

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, N.J, MORRIS TWP

DECEMBER 24 2013.

130 GALLONS OF OIL SPILLED FROM TANK IN BASEMENT OF MORRIS TOWNSHIP GAS STATION

About 130 gallons of oil spilled from a ruptured oil tank in the basement of a gas station on Sussex Avenue over the weekend, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

At about 4:30 p.m. Friday, the Morris Township Fire Department was called to the Express Gas Station at 492 Sussex Ave. for a possible hazardous materials incident, said Morris Township Fire Chief Scott J. Lovenberg.

When firefighters arrived, they found a 250-gallon home-heating oil tank in the basement that had ruptured, with another 250-gallon tank in the backyard that was leaking, he said.

"Approximately 130 gallons of heating oil spilled from a tank in the basement of the structure, which also impacted the sump," said Bob Considine, press officer for the state DEP.

The oil was used to heat a housing unit above the gas station, he said, and "the leak was stopped and the spill has been contained."

The oil in the basement had been cleaned up before firefighters arrived, but an unknown amount of oil had leaked in the back of the residence, Lovenberg said.

The building owners hired a contractor to perform the cleanup, which is ongoing, and being overseen by the DEP, Considine said.

The Morris Township Police Department and Morris County Hazardous Materials Team also responded to the scene, Lovenberg said.

Firefighters remained on the scene until 9 p.m. Friday, when the scene was turned over to the state DEP, he said.

http://www.nj.com/morris/index.ssf/2013/12/250-gallon_oil_tank_ruptures_leaks_into_yard_at_morris_township_gas_station.html

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, GLADSTONE

DECEMBER 26 2013.

PORTS CORP STAYS TIGHT LIPPED OVER BUND WALL ALLEGATIONS

The Gladstone Ports Corporation has refused to answer questions about whether its Western Basin bund wall failed to meet its environmental commitments.

The GPC is under fire after a report found poor design of the wall allowed dredge spoil to leak into Gladstone Harbour in September 2011.

It has been claimed an engineers' report provided to the GPC in November 2011 linked the huge

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leak and a plunge in water quality at the time of the fish disease outbreak.

The Observer has asked GPC if the bund wall met its commitments under the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project environmental impact statement.

The GPC did not respond, but a spokeswoman said "an extensive monitoring program was established for the duration of the WBDDP".

"The GPC notified relevant regulatory authorities and the community about the leak (when it occurred), and its contribution to turbidity in the harbour," she said.

A new internal wall and seal was then developed.

Independent engineers delivered a presentation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority showing that bund wall leaks over two years were due to inadequate lining, placed outside the wall rather than built into it.

In the environmental impact statement, the risk of turbidity around the bund was flagged as high, but GPC said it had committed to a control strategy.

The Australian on Thursday reported the ports corporation was forced to seek urgent permission to breach its environmental approvals in a race to plug the leaking bund wall before it ran out of space to store potentially toxic acid sulphate soils associated with the dredging.

It said an application for a transitional environment program lodged in June last year confirmed the environmental impact of the original bund wall failure and how an initial response had not fixed the problem, and documents showed the ports corporation was aware of the extent of the environmental threat posed by the bund wall failure.

<http://www.cqnews.com.au/news/ports-corp-coy-over-bund-wall-allegations/2124263/>

USA, W.VA, MCDOWELL COUNTY

DECEMBER 28 2013.

ASPHALT LEAKING INTO MCDOWELL COUNTY CREEK AFTER TRAIN WRECK

Asphalt is leaking into Elkhorn Creek from a train derailment in McDowell County, but the leak is not putting anyone in danger, a railroad official said.

Robin Chapman of Norfolk Southern said 16 cars hauling asphalt, soybean oil meal and cross ties derailed in the incident. Emergency crews have booms in the creek to contain the asphalt leak. WVVA reported the derailment occurred in the Vivian-Landgraff area between Keystone and Kimball,

Chapman said railroad traffic should be restored by 3 p.m. Saturday. No estimate was available when the accident would be totally cleaned up.

The cause of the accident remains under investigation.

Chapman said the train was headed to Linwood, N.C.

http://www.wchstv.com/newsroom/eyewitness/131227_21939.shtml

USA, N.D, CASSELTON

DECEMBER 31 2013.

AS OIL TRAIN BURNS, 2,300 RESIDENTS OF CASSELTON, N.D., TOLD TO FLEE, AUTHORITIES SAY NO CREW MEMBERS WERE HURT DURING THE ACCIDENT.

Officials on Monday night were calling for the evacuation of the entire town of Casselton, N.D., after a BNSF grain train derailed and crashed into a crude oil train in North Dakota on Monday afternoon, causing tank cars to explode in towering mushroom-cloud flames.

No one was injured in the accident that happened about 2:10 p.m. near Casselton, about 20 miles west of Fargo, but smoke billowed for hours.

Monday night, however, the Cass County Sheriff's Office was "strongly recommending" that the town's 2,300 residents leave immediately. Those who live within 5 miles south and east of the city also were told to leave.

"Information from the National Weather Service indicates a shift in the weather resulting in a high

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pressure system that will push the plume of smoke down increasing the risk of potential health hazards,” the sheriff’s office said in a news release.

Amy McBeth, a spokeswoman for BNSF, said a grain train derailed on a track parallel to an eastbound crude oil train with 106 tank cars, striking some of the tanks and triggering explosions.

It was not clear how many tank cars were struck, nor how many were burning, she said.

“It was black smoke and then there were probably four explosions in the next hour to hour and a half,” said Eva Fercho, a Casselton resident who saw the fiery aftermath.

An estimated 11 to 12 crude oil unit trains depart daily from the oil region in western North Dakota. Lacking sufficient pipelines, 69 percent of the state’s oil is currently shipped to market by rail. The main railroads, BNSF and Canadian Pacific, have tracks through the Twin Cities.

Fercho said the BNSF main line runs right through Casselton, and just two blocks from her home.

“We are very thankful it didn’t happen in the city limits,” she said.

The accident also spared the Tharaldson Ethanol plant, west of Casselton. Plant Manager Ryan Carter said the accident was about 2 miles away from the plant, but the burning tank cars were visible from there.

“It was pretty much flames and smoke,” said Carter, who estimated that about 30 tank cars were involved.

Carter Hackmann, who lives about a mile away from the site of the wreck, said he heard at least three explosions, and took photographs from his house of billowing flames and smoke that resembled a mushroom cloud.

The city sent out e-mail alerts warning people to stay indoors.

North Dakota officials have said that even more crude oil is expected to move by rail in 2014. The state is approaching 1 million barrels per day in output, and trails only Texas and the separately counted Gulf of Mexico in U.S. oil production.

In July, a runaway train loaded with North Dakota crude oil crashed in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, killing 47 people and destroying that city’s downtown as tank cars exploded and burned.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/238070771.html>

USA, GA, CORDELE

DECEMBER 31 2013.

GAS STATION PUMPS TEST POSITIVE FOR CONTAMINATION

Jessica Fairley

Gasoline problems at the 7th Street S&S Food Mart in Cordele are under investigation after the Cordele Police Department received complaints on Friday. The Georgia Department of Transportation went out and closed the pumps on Friday after the gasoline failed a visual test. Samples of three grades of gasoline were sent to a Tifton lab. Rich Lewis with the Georgia Department of Agriculture says that he received notice Monday morning that all three samples tested positive for contamination. The regular unleaded gas sample tested positive for an unknown substance. The mid-grade unleaded type was also contaminated, and super premium gas was contaminated with water. Lewis says that at least four customers complained about the gasoline. The pumps will be closed at the Food Mart until the issue is resolved which could take one or more weeks.

<http://www.mysouthwestga.com/news/story.aspx?id=988517>

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USA, TX, LA PORTE

JANUARY 2 2014.

CREWS EXTINGUISH FIRE AT PIPELINE FACILITY IN LA PORTE

Fire crews have extinguished a large fire that broke out Tuesday morning at a pipeline facility in La Porte.

According to Jeff Suggs from La Porte Emergency Management, the blaze broke at around 10:15 a.m. after a liquefied petroleum gas product ruptured and caught fire. The facility, Enterprise Products, is located on North Broadway Street near the Fred Hartman Bridge.

No serious injuries were reported, but emergency responders said two contract workers were treated at the scene and released.

Emergency responders said there was never a shelter-in-place, but some workers were evacuated from the area of the fire.

The large blaze had some passersby fearing the worst had happened.

“That this plant had exploded, ‘cause we were listening on the CB (radio) and guys was talking about smoke. That’s all we could see from back there. Then we got here and saw the huge flames,” Olen Manning, a truck driver, said.

Company officials declined to comment about the incident.

The company did say the pipe holds small amounts of liquefied petroleum, and that its part of a system measuring how much gas gets onto barges.

All work at the facility stopped so investigators can try to find out what sparked this fire.

<http://www.khou.com/news/local/Fire-reported-at-plant-in-La-Porte-238265291.html>

USA, S.C, ROCK HILL

JANUARY 8 2014.

HEC: ROCK HILL KEROSENE SPILL CAME FROM STORAGE TANK

Anna Douglas

It could take up to two weeks for environmental cleanup workers to rid a small creek of contaminants from a kerosene spill near Rock Hill’s Confederate Park.

State environmental officials and the federal Environmental Protection Agency will oversee cleanup of the spill at Wilkerson Fuel Co. on Pendleton Street. A contractor, Highlands Environmental Solutions, is expected to monitor affected soil and water for up to three months.

Highlands Environmental Solutions is based in Raleigh, N.C.

Few details have been released about what caused the spill on Sunday. The Herald could not reach Wilkerson Fuel officials on Tuesday. An employee who answered the phone on Tuesday afternoon said the company was “not interested” in commenting.

The kerosene spill apparently originated from an above-ground storage tank, said Jim Beasley, spokesman for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Company officials believe about 1,500 gallons were released on Sunday, he said.

Rock Hill police and firefighters responded to the spill. Traffic was blocked for several hours along Pendleton Street, from Annafrel to Confederate streets.

On Monday, contractors arrived to begin cleanup. The work continued on Tuesday around the creek and the Confederate Park area.

Wilkerson Fuel is located about one block from Confederate Park.

Federal laws require that the “responsible party” notify DHEC when any spill impacts waterways, Beasley said. In this case, Highlands Environmental Solutions notified environmental officials on Wilkerson’s behalf.

