

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

USA, ID, BOISE

MARCH 3 2009.

JEROME OIL DISTRIBUTOR AGREES TO SPEND OVER \$123,000 TO SETTLE EPA CLEAN WATER ACT VIOLATIONS

Kate Spaulding

Franklin United, Inc. (also known as United Oil) has agreed to pay a \$32,680 penalty to settle Clean Water Act (CWA) violations. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the alleged violations occurred at United Oil's gasoline and diesel bulk fuel storage, distribution and card lock retail facility, located at 129 West Avenue D, Jerome, Idaho.

EPA alleges that United Oil is in violation of the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulations under the CWA. These regulations require, among other things, the preparation of an SPCC plan to guide the facility on preventing and responding to petroleum spills. During an EPA inspection of United Oil facility in June 2007, inspectors determined that United Oil had a SPCC Plan, but had not implemented most of it. There were many violations of the regulations, but the most important was that United Oil had inadequate secondary containment around its above-ground tanks and no containment at its loading/off loading rack. The facility is used for storing, distributing and selling gasoline and diesel products. To date, this is the largest SPCC penalty in Idaho.

As part of the settlement with the EPA, United Oil has agreed to spend at least \$90,600 on implementing a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The project includes the purchase of two trailers equipped with oil spill response equipment that United Oil will donate to emergency response units in Twin Falls and Idaho Falls. United Oil has also installed new remote sensing equipment to monitor for accidental overfills of some of its tanks.

"The SPCC regulations are designed so that control measures are in place before a spill occurs," said Edward Kowalski, EPA Director, Office of Compliance and Enforcement in Seattle. "We therefore take seriously the need to install containment structures and other preventative measures to help ensure that spills don't occur, and if they do occur, that they will be contained."

For more information about EPA's SPCC Rule, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/index.htm>
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/62a5d60d097875a38525756d006603cd?OpenDocument>

CANADA, ONT, FORT FRANCES

MARCH 4 2009.

FATE OF MARINA FUEL TANK DEFERRED

Duane Hicks

As council waits for tenders to come in on major projects and the province to approve new tax ratios, before it can make any decisions regarding levy increases in the 2009 budget, some discussion continued at yesterday's budget meeting around the in-ground fuel tank at the Sorting Gap Marina here.

Community Services manager George Bell said he's gotten a few quotes from Northwest Petroleum either to fix the tank or replace it, noting it would cost about \$35,000 to fix the current in-ground tank (which must be repaired) or \$21,000 to remove the tank (with Public Works doing the excavation) and another \$35,700 to install a 2,200 litre above-ground tank.

He added a 2,200 litre tank would have to be refilled every 10 days-two weeks, depending on use, and that council might consider a larger one if they decide to go with that option.

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The current in-ground tank holds 10,000 litres.

Bell stressed that something has to be done about the current tank, which is more than 20 years old. And while it can be fixed now, it inevitably will continue to pose problems down the road.

Operations and Facilities manager Doug Brown explained the problem is that there is a steel plate with two holes in it above the containment pit where the current tank is, and that boaters think it is a catch basin into which they dump water from their boats.

The containment pit then freezes, splits the pump, and then water gets into the tank.

"We've been through this, since I have been here, three times," Brown said. "I don't think the tank containment system was put in properly because we are getting water from the underground leaking in there, too."

Brown noted that whether council decides to go above-ground or even opts to do nothing, the in-ground tank then will have to be removed within two years.

While a few councillors said they weren't sure how well an above-ground tank would look on the waterfront, Coun. Paul Ryan suggested a fence with ivy on it as a possible solution.

After deciding the price quotes they got might be a little high, council agreed to defer the matter until they could get more quotes from suppliers in Manitoba.

But Brown noted council should keep in mind that in order to be able to sell gas at the Sorting Gap this summer, the town has to have the fuel tank up to certain standards by May 30.

The next committee of the whole budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16.

<http://fftimes.com/node/220224>

USA, NE, HASTINGS

MARCH 6 2009.

2 HURT IN FLASH EXPLOSION AT NEB. ETHANOL PLANT

Two workers at a Hastings ethanol plant are being treated for burns suffered in an explosion. Mark Moravec, a spokesman for Chief Industries, says the men opened the door of a grain grinder while doing maintenance and a small explosion occurred. The incident happened about 3 p.m. Thursday. The plant remained in operation following the explosion. Moravec says the men, who's names have not been released, were taken to a Hastings hospital with burns. The extent of their injuries is not known. The company is investigating the cause of the explosion. On the Net: Chief Industries: <http://www.chiefind.com/>
<http://www.nebraska.tv/Global/story.asp?S=9957157>

USA, GA, ROME

MARCH 7 2009.

CONTAINMENT SYSTEM WORKS; BEKAERT CORP. OFFICIALS ARE STILL TRYING TO DETERMINE WHAT CAUSED THE PIPES TO FAIL DURING WEDNESDAY'S INCIDENT.

Kevin Myrick

Rome and Floyd emergency officials breathed a deep sigh of relief after the leak of a hydrochloric acid tank at Bekaert Corp. was contained quickly and without harm to the community.

