

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, TX, AUSTIN

JUNE 18 2013.

AFTER WEST EXPLOSION, TEXAS MAY COMPILE PUBLIC DATABASE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SITES

James Drew

The state plans to compile a registry of businesses with dangerous chemicals so citizens can learn about hazards like the fertilizer plant in West, where a fire triggered a massive blast of ammonium nitrate.

The online database is among a handful of proposals, aired at a hearing Monday, that legislators said would not involve new laws or regulations, or increases in state spending.

“Wouldn’t you want to know if there’s a chemical facility in your neighborhood with hazardous material, ammonium nitrate, or other types of chemicals? And the answer is yes,” Steve McCraw, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, told the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee.

The registry would be on the state fire marshal’s website, but state officials have not decided which chemicals would be included. Media outlets, including *The Dallas Morning News*, have published databases of facilities with ammonium nitrate and related chemicals based on information filed with the state health department.

Rep. Joe Pickett, the El Paso Democrat who is the committee’s chairman, said he expects residents will use the state website to pose questions about safety to their county judge, city council or fire chief.

“We’re looking for something that is visual, quick, so that they can find it by maybe entering a ZIP code,” he said.

Monday’s hearing was the second that the committee has held in response to the April 17 explosion at West Fertilizer Co. Fifteen people, including 12 volunteer firefighters and other first responders, died when about 60,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate exploded at the plant on the outskirts of West. The blast injured more than 200 people and destroyed nearby apartments, houses and a nursing home.

Best practices

State Fire Marshal Chris Connealy told lawmakers that his office would collect information on best practices to properly handle and store ammonium nitrate, and then give that information to companies similar to West Fertilizer that aren’t covered by a fire code. The potentially volatile chemical was stored at West in wooden bins in a building that lacked fire sprinklers. McLennan County doesn’t have a fire code.

Pickett also suggested that the state ask the companies that are in counties without fire codes if they want to be inspected, and if they would put up signs saying they handle dangerous chemicals.

But Rep. Dan Flynn, R-Van, questioned how many tasks the committee should give state agencies in the aftermath of the West explosion.

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"You can paperwork a company to death. List after list and signs, and all this kind of stuff. I think we need to kind of keep it in perspective. It was a major problem and it was an accident, and it was a disaster," he said.

Flynn said rural residents have told him they're worried the state will put additional regulations on chemical fertilizers or even try to ban them.

"I want to be sure as we go forward — recognizing these are dangerous and we've had some problems — but it's also very important to the agricultural industry, and I don't want us to forget that," he said.

"And the petrochemical community is important to our economy," said McCraw, the DPS director.

A federal law requires businesses to report their inventory of certain toxic and hazardous chemicals to state and local officials.

Rep. Ron Simmons, R-Carrollton, asked if firms also are required to disclose when dangerous chemicals are being transported.

"We do not have real-time access to that information," replied McCraw, who said the state is working with railroads to try to get it. "It puts first responders in the situation of picking up the phone and calling after the accident."

The committee approved a motion to send a letter asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reconsider its decision to deny major disaster aid for West.

FEMA officials last week said the request was denied because Texas couldn't justify why the state cannot afford \$17 million toward emergency response and cleanup.

More meetings

Pickett said he expects to call more committee meetings this year and in 2014 to take testimony from state agencies. Speaking to reporters after Monday's hearing, he said he's not concerned that any potential new laws or regulations will have to wait for the next legislative session in 18 months.

"I'm a big believer in doing things right. We could have done some things this last session, and we may have sent people off on the wrong trail, and then it's harder to fix," Pickett said.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/west-explosion/headlines/20130617-after-west-explosion-texas-may-compile-public-database-of-hazardous-chemical-sites.ece>

ENGLAND, BERKSHIRE, HOLYPORT

JUNE 18 2013.

FIREFIGHTERS RACE TO STOP FLAME THREAT TO FUEL TANK IN HOLYPORT

A car fire threatened to engulf a 1,000 litre fuel tank filled with oil sat yards from a home. Firefighters were called out at 11.30pm last night to put out the blaze which began in a car parked on a driveway outside the home in Drift Road, Holyport. The blaze spread to two other cars as well coming close to a tank used for storing oil close to the home, but firefighters from the Maidenhead, Windsor and Reading stations put out the blaze in the nick of time using hose reels and foam. Crew manager Marcus Lewis of the Maidenhead fire station said: "The main concern was the threat to the house caused by the tank. Luckily we managed to stop the fire in time." Two cars were completely destroyed in the fire, a third had superficial damage while the home itself was slightly scorched. The cause of the fire is being investigated by the police and fire service.