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/08/3195117/dhec-rock-hill-kerosene-spill.html#storylink=cpy>

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USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON

JANUARY 9 2014.

WV DEP ORDERS JAY-BEE OIL & GAS TO CEASE OPERATIONS AT TYLER COUNTY WELL SITE

Kim Freda

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Office of Oil and Gas has ordered Jay-Bee Oil & Gas to cease operations at the company's Lisby gas well pad in Tyler County.

A tank ruptured and leaked fluids to surrounding grounds on the well site on Jan. 2, said Thomas Aluise, DEP spokesman. One worker was injured as a result of the incident.

The W.Va. DEP issued a notice of violation, in addition to the cease operation order. Jay-Bee Oil & Gas is required to submit a report to the Office of Oil and Gas on or before Jan. 14 that demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the cause of the tank rupture, including Jay-Bee's ability to safely resume operations and outline future preventative measures.

The order also requires Jay-Bee to provide an analysis of the fluids in the ruptured tank, submit a proposal for soil sampling and a remediation plan to remove and dispose of contaminated soil, submit a proposal for water sampling, and provide an after-action report that details Jay-Bee's resting and remediation activity.

<http://www.statejournal.com/story/24395878/wv-dep-orders-jay-bee-oil-gas-to-cess-operations-at-tyler-county-well-site>

CANADA, ONTARIO, OTTAWA

JANUARY 10 2014.

A LIST OF RECENT RAILWAY ACCIDENTS INVOLVING OIL-LADEN TANK CARS

A list of railway accidents involving oil-laden tank cars since the Lac-Mégantic, Que., disaster last July:

- January: Seventeen cars on a 122-car train in northwestern New Brunswick come off the tracks, resulting in a fire and evacuation of about 150 people.
- December: Eighteen cars on a 106-car oil train derail in southeastern North Dakota, resulting in fires and the evacuation of many residents of nearby Casselton;
- November: Twenty-five of 90 cars on a train carrying oil that originally came from North Dakota derail in Alabama, igniting fires;
- October: Thirteen cars — four carrying petroleum crude oil and nine carrying liquefied petroleum gas — come off the tracks in tiny Gainford, Alta., sparking a huge fireball and evacuation of about 100 people;
- September: Seventeen cars, including three carrying non-flammable lubricating oil and one with ethanol, derail near Landis, Sask., as a train heads to Edmonton from Winnipeg, causing the oil to spill onto farmland.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/national/list+recent+railway+accidents+involving+oilladen+tank+cars/9364847/story.html#ixzz2sHpM5Tlp>

USA, ILL, WHEELING

DECEMBER 10 2014.

"CATASTROPHIC" EXPLOSION AVOIDED IN WHEELING INDUSTRIAL PARK FIRE

Joe Lewnard and Charles Keeshan

Authorities evacuated six nearby businesses Thursday morning after a fire broke out near six large propane storage tanks at a Wheeling industrial park.

The fire, caused when cold weather led a rupture under one of the tanks, led to a dangerous situation at the site in the 400 block of Denniston Court, said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIssac.

"If the tanks would have exploded, it would have been very catastrophic," MacIssac said. "This is something we prepare for, we train for, and we're aware of this facility."

The fire occurred outside Penray Companies, a manufacturer of aerosol spray cans used in the

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automotive industry. Firefighters called to the scene at 8:02 a.m. began a water stream to keep the storage tanks cool, Maclssac said.

Because of the risk, officials evacuated six businesses and took extra safety precautions at Mark Twain Elementary School, moving children to a safe area away from windows, while firefighters worked to put out the flames. Their efforts initially were hampered because private snow removal contractors had buried nearby fire hydrants under snow, Maclsaac said.

"Crews had to dig out the hydrants in order for us to use them," Maclssac said.

Eventually, crews were able to access a supply line and shut off the fuel, putting out the fire. Students from Mark Twain and workers at the evacuated businesses were able to return to their buildings a short time later.

In all, about 45 firefighters from 11 departments responded to the scene.

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20140109/news/701099891/>

USA, W. VA, CHARLESTON

JANUARY 10 2014

CHEMICAL SPILL IN WEST VIRGINIA CUTS WATER FOR 300,000 HOMES

A chemical spill along a West Virginia river on Thursday has resulted in a tap water ban for as many as 300,000 people, shutting down bars and restaurants and forcing residents to line up for bottled water at stores.

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin declared a state of emergency for nine counties as a result of the spill of 4-Methylcyclohexane Methanol, a chemical used in the coal industry. The spill occurred along the Elk River in Charleston, the capital and largest city of the eastern U.S. state.

Health officials were advising residents to use the water only for flushing toilets and fighting fires.

"West Virginians in the affected service areas are urged not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing or bathing," Gov. Tomblin said in a statement. "Right now, our priorities are our hospitals, nursing homes, and schools."

Local media showed pictures of West Virginia residents lining up at stores for bottled water, and store shelves that had been emptied of their supplies.

Dr. Rahul Gupta, health officer for the Kanawha-Charleston and the Putnam County Health Departments, ordered closed all restaurants, body art parlors and schools that receive water from the West Virginia American Water company.

"You can't have schools without water," said Tomblin's spokeswoman, Amy Shuler Goodwin. She did not know when the ban would be lifted.

Tomblin said his office was working with the National Guard and the state's Office of Emergency Services to provide water and supplies through county emergency services offices as quickly as possible.

The spill originated with Freedom Industries, a Charleston company, according to Laura Jordan, external affairs manager for West Virginia American Water.

It occurred right above the intake of the Kanawha Valley water treatment plant in Charleston - the largest in West Virginia - and affects 100,000 homes and businesses, or 250,000 to 300,000 people, Jordan said.

"It could be potentially harmful if swallowed and could potentially cause skin and eye irritation," Jordan said.

Shuler Goodwin said that Thursday morning the West Virginia Department of Environment Protection got a report of an odor - described in local media as resembling black licorice - and visited the Freedom Industries site. There, officials found a leaking storage unit.

Jordan said the water company and state environmental officials were conducting tests on the water.

The company is working with state and federal authorities to get residents access to bottled water, and water distribution sites will be announced through local media, Jordan said.

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A representative for Freedom Industries was not immediately available for comment.

The company says on its website it is a producer of specialty chemicals for the mining, steel and cement industries.

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/americas/chemical-spill-in-west-virginia-cuts-water-for-300000-homes-29904322.html>

USA, MI, WATERTOWN

JANUARY 10 2014.

CREWS WORK TO CLEAN UP GASOLINE LEAK NEAR LANSING AIRPORT

Crews worked Thursday evening to clean up a gasoline leak at the Marathon Petroleum plant.

It happened around 4:15p.m. in the 6000 block of West Grand Ravier Avenue near Lansing, which is near the Capital Region International Airport.

Ten fire trucks and the Metro Lansing Haz-Mat team were all called to the scene.

Teams found a large gas tank with 400,000 gallons of gasoline with a small leak. There is still no report on exactly how many gallons spilled, but it was taken to an unaffected tank.

Officials say no one was evacuated and no one was hurt. They say there's no current threat of any danger to the surrounding areas.

<http://www.wlns.com/story/24410973/report-possible-gas-leak-near-lansing-airport>

CHINA, BEIJING

JANUARY 10 2014

CHINA CITES LAPSES IN SINOPEC PIPELINE BLASTS

SAFETY OFFICIALS BLAME COMPANY, LOCAL OFFICIALS OVER DEADLY EXPLOSIONS

Olivia Geng

China's work safety agency on Thursday blamed the country's largest refining company and local officials in the city of Qingdao for pipeline explosions in November that killed 62 people and left 136 more injured.

Huang Yi, a spokesman for the State Administration of Work Safety said at a news conference that the initial oil leak at the pipeline wasn't properly inspected and that both the pipeline's operator and local government departments bore responsibility for the explosions. Mr. Huang said the initial emergency response was "inadequate" and that workers on the scene failed to detect lingering oil and gas in the eight-hour period between the initial leak and the explosions.

The pipeline is owned by China Petrochemical Corp., known as Sinopec Group. The transcript of the news conference released by the safety agency didn't mention Sinopec by name, but the official Xinhua news agency said the regulator blamed both Sinopec and local officials.

A Sinopec spokeswoman declined to comment, pending release of the full report. Mr. Huang said the report would be made available to the public after being reviewed by China's State Council, or cabinet. A representative for the Qingdao government, Su Wenjie, said the city didn't have an immediate comment and learned the results of the report only on Thursday.

In November, Chinese police detained nine people, including seven Sinopec employees and two government personnel after the explosions. Authorities in China often detain witnesses as well as suspects.

Mr. Huang said the accident caused a "direct economic loss" of 750 million yuan (\$124.9 million) and added that pipeline corrosion allowed oil to leak into the sewage network under one area of the eastern Chinese city. He also said workers on the day of the incident were using a hydraulic hammer that wasn't explosion-proof, resulting in sparks that triggered the blasts.

Mr. Huang also cited the city's municipal design, saying that the oil pipeline was intertwined with the local sewage system and installed too close to nearby buildings.

Mr. Huang added that China currently has 655 pipelines spanning 102,000 kilometers. Some of the pipelines have been operating for as long as 40 years and are becoming corroded and brittle, he said. The

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safety watchdog is concerned about the "hidden dangers" posed by some oil pipelines that overlap with underground cable and sewage systems, he added.

In the past, Sinopec had said the area around the pipeline wasn't as populated when it was built nearly three decades ago. It also said authorities in another city who had authority over the pipeline didn't sign off on a previous effort to overhaul it.

The explosions upended cars and sidewalks and sent a massive plume of smoke into the air when it occurred on Nov. 22.

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304347904579309763150384946>

USA, ORE, NORTH BEND

JANUARY 11 2014.

WATER CONTAMINATES CHEVRON FUEL TANKS

Chelsea Davis

One local repair shop is finding water in several drivers' gas tanks who fueled up at Chevron's North Bend station in the last week.

Bayshore Auto manager Russ Blean said so far two customers have come to the shop with the same problem.

Marti Sharp, general counsel and compliance officer for Carson Oil Company, which manages and operates the Chevron station on Virginia Avenue in North Bend, said seven vehicles were impacted and all will be reimbursed by Carson Oil for repairs.

