

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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**By learning about the misfortunes of others, it is STI's hope to educate the public by creating a greater awareness of the hazards with storage and use of petroleum and chemicals. Please refer to the many industry standards and to the fire and building codes for further guidance on the safe operating practices with hazardous liquids. Thanks and credit for content are given to Dangerous Goods-Hazmat Group Network.**

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

**USA, NY, SUFFERN**

**FEBRUARY 7 2009.**

## **FIRE DESTROYS GIGANTIC SUFFERN WAREHOUSE**

*Steve Lieberman and Rob Riser*

A major warehouse fire that caused explosions and collapsed walls was finally out about 4:30 this morning after burning more than eight hours, fire and police officials said.

Despite the frigid temperatures that iced the firefighters' footing and the danger of propane, gasoline and flammable chemicals inside the building, the Conserv Construction warehouse, there were no serious injuries.

A Hillcrest firefighter who was hit by water and fell was treated at the scene.

There were no other reports this morning of injuries.

"It was the biggest fire I have ever seen and I've been here 30 years," Suffern police Sgt. John Mallon said this morning. "There were 10 to 12 companies there. The coordination alone was incredible."

Investigators will determine later this morning what caused the spectacular blaze at the 30,000-square-foot warehouse on Washington Avenue.

The spraying water created a mist of ice, frosting uniforms and faces and creating icicles on helmets, jackets, boots and mustaches as temperatures fell into the teens.

The estimated warehouse became a maze of dangers for the firefighters. The industrial building contained flammable materials in a welding shop, propane tanks, various chemicals and gasoline.

Fire danced across the water inside the building, likely from gasoline, as firefighters first attempted to attack the blaze on the ground, authorities said.

"This is a very dangerous fire because of the unknown amount of chemicals, flammable materials, and 55-gallon drums inside," Rockland Fire Coordinator Gordon Wren Jr. said as the fire raged.

At one point, firefighters knocked down doors but were forced out of the building by the heavy black smoke, Suffern Police Chief Clarke Osborn said.

Knowing what was inside the building, Suffern Deputy Fire Chief Dan McNerney and officials with Rockland Fire and Emergency Services decided to withdraw the firefighters and attack the blaze from outside.

Soon afterward, "their decision was proven correct when explosions started and the roof and walls started collapsing," Wren said.

While no one was hurt, the building was destroyed even as the firefighters continued fighting the blaze.

The fire started just before 8 p.m., with volunteers from Suffern, Spring Valley, Monsey, Tallman, and Mahwah, N.J., being called.

Ramapo Valley Ambulance Corps and Rockland Paramedic Services were among other emergency personnel responding.

The owners, Dan Brennan and Tim Gulla, were at the scene, but not available for comment.

"No one is hurt," Osborn said as firefighters battled the fire. "The very cold temperatures are against us. There's always the possibility for frozen hoses."

At one point, Orange and Rockland Utilities crews couldn't find the gas shutoff valves and the electrical switch for the building.

That could have meant shutting off power for several blocks, and Mayor John Keegan was preparing to open

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the village's emergency center for evacuated residents. But O&R crews found the shutoffs, he said.

Chris Bay watched from his porch directly across the street. He has lived there 11 1/2 years.

"I just saw the smoke and heard the explosions," he said. "They do welding there."

As he watched the firefighting, Bob Schultz, a former Spring Valley fire chief, gave the volunteers a thumbs-up.

"The guys are doing a great job," he said. "They still got a lot of fire inside. This is not an easy one."

Firefighters were slipping on the ice, their helmets and gear dripping with water and smoke swirling all around them.

Firefighters were on their knees pumping water into the building through wide truck doors.

Aerial trucks worked from above, with firefighters pounding the open roof with water

<http://lohud.com/article/2008902060387>

## **USA, ILL, ROCKDALE**

**FEBRUARY 9 2009.**

### **OIL SLUDGE CONTAMINATES DES PLAINES RIVER**

The Environmental Protection Agency has determined approximately nine miles of the Des Plaines River was affected by Sunday's oil leak at the Caterpillar plant.

"We had the helicopter out this morning and ... reassessed the area of impact from three to nine miles," EPA spokesman Jim Mitchell said.

