

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The Steel Tank Institute is unable to guarantee the accuracy of any information. Every effort has been undertaken to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this publication but it is not intended to be comprehensive or to render advice. Websites may be current at the time of release, however may become inaccessible.

The newsletter may be copied and distributed subject to:

- *All text being copied without modification*
- *Containing the copyright notice or any other notice provided therein*
- *Not distributed for profit*

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/>

INDIA, ASSAM, DIBRUGARH

DECEMBER 22 2014.

4 KILLED IN BCPL GAS TANK TRAGEDY

Four labourers were today killed while working at a storage tank of the gas cracker project being implemented by the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer limited (BCPL) at Lepetkata in Dibrugarh district.

There were conflicting reports on the cause of the deaths.

While sources said the workers inhaled hazardous gas, some suspect they died of suffocation.

The labourers of Indian Oil Tanking Infrastructure and Energy Services (IOTIES), a contractor responsible for constructing the spheres (storage tanks) of the gas cracker plant, were on a job to clean the PP (polypropylene) sphere when the incident took place at around 9.30 am.

“The labourers climbed up the storage tank and went inside it through the only manhole. Apparently, as they entered the tank, they fell into the sphere – either due to suffocation or due to inhaling of hazardous gases,” a source in the project said.

The PP sphere is the unit where the final product of the gas cracker will be stored.

The victims have been identified as Hiren Gogoi of Madhupur, Hari Cheleng of Lahon Gaon in Barbaruah, Gajen Gogoi of Lakhpathar in Digboi and Hemanta Das of Dhemaji.

“There could be two reasons for the incident – manual error or technical fault. Normally, before the workers go inside for manual cleaning, the nitrogen supply to the unit is blocked an hour before. There is a possibility of nitrogen gas leakage. Another possibility is that there was no oxygen supply inside the sphere, which led to suffocation,” the source said.

Three of the victims died inside the sphere while the fourth succumbed later, sources said.

The incident sparked protests inside the project site where over 4,000 people were working.

Workers engaged in different places rushed to the site and an irate mob torched the makeshift office of the company – IOTIES. A small crane – hydra – was also set ablaze.

Security forces rushed to the site and controlled the situation.

Angry locals in the vicinity also tried to enter into the BCPL complex but police and paramilitary forces prevented them at the entry point.

Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi has asked the deputy commissioner of Dibrugarh to conduct a thorough inquiry into the incident and submit the report “as soon as possible.”

The BCPL has announced an ex gratia of Rs 1 lakh to the kin of the victims and has assured that it would pursue with the contractor for further compensation.

Work at the site was hampered following the incident. All employees were asked to leave the site following the mob rage. The Chief Administrative Officer of the IOT Ltd has been summoned from Mumbai

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

by the BCPL.

The BCPL is implementing Assam Gas Cracker project, the first ever petrochemical project in the North East region that came as a part of the historic Assam Accord of 1985 for overall socio-economic development of the region.

The project is expected to generate scope for substantial investment in setting up of downstream plastic processing industries, thereby generating both direct and indirect employment.

The Rs 10,000 crore project is expected to be completed in June next year.

<http://www.sentinelassam.com/mainnews/story.php?sec=1&subsec=0&id=212789&dtP=2014-12-21&ppr=1#.VJdgo8BA>

BANGLADESH, THE SUNDARBANS

DECEMBER 23 2014.

CHILDREN ARE CLEANING UP A DEVASTATING OIL SPILL WITH THEIR BARE HANDS

Arati Kumar-Rao

At 5 am, a thick dark fog hung about, as we headed south into the Sundarbans from the Chandpai forest station in southern Bangladesh.

A few kilometres on, visibility beyond the prow fell to near zero, forcing us to dock mid-river.

Voices rang out from somewhere in the thick blur: fishermen singing to signal their presence.

Occasionally, a low dinghy would row quietly by, unseen until it was almost upon us. In the distance, a ship boomed its approach. Our boat master shook his head in concern. He revved up the engine and guided us into a khal, a channel.

The morning of Dec. 9, 2014 must have felt similar. The oil tanker Southern Star 7 was docked four kilometres from the confluence of the Sela and Passur rivers, near Mrigamari, in dense fog. It carried 350,000 liters of heavy, black furnace oil.

Shrouded in the fog, a cargo ship also plying the same channel rammed into the Southern Star 7—discharging copious quantities of oil as the tanker sank.

Fragile ecosystem

The Sela is part of the Sundarbans, the largest unbroken stand of mangrove forests in the world. A fragile ecosystem that has adapted itself to life on the brink of brine, these mangroves form the margin between the salt water of the Bay of Bengal and the freshwaters of three mighty South Asian rivers: the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, and the Meghna.

The Sundarbans, which literally translates as “beautiful forest,” straddles the border between India and Bangladesh along the eastern Indian state of West Bengal. India has 40% and Bangladesh has 60% of the mangroves. Both areas are designated wildlife sanctuaries and reserve forests.

This mangrove margin is home to some of the world’s most endangered creatures: the masked finfoot; the Irrawaddy, Gangetic, and four other kinds of dolphins; the Bengal tiger and the beautiful, endangered Sundari tree (*Heritiera fomes*). Almost a million forest people depend upon this ecosystem for their livelihood.

By definition and by law, heavy shipping traffic carrying hazardous cargo has no place in the Sundarbans. Yet in Bangladesh, tankers carrying “modified cargo”—oil, pesticides, fertilisers, insecticides, fly ash, cement, sand, and salt—travel through these channels every day.

On Dec. 9, the inevitable happened. Two ships collided and 230,000 liters of oil flowed into this corner of the Sundarbans.

Chasing the slick

Our boat, the Gol-Patta, reached the Sundarbans on Dec. 14, four days after the spill. Men, women, and children were knee deep in the mudflats and elbow deep in heavy fuel oil. They were scraping black, viscous goo from sedges, reeds, leaves, trunks and roots. Each painstaking handful of black pulp collected was smeared off along the rim of a cooking pot. Then, they turned back to the plants for more.

Children, mostly aged between 10 years and 16 years, were covered in black from toe to waist.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Khals— channels that snake through the mangroves—now flowed dark, dirty, and viscous. The forest stood ankle deep in low tide, in 3 metre-high black, tar socks. The high-tide line had become the oil-line.

