

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

## **USA, KY, CORBIN**

**DECEMBER 22 2012.**

### **EXPLOSION SENDS MAN TO HOSPITAL**

*Becky Killian*

A man using a cutting torch to fashion a burning barrel was thrown an estimated 15 feet after acetone fumes ignited Thursday at a scrap metal business.

The accident happened about 11:30 a.m. at Gray Metal Company, located at 6150 KY 1232, as part-owner Mike Cima, 58, worked with the barrel.

Giulio Cima, 59, who is also a part-owner of the business, said the cutting torch never cut through the barrel — it just turned the metal “cherry red” and that’s when the explosion occurred.

Another company employee said the blast could be heard up to 500 yards away.

Giulio Cima said he heard the explosion and ran to his brother, who was unconscious and had shallow breathing.

“It was a scary time there for a couple hours,” Giulio Cima said.

Rescuers were called and, by the time the ambulance arrived, Mike Cima had regained consciousness. He was taken to Baptist Regional Medical Center for treatment.

The business was closed as family members left for the hospital.

Mike Cima suffered a cut on his chin and one hand had cuts and was swollen, but he suffered no broken bones or serious injuries in the accident.

After three hours, Mike Cima was released from the hospital.

<http://thetimestribune.com/x503802503/Explosion-sends-man-to-hospital>

## **INDIA, PUNJAB, ROPAR**

**DECEMBER 30 2012.**

### **MAJOR FIRE IN OIL TANK AT ROPAR THERMAL PLANT AFTER BLAST**

*Bahadurjit Singh*

Major fire broke out in an oil tank at Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Plant, Ropar, tonight.

According to information the fire broke out after a blast in the Heavy Fuel Oil(HFO) tank no 3 of the thermal plant around 8.15 pm.

The blast was so severe that its impact was heard at long distance away from the thermal plant including Ropar town.

All the senior officials of the thermal plant including Chief Engineer K.Lall,who were at new year function organised in the thermal plant, have reached the site immediately. Ropar Deputy Commissioner Pardeep Kumar Aggarwal,who had also come to attend the function also rushed to the site of fire to supervise the fire fighting operations.Senior police officials also reached the spot.

Fire tenders of the Thermal Plant, Ruopar Municipal Council,NFL Nangal and BBMB as well as from SAS Nagar were pressed in to service to control the fire.The fire brigade officials were making efforts to stop the fire from spreading to adjoining oil tanks.

The tank had reportedly oil level of around 1.4 meters at the time of blast.The HFO tank is away from main building of the plant and there is no danger to plant and machinery of units.

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The cause of the fire could not be ascertained immediately. No loss of life was reported due to fire. However, PSCIL suffered a huge loss due to blast and fire in the oil tank.

All the units of the thermal Plant are running normally.

The fire could not be controlled till the filing of this report late in the night.

No senior official of the thermal plant was available for comments as they were busy in the work for the dousing of fire in the tank.

<http://punjabnewslines.com/news/Major-fire-in-oil-tank-at-thermal-plant-after-blast.html>

## **USA, CO, CRAIG**

**JANUARY 4 2013.**

### **TANK BATTERY EXPLOSION NEAR CRAIG**

*Darian Warden*

A tank battery explosion Thursday morning on Moffat County Road 103 about seven miles north of Craig has resulted in the death of a local male resident.

Jon Herod, 49, of Craig, was pronounced dead at the scene after a 300 barrel tank exploded.

The incident, which Moffat County Sheriff's Office deputies are investigating as an accident, occurred at approximately 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Axia Energy's Bulldog rig site 531.

An ambulance crew from The Memorial Hospital in Craig and multiple engines from Craig Fire/Rescue also responded to the incident.

According to a Sheriff's Office news release, employees from Herod Industries were attempting to offload produced water from a fracking site elsewhere in Moffat County into a storage tank at Bulldog Rig 531.

Employees were unable to offload the produced water due to frozen valves from the cold weather, said an Axia Energy supervisor in a statement to law enforcement officials.

Investigator Jeremy Ashton, of the Sheriff's Office, said law enforcement officials think Herod used a propane heating device to thaw the valves.

"We believe the valves were frozen and he was trying to thaw them out with a propane heater when it exploded," Ashton said.

Although Ashton said they're not exactly sure what caused the explosion, they believe residual oil in the tank could have sparked the fire and explosion.

Ashton said when water from the fracking site is pumped into the tanks, the tanks are supposed to isolate the oil that's in the water.

Though law enforcement officers do not suspect foul play the incident remains under investigation.

