTER DIESEL TANK EXPLODES WHILE BATTLING FIRE**

Ten firemen were injured when a cylinder oil tank exploded while they fighting a fire at a tyre factory that is no longer in operation at the Pengkalan Chepa industrial estate here this morning.

Kelantan Fire and Rescue director Azmi Osman said the explosion at the back of the factory caused flames to shoot out in the path of the firemen.

"There were four cylinder oil tanks there and two were leaking. One suddenly exploded causing the 10 firemen to be injured, four seriously," he told reporters after visiting three of the injured men at the Raja Perempuan Zainab II Hospital here.

Azmi said the seven others were admitted to Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM) Kubang Kerian and that all the men suffered burns in the face, hands and legs.

The four injured seriously are reported to be in stable condition. They are Wan Asri Wan Yaakob, Zulkifli Mahmod, Razak Abdullah and Abdullah Din Mohamad (Rpt Abdullah Din Mohamad).

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Azmi said the department was alerted on the fire at 8.30am and 29 firemen from the Pengkalan Chepa and Tunjung fire stations were rushed to the scene.

"Everything was going smoothly, we had brought the fire fully under control when suddenly the explosion happened. I was at the scene at the time," said Azmi, who escaped injury.

He said the cause of the fire was being investigated.

<http://www.mysinchew.com/node/79448>

## USA, N.Y, NEW YORK

NOVEMBER 6 2012.

### SANDY AFTERMATH: HUGE OIL SPILL THREATENS STATEN ISLAND

On Sunday, a large oil spill continued to threaten the shores of New York and New Jersey after cleanup crews were unable to contain thousands of gallons of fuel that spilled from diesel terminals due to Hurricane Sandy. You can watch this developing story on this [YouTube video](#) and on ABC News.

So far, as much as 300,000 gallons of oil may have escaped Motiva's oil terminals and poured into the Arthur Kill Motorway. The bridge separates New Jersey from New York's Staten Island. Initially, over 50,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled hours after Sandy.

Last week, Motiva made the following announcement on the company's website:

*Motiva's terminals in New Jersey and New York have experienced flooding due to the storm surge as well as loss of power and wind impacts. The safety of the community and responders is Motiva's primary concern in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. Safety assessments and plans have been conducted and developed and are being implemented.*

The company is coordinating with local agencies in order to conduct a thorough inspection and damage assessment of its petroleum terminals in Sewaren, New Jersey. Four diesel oil storage tanks were damaged at the Sewaren terminal. Motiva's early estimate of the diesel released offsite is 6,600 barrels.

The company's press release added:

*Initial response actions were successful to stop the flow of diesel from the secondary containment area into Woodbridge Creek. Product and water is being recovered by vacuum trucks from the secondary containment area and pumped into a separate onsite storage tank*

About 130 responders are taking part in the cleanup effort. The company is coordinating their response activities with the United States Coast Guard, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and Middlesex County Officials.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/sandy-aftermath-huge-oil-spill-threatens-staten-island-video>

## USA, N.J, LINDEN

NOVEMBER 6 2012.

### FUEL SPILL REPORTED AT NJ REFINERY AFTER SANDY

Some 7,700 gallons of fuel spilled from Phillips 66's Bayway refinery in Linden, New Jersey, after Hurricane Sandy, the U.S. Coast Guard said on Monday, reporting an apparent second leak at the New York harbor oil trading hub.

The spill was reported after residents in nearby Bayonne, New Jersey, complained about diesel fumes. New Jersey environmental protection officials said they were not aware of a major spill at the Bayway plant, however.

It was not clear what type of fuel leaked from the refinery or what measures were taken to contain it. A Phillips 66 spokesperson did not immediately reply to a message seeking comment.

A similar-sized spill was reported last week at Motiva Enterprise's Sewaren, New Jersey, terminal, which was one of the hardest hit among the oil docks, tank farms and truck depots that dot the harbor and supply fuel to the New York City metropolis.

By Monday, authorities had skimmed and boomed about 322,000 of the total 378,000 gallons of diesel fuel that had leaked, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection spokesman Larry Ragonese. Spills of refined fuels are typically easier to clean up as they dissipate more quickly than heavy crude oil.

"There has been a real good response by the company and by the Coast Guard. They have been great," he said. "The contractors the company hired have virtually cleaned up most of that escaped fuel and the bit that's left will be floating to sea... And that was the one major spill we had."

The Coast Guard said about 14,800 feet of boom had been deployed, and 457,519 gallons of oily-water mixture had been recovered at Motiva, which is co-owned by Royal Dutch Shell and state-owned Saudi Aramco.