The river below glistened with oil, too: graded by thickness from black to brown and then all colors of the rainbow.

Dark acrid stinging fumes spiraled from fires heating oil in the sleepy fishing village of Joymoni on the Sela river.

Save for the blackened fishermen and children, no one else was cleaning the spill. The slick sloshed forward in the ebbing tide. We followed it: four km past the spill site, eight km past the spill site, 12km past the spill site and eventually, 40km past.

The slick sloshed ahead of us, beside us, behind us. Films of oil of varying thicknesses floated in the main channel and pooled in the smaller khals. The tide went out by nightfall and came back in at dawn. The oil was no different.

Fishermen claimed that the slick was visible almost 80km down the river.

Dark truth

The plants and trees of mangrove forests are uniquely adapted to the salt-and-sweet water intertidal zone. They deal with submergence during high tide by sprouting aerial roots, snorkels that stay above the water to breathe. Those snorkels (called pneumatophores) were now smothered in black oil. The forest may well be choking, gasping for breath.

In Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, newspapers screamed of dying animals. Activists on social media posted doctored images of oil-dripping dolphins and oil-swimming tigers. To counter the anger, the government spokespersons shot back officialese for ‘no harm came from the oil-spill and it is all under control.’

The dark truth lurked somewhere in between.

Animals caught in the water during the first few days of the spill were coated with oil, and may have died. On Dec. 14, we saw a blackened crocodile tentatively slipped into a brown slick 10km from the spill site.

But the worry was not so much of animals dying in the immediate aftermath, but of the oil staying in the water, on the mudflats, and smearing the trees.

Mud flats have turned black with oil and fishermen have been asked to help clean up. (Arati Kumar-Rao)

The effects of the coated and residual oil will be seen over months in the forests of this ecosystem. It could manifest in hormonal changes and reproductive changes, over time, in animals exposed to the substance. How exactly this spill will affect the ecosystem can only be determined by a scientific longitudinal study which, at this point, no one has signed up to undertake.

A spill of this magnitude in an area this ecologically sensitive is a qualifiable, quantifiable disaster mandating emergency measures. Yet, clean-up operations have been slow and unscientific, and are focused only on recovering the oil from the banks in a buy-back scheme by the company, Padma Oil, that owned the barrels in the Southern Star 7.

Health risk

This is perhaps the biggest hazard: fishermen from the village (Joymoni) most affected by the spill are collecting the oil. Children, women, men, all scrape the goo by hand and collect floating smeared plant matter that they dump into their boats.

The boats are towed back to the village “depot” by the forest department, which is coordinating the effort (with local NGOs). Here, the plant matter is boiled and heated to loosen the oil. This is collected in barrels, and trucked back to Padma Oil.

The fishermen are doing all the collection and boiling without any protective gear. They are smeared in oil by day on the river, and engulfed in its fumes when they get home. These oils contain chemicals that are toxic. It can have dire digestive, pulmonary, and dermatological effects and, if the

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

exposure extends over time, also neurotoxic effects.

A dozen days after the spill, the children of Joymoni have begun to fall sick.

But right now, it is all about recovering and selling back the oil.

<http://qz.com/316508/children-are-cleaning-up-a-devastating-oil-spill-in-bangladesh-to-sell-the-oil-back-to-the-company-that-spilled-it/>

RUSSIA, USINSK

DECEMBER 26 2014.

CONSTANT OIL SPILLS DEVASTATE RUSSIA

Nataliya Vasilyeva

On the bright-yellow tundra outside this oil town near the Arctic Circle, a pitch-black pool of crude stretches toward the horizon. The source: a decommissioned well whose rusty screws ooze with oil, viscous like jam.

This is the face of Russia's oil country, a sprawling, inhospitable zone that experts say represents the world's worst ecological oil catastrophe.

Environmentalists estimate at least 1 percent of Russia's annual oil production, or 5 million tons, is spilled every year. That is equivalent to one Deepwater Horizon-scale leak about every two months. Crumbling infrastructure and a harsh climate combine to spell disaster in the world's largest oil producer, responsible for 13 percent of global output.

Oil, stubbornly seeping through rusty pipelines and old wells, contaminates soil, kills all plants that grow on it and destroys habitats for mammals and birds. Half a million tons every year get into rivers that flow into the Arctic Ocean, the government says, upsetting the delicate environmental balance in those waters.

It's part of a legacy of environmental tragedy that has plagued Russia and the countries of its former Soviet empire for decades, from the nuclear horrors of Chernobyl in Ukraine to lethal chemical waste in the Russian city of Dzerzhinsk and paper mill pollution seeping into Siberia's Lake Baikal, which holds one-fifth of the world's supply of fresh water.

Oil spills in Russia are less dramatic than disasters in the Gulf of Mexico or the North Sea, more the result of a drip-drip of leaked crude than a sudden explosion. But they're more numerous than in any other oil-producing nation including insurgency-hit Nigeria, and combined they spill far more than anywhere else in the world, scientists say.

"Oil and oil products get spilled literally every day," said Dr. Grigory Barenboim, senior researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Water Problems.

No hard figures on the scope of oil spills in Russia are available, but Greenpeace estimates that at least 5 million tons leak every year in a country producing about 500 million tons a year.

Dr. Irina Ivshina, of the government-financed Institute of the Environment and Genetics of Microorganisms, supports the 5 million ton estimate, as does the World Wildlife Fund.

The figure is derived from two sources: Russian state-funded research that shows 10-15 percent of Russian oil leakage enters rivers; and a 2010 report commissioned by the Natural Resources Ministry that shows nearly 500,000 tons slips into northern Russian rivers every year and flow into the Arctic.

The estimate is considered conservative: The Russian Economic Development Ministry in a report last year estimated spills at up to 20 million tons per year.

That astonishing number, for which the ministry offered no elaboration, appears to be based partly on the fact most small leaks in Russia go unreported. Under Russian law, leaks of less than 8 tons are classified only as "incidents" and carry no penalties.

Russian oil spills also elude detection because most happen in the vast swaths of unpopulated tundra and conifer forest in the north, caused either by ruptured pipes or leakage from decommissioned wells.