<http://www.craigdailypress.com/news/2013/jan/03/oil-rig-explosion-near-craig/>

## **USA, CA, RICHMOND**

**JANUARY 5 2013.**

### **CHEVRON FIREFIGHTERS MAY HAVE GOUGED PIPE**

*Jaxon van Derbeken*

The pipe that fed a huge fire at Chevron's Richmond oil refinery in August appears to have been punctured from the outside, possibly by company firefighters trying to get at a small leak before the blaze ignited, investigators said Thursday.

The 40-year-old pipe had already been weakened by the heavy sulfur content of the crude oil being pumped through it, according to a draft metallurgical report on the fire that was prepared for federal and state investigators.

The pipe developed a small hole the afternoon of Aug. 6 that mushroomed into a larger leak and then a fire that destroyed part of the refinery and sent a cloud of gas and smoke thousands of feet into the air. No one was seriously hurt in the fire, but 15,000 people sought hospital treatment for respiratory and other problems because of the smoke.

The metallurgical report shows the expected evidence of corrosion that led to the pipe bursting, according to two officials of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, the lead federal agency in the probe.

But separately, the investigation has also turned up something unexpected, they said: Photos of the inside of the line show that at the point where the pipe failed, it appears to have been punctured from the outside.

#### **Firefighters' role?**

Investigators are trying to determine whether Chevron firefighters responding to the first report of a small leak accidentally damaged the line as they tore away insulation.

"One theory we are exploring is that emergency response activities inadvertently accelerated the rate of the

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leak," said Daniel Horowitz, managing director of the Chemical Safety Board. "We are comparing possible tool marks on the pipe with tools recovered from the incident."

One tool that may have inflicted the apparent damage is a Halligan bar, which has a hook-like implement with a sharp end. Firefighters are commonly equipped with the device to help them gain entry into burning buildings.

Don Holmstrom, the Chemical Safety Board's lead investigator looking into the fire, said the blaze might well have happened even without the apparent puncture, but that the external damage could have been "an aggravating factor."

Investigators have not determined what sparked the blaze, but have raised questions about Chevron's decision to continue to run crude oil through the pipe even as workers responded to the initial, small leak.

"Regardless of the exact sequence of the events, this incident emphasizes the importance of effective decision-making in shutting down the unit promptly in case of a leak of this type," Horowitz said.

A Chevron spokesman issued a statement saying: "This is part of the ongoing investigation into the Aug. 6 fire at the refinery. We have been working closely and cooperatively with the investigating agencies, as well as conducting our own investigation. It is premature to comment on specific details until the investigations are complete."

A hydrocarbon vapor cloud spewed from the pipe soon after Chevron workers removed the insulation from the leaking line, federal investigators said. A resulting flash fire was quickly extinguished, but within minutes another blaze - fed by fumes escaping from a gash of several inches on the 8-inch-diameter pipe - ignited and consumed part of the refinery.

## **Corroded pipe**

The draft metallurgical report, prepared by Anamet Inc. of Hayward, has been given to Chevron, investigating agencies and the union representing refinery workers. It might be released publicly after the parties' comments are included, investigators say.

The report affirms Chevron's theory that high-temperature, sulfur-laden crude caused the thinning and initial leak in the pipe, Holmstrom and Horowitz confirmed.

The pipe was made out of carbon steel, which Chevron has concluded was low in silicon and susceptible to corrosion from sulfur-heavy crude. In its effort to get the refinery fully back online, Chevron is installing pipe made out of a material called 9-Chrome, an alloy that contains more corrosion-fighting chromium.

Richmond officials had delayed issuing permits while two consultants evaluated whether Chevron's choice, 9-Chrome, was the best available technology. Chevron's own internal documents said stainless steel is more corrosion-resistant than 9-Chrome, but company officials told city officials that stainless steel is vulnerable to unpredictable cracking.

After Chevron threatened to lay off more than 600 workers if it didn't get city permits for the reconstruction, Richmond gave the go-ahead late last month - although Mayor Gayle McLaughlin said the affair left her frustrated.

"Had we had all the information first, that is always the better way to approach dilemmas and uncertainty," McLaughlin said. "Staff said they had an obligation to go forward - that it was an administrative decision and they made it."

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Chevron-firefighters-may-have-gouged-pipe-4166310.php#ixzz2I4C4tZ8d>

## **USA, TX, REEVES COUNTY**

**DECEMBER 7, 2012**

### **4 WORKERS SERIOUSLY BURNED IN REEVES COUNTY OILFIELD ACCIDENT**

*Dylan Brooks*

Four oilfield workers are seriously burned in a rig accident in Reeves County.

Reeves County Sheriff's deputies tell Big 2 that four workers were burned near the Eagle Gas Rig 1, Hornet State #26 -- which is located about 3 miles southeast of Pecos on F.M. 1450.