"Think of it like a milk jug and the lid wasn't on tight," Sharp said of the malfunctioning equipment. "We discovered through our tank monitoring system that we might have an issue with one particular tank at that Chevron station."

As soon as the monitoring system detected an issue, the tank shut down, she said.

Crews excavated concrete and soil surrounding the tank and found one of its fittings had malfunctioned following a recent water main break.

"The problem was ... so much water flowed over the top of the tank and this faulty component had never been flooded before," she said.

The fitting was replaced and crews will inspect the tank next week before it's put back in service. In the meantime, Sharp said customers can still fill up their cars since the remaining tanks were not impacted.

"The first customer had at least 50 percent water (in her tank)," Blean said. "The one yesterday got fuel and didn't put the two together, because his car started running really rough. It was full of water, too."

Drivers will notice their cars running poorly if there's water in the gas tank, he said.

"Water (doesn't) burn so it causes misfires and it can also damage the fuel injector because they aren't made to pass water as fuel," he said. "And it plugs up the fuel filter, so we have to replace that. As far as major damage, I don't think they'd be able to drive it far enough to cause major damage because it just runs so rough."

Each customer had to shell out \$160 to \$200 to fix the problem, Blean said.

http://theworldlink.com/news/local/water-contaminates-chevron-fuel-tanks/article_4e4d26e4-7a1d-11e3-87c1-0019bb2963f4.html?comment_form=true

USA, MN, CROOKSTON

JANUARY 11 2014.

POLK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER: WHAT TO DO WITH 4,500 GALLONS OF 45-YEAR OLD FUEL IN TANK?

COUNTY BOARD PONDERES POSSIBILITY OF BURNING IT

Jess Bengtson

Polk County Administrator Chuck Whiting and Building and Grounds Director Mark Dietz approached the Polk County Commissioners Board this week to discuss their options with the Government

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Center fuel tank. The tank, still the original from when the original Polk County Courthouse was built in the 1960s, contains 4,500 gallons of fuel that is almost 45 years old. The fuel was purchased in 1969 for a back-up tank and throughout the years, water has collected at the bottom of the tank. Some members of the board were worried the tank might leak if they decide to burn it. "If you start to burn that old fuel, you could run into nozzle troubles," said District 4 Commissioner Warren Affeldt. Whiting replied with, "There has been some testing done and the fuel is burnable." Dietz, Whiting and the board held a lengthy discussion about the tank and the center's heating options. They even took a mini field trip to the boiler room to get a closer look. "We have some short term options and some long term options," Whiting told the Times. "The fuel can be burned with additives and would be closely monitored by myself and Mark if we decide to go that route. We will discuss more on all our options at a later time."

<http://www.crookstontimes.com/article/20140110/NEWS/140119969/1001/NEWS>

USA, NV, RENO

JANUARY 12 2014.

TANK CONDITIONS BLAMED FOR REFINERY BLAST

EMPLOYEE BURNED BY EXPLOSION SAID TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION

Marcella Corona

Pressurized and overfilled tanks have been blamed for the explosion at an oil plant near Fallon that left one employee hospitalized in early December.

The tops of three tanks at the Bango Oil Recycling Co. blew off, Fred Rogne, chief of the Fallon/Churchill Volunteer Fire Department, said on Dec. 9, the day of the explosion.

Both the Churchill Fire Department and the Nevada State Fire Marshal Division were investigating the cause.

One of the hot asphalt tanks was overfilled and overpressurized, State Fire Marshal Peter Mulvihill said. The cause for the pressure that led to the explosion is still under investigation, he said.

The explosion left one employee, Daniel Snodgrass, severely burned. He had been flown to the University of California, Davis Medical Center via Care Flight, authorities said.

Snodgrass, 24, is in a good condition, the UC-Davis nursing supervisor said.

"He's had some good days and some bad days, but more bad days than good," Ron Bell, plant manager, said. "He's got a long road ahead of him."

Snodgrass had been warming the pipes near the tank with an open-flame burner, Mulvihill said.

"The hot asphalt overflowed from the top of the tank," he said. "The employee was at the bottom and was splashed by the hot asphalt."

The asphalt was at 500 degrees, which is normal for the plant's tank farm, he said. The explosion damaged three other tanks adjacent to the one that exploded. The boiling liquid was contained to the area near the tanks, Mulvihill said.

"The local fire department did a fantastic job containing the fire to those four tanks," he said, meaning there was no environmental damage.

The plant remains closed and is being cleaned and prepped for reconstruction, Bell said.

"We still don't have an initial cause," Bell said. Both the oil plant and the Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Administration are still investigating, according to Bell and Teri Williams, spokeswoman for the the Nevada Department of Business and Industry.

The refinery was cited for about a dozen Occupational Safety and Health Administration violations between 2007 and 2012. Four of those were serious.

"That has nothing to do with what happened whatsoever," Bell said when asked if safety issues were related to the explosion.

<http://www.rgi.com/article/20140110/NEWS/301100065/Tank-conditions-blamed-refinery-blast>

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USA, MT, GREAT FALLS

JANUARY 14 2014.

WINDS DAMAGE TANK AT CALUMET MONTANA REFINERY IN GREAT FALLS

Cody Proctor

High winds sweeping through Great Falls damaged one of the tanks at Calumet Montana Refining, collapsing the west side of the structure. Calumet says the tank was under construction and was not one that was in service. The dollar amount of damage and cost of repairs are unknown at this time. The Calumet facility is located along Smelter Avenue near the 9th Street Bridge. No injuries were reported. The powerful winds have caused trouble in several areas over the weekend, ranging from tipped semis to downed trees, and even forced the closure of the Bridger Bowl ski area on Saturday.

<http://www.krtv.com/news/winds-damage-tank-at-calumet-montana-refinery-in-great-falls/>

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON

JANUARY 16 2014.

CHEMICAL SPILL COMPANY CITED FOR ISSUES AT SECOND SITE

DEP SAYS SECONDARY CONTAINMENT MISSING AT NEW LOCATION

Jonathan Mattise

State inspectors have cited the company whose spill contaminated the water supply for 300,000 West Virginians for five violations at a second facility where it is storing chemicals, and they say Freedom Industries might have to relocate its materials again because of a lack of a secondary containment plan.

State inspectors found the violations Monday at a Nitro site where Freedom Industries moved its coal-cleaning chemicals after Thursday's spill, according to a state Department of Environmental Protection report. Inspectors found that, like the Charleston facility where the leak originated, the Nitro site lacked appropriate last-resort containment to stop chemical leaks.

A department report described the site's secondary containment as "deteriorated or nonexistent." It described a building with holes in its walls at floor level and a trench surrounding the structure that lets stormwater mix with spilled chemicals.

Department spokesman Tom Aluise said the ditch eventually drains into the river.

The facility had no documentation of inspections of the Nitro site. Nor did it have proof of employee training in the past 10 years, the report said.

Aluise said Wednesday that the state might force Freedom to move the material again or build secondary containment structures. The department said it would tell Freedom how to proceed later Wednesday, according to Aluise, and he said penalties have not been determined. The report only specifies that Freedom Industries has 20 days to provide a written response detailing corrective action.

It's unclear whether the state had inspected the Nitro facility before Monday. The facility violated its stormwater permit, which doesn't require routine inspections, Aluise said.

Freedom Industries directed a request for comment to spokeswoman, who said the company didn't want to comment. Keith Beneker, the Nitro plant manager, also did not answer a phone call.

The Charleston facility flew under the regulatory radar because it only stored, not produced, chemicals, DEP officials have said.

During the 7,500-gallon spill there Thursday, a cracked containment wall allowed the chemical to ooze into the Elk River. Freedom Industries then moved the Charleston site's remaining 70,000 gallons to Nitro, which isn't near a river or water supply.

Officials have lifted the water-use ban that resulted from Thursday's spill for about half of the water system's customers.

<http://www.register-herald.com/todaysfrontpage/x1724059545/UPDATE-Chemical-spill-company-cited-for-issues-at-second-site>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, N.Y, MONROE CO

JANUARY 18 2014.

MISTAKE LEADS TO SPILL OF 200-PLUS GALLONS OF FUEL OIL

Meaghan M. McDermott

A contractor's mistake burst a storage tank inside a county building at Northampton Park in late December, spilling more than 200 gallons of fuel oil into the basement, where some of it was pumped out to nearby Salmon Creek.

According to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, workers with Samson Fuel overpressurized the storage tank while making a delivery to 304 Salmon Creek Road on Dec. 27, causing about 240 gallons of the red-dyed oil to leak. The oil flowed into the crock for the sump pump, and from there was discharged into a drainage ditch near the seasonal-use building.

Cleanup efforts began the following day, after citizens hiking on Salmon Creek Road noticed the smell and red fluid in the drainage ditch and contacted authorities. Samson Fuel owner Linda Fedele was ticketed by a DEC officer for not reporting the spill when it happened.

According to DEC, it is likely a small amount of oil entered Salmon Creek, but none had accumulated downstream of the building.

Larry Staub, Monroe County parks director, said while contractors hired by Samson Fuels to remediate the fuel oil spill were working in the basement, they discovered a second area of contamination near what he called a "slop sink."

That contamination — likely mineral spirits or another petroleum product — was uncovered while workers were drilling holes through the cellar floor to flush out the fuel oil, he said. Monroe County workers have not used those particular products in more than a decade, and Staub said it was impossible to guess when that spill may have happened. Nonetheless, the county enlisted Day Engineering to come up with a remediation plan.

As far as the fuel oil, most of that spill already has been cleaned via a mix of absorbent booms used to skim the oil off surface water in the drainage ditch, flushing and vacuuming under the basement floor and filtering the groundwater before discharging it through the sump pump to a holding tank. According to the DEC, the cleanup was completed on Wednesday.

However, Staub said the groundwater will continue to be discharged into the holding tank for the time being because it is also helping to clear pollutants from the mineral spirits spill.

He said Samson Fuels has been very cooperative and is paying for all cleanup of the fuel oil spill, and that the work for the second spill is being done in-house at minimal cost.

The 973-acre Northampton Park straddles the Ogden-Sweden town lines. It was the source of controversy over the summer when the County Legislature agreed to allow Monroe County Fair and Recreation Association, a private organization, to construct buildings on and use 25 acres of the park 10 days a year. The move prompted a lawsuit by residents, which was dismissed.