Asked to comment, the Natural Resources Ministry and the Energy Ministry said they have no data

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

on oil spills and referred to the other ministry for further inquiries.

Even counting only the 500,000 tons officially reported to be leaking into northern rivers every year, Russia is by far the worst oil polluter in the world.

- Nigeria, which produces one-fifth as much oil as Russia, logged 110,000 tons spilled in 2009, much of that due to rebel attacks on pipelines.
- The U.S., the world's third-largest oil producer, logged 341 pipeline ruptures in 2010 — compared to Russia's 18,000 — with 17,600 tons of oil leaking as a result, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Spills have averaged 14,900 tons a year between 2001 and 2010.
- Canada, which produces oil in weather conditions as harsh as Russia's, does not see anything near Russia's scale of disaster. Eleven pipeline accidents were reported to Canada's Transport Safety Board last year, while media reports of leaks, ranging from sizable spills to a tiny leak in a farmer's backyard, come to a total of 7,700 tons a year.
- In Norway, Russia's northwestern oil neighbor, spills amounted to some 3,000 tons a year in the past few years, said Hanne Marie Oeren, head of the oil and gas section at Norway's Climate and Pollution Agency.

Now that Russian companies are moving to the Arctic to tap vast but hard-to-get oil and gas riches, scientists voice concerns that Russia's outdated technologies and shoddy safety record make for a potential environmental calamity there.

Gazpromneft, an oil subsidiary of the gas giant Gazprom, is preparing to drill for oil in the Arctic's Pechora Sea, even as environmentalists complain that the drilling platform is outdated and the company is not ready to deal with potential accidents.

Government scientists acknowledge that Russia does not currently have the required technology to develop Arctic fields but say it will be years before the country actually starts drilling.

In 1994, the republic of Komi, where Usinsk lies 40 miles south of the Arctic Circle, became the scene of Russia's largest oil spill when an estimated 100,000 tons splashed from an aging pipeline.

It killed plants and animals, and polluted up to 25 miles of two local rivers, killing thousands of fish. In villages most affected, respiratory diseases rose by some 28 percent in the year following the leak.

Seen from a helicopter, the oil production area is dotted with pitch-black ponds. Fresh leaks are easy to find once you step into the tundra north of Usinsk. Fir trees with drooping gray, dry branches look as though scorched by a wildfire. They are growing in soil polluted by oil.

http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2017080098_russiaoilspill.html

LIBYA, BENGHAZI

DECEMBER 27 2014.

FIRE SPREADS TO MORE OIL TANKS AT LIBYA PORT

A fire at an oil storage tank in Libya's oil port of al-Sidra has spread to two more tanks following clashes between pro-government forces and Islamist militias, officials said on Friday.

The militants had launched Thursday surprise attack in which they used speedboats in a failed bid to seize the main oil terminal.

The militiamen belonging to the Fajr Libya, or Libya Dawn, launched the attack on the port of al-Sidra by firing rockets from speedboats, setting an oil tank on fire and killing at least 19 soldiers, security sources said.

Al-Sider and its adjacent Ras Lanuf terminal have been closed since a force allied to a rival government in Tripoli moved east trying to take them, part of a struggle between former rebels who helped topple Muammar Qaddafi in 2011 but are now fighting for power and a share of oil reserves.

On Thursday, both sides reported an initial hit on an oil tank during clashes, blaming each other for the damage.

Since then, "the clashes have hit several tanks which are burning," said Mohamed El Harari,

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

spokesman for the state National Oil Corp (NOC).

Ali al-Hassi, spokesman for a security force allied to the internationally-recognized government, said the fire had spread to two more tanks but the exact damage was unclear.

Hassi had blamed the rival force for shooting at the first tank while trying to take the port with speed boats. The rival force had blamed the other side for using war planes.

The North African country has had two governments and parliaments since a group called Libya Dawn seized the capital in August by expelling a rival faction, installing its own prime minister and forcing the recognised premier, Abdullah al-Thinni, to operate out of the east with the elected House of Representatives.

Thinni accuses Libya Dawn of relying on Islamists. The Tripoli-based government says Thinni's forces have allied themselves with former Qaddafi officers such as ex-general Khalifa Haftar.

The fighting has reduced Libya's crude output to 352,000 barrels a day, NOC said on Thursday. Al-Sider and Ras Lanuf ports had been processing an estimated 300,000 bpd until their closure.

Al-Sider is fed from fields run by Waha Oil Co, a joint-venture of NOC with U.S. firms Hess, Marathon and ConocoPhillips.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2014/12/26/Fire-spreads-to-more-oil-tanks-at-Libya-port.html>

SAUDI ARABIA, HEJAZ, MEDINA

DECEMBER 29 2014.

FAMILY ESCAPES FUEL TANKER FIRE

A family miraculously escaped an accident in which a small fuel tanker caught fire near their home, said Madinah Civil Defense spokesman Col. Khalid Al- Juhani. Firefighters immediately evacuated the family to a safe place and worked on dousing the fire that spread to a nearby bakery. Preliminary investigations put the blame on a motor hose for the fire. No one was injured. Meanwhile, a gas station in Al-Jouf caught fire while workers were carrying out a periodic inspection. Two workers were seriously injured and rushed to a nearby hospital.

<https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/family-escapes-fuel-tanker-fire-063931815.html>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, OTAHEITE

DECEMBER 29 2014.

TANK OWNER: SPILL NOT MY FAULT

Sue-Ann Wayow

Raffick Khan, vice president of the Otaheite Fisherfolk Association and owner of a 500-gallon tank near the beach at Otaheite, says he will soon be building a wall to safeguard himself from future spills into the ocean.

But he said yesterday he was not the person responsible for the spill which occurred on Christmas Day.

Khan said he was being blamed for the spillage of a thick black substance that occurred in the Gulf of Paria but there was no evidence that showed the substance came from his diesel tank.

Khan said the diesel tank located near the Otaheite Fishing Facility that supplied his 20-plus boats with diesel oil, was not tampered with and he was not trying to extort money from the government as some thought.

The fisherman said he had authorisation from the Ministry of Energy to have the diesel tank but said he was not aware he needed to have a bund wall to contain any spillage.