The injured workers suffered second and third degree burns.

Three of the injured workers were flown by an airplane to Reeves County Memorial Hospital in Pecos, while the fourth worker was airlifted by helicopter to another West Texas hospital.

The names of the injured workers have not yet been released, and the cause of the fire has yet to be determined.

[http://permiabasin360.com/fulltext?nxd\\_id=236562](http://permiabasin360.com/fulltext?nxd_id=236562)

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**USA, WY, FREMONT COUNTY**

**DECEMBER 6, 2012**

## **TWO WORKERS SUFFER MINOR BURNS IN OIL TANK BLAZE**

*Katie Roenigk*

Two people suffered minor burns Wednesday afternoon when one or more oil tanks reportedly caught fire off of Muskrat Road east of Riverton.

County fire officials said the injured people were energy company employees who had been working near the storage tanks when the fire broke out just before 2 p.m. Wednesday.

"They did receive some very minor burn injuries, flash burn injuries," Fremont County Fire Protection District deputy chief Dan Oakley said Thursday, adding that the men were treated on scene by emergency medical personnel.

Oakley said about 500 barrels of oil burned in the blaze, which witnesses said could be seen from downtown Riverton. A fire that size is too big to be extinguished using local resources, so Oakley said his team monitored the flames to make sure the fire did not spread outside of the energy company's safety barriers.

"Those fires require a whole lot more water than we have available out there," Oakley said. "We watch until it burns the product enough that the company is comfortable with us leaving."

He cleared the scene at about 4:45 p.m. Oakley said the energy company responsible for the incident had shut the area down so no new oil was being fed to the tanks, but he guessed the scene was still smoldering Thursday morning.

Private investigators will look into the incident, but Oakley said in his opinion the fire was accidental. He described the air over an energy production field as "pretty combustible" because of the nature of the products being stored in the area. In addition, he said the oil tanks were being kept warm by some type of heater.

"It could have been the right mixture of combustible gas and air that got to wherever this heater was," Oakley said.

Initial reports show Trihydro Corporation employees who were stationed about a mile away from the fire called dispatchers wondering if they should evacuate the area. Oakley was unaware of any evacuations taking place Wednesday.

[http://dailyranger.com/story.php?story\\_id=4767&headline=Two-workers-suffer-minor-burns-in-oil-tank-blaze](http://dailyranger.com/story.php?story_id=4767&headline=Two-workers-suffer-minor-burns-in-oil-tank-blaze)

**SAUDI ARABIA, JUBAIL CITY**

**DECEMBER 23, 2012**

## **6 DIE IN JUBAIL PLANT EXPLOSION**

Six expatriate workers were killed in the explosion of a chemical waste plant in Jubail Industrial City II yesterday morning. There was an explosion in the diesel and chemicals tanks. Two trucks also caught fire.

The fire that broke out at 10.30 a.m. was put out within two and a half hours.

One of the Civil Defense fire fighters sustained minor injuries.

The media spokesman for the directorate of Civil Defense in the Eastern Province, Col. Ali Al-Qahtani said the fire occurred in one of the reservoirs of the Environmental Development Company.

The explosion occurred while maintenance staff were doing welding work on a tank containing benzene and blended diesel. "This resulted in an explosion and a fire that led to the death of six workers and the injury of others," Al-Qahtani said.

Jubail Civil Defense, the Royal Commission fire units and security patrols, Jubail Commercial Port, and the Red Crescent worked together to contain the blaze.

The company was established in 2005 to provide numerous ecological services such as training the Kingdom's industries how to maintain a healthy and safe working environment.

<http://www.menafn.com/menafn/1093592281/Saudi-6-die-Jubail-plant-explosion>

**USA, KY, CHARLESTON**

**JANUARY 2, 2013**

## **OFFICIALS RELEASE NEW DETAILS ABOUT FIRE AT FORMER AK STEEL COKE PLANT**

The Ashland, Kentucky Fire Department has determined that the fire at the former AK Steel Coke Plant on Monday started when contractors were working to dismantle a part of the plant using cutting torches.

They were cutting bolts from a manway cover when material was ignited inside. Officials said the vessel was made of wood, steel, and plastic and some residue material inside caught fire.

The material was believed to be coal tar residue and was burning inside the vessel which was impassable to firefighters. They contained the fire and let it burn itself out.

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No one was injured.

