

# 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, FLA, GIBSONTON**

**APRIL 23 2015.**

## **MOSAIC WORKER AT RIVERVIEW PLANT SUFFERS ACID BURNS**

Lifelong resident Mary Brown sat inside the shutdown Rubonia Community Center, looking at where she attended school as a child and watching Manatee County officials show the center to community members who may want to operate it.

Brown, the Rubonia Community Association's chairwoman, voiced her concern about the center's future.

"This is my home," Brown said Thursday. "This is a part of me. I don't want homes on it. I want a community center. ... At this point, we shouldn't be going into negotiations. This land is history. For us to be at this point today, I'm very sensitive about it."

On Thursday afternoon, Manatee County had an information conference followed by a site tour to begin the "invitation to negotiate" process for the Rubonia Community Center, 1309 72nd St. E. About 15 people attended the meeting to learn what the county wants as it solicits proposals to acquire and operate the community center. The Rubonia Community Center is the first property Manatee County has solicited invitation-to-negotiate offers.

The Rubonia neighborhood is off U.S. 41, between Palmetto and Interstate 275.

"It is really up to you guys to get creative and bring ideas to us," John Agostinelli, the county's property acquisition division manager, said during the meeting. "The ITN really gives the option for you to go in and do what you want to do."

The center, which was closed in 2013 and needs more than \$133,300 in repairs, was deeded to the county from Manatee County School Board last October.

In the invitation to negotiate, the county is looking for a party who would be responsible for privately operating the Rubonia Community Center as a community center.

"While the county contemplates that RCC operations could include services and programs for all ages and a variety of days, time and special events, the county has been aware from discussions with the community that adult literacy, health, physical education and daily gatherings are the types of services being requested in the community," the ITN reads.

In addition to Rubonia Community Association, representatives from United Community Centers, PANDA Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County and Bayside Community Church were among the attendees Thursday.

Dawn Stanhope, president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee, noted that they've been busing Rubonia children to the Palmetto center for its summer program. The nonprofit wants to look at what an

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

ongoing relationship might look like to provide support to the families during the school year as well.

"After the past experience over the summer and working with the kids we were able to bring into Palmetto, we wanted to keep our eyes and ears open," Stanhope said. "Rubonia is part of Manatee County. We serve Manatee County, so anything we can do to help."

Cheri Coryea, the county's neighborhood services department director, said the invitation-to-negotiate process allows different groups to collaborate.

"It's a very special location and we are looking forward to getting some great proposals," Coryea said.

Stanhope welcomed the idea of collaboration and partnership, saying that "certainly none of us can deal with it alone."

"There are so many needs," she said. "We are always looking for ways to partner."

Requests for additional information or clarification about the Rubonia Community Center ITN must be submitted to the county by 4 p.m. July 23. Proposals must be submitted by 4 p.m. Aug. 20.

<http://www.bradenton.com/2015/07/10/5889213/manatee-county-begins-soliciting.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy>

## **USA, WASHINGTON DC**

**APRIL 25 2015.**

### **AFTER NINE DEATHS, INDUSTRY GRAPPLES WITH INHALATION RISKS**

*Nicolas Torres*

Energy industry safety experts and government agencies have begun investigating the potential dangers posed by inhaling hydrocarbons following the deaths of at least nine workers since 2010.

A recent study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), part of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), found that nine oil and gas workers died between January 2010 to December 2014 while gauging production tanks or collecting samples.

The agency said that while the details of each case varies the deaths may have been caused by the inhalation of gases and vapors that escape from production tanks when internal pressure builds and a hatch is opened.

Of the nine fatalities, six occurred in 2014 and one each in 2013, 2012, and 2010.

Four of the victims died while gauging tanks while the five other victims died during sampling by pumpers and truckers.

The CDC said that in at least one case the victim had sought out medical attention for adverse health effects he noticed after gauging a tank.

The agency added that all the victims were discovered either on top of or near tanks and were working the tanks alone.

The chemicals released by the tanks could include benzene, a known carcinogen, as well as butane, propane and ethane.

NIOSH researchers found that concentrations of those chemicals were "in excess of immediately dangerous to life or health levels" near open tank hatches.

Inhaling hydrocarbons can cause disorientation, light-headedness and even asphyxiation and heart failure if a worker is exposed to large amounts of the chemicals.

The CDC has recommended that a maximum exposure limit be set at 10 percent of the lower explosive limit for light hydrocarbon gases due to narcotic and explosive hazards.

