

# 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/>

## **NIGERIA, LAGOS**

**DECEMBER 23 2011.**

### **SHELL BEGINS CLEAN-UP OF MASSIVE OIL SPILL**

*Kunle Akogun and Eji for Alike*

Shell said Thursday that an investigation by a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and analysis based on a combination of satellite pictures, photos from aerial surveillance, infra-red cameras and direct observations from vessels has indicated that the oil leak from its Bonga offshore facility remains offshore and is thinning and breaking up.

The oil giant also stated that it would deploy two aircraft today to support the five ships it had already deployed to apply dispersant and maintain constant surveillance after the worst oil leak in Nigeria in a decade.

Earlier, the Senate Committee on Environment and Ecology had charged the oil giant to immediately take necessary steps to not only halt the spill, but also ensure that it quickly cleans up the affected areas Shell confirmed that a leak did indeed occur in a flexible export line linking its Floating Production Storage and Offloading Vessel (FPSO) to the tanker.

Chairman of Shell Companies in Nigeria, Mr. Mutiu Sunmonu, said in a statement last night that the sheen had "thinned considerably due to a combination of natural factors and dispersant application, and in places is breaking up, all of which should aid further dissipation".

Sunmonu, who disclosed that one aircraft was already in the field on spill surveillance duty, added that more equipment and vessels were being mobilised. "We have brought in additional oil spill response experts and marine life experts to assist in the overall effort," he said.

He said another significant development was that the company had identified the source of the leak as a failure in a flexible export line and expressed appreciation to other oil companies and government agencies for their ongoing support to mitigate the impact of the leak.

"Since Tuesday, when we became aware of this regrettable leak at our Bonga offshore facility, substantial progress has been made in mitigating the consequences. The sheen has thinned considerably due to a combination of natural factors and dispersant application, and in places is breaking up, all of which should aid further dissipation," he said.

Sunmonu stated that the company would continue with its efforts to protect the coastline, adding that a sizable mitigation operation was underway to protect sensitive areas. Shell had earlier assessed that up to 50 per cent of the leaked oil had dissipated due to natural dispersion and evaporation.

The company also acknowledged that as satellite pictures had shown, the overall area covered by the sheen was large.

Chairman of the Senate Committee, Senator Bukola Saraki (PDP, Kwara Central), who briefed journalists in Abuja Thursday, also disclosed that members of the committee would soon undertake an on-the-spot visit to the affected area with a view to making first-hand assessment of the extent of damages the spill might have caused those living within the area or the impact it has had on their livelihood.

The spill, which has released about 40,000 barrels of oil off the Nigerian coast, is the worst since the 1997 case from a Mobil Producing facility. Saraki, who was with Senators Barnabas Gemade (PDP, Benue), Boluwaji Kunlere (Labour Party, Ondo) and Ben Ayade (PDP, Cross River) at the press briefing, however expressed relief that no life was lost in the incident.

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He told the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to carry out an independent assessment of the spill, saying that already, Shell had taken some steps such as deploying helicopters and vessels to the spill site. Saraki lamented that NOSDRA is incapable of carrying out independent investigation because of poor equipment.

"To the best of our knowledge, NOSDRA lacks the necessary equipment such as boats, vessels to navigate the typical terrain where most of these spills take place, helicopters to fly over the affected areas, bums, barriers and most importantly, information command and control centre like other parts of the world to monitor and control this kind of spills and have to now rely almost exclusively on the grace and benevolence of the oil companies to provide them logistics, equipment and information command and control centre," he said.

According to him, "This spill and the challenge in dealing with it once again underscores the need for us as a nation to strengthen the capacity of the agencies responsible and streamline our environmental regulatory framework."

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/shell-begins-clean-up-of-massive-oil-spill/105657/>

## **TAIWAN, TAIPEI**

**DECEMBER 24 2011.**

### **COMMISSION CALLS FOR CHECK ON GAS STATIONS AFTER LEAKS DISCOVERED**

*Yang Shu-Min and Kendra Lin*

The Consumer Protection Commission (CPC) demanded Friday that all of Taiwan's 2,650 gas stations be inspected after a random check by the CPC on 26 stations showed a number of pumps were leaking.

The commission found that 13 fuel dispensers at 11 of the stations checked were leaking, a situation that could endanger public safety, warned CPC official Wu Cheng-Hsueh.

The CPC thus demanded that the Energy Bureau under the Ministry of Economic Affairs check all stations as soon as possible.

The Cabinet-level commission conducted its inspection between October and November after it received a consumer complaint about a gasoline leak at a self-service station. A total of 198 stations are equipped with self-service devices, according to the bureau.

Besides calling for a check on all stations, the commission also asked for the installation of devices to remove static electricity and shut-off buttons, especially as nozzles at three of the checked stations had hold-open levers, which might leak fuel if not closed properly, said Wu.

The bureau said in response that all the problematic pumps discovered by the CPC had passed a Dec. 9 inspection. As for other stations around Taiwan, Energy Bureau Director-General Jerry Ou said he could not say whether a thorough examination would be completed next year.

According to the bureau, it has checked more than 1,200 stations  
[http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews\\_Detail.aspx?Type=aSOC&ID=201112230027](http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews_Detail.aspx?Type=aSOC&ID=201112230027)

## **AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, LARGS**

**DECEMBER 25 2011.**

### **FUEL DEPOT FIRE EXTINGUISHED**

*Lachlan Pryor*

Firefighters say they do not know the cause of a fire at a fuel depot at Largs North at the weekend.

The blaze burnt a large bulk fuel storage tank, with smoke and flames visible in and around the Willochra St depot on Saturday evening.

The MFS dispatched a large number of crew members to the scene.

"Twelve MFS appliances and 55 firefighters responded to the fire, which was burning in a large bulk fuel storage tank at the depot," an MFS spokesperson said.

"The quick work of firefighters led to the blaze being brought under control and extinguished within an hour."

MFS chief officer Grant Lupton commended the work of his team, whose actions he described as "diligent."

"Through a rapid response and diligent work, firefighters have managed to bring this situation to a successful conclusion," he said.

Keegan Armstrong, who took photographs of the incident and sent them in to NewsForce, noticed the fire while walking with his family on Christmas Eve.

"Our family was at the beach with the dogs and we were driving back past the depot so we went down the side street to have a look," he said.

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"It looked pretty big. The flames were coming out like little fireballs."

Mr Armstrong said the flames looked as though they were close to a small side street, which was later blocked off by police.

The MFS said the fire's cause had not been identified.

It did not estimate the damage bill.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/industrial-blaze-at-largs-north/story-e6frea83-1226230064958>

## USA, WASHINGTON DC

DECEMBER 27 2011.

### STATEMENT OF CSB CHAIRMAN RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO FOLLOWING FATAL FIRE AT EASTERN OHIO HAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AND PROCESSING FACILITY – TRAGEDY EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF AN NATIONAL FIRE CODE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE HANDLING

Today as many people enjoy a holiday season spent with friends and family, I would like to call attention to a recent tragedy that occurred late last week in eastern Ohio. On December 17, 2011, a chemical fire occurred at Heritage-WTI, Inc. which resulted in two workers being seriously burned, one of whom succumbed to his injuries days later. Heritage-WTI, Inc, is hazardous waste storage and processing facility located in East Liverpool, Ohio.