Mitchell and Coast Guard Commander Paul Mehler both noted the spill has had minimal impact to the shoreline.

"It's always a concern for the wildlife but we have no reports of any (dead animals)," Mehler said at a press briefing.

The coast guard closed the river to boat traffic while environmental officials could examine the shoreline with agents from the Department of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mehler said seen from the air Monday morning, the oil on the river appeared to be a "light sheening" in small pockets.

"It's not pooled up on the shoreline like you might expect," he said, "(but) there's light oil and wind, so it is moving."

Caterpillar spokeswoman Kate Kenny said the tank, which holds oil and water runoff, overflowed when a mechanical pump failed to shut off.

"Everything's being investigated now and we want to determine why that happened so it won't happen again," she said.

Rockdale Fire Chief Bill Waznis said 11 members of the department's hazardous materials team was sent out after plant personnel notified them of the spill around 9 a.m.

"The reclamation pit is close to the waterway and some of the oil went down the ravine into the river," he said.

The HazMat team determined the 69,000 gallons of oily sludge was nonflammable and nontoxic and notified the Will County Emergency Management Agency, which also sent a team to the plant on Route 6 along the Des Plaines River.

"We provided technical assistance and began coordinating the response of the different agencies," Assistant Director of Operations Anthony Marzano said. Those agencies included the U.S. Coast Guard and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

"Our first objective on arriving is to prevent additional stuff from getting out, but that was essentially a non-issue because the pump had already been shut down," he said.

EMA also requested several other industrial plants further down the river to "put out their booms," Marzano said. Booms, which are essentially floating fences which trap and collect debris, were set out by Stepan Chemical, Exxon Mobil and Flint Hills Resources.

Kenny and Mitchell said Tuesday there are no reports of the booms previously being set up at the Caterpillar facility.

Marzano said about 6,000 gallons from the spill went into the river, while the rest was being cleaned from the ground around the tank. Mitchell estimated the environmental service Caterpillar has hired will take two or three days to clean up the land around the tank.

"The time of the removal from the water is unknown, which is why we're doing these assessments now," he said.

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An Empress Casino spokesman said it was "business as usual" on the gambling floor during the spill.

Outdoor smoking areas facing the river were closed as a precaution, but they were reopened by Monday afternoon after EPA officials assured the casino that the water outside the Empress was fine, said company spokesman Brent Burkhart.

[http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/news/1419993,jo08\\_spill\\_web.article](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/news/1419993,jo08_spill_web.article)

## **USA, IL, JOLIET**

**FEBRUARY 12 2009.**

### **EPA: OIL SPILL CLEANUP SUCCESSFUL**

Regulators believe a cleanup of the Des Plaines River oil spill has been successful but will wait for tests of land and water samples.

Officials also said they have found no evidence of damage to fish or wildlife from the leak of 69,000 gallons of oil sludge from the Caterpillar plant on Sunday.

Land and water cleanup was completed Tuesday night — "thankfully before the rains hit," said Jim Mitchell, on-scene coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Regulators returned to the scene of the spill Wednesday to inspect the site. So far, the results look good, Mitchell said.

But, he added, water and land samples will be tested and reviewed over the next several weeks to determine that oil has been successfully removed from the environment around the plant.

The spill was mostly on land, but about 6,000 gallons of the sludge got into the river.

A boom has been kept in place in the river to contain the area where oil was found while samples are being tested, Mitchell said.

Meanwhile, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources also was at the site Tuesday.

"We determined that there was no impact against wildlife at this point," said Chris McCloud, spokesman for the state department. "They found several animals in the area, but they did not find any impact."

EPA officials also are investigating the cause of the spill to determine whether there were any violations of state or federal laws.

The spill occurred when an oil-and-water collection system at the Caterpillar plant overflowed. The system is used to process industrial oil and water used for manufacturing at the plant.

Mitchell said there is an alarm that is supposed to activate if the system becomes flooded, but the alarm apparently did not work.