While Gary Downey, plant manager at Bekaert, said what caused pipes to break Wednesday has yet to be determined, steps are already being taken to help avoid such problems in the future.

"We're still investigating," he said. "We're still scratching our heads over the cause."

Downey said officials at the steel wire plant will come up with a different kind of support system for the pipes that lead to and from the acid tank to avoid having those support structures fail again,

"We're going to re-engineer the whole support structure so we don't have to worry about it in the future," he said.

As far as cleaning up Wednesday's leak of 8,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid, Rome Fire Chief Gordon Henderson said Thursday everything worked as it was supposed to.

Bekaert's containment system worked well.

"What actually happened over there was all of the acid was moved and drained into an underground tank," he said. "And there's always a little residual left and it was neutralized with lime and became an inert material."

Henderson said the event wasn't really even a spill since none of the acid left the protective dyke.

"All of it was maintained in the dyke area and then moved to their recycling system," Henderson said.

Bob Bozeman, who oversees Bekaert's wastewater treatment facility, said the containment area is 25 feet wide by 45 feet long by 3 feet deep.

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"Right now we're storing the acid in the wastewater treatment tank," Bozeman said.

He explained what happened next was a three-step process that starts with pumping the contained acid to the treatment facility, where it is run through a lime sludge tank to neutralize the chemical. The byproduct of the neutralization process is then pumped through a rinse tank and treated before being pumped back into the city's wastewater system.

In the case of hydrochloric acid, any that spilled out in liquid form would be contained in the same way the residual was cleaned up, by neutralizing it with lime.

Wednesday's incident led to the evacuation of the immediate area and traffic was snarled for hours as U.S. 27 south of Rome near the plant was shut down.

<http://news.mywebpal.com/partners/680/public/news952091.html>

USA, LA, ST JAMES PARISH, VACHERIE

MARCH 11 2009.

WORKER KILLED IN ST. JAMES PARISH PIPELINE FIRE

Littice Bacon-Blood and Victoria St. Martin

A midmorning fire Tuesday at a Marathon Petroleum-owned oil storage facility in St. James Parish has left one man dead and injured six others.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire at the St. James Pipeline Station, a facility that stores and pumps crude oil to the Marathon oil refinery in Garyville, according to Marathon Petroleum Co. spokesman Robert Calmus.

Rodney Mallett, spokesman for the Department of Environmental Quality, said there was no environmental impact to the area following the fire.

The St. James Pipeline Station is in the community of St. James, which is part of St. James Parish.

The fire erupted about 11:30 a.m. while contractors worked on an underground pipeline.

One contract worker was killed and two others were airlifted to a hospital burn unit in either Baton Rouge or New Orleans, St. James Parish Sheriff Willy Martin said.

One worker was taken by a private vehicle to a local hospital and three other workers were treated on-site for minor injuries, Martin said.

Calmus said the victims' identities could not be released until family members are notified. He did not know how many people were on the site at the time of the fire, or how many people work at the facility. He also would not say what company employs the injured contract workers.

Gordon Hagendorf, vice president of Human Resources for Willbros, said some of the injured workers were employed by the engineering and construction company.

Veronica Mosgrove, spokeswoman for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, said workers were cutting a 2- to 4-inch pipe when vapors from a crude oil sump tank ignited.

Calmus said the fire was in an area that includes tanks, piping and pumps, and that construction was under way at the time of the fire.

We can't "speculate to the cause," he said. "We are conducting a thorough investigation of the incident."

Martin said there appeared to be a six- or seven-person maintenance crew working in the area when the pipeline ignited.

"We don't know how it ignited," Martin said.

Officials say the fire was contained and didn't require any evacuations of the nearby communities of Vacherie or St. James.

Calmus said he did not know if the fire has interrupted operations at the Garyville refinery.

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/worker_killed_in_st_james_pari.html

CANADA, BC, BURNABY

MARCH 19 2009.

CONTRACTOR WITH 1957 MAP BLAMED FOR PIPELINE RUPTURE - 234,000 LITRES OF CRUDE

Christina Montgomery

A contractor using an inaccurate 1957 map caused the pipeline rupture that spewed 234,000 litres of crude oil across Burnaby, B. C., homes, streets and into the Pacific Ocean almost two years ago.

Both the contractor and the pipeline operator violated a law requiring them to determine where the line was located, the Transportation Safety Board said yesterday.

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The leak was made worse because poor communication led pipeline operators to shut off the wrong end of the pipeline -- meaning oil was trapped instead of drained from the line, the board said.

The crude oil flooded into a Burnaby neighbourhood in July, 2007, after an excavator working on a sewer trench ruptured the four-kilo-metre pipeline that fed oil from storage tanks to the docks below.

About 250 residents were forced from their homes as the geyser coated buildings and trees and ran downhill into Burrard Inlet, causing millions of dollars in damage and cleanup costs.

The board report primarily blamed the oil spill on both the contractor, who had been hired to do a sewer upgrade for the city, and Kinder Morgan Canada, which operated the pipeline -- if they had simply walked the line with equipment they could have confirmed its precise location.