According to company officials a flash fire occurred when workers were splitting a large solid waste drum of hazardous flammable inorganic material into smaller storage drums.

Unfortunately accidents at hazardous waste processing facilities are all too common. The CSB investigated a major fire in 2006 at the Environmental Quality Company (EQ), a hazardous waste facility located in Apex, North Carolina, which resulted in the evacuation of thousands of residents for two days. The CSB's EQ case study found 21 other fire and chemical release incidents at hazardous waste facilities in the United States that occurred from 2002 – 2007. These incidents resulted in two fatalities, 16 injuries, and eight community evacuations, shelter-in-place events, or transportation disruptions.

The CSB also investigated a 2009 explosion and fire at the Veolia ES Technical Solutions L.L.C. facility in West Carrollton, Ohio. The accident occurred when flammable vapor was released from a waste recycling process, ignited, and violently exploded. The blast seriously injured two workers and damaged 20 nearby residences and five businesses.

As a result of these two investigations, the Chemical Safety Board issued recommendations to the Environmental Technology Council (ETC), a hazardous waste industry trade group. Specifically, one of the recommendations is to petition the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a developer of U.S. fire prevention codes, to issue a standard specific to hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities. The standard would provide guidance to prevent the occurrence of fires, explosions, and releases at these types of facilities. This recommendation has still yet to be implemented.

The second recommendation to ETC was to develop its own guidance document for its members on the safe processing, handling and storage of hazardous waste. Heritage-WTI, Inc as well as all ETC members would receive this document.

It is the CSB's view that the ETC's petition to the NFPA will lead to the development of a national standard that will improve safety practices at hazardous waste treatment plants across the country.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating serious chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, [www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov).

Link to Veolia Investigation Page: [http://www.csb.gov/investigations/detail.aspx?SID=80&Type=2&pg=1&F\\_All=y](http://www.csb.gov/investigations/detail.aspx?SID=80&Type=2&pg=1&F_All=y)

Link to EQ Investigation Page: [http://www.csb.gov/investigations/detail.aspx?SID=15&Type=2&pg=1&F\\_All=y](http://www.csb.gov/investigations/detail.aspx?SID=15&Type=2&pg=1&F_All=y)  
<http://www.csb.gov/>

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**USA, AKA, FAIRBANKS**

**DECEMBER 29 2011.**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP AVERTED AT CANTWELL STORE FIRE**

*Sam Friedman*

There's some silver lining in the aftermath of the gas station explosion and fire that injured five in Cantwell earlier this month.

Not only was the fire contained before it reached the gas pumps, the fuel that did burn will not require major environmental cleanup, according to state environmental regulators.

"For the size of fire and destruction, there is very little cleanup that needs to be done," said state on-scene coordinator Tom DeRuyter with the Alaska Departmental of Environmental Conservation.

Two separate fuel containers burned in and around the convenience store, he said. One was a drum of cooking grease outside the store. Another, originally thought to be a bigger factor in the fire was a 300 gallon fuel oil tank below the store. The fire burned the vent off this tank, but it must not have touched most of the fuel because there was 250 gallons of fuel in the tank after the fire, he said.

Besides these two tanks there will be some cleanup needed for a burned inventory of motor oil and batteries in the store's basement, he said.

The state fire marshal has not determined the cause of an explosion, which occurred on the evening of Dec. 4.

Although the gas station is a Chevron, the convenience store was operated by Philadelphia-based Aramark Corporation. The land is owned by Nenena Heating Service Inc.

[http://newsminer.com/view/full\\_story/16916324/article-Environmental-cleanup-averted-at-Cantwell-storefire?instance=home\\_news\\_window\\_left\\_bullets](http://newsminer.com/view/full_story/16916324/article-Environmental-cleanup-averted-at-Cantwell-storefire?instance=home_news_window_left_bullets)

**REPUBLIC OF KYRGYZSTAN, CHUI PROVINCE, PANFILOV**

**DECEMBER 29 2011.**

## **5 PEOPLE DIE IN FIRE AT THE TANK FARM IN CHUI PROVINCE OF KYRGYZSTAN**

*Makhinur Niyazova*

In Kyrgyzstan, 4 people died in fire at the tank farm in Panfilov district of Chui province. The firefighting service of Chui province informs.

Reportedly, at 12.00 they received call on fire in the inactive tank farm in Kaindy. The fire destroyed four vehicles, including two fuel tankers.

As noted, several people died in incident. According to preliminary data, they are drivers. "At the moment data on deaths are being specified. We know about 4 fire victims," said in the firefighting service.

Now the fire has been extinguished. An inquiry is being prosecuted, ignition cause is being established.

<http://eng.24.kg/incidents/2011/12/28/22266.html>

**USA, ILL, CHICAGO**

**DECEMBER 29 2011.**

## **DIESEL FUEL LEAKS INTO FOX RIVER**

Approximately 1,500 gallons of diesel fuel leaked from the Federal Aviation Administration facility at 619 W. Indian Trail Wednesday morning.

The city of Aurora said the spill presents no danger to the public water supply.

Several departments from the city, along with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, were working with a hazardous materials firm Wednesday evening to clean up the spill.

At approximately 1 a.m., FAA officials informed the Aurora Fire Department that a small amount of fuel, between 20 and 100 gallons, had overflowed through the top of a malfunctioning underground fuel storage tank onto the pavement and into a Fox Metro Water District sanitary sewer.

Since a spill of that size would be categorized as small and did not necessitate an immediate cleanup, fire personnel informed Fox Metro and plans were made to address it later in the morning, the city said.

At around 10 a.m., FAA officials informed the city that the spill was actually between 1,000 and 1,500 gallons, and that it did flow into a city storm sewer, which discharges into the nearby Fox River. FAA officials later put the spill at 1,459 gallons.

Upon receiving the revised information from the FAA, the city dispatched crews from the Fire, Water and Sewer, and Water Production departments and notified the IEPA.

The FAA contracted with a private, IEPA-approved environmental mitigation firm, which soon arrived.

793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803

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Absorbent booms were placed at the entrances and exits of the affected storm sewer lines in order to absorb the fuel.

However, an unknown quantity of fuel entered the Fox River at Sullivan Road, resulting in an approximate 8-foot-wide sheen on the river's west bank that extended for approximately 1.5 miles.

The city said the natural flow of the river confined the spill to the opposite side of the river from the water treatment plant, and there was no danger to the city's water supply. Cleanup efforts will continue throughout the night, the city said.

<http://www.suntimes.com/9692969-417/diesel-fuel-leaks-into-fox-river.html>

## **USA, ME, NORTH BERWICK**

**DECEMBER 29 2011.**

### **WIND BLAMED FOR FUEL SPILL IN NORTH BERWICK**

#### **ABOUT 200 GALLONS OF KEROSENE SPILL ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AFTER AN EXTERNAL TANK IS TIPPED OVER.**

*David Hench*

High winds late Tuesday and early Wednesday are being blamed for a large fuel spill in North Berwick.