The Coast Guard also reported that it had recovered 780,000 gallons of an oil-water mixture from Kinder Morgan's Perth Amboy, New Jersey, fuel storage terminal, although Kinder Morgan said that the liquid referred to a

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clean-up operation at a separate terminal up the river, not its own tanks.

The Coast Guard said contractors were also examining a sheen coming from a nearby Buckeye facility.

It was unclear whether the spill at Phillips 66's 238,000 Bayway refinery would have any impact on operations at the refinery, a major gasoline producer in the region. The earlier Motiva spill prompted the Coast Guard to restrict traffic through the key Arthur Kill waterway, although those limits were lifted by Monday so long as vessels move slowly.

The Linden refinery was shut ahead of Sandy and remained idle even though electrical power was restored to the plant earlier last week.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/05/us-storm-sandy-energy-spill-idUSBRE8A41E620121105>

## USA, IN, ELKHART

**NOVEMBER 16, 2012.**

### UPDATE: TANK AT ELKHART OIL COMPANY EXPLODES

An explosion rocked an Elkhart oil facility Friday afternoon.

The call came in just before 3:00pm of a possible propane tank explosion at the Yoder Oil Company. The facility is in the 1100 block of Kent Street.

A chief with the Elkhart Fire Department says a diesel tank that was being taken apart for scrap exploded. McFarland says a flash fire happened as crews were cutting it apart.

A worker was flown to an area burn center.

Witnesses tell us there was a big explosion with large flames.

Folks at a business across the street say they felt a rumble.

OSHA is expected to join the investigation soon.

<http://www.fox28.com/story/20120344/crews-battling-fire-after-explosion-at-elkhart-facility>

## USA, TX, HOUSTON

**NOVEMBER 16, 2012.**

### HOSPITAL OFFICIAL: TWO WORKERS STILL IN CRITICAL CONDITION AFTER FIRE ON OIL PLATFORM

Two workers remain in critical condition and two others are in serious but stable condition after sustaining serious burns from a fire on an oil platform Friday morning, a hospital official said Saturday at a press conference.

The news on their condition comes as the search for their two missing co-workers from Friday's fire continued Saturday morning.

John Hoffman, CEO of Black Elk Energy, which owns the oil platform, said Saturday morning that no progress has been made in the search, but that the U.S. Coast Guard is still looking for the two workers that have been officially declared missing.

"My entire focus is the families and workers," Hoffman said in an email. "Nothing else matters at this point."

On Friday, a spokesperson with West Jefferson Medical Center, where the injured were initially taken for treatment, said that the four workers had sustained second- and third-degree burns over a large portion of their body. They were moved to Baton Rouge General's Regional Burn Center for specialized treatment Friday afternoon.

At Saturday's press conference, a hospital official in Baton Rouge General said that the four workers were from the Philippines, which has made contacting their families difficult.

Hospital officials would not elaborate on the extent of the workers' burn injuries, but said that the next 48-72 hours are critical to their survival.

A total of 11 workers were air-lifted to Louisiana to be treated for injuries. The remaining seven were released after being treated by paramedics near the shore of Grand Isle, La.

In an on-air interview with KHOU 11 News, Hoffman said at noon on Friday that two workers were dead and one was missing, but later recanted the statement. An official with the company said Friday afternoon that they would continue to search for the two missing workers and would not declare them dead.

The U.S. Coast Guard said at a press conference at noon that 26 total workers were on the platform Friday morning.

Four left the platform prior to the accident and 11 more after the fire broke out, a spokesman with Coast Guard confirmed. He said nine more were later found and evacuated with two still missing. He could not confirm the two deaths.

At the time of the press conference, it was not clear whether or not if the two workers reported missing were in fact the same two that Hoffman had declared dead since he mentioned only one worker missing at the time.

Jefferson Parish Councilman Chris Roberts told WWL-TV the platform is in shallow water located in West Delta

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Block 32 in the Gulf of Mexico. The Coast Guard said the location is about 25 miles southeast of Grand Isle, La.

The Coast Guard activated a "command center" to investigate the incident, and two helicopter teams -- one from Mobile, Alabama and the other from New Orleans -- were called in to help with the search. Two small boat stations out of Grand Isle and Venice were also sent to the scene.

"Our focus at this very point is for the well being and the treatment for those injured, and those that were not injured in this to have crisis management counselors available to them," Hoffman said.