<http://www.wowktv.com/story/20489697/officials-release-new-details-about-fire-at-former-ak>

## **INDIA, BANGALORE**

**JANUARY 11, 2013**

### **THREE WORKERS DIE OF SUFFOCATION AT PEENYA FACTORY**

Three workers of an iron forging factory at Peenya Industrial Area, who got into an oil tank, died of suspected asphyxiation early Thursday morning. S Nagaraju, 26, his brother S Krishna, 24, and Srinivas, 20, all residents of Kammagondanahalli, are the dead.

The accident occurred at the Hi-Tech Forging (Bangalore) Pvt Ltd, a factory engaged in casting iron into pipes and blocks for machine tools. About 50 men work at the factory owned by D Rambabu.

On Wednesday night, five workers including the three victims, who worked as helpers, were on night shift when the accident occurred.

The iron is melted in a furnace and moulded into bars and pipes at the factory for which furnace oil is used. The oil is stored in a tank in the underground sump behind the factory, employees told Deccan Herald.

"Usually, the oil is lifted from tank using a pump connected to the furnace. But on Wednesday night, the motor did not work and the workers thought of lifting the oil manually. Nagaraj got into the tank first to lift oil in buckets. As he did not come out or answer any of the calls by those above, his brother Krishna and another worker Srinivas entered the tank in search of him. But sadly none of them came out," Shivanna, the security guard who was on night shift told Deccan Herald.

#### **Desperate search**

Shivanna and another worker brought a torch and started searching for the three workers.

"We saw them lying in the tank unconscious. Another worker, who was with me, was also about to fall into the tank as he slipped. But I saved him," Shivanna added.

They immediately informed the Peenya police. The fire brigade personnel, who rushed to the spot, fished out the bodies.

"The workers trapped in the tank may have died of asphyxiation as they couldn't come out of it," said Hampagol, Technical Director, Fire and Emergency Services.

He said the furnace oil is a petrochemical product with strong qualities of inflammability and evaporation.

#### **Poisonous gas**

"When such chemical is stored in a tank, there is no scope for aeration and so the ambient temperature in the tank increases, leading to vapourisation of methane – a pungent poisonous gas – present in the oil. When the workers opened the mouth of the tank and got into it, these vapours of poisonous methane would have caused suffocation," he explained.

The Peenya police have registered a case of negligence against the owner of the factory Rambabu and the manager Satish.

[http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news\\_disp.asp?n\\_id=160511](http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=160511)

## **USA, IN, ELKHART**

**JANUARY 22, 2013.**

### **INVESTIGATION AT ELKHART'S YODER OIL CONTINUES**

A worker who was injured in an accident at Elkhart's Yoder Oil on Nov. 16, 2012, is still recovering from his injuries. Meanwhile, investigations of two companies, including Yoder Oil, continues.

The Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration has one investigation involving Yoder Oil and another one involving Upstate Metal Recycling, a company from Fort Wayne.

Martin Henry, owner of Upstate Metal Recycling, said the worker involved in the incident is recovering. He initially received 40 percent burns on mostly his stomach and back. "He was sedated for 30 days. But he's OK now. Everything's going to be fine," he said. Henry said the man was a worker for his company and contracted to Yoder Oil.

The Elkhart Fire Department was called to Yoder Oil, 1221 N. Nappanee St., where an explosion was reported.

Tony Balzano, chief investigator for the fire department, said Yoder Oil was replacing some tanks that are used to store large quantities of fuel. The worker was cutting one last tank to remove its pieces using a torch. However, he was working close to a tank that was empty but not scrubbed, said Balzano. The fumes from the tank got to the area where the worker was using a torch, causing an ignition. The incident happened sometime before 3 p.m.

Balzano said what happened next is what he refers to as a flash, not an explosion.

"The fumes just flashed," he said. "By the time we got to the scene there was no fire."

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The tank, somewhere between 10,000 and 15,000 gallons in volume, buckled following the explosion.

The worker was flown to a hospital with severe burns, Balzano said. He said he learned from Yoder Oil during his investigation that the worker seems to be doing better.

Bob Dittmer, public information officer with IOSHA, said both investigations remain active.

He said investigations by the department might last up to six months.

The IOSHA's Industrial Compliance Division is responsible for public and private sector safety and health in the commercial, agricultural and industrial sector, according to the government website. It recognizes and evaluates the exposure to occupational health hazards such as atmospheric contaminants, chemical, biological, physical and ergonomic hazards.

Yoder Oil did not immediately return a call on Tuesday.

<http://www.etruth.com/article/20130122/NEWS05/701229902>

## USA, ME, AUGUSTA

JANUARY 9 2013.

### OAKLAND MAN SUES MAINEGENERAL, MANCHESTER FOR BURNS SUFFERED IN EXPLOSION

*Craig Crosby*

An Oakland man who suffered serious burns last spring when the fuel tank he was cutting exploded in his face is suing the hospital that owned the Manchester property, and the town.