Winds that gusted to between 45 and 54 miles per hour toppled a private shed on Governor Goodwin Road overnight, which caused an external fuel tank with kerosene to tip over, according to a spokeswoman for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

The tank spilled about 200 gallons of kerosene, she said.

The DEP was notified this morning, and crews are working to excavate the contaminated soil.

The property uses a public water supply, but drinking water was not threatened. There are other private wells in the area, however, and the DEP is investigating the threat of contamination to those wells, the spokeswoman said. There was no threat to surface water or wetlands, she said.

The fiercest winds were between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. from the southwest, according to the National Weather Service in Gray. Another bout of heavy wind, this time from the northwest, will descend on the area tonight, the service said.

The weather service has issued a wind-chill advisory for western Maine and northern New Hampshire. Those areas will see temperatures drop to between 5 and 10 degrees below zero, with wind chills as low as 25 below zero, said Mike Kistner, a meteorologist.

Portland and other coastal area will come close to single digits, Kistner said.

<http://www.pressherald.com/news/North-Berwick-fuel-spill-blamed-on-high-winds.html>

## **USA, CO, DENVER**

**DECEMBER 31 2011.**

### **BENZENE IS FOULING DRINKING WATER AT SUNCOR REFINERY AND CHEMICALS ARE SEEPING DIRECTLY INTO SAND CREEK**

*Bruce Finley*

Toxic petroleum dissolved in groundwater beneath Suncor Energy north of downtown Denver is seeping directly into the bottom of Sand Creek near the creek's confluence with the South Platte River and piped drinking water at the refinery may be contaminated with benzene.

State health officials today ordered additional measures to minimize environmental harm and prevent people from ingesting contaminated water. Those measures include posting of "Drinking Water Warning" signs at the refinery.

Benzene levels in Sand Creek are fluctuating but reached 670 parts per billion on Dec. 22 — 134 times higher than the 5 ppb national drinking water standard.

An anonymous tip from a Suncor employee Thursday alerted state health officials to contamination in tap water on the refinery property.

Suncor officials couldn't be reached today for comment.

Denver Water authorities, notified around noon today by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, immediately began testing the city's water system for benzene that can cause anemia, blood problems and cancer. Denver Water reviewed data from recent tests for benzene and found no elevated levels, utility spokeswoman Stacy Chesney said.

Denver Water delivers treated water to the refinery at three locations. Pipes then are under Suncor's control.

"We're always concerned when there's an indication of a water-quality issue with one of our customers," Chesney said. "It appears this situation is isolated to Suncor's private system. Benzene has not been detected in our system. But we are doing additional testing as a precautionary measure."

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Denver Water managers will provide maps and documentation to help Suncor and state health officials find out whether water pipes near and under refinery property are affected.

The eight-page state order issued today builds on state orders issued Dec. 1, after a fisherman found foul-smelling black goo seeping into Sand Creek and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched an emergency response.

For decades, state health regulators have known about underground plumes of contamination at the refinery, and documents show new contamination was detected earlier this year. The area has been site of refining operations since 1938 and has a long history of environmental problems. Suncor bought the refinery from Conoco.

EPA emergency responders in early December handed back responsibility for a cleanup and remediation to state regulators — after contract workers dug a trench to trap toxic material seeping from the banks of Sand Creek.

Over the past couple weeks, however, monitoring along the creek found that petroleum is entering the creek directly without surfacing, according to state health spokesman Warren Smith.

"The dissolved material is coming in through the bottom of the channel, not through a seep on the bank," Smith said.

The state order requires installation of "an air sparging system" in Sand Creek — similar to a fish tank aerator — by Jan. 6. This is meant to help benzene and other contaminants in the creek evaporate into the air, instead of flowing into the South Platte.

The order also requires Suncor to install a soil vapor extraction system and dig a second "interceptor trench" by Jan. 31 to try to trap hydrocarbons floating in groundwater before they enter Sand Creek.

Suncor has tried to make the first trench work better and is providing bottled water to workers, Smith said. Company contractors also have tested 50 of 57 buildings at the adjacent Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant for toxic vapors, finding problems in two. Toxic vapor removal systems have been installed along with a filter and a ventilator on other buildings, he said.

State wildlife officials report no dead fish. Suncor could be held responsible for damage extending from the refinery down the river.

[http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci\\_19648011](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_19648011)

## **USA, N.C, BANNER ELK**

**DECEMBER 31 2011.**

### **DEMOLITION WORKER INJURED DURING FUEL TANK EXPLOSION**

*George Jackson*

Demolition work at a construction site in Banner Elk, N.C. turned into an emergency situation on Friday afternoon. The call came in at 4 p.m. Fire Marshall David Charles Vance said two workers were salvaging a 10,000-gallon tank for scrap metal. It was empty of fuel, but did contain residual vapors. Vance said the men were using a blow torch to cut through the steel tank, and the flames ignited vapors within it. "The end of the tank blew out, completely blew away from the tank, and traveled approximately a quarter-mile," he said. One worker, 28-year-old Mark Trivett, was injured. He was transported to the old Cannon Memorial Hospital, picked up by Wings Air Rescue, and transported to the Johnson City Medical Center. Banner Elk Police said Trivett was in intensive care with a head wound.

<http://www2.tricity.com/news/2011/dec/31/demolition-worker-injured-during-fuel-tank-explosi-ar-1578234/>

## **USA, N.Y, FORT EDWARD**

**DECEMBER 3 2012.**

### **FORT EDWARD MAYOR: SOURCE OF IGNITION REMAINS UNKNOWN, GAS LEAK DAMAGE STILL BEING ASSESSED IN FORT EDWARD**

*Jamie Munks*

It's likely to be a long time before the full extent of the damage to village infrastructure resulting from last week's gasoline leak is known.

Six days after a gasoline leak that caused explosions in the sewer system in the village, officials convened to discuss the incident, but don't have much information about its lasting effects yet.

"It will be interesting to see what if any damage there is," Mayor Matt Traver said, adding that there's no known timeline in place for repairing any damage. "It's going to be a long time."

It remains unclear what the source was that caused ignition in the blasts, Traver said.

A regular Village Board meeting was held Monday night, preceded by a special meeting about last week's gas spill and its aftermath.

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The spill, caused when a vehicle hit a gas pump at the Cumberland Farms store on Main Street in Hudson Falls, resulted in explosions in the sewer system that forced manhole covers to shoot into the air.

An emergency shut-off on the pump malfunctioned and an estimated 1,200 gallons of gasoline got into the sewer system and flowed to Fort Edward, where it pooled. There was damage to roads and broken windows in a few buildings when the manhole covers popped off, and village Highway Superintendent Kevin Stimpson suffered a knee injury, but no one was seriously hurt in the blasts.