The agency is conducting further studies to assess the risks to workers and develop ways to minimize exposure.

The NIOSH issued a preliminary lists of recommendations for oil and gas firms to mitigate the risk of inhalation that includes ramping up training efforts and making sure employees do not work near tanks alone.

The agency also recommended implementing alternative gauging procedures such as sonar or in-

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

line fluid flow systems to reduce exposure.

Industry safety groups and federal agencies are planning to issue alerts highlighting the risks of hydrocarbon inhalation possibly as soon as this week, the Wall Street Journal said.

For now, industry experts and government regulators are focused on educating workers about inhalation hazards while investigating long term solutions.

"We're trying to take a proactive approach with what we're doing and trying to get the notice out to workers in the field," executive director of the Association of Energy Service Companies Kenny Jordan told the Journal.

<http://goo.gl/ycUNXD>

## USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY

APRIL 26 2015.

### OIL MIST TEMPORARILY CLOSES PARK AFTER INCIDENT AT REFINERY IN SALT LAKE CITY

*Caroline Connolly*

An incident at the Tesoro Refinery in Salt Lake City left a coating of oil all over a local park Friday.

Warm Springs Park was temporarily closed as emergency crews worked to remove oil from the lawn and facilities. According to the refinery, the oil release occurred after an equipment malfunction late Thursday night, but they did not realize it had spread past their facility until the morning.

"Anytime we hear of an infrastructure failure, as we did this morning, we are greatly concerned," Salt Lake City spokesman Art Raymond said.

The city was notified of what happened around 7:00 a.m. Friday. Tesoro described the leak as a "faint oil mist" that was carried into the park and surrounding area.

While the incident is still under investigation, Tesoro officials said they believe a pressure release valve in one of its units failed to work properly, causing the oil to shoot out.

According to residents, alarms at the plant started ringing Thursday evening.

"I had a friend that heard these alarms around 8:30-9:00 o'clock last night. Being as quiet as it is at that time, he could hear them saying, 'Emergency, evacuate,'" said resident Steven Kaufman.

Tesoro placed barriers in certain areas around the park to ensure that all oil was removed from water before it entered any storm drains. While the company denied FOX 13 News' request for an interview, they did send the following list of questions and answers.

#### **Has this leak impacted public water sources?**

We are visually monitoring public water sources and there is no indication that they have been impacted. We have deployed containment and absorbent booms to prevent oil from entering the storm drain system. There is no evidence of contamination of drinking water sources.

#### **How are you responding to this incident?**

Containment booms have been deployed to prevent oil from entering the storm water system. Crews have thoroughly cleaned the oil from all facilities within the park and are mowing the grass.\

#### **What impacts will oil mist have on the environment?**

We are taking all necessary precautions to ensure the protection of our neighbors and the environment. Impacted property will be cleaned as necessary.

#### **How did this happen?**

An investigation into the cause of this incident is in progress.

#### **How long will it take to clean up?**

We are working with Salt Lake City and County to determine what actions are necessary.

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Anyone in the vicinity who has noticed oil drops on their cars or other property or have questions should call the Tesoro Community Hotline at 801-606-2200.

<http://fox13now.com/2015/04/24/oil-mist-temporarily-closes-park-after-incident-at-refinery-in-salt-lake-city/>

## **USA, W.VA, GLEN DALE**

**APRIL 26 2015.**

### **EFFECTS OF RUPTURES STILL LINGER**

*Casey Junkins*

Inspectors found benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene in an unnamed Marshall County stream four days after the April 9 Williams Energy pipeline ruptures, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Kelley J. Gillenwater said.

Friday, Gillenwater said officials with her agency and Williams continue working to mitigate the impact of 132 barrels of Marcellus Shale condensate flowing into Little Grave Creek when a 4-inch pipeline broke near Glen Dale April 9. She said tests taken in a nameless stream April 13 showed the presence of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene. However, Gillenwater emphasized officials found none of these materials in Little Grave Creek.

"Drinking water well samples have been forwarded on to the local health department for its records," Gillenwater said Friday. "Williams has the contamination area contained to an unnamed tributary of Wilson Run." Marshall County Emergency Management Deputy Director Mike Mucke said Wilson Run is a tributary of Little Grave Creek.

As of Friday, Gillenwater said Williams officials located the fractured section of pipeline. She said the company is removing contaminated soil in the area of the condensate leak before taking it to a proper disposal center in Ohio. "Odors from the site are likely to migrate downstream as the removal proceeds.