Firefighters extinguish flames from a chemical storage tank in Manchester, which erupted when Edward T. Bishop, 34, of Oakland, cut into the tank, burning him seriously, on April 10. Bishop is suing MaineGeneral Medical Center and the town of Manchester over the incident.

Edward T. Bishop, 34, argues his work on the property should have been supervised. He is seeking unspecified damages from MaineGeneral Medical Center and the town of Manchester as well as Code Enforcement Officer Paul Mitnik.

Bishop, in a complaint filed in Kennebec County Superior Court, claims negligence on the part of the town and hospital set up the circumstances that led to his injuries when the fuel tank ignited.

"Defendants negligently failed to designate hazardous materials, which required specialized handling and disposal, which the plaintiff was unqualified to handle," Bishop's attorney, Peter Clifford, wrote in the complaint.

Bishop suffered second- and third-degree burns in the April 10 explosion that occurred as he attempted to cut the old fuel tank in half with a gas-powered saw. According to a contract he signed in February with MaineGeneral Retirement Community, Bishop was hired to remove tires, metals, tanks and other debris from property the hospital owns on Foye Road in Manchester. The property is off Granite Hill Road, right near the Hallowell border, and abuts Granite Hill Estates, MaineGeneral's retirement village. It was used as a junkyard by a previous owner.

Following the afternoon explosion, Bishop was taken by LifeFlight helicopter to Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston and then transferred to Maine Medical Center in Portland, where he remained for more than a week.

Bishop's complaint claims he was clearing the property in advance of MaineGeneral's planned construction project. He says Manchester Code Enforcement Officer Paul Mitnik visited the site with Bishop last January and "inspected the premises and directed (Bishop) to remove materials on the premises that were hazardous."

Bishop claims Mitnik, the town and MaineGeneral failed to thoroughly inspect the site and warn Bishop that he would encounter flammable materials, such as the old fuel tank.

"As a result of the unreasonably dangerous premises, and the negligence and fault of the defendants, (Bishop) suffered severe and permanent injuries," the suit alleges.

Clifford on Monday declined comment on the lawsuit, and MaineGeneral's attorney, Jonathan Brogan, did not return a call seeking comment.

Attorney Edward Benjamin, who represents Manchester and Mitnik, said his clients had little to do with the cleanup.

"The basic defense of Mr. Mitnik and the town is this was not property owned or controlled by the town," Benjamin said. "The allegation that Mr. Mitnik was supervising the work -- they vehemently deny."

Brogan, in court documents, denies Bishop's claims of negligence and says Bishop's contract protects MaineGeneral from responsibility.

"The negligence of (Bishop) is greater than or equal to any negligence of (MaineGeneral)," Brogan wrote.

The contract Bishop signed specifies that he was working independently from the hospital and says that neither Bishop nor his employees were subject to direct supervision. The contract indemnifies MaineGeneral against any "claims, actions, damages or other liability."

Further, the contract says Bishop "understands and acknowledges that hazardous material may be contained

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in and upon the debris and the premises" and that he "accepts and assumes all risks that may arise out of ... coming into contact with or removing any hazardous material."

The contract specifies that the hazardous waste may include petroleum.

Benjamin said Mitnik's only visit to the site, last January, coincided with an assessment by workers from the state Department of Environmental Protection. He said the lawsuit against the town is built on the premise that Mitnik failed to specifically warn Bishop about the old fuel tank during that visit.

"Somehow that's the town's fault," Benjamin said.

Bishop's interaction with Kennebec County Superior Court extends beyond the lawsuit.

Oakland police arrested Bishop on Thursday on a warrant charging him with failure to pay restitution on a 2011 conviction for receiving stolen property. Bishop was released the next day after appearing in Superior Court and being given more time to repay nearly \$1,000 in restitution, according to court records.

[http://www.kjonline.com/news/oakland-man-sues-hospital-town-for-burns\\_2013-01-07.html](http://www.kjonline.com/news/oakland-man-sues-hospital-town-for-burns_2013-01-07.html)

## USA, ID, BOISE

**JANUARY 10 2013.**

### **BOISE FIRE HAZ MAT CREWS INVESTIGATE FUEL SPILL AT GAS TANK NEAR CURTIS ROAD**

Boise Fire officials say the cold weather helped keep fuel vapors from spreading when the valve systems of a large gasoline storage tank failed on Curtis Road Wednesday morning.

As many as 5,000 gallons of gasoline got out of the tank, one of several in the 700 block of Curtis Road, just south of Emerald Street, just after 7 a.m. Wednesday.