<http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/news/1425278,EPA-Oil-spill-cleanup-success-JO021109.article>

## **USA, CO, MEAD**

**FEBRUARY 12 2009.**

### **COMPANY DISPUTES FINES ISSUED AFTER FATAL EXPLOSION**

*Pierrette J. Shields*

Boulder Scientific Co. has disputed federal citations and fines issued after an explosion and fire that left an employee dead last May.

Federal officials in November fined Boulder Scientific \$35,450 for a series of violations inspectors documented after the explosion and fire, but the sanctions are on hold while the chemical manufacturing company's appeal makes its way through a federal appeals process.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration area director Herb Gibson said the process could take a year or longer to be completed.

"They contested everything," Gibson said, adding that such citations are rarely contested.

Because Boulder Scientific is contesting OSHA's findings, the only information from the case file available to the public is the citations, Gibson said. He also said he cannot comment specifically about the violations because of the pending litigation.

Appealed citations and fines are reviewed by the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, an independent board whose members are appointed by the president.

And the complexity and number of the citations in the Boulder Scientific case could mean a longer-than-normal review, Gibson said. So far, the appeal has not even been scheduled for a hearing.

Boulder Scientific employee Les Robertson died in a May 16 explosion and fire in the northwest complex of the

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plant. OSHA investigators inspected the plant at 598 Third St. in Mead in May and September and tallied the violations into two citations.

OSHA in November issued the two-citation notification to the Mead chemical plant. The first citation included 22 parts for "serious violations," according to the OSHA report.

Among those violations, inspectors noted one fall hazard, two fire and explosion hazards, eight fire hazards, three flying debris or shrapnel hazards, five chemical and fire hazards, four confined space hazards, one respiratory hazard and three "uncontrolled energy" hazards.

Uncontrolled energy might include chemical, electrical, thermal or mechanical hazards, according to the report. OSHA inspectors cited chemical handling and ventilation among some of the reasons fires or explosions might ignite.

"We are contesting (OSHA's citations) because we disagree with some of their interpretations or judgments," Boulder Scientific spokesman Don Morrison said Monday.

Following Robertson's death, Boulder Scientific leaders met with Mead residents to discuss safety issues at the plant.

He said the company has not heard from residents about any concerns since the public meeting.

Mead Mayor Richard Macomber said on Monday that he has not heard any concerns from residents since the meeting and that he is personally satisfied the company is running a safe operation.

"I think they were safe before, (and) these were some procedural problems that they needed to take care of," Macomber said. "Things have been very quiet. I have not heard anything since we had the open house."

Jesse Hodgson, spokesman for the Mountain View Fire Protection District, said the investigation into the cause of the May explosion is inactive pending "additional information."

He said he doesn't have information about the OSHA citations and does not know how they factor into the district's final determination on the cause of the explosion.

[http://www.timescall.com/news\\_story.asp?ID=14378](http://www.timescall.com/news_story.asp?ID=14378)

## **USA, AZ, PRESCOTT**

**FEBRUARY 13 2009.**

### **PROPANE TANK BLAZE CAUSES EVACUATION**

*T.M. Shultz*

Central Yavapai Fire District officials said Tuesday that an early Monday morning propane tank fire at Asphalt Paving and Supply on Glassford Hill Road just south of Highway 69 resulted in the evacuation of an area within one-quarter to a half-mile in all directions. The largest evacuation was the ADOT center in Prescott Valley, said Assistant Fire Chief and CYFD spokesman Charlie Cook. Although no one was hurt in the incident, it could have been much worse, Cook said. Firefighters arrived at around 6:15 a.m. to find a 30- to 40-foot wall of flame shooting skyward out of a 500-gallon propane tank that was on its side. An 18-wheeler delivering cement to the plant made a wrong turn and as the driver turned a corner. His rear tires and fender caught a 4,000-pound barrier protecting the propane tank and knocked the barrier into the tank, causing a rupture, Cook said. Regional HazMat crews and 30 firefighters from CYFD and Prescott Fire Department responded to the scene, Cook said. Portable deluge hoses doused the tank with streams of water to cool it while the fire burned off. The fire burned itself out at around 8:15 a.m., Cook said.