Williams mailed a letter to residents notifying them they may experience an odor in the coming days while they are working on remediation," she said. The U.S. Energy Information Administration classifies condensates as light liquid hydrocarbons recovered at natural gas well sites that producers market for profit. Those within the drilling industry consider this material similar to crude oil.

Gillenwater said DEP will cite Williams for "conditions not allowable in state waters," adding that other violations discovered in the investigation could result in other citations. Gillenwater said DEP officials are also evaluating whether the spill impacted any aquatic life. Just three hours after the condensate pipeline broke April 9, a 12-inch Williams line ruptured in the Bane Lane area of the county along U.S. 250.

Williams spokeswoman Helen Humphreys said company officials believe "heavy rains in the area, which may have destabilized soils, were a contributing factor" in the two pipeline ruptures. Tulsa, Okla.-based Williams operates a massive pipeline and processing infrastructure network in Marshall County, as the firm runs the Oak Grove processing plant, the Fort Beeler processing plant and the Moundsville fractionator, all of which are connected by pipelines.

<http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/631489/Effects-Of-Ruptures-Still-Linger.html?nav=515>

## **USA, WA, SEATTLE**

**APRIL 29 2015.**

### **SEATTLE FIRM FINED FOR POLLUTING DUWAMISH TRIBUTARY**

### **STORMWATER CARRIED MUD AND OIL INTO NORTH FORK OF HAMM CREEK**

A Seattle cargo firm faces a \$14,000 fine for allowing stormwater with excessive levels of oil and silt to discharge to the North Fork of Hamm Creek, which flows to the Duwamish Waterway in Seattle.

Samson Tug and Barge operates a cargo handling facility at 9228 10th Ave. S. in Seattle. Ecology inspectors have repeatedly observed oily and muddy runoff from the 4.8-acre, partially paved yard, including during site visits in January, February and March of this year.

## Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Samples of the facility's direct stormwater discharge to the creek showed silt content more than a thousand times higher than acceptable levels. The stormwater also contained oil four times above the acceptable level.

The facility is subject to the state's Industrial Stormwater General Permit.

Other permit violations at the site included:

- Failure to produce a stormwater pollution prevention plan, which should describe pollution controls specific to the site.
- Failing to provide an above-ground fuel tank with secondary containment to hold fuel in case of a spill or tank leak.
- Failure to immediately clean up petroleum spills and leaks.
- Allowing vehicles to track dirt onto 10th Ave. S. when exiting the facility.
- Unauthorized discharge of polluted stormwater onto 10th Ave. S., which also drains to the Hamm Creek North Fork.

"By disregarding the basic elements of the stormwater permit, Samson had virtually no measures in place to prevent and control water pollution," said Kevin Fitzpatrick, regional supervisor for Ecology's Water Quality Program. "That led to these violations, including one of the highest readings ever seen in Washington for muddy runoff from an industrial site."

Oil products are toxic to fish and other aquatic and marine life. Silt particles in muddy water can damage fish gills and may carry metals that settle in sediments.

Samson may appeal the penalty to the Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board.

The Lower Duwamish Waterway is listed as a federal Superfund site due to sediment contamination from PCBs and other compounds. Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency co-manage the cleanup of the site, which covers a 5-mile stretch along the waterway. Ecology's industrial water compliance efforts support that cleanup.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2015/054.html>

### **CANADA, NUNAVUT, BAFFIN ISLAND**

**APRIL 29 2015.**

#### **NUNAVUT HOMEOWNER ORDERED TO PAY \$55,000 FOR HEATING OIL TANK SPILL**

*John J.P. Donihee, Julie Abouchar and Charles Birchall*

On April 13, 2015 a homeowner from Apex, Nunavut was ordered to pay the Government of Nunavut \$55,000 in restitution for clean up expenditures resulting from environmental damage caused by a home heating oil tank leak. Ms. Simonsen was also fined \$500, which marks the first time an individual has been fined under Nunavut's Environmental Protection Act for a discharge of fuel oil into the environment.

In January 2011, Ms. Simonsen's tank leaked about 600 litres of fuel into the environment. The fuel oil discharge flowed to the edge of Apex Creek, which is connected to tidewater in the Koojessee Inlet. As a result, the Government of Nunavut ordered Ms. Simonsen to clean up the spill. Due to her failure to comply with the order the Government of Nunavut was required to take action and remediate the spill, at a cost of almost \$200,000.