The fuel spill did not get to the street as it was contained in a trench around the tank, which is installed for that purpose, Boise Fire officials said.

Fire officials say a mechanical failure caused a valve to fail but workers were able to close the isolation valves quickly once it was discovered. The gas spill is contained and clean-up crews were on their way to clean up the spill at 9 a.m.

The public — and haz mat crews — caught a break thanks to cold weather, which kept the fumes from spreading and helped crews contain the spill quickly, officials said.

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2013/01/09/2406051/boise-fire-haz-mat-crews-investigate.html#storylink=cpy>

## USA, N.Y, FORT EDWARD

**JANUARY 12 2013.**

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY DA NEARS DECISION ON GASOLINE LEAK CHARGES**

*Don Lehman*

Washington County District Attorney Kevin Kortright said Thursday he is nearing a decision on whether Cumberland Farms should face criminal charges in the 2011 gasoline leak that caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to Fort Edward infrastructure.

An engineering report on the state of the water and sewer system in the area of the village of Fort Edward that was most affected was recently completed and is being reviewed by both Cumberland Farms and the village of Fort Edward.

Officials hope that report will end a debate over how much work is needed to repair 18 or so underground water and sewer line hookups in the village that village officials believe were damaged by the explosions that resulted when an estimated 1,200 gallons of gasoline poured from a gas pump into storm drains and ran downhill into Fort Edward.

Numerous underground explosions occurred in an area off Broadway near Satterlee Lane, damaging manhole covers, pipes, homes and pavement.

Matt Fuller, lawyer for the village of Fort Edward and Washington County Sewer District, said the village and Cumberland Farms have disagreed about the extent of the repairs needed. The village believes complete replacement of the hookups in question is needed, work that could cost up to \$2 million.

Concerns are that a big rain event or heavy runoff from melting snow could lead to more problems with the damaged infrastructure if the work isn't done soon.

"If we get a big deep freeze this winter we have concerns," Fuller said. "We can't wait forever."

Fort Edward Mayor Matt Traver said he "certainly hoped things would have progressed better by this point" in terms of the village being compensated for the damage.

He said seeking a criminal prosecution was not the priority of village leaders, but there are infrastructure issues that need to be addressed.

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"We have sat down and talked with the district attorney about our options," Traver said. "We don't want it to come to that but it's certainly one of our options."

Cumberland Farms had earlier paid more than \$330,000 to the village and Washington County for repairs that had been completed up until last spring. But Traver said the company hired new counsel and its insurance company became involved and efforts to get compensation for more work was unsuccessful.

Fuller said the company and municipal officials met in November and agreed to have an engineering analysis done of hours of video inspections of the water and sewer infrastructure in hopes of agreeing on an amount of restitution.

A call to Cumberland Farms' public relations office was not returned Friday. The state Department of Environmental Conservation referred comment to Kortright.

Kortright said the company's cooperation will be weighed when deciding if the company's alleged negligence rose to the level of criminality.

The company's actions are in question because the store was not equipped with an emergency shut-off system as required by state law, officials said.

Employees were directed by a company handbook to use a red-colored emergency shut-off button to shut down the tanks, but the store did not have any such red button when the employees on duty that night consulted a company instruction manual, authorities said.

Gas ran from the pump for at least 10 minutes before power was shut off to the store to stop the flow.

The gas leak occurred the night of Dec. 27 when a customer at the Main Street, Hudson Falls, store backed into a gas pump and damaged it.

The vehicle was identified and the owner initially arrested for leaving the scene of the accident, but the evidence called into question whether he was responsible and the charges were dropped. No subsequent arrest has been made.

[http://poststar.com/news/local/washington-county-da-nears-decision-on-gasoline-leak-charges/article\\_ecc8b7da-5c3b-11e2-81b7-0019bb2963f4.html](http://poststar.com/news/local/washington-county-da-nears-decision-on-gasoline-leak-charges/article_ecc8b7da-5c3b-11e2-81b7-0019bb2963f4.html)

### **CANADA, ONT. ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP**

**JANUARY 12 2013.**

#### **CANADIAN GAS LEAK CAUSING ODORS NOT A THREAT TO ST. CLAIR COUNTY**

An incident across the St. Clair River in Canada is producing odors on the American side of the water. St. Clair County fire and hazmat personnel are monitoring the area and emergency management officials are in contact with the incident commander, according to the St. Clair County Emergency Management.

The possibility of an odor may be present over the next day or two. Shell Canada experienced a crude oil tank leak at their facility in Chemical Valley Thursday afternoon. Shell is allowing crude to flow to an oily water separator, which is considered best practice. They are estimating the pump-out time to be up to four days.