Traver anticipates that most of the damage within the sewer system will be concentrated in the area of Satterlee Lane and Liberty and Washington streets, where most of the explosions occurred. In the nearby building that formerly housed St. Joseph's School, 22 windows were blown out, he said.

A crater-sized hole in Satterlee Lane indicates that was where the biggest explosion happened, and Traver said in one area of the lane, it appeared that the blackout had been raised by about 8 inches after the blast.

"That road is going to need to be addressed pretty quickly," he said of Satterlee.

An effort to vacuum gasoline out of the sewer system from Hudson Falls to Fort Edward is ongoing, and engineers have been putting cameras down through manholes and into sewer pipes to determine the damage. The cameras can take a 360-degree view of the pipes so officials can see what the damage is and determine what repairs must be made. The village has asked that the engineering company commissioned by Cumberland Farms also use the cameras to assess damage in the lateral lines that connect from the sewer system to residences, Traver said.

An insurance adjuster for Cumberland Farms was expected to be in the area Tuesday to begin assessing the damage, but it will likely be a long time before the amount of money the company is required to pay for repairs is known, Traver said.

Village officials said they haven't heard much information from residents about problems with sewers backing up.

Officials advised residents to let their insurance companies know, if they think a property damage claim is possible.

Traver wants to see the sewer lines flushed out so that any lingering gasoline fumes are released from the system. A concern remains that when the volume in the lines increases during a spring thaw, additional problems in the sewer system could be possible. Readings taken with meters late last week indicated that gasoline vapors couldn't be detected at that time, but it's also a typically low-volume time of year, Traver said.

Officials were happy with the response from members of the community and emergency responders, they said.

"In a small community, people come together time and time again," Trustee Ed Carpenter said.

[http://poststar.com/news/local/gas-leak-damage-still-being-assessed-in-fort-edward/article\\_cb444d72-35b8-11e1-b7e8-001871e3ce6c.html#ixzz1jdTpKTPp](http://poststar.com/news/local/gas-leak-damage-still-being-assessed-in-fort-edward/article_cb444d72-35b8-11e1-b7e8-001871e3ce6c.html#ixzz1jdTpKTPp)

## **USA, N.Y, SOUTHDOLD TOWN**

**DECEMBER 4 2012.**

### **FORMER SOUTHDOLD COUNCILMAN SUCCUMBS TO BURN INJURIES**

#### **BIO-DIESEL FUEL FIRE**

*Denise Civiletti*

Former Southold Town Councilman John Romanelli, who was badly burned in an accident at his business Friday morning, succumbed to his injuries early Tuesday morning at Stony Brook University Medical Center.

Romanelli, 47, was the owner of Burt's Reliable Fuel in Southold.

The accident occurred when a trucking company was attempting to unload bio-fuel into a tank at Romanelli's Youngs Avenue, Southold business. A connection valve that distributes the fuel from the truck to the tank was frozen, police said. Romanelli attempted to thaw the valve with a torch, according to a police report. As he did so, the rubber pipe connecting the valve to the truck came loose, causing the fuel from the truck to spray onto Romanelli, who caught fire as a result.

Employees at Romanelli's company used fire extinguishers to douse the flames burning Romanelli's clothing, police said.

Romanelli was treated at the scene by Southold Fire Department EMTs before being airlifted to Stony Brook, where he was listed in critical condition.

First elected in 1997, Romanelli served two four-year terms on the Southold Town Board. He mounted an unsuccessful challenge for supervisor against incumbent Josh Horton in 2003.

Romanelli is survived by his wife Heather, and his two children, Ethan and Tara.

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"Unfortunately, John's injuries were far too extensive despite the incredible efforts of the doctors and nurses of Stony Brook University Hospital and John's fearless battle to survive," his brother, Paul said in a statement issued Tuesday morning, according to a report in The Suffolk Times.

"We ask that you please give the Romanelli family and the employees of Burt's Reliable time to grieve over this sad event," he said.

<http://www.riverheadlocal.com/local-news-content/4110-former-southold-councilman-succumbs-to-burn-injuries>

## **USA, CA, PETALUMA**

**JANUARY 5 2012.**

### **THREE TRACTOR RIGS DESTROYED IN FIRE AT FEDEX FACILITY IN PETALUMA**

#### **THE FIRE WAS THREATENING AN ABOVE-GROUND TANK CONTAINING 10,000-TO-20,000 GL OF FUEL**

*Mary Callahan*

Petaluma fire officials are investigating an early Wednesday fire at a FedEx freight building that destroyed three tractor rigs and threatened a fuel tank containing at least 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

Leaking fuel from a saddle tank also found its way into the city storm drain system, though the spill was contained before it reached a nearby creek, Petaluma Fire Battalion Chief Russ Rasmussen said.

Fire officials were still unsure Wednesday morning what caused the 2:30 a.m. fire at the FedEx facility on North McDowell Boulevard near Corona Road, Rasmussen said.

"We're not quite prepared to say it's suspicious yet, but we don't see any obvious accidental causes," he said.

FedEx personnel go in and out of the facility all night, so the gates are sometimes open.

A worker reported the fire.

The fire was a mere 15 feet or so from an above-ground tank containing 10,000-to-20,000 gallons of fuel that firefighters kept from catching fire, Rasmussen said.

It was unclear how much fuel leaked from a far smaller tank attached to one of the tractors, he said.

It holds about 80 gallons and was more than half full before the fire, and may have leaked about 60 gallons, he said.

A hazmat crew was working to clean up the spill Wednesday, he said.

"It was contained to the storm drain. It didn't make it to the creek," he said.

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20120104/ARTICLES/120109865/1033/news?Title=3-tractor-rigs-destroyed-in-fire-at-Petaluma-FedEx-facility>

## **NEW ZEALAND, KAPONGA**

**JANUARY 5 2012.**

### **DIESEL TANK CATCHES FIRE**

*Jared Smith*

Refilling a truck nearly turned into a nightmare at a Kaponga earth-movers yard yesterday afternoon when a diesel tank caught alight.

Fire engines from Kaponga, Okaiawa and Eltham, along with Eltham's water tanker, raced to the scene at 4.30pm as massive flames leapt up and black smoke from the depot was visible from the neighbouring properties.

Kaponga chief fire officer Jason Hurley said there was 4,500 litres worth of diesel in the tank.

"[The owner] was filling his truck up with diesel, a little bit spilled on to the exhaust of the motor that was pumping the diesel out of the tank and that ignited.

"He got the truck out of the way and called us.

"It had the potential to be a lot worse but diesel's not so bad. It's manageable [compared to petrol]."

Fire crews put foam on the tank to get the flames out, then isolated the fuel tap, before hosing down the tank to cool it off.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/6216458/Diesel-tank-catches-fire>



# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

**USA, ILL, CHICAGO**

**JANUARY 5 2012.**

**AGAIN, AURORA SAYS FUEL SPILL POSED NO THREAT TO DRINKING WATER**

*Erin Meyer*

As the cleanup of last week's diesel fuel spill in Aurora continues, officials reaffirmed Wednesday that the city's water supply was never at risk.