On April 13, 2015 Ms. Simonsen plead guilty to a charge under Nunavut's Environmental Protection Act. Under the Act, the maximum fine for this type of an offence is \$300,000. The \$55,000 restitution order and \$500 fine represent a general deterrent and a reminder of homeowners' responsibilities associated with outdoor fuel tanks. Given Nunavut's harsh weather, homeowners must diligently check their fuel tanks for signs of leakage. Homeowners should also be aware of their insurance coverage for fuel tank leaks associated with wear and tear from Arctic winters. Unfortunately, Ms. Simonsen's insurance did not cover the fuel leak.

<http://www.mondaq.com/canada/x/393178/Waste+Management/Nunavut+Homeowner+Ordered+to+Pay+55000+for+Heating+Oil+Tank+Spill>

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

**USA, MN, SUPERIOR**

**APRIL 29 2015.**

## **CREWS RESPOND TO FIRE IN TANK AT CALUMET REFINERY IN SUPERIOR**

An empty asphalt tank caught fire at the Calumet oil refinery in Superior on Tuesday afternoon, prompting the evacuation of nonessential personnel at the facility and creating a dark plume of smoke visible for miles.

The fire was contained to the tank and there were no reports of injuries.

The Superior Fire Department said that firefighters were called to a report of an explosion and fire at the refinery on the city's south side at 3:20 p.m. Refinery manager Kollin Schade said he heard a popping noise and looked out his office window to see a fire on top of the asphalt tank.

Refinery officials "initiated their emergency response plan, evacuated all nonessential personnel and activated their Emergency Response Team," Superior Fire Chief Steve Panger said in a news release.

The response team consists of internal staff trained to respond to the fire along with the Superior Fire Department, which then coordinate the effort to extinguish the fire, Schade said. It also brings the Superior Police Department to block the roads, he added.

"Our goal is to make sure everyone in the plant is safe, especially the people responding to the incident. We monitor the air in the surrounding community to make sure there's no impact to the health of the surrounding community," Schade said of the emergency response plan.

The first Superior fire crews on the scene reported a 30-foot-tall asphalt tank on fire. The tank was empty and the fire was fueled by residual material, Panger reported.

"It's an unfortunate situation, but I think it was handled very appropriately by both internal and external responders," Schade said.

Dry chemicals were used to extinguish the fire, said Battalion Chief Scott Gordon. He said the tank did flare one more time because it was so hot, but the fire was out as of 5:15 p.m. One engine company remained on the scene to cool the tank and prevent the fire from rekindling.

Stinson Avenue was closed to traffic while fire crews were at the scene.

"The fire is reported to be confined to the tank and there is no danger to the public," Panger said. "Exposures are controlled and monitoring is ongoing."

The black smoke draws a lot of interest and attention to the plant; people should keep in mind that the tank was empty and the residual asphalt on the walls and underneath the roof was burning, he said.

The refinery and fire department jointly performed air monitoring and found "no hazardous air impact to the community," Schade said.

The cause of the fire will be investigated by Calumet and the Superior Fire Department beginning Wednesday, Schade said.

<http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/superior/3733074-crews-respond-fire-tank-calumet-refinery-superior>

**USA, S.C, BELTON**

**MAY 1 2015.**

## **KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE LEAK REACHES 300,000 GALLONS IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Sarita Chourey*

More than 300,000 gallons of gasoline have leaked from Texas-based energy company Kinder Morgan's pipeline in Belton, S.C., since a structure failure in December, according to the Savannah Riverkeeper.

The spill was originally reported as 8,000 gallons, but was actually 8,000 barrels, Riverkeeper Tonya Bonitatibus said. There are 42 gallons per barrel.

The incident, located on Lewis Drive near the junction of West Calhoun Road in Belton, was reported Dec. 8 and was the result of a sleeve failure in the 27-inch pipeline, said Jim Beasley, spokesman for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

## Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Kinder Morgan spokeswoman Melissa Ruiz said in an email Thursday the pipeline sleeve that failed was installed in 1979 and has been repaired.

"We are now inspecting other sleeves along the system that were installed during the same time period," Ruiz wrote.

News of the leak came as Kinder Morgan plans a new, 360-mile petroleum pipeline from Belton to Jacksonville, Fla. Its proposed Palmetto Pipeline would move refined petroleum products from Baton Rouge, La., Collins and Pascagoula, Miss., and Belton, S.C. to North Augusta, S.C., Savannah and Jacksonville, Fla.