<http://prescottdailycourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=64693&TM=2092.391>

## **USA, MI, PORT HURON**

**FEBRUARY 13 2009.**

### **WATER RECEDING, GAS TANKS POSE NO DANGER, FIRE DEPARTMENT SAYS**

Flood waters from the Black River have receded by about three feet, Port Huron Fire Battalion Chief Steve McBride said around 8 p.m.

Fire crews succeeded around 6:15 p.m. in breaking up an ice jam in the river off Water Street near Runnels Street and the railroad bridge, Port Huron Fire Battalion Chief Dave Allen said. Crews from the Port Huron and Port Huron Township fire departments used water sprayed from their tower trucks to dislodge and break up the ice jam.

When the jam moved and wind interfered with the spray of water, the Port Huron Fire Department got permission from Mueller Brass to move Port Huron's tower truck onto Mueller's property to finish the job, Allen said.

Two gas tanks on Riverside Drive that had officials concerned earlier today no longer pose a threat, McBride said. The tanks, one 6,000 gallon and one underground 10,000 gallon, are at the former site of a marina. The smaller tank sits on a break wall, which Port Huron Fire Lt. Chris Shattuck said was giving way this morning, and could cause the

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smaller tank to spill its gas.

The underground tank was empty, McBride said.

Power was cut to the tanks to prevent an electrical hazard if the water level rose too high, and to prevent a fire or explosion if the gas was spilled. The water level never rose high enough to dislodge the 6,000 gallon tank.

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20090212/NEWS05/90212021/1002/NEWS01>

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## USA, MI, FERRYSBURG

FEBRUARY 16 2009.

### EXPLOSION ROCKS FERRYSBURG FUEL DEPOT

An explosion at a Ferrysburg gas depot shook homes and was heard as far away as Grand Haven early Sunday morning.

According to Ferrysburg Fire Chief Mike Olthof, the department was called to the CITGO Exxon Mobil Terminal, 524 Third St., at around 3:15 a.m. by reports of an explosion. When firefighters arrived on the scene, flames were shooting as high as 70 feet in the air from a 10,000-gallon oil/water separator tank, Olthof said.

The fire was brought under control within 20 to 25 minutes of the firefighters' arrival.

The explosion shook homes in the 500 block of Third Street and adjacent Carmen Drive, waking their owners and prompting some to flee the area.

Janis and Josh Vanderputte, who live on Carmen Drive, initially thought someone had driven a car into their home.

"It sounded like an M-80 going off next to your head," Josh said. "As soon as (Janis) opened the blind, you could see the flames."

The couple collected some things and were out of the house about three-and-a-half minutes after they heard the explosion, they said. The Vanderputtes joined several neighbors in the parking lot of the Leppink's store, 17717 174th Ave., for about an hour before returning home.

William Treece, who lives on Third Street, said he thought a branch had fallen on his roof before police knocked on his door to inform him of the explosion.

"It was just one quick boom," he said. "It was loud enough to wake me up out of a sound sleep."

Another neighbor on Carmen Drive, Jon Vink, didn't evacuate — but he said he was worried the fire would spread.

"It was so loud your ears were ringing in bed," he said. "You don't sleep through something like that."

Olthof said the Grand Haven Department of Public Safety duty sergeant reported hearing the explosion from the department's building on Washington Avenue.

"It shook a few windows," Olthof said.

The tank had just been emptied on Friday, Olthof said, and only about 2 inches of material remained inside it.

The cause of the explosion is being investigated by a CITGO Exxon Mobil team, but it is believed a malfunction with some heat tape insulation initially sparked the blaze, Olthof said.

There was no one at the terminal when the explosion occurred, Olthof said, and no one was hurt in the incident.

The fire department was aided by prior knowledge of the facility, Olthof said, and the oil company has allowed the firefighters to take yearly tours of the depot and make plans for an incident like what happened Sunday ahead of time.

Olthof said Sunday's explosion was the first incident that he can remember in 24 years.

"They have an excellent safety record," he said of the oil company.

An employee at the terminal this morning declined to comment on the explosion.

<http://www.grandhaventribune.com/paid/299232461519167.bsp>

## USA, NY, LONG ISLAND

FEBRUARY 19 2009.