About 1,500 gallons of fuel spewed from underground storage tanks Dec. 27 after an equipment malfunction at the Federal Aviation Administration facility on Indian Trail Road. The fuel ran through a storm sewer and a creek before some of it made its way into the Fox River, which provides 60 percent of the city's drinking water.

But officials said the current kept fuel on the river's west bank, far from the water treatment plant's intake.

"The treated water pumped to Aurora's residents was not at risk at any time during the incident," Dave Schumacher, Aurora water production superintendent, said via email Wednesday.

An FAA spokeswoman said Wednesday that the cause of the malfunction is unknown and that the matter is under investigation.

A company contracted by the FAA continues to work on the cleanup, and "we hope to finish soon," said Elizabeth Cory, the FAA spokeswoman. She said the FAA has been in daily contact with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Aurora Fire Department.

Raw river water at the intake structures, as well as processed drinking water, are monitored by an automated system, city officials said. The city of Aurora did not have to take special precautions, because drinking water is continuously monitored, officials said. If the fuel had contaminated the drinking water, the system would have immediately alerted operators at the water treatment plant.

"Diesel fuel is composed of organic molecules (that) would have had a substantial effect on the results of the test," Schumacher said. "None of the results produced from this routine test from time periods before, during and after the incident indicated any changes from normal results measured under current weather conditions."

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-aurora-water-20120105,0,7573468.story>

**USA, CT, MILFORD**

**JANUARY 6 2012.**

**NEW MILFORD MAN FALLS IN OIL TANK**

A worker at a transformer-manufacturing plant on Pickett District Road had to be rescued by emergency crews after he fell inside an oil tank Thursday morning. The man, who was not identified, had been working on a transformer inside an oil tank when he fell and injured his hip, according to Antonio Capanna, the president and chief operating officer of Neeltran Inc., where the fall took place. The incident occurred at about 9 a.m. in the plant at 71 Pickett District Road. "He was in a unit, on a ladder ... which is standard procedure," Capanna said. "We gather he slipped and fell about 6 to 8 feet and hit hip." Police said the man was alert when he was transported to Danbury Hospital just after 9:30 a.m. Capanna said there was no oil in the tank when the worker fell, and that the man's life was never in danger. The tank is 10 feet by 10 feet, Capanna said. It appears the man's hip injury was the primary reason he needed to be helped out of the tank.

<http://www.newstimes.com/local/article/New-Milford-man-falls-in-oil-tank-2443076.php>

**USA, PA, GNADENHUTTEN**

**JANUARY 8 2012.**

**CAUSE OF OIL-TANK EXPLOSION STILL UNKNOWN**

*Lee Morrison*

Investigation into what caused an oil-well storage tank to explode Friday near Gnadenhutten has been turned over to Ohio Department of Natural Resources staff and engineers with tank owner Artex Oil Co. of Marietta.

Initial investigation by a state fire marshal listed the cause as undetermined and not believed to be of suspicious origin, according to Gnadenhutten-Clay Township Firefighter Steve Wright.

ODNR and the company now will try to find the answers, he added.

The oil well storage tank exploded, causing an adjacent tank to catch fire. Smoke from the blaze could be seen about six miles away in Uhrichsville.

Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Deputy Troy Beckley is asking that a man seen near the fire call him at 330-339-2000. The man was seen by Artex employee John A. Stulls as he returned to the site. The man yelled to Stulls to see if he was okay. Stulls yelled back for the man to get away from the fire for safety sake. The man then drove away in a vehicle,

793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

described as a silver, 2000 Jeep Cherokee.

Beckley is asking that man to call the sheriff's office to gather more information from him.

Stulls' 2000 Ford F-150 pickup truck was destroyed by the fire, Beckley said. Stulls, 30, of 14289 River Road SW, Newcomerstown, used it as his work vehicle and parked near the tanks. He then used an ATV to go through the woods and to a hilltop about a mile away to check on a pump station for the storage tanks that burned, Beckley said.

"He heard the explosion, but didn't know what happened until he was riding back and saw the flames," Beckley said.

No damage estimates were available Saturday for the pickup. An estimate regarding the tanks is being compiled for the state fire marshal, Beckley added.

Stulls called the Tuscarawas County 911 emergency dispatch center at 10:56 a.m. Friday. No one was injured and firefighters from five departments battled the blaze at the site about three miles southwest of Gnadenuhnten.

The explosion sent the top of the tank flying about 100 yards before landing in an adjoining field near the intersection of River Road SW and Williams Road SW. The site is about halfway between Gnadenuhnten and Port Washington.

Twenty-one firefighters used about 130 gallons of foam as flames soared at least 30 feet into the air. It took about an hour to extinguish the blaze. In addition to the oil in the two tanks, a containment pool with oil from the ruptured tank also burned, Wright said. Firefighters cleared the scene by 3 p.m.

<http://www.timesreporter.com/communities/x1085778046/Cause-of-oil-tank-explosion-still-unknown>

## INDIA, JAIPUR

**JANUARY 9 2012.**

### THREE LABOURERS DIE AFTER INHALING POISONOUS GAS AT OIL PLANT

Three labourers died one by one after they climbed into an oil tank to clean it at an oil refinery plant in Vishwakarma Industrial Area on Sunday morning. The labourers were not wearing masks and had not put on any safety equipment leading to their death, most likely due to poisonous gases and suffocation, said police officers. The two owners of the plant were arrested for criminal negligence.

According to deputy commissioner of police (DCP), West, Sharad Kaviraj, the labourers, identified as Gopu Shah, Gopal Patel and Samraj alias Shyam Raj were working at Bharat Industrial Oil Corporation at Road No. 9 in Vishwakarma. While Gopi was from Motihari in Bihar, the other two belonged to Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh. All of them were about 23-years-old.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Three-labourers-die-after-inhaling-poisonous-gas-at-oil-plant/articleshow/11419617.cms>

## USA, VA, FAIRFAX

**JANUARY 10 2012.**

### FAIRFAX CREWS PLUG GAS LEAK AT TANK FARM

#### THE LEAK RELEASED LESS THAN 500 GALLONS OF GASOLINE.

*Whitney Rhodes*

Gasoline leaked from a pipe at the tank farm on Pickett Road Sunday evening. The leak was not substantial enough to put neighboring homes in harm's way.

Fairfax City and Fairfax County firefighters responded to the Pickett Road Terminal Complex after an employee discovered the leak during a routine inspection. Crews closed off both ends of the damaged pipe and removed the remaining gasoline with a vacuum truck, according to Fairfax City Fire Marshal Andrew Wilson. The leak was stopped by about 11:30 p.m.

All of the gasoline remained within the diked portion of the tank farm terminal.

"Work is now underway to isolate and remove the damaged section of pipe," Wilson said. "Contaminated gravel and soil will be removed from the dike area and will be disposed of in an approved manner."

Motiva cancelled a gasoline delivery scheduled for 3 a.m. Monday as a precaution.

This incident was minor, as far as Fairfax City's history with the tank farm is concerned. The leak came from a 20-inch diameter pipe that feeds a gasoline storage tank. It left the pipe at about five gallons per minute, amounting to less than 500 gallons of spilled gasoline.