At 2:16 p.m. Sarnia Police notified St. Clair County a "shelter-in-place" was issued for St. Clair Township, Ontario only. The crude oil is contained within the fence line of Shell Canada. The shelter in place was issued for anyone within approximately one-half mile north of the Shell Canada facility.

The winds today are coming out of the south at 10 mph. There is no immediate threat to the citizens of St. Clair County at this time, according to authorities here. At 3:45 p.m. the office of emergency management was notified the shelter in place was cleared.

There is continuous monitoring of the situation by the Canadian and U.S. authorities and St. Clair County Emergency Management remains in close contact with the Canadian partners.

Additionally, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has indicated that there is no threat to the St. Clair River. City of Port Huron and City of Marysville Fire Department are monitoring the air quality, as a precautionary measure, according to the Office of Emergency Management.

<http://www.voicenews.com/articles/2013/01/11/news/doc50f07d454a4ee386881680.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

### **USA, TX, HENDERSON**

**JANUARY 14 2013.**

#### **LIGHTNING STRIKE SPARKS OIL TANK FIRE NEAR HENDERSON**

*Brett Collar*

A lightning strike sparked an oil tank fire early Sunday morning just south of Henderson. Officials confirm that the Henderson Fire Department responded to an oil tank that had caught fire located off of Highway 79 early Sunday as the result of a lightning strike. Fire crews responded to the scene and we are able to safely contain the fire. No injuries

917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

were reported in this fire.

<http://www.kltv.com/story/20574843/lightning-strike-sparks-oil-tank-fire-near-henderson>

## **USA, CT, MLITCHFIELD**

**JANUARY 16 2013.**

### **BANTAM FUEL HAS 500 GALLON DIESEL SPILL**

*Daniela Forte*

About 500 gallons of ultra-load sulfur diesel fuel spilled at Bantam Fuel on Lake Road in Bantam early Thursday evening.

"There was an error in the automatic metering system. It showed the tank was empty but there was actually 3,000 gallons in it," said Peter Aziz, president of Bantam Fuel.

Mr. Aziz said they had ordered a truck load of diesel which is 7,500 gallons into the 10,000 gallon tank. About 500 gallons didn't fit and came out the top.

"It spilled on the side of the tank into the containment area under the tank," said Mr. Aziz.

Mr. Aziz said the good news is the containment area worked, it didn't get anywhere and stayed in the containment area. They now just have to clean it up and dig up the soil and the protective membrane underneath the tank and replace it.

The Department of Environmental and Energy Protection (DEEP) was called upon the spill. A representative was sent out to Bantam Fuel.

Mr. Aziz said the representative wanted an environmental clean up contractor to send out a vacuum truck. Which Bantam Fuel did.

"We got one out and [Moran Environmental Recovery] came out last night," said Mr. Aziz. "They were able to vacuum up all the loose oil they could get to."

Moran Environmental Recovery came again Friday morning and are planning to come back Saturday to do more cleanup of the area.

The Bantam Fire Company and Bantam fire marshal were called to the scene as well on Thursday.

"It's all contained in this secondary containment area. We can't use the tanks until it's clean. Which is how the system is designed," said Mr. Aziz.

Mr. Aziz said it was fortunate they have a very state of the art containment facility. Not only was there containment beneath the tank but also beneath the truck that was loading.

"The system worked exactly the way it was designed so we were pleased with that," said Mr. Aziz.

<http://www.foothillsmediagroup.com/articles/2013/01/15/litchfield/news/doc50f57791ca7d4112845963.txt>

## **USA, OH, ST. MARYS**

**JANUARY 16 2013.**

### **OIL SPILL DISCOVERED EAST OF ST. MARYS**

An oil leak east of St. Marys was discovered Friday night, according to Auglaize County Homeland and Emergency Management director Troy Anderson. He said his office got a phone call around 11 p.m. Friday from someone who smelled a "pungent odor" just east of the city, in the area of state Route 29 and Elshoff Drive. Anderson said his crews went there and, after an investigation, found the oil was crude oil leaking from a nearby oil well field. He said crews immediately began cleaning up the oil and got much of it contained. But around 3:30 a.m., he said crews said they still had product going into a creek just east of the field and began cleaning it up. Anderson said Allied Environmental Services crews are still cleaning, mostly the creek water, to make sure none of the oil gets into the St. Marys River. He said the cause of the leak and how much oil was leaked is still unknown.