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/local/2014/01/17/mistake-leads-to-spill-of-200-plus-gallons-of-fuel-oil-/4593665/>

USA, DE, WILMINGTON

JANUARY 18 2014.

EPA TRIES TO MAP A TOXIC LEGACY IN DELAWARE

Snow flurries rode a faint chemical breeze across Red Lion Creek marsh near Delaware City on Thursday as Environmental Protection Agency contractors maneuvered a sediment probe across cold muck and crackling reeds.

The labor, science and mothball-like aromas were legacies of the Standard Chlorine/Metachem debacle, a 2002 chemical plant bankruptcy that followed years of spills, loose regulation and illegal operations that left state and federal taxpayers with a cleanup bill last estimated at \$100 million.

It is a number that could push higher, even after a dozen years of government control and study, as

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

efforts to locate and measure contamination and nail down new cleanup and containment strategies for soil and groundwater continue. A separate agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, is assisting, while also mapping threats to a deep aquifer, the Potomac, used for public utility drinking water wells to the north and south.

"It's a highly complex site. I think all Superfund sites are, but this, given the nature of the contamination we have and the volume of contamination, has been complex from day one," said Brad White, the EPA's remedial project manager.

David Carter, conservation chairman for Delaware Audubon Society, said the costly exercise proved the value of Delaware's ban on new heavy industry in the Coastal Zone, and the public stakes in discussions about stretching or amending the conservation law for jobs and economic development.

"The brutal reality is that we do not currently have the technology, knowledge, and/or financial resources to adequately clean up this toxic industrial site," Carter said. "Under such circumstances, the proposed cures may come at risk of being worse than the damage done."

White said Thursday that the EPA is wrapping up weeks of sediment sampling, at 80 different spots near the creek, to help scientists figure out what, if any, method to use for decontaminating about 30 acres of wetlands and adjacent areas where chlorinated benzenes spilled into the landscape.

Toxic chlorinated benzenes, dioxins and poly-chlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs have been found in sediments to a depth of about 24 feet, and in groundwater nearby at depths of 150 feet or more. Even in wetlands hundreds of yards from former production and storage areas, workers are required to wear protective suits and, in some conditions, air-filtering masks.

For decades, the factory produced chemicals used to make herbicides and pesticides, in some cases stockpiling wastes and fending off safe disposal orders with promises of recycling. Although owners were under orders for years to finance cleanup and containment studies, federal officials after the bankruptcy described the work as superficial or incomplete, leaving taxpayers to undercover the depth of the problems.

Many of the chemicals used and produced at the plant are carcinogenic and long-lived, with a tendency to accumulate in plant and animal tissues. Federal regulators in recent years reassessed and tightened public health and exposure standards for some of the site's more-common contaminants, ratcheting up risk calculations.

State officials cannot say for certain what materials moved in and out of the plant over the years. Some of the operations inventories were byproducts imported from older and more loosely regulated pesticide manufacturing processes in Europe, or were recycled from solvents used by businesses that cleaned PCBs from electrical transformers.

For a time, the plant's byproducts were shipped to another company for use in making Agent Orange, the toxic herbicide that earned notoriety in Vietnam.

"The goal of this event is to fill in data gaps, both vertically and areally, for places where we don't have a lot of information," White said. "Hopefully, this is one of our last characterization events. Over the next year we'll be combing through the data and hopefully sometime in 2015 we'll have a better idea on the final remedial strategy out here."

On Thursday morning, a tank-like crawler built in Louisiana and specially leased for the Red Lion Creek work, lumbered along the wetland edge. Workers on top, wearing protective suits, peered at a hand-held global positioning system to find the right spot, then positioned sections of pipe and rattled them into the sediment, part of the chore of pulling up long tubes of sediment for analysis.

"Our goal is to look at: 'Where is the contamination, what is the risk to human health and the environment and what will it take to clean it up,'" White said.

Options for the wetlands range from letting nature take its course to installation of big ground filters containing chemical-eating bacteria, to digging out and treating sediments in complex "bio-reactors." A last resort: excavation and disposal.

Nearby, in the concrete slab-strewn area that marks Metachem's former production area, officials are waiting for federal appropriations to carry out another option: entombment. As much as \$19 million would be needed to permanently seal ground where chemicals have soaked down to depths of 70 feet and

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

more, leaving no hope for even an expensive recovery. EPA is still waiting for money to begin the capping project.

"I didn't want to start crushing concrete pads out here because I'm not sure what's underneath them." White said. "That's all material that will be under the cap, and I didn't want to make matters worse" by disturbing contamination ahead of time.

A 3-foot wide, 70-foot deep, 1-mile in circumference buried wall surrounds the entire production area, underlain by a "pump and treat" well system capturing toxic groundwater from the worst part of the site year-round.

Delaware City Manager and former state representative Richard Cathcart said that his community is watching the process closely.

"It's not an immediate problem for us, but it is a concern," Cathcart said.

"We're interested in anything that's going on in the aquifer. They're more shallow than ours, but we're keeping abreast of it. There's still always the concern that it could damage our aquifer."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/01/16/epa-toxic-metachem-superfund/4553595/>

USA, MI, SPRINGPORT

JANUARY 19 2014.

OIL TANK EXPLODES AT JACKSON COUNTY FARM BUT NO ONE INJURED

Benjamin Raven

The Springport/Clarence Fire Department responded to an oil tank explosion on the Betz Family Farm off Clinton Road (M-50).

Residents nearby told the Springport Police Department that it was so loud it shook their windows.

"I heard it happen a little after 7 p.m.," said Tom. Betz, owner of the farm. "Everyone in this area either felt it or heard it, because all the neighbors started calling.

"As of now, I have no idea how this started."

There are three connected tanks in the field, two filled with oil and one with water. The water tank was the one that burst into flames, as oil still passes through it.

Firefighters warned of a secondary explosion but were able to shut the oil off and control the fire as they watched the flame burn out.

Betz said that there was nothing suspicious leading up to this event, as the tanks are regularly checked and maintained.

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2014/01/oil_tank_explodes_at_betz_fami.html

JAMAICA, KINGSTON

JANUARY 20 2014.

RECKLESS REFILL - MEN CHARGED WITH OPERATING ILLEGAL MOBILE GAS STATION

Chad Bryan

Two men alleged to have been operating a mobile gas station were hauled before the Corporate Area Resident Magistrate's Court last Wednesday. They have been charged with dealing in or selling petroleum without a licence, and operating a petroleum mobile filling station without a licence.

The men were nabbed in St Andrew late last year, following the seizure of a motor truck and equipment used to operate a mobile gas station. Items seized by the police include a petrol pump, 14 motor vehicle tyres, a cable, and mechanical tools.

The Crown alleges that the police, while on patrol, spotted a man pumping gas from a tank in the back of a motor truck. It is reported that the truck had been retrofitted to facilitate the operation. The Crown further alleges that one of the men was unable to provide a licence permitting him to sell gasoline. He was subsequently charged with breaches of the Petroleum Act.

Another man later turned up at the police station and was also charged. The men are booked to reappear in court on February 5, at which point the matter will be mentioned. Attorney-at-law Patrick

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Peterkin represents the men.

Immediate past president of the Jamaica Gasolene Retailers Association (JGRA), Trevor Heaven, is aware of the practice and maintained that the association is in full support of legal action against those involved.

"You cannot get a licence to transport gas like that. I only know of the smaller tanks for servicing service vehicles, and these are done off the (public) roads. It's like a vehicle with diesel oil in particular, that goes to remote sites which services tractors and bulldozers," Heaven said.

"Bauxite companies use them quite a bit, but there are some regulations and rules, and there is a structure in place. You cannot have a man who just gets a container and puts this in the back of a truck and goes out and sells fuel. It's ridiculous," Heaven said, adding that it would also give rise to public-safety concerns.

"You wouldn't drive around and see people transporting a vehicle with gas. Everybody feels like there is a lot of money selling gas. You have a vehicle and you go around selling gas and there is no regulation, nothing from the Bureau of Standards," he said.

Heaven added that the JGRA has also seen persons advertising this kind of service on the road, which the association has come out strongly against. Though the practice is not prevalent, he recalls seeing advertisements in St Ann and Trelawny.

Heaven was also concerned about the fuel itself.

"The source of the fuel is in question, and the quality of the fuel is also in question. There is no regulation in terms of testing and calibration and verification and the amount. You just don't know what you are getting," Heaven pointed out.

In an article written in 2003 by Carla Paras-Sison for The Philippine Star, an oil company was looking into the prospects of operating a mobile gas station. According to the article, the fuel tanker would have a capacity of 5,000 litres, with a built-in fuel dispenser with litre and value indicators.

However, for safety reasons the tanker would carry only diesel and kerosene fuels.

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20140119/auto/auto11.html>

USA, TX, BLOOMINGTON

JANUARY 20 2014.

RESIDENTS FEAR WELL WILL HURT WATER SUPPLY

Melissa Crowe

Massive, rusted tanks block the front view from Lucy Morales' Bloomington home.

The tanks and oil wells that were commonplace during the Amerada-Hess drilling heyday of the late 1940s are moving back into the community. With that, disposal wells are spreading, and companies are pulling permits for sites inside city limits.

"I think we need to do something about it," Morales said. "I think we need to try to stop it."

Victoria County residents line both sides of the fence when it comes to disposal wells. As oil and gas production in the Eagle Ford Shale continues and fracking continues producing millions of barrels of wastewater, companies are looking for places to dispose of it.

Industry personnel say the water is stored securely in wells drilled thousands of feet deep. However, the wells cross aquifers residents' lives depend on, the injection pressure of the water often exceeds permitted values, and lists of chemicals in the water are not always made public.

While the disposal wells are seen almost as tradeoff to the blessings of oil, Morales is organizing residents, educators, groundwater conservation members, health professionals and local elected officials to protest a saltwater injection well proposed by the Houston-based company Petrodome Operating LLC.

Life after the boom

Along Melrose and Nueces streets and at the corner of Indiana and Seventh streets, exposed pipelines line the pavement in front of metal fabricated cottages rented to "newcomers" at \$125 a month.

"They're from the oil field, chemical plants, all over," Victoria County Commissioner Danny Garcia

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

said about the tenants. Some come because they can't afford to live anywhere else.