Workers on the platform, which produces oil and natural gas, are contractors from a company in Louisiana and do not work for the company directly, Hoffman said.

Hoffman said that right now they would focus on treating the workers and address what went wrong on Saturday.

"It's the human element. We're doing oil and gas, but at the end of the day, it's families and taking care of those families," Hoffman said in an interview Friday afternoon. "That's my concern."

At the time of the fire, the workers were cutting a 75-foot long pipe that was 3 inches in diameter and contained as much as 75 gallons of product, Hoffman said.

The process for cutting the pipe calls for a "cold-cutting device," or a non-sparking tool, Hoffman said. However, he confirmed that a cutting torch was used instead, which ignited the vapors in the pipe.

The Coast Guard said that there is a half-mile by 200-yard oil sheen from the platform. The platform was not in production at the time of the fire and remains structurally sound, the Coast Guard spokesman added.

The Marine Safety Unit in Morgan City, La. and the Bureau of Safety and Environment Enforcement will investigate the environmental impact of the accident, spokesman for the Coast Guard said.

This is not the first accident that Black Elk Energy has dealt with in the past two years.

In August, a crane was lowering two workers in a basket when the equipment failed, according to federal records. The two workers fell into the Gulf, but were not seriously injured.

In February 2011, a small fire broke out on a platform owned by Black Elk Energy, records state. The fire was quickly put and a battery charger was blamed for the fire.

Also, in September 2011, Black Elk Energy paid a \$307,000 fine. According to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the company failed to do a leak test on a safety valve and it took them 117 days to fix it once a problem was discovered.

None of these incidents happened at the platform where Friday's fire took place.

Check back for updates to this developing story.

<http://www.khou.com/news/local/Coast-Guard-reports-offshore-platform-burning-in-Gulf-of-Mexico-179668691.html>

### USA, ILLINOIS, WHEELING

**NOVEMBER 30, 2012.**

#### **MAN DIES AFTER FALL IN WHEELING CHEMICAL TANK**

A member of a cleaning crew died Thursday after falling into a vertical storage tank that contained a chemical solvent, Wheeling authorities said.

The accident occurred at the Sunnyside Corp., 225 Carpenter Road in Wheeling.

Bernardo Martinez, 37, of Cicero, was pronounced dead at the scene, officials from the Cook County Medical Examiners Office said Friday morning.

He was part of a crew hired to clean the tank, Wheeling Fire Chief Keith Maclsaac said.

A second member of the cleaning crew, who remained on the outside of the tank, felt faint and was taken to Glenbrook Hospital, but he was expected to recover fully, Maclsaac said.

The men worked for Phoenix Industrial Cleaning in Bellwood.

Martinez was taken from the scene to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

Fire officials have turned the investigation of the death over to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Maclsaac said.

Emergency crews were called to Sunnyside about 11:15 a.m. Thursday. Maclsaac said that when firefighters arrived, the man was at the bottom of the tank, lying face down in "chemical sludge."

He identified the chemical as methylene chloride, which is used in consumer products like paint thinners.

The tank stands between 40 and 50 feet high, Maclsaac said. The only way in is through an opening on top that's about 28 inches wide.

The inside of the tank contained little oxygen and a high level of chemical vapors.

Firefighters quickly determined that the man had died, so they focused on safely removing him from the tank.

Personnel from roughly 15 area fire departments assisted with the effort, including personnel specifically

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trained to work in confined spaces and with hazardous materials.

Maclsaac said the man who died wasn't wearing certain types of protective gear that would normally be used when working in a chemical storage tank, but he couldn't say why.

"That's something that's being investigated," he said.

Sunnyside Corp. makes paint thinner, cleaners and other chemical solvents and removers, according to its website. Representatives from the company were not available for comment Thursday afternoon.

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20121129/news/711299836/>

## **USA, N.Y, NEW YORK**

**NOVEMBER 11 2012.**

### **GREENPEACE PHOTO UPDATE: 336,000-GALLON DIESEL SPILL POLLUTES WATERWAYS AFTER HURRICANE SANDY**

A 336,000 gallon diesel spill from the Motiva Enterprises Terminal at Sewaren, N.J., polluted streams and flowed into the Arthur Kill waterway between Staten Island, N.Y., and New Jersey. At least two tanks at the facility, a joint venture of Royal Dutch Shell and Saudi Aramco, were damaged in Hurricane Sandy and leaked into Woodbridge Creek. The facility has a capacity of 5 million gallons of refined petroleum products. The United States Coast Guard assisted with clean up and recovery.

<http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/greenpeace-update>