### HICKSVILLE HIGH BOILER FIRE CAUSES LARGE FUEL SPILL

*Bill Mason*

A basement fire at Hicksville High School last night caused a heating fuel tank to rupture and spill 500 gallons of diesel oil, but damage was confined primarily to the boiler room, fire officials said.

Hicksville Chief Eddie Korona said an automatic alarm alerted firefighters about 7 p.m. Firefighters arrived to find about 40 students and several teachers in another section of the sprawling building, unaware of the fire.

The students and teachers, who were there for an extracurricular program, left the building without incident or injuries, Korona said. One firefighter was treated at a hospital for minor neck and back pain, he said.

"We contained it to the basement, and minor damage to the roof," Korona said. "No damage to classrooms at all."

About 125 firefighters from five departments responded to the alarm and knocked down the fire within 20 minutes, he said. Nassau County Fire Marshal officers came to investigate, but the apparent oil burner fire was not

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considered suspicious, Korona said.

Firefighters spread foam in the basement to reduce the chance of the spilled diesel fuel from igniting, and the county's hazmat specialists were alerted to oversee the cleanup.

Hicksville school officials could not be reached for comment. The school is closed this week for winter break. Korona declined to speculate whether the fire might delay the resumption of regular classes next week.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/longisland/ny-lihick176038718feb17,0,882004.story>

## **USA, ORE, BOARDMAN, FEBRUARY 19 2009. WELDER KILLED AFTER EXPLOSION AT CONAGRA LAMB-WESTON IN BOARDMAN**

Kevin Gregerson, 21, of Hermiston, was killed Monday afternoon after an explosion in the tank he was welding in at ConAgra

Lamb-Weston in Boardman. Police said Gregerson was buried in mud and metal debris. A 'confined space rescue team' from the

Umatilla Chemical Depot was called in and Gregerson's body was not removed until almost seven hours after the explosion.

Witnesses reported a "flash and a bang". Investigators from the Oregon Occupational Health and Safety Administration are looking

into the incident. Gregerson was employed by Northwest Fabricators.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29258004/>

## **USA, TX, KOUNTZE, FEBRUARY 21 2009. EARLY MORNING FIRE DESTROYS HARDIN FUELS IN KOUNTZE**

*Bryan Rupp*

The main processing facility building at Hardin Fuels Inc., just outside Kountze, was destroyed by fire early Friday morning.

A massive fire occurred early on the morning of Friday, February 20, 2009 at a bio diesel producing company in Kountze. The fire at Hardin Fuels happened around 3a.m. off highway 69 south. No one was hurt but Hardin Fuels lost just about everything. The president of the company told KBMT 12 News ABC/NBC just how much damage was done and when they expect business to be back up and running.

<http://www.kbmt12.com/news/local/40007722.html>

## **USA, KY, LETCHER CO**

**FEBRUARY 22 2009.**

### **TESTS CONFIRM DIESEL IN LETCHER WATER**

*Bill Estep*

A local businessman is responsible for a diesel-fuel leak that contaminated the water supply that serves Whitesburg and much of Letcher County, the state Department for Environmental Protection charged Friday.

The state issued a notice of violation to Don Childers, owner of Childers Oil Inc. The Whitesburg company owns dozens of gas stations.

The citation charged Childers with a number of environmental violations, according to a news release: endangering the public welfare; degrading surface water; failing to obtain a permit to discharge pollutants; unauthorized release of petroleum product into public waters; disposal of wastes at a site with no permit; failing to notify regulators of a release of petroleum; and failure to implement a plan to protect groundwater.

Childers could be fined up to \$25,000 a day per violation, according to a news release from the department.

Friday's notice of violation is the second in recent months against Childers. The state cited him in November after oil leaked from one of his properties into Whitesburg's water source, forcing a weeklong advisory against drinking the water.

The state hasn't yet proposed a fine in that case.

There is also a criminal investigation of the November leak, state officials have confirmed.

The latest leak began last weekend. On Feb. 16, state inspectors confirmed reports of an oily smell at the Whitesburg water-treatment plant and issued an advisory against using the water for drinking, cooking, bathing or washing clothes.