"So this is life after the oil boom," Garcia said.

Bloomington's population lingers about 2,500 - the majority is Hispanic, and almost 23percent is living below the poverty line, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The unemployment rate sits at 6 percent, just below the national average, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The unincorporated town has a school district and a post office, a handful of taco joints and a dollar store. Traffic comes on schedule as the trudging train rolls by, blocking the main road in and out of town.

Morales said the town missed its opportunity to incorporate. Without ordinances to enforce community standards, residents live in dilapidated homes along rutted streets, out of sight, about 12 miles from the county seat.

Garcia is taking charge to be the town's voice, to make life better.

Across a rusted cattle guard off Key Road, brittle mesquite trees line the road to a former saltwater pit.

The distinct odor of oil leaches from the dirt, coating ditches and puddles with a thick sheen throughout the field.

"This is what's left after the oil boom," Garcia said. "Tell me why the grass doesn't grow there. Is there something in the water? There's something there."

It's another reminder of the community's past life and the prosperity that's now gone.

"It's just a hole they dug up and dumped whatever they wanted in," Garcia said. "You can tell by the sand - it's salt."

The well, used by XOG Operating, is surrounded by clumps of oil, dead grass and dead mesquite trees.

"Why is this one dead and those aren't?" Garcia asked, pointing to a row of lifeless trees.

The Railroad Commission of Texas, which monitors the oil and gas industry, reported in 2011 that there has never been a recorded case of frack fluid entering a water table.

That record doesn't appease Bloomington residents. The property is ungated, unsupervised.

Garcia worries about reckless teenagers trespassing in the field, the potential for an accident and the unavoidable day a student falls into one of the open pits.

He worries that it's upstream from the school's water well, creating the potential for disaster.

About 200 feet away, the oil company's property backs up to residences on Fifth Street.

For those homeowners, "it's all they can afford," Garcia said. "And they don't have a clue it's here."

'It was terrible'

Morales, who has made her name in the community as an outspoken activist, spearheaded the petition effort to protest one of the most recent disposal well applications in Bloomington, this one from Petrodome, a Houston-based company proposing a site north of the community's water supply.

Morales lives near the water tower, where exposed oil and gas pipes have jut across the culverts for years. She remembers the toll the oil boom left on the community, the unlined salt pits left behind.

"It was terrible," she said.

She filed a petition against the owners of the pits back then. She wanted them covered and eventually got her way. But that was many years ago, and this fight against Petrodome may not be so easy.

Petrodome is operating an oil well on the Heins lease, located near the proposed disposal well, "That was originally drilled in the late 1940s into the Greta formation," said Robert Wonish, president of the company.

"We're looking for leftover oil and gas," he said Friday.

Wonish said the well's pressure would be tested every five years. If there's a leak, it would be reported within 24 hours, the company would stop injecting water and make the necessary repairs, he said.

Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District, the Bloomington school district and the Victoria County Water Control Improvement Development board there have formally protested the well.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

During a meeting Friday of the groundwater conservation district, Bloomington residents, elected officials and state Rep. Geanie Morrison expressed their concerns and raised questions about the worst-case scenario.

Wonish responded, "You're asking questions that most likely would never happen."

The company has plans to drill a third well in the area.

"I want safe water for my community," Morales said. "I want to make sure my grandchildren and great-grandchildren - all the people in the community - have good, clean, safe water."

Lisa Campbell, a doctor of nursing practice, advocates for the health of the blighted community.

"As a public health nurse, it is unethical for me to sit back and not say anything when there is a potential harm to the public's health," she said.

Campbell and Garcia, the county commissioner, will present their case against Petrodome's permit at a railroad commission hearing, which does not yet have a set date.

"You may have the latest technology and the best methods; you may not have any problems, but there are no guarantees," Garcia said. "We don't live in a perfect world."

Garcia speaks in a flustered tone when conversation sways to the oil and gas industry.

"This land is owned by somebody, and he's entitled to his minerals," Garcia said. "There's oil down there, and he wants it. There's also water down there, and that belongs to us."

Potential for disaster

Whatever the outcome, Garcia is convinced it will come down to money - the money for the residents to hire an attorney, the attorney already hired to represent the industry, money for research and money for good public relations.

It wouldn't be an issue if it didn't come down to money, he said.

Oil and gas producers have options for managing and treating frack water. However, injection requires little or no treatment and is often the least expensive option, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Jim Allison, an Austin-based attorney who represents the groundwater conservation district, spoke during Friday's meeting.

He wants to see rules changed so oil and gas companies are required to have a larger buffer zone between their producing wells and their disposal wells.

"We saw these injection wells normally located on large tracts, away from population centers and public water supply sources," Allison said. "Over the years, the cost of transporting and the risk of transporting have led to them being located closer and closer to the production source. In this case, it's also closer to the public water supply source."

In a quarter-mile radius from the proposed well, 10 wells have been plugged; two were permitted but later abandoned.

If the plug is installed incorrectly, "fluids could come back up the old well and, thereby, reach the groundwater," Allison said.

Another company in the area, KDM, wants to amend its disposal well permit to increase the pressure. Petrodome officials are protesting that application with concerns that it could affect their mineral rights at the Heins lease.

While the public protest is ongoing, Petrodome is trucking its wastewater from the Heins lease to another well outside Bloomington's city limit, Garcia said, proving to him there are other locations and options outside the community.

Petrodome is proposing to inject up to 10,000 barrels daily of salt water into the Catahoula Tuff for permanent storage, about 3,600 feet underground and through the Evangeline aquifer, which sits about 1,200 feet deep.

Despite industry reports that the technology is more advanced than it was in Bloomington's past, the potential for disaster still exists.

The aquifer in the Pecos Valley is living proof.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Still dealing with contamination caused by oil-field brine in 2005, a Texas Water Development Board report found most of the groundwater's contamination "is related to past disposal of large quantities of brine in unlined pits or improperly cased oil wells."

The company that was drilling there had its permit revoked, and it later went bankrupt.

From her position as a health nurse, Campbell wants to test Bloomington's water, which residents like Morales have stopped drinking.

"For me, it's the safety of the drinking water," Campbell said. "This is a blighted area of our county, and they need people who can advocate for them. That's my job."

The industry, and fracking in particular, has loopholes and exemptions from federal law, including the Safe Drinking Water Act; Clean Water Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; and Clean Air Act.

One such exemption allows companies to inject anything other than diesel fuel underground without violating the Safe Drinking Water Act.

"They don't allow that for anybody else," Campbell said.

She said the country, let alone Bloomington, will never see a moratorium on fracking, but residents can do all in their power to protect their drinking water.

Morales is more hopeful.

"I'm hoping that they don't get their permit," Morales said. "There's got to be another way of doing business that doesn't harm the community."

http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2014/jan/18/mc_bloomington_wells_011913_222973/

NIGERIA, LAGOS, APAPA

JANUARY 20 2014.

TANK FARM: A LOOMING DANGER IGNORED

Bennett Oghifo

There is always a nagging fear that something would go wrong someday to cause unquantifiable disaster at the highly inflammable petrol tank farms that stretch along the Apapa waterfront. Even the owners of the farms harbor this fear but sigh in relief each day it did not happen. They are lucky to feel that way because they live far away in Ikoyi or Victoria Island and would probably hear of the disaster as news breaks. However, those who live just outside the perimeter fence of the tank farms and, who battled without success to stop the construction of the first petrol silo on the first farm are not that lucky.

Residents of the low density Beachland and Julius Berger estates built their homes and raised their families there before the investors brought a threatening danger to their neighbourhood. First, these residents were scared, as they still are, but they soon got used to fear and resigned themselves to fate. It is their home and, so they made personal and collective survival plans on how to outrun raging fire. They perform mental fire drills continually. They keep watch for the faintest sign of smoke from across their fence. The movement of every family is known by every member of that family and children in the German school within the Beachland estate are taught fire drills by the school, and by their mothers. Nobody loves this lifestyle, particularly when they are unsure of the magnitude of the fire when it is ignited. People believe it is a matter of when, citing the massive destruction caused last week by the explosion of a tanker bearing a mere 33,000 litres of premium motor spirit (petrol) as a test case. The Federal and Lagos state governments must show leadership in this matter to keep citizens safe at all times. It is their responsibility.

Fire experts say unlike flood water that gets to the ankle before it builds up enough to drown its victims, fire creeps up on unsuspecting victims. Like a mean warrior, it sends up smoke to cut off the oxygen link before it burns. Fire does not kill; it is the smoke that kills. Thus, families know they must invest in breathing apparatus; oxygen masks and cylinders as well as fire resistant suits in addition to fire retardants/extinguishers. The air those who live close to tank farms breathe is usually tainted with the smell of petrol. According to experts, this means this inflammable spirit is close by and that it can explode, if

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ignited, like bomb, spreading and claiming more victims in the process.

Those who live in mortal fear of being burnt in their sleep or while going about their businesses have their homes and offices just across the road or fence from the deadly fuel laden silos on the tank farms that stretch from the Sunrise Bus Stop to almost the end of Olorogun Michael Ibru Boulevard (former Creek Road).

For instance, the developers of two residential estates, Beachland and Julius Berger, off Sunrise Bus Stop on the Mile II-Apapa stretch, were attracted by the serene environment and the waterfront. They built their homes and set up a boat club, from where they take boat rides into the creeks and up to the mouth of the Atlantic Ocean for sport. For them, it was and still is the good life, only that the once beautiful water is polluted by oil firms and have to work their noses to be able to take in oxygen.

The estates are of international standards and were built to the tastes of the high class residents. They have the best facilities and the asking price of a plot of land in the Beachland Estate is about N100 million.

According to an Estate Surveyor, Okey Nwainokpo, "Nobody walks away from such a huge investment and so it is difficult to ask the people to relocate. Besides, they got there first and, who approved the other developments? Did they conduct Environmental Impact Assessment or audit?"

Also, Beachland Estate is where the German School is situated. On its left is Julius Berger Estate, home to the company's management team and their families. On Beachland's right is Capital Oil's tank farm; on its left are tank farms managed by Obat and Rahmannia. There are other ominous-looking tank farms on that stretch.

After last week's fire caused by the explosion of a tanker bearing 33,000 litres of premium motor spirit (petrol), the Manager of Beachland Estate, Mr. Gbenga Egunjobi, restated the plea of residents that the tank farms be relocated.