"This is a learning experience. Now I know I have to put up one so I will be doing that soon," he said. He also said it was the Ministry of Energy that advised him to have the tank in an effort to save money.

Oil is used for the engine and every time an oil drum was used up, it was placed near the tank, Khan said.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

He said: "Sometimes if we are filling the diesel tank and it cannot hold the diesel, we put some in the drum. Where am I getting any Petrotrin oil or any company oil to go and dump in the sea? The oil that it has in the water is lumps of oil. When diesel falls in water it gets like a rainbow colour. It cannot be anything like that."

Khan said when the substance was first observed on the water, it was coming from an easterly direction but his tank was located in a westerly direction which would have made it impossible for the substance to be from his tank unless if he himself took out the diesel and poured it into the sea.

On Friday, head of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) Dr Stephen Ramroop said there were no reports of an oil spill but the sheen that was observed on the water on Christmas Day was a result of a diesel leak.

Yesterday Ramroop said he was awaiting further reports from the Energy Ministry.

He said the spill was not major and there was not much for residents to be concerned about. Some had complained that their fishing vessels were stained and their livelihood was being threatened.

Ramroop said: "My last report from my team was that they were satisfied the spill was under control and there were no major ecological impacts that would affect any residents or livelihoods in the area. From the initial reports that we got, it was not something significant, it was like a sheen as it was described, and this sheen was something that the tide sorted out. We have not gotten any reports of any new spill or any increasing action that would have been taken. We would have been informed if any companies were undertaking works to mitigate problems."

He said: "I don't know if residents are still complaining but we don't seem to be getting any reports of any activity down there."

He added that if anyone was found to be in breach of the Environmental Act, the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) can take the necessary action.

State-owned company Petrotrin said the company had been cleared by the EMA from any association of the claim of oil at Otaheite.

The situation continues to be monitored, Ramroop said.

Chairman of the Siparia Regional Corporation Leo Doodnath said the Corporation was willing to assist if there was need.

Attempts to get in contact with the Energy Ministry yesterday were unsuccessful.

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Tank-owner-Spill-not-my-fault-286944731.html>

SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN

DECEMBER 29 2014.

'OIL WAS SHOOTING FROM THE GROUND'

For residents at the normally quiet complex of Greenvale overlooking the rural landscape of Hillcrest, Christmas 2014 is a date that will not be forgotten in a hurry – but for all the wrong reasons.

Instead of enjoying the festive spirit, diesel was spewing out of the ground shooting metres into the air.

Describing the incident, resident Sammy Joe Taylor said that she woke up in the early hours of Tuesday morning trying to work out what the loud gurgling noise was coming from her back garden.

"I walked outside on to my deck and couldn't believe my eyes. In the darkness I could see a fountain of oil coming from the ground. The smell was overwhelming. I knew that something really bad had happened."

And she was right.

The pipeline between Durban and Joburg had burst in the upmarket housing complex of Greenvale in Shongweni Road with 200 000 litres of diesel spewing into the environment, turning gardens and driveways into toxic rivers of oily sludge.

And the epicentre of the disaster was a section of the pipeline, which had fractured not 6m from her bedroom door.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

"I had no idea that the pipeline was so close to my property."

A deep canyon in her back garden bears testimony to a very close encounter.

"Imagine if we had been sitting in the garden at the time the pipe burst," says Taylor.

Shaun Maitre said he was woken up on Tuesday night by dogs barking frantically.

"I went outside into the garden only to find a 10cm deep river of diesel flowing past my house. I realised that this was a dangerous situation and had to evacuate my family and pets."

In the aftermath of the disaster, clean-up teams wearing masks and protective clothing are trying to move as much of the diesel spill as possible.

Horse grazing pastures have had to be abandoned. Instead the fields are now "home" to rows upon rows of the emergency spill trucks involved in the ongoing clean-up operation.

According to the Transnet disaster management team, the broken pipeline has been removed and replaced.

Affected residents say the response to the disaster has been quick and efficient. However there remain some serious concerns.

"The health and safety aspects are the most pressing of our concerns," says Maitre, a KZN business consultant. "Our gardens are heavily contaminated with diesel and we need to know how this will impact upon our health and our children's health in the long term. We understand there will be air and ground monitoring, but the damage to the environment is huge."

Among other concerns are the possible damage of the leaked oil to retaining walls and building foundations, contamination of surrounding streams and ground water.

The pipeline is often referred to as "the grand old lady" having been installed more than 60 years ago.

"If this is wear and tear, this could happen in other areas where the pipeline runs through," says Maitre. "We are lucky that on that night the wind was blowing from the north. If it had been a southerly wind our properties would have been covered in oil."

He said that what the residents were hoping for now was ongoing feedback from all the major players, including Transnet, the government and local authorities.

"This is a major environmental disaster," says Maitre. "I think we all need to be very well aware of that in the weeks and months to come."

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/oil-was-shooting-from-the-ground-1.1799377#.VKDCVI4AKA>

LIBYA, BENGHAZI

DECEMBER 30 2014.

CLASHES SET OFF HUGE FIRE AT AL-SIDRA OIL TERMINAL IN LIBYA

AL SIDRA TERMINAL TANK FIRE UPDATE

Three storage tanks at one of Libya's main oil terminals were ablaze on Friday after being hit by a rocket during fighting between Islamists and pro-government forces, officials said.

The rocket was fired on Thursday by militiamen from Fajr Libya (Libya Dawn), a coalition of Islamist fighters.

One tank was hit, said the region's security spokesman Ali al-Hassi, before the fire spread on Friday to two other full tanks at Al-Sidra terminal.

Witnesses said huge columns of smoke filled the sky over Al-Sidra and were being blown further east towards Ras Lanuf terminal.

They expressed concern that the fire could spread to other tanks at Al-Sidra and cause an environmental disaster if not brought under control.

National Oil Company spokesman Mohamed al-Harari urged everyone to respect the neutrality of oil terminals, adding that the tanks that were hit were full and ready for export.

On Thursday, the Islamists killed 22 soldiers in a surprise attack during which they used speedboats

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

in a failed bid to seize Al-Sidra and other terminals in the eastern region of Libya known as the "oil crescent".

Hassi said the army repelled the Islamists.