Flushing toilets has been the only authorized use for the water since. The outage has affected an estimated 3,000 households in Whitesburg and parts of Letcher County served by the city system.

Residents in the affected areas have made do this week using gallon jugs of water distributed through the city

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and county — some of it donated by Childers.

"It's not a very pleasant thing" to be without water, said Ryan Adams, a state-police dispatcher who lives in Letcher County.

Inspectors pinpointed the leak at a spot beside the North Fork of the Kentucky River, 4 miles upstream from the city water plant, where Childers stored large petroleum-storage tanks. Damaged tanks leaked diesel fuel into the river, according to the state.

The site is being cleaned up, according to a news release.

State and local officials said early in the week that the leak into the river had been contained. The state has been sampling the water in the Whitesburg system all week. The non-consumption advisory will be lifted as soon as test results show the water is safe, the Division of Water said Friday.

Letcher County Judge-Executive Jim Ward said he is expecting two sets of test results Saturday.

He had expected the first test results Friday afternoon. However, a state official told him Friday the findings wouldn't be available until early Saturday, Ward said.

Another set of results could be available Saturday afternoon, Ward said. The state Division of Water wants to analyze two sets of test results to double-check the water's safety.

Ward said if everything goes as local officials hope, the advisory could be lifted Sunday. Ward said that as soon as tests confirm the water is safe, workers will flush the lines, which could take about four hours.

<http://www.kentucky.com/news/state/story/701622.html>

## **USA, IL, ROXANA**

**FEBRUARY 22 2009.**

### **SHELL TO CHECK FOR BENZENE**

Workers are planning to check the soil and groundwater for benzene contaminants on the village's east side in the near future.

Officials announced Monday that Shell Oil Products US would start field activities in the early spring to check for benzene, which was released from an underground pipeline 23 years ago. Benzene is a chemical component of gasoline and other petroleum hydrocarbons with the most serious potential health effects.

Roxana residents from Illinois Route 111 to Chaffer Avenue, between First and Eighth streets, started receiving letters last week telling them about the project, which is being overseen by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

"The mayor asked that (Shell) send letters to the residents in the affected area, so they would be aware of what will be going on when the work starts," said Kevin Dyer, project manager with Shell.

Mayor Felix Floyd said he wanted a letter sent because he felt it was best to keep residents informed, and if they had questions, they would know whom to contact.

The letter states that efforts are under way to address a benzene release area and other petroleum hydrocarbons discovered during investigations since the leak first occurred in 1986. A total of 8,400 gallons of benzene leaked from an underground pipeline that was used by Wood River Refinery while it was owned and operated by Shell Oil Co.

The pipeline extended from the refinery to the barge loading facilities on the Mississippi River, along a route parallel to Rand Avenue.

Shortly after the release, a portion of the underground pipeline near the release site was abandoned in place and was replaced with an above-ground section following a similar route.

The letter stated that there was limited documentation available regarding the cleanup activities at the time of the release, other than that the liquids that accumulated at the surface were recovered to the extent possible. Other than the liquid recovery, there is nothing to indicate that the subsurface release was addressed further.

In 2005, analytical results from regular groundwater sampling monitoring wells at the refinery, now WRB Refinery LLC Wood River Refinery, indicated an increase in levels of benzene in the vicinity of the refinery's west fence line.

"The monitoring well where a benzene increase was detected is approximately 800 feet from the release location," the letter stated. "Shell Oil Products suspects this occurrence was related to migration of benzene in groundwater from the 1986 release location due to groundwater pumping at the refinery."

The uppermost groundwater aquifer occurs at depths approximately 35 to 50 feet below the ground's surface and due to the groundwater pumping program at the refinery, which was designed to capture and treat contaminated groundwater.

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Dyer said subsurface investigations performed by URS Corp. on behalf of Shell in 2006 and 2008, which included soil, soil vapor and groundwater sampling, showed that the benzene that dissolved in the groundwater near Rand Avenue has moved east under the Roxana Public Works facility and increased in width to approximately 200 feet at the refinery's western fence line. He said URS would be doing the upcoming work, which will include taking samples from all the alleys and rights-of-way in the designated area.