Egunjobi said, "I advise government to relocate the tank farms from the residential areas because tank farms are supposed to be at least 25 kilometres away from where people are residing. It is only in Nigeria where tank farms are situated within residential areas. They are too close for comfort and we want government to yield to our call."

How silos sprang up

In the past, storage of petroleum products in huge silos was reserved for oil multinationals with the competence in the management of the highly inflammable tank farms. But then things changed in 1998 with the liberalisation of fuel import trade. As fuel shortages grew in magnitude in the mid-1990s, the federal government was compelled to open up the business of fuel importation to more private sector operators. This led to increased investment in depots and facilities in and around the Apapa seaports.

With increasing demand for tank farm space, several warehouses along the Apapa road stretch were demolished. However, the construction of fuel depots was done without conducting environmental impact assessment studies and in outright disregard to the safety and wellbeing of the residential estates already in the neighbourhood.

Ironically, owners of these tank farms live in faraway Ikoyi, Victoria Island and Lekki, said Chinedu Nwokolo, a shipping agent with a major line who also resides in Apapa. "The owners did not construct them to the standards the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) prescribed because they were constructed by businessmen who wanted to take advantage of the fuel importation regime and the inability of the nation's refineries to function properly. They know that when the refineries start operations they will be out of business. So, why spend so much money building something that conforms to mandatory safety measures."

About this time last year, there was a fire at a barge owned by MRS, one of the big importers of petroleum products in the country. After the fire was doused, the Chairman of MRS Plc., Sayyu Dantata was quoted as saying fire could happen anytime, particularly during the dry season.

He said, "Obviously there must have been something that caused the barge to catch fire and

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explode, but investigations are still ongoing to ascertain what actually caused the fire. The important thing for me personally and the company is that we took precautionary measures to match international standards of modern Oil installations in terms of safety.

Regardless of this, the fire caused major damage. He could not believe the extent of the devastation. "I'll tell you the truth, when I arrived at the scene of the fire incident less than two hours after, I could not believe that no one died because the amount of damage I saw from the explosion was enormous."

That inferno was caused by a barge that was empty at the time of the explosion. Dantata said, "It was an empty barge. If it was laden with fuel you can imagine what the situation would have been, even though an empty barge can be more dangerous than a barge that is full of oil because there is no oxygen and it is easier to monitor."

Relocation plans

Worried by the development last January, Lagos State Governor, Babatunde Fashola, promised to work towards a relocation of the tank farms to the Lekki Free Trade Zone, away from residential areas. Dantata said the Governor's move was alright but that there were issues that should be attended to before the relocation.

According to him, "If he is talking about free zone, we'll be happy because people will build more modern facilities, better than the ones we have now and I can assure you that if our facility was not built with all safety standards strictly adhered to, perhaps the fire incident would have been worse."

Government will also have to increase the frequency of transportation of petroleum products by rail, which resumed in September last year.

However, Dantata said tank farm owners understood the governor's line of thought and would cooperate with him to ensure a successful relocation. "We are on the same page with the governor -to sit down, design and plan, when and how the depots can be relocated. For depots to be relocated we have to look into the issue of pipelines. Today, you have people who continue to vandalise petroleum pipelines."

He said if security of pipelines was guaranteed, depots would not need to be by the sea, saying "If there is a will, there is always a way. It is a problem that all Nigerians need to come together to solve."

Poverty, he said was largely responsible for the problem, "because if you have means to live well then why would you think of bursting a pipeline to steal product, a very risky venture that has consistently claimed the lives of many people."

According to him, "It may take 5-10 years to relocate the terminals but let's sit down with state, federal government and marketers to plan. It is a gradual process. The good thing about it is that when he (Lagos State governor) says things, he does it."

DPR guidelines

The Department of Petroleum Resources' guidelines stipulate that fuel depots must be far away from high-density residential areas; should be close to deep waterways, of which the water body must be above 7.5 metres; and the soil texture must be hard enough to carry the basement of the tank, which must be buried deep into the earth so that it does not shift or collapse.

DPR also stipulates that the tanks must be 15 metres apart with a 5-metre concrete wall constructed around each of them and they must rest on a concrete floor. The loading gantry, according to the Department, must be 30m away from the tanks.

In respect of fire-fighting preparedness plan, the DPR stipulates that each tank must have a thousand metric ton capacity water hydrant to which is connected a water sprinkler that should be installed on its top. This equipment would be handled by well-trained firefighting personnel and that there should be enough ventilation in each tank to control pressure changes as well as thunder arrestors.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Safety measures

There is a firm belief among residents of homes in the vicinity of the tank farms that they cannot prepare enough for fire outbreak. According to an engineer, Afolabi Adedeji, "There is fire hazard/risk, which, coupled with the activities of militants/insurgents and the capabilities of the public fire services, could be a very real threat, not just to those living in the immediate vicinity but to metropolitan Lagos."

Adedeji said this devastation could be up to an approximate radius of five to 10 kilometers of Apapa where the bulk of the tank farms are located.

Another safety expert, Patrick Adenusi, said the tank farm owners ignored most of the safety requirements, thus putting the lives of families in their neighbourhood in danger. "The emergency preparedness plan in the event of any emergency in that tank farm area is zero. There will be no ship left in Nigeria waters if fire breaks out there. The current fire service we have does not have the equipment to fight any fire outbreak there, neither do the tank farm owners," he said.

He was worried that even the National Emergency Management Agency, which is allocated funds annually, does not monitor these tank farms. "The first step to emergency management is taking preventive measures. The tank farms are a disaster waiting to happen because the whole of Apapa, Ajegunle, Ijora and others around will not survive it, as the explosion of one tank alone can wreck untold havoc."

Adenusi said he prays daily that nothing should happen at the farms. "If any of those tanks bust and the fuel spills on top of the water there will be disaster because all those ships and their cargo at the dock stand the risk of being destroyed. So, the NEMA, fire service department, the ports, and federal government should ensure that we have the capacity to avert and control a disaster."

Responding to a disaster, he said, would depend on the response time because if it comes late then the risk would increase. "If fire breaks out there, we will need to appeal to the global community for help." He reasoned that the way the tanks are clustered would make them vulnerable. "If fire occurs at the back, I don't think any Nigerian fire fighter will take the risk of driving to the back to fight it because they don't have the equipment."

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/tank-farm-a-looming-danger-ignored/169067/>

W.VA, CHARLESTON

JANUARY 23 2014.

GOVERNOR DETAILS PROPOSED ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANK LEGISLATION

Shauna Johnson

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin is moving quickly to address the problems identified when a chemical leak along the Elk River made tap water unusable for days for more than 300,000 people in parts of nine West Virginia counties.

Tomblin talked about the proposed West Virginia Source Water Protection Act at the State Capitol on Monday, eleven days after the leak of crude MCHM.

If approved, the legislation will create an above ground storage tank regulatory program to ensure such facilities are built and maintained under consistent safety standards. As part of it, companies will have to self-report the location of all above ground storage tanks and detail the construction and maintenance on each tank.

The state Department of Environmental Protection will be able to assess penalties for a facility's non-compliance.

Additionally, all public water systems will have to have written plans in place to prepare for emergencies, especially those involving possible contaminants discharged into the water supply.

"It's aimed at protecting our public safety by requiring companies to act in a responsible manner," said Jason Pizatella, Tomblin Administration deputy chief of staff. "Accidents do happen, but this legislation will go very, very far in trying to prevent something like this from ever happening again."

A coal processing chemical, an estimated 7,500 gallons of crude MCHM, leaked from a tank Freedom Industries owns in Charleston on Jan. 9.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

"The fact that Freedom Industries was allowed to operate the way it was and the secondary containment was able to deteriorate the way it did is something that shouldn't happen again," said Pizatella.

Already, the state House of Delegates has approved a bill that would provide financial assistance to the small businesses that were forced to close because of the water emergency.

A separate regulatory bill is pending in the state Senate.

<http://wvmetronews.com/2014/01/20/governor-details-proposed-above-ground-storage-tank-legislation/>

USA, OH, WASHINGTON CO, BELPRE

JANUARY 23 2014.

KRATON CONTAINS SOLVENT LEAK

A process solvent Sunday night leaked and was contained at Kraton where officials sounded the alert system, a Kraton spokesman said.

The incident occurred around 11:30 p.m. when an employee tightening a gauge on a pump broke part of the pipe where the gauge went into, plant spokesman Mike White said. White called the release minor.

About 20 gallons of the solvent, cyclohexane, leaked from the pipe, but went into the in-plant water treatment center, White said. Nothing leaked off-plant as all 20 gallons were contained on site, he said.

The in-plant treatment system is not part of the retention pond that flows into Davis Creek or the Ohio River and there was no impact to the community or fish, White said.

The incident is the third release at the plant since Jan. 9 when diethyl ether and cyclohexane, both used to cool equipment, leaked into Davis Creek. A second leak occurred the next morning.

Both were attributed to cold weather, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said only one of 27 river samples showed a detectable level of one of the chemicals, diethyl ether, at an amount of 72 parts per billion. A toxicologist with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry said that was not high enough to pose a health risk to humans.

White said the plant alarm was sounded at 11:30 p.m., standard operating procedure, and local volunteer fire departments were contacted. The all-clear was sounded around 1 a.m., he said.

"Unfortunately, this has been our third incident within the last two weeks. There should be no misunderstanding that we are committed to the safety of employees, contractors and this community and our environment," White said. "This is the foundation under which we do all things and that will not change."

<http://www.newsandsentinel.com/page/content.detail/id/582458/Kraton-contains-solvent-leak.html?nav=5061>

USA, LA, BATON ROUGE

JANUARY 23 2014.

EXXONMOBIL WON'T ADMIT BATON ROUGE PLANTS HAD SAFETY VIOLATIONS

Susan Buchanan

ExxonMobil must pay \$2.329 million in a settlement, announced by Louisiana's Dept. of Environmental Quality last August and finalized early this month, to address violations from 2008 into 2013 at its greater Baton Rouge facilities. The settlement was DEQ's biggest with any company last year. But critics question whether the agreement was large enough or even appropriate. ExxonMobil, a major employer in the state capital, was cited for a series of problems at its refinery and resin-finishing and chemical plants in East Baton Rouge Parish and its tank-farm facility in West Baton Rouge.