On Friday, the fighting had subsided but reports said the situation was still tense.

The latest clashes pushed oil prices higher in Asia on Friday, with US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for February delivery rising 28 cents to \$56.12, while Brent for February gained 13 cents to \$60.37.

Military and medical sources said 18 soldiers and a Fajr Libya fighter were killed in Sirte, and another four soldiers were slain in Al-Sidra.

Most of the dead soldiers belonged to the 136th battalion responsible for monitoring a power plant west of Sirte, the sources said.

Since the clashes erupted on December 13, Libyan oil production has fallen to nearly 350,000 barrels per day compared with 800,000 previously, according to industry experts.

More than three years after dictator Moamer Gathafi was toppled and killed in a NATO-backed revolt, Libya is still awash with weapons and powerful militias, and has rival parliaments as well as governments.

The Islamists say they have been mandated by the rival parliament based in Tripoli to "liberate" Libya's oil terminals.

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=69449>

CAMBODIA, PHNOM PENH

DECEMBER 31 2014.

GOV'T TARGETS GAS STATION FIRES WITH NEW RULES

Kang Sothear

The country's largely unregulated gas stations will soon be required to follow new safety rules aimed at preventing fires and explosions, according to a circular released last month by the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

"There have been many incidents of fires caused by explosions and burning of oil and gas [at gas stations], which caused the loss of property, injury and death," says the 18-page circular, signed on November 28 by Mines and Energy Minister Suy Sem.

Keo Tourt, director of administration at the Mines and Energy Ministry's general department of general affairs, said in an email that the ministry set up a working group that met with industry experts between May and November in order to create the new rules.

Mr. Tourt said the ministry was in the process of informing gas stations about the new regulations and that the rules would be enforced once station owners had time to make the necessary changes.

"Some gas station[s] may not yet...conform to our safety regulation," he said. "We will give them a reasonable period of time to adjust any part of their station...to comply."

Mr. Tourt said specifics about how many gas stations might be impacted by the new rules, or how station owners would be punished, had not yet been determined.

"For the moment, we are at the dissemination stage," he said. "The assessment stage will come later."

Cambodia's gas stations are often set up on small properties in dense residential areas where homes come within meters of the pumps. But according to the circular, all stations must be constructed on plots of land that measure at least 375 square meters.

Gas stations must also bury their tanks—which cannot be bigger than 30,000 liters—underground, have at least 7 meters between each pump and keep their pump hoses no longer than 6 meters.

Heu Heng, general manager of petroleum importer Sokimex Co. Ltd., said that he welcomed the regulations.

"It's good that the ministry takes care of safety standards like this because people will be less and

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

less worried," he said.

Mr. Heng said he expected the new regulations to primarily affect small gas stations that resell gas from larger companies, which he said rarely follow any safety standards.

"For example, some gas stations are unsuitably located and improperly installed with tanks," he said.

Pav Choun, the owner of a small gas station in Tuol Kok district, said he might have to stop renting out a residential space next door if the new rules are implemented.

"For me it's OK because I have more land that I just rent to other people next to my gas station," Mr. Choun said. "To follow the circular, I will just stop renting."

He added that while he agrees with the circular in theory, only newly opened stations should be required to follow it.

"It's not good if it will also be implemented on gas stations that have been operating for a long time," he said, explaining that expanding will prove impossible for many older stations.

Although the Mines and Energy Ministry did not have a total number of recent gas station accidents in the country, it provided a list of five fires at gas stations since January 2013.

One of those accidents, at a Sokimex station in Prey Veng province's Kompong Trabek district in August 2013, occurred after a kitchen fire spread to the station, according to district governor Chan Ran.

Mr. Ran said the gas pumps and haphazardly placed fuel tanks were located directly in front of the house where the fire began.

"The gas explosion in the kitchen...ignited the gas outside the tanks until the whole station was on fire," Mr. Ran said, adding that he had just received and disseminated the new gas station regulations.

"If the fire had not been stopped fast and on time, another gas station next to that gas station would probably have caught fire, too," he said.

<http://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/govt-targets-gas-station-fires-with-new-rules-75000/>

USA, WI, CAMBRIA

DECEMBER 31 2014.

SMALL FIRE BREAKS OUT AT DIDION ETHANOL

Lyn Jerde Ljerde

A small fire early Sunday morning at Didion Ethanol in Cambria resulted in a brief evacuation, but no injuries, no damage and minimal disruption of operations. Company spokesman Riley Didion said the fire ignited at about 4 a.m. Sunday inside the ethanol plant, which is just outside the Cambria village limits in the town of Courtland. Only a small crew of workers was on duty at the time, and all were evacuated, in keeping with the company's safety procedures, Didion said. The plant's operations resumed about two hours later, Didion said. "It was pretty uneventful," he said. "My hat's off to the Cambria Fire Department." Didion did not say what, exactly, caught fire, but he said company officials are investigating how the fire got started. The ethanol plant, which opened in the spring of 2008, is adjacent to Didion's corn milling operation, and uses milled corn to manufacture ethanol as a fuel additive.

http://www.wiscnews.com/portagedailyregister/news/local/article_052ab96a-4ede-56a0-b849-828d32aaaf4d.html

USA, FLA, DAYTONA BEACH

DECEMBER 31 2014.

POLICE: MAN WHO FELL INTO TANK AT DAYTONA GAS STATION CONSTRUCTION SITE IN COMA

Patricio G. Balona

A Port Orange man who fell into a fuel tank he was cleaning is in a coma in the hospital, according to report of the incident released Tuesday by Daytona Beach police.

Thomas Wood, 41, was taken to Halifax Health Medical Center on Monday in critical condition and in a coma, the report states.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Daytona Beach police investigators said Wood and another worker, Dustin Reed, 26, were cleaning gas tanks at a Race Trac construction site at 1510 Ridgewood Ave., when Wood fell into the tank police described in reports as a "well."

Reed said the tank had the lid open when he went to his truck to do some paperwork. When Reed returned to the tank just after 6 p.m., he could not find Wood.

After about two minutes, Reed found Wood lying on his side with his legs wrapped around a pump at the bottom of the well, police said.