Both sides have an obligation "to each other" to follow federal regulations on working near pipelines, said Larry Gales, manager of pipeline inspections for the safety board.

In the Burnaby spill, the contractor did get permission to work near the pipeline, which both parties assumed lay in the straight line marked on the 1957 drawing.

But the location was not confirmed by Kinder Morgan through a proper search along the route with a detector, the report said.

"All parties believed that the [pipeline] and the sewer line ran parallel," Mr. Gales said. "There was no reason for them to doubt the maps, but the maps were in error."

In fact, the pipeline snaked along the route, diverging from the drawing by as much as four metres.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/canada/story.html?id=1405145>

UK, BUNCEFIELD

MARCH 20 2009.

TOTAL LIABLE FOR BUNCEFIELD BLAST

The High Court has ruled that oil company Total is liable for damages caused by the explosion at the Buncefield oil depot in Hertfordshire.

The Hemel Hempstead site was the scene of an explosion which injured 40 people and left homes and businesses damaged.

The blast in 2005 was the largest in Europe since the end of World War II.

The depot was operated by Total, which owned it in a joint venture with Chevron, called Hertfordshire Oil Storage Ltd (HOSL).

The ignition of the vapour cloud which followed the spillage of 300 tons of petrol, caused an explosion which caused a tremor equivalent to a 2.4 magnitude earthquake.

The High Court hearing was over a dispute between Total and Chevron as to who was liable for the agreed acts of negligence that led to the spillage and explosion.

Chevron claimed Total was to blame, while Total said the joint venture company HOSL should bear responsibility.

The court said Total had failed to discharge the burden of establishing that HOSL was responsible for the negligence of the supervisor.

It found that all those working at the site had contracts with Total; the terminal manager who was the most senior member of staff on site was appointed by Total and line managed by Total.

All safety instructions were developed by Total.

Considering appeal

The court also found there was a further contributory fault due to the failure by Total's head office staff to develop an adequate system for preventing the overfilling of a tank.

It also said Total was not entitled to recover a contractual indemnity from HOSL or Chevron in respect of all or any part of the claim.

Chevron said it was "happy" with the judgement, while Total said it was considering an appeal.

In a statement Total said: "We still believe... our joint venture partner should accept their share of the responsibilities for the incident.

"As a consequence we will be considering our grounds for appeal."

It added: "We would like to stress that any appeal will have no implications for claimants, whose claims will continue to be processed."

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/beds/bucks/herts/7954814.stm

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USA, TX, KAUFMAN COUNTY

MARCH 22 2009.

TWO TEENAGE BOYS INJURED IN EXPLOSION IN KAUFMAN COUNTY

Scott Goldstein

Two teenage boys were injured Saturday in an apparent accidental explosion in Kaufman County. The explosion occurred shortly before 8 p.m. along FM2727, just outside the Kaufman city limits. Three teens and an adult were apparently using a cutting torch to open a 55-gallon barrel inside a structure behind a residence when the explosion occurred, said Kaufman County Assistant Fire Marshal Randy Richards. "We believe it may have contained a flammable liquid," Richards said. Two of the teens were taken by helicopter to Parkland Memorial Hospital. They were conscious and possibly suffered first and second-degree burns, according to preliminary reports. One of the other two victims drove himself to a hospital, and the fourth declined treatment, Richards said. The names of the victims were not released. Richards described the explosion as a "flash-type fire. There was no extensive damage to the structure." He said such an explosion indicates it was likely vapors that exploded. It did not appear there was a large amount of liquid in the container, he said. The investigation into the cause of the explosion is ongoing.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/032209dnmetexplosion.5b726443.html>

USA, TX, ODESSA

MARCH 25 2009.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL TANK ACCIDENT

A 54-year-old man was killed in an apparent industrial accident after falling into an empty crude oil tank while cleaning it Tuesday afternoon at Hollice Clark Truck Fabrication, Ector County sheriff Sgt. Gary Duesler said at the scene.

Sheriff and Department of Public Safety officials were withholding the man's name until his family was told of his death.

DPS Trooper James Lujan said the man was working at Hollice Clark, 3010 N.W. Loop 338, using a pressure washer to clean the tank. He said no one was supervising him at the time.

Duesler said two co-workers noticed that one of the hoses used to clean the tank had come apart, and they didn't see the man around. After a short search, one of them found him inside the vessel.

He was unresponsive.

After they tried but failed to get him out of the tank, they called 9-1-1 at 1:03 p.m. Tuesday.

Firefighters spent more than an hour on top of the tank. Two of them put on breathing apparatus, climbed into the tank, put the man in a body bag and hooked the bag onto a firetruck's ladder to pull him out.

Duesler said the cause of the man's death was not immediately known. Odessa fire battalion chief Kevin Tinney said the tanker carries light crude oil but was empty and clean at the time of the accident.

The manager of Hollice Clark declined to comment.

Another worker, who only identified himself as "Brian," initially said he only heard about it after he got back from a lunch break. When asked whether he knew the man, he said sheriff's investigators told him not to speak about it.

"We don't have very many accidents here at all," the 20-year vet to the company also said.

http://www.oaoa.com/news/accident_28376_article.html/industrial_odessa.html