The Belton incident comes at a particularly sensitive time, as Kinder Morgan faces protests from Georgia residents who object to the possible seizure of private land.

The Savannah Riverkeeper, which learned of the leak earlier this year, is a founding organization of Push Back the Pipeline, which is comprised of concerned citizens, landowners, organizations and other groups who oppose the Palmetto Project.

"The discovery of such a high-volume spill is completely in contrast with Kinder Morgan's repeated statements regarding their spill detection monitors," said Savannah Riverkeeper Tonya Bonitatibus on Thursday.

"It has been five months since the leak was reported. The claim that this company can immediately detect and promptly clean up a spill has been shown in this instance to be false."

Belton is a city of about 4,400 people in Anderson County, which is in the northwestern corner of South Carolina.

To date, 176,901 gallons of product have been recovered and removed, and 2,832 tons of soil have been removed and treated off-site.

"Contamination from the spill did impact an unnamed tributary to Brown's Creek, but no violations of surface water standards have been recorded since January," Beasley said on Thursday.

"A recovery trench and recovery wells are in place to address the contamination at the tributary in addition to absorbent and impermeable booms that are set up in the tributary itself as a backup measure," he said.

Beasley said the area has about 71 groundwater monitoring wells and 20 recovery sumps, 15 recovery wells and two recovery trenches in place for environmental remediation.

He said officials are conducting daily ambient air monitoring and soil vapor monitoring as protective measures.

As for how much gasoline still need to be removed, Beasley said the total amount of the spill isn't known. Regulators have determined that the Plantation Pipeline, for which Kinder Morgan is a majority owner, is responsible for the spill and is paying for the cleanup, even as DHEC oversees the activities.

Ruiz said the company is working with the South Carolina environmental control agency and is "following all established standards and protocols required to properly remediate the site."

That type of remediation work is typically long term, Ruiz wrote, and Kinder Morgan is working under the direction of the state environmental agency, which "reviews and approves our work plans, monitors our progress and determines when the work is complete."

This story was updated to correct an error. The spill was originally reported as 8,000 gallons, not 800 as previously stated.

<http://savannahnow.com/news/2015-04-30/kinder-morgan-pipeline-leak-reaches-300000-gallons-south-carolina>

**USA, WI, MILWAUKEE**

**MAY 1 2015.**

**PIPELINE WORKER AVOIDS PRISON OVER MITCHELL AIRPORT FUEL SPILL**

*Bruce Vielmetti*

Even his own attorney thought a year in prison was a fair sentence for the pipeline worker whose

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

lies about his own negligence led to a massive 2012 jet fuel leak near Mitchell International Airport.

But Shell Pipeline Co. LP, Randy Jones' former employer and the designated victim in the case, felt probation would suffice — and allow Jones to start paying back the \$19.3 million that it cost the firm to clean up the mess.

Calling it a "tough case," U.S. District Judge Rudolph Randa sided with Shell and sentenced Jones to five years of probation, noting that the federal probation officials also recommended a nonprison sentence, citing Jones' solid work and family history and lack of a criminal record.

"Clearly you didn't intend the damage," Randa said. "It just doesn't make sense."

Jones, who now works for another pipeline company in Louisiana, told Randa that he was embarrassed and ashamed but felt "overworked and overwhelmed" by his new job duties in 2011. "I tried to do too much and failed," he said.

Jones, the former onshore corrosion coordinator for Shell Pipeline, pleaded guilty in January to violations of the federal Pipeline Safety Act and making a false statement to the federal government. He had faced up to five years imprisonment on each of the three counts.

Sentencing guidelines called for four to five years, largely based on the high costs of the cleanup, and prosecutors recommended a year in prison plus a year of probation.

According to his plea agreement, Jones, 44, was responsible for checking the integrity of a 12-inch pipeline that delivers the fuel to Mitchell but neglected those checks after some equipment didn't work and later submitted falsified data suggesting that the tests had been done and the pipeline passed.

His was not a fraud motivated by greed, his attorney Eduardo Borda wrote in a sentencing memo. "Pride and an inability to admit he was in over his head led Mr. Jones to neglect his work duties. He later made false statements to conceal that same negligence," he said.

Prosecutors stressed the serious environmental and safety risks posed by pipeline failures, risks they say Jones, who earned about \$115,000 a year, knew well. In fact, he told agents from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that in "the back of my mind, I knew someone would get hurt."