Wood was unconscious and Daytona Beach Fire Department Rescue workers performed CPR before he was transported by ambulance to Halifax Health Medical Center.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration sent an investigator to the scene Tuesday, authorities said.

It is possible that in his 6-foot fall, Wood may have struck the pump in the well. The well also contained an unsafe amount of gas fumes, police said.

Jessica Rice, spokeswoman for Race Trac, said that Wood was cleaning new tanks at the construction site.

"The process of cleaning the tanks may have increased the odor inside the tank, which firefighters detected," Rice said.

Clean Fuels National of Indiana, the company Woods reportedly worked for, declined comment Tuesday.

Halifax Health spokeswoman Tangela Boyd said Wood was listed Tuesday in critical condition.

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/article/20141230/NEWS/141239957?Title=Police-Man-who-fell-into-tank-at-Daytona-gas-station-construction-site-in-coma>

CANADA, QUE, RIMOUSKI

JANUARY 3 2015.

SUNCOR FACILITY IN RIMOUSKI LEAKED THOUSANDS OF LITRES OF GASOLINE

CITY OFFICIALS SAY THERE'S NO THREAT OF EXPLOSION AS CLEANUP CONTINUES

Thousands of litres of gasoline leaked from a Suncor facility in Rimouski, Que., on Thursday evening, said a spokesman with the company.

Residents living near the facility called police to complain about a strong gas smell.

Staff found a small crack in a valve near a reservoir that held two million litres of gasoline.

The workers have diverted the gas into another reservoir, containing 1.6 million litres of the gas.

Claude Schink, the facility's supervisor, expects the cleanup will continue pumping fuel until 2 p.m. ET Friday.

Schink told a news conference the company does not have a number on how much fuel was spilled, but said the crack in the valve was small.

So far, 30,000 litres of foam, water and gasoline have been vacuumed from the site.

Leak safely contained, says Suncor

The design of the Suncor terminal includes a secondary containment area, which is where the gasoline that leaked has been collected.

Suncor has a vacuum truck on site and has been pumping gasoline from the containment dyke.

A team of government agencies are on the site, including Quebec's environmental agency, firefighters, public works, Suncor, and Quebec's provincial police.

'Citizens shouldn't be the alert system of a company.' - Patrick Bonin, Greenpeace

Crews are working to collect the gas and put it into tanker trucks. Firefighters have set up a 300-metre perimeter around the leak area.

A spokesman for the city of Rimouski said its first priority is to ensure the safety of citizens. So far, there have been no evacuations. Its second priority is making sure the spill is cleaned up with minimal impact to the environment.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Schink said an investigation will look into how the gas leaked and why Suncor workers didn't discover the leak first.

Reason to be wary, says Greenpeace

A spokesman for the Greenpeace environmental group says it shouldn't be up to local residents to keep the area safe.

"How long would it have lasted if citizens were not there? Citizens shouldn't be the alert system of a company," said spokesman Patrick Bonin.

As Quebec looks at allowing more oil to be transported through the province through the Energy East Pipeline Project, Greenpeace says this leak is a sign people should be wary.

"The math is simple: The more we transport, explore, exploit, store oil, the more risk we face, the more risk the community faces," said Bonin.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/suncor-facility-in-rimouski-leaked-thousands-of-litres-of-gasoline-1.2888244>

USA, FLA, DAYTONA BEACH

JANUARY 3 2015.

MAN DIES AFTER FALLING INTO FUEL TANK

A man who police said fell into a fuel tank that he was cleaning has died. The Daytona Beach News-Journal reports Thomas Wood was in critical condition since the accident Monday at a RaceTrac gas station in Daytona Beach. Wood and another man had been cleaning the tanks when Wood fell in. Co-worker Dustin Reed told authorities the tank's lid was open when he went to his truck to do paperwork. When he returned a short time later, he didn't see Wood. He found the man about two minutes later at the bottom of the 6-foot-deep well. Daytona Beach Fire Department crews performed CPR and took Wood to the hospital, where he was listed in critical condition. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating.

<http://miami.cbslocal.com/2015/01/02/man-dies-after-falling-into-fuel-tank/>

USA, AL, VALLEY CREEK

JANUARY 7 2014.

COMPANIES AGREE WITH EPA TO CLEAN UP ABANDONED BESSEMER FUEL STORAGE SITE NEAR VALLEY CREEK

Kent Faulk

Three petroleum companies have agreed to pay for the clean-up of an abandoned and decaying Bessemer fuel storage facility, according to consent decree approved Tuesday by a federal judge.

The companies also will pay a \$20,000 civil fine and reimburse a federal agency nearly \$240,000 for taking care of spills from the decaying facility in the past decade or so - including one that got into nearby Valley Creek.

The Justice Department in 2012 filed a lawsuit on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management against Bessemer Petroleum Inc., Tri-State Petroleum Products LLC, and Twin States Petroleum Products LLC.

All three companies have at one time since 2000 owned or operated the now abandoned facility or its underground storage tanks at 2701 8th Avenue North in Bessemer.

The facility is an abandoned bulk fuel distribution and storage facility located on about four acres near Valley Creek. As of January 2010 there were 27 non-operating above-ground storage tanks and another 17,000-gallon above-ground tank at the site that was full of oil and water. Four underground storage tanks and an oil/water separator were also on site.

The facility had the ability to store about 179,000 gallons of oil in the above and underground tanks.

Among the claims by the Justice Department were: all three companies failed to perform release detection for underground piping for underground storage tanks in temporary closure; Tri-State and Twin

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

States for failure to operate and maintain corrosion protection; and all three for failure to permanently close underground storage tanks.

The Justice Department, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Birmingham, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, and Alabama Department of Environmental Management on Nov. 5 submitted a proposed consent decree with the three companies.

U.S. District Court Judge David Proctor on Tuesday approved the decree.

"After a careful review of the record, including the proposed consent decree, the court concludes the proposed decree is fair, reasonable, in the public interest, and fully consistent with the purposes of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ... the Clean Water Act... and the Oil Pollution Act," Proctor stated in his order.

Efforts to reach an attorney, who represents all three companies, regarding the consent decree were unsuccessful Tuesday. In the decree, however, the companies admitted no liability.