The tank farm has had only one major spill since 1980 but has experienced minor problems over the past four years.

Late last January, one of four companies that use the tank farm discovered a diesel fuel leak on the property. It

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

was contained within the complex.

Last August, a fuel tanker flipped over at Pickett and Main Street while leaving the farm. The incident caused heavy traffic delays. City police, rescue and cleanup crews stopped the mild fuel spill and removed debris from the intersection.

In 1990, an underground leak caused about 250,000 gallons of diesel oil, gasoline and other chemicals to contaminate the surrounding neighborhoods, according to news reports. The cleanup cost hundreds of millions of dollars and troubled Mantua residents for years.

<http://fairfaxcity.patch.com/articles/fairfax-crews-plug-gas-leak-at-tank-farm>

## **USA, CO, PUEBLO**

**JANUARY 10 2012.**

### **CREWS WORK TO CONTAIN DIESEL SPILL**

#### **INCIDENT BEGAN WITH OVERFLOWING TANKS AT DOWNTOWN SERVICE STATION.**

*Jeff Tucker*

A spill of about 100 gallons of diesel fuel forced the closure of Runyon Lake on Monday and sent fire crews to the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo to help clean up the mess.

By 3 p.m. firefighters were called off of the job as a private contractor committed more resources to the project.

The spill was called in about 1:30 a.m. after a delivery company filling the underground tanks at 1st Stop, 623 N. Grand Ave., overfilled the tanks spilling fuel into the city's stormwater system.

Assistant Fire Chief Bill Nemick said the fire department tried to soak up as much of the fuel as possible, but wasn't able to keep it all from spilling into the storm system.

From that spot, the storm sewer runs toward Runyon Lake and the Arkansas River. It wasn't long after the spill that people started reporting the smell of gasoline near the Professional Bull Riders Head- quarters.

"We didn't think it would run that far that quickly," Nemick said.

The storm sewer runs parallel to the Riverwalk until it reached the natural area of the park near Santa Fe Avenue.

The sewer dumps into the Riverwalk there, which then runs under Santa Fe toward Runyon Lake.

He said crews constructed five floating booms from the natural area of the Riverwalk stretching to Runyon Lake.

Crews are taking absorptive pads and placing them in the water to soak up the fuel.

Fire Inspector Woody Percival said firefighters were called off the work at about 3 p.m. after the private contractor got more people to Pueblo.

The contractor also set up pumpers at storm grates near the spill site to pump stormwater out of the sewer.

He said he was told the work could last through today.

The local and state health departments and the city stormwater department also are involved with the process as is the Division of Wildlife.

Nemick couldn't comment on the potential impact to wildlife along the river.

There was one dead fish spotted in the natural area of the Riverwalk, but no others and Nemick said there's no way to be certain if that fish was related to the fuel spill.

[http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/local-firefighters-respond-to-fuel-spill/article\\_c18615e2-3afc-11e1-81ba-001871e3ce6c.html](http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/local-firefighters-respond-to-fuel-spill/article_c18615e2-3afc-11e1-81ba-001871e3ce6c.html)

## **USA, TX, COCKRELL HILL**

**JANUARY 11 2012. CREWS WORK TO CLEAN LARGE FUEL SPILL IN SOUTHWEST DALLAS COUNTY**

Crews in Cockrell Hill worked to clean a fuel spill Tuesday morning. The city's fire department and Dallas Fire-Rescue's HazMat Response Team responded to the Texaco gas station in the 4200 block of W. Jefferson Boulevard just before 3 a.m., and found gas running down the street. It's believed one of the underground tanks overflowed. Crews were able to shut the pumps off, but a large amount of fuel had already spilled. W. Jefferson Boulevard was closed for a short while the fuel was cleared from the street and surrounding parking lots. The cause of the incident is still under investigation.

<http://www.the33tv.com/news/kdaf-crews-work-to-clean-large-fuel-spill-in-southwest-dallas-county-20120110,0,5941300.story>

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

## USA, PA, CANTON TWP

### JANUARY 12 2012. POLICE PROBE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING FLUID SPILL IN BRADFORD COUNTY AS MANY OF 20,000 GALLONS POUR OUT OF TANK

Pennsylvania State Police, the state Department of Environmental Protection and Talisman Energy are investigating the Tuesday morning spill of up to 20,000 gallons of wastewater created by the hydraulic fracturing process at a natural gas well pad in Bradford County.

The actual volume of the spill at the well on Ayres Road in Canton Township was unknown Tuesday afternoon because the company had not yet finished measuring it, said Natalie Cox, a spokeswoman for Talisman Energy.

State Police in Towanda are investigating the spill as criminal mischief. Someone intentionally tampered with a tank on the well pad between midnight and 8:30 a.m. Tuesday to cause the spill, according to a police report.

Cox could not confirm the cause of the spill because it is still under investigation.

The spilled liquid is called production brine or "flow back water," Cox said, explaining that it's "the water that comes back after the hydraulic fracturing is complete."

It flows to the surface after water and hydraulic fracturing fluid are injected into the well, she said.

"It comes back with rock chippings and pieces of the earth in with it," Cox said, noting that it's similar to what was dumped Dec. 1 on state game land in the county.

Josh Foster, 27, of Temple, Ga., is charged in the December dumping, in which 800 gallons of sludge were found on Pennsylvania Game Land 219 in Warren Township, Bradford County. He is scheduled to appear Jan. 17 in District Court.

The brine that leaked Tuesday was released into an area designed to contain spills, which Cox described as a shallow hole with a "deep plastic liner." Cox didn't know how thick the liner is, but said it's the kind of liner that is standard in the energy industry.

The spill was vacuumed out of the containment area and put back in the tank, she said.

A DEP spokesman could not provide additional formation about the spill Tuesday.

<http://www.stargazette.com/article/20120110/NEWS01/201100344/Police-probe-hydraulic-fracturing-fluid-spill-Bradford-County?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>

## SCOTLAND, BANFFSHIRE

JANUARY 12 2012.

### MAN DROWNS IN WHISKY VAT

*Gaby Leslie*

A distillery employee took his own life by drowning himself in a vat of water and yeast at a whisky plant in Scotland.

Father-of-two Brian Ettles, 46, climbed up the 50,000-litre tank before reportedly jumping into the container known as a washback used in the early stages of distilling at the Glenfiddich Distillery in Banffshire, Scotland.

Following the discovery of his body, emergency services were called to the scene on Saturday night but efforts to revive him failed.

Mr Ettles – a senior employee – had worked at the world-renowned distillery for 23 years and died the day before his wife's 54th birthday.

Friends spoke of their shock at Mr Ettle's suicide. Neighbour Eileen Mackenzie, 67, said: "I am just really shocked. It's such a horrible way for someone to go and most people I have spoken to are really quite upset about it.

"He was just a young man and I have no idea what might have made him want to take his own life in such a way."

Glenfiddich bosses shut the malt whisky distillery on Monday and Tuesday.