In the agreement, DEQ said the settlement spares both parties the expense of litigation. The settlement was proposed by ExxonMobil and approved by the state following extensive negotiations, according to DEQ. ExxonMobil in the accord denies that it committed any violations or is liable for any

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

penalties. But the company nonetheless agreed to a \$300,000 payment to settle claims. Of that, \$34,386 covered DEQ's enforcement costs against ExxonMobil's Baton Rouge-area facilities.

Early this month, DEQ said the settlement was approved following a public review period late last year and was signed by state Attorney General Buddy Caldwell in December. In addition to paying a civil penalty of \$300,000 to DEQ, ExxonMobil under the agreement must spend at least \$1 million on Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures or SPCC projects at its Baton Rouge complex and will fund beneficial environmental projects or BEPs totaling \$1.029 million. The accord gives ExxonMobil deadlines and requires the company to keep DEQ up to date on how its settlement obligations are met.

In a separate penalty last August, DEQ fined ExxonMobil \$61,912 for violations associated with a June 14, 2012 naphtha release at its Baton Rouge chemical plant. Naphtha contains benzene, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies as a human carcinogen. Residents near the plant said they suffered health ailments from the discharge.

The final agreement contains more than 40 pages of violations for chemical releases and spills and operational infractions dating to 2008. Back-to-back incidents occurred at times. Unauthorized refinery discharges reported by ExxonMobil, for instance, were almost monthly in some years, and were especially frequent in 2008--when they totaled at least six in May alone.

So what does the company say about the agreement? "ExxonMobil worked with DEQ last year to identify ways we can go beyond regulatory and permit requirements to continue to enhance our environmental performance going forward," Stephanie Cargile, the company's government affairs manager in Baton Rouge, said last week. "In addition to making direct penalty payments to DEQ, ExxonMobil will make donations to local non-profit organizations. ExxonMobil voluntarily identified several projects that would enhance the environment of neighborhoods near our operations." She said the company solicited input last year from neighbors and regulatory agencies--the East Baton Rouge Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, DEQ and the state's Dept. of Natural Resources--to address community needs and supported their recommendations.

In terms of funding, the top four BEPs approved under the settlement are \$400,000 for a Groundwater Reduction Project to trim the company's groundwater usage; a \$250,000 donation to DEQ to improve its Early Warning Organic Chemical Detection System; a \$100,000 donation to the East Baton Rouge Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness/Local Emergency Planning Committee to implement the ExxonMobil North Baton Rouge Emergency Preparedness Initiative; and a \$100,000 donation to Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge for weatherproofing and air tightening of homes, especially those next to ExxonMobil facilities.

What's the impetus for ExxonMobil to improve its practices in Baton Rouge? "The only part of the settlement that seems aimed at correcting problems and preventing future emissions is the \$1 million for the Spill Prevention Control or the SPCC program," Anna Hrybyk, program manager at the Louisiana Bucket Brigade in New Orleans, said last week.

SPCC is a set of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations, implemented in 1973 and updated since then, to prevent oil spills. Refineries and other facilities are required to have oil spill prevention or SPCC plans.

"The SPCC plan is already a requirement of their permits," Hrybyk said. "So this is like giving Exxon back \$1 million to do with as they please." The Bucket Brigade wants to take a look at Exxon's SPCCs. "We filed a public records request with DEQ, and Exxon has 60 days from finalization of the settlement on Jan. 9 to submit its SPCC to DEQ under our request," she said. "After that, I'm not sure how long it will take for us to get it."

Jean Kelly, DEQ spokeswoman, said that under federal requirements existing SPCC plans at ExxonMobil's Baton Rouge complex contain procedures, methods, equipment and other ways to prevent oil discharges from non-transportation facilities into navigable waters. SPCC Regulation 40 CFR Part 112 requires such plans. "The settlement agreement goes above and beyond this requirement by having ExxonMobil focus on its benzene storage tanks, since its spill occurred from a benzene storage tank, and to

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

focus specifically on those tanks that contain greater than 20 percent benzene," she said. Kelly was referring to the company's June 14, 2012 benzene accident. Under the settlement, Exxon must improve benzene tank spill-detection and containment to reduce health and environmental risks, she said. The settlement's benzene-tank requirements exceed federal rules.

"But having an SPCC on file doesn't seem to do anything to prevent accidents at Exxon," Hrybyk said. "The company's Baton Rouge complex has the highest accident rate of refineries and associated chemical plants in the state, and averaged almost two accidents per week in 2012. And that was only what they reported." ExxonMobil doesn't always tell the truth about its accidents, she said, pointing to the company's June 2012 benzene spill. "According to DEQ's penalty worksheet for that violation, Exxon waited 52 hours before telling DEQ that over 31,000 pounds of benzene had leaked, not 10 pounds as the company initially reported."

Moreover, "the money allocated for the Local Emergency Planning Committee and Rebuilding Together isn't enough to improve environmental health in the area, given Exxon's frequent accidents," Hrybyk said. "How can you weatherize homes with \$100,000 for 59,000 people living within two miles of the plant? That small amount is an insult to people living near the facility whose homes are not air tight."

Hrybyk said sheltering in place in less-than-air-tight homes is risky during leaks because chemicals seep into houses and become trapped there. "Some of these chemicals are heavier than air, causing adverse health effects, and they are particularly dangerous for children," she said. When plants in Louisiana have accidents that emit chemicals, nearby residents are usually ordered to shelter at home. Authorities say that keeps them out of smoke and harm's way.

In the settlement, Exxon also agreed to a \$50,000 donation to the Baton Rouge Area Foundation for groundwater-conservation awareness in East Baton Rouge Parish; a \$50,000 donation to DEQ to fund the agency's Expanded Age Distribution and Vehicle Population Data Project on emissions in Louisiana; a \$29,000 donation to the Louisiana Foundation for Excellence in Science, Technology and Education, or LaFESTE, for the Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition; a \$25,000 donation to Baton Rouge Green Association Inc.'s NeighborWoods project near the refinery; and \$25,000 payment to install a meteorological station at the company's Baton Rouge refinery complex.

Cargile said the company's BEP payments must be made within 60 days after the finalized agreement on Jan. 9. "The projects, of course, may take longer to implement," she said. "The settlement outlines timelines in which the BEPs and projects will be completed."

To read the settlement agreement and Exxon's Baton Rouge-area violations on the web, visit

http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/portals/0/enforcement/bep/pdf/ExxonMobil_Final.pdf

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/susan-buchanan/exxonmobil-wont-admit-bat_b_4641376.html

CANADA, B.C, VANCOUVER

JANUARY 23 2014.

TANK SPILLS 220,000 GALLONS OF ASPHALT OIL IN WEST VANCOUVER, LIQUID CONTAINED TO ASPHALT FACILITY

Patty Hastings

Environmental regulators were notified Wednesday of an estimated 220,000-gallon oil spill contained inside a Vancouver asphalt plant.

Workers discovered the spill around 7 a.m. Wednesday at Albina Asphalt, 1300 W. Eighth St. The plant's company president, Jeff Arntson, said the spill occurred sometime after 5:30 a.m., when workers selling a load of asphalt saw no problems with the tank.

"We're attempting to recover as much of it as we can while it's still flowing," Arntson said.

The Southwest Washington Clean Air Agency and the Department of Ecology were notified, along with the neighboring Port of Vancouver. The floor of the tank evidently failed, forming a hole, which spilled hot asphalt oil into a containment area, said SWCAA executive director Bob Elliott. The oil flowed downhill, forming a pool about 2 feet deep.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

"It's a large enough quantity it's going to take some considerable effort on the part of Albina Asphalt and their contractor to clean up the site," Elliott said. "At this point in time, it's not clear how long the cleanup will take."

The liquid asphalt is contained inside the property, which is surrounded by a dike, Elliott said.

Elliott said the odor released by the spill was minimal. However, residents in the surrounding neighborhoods described the smell as strong. Jamie McClure, who lives around Lincoln Avenue and West 19th Street in the Hough neighborhood, said it "smelled like someone was burning a tire in their wood stove."

Linda Kent, spokeswoman with the Department of Ecology, said that 20,000 to 30,000 gallons will be vacuumed into other tanks on site. Once the rest solidifies, it will be removed with excavators and front loaders. Kent said that it's too soon to determine whether any soil absorbed the liquid. If so, it will have to be removed as well.

"One of the good pieces of news is that it didn't reach water," Kent said, adding that no one was hurt.

The SWCAA and the Department of Ecology are monitoring the spill, and they're still trying to determine why the tank failed. The terminal is one of three regional plants run by Albina Fuel, a distributor of petroleum products in Oregon and Southwest Washington. The other two plants are in Klamath Falls and Madras, Ore.

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2014/jan/22/tank-spills-220000-gallons-asphalt-oil-west-vancou/>

USA, MS, NEW ALBANY

JANUARY 23 2014.

EW ALBANY SCHOOL DISTRICT CANCELS CLASSES AFTER BIODIESEL PLANT EXPLOSION

The Mississippi Highway Patrol says the fire at the bio-diesel facility is still burning in New Albany. Action News 5 cameras captured the second explosion that happened at the plant Wednesday afternoon.

Carl Harlin, the plant's manager, says the company converts chicken fat to alternative fuel. Despite the explosion being heard, seen, and felt for miles, nobody was injured.

"I walked outside. I noticed every tree in my yard was glowing orange and then it hit me, I said, 'There's something going on,'" said neighbor Randy Whiteborn. "It always worried me being so close, but you never think anything like this is going to happen."

The chemicals that posed a threat are in tanks that appear to be safe.

"None of that's burning, none of those tanks were compromised," said Harlin.

Bill Mattox lives a couple of miles from the facility.

"I heard it at 5:30. It woke me up and kind of shook the house. So it was a pretty big show this morning. A lot of people around town saw it and heard it," he said.

Two of Harlin's employees were at the facility at the time of the explosion.

"He just grabbed the newer guy and said, 'Come on, let's go.' And they ran," said Harlin.

Federal and state agencies are in Union County testing the air quality. So far, there are no reported problems.

The explosion knocked out power to customers in the town of Blue Mountain, which is a few miles from the facility.

First responders were unable to fight the fire for quite some time Wednesday for fear of additional diesel tank explosions. Afterward they said it is a difficult situation because it is hard to fight burning chemicals with just water.