Under the 55-page consent decree, the companies are to pay for site clean-up, including:

- Provide site security (fencing and signage)
- Remove and dispose/recycle all free liquids or sludges from any containers on site
- Remove or permanently close all above-ground storage tanks
- Permanently close the underground storage tanks at the facility in accordance with ADEM rules
- Perform a site assessment of soil and groundwater contamination at and around the facility or off-site, as necessary
- Excavate oil-contaminated soils and disposing of all waste materials
- Perform all necessary remediation activities to address contamination exceeding applicable screening or cleanup levels.

An estimate of how much the clean-up will cost the companies was not included in the decree.

The consent decree also requires the companies to reimburse the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, managed by the U.S. Coast Guard, \$239,285 for past costs incurred cleaning up spills at the facility.

EPA and ADEM had inspected the facility a number of times and had issued various violations or warnings and thousands of dollars in penalties over the years against the companies after leaks were reported, according to court documents. The lawsuit notes three specific incidents where petroleum or oil had leaked at the facility, including at least once in 2008 where a leak was reported into Valley Creek.

A Bessemer Petroleum contractor began work to address EPA concerns after the 2008 incident but the work wasn't completed, according to court documents. The EPA removed liquids from tanks at the facility after a 2010 incident, according to the justice department's lawsuit.

http://www.al.com/news/birmingham/index.ssf/2015/01/companies_agree_with_epa_to_cl.html

USA, MT, MISSOULA

JANUARY 7 2015.

MISSOULA HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISCOVERS LEAK UNDER WESTSIDE FACILITY THAT COULD BE RELEASING CONTAMINANTS

Jessica Mayrer

While searching for the source of an odor that Northside and Westside residents say makes them feel ill, the Missoula City-County Health Department in December discovered an underground tank at a Phillips Street chemical transfer facility that could be leaking contaminants into the soil.

"It does have some potential serious ramifications," says Travis Ross from the Missoula City-County Health Department.

Emerald Services in Missoula functions as a stopover for chemicals the company recycles and disposes of elsewhere. The leaking unit is designed to catch runoff from aboveground spills at the facility. It serves as a second layer of containment, separate from a concrete berm that surrounds Emerald's "tank farm," which houses aboveground storage containing materials such as petroleum, antifreeze and windshield wiper fluid. The leaking underground receptacle receives storm water runoff and also materials

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

that are spilled outside of the tank farm's concrete berm. By Ross' calculations, as much as 300 gallons a day of fluid runoff is being released from the underground unit.

The health department isn't sure when the underground tank breached, how much fluid has leaked or what percentage of the fluid is composed of contaminants, Ross says. In an effort to find out, the health department has ordered Emerald produce by the end of this month a work plan detailing how it will perform soil contamination tests and, if necessary, remediate the property, which is owned by Montana Rail Link.

Emerald must replace the containment unit by Feb. 15 and submit test results by May 15, or within 90 days of releasing the work plan.

Emerald Senior Environmental Manager Sheila Smith says the company is committed to working with the health department. She believes, however, that because the underground storage unit serves as a barrier of last resort, Emerald's investigation won't discover any significant contamination. "We're not going to rule anything out," Smith says. "But that to me is highly improbable."

The health department discovered the underground leak while investigating the cause of a "mercaptan-like" odor, or one akin to natural gas or petroleum, that Northside and Westside residents began reporting to health officials last spring. A pungent organic gas or liquid, mercaptan is typically added to odorless natural gas and propane to aid in detection. It's also present in crude oil. Between April and August, the health department logged more than 80 complaints of the odor, with some locals associating it with nausea and sore throats.

Missoula City-County Health Department Director Ellen Leahy says she and her staff don't yet know if the Emerald leak is causing the odor. Emerald's Smith believes the two issues are unrelated.

Seeking to pinpoint the smell's source, the health department last summer convened the Northside-Westside Odor Investigation Task Force, which is comprised of health department staffers, industry representatives and locals who volunteered to help identify the problem. Since then, the task force has evaluated whether natural gas could be the cause, sniffed sewage drains to check if they're the culprit and considered if oil trains are the problem. None of those appear to be the cause, Leahy says. "We've ruled out a lot of contenders."

Leahy believes the smell originates from a material with a sulfur component (sulfur is present in oil and coal). But, because cold temperatures chill the biological processes responsible for fueling sulfur-based bacterial growth and corresponding smells, winter has put the investigation on hold. "The cold season was upon us before we could definitively say, 'Yes this is absolutely it,' or 'This is not it.'"

The task force will reconvene in the spring, when temperatures warm.

<http://missoulanews.bigskypress.com/IndyBlog/archives/2015/01/06/missoula-health-department-discovers-leak-under-westside-facility-that-could-be-releasing-contaminants>

USA, WI, MILWAUKEE

JANUARY 10 2015.

SHELL EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO WISCONSIN JET FUEL SPILL CHARGES

A former Royal Dutch Shell official pleaded guilty Wednesday to federal safety regulation violations and making false statements connected to a 2012 jet fuel pipeline leak in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Randy Jones, a former corrosion coordinator for Shell Pipeline Company, pleaded guilty to knowingly failing to conduct bi-monthly voltage readings and an annual survey of the pipeline as required by the Pipeline Safety Act. Jones, 44, also pleaded guilty to making a false statement and submitting false data to the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, the Department of Justice said. The violations were in connection with a spill at a Shell owned commercial jet fuel pipeline at General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In January 2012, a hole was discovered in the pipeline after jet fuel started contaminating soil surrounding the airport and at the nearby Wilson Creek. The spilled fuel eventually melted asphalt on airport property. Shell said about 9,000 gallons of jet fuel were released. The response and cleanup for the spill cost \$19.3 million. Under the terms of the plea agreement each offense carries a

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

maximum prison sentence of five years. Jones will be sentenced on April 30, 2015.

<http://petroglobalnews.com/2015/01/shell-employee-pleads-guilty-to-wisconsin-jet-fuel-spill-charges/>

USA, OH, LIMA

JANUARY 11 2015.

EXPLOSION, FIRE SHAKE LIMA'S HUSKY REFINERY

Megan Kennedy

Around 6:09 a.m. Saturday, an explosion at the Husky Lima Refinery shook many nearby residents awake and startled.