A spokesman for the firm said: "We would normally have been open but we decided to close as a mark of respect for the person who died and their family and colleagues."

"Officers were called to a report of a sudden death of a 46-year-old man at an address in the Dufftown area on 7 January. There are no suspicious circumstances and as is usual in such circumstances a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal in due course," a spokesperson for Grampian Police said.

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/man-drowns-in-whisky-vat.html>

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

## **USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE**

**JANUARY 12 2012.**

### **6,300-GALLON SPILL AT XTO NIKISKI FACILITY**

Alaska environmental officials say a faulty gasket on a tank led to a spill of 6,300 gallons of crude oil and process water at the XTO Energy onshore facility at Nikiski, southwest of Anchorage. In a situation report Tuesday, the state Department of Environmental Conservation said no resources have been affected. It says all of the spill discovered late Monday afternoon was captured within a secondary containment area. The state says XTO Energy responded with contractors Monday night to recover free liquid from the secondary containment area — a bermed area with a 60-mil liner. On Tuesday, the company began removing contaminated snow and ice.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2012/01/11/financial/f081042S06.DTL>

## **USA, N.J., SOUTH JERSEY**

**JANUARY 13 2012.**

### **LARGE FUEL SPILL THREATENS SJ STREAMS**

State and county officials are working to contain a large fuel spill that has contaminated parks of Timber Creek and surrounding lakes near the Gloucester Township and Washington Township borders.

A Camden County official said approximately 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled from a New Jersey Transit facility in Washington Township over the night and has subsequently spread through the soil to Grenloch and Blackwood lakes.

"It's pretty major," said Ralph Green, director of the Camden County Division of Environmental and Consumer Health Services. "That's a huge volume of fuel that has been released."

Green said the fuel spilled over the night after an underground fuel line near the 30,000 gallon tank ruptured.

Fire officials were called to the area around the Black Horse Pike in Lakeland around 8 a.m. this morning after a fuel smell was reported in the area. An "oily sheen" was then reported on the area waterways.

Green said state and county hazmat teams are now working to boom the water in attempts to stop the spread of the fuel.

Green said state wildlife officials have been notified of the spill as rescue workers reported seeing several geese and ducks in the water that seemed to have been affected by the fuel.

State officials are expected to hold a press conference about the incident this afternoon.

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20120112/NEWS01/120112005?odyssey=mod%7Cmostcom>

## **USA, TX, LIVE OAK CO**

**JANUARY 14 2012.**

### **EXPLOSION NEAR GEORGE WEST, SMOKE SEEN FOR MILES**

It was a monster fire that burned for several hours Friday morning and sent thick black smoke billowing into the air. That fire sparking up at 6:30 AM Friday at an industrial site along Highway 281 just North of George West.

No one was near the fire when it ignited and no one was hurt. The site burning was a disposal site where crude oil is separated from saltwater.

It was that crude oil that fueled the flames, keeping fire crews busy throughout the day. That smoke could be seen from miles away, the flames reached 70' into the air at one point.

The fire taking place at Key Energy Services. Fire fighters from George West and Three Rivers were able to keep the fire from spreading.

Fire officials say at least nine tanks filled with the crude oil and salt water mixture were involved in the blaze. The fire was contained within the property of the disposal site. While the public was never really at risk, it was an impressive sight that had plenty of people talking.

"I woke up this morning first thing I saw when I walked out my back door was this huge column of black smoke several thousand feet in the air," says Jerry Hines who lives nearby.

"We were just fortunate no one was there, no one was hurt, everything was contained, the fire department came out. All we can do now, is our investigation find out what happened," said Walter Brown with Key Energy Services.

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The fire was out by 10:00 AM Friday morning. However, as we were about to leave George West, we noticed smoke fill the air, once more. The fire had re-ignited. It took crews about 30 minutes to control the scene for a second time.

An investigation into what sparked the fire is now underway.

<http://www.kiitv.com/story/16518246/explosion-near-george-west-smoke-seen-for-miles>

## **USA, N.J., WASHINGTON TWP**

**JANUARY 14 2012.**

### **FUEL SPILL CONTAINED; SEVERAL ANIMALS FOUND DEAD**

### **STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS WARN RESIDENTS TO STEER CLEAR OF LAKES AND TRIBUTARIES AFFECTED BY THURSDAY'S DIESEL FUEL SPILL.**

*Lauren Burgoon and Sean McCullen*

The local diesel fuel spill befouling Blackwood and Grenloch lakes is significant, one state official said, but contained.

Initial cleanup efforts continued through Friday and will likely last about a week.

An estimated 26,000 gallons of diesel fuel leaked into the lakes from a New Jersey Transit garage in Washington Township Thursday morning. Officials believe a failed gasket caused the leak from two 16,000-gallon fuel storage tanks at the facility.

The fuel amounts to roughly two average-sized, in-ground swimming pools.

The fuel spread to Lebanon Run, Grenloch Lake and Blackwood Lake, officials said, but no further. No evidence of the spill has been observed in Big Timber Creek downstream from Blackwood Lake, according to a joint statement from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and New Jersey Transit.

"The spill is contained," DEP spokesman Lawrence Hajna said. "This is a significant spill, but the positive thing is it's not spreading."

As of about 8 a.m. Friday, roughly 13,000 of the 26,000 gallons of diesel fuel believed to have leaked from the New Jersey Transit underground storage tanks had been collected, Gloucester Township Mayor David Mayer reported.

"I do believe they're doing a very good job in collecting the material," the mayor said.

The pungent odor of diesel fuel hung heavy over the waterways Friday as crews from Clean Venture Inc., a contract environmental remediation firm, worked to clean up the spill for New Jersey Transit. Workers in protective suits installed 1,300 feet of yellow booms to stop the fuel's spread. Water vacuums, skimmers and absorbent pads were all deployed as part of the cleanup.

The equipment helped trapped patches of fuel floating on the water's surface. In some areas, the fuel patches mixed in with reeds and grass near waterways' banks.

"It's going to take a week, at least, for the initial response," Hajna said. "Crews will be out there every minute of daylight and into dusk to clean this up."

Mayer credited firefighters from Gloucester and Washington townships for helping contain the spill Thursday morning by putting booms into the water prior to Clean Venture's arrival.

### **Wildlife impact**

Tri-State Bird Rescue, a nonprofit rescue firm based in Newark, DE, has responded to the scene and is working to protect wildlife. Hajna said crews have found one dead Canada goose, as well as a muskrat and one or two turtles.

Residents should not attempt to handle or rescue an animal in distress in the area impacted by the fuel spill. Instead, call New Jersey Transit's customer service hotline at 973-275-5555. Provide as much information about the animal as possible, including the nearest location or intersection.

### **Safety concerns**

Residents should not enter the impacted waterways or fish in them or their tributaries until further notice, officials said. New Jersey Transit has installed signs around the area notifying the public of the ongoing cleanup efforts.

Drinking water safety is not a concern at this point.

"As this was a surface water incident, there was no indication that public drinking water was compromised," Camden County officials said in a statement. "There are no intakes for public water systems on the waterways, and there is no reason to believe that private wells were impacted."