He said that the investigation also found other hydrocarbons characteristic of petroleum refining.

A work plan to identify free petroleum products, which are products that do not dissolve in water, in several monitoring wells along the west fence line of the refinery was sent to the IEPA in September 2008, Dyer said.

"This work plan was prepared to guide future field sampling activities with the aim of assessing the nature and extent of hydrocarbons in soils and groundwater west of the fence line," Dyer said, "It is also to understand the extent of the benzene from the 1986 release in the subsurface."

In November, the IEPA requested a revised work plan, which was received by the state office last month. The revised work plan indicated that the free petroleum product was encountered at a shallower depth than anticipated in two localized areas.

Dyer said the most exposure to benzene in a home likely would come from impacted groundwater in a private water well. Records show that there are no private water wells within the impacted area.

"Given the current information, there is little possibility for benzene from this area to reach the village water supply wells," Dyer said.

Vapor migration from subsurface free product or impacted groundwater also could pose a potential risk of exposure, because volatile chemicals such as benzene, when present in groundwater and soil, can migrate into buildings as vapor.

Dyer said Shell performed tests and believes vapor migration is limited.

"Shell will perform additional soil vapor sampling to verify that residents to the north are not being exposed to volatile chemical vapors," he said.

Residents can review the proposed plan at [www.RoxanaInvestigation.urs-stl.net](http://www.RoxanaInvestigation.urs-stl.net) or at Roxana Village Hall. If anyone has questions, contact Dyer at (618) 288-723; Mara McGinnis, IEPA community relations coordinator, (217) 524-3288; or Roxana Public Works Director at (618) 254-0980.

[http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/benzene\\_23799\\_article.html/groundwater\\_refinery.html](http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/benzene_23799_article.html/groundwater_refinery.html)

### **USA, NC, WILSON**

**FEBRUARY 25 2009.**

#### **GAS SPILL FORCES EVACUATIONS - EMERGENCY SHUTOFF VALVE FAILED**

*Gina Childress*

A major gasoline spill caused the evacuation of residents in the 1500 and 1600 blocks of Goldsboro Street Monday afternoon for approximately seven hours.

Battalion Commander David Aycock with Wilson Fire and Rescue Services said they received a call around 2:41 p.m. that there was a spill of approximately 438 gallons of gas at the PK Mart at 1510 Goldsboro St.

Upon arrival, Aycock said that the gasoline was gushing out of a pump and that efforts to stop the leak were unsuccessful when the convenience store clerk pressed the emergency shutoff valve, which failed to work.

The store, which is owned by Paul Singh, was closed for the rest of the day and will remain closed until the problems are corrected, which could take a couple of days.

Singh said inspections had been completed earlier this year on the shutoff valve and that it was working properly at that time.

"We are so sorry for the inconvenience to everyone," he said.

Aycock said it appears that someone who had gotten gas failed to remove the gas pump from the tank before driving off, causing the hose to rip away from the pump.

Goldsboro Street, Barron Street, Randolph Street, Granger Street and Briggs Street were all closed off until the situation was brought under control. Residents were allowed back to their homes around 7 p.m.

Aycock said the gasoline seeped into the storm water system and ran off into a small ditch behind The Creamery Restaurant, which feeds into a creek that runs into Wiggins Mill Reservoir.

The spill was contained before it reached the creek, he said.

Wilson Fire and Rescue's Hazardous Materials team was dispatched along with other personnel who were able to put down booms to soak up the gasoline.

"We built an inverted dam," Aycock said. "That way we could use a reverse flow that would allow us to flush

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out the ditch and the storm water drains. By using the booms, we will be able to soak up the gas.”

The dam was built to initially catch the product and hold it until Eastern Environmental in Rocky Mount arrived to assist in the product removal.

Clean up crews will remain on the scene today to clean up any gas that may remain.

Aycock said the spill in no way threatened the water system.

Responding along with Wilson County Fire and Rescue were the Wilson Police Department, City of Wilson Management Services, City of Wilson Stormwater Management, Wilson County Emergency Management, N.C. Department of Transportation and Wilson County EMS.

<http://www.wilsontimes.com/News/Local/Story/Gasoline-Spill-022309>