Though it may be a while before officials know what exactly sparked the incident, it is clear that an isocracker at the refinery exploded.

Miraculously, there were no injuries from the incident.

Mel Duvall, spokesman for Husky Refinery, said an isocracker is an "intermediate processing unit — or upgrading unit — which takes heavier oils from the front end crude stream and 'cracks' the heavy molecules to make gasoline and diesel."

The explosion launched shrapnel and other ash throughout the immediate area near the refinery, said Russ Decker, director of Allen County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, leaving large pieces of metal throughout the immediate radius.

The highly noticeable flames and plumes of smoke of the burning oil drew attention to people all over the area.

Though traffic was restricted in the area during the majority of the morning Saturday, residents in the area were safe in their homes.

Decker said three agencies tested the air quality on scene and the Allen County EMA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Husky officials' meters all read negative for dangerous chemicals. Decker said the incident nor is byproduct of the incident harmful to residents.

Officials with the U.S. EPA were unavailable for comment Saturday evening.

According to Duvall, the fire was "essentially out" at the refinery Saturday afternoon. Initially, Duvall said the fire started on a processing unit.

Duvall said the refinery is more than 100 years old, but is one of the most state-of-the-art in system updates, stating the systems were pristine.

Decker said there was an extreme concern early Saturday that the fire would spread to other areas of the refinery, however those fears never became a reality.

The role of the EMA was to provide assistance to agencies who would need the EMA's help, however Decker said agencies were able to contain the fire on-scene without further resources.

Decker said there was no immediate danger, with the biggest impact being the loud whooshing noise heard nearby. Sgt. Andy Green later posted on the Lima Police Department's Facebook page that the whooshing sound was steam.

A major obstacle for the Shawnee Township Fire Department was the cold temperatures, Platoon Chief John Norris said. Water had to be constantly moving on the ground or else it would freeze, posing a significant danger to responders.

However, in one way the weather acted as an aid to the situation, Decker said. Windy conditions helped dissipate the burning oil and fumes. He did acknowledge it also spread the smell of smoke farther.

Some residents reported ash and debris in their yards. Decker said the ash was hydrocarbons, a product from the burning material. Officials ask residents to not handle the material, as Husky is prepared to address the byproduct. If neighbors have concerns or want the debris cleaned up, they're asked to call Husky's local number, 419-226-2300.

The incident also caused an electrical outage, affecting the facility's industrial neighbors. PotashCorp reported the PCS Nitrogen facility lost power, shutting down several units. The facility is restarting the units over the next few days. The company warned residents they may hear elevated noise

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

levels during the shutdown and startup.

Decker said the explosion was worse than any other he's dealt with in his 17 years as EMA director, including the 2006 explosion of an oil tanker on Allentown Road. He noted that incident involved 10,000 gallons of fuel and this was "significantly more than that."

Norris said the tanker held 9,000 to 10,000 gallons of oil, however the isocracker was pumping about that same amount every minute.

Norris said his firefighters will remain on scene for as long as 36 hours to provide aid.

In terms of next steps for the refinery, it's too early to tell, Duvall said.

"We are currently evaluating next steps," he said, adding a statement would be given Sunday.

http://www.limaohio.com/news/home_top-news/51014284/Explosion-fire-shake-Limas-Husky-Refinery

USA, OH, BRYAN

JANUARY 11 2015.

ABOUT 150 DEAD BIRDS FOUND NEAR OIL LEAK

Crews in the northwestern corner of Ohio have found close to 150 dead birds near the site of an oil storage tank leak. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources says many of the birds killed in the spill are ducks. Volunteers are trying to wash off about 400 oil-soaked ducks that were rescued from the spill area near Bryan. The Environmental Protection Agency says it traced the leak to the Titan Tire Corporation in Bryan. That's about 60 miles west of Toledo. A hunter first discovered the spill after the oil made its way into a creek. An EPA spokeswoman tells The Blade newspaper in Toledo reports that a problem with a valve on an above-ground storage tank led to the spill.

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2015/jan/09/about-150-dead-birds-found-near-oil-leak/>

USA, TX, TAYLOR CO

JANUARY 11 2015.

OIL LEAK IN TAYLOR COUNTY

Laura McClintock

The Buffalo Gap Fire Department and Taylor County Sheriff's Office is on the scene of a large oil spill near Tuscola. A storage tank sprang a leak and oil is running into the bar ditch on County Road 150. A pumper arrived at the scene to clean up the mess. It is speculated that the bottom of the tank rusted out and the oil leaked from the crack. The pumper says there is no more than a hundred barrels of oil on the ground, but believes that it is a large amount. The Sheriff's Office says that the oil does not pose as a safety hazard.

<http://www.bigcountryhomepage.com/story/d/story/oil-leak-in-taylor-county/12051/iirEzxHqOEWD2GJTye41aw>

BULGARIA, RAZLOG

JANUARY 13 2015.

GAS CYLINDERS EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE NEAR BULGARIA'S RAZLOG

4 trailers loaded with compressed natural gas cylinders caught fire last night at about 1:30 a.m. at a natural gas decompression station near Bulgaria's Razlog, Southwest Bulgaria. The station is owned by Overgas Zapad, the press centre of Overgas Ink announced. A strong noise was heard by the citizens of the town but none were injured in the accident. It was reported there is no danger either for the people or the environment caused by gas leakage. Gas supply to Razlog and Bansko has been temporarily suspended. "If gas supply is delayed, we will declare tomorrow [Monday] a no-school day," said Eng. Krasimir Gerchev, Mayor of Razlog Municipality, speaking for FOCUS News Agency in connection with the explosion of gas cylinders near the town of Razlog. In his words, it will become known in the afternoon if the children will go to school on Monday. He informed no fresh explosions were expected but warned work on the site of the accident needed to be careful as there were still cylinders that were not empty. A specialised group is to

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

come and remove the deformed cylinders. The company, Overgas, mentioned after the site examination they had the readiness to replace the connected station to the distribution network and gas supply could be restored late in the afternoon or in the evening. Windows were broken as a result of the explosions. Eng. Gerchev said further the blasts were at first more intensive and after water was used they began to decrease.

<http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/01/12/359790/gas-cylinders-explosion-took-place-near-bulgarias-razlog-roundup.html>