All it would have taken to prevent the failure, prosecutors said, was a phone call.

Jones had worked for Shell Pipeline for 20 years. From 2010 to 2012, he was responsible for monitoring jet fuel pipelines at Mitchell and Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. In the fall of 2010, he came to Milwaukee and learned some of the testing equipment was broken but got it working.

In November of that year, he was back in Milwaukee to oversee repairs to the pipeline and install devices that would allow him to monitor the pipeline remotely.

But when Jones tried to check in on the Milwaukee pipeline in early 2011, he found that one monitoring device wasn't showing any voltage. He hired another company to investigate. It informed Jones that the piece was broken, but Jones never ordered it repaired or replaced, according to the court records.

Instead of attending a December 2011 audit of the system, Jones told his supervisor that he was on a cruise. Inspectors found defective readings along the length of the pipeline, but because Jones had falsified the data from the whole year, the auditors didn't realize some of the monitoring equipment had been out of service for over a year.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/crime/pipeline-worker-avoids-prison-over-mitchell-airport-fuel-spill-b99491690z1-301968391.html>

## **USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON**

**MAY 4 2015.**

### **WHAT WEST VIRGINIA'S SHODDY TANKS HELD, AND WHERE THEY ARE**

In a statewide survey of chemical tanks, the Department of Environmental Protection recently found about 50 tanks that were not-fit-for-service, but still held chemicals close enough potentially to threaten public water supplies.

Since the survey, state regulators say most operators took their tanks out of commission. The others are monitoring their individual tank issues until they can complete repairs.

## Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The biggest issues were corrosion and inadequate secondary containment safeguards. Here's a look at what some of the almost 50 tanks held and where they are located, county-by-county.

Oil, brine, gas, or some combination: 30 tanks

Locations: Upshur (7), Raleigh (7), Logan (3), Barbour (2), Jackson (2), Randolph (2), Preston (2), Calhoun, Gilmer, Lewis, Mingo, Tucker

Diesel fuel: 6 tanks

Locations: Randolph, Lincoln, Mineral, Berkeley, Tucker, Monongalia

Crude oil: 3 tanks

Locations: Wetzel (3)

Caustic soda (hazardous): 3 tanks

Locations: Marshall, Logan, Mingo

Sulfuric acid (hazardous): 1 tank

Location: Mingo

Largest tanks:

275,000 gallons of caustic soda, Eagle Natrium plant in New Martinsville

63,500 gallons of diesel fuel, Essroc Martinsburg Cement Plant in Martinsburg

20,000 gallons of diesel fuel, Burns Motor Freight in Randolph County

10,000 gallons of sulfuric acid, CONSOL Energy Tug Valley Prep Plant in Mingo County

[http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/02/us/ap-us-unfit-storage-tanks-glance.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/02/us/ap-us-unfit-storage-tanks-glance.html?_r=0)

### USA, ILL, SIDNEY

**MAY 4 2015.**

#### **FUEL LEAK CAUSES 2,000 GALLON SPILL**

*Latest: 10:05 pm, 5/10/15, Sunday*

Union Pacific could face consequences for a fuel spill. 2,000 gallons of diesel spilled into a creek about a week ago. The EPA says the tank's drain system helped funnel the fuel into the creek and Union Pacific didn't block it off in time after a piece of the train's engine punctured a fuel tank.

Now, authorities are asking the Attorney General to force them to do more. Members of the EPA believe Union Pacific should have used more absorbent booms and a vacuum truck to recover more fuel. The EPA cited Union Pacific for several violations since the spill caused pollution to the air, water and soil.

*Latest: 6:22 pm, 5/4/15, Monday*

Residents want answers. A creek full of diesel fuel is flowing through their backyards. A piece of a train's engine punctured a tank causing a 2,000 gallon fuel leak into a nearby creek. It happened Saturday morning. Hazmat workers and firefighters cleaned it up over the weekend. Now, the EPA has taken over.

It will take weeks to completely clean up. EPA officials say they won't be leaving any time soon. The Department of Natural Resources is also now involved, but people living here say it's too little, too late.

"I haven't heard anything from the EPA whatsoever."

Kathy Flowers lives right next to this creek. It's where a Union Pacific train spilled thousands of gallons of "It's to the point where you really don't want to be in your backyard at all."