[http://www.limaohio.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_faf890d2-5f4c-11e2-bcc7-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.limaohio.com/news/local_news/article_faf890d2-5f4c-11e2-bcc7-001a4bcf6878.html)

## **USA, KS, KANSAS CITY**

**JANUARY 16 2013.**

### **FUEL TANK FIRE CAUSES DAMAGE TO SALVAGE YARD**

Kansas City, Kansas, firefighters responded to a fuel tank fire at 1142 S. 12th Street early Tuesday morning. Firefighters hit the area at around 9:10 a.m. When arriving on the scene, they discovered a heavy fire around a fuel storage tank. No one was hurt in the fire, but the fire caused about \$20,000 worth of damage to the area. A haz mat and foam truck were dispatched to the area of the fire to help in extinguishing it. More from Kansas City, Kan., Fire Department Battalion Chief Craig Duke: Crews on the scene within 3 minutes reported heavy fire around a waste fuel storage tank. Crews called for additional units, Haz Mat and Foam Truck. Crews found three 500 gallon waste fuel tanks,

917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

1 Diesel, 1 Gasoline, and 1 oil. Crews used hose lines to cool off tanks and F500 foam to extinguish the fire. Fire was extinguished within 25 minutes. Fire Investigator responded to scene. Fire is under investigation. Estimated damage to tanks and holding areas \$20,000. No injuries reported.

<http://www.kckansan.com/2013/01/fuel-tank-fire-causes-damage-to-salvage.html>

## **USA, N.D, WILLISTON**

**JANUARY 19 2013.**

### **TWO MEN WERE INJURED FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN AN EXPLOSION AT AN OIL WELL SITE NORTHWEST OF HERE.**

Two men were injured Friday afternoon in an explosion at an oil well site northwest of here. The Grenora Rural Fire Department responded to a tank battery explosion that occurred after 12:30 p.m. Friday northwest of Blacktail Dam, said Nathan Andorff, a member of the fire department and Grenora's director of public works. The explosion occurred while the men were working on a tank battery at the site, Andorff said. One man suffered burns all over his body, and the other man had a broken leg, Andorff said. The men were taken by ambulance to Mercy Medical Center in Williston. Information on their conditions or if they were transferred to another facility was not available Friday.

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/386993/>

## **USA, CT, WINDSOR**

**JANUARY 20 2013.**

### **ALGAE-TAINTED FUEL TANKS STOP SCHOOL BUSES**

*Christine Dempsey*

It wasn't snow that closed the Pathways to Technology magnet high school Friday. It was algae. Algae was found in school bus fuel tanks, prompting a school bus company to ground 150 buses. Algae clogs fuel filters, which can cause the buses to sputter and stop.

The problem affected eight Hartford-area magnet schools and a "handful" of students who participate in the Open Choice program in suburban schools, said Aura Alvarado, spokeswoman for the Capitol Region Education Council.

CREC was able to get 52 replacement buses, but some students were late for school and others didn't go at all. Only one school closed: Pathways to Technology, also known as Pathways Academy of Technology and Design.

Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate said he decided to cancel classes because students were scheduled to take exams. The exams will be held Tuesday instead.

A spokeswoman with the bus company, First Student, said algae was found clogging a bus' fuel filter Thursday.

"Our maintenance team worked through the night, checking each bus at the East Hartford location," Jen Biddinger stated in an email. "Out of an abundance of caution, we decided to pull all 150 East Hartford lot buses from service today to ensure the safety of the students." Not every bus had algae, she said; she didn't have a number Friday afternoon.

Alvarado, from CREC, said mechanics are "working feverishly to ensure that all the buses are repaired." It's not unusual for the microorganism to muck up the works for buses, trucks, or even home-heating systems, said Carl Lurix, office manager for Superior Environmental Corporation of Cheshire.

"It's a very common problem," Lurix said.

Workers from his company are sent out to algae calls two or three times a week, he said. Anytime moisture gets into a diesel fuel storage tank, the fuel can become "almost a breeding ground for the algae," Lurix said.

The fuel then gets goopy and clogs filters, stopping the flow of fuel. It happens with home-heating oil as well as diesel-powered vehicles, he said.

Lurix noticed more algae problems in the last five or six years. Part of the problem might stem from the switch to a diesel fuel with a lower sulfur content, he said.

Also, smaller businesses tend not to spend time or money on maintenance, he said, and the algae growth goes undetected until a vehicle stops running or the heat stops flowing at home.

Cliff Gibson, chief operating officer of DAATCO, said the problem isn't new. The company, which has school buses and motorcoaches, occasionally checks its tanks for algae.

"So, you have to have your tanks inspected and cleaned periodically," he said.

<http://www.ctnow.com/news/connecticut/hartford/hc-windsor-bus-problems-0119-20130118,0,851801.story>