"The best thing we can do at this time, I just let the fire burn itself out, because we don't know which chemicals has [sic] leaked out and which has not," said Union County Emergency Management Director Curt Clayton.

The tanks with substances inside have all exploded and fire crews are waiting for everything to burn out. The explosions also led to grass fires.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The Red Cross provided help to first responders who were at the scene for about eight hours. Also, the Red Cross provided aid after a gas line not too far from New Albany ruptured Wednesday evening.

First responders knocked on residents' doors on Old Highway 15, urging them to seek shelter at a Red Cross location at the Victory Life Center in New Albany on Denton Road.

It was not a mandatory evacuation, but as the temperature drops and the bio-diesel continues to burn the smoke will settle, which creates possible danger to people.

The New Albany school district canceled classes for Thursday due to the bio-diesel explosion.
<http://www.wmctv.com/story/24516296/explosion-at-bio-diesel-facility-no-injuries-reported>

MYANMAR, ANGON

JANUARY 23 2014.

FUEL EXPLOSIONS ROCK NAVAL RECRUITING UNIT

A fire broke out yesterday in the compound of Myanmar's Defence Services (Navy) Recruiting Unit in Mingaladon Township.

Sometime after the fire began, several oil barrels exploded at about 6 p.m., reportedly delaying flights at Yangon International Airport, which lies close to the scene, for about half an hour.

The state media announced that domestic and international flights had been suspended until 7 p.m. Meanwhile, a stretch of Pyay Road leading to Yangon's outskirts, was reported to have closed for some time.

"The fire started at about 4:30 p.m. A little while later, barrels of oil exploded and flew as high as 50 feet into the air. More than 10 barrels exploded. This place is the naval recruiting unit. I think those barrels were filled with aircraft oil," said a local resident who witnessed the fire.

About 60 fire engines rushed to the scene, but the flames could only be extinguished by liquid carbon dioxide at about 8:30 p.m.

According to an official from the Myanmar Fire Services Department, the fire was caused by fuel but how it was ignited was unknown.

"This was a Level-5 fire. An estimated 62 fire engines came to the scene to put the fire out," said Kyaw Thura, a director from the department.

He did not mention what kind of fuel was the source of the fire.

One firefighter who tried to extinguish the flames at close range was sent to a nearby hospital after suffering from burns.

A day earlier, another fire broke out at a warehouse of Garrison Engineer No. 4 on Pyay Road.

http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4818:fuel-explosions-rock-naval-recruiting-unit&catid=44:national&Itemid=384

USA, MISS, NEW ALBANY

JANUARY 23 2014.

NEW ALBANY BIO-DIESEL PLANT EXPLOSION UNDER INVESTIGATION

Union County Officials are evacuating approximately 50 homes in the North Haven Community as a fire continues to burn at the North Mississippi Biodiesel plant on Highway 15 about three miles north of New Albany. There were two explosions at the plant today and heavy smoke is settling in the evacuation area. Union County Emergency Management says the North Haven community is in a low lying area where the smoke is expected to linger.

The American Red Cross has opened a shelter at the Victory Life Center at 116 North Denton Road in New Albany.

Highway 15 remains closed as emergency crews work the scene.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the United States Environmental Service are containing products that have leaked from the plant to nearby drainage areas.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

MDEQ and the Mississippi National Guard 47th Civil Support Team have air monitoring teams in the area to test for hazardous materials that may leave the site.

An initial explosion occurred at the plant at 5:30 a.m. and a second blast happened at 3 p.m. causing the fire re-intensify. No injuries have been reported. The cause of explosion is under investigation.

Power has been restored to the Town of Blue Mountain and surrounding areas in Tippah County, including Blue Mountain College, which were affected earlier by a substation damaged by the explosion.

Agencies responding to the incident include Union County EMA, MEMA, MHP, MDOT, MDEQ, MSNG, Union County Sheriff's Department, New Albany Police, North Haven Fire Department, Myrtle Fire Department, New Albany Fire Department, American Red Cross and USES.

Media with questions should contact Union County Emergency Management Director Curt Clayton at 662-255-4992.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and several state agencies are assisting Union County officials with an explosion and subsequent fire at a biodiesel facility on Highway 15 just north of New Albany. The fire is still burning.

Union County Emergency Management Director Curt Clayton says two workers escaped without injuries at the time of the explosion around 6 a.m.

One home and two industrial businesses near the plant have been evacuated as a precaution. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has air monitoring teams in the area to test for hazardous materials that may leave the site, but have not detected anything at this time.

The explosion also affected a nearby power substation that caused a power outage to the Town of Blue Mountain and surrounding areas in Tippah County, including Blue Mountain College. Tippah County Emergency Management supplied generators to the area and the college to assist with caring for students and local residents. Power crews were able to restore electricity by noon.

Highway 15 will remain closed as emergency crews continue to work the scene. The Mississippi Highway Patrol and Department of Transportation are assisting local agencies with traffic.

Agencies responding to the incident include Union County Emergency Management, MHP, MDOT, MDEQ, Union County Sheriff's Department, New Albany Police, Northaven Fire Department, Myrtle Fire Department, New Albany Fire Department, and United States Environmental Services.

The cause of explosion is under investigation.

<http://www.wjtv.com/story/24516941/new-albany-bio-diesel-plant-on-fire>

USA, LA, BATON ROUGE

JANUARY 23 2014.

WILLIAMS OLEFINS CONTESTS FINDINGS IN EXPLOSION

Officials say Williams Olefins is contesting six workplace safety violations and \$99,000 in civil penalties federal regulators proposed last month for a fatal explosion June 13 at the company's Ascension Parish plant.

The blast at Williams' Geismar ethylene and propylene facility killed two and injured 114 after a flammable vapor cloud ignited from ruptured equipment in the company's propylene fractionation unit, causing a massive fireball.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited the company for six process safety management standard violations, including one willful.

OSHA says a willful violation is one committed with intentional, knowing or voluntary disregard for the law's requirements, or with indifference to worker safety.

Diana Petterson, an OSHA spokeswoman, tells The Advocate (<http://bit.ly/1jyFM9v>) Williams contested on Jan. 3 the citations outlining the violations.

"Additionally, whenever there are willful violations that result in a fatality, the Labor Department

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

normally discusses the case with the U.S. Department of Justice," she said.

OSHA is under the Department of Labor.

Walt Green, acting U.S. attorney in Baton Rouge, has said that he can neither confirm nor deny whether an investigation is underway.

According to OSHA's Field Operations Manual, four of the six violations prompted the maximum penalties allowed under law, including the willful violation. It led to a \$70,000 penalty.

But, under OSHA rules, Williams also still has the option to settle the violations.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/01/22/3885479/williams-olefins-contests-findings.html#storylink=cpy>

USA, OH, COLUMBUS

JANUARY 24 2014.

IN OHIO, STORAGE-TANK SITES FULL OF UNKNOWNNS

Spencer Hunt

State and local programs designed to safeguard chemical storage tanks are so fragmented that no one can say how many there are in Ohio, guarantee that they are regularly inspected or show which ones are leaking.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency inspectors, for example, examine tanks at factories and businesses that have air- and water-pollution permits. But they don't inspect all stand-alone storage tanks, like the one that leaked two chemicals into the Elk River near Charleston, W.Va., on Jan. 9.

Local fire departments are supposed to check all storage tanks during annual inspections. And some do.

However, many small and rural fire departments say they lack the manpower to conduct routine checks.

"We try to do it every year," said Circleville Fire Department Chief Tim Tener. "Because of our staffing levels, we are not always able to get it done."

That worries environmental advocates.

"There has to be some accountability on a statewide level," said Trent Dougherty, an Ohio Environmental Council attorney. "What we've learned from West Virginia is we need to break down these barriers that allow for tanks to not be inspected."

The West Virginia tank leaked 7,500 gallons of 4-methylcyclohexane methanol, a chemical used to clean coal, into the Elk River, triggering drinking-water bans for 300,000 residents.

The spill eventually reached the Ohio River, where the water all the way to Cincinnati smelled like licorice.

The Associated Press reported that West Virginia officials inspected the Freedom Industries storage tank just three times since 1991. There is no statewide regulation of above-ground, stand-alone storage tanks.

Jennifer Klein, president of the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council, which represents state chemical manufacturers, said businesses regularly inspect their own tanks. "It's based on each company's own schedule."

There have been chemical leaks in Ohio. On April 18, 2009, 27,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid leaked from a tank at a Dow Chemical plant near Dover. It created a vapor cloud that prompted warnings to neighbors to stay in their homes with their windows closed.

On April 13, 1994, two men were injured and 111 homes were evacuated in Marion after two tanks at Blank's Agri-Service leaked chemicals used to make fertilizer and created a hazardous vapor cloud.

Tanks that emit air pollutants are examined during inspections to make sure they meet Ohio EPA limits established by their permits. Storage tanks at businesses that have air- and water-pollution permits also are inspected, said Linda Oros, an Ohio EPA spokeswoman.

But there are some companies that do not need pollution permits for their chemical storage tanks. Those tanks are not inspected by the Ohio EPA. That's left to local fire departments.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

William Brobst, captain of the Columbus Fire Division's hazardous-materials response team, said his staff is vigilant.

However, the city can't say how many tanks are inspected each year and whether there have been leaks at those sites.

The Little Hocking Volunteer Fire Department is responsible for inspecting tanks at the Kraton Polymer plant along the Ohio River near Belpre in Washington County. The plant makes adhesives, rubber compounds and coatings.

"The company itself does the annual inspections of the tanks," said Little Hocking Chief Mike Chevalier, who holds the same position for Kraton. "They are available to the fire department."

If fire officials spot problems, they report them to the Ohio EPA. However, Oros said the agency can't say how many times this has happened. The state's spill hot-line database doesn't track that information.

The state EPA says there are 7,671 businesses and facilities that store hazardous chemicals in Ohio. Of those, 698 are in Franklin County, according to county emergency management officials.

But neither could say whether those chemicals are stored in tanks.

Some say changes are needed. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said he plans to introduce a bill that would require regular inspections nationwide.

"We're going to make it a federal requirement that (states) at least have some guidelines to follow," said Katie Longo, a Manchin spokeswoman.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/01/23/in-ohio-storage-tank-sites-full-of-unknowns.html>