Flowers sent pictures of the spill not long after it happened. Several days later, things don't look much different. She says it's too quiet.

"The frogs have been silent for the last two days."

The IDNR has stepped in to take a closer look at the impact on wildlife in the area. Others say it didn't have to be this week.

"When they do something wrong, they need to own up to it."

Shawn Martin saw it all happen. He says it was hours before the EPA knew what happened. The EPA and railroad could have stopped it.

"Their lax of timing of notifying anybody has allowed this to go as far as it's gone. It could have been

## Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

stopped way sooner if they said something."

"The first day, we took a sample of the water. What's going to happen, not necessarily now, but in a month from now? Two months from now? I would like to see more activity, more finding out what's going on."

Sidney's village president says he's also unhappy with how slow progress has been. The EPA says Union Pacific notified them within a reasonable amount of time.

*Update: 8:28 pm, 5/3/15, Sunday*

People are concerned about wildlife after an unexpected mess. A train leaked thousands of gallons of fuel into a creek which runs through Sidney and flows into the Salt Fork River.

For two days now, hazmat crews have been cleaning up the diesel fuel spill. The village president says he's worried about the wildlife and firefighters are warning everyone to stay away.

People have been taking pictures of murky water with views of the creek which runs through town for about three miles. Ann Rhoton lives near the creek. She's concerned with what's living in it.

"Depending on how much got out and how much was cleaned up, there's plenty of fish in the creek, and that could start to be a problem."

A Union Pacific train was on its way to St. Louis, but as it passed through town, it started leaking fuel; 2,000 gallons.

"It doesn't usually look as dark as it looks now," said Rhoton.

"There's a light coat of it in the water. Some smell to it," said Fire Chief Earl Bennett.

Union Pacific says it's checking three train cars which leaked at the railyard in Villa Grove. The village president says wildlife seems to be unaffected so far.

"It seems to be a minimal spill," said Bennett. "I don't think there's going to be any other reason to worry any The village president says after the mess is cleaned up, he'll contact the EPA to see what needs to happen next.

*Original: 9:43 pm, 5/2/15, Saturday*

A train headed to Saint Louis left a hazardous mess behind after 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel leaked. Officials know some of fuel spilled into a nearby creek. It runs through town for nearly three miles.

Hazmat crews and the fire department helped with the clean-up. It happened around 10 am, Saturday, in area of East County Road 1200. Crews were able to contain the mess by placing booms to absorb the fuel.

Pacific Union officials have not released a cause. They say three locomotives will be checked at the rail yard in Villa Grove.

<http://www.illinoishomepage.net/story/d/story/fuel-leak-causes-2000-gallon-spill/38771/JleRcl1Mgk256ysBMQQVMw>

### INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, NAGPUR

**MAY 10 2015.**

#### **PROBABLE CAUSE OF FIRE AT WADI PETROL PUMP COULD BE STATIC CURRENT**

The news of the devastating fire at the Shri Krishna Automobile petrol pump, at Wadi owned by Mr. Harpal Singh Baweja has spread like fire throughout the city – to use a bad pun.

Everyone is asking what caused it – if people were hurt and most importantly, could it have been prevented?

We have got some answers from Bhatia, President of the Vidarbha petroleum dealers' association. Speaking exclusively to Nagpur Today, Bhatia told us that the fire happened spontaneously as a tanker of petrol/ diesel was being unloaded at the pump.

The good news is that no one was hurt as there was enough time for people to run away from the spot. The bad news is that the pump, its building and all its stock is completely destroyed. The tanker is also completely reduced to ashes.

The cause – Bhatia said when temperatures rise above 45\* – as was the case in Nagpur today – fires

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

can happen with very little cause.

“It can be a spark carried by the gust of winds – even from an automobile, it can be static current formed when a plastic ‘panni’ (bag) that is so commonly seen in garbage strewn around comes flying and meets with petrol fumes that are present when tankers are being unloaded. It could also be someone using cell phones at the pump premises.”

## What precautions can be followed?

Sadly, none it seems. The environmental temperatures cannot be controlled. Dhabas and other eateries often exist side by side with pumps. Plastic litter is everywhere – there is no controlling it. It is a ‘natural calamity’ almost like a thunder storm that cannot be anticipated or controlled.

## Can tankers not be unloaded during early mornings or evenings when temperature is less?

Again, not possible, says Bhatia. Tankers work in shifts and have to report back to the depot for carrying more fuel for other pumps. They are heavily loaded with work so the task of unloading cannot be delayed at all.