Camden County continues to monitor drinking water, spokeswoman Joyce Gabriel added.

Mayer noted one of the first steps his office took Thursday was to contact New Jersey American Water and Aqua New Jersey—the two companies that supply drinking water for Gloucester Township.

"The confirmation that I have from New Jersey American Water and Aqua New Jersey is that our drinking

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

water is safe," he said.

Mayer added that health officials have informed him the fuel spill did not reach the aquifer that supplies private wells.

"Keep in mind this is surface water. ... We don't get our drinking water from those lakes," he said.

Despite the heavy odor of diesel on the waterways, officials said there are no air safety concerns at this point, either.

Mayer noted the odor, while still present, had dissipated by the time he was joined along the water by state Sen. Fred Madden, Assemblyman Paul Moriarty and assemblywoman-elect Gabriela Mosquera around 8 a.m. Friday.

"The odor was better today than it was (Thursday)," he said.

## The cost of cleanup

While the DEP is coordinating the cleanup response effort among multiple state, county and local agencies, the ultimate cost will fall on New Jersey Transit, Hajna said. He could not provide an estimate for cleanup on Friday. A New Jersey Transit spokesman did not return a message seeking comment.

## What residents can do

With professional cleanup and rescue crews on the scene, residential volunteers are not needed at point, according to Mayer.

Tri-State Bird is using trained volunteers and will put out a call for additional volunteers if necessary, the nonprofit posted on its website.

Anyone with concerns or questions should contact New Jersey Transit's 24-hour customer service hotline at 973-275-5555. Mayer suggested that anyone who wants to be put on a volunteer list use this number.

<http://gloucestertownship.patch.com/articles/fuel-spill-contained-several-animals-found-dead>

## USA, N.J, GLOUCESTER TWP, JANUARY 15 2012. DAY AFTER DIESEL SPILL, SMELL REMAINS >> RESIDENTS SEEK REASSURANCE ON LEAK

*Carol Comegno*

The family of Twan Nguyen could hardly stand to venture outside their home overlooking Grenloch Lake Friday.

The stench from a diesel fuel spill into the lake the day before was more pungent than on Thursday. A stiff wind was blowing the odor toward the lakeside house on College Drive.

An estimated 26,000 gallons of the diesel fuel spilled from underground tanks at a NJ Transit bus garage in neighboring Washington Township Thursday.

Through the house windows and from its patio, the family could see containment booms and tank trucks scooping up contaminated lake water along Black Horse Pike, which bisects the Grenloch Lake.

There was even a faint hint of the odor inside, but Nguyen was more concerned about the environmental impact on the future of the lake, its wildlife and this home's well water. He received reassurance from environmental officials that there is no contamination of local drinking water and that the odor is not harmful.

"We have to wait and see how good the cleanup is. We saw it on the news and it is all being downplayed (by officials). I don't know what to think about this summer," said a skeptical Nguyen.

The lightweight diesel leaked into Stone Bridge Run along Sicklerville Road behind the bus garage at Route 42 and the Black Horse Pike in the Turnersville section of Washington Township. That stream feeds into Grenloch Lake, which then feeds into Blackwood Lake as part of the Big Timber Creek system that eventually empties into the Delaware River.

Across the Black Horse Pike in a nearby lakeside residential area, retired Camden fireman Abraham Smalls and wife Mary wondered if the state will be able to stock the lake with trout this April as it does every year. He said the odor was not as strong outside his home on Friday because the wind was blowing it in another direction.

"These things happen," the husband said of the spill. "A lot people use the lake and I boat on it with my small skiff myself. I don't know what all the environmental issues are, but we hope everything gets cleaned up and back to normal."

Meanwhile, NJ Transit spokesman John Durso Jr. said the pollution cleanup by contractor Clean Venture of Elizabeth and Clayton will continue throughout the weekend both at the bus garage and in the waterways.

Larry Hajna, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Protection, said officials are still evaluating how much fuel leaked into waterways and how much is being recovered. He said 1,300 feet of boom have been laid on the waterways.

"It's much lighter than crude oil and does not present as much of a problem for wildlife, and there is

## Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

evaporation factor with it," he said.

The impact on wildlife appears "minimal," according to Hajna.

As of Friday afternoon, he said Tri-State (Bird Rescue) had recovered one Canada goose, one muskrat and two turtles and that one dead fish also was observed.

"The lake will be reassessed before trout stocking occurs," he added.

He said the spill has been contained and there is no visible impact on the creek because it is a surface spill that can more easily be cleaned up.

Durso said the spill was discovered after 7 a.m. Thursday and attributed to a malfunctioning fuel pump gasket.

"A fuel pump stopped yesterday morning when the buses were being refueled and there was no fuel pressure," he said.

After an assessment Friday, Durso said it was decided not to replace the fuel tanks but only to repair the fuel line between the two tanks and to address the spillage in the ground there.

The 100 buses that usually operate out of the garage on routes in South Jersey and Philadelphia are being refueled at the Camden garage. "There has been no measurable impact on bus service," he said.

The fuel tanks had been inspected three weeks ago on Dec. 22 by NJ Transit inspector Joseph Palmieri and were found to have no deficiencies, according to a copy of the report obtained by the Courier-Post that confirmed what transit officials said Thursday.

Durso said the two tanks are scheduled to be replaced next year.

Emergency management teams from Gloucester and Camden counties were on the scene. NJ Transit police were coordinating the effort and the Camden County Health Department was helping to monitor the cleanup.

A private briefing was held with municipal officials Friday morning to update them on the status of the problem.

"There is no threat to public drinking water, (and) there is no public health threat to residential areas. However, we are asking that residents stay clear of the Grenloch Lake and Blackwood Lake areas until further notice," Washington Township officials said in a notice posted on the township website.

Due to the spill, local officials there also said the Grenloch Lake fishing pier and the Grenloch Dog Park are closed until further notice.

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/BZ/20120114/NEWS01/301140018/Day-after-diesel-spill-smell-remains?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

### **USA, MD, SILVER SPRING**

**JANUARY 19 2012.**

#### **TRAPPED WORKER RESCUED FROM UNDERGROUND TANK**

A man working in a 10-thousand gallon underground tank who became injured and couldn't get out of the tank has been rescued, according to the Montgomery County Fire Dept. Just before 4 p.m. Tuesday, rescue units received a report of someone trapped below ground in the 1200 block of East-West Highway. The units discovered a man who had been working in an underground tank near the Blair East Apartments. He had somehow become injured, and although his injuries were not life-threatening, they prevented his getting out of the tank. After taking readings and doing other safety tests, two Montgomery County Fire/Rescue personnel went into the tank. The rescuers were able to get the injured worker into a harness. He was removed from the tank and taken to an area hospital with non life threatening injuries. No information is available at this time about the nature of his injuries, how he was injured or what he was doing in the tank. The name of the company he works for is not known at this time.

<http://wusa9.com/news/article/185364/189/Trapped-Worker-Rescued-From-Underground-Tank>