## Version of Fire Officer

The chief Fire Officer of Nagpur, Rajendra Uchke had a different version to narrate. Without blaming anyone, least of all the pump owner, he said their primary investigations show short circuit as cause of fire. This can happen due to improper earthing of tanker being unloaded.

When any tanker is being unloaded at any pump, to keep just such an eventuality like today’s from happening, the tanker is supposed to be temporarily ‘earthed’ by some Copper clips attached to the tanker and also to the earth. From constant use, these clips can get lose and/ or defective and may slip off causing insufficient earthing.

At busy petrol pumps tankers are unloaded 2 – 3 times in 24 hours, so from constant use clips can slip off – very stringent measures should be in place to check such malfunctions.

Secondly, the pipe carrying fuel from tanker to underground storage tank has to be airtight. If the ‘coupling’ comes lose, only then petrol fumes can come out and catch fire with the slightest of ‘static currents’ as mentioned above. The escaping fumes become an ignition source.

When NT mentioned the possibility of sparks flying from the periphery, he said that does not look probable as the pump has high walls on both sides and is well protected.

The theory of faulty earthing and lose coupling of pipe line is borne out by the version of the driver of the tanker, said Mr. Uchke.

He said first a small fire was detected at the base of the pipe that was conveying petrol from tanker to tank. Even after this was noticed there was no way the flow of petrol could be stopped since the radiant heat generated is so much that no one can venture anywhere near the 1 meter pipe line and touch the valve.

The only option left is to vacate the premises and wait for the petrol to burn out.

As soon as the fire was noticed, one fire tender was rushed to the spot from the MIDC, Hingna fire brigade office. When they saw the quantum of fire and fumes they knew one tender would not be enough so two more were sent from Nagpur.

It is creditable that they could prevent a blast from happening which would have surely caused much more damage even leading to injuries.

<http://www.nagpurtoday.in/probable-cause-of-fire-at-wadi-petrol-pump-could-be-static-current/05092050>

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

**USA, CA, SANTA BARBARA**

**MAY 20 2015.**

**ABOUT 21,000 GALLONS OF OIL LEAKED OFF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BEACHES**

*Matt Hamilton*

The operator of an underground pipeline that ruptured and released up to 105,000 gallons of crude oil in Santa Barbara County -- and tens of thousands of gallons into the ocean -- said Wednesday that the spill happened after a series of mechanical problems caused the line to be shut down.

The problems began about 10:45 a.m. Tuesday at two pump stations that move oil through the 11-mile pipeline along the Gaviota Coast, Rick McMichael, director of pipeline operations for Plains All American Pipeline, said at a news conference.

The company said its estimate of 105,000 gallons spilled west of Santa Barbara is a worst-case scenario that was based on the line's elevation and flow rate -- which averages about 50,400 gallons an hour.

Investigators won't find a cause for the rupture until they excavate the 24-inch wide line, which was installed in 1987, according to a joint statement from government and company officials.

When the line ruptured Tuesday, the oil seeped through the ground to a culvert and flowed into the ocean about a mile up the coast from Refugio State Beach. The company estimates about 21,000 gallons of crude went into the water.

The U.S. Coast Guard said a pair of oil slicks are stretching across a combined nine miles.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife said it had crews combing the beaches in search of oiled wildlife but that the agency did not yet have a count of how many have been affected.

At least two brown pelicans were oiled by the spill, said Jim Milbury, a spokesman for NOAA Fisheries. So far, federal wildlife officials have found no marine mammals affected, he said.

Photographer Reeve Woolpert, 69, of Summerland came down from Refugio to an area near the spill and saw a brown pelican by the shore covered in oil.

He told fish and wildlife and state parks officials about the bird, but three hours later nobody had come by.

"I said this bird wants to live, it's a fighter," Woolpert said.

So he wrapped the bird in his T-shirt and climbed the bluffs up to the train tracks where the spill first crossed toward the ocean.

A fish and wildlife worker came and took the blackened bird away in a cardboard box.

As Woolpert stood in a children's sized swimming pool and scrubbed the oil off himself with a rag and soap, he looked down at the pooled oil from the culvert.

"It is a damn shame," he said.

Also on Wednesday, Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for Santa Barbara County to free up resources to respond to the spill.

The ruptured line, owned by Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline, is part of a larger oil transport network centered in Kern County.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-pipeline-santa-barbara-coast-20150519-story.html>