<http://www.windsorobserver.co.uk/news/roundup/articles/2013/06/18/90442-firefighters-race-to-stop-flame-threat-to-fuel-tank-in-holyport/>

USA, UT, LEEDS

JUNE 19 2013.

FIRE CAUSES FUEL TANK EXPLOSION IN LEEDS

Samantha Sadlier

Leeds Area Fire Department and assisting fire agencies responded to a small brush fire Tuesday in

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Leeds, which spread to a 500-gallon fuel tank, causing a small explosion and damaging some old vehicles and other debris.

Adam Heyder, Washington County Fire Warden with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, said the official cause of the fire is unknown.

The fire started near 422 W. Buckeye Reef at about 11 a.m. on the dry grass in an open space. After the wind caught the flame, it spread to a nearby pile of metal scraps and old vehicles, as well as the fuel tank.

"There were mostly just older vehicles and junk piled up in an open field and it burned a lot of that," he said. "It reached the 500-gallon gas tank, which was full of old gas, and that blew up."

A man living at the home had minor injuries, which were treated at the scene, Heyder said. The fire never reached the nearby home or structures.

The amount of damage is difficult to determine because of the types of old scraps and debris that was burned by the flames, Heyder said.

With dry weather conditions throughout the county, Heyder said he would like to encourage the public to use caution.

"Things are extremely dry in Washington County right now," he said. "People need to be careful what they are doing."

http://www.thespectrum.com/article/20130618/NEWS01/306180006/Fire-causes-fuel-tank-explosion-Leeds?nclck_check=1

CANADA, ALBA, EDMONTON

JUNE 20 2013.

OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING DIESEL FUEL LEAK IN LEDUC COUNTY CREEK

Alberta Environment officials have confirmed hundreds of litres of diesel fuel leaked into a creek south of Edmonton Tuesday, while crews work to clean up the mess.

Officials said about 400 litres of diesel leaked out of a 500 litre storage tank in a Nisku industrial yard, making it into the Blackmud Creek near Nisku.

The leak was discovered Tuesday morning, a short time later, crews were on the scene, and had set up booms and pads along the creek to contain the spill.

On Tuesday, June 18, crews with Alberta Environment were placing booms and pads on the Blackmud Creek in the area, after about 400 litres of diesel spilled from a nearby storage tank, making it into the creek.

"What we're doing is at different locations we're going to start here and do maybe a couple hundred metres of diking here, and a few along the way, just to ensure it doesn't hit the North Saskatchewan [River] and get into our waterway system," Capt. Gary Lazor with Edmonton Fire Rescue said.

As of early Tuesday morning, officials said the spill had been contained – and it's believed none of the diesel made it into the North Saskatchewan River.

However, officials said there will be an extensive investigation to determine the full impact of the spill.

<http://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/officials-investigating-diesel-fuel-leak-in-leduc-county-creek-1.1331200#ixzz2YTCA0zZA>

FALKLAND ISLANDS, STANLEY

JUNE 23 2013.

OIL CONTAMINATION ON STANLEY COMMON INVESTIGATED

J. Brock

Reports of an oily sheen developing on two small ponds on Stanley Common in the vicinity of the Mary Hill Quarry were immediately investigated by the Public Works Department (PWD) and Environmental Planning Department (EPD). Oil is not believed to have leached out from the quarry following the previously

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reported incident that occurred during the disposal of old oil drums, which is subject to an ongoing cleanup by PWD. It is most likely that the reported sheen was caused by a small amount of diesel leaking from the fuel tank of a scrapped vehicle that was parked immediately outside the quarry towards the end of last week. Normally scrapped vehicles would be left inside the quarry, but in this instance it is thought it was left outside because of the ongoing clean up before being moved. In consultation with Falklands Conservation, absorbent pads have been used to remove the surface sheen and minimize further spread onto the Common. Fencing is also being put up to keep horses away from the affected area. Any enquiries should be directed to Colin Summers, Deputy Director of Public Works on 27193.
<http://www.falklandnews.com/public/story.cfm?get=6580&source=3>

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, PORT OF SPAIN

JUNE 24 2013.

DIESEL SOLD FOR GUNS

COPS, NP UNCOVER \$4 BILLION FUEL RACKET IN SEA LOTS

Mark Bassant

A diesel smuggling racket in which the subsidised fuel was exchanged for guns and drugs was uncovered yesterday when a joint team of law enforcement officials swooped down on a truck at a seafront compound in Pioneer Drive, Sea Lots, Port of Spain.

Senior investigators told the Sunday Express they had been tracking the movements of the truck over the past week, and officers of the Besson Street Police Station caught the vehicle's occupants in the act yesterday morning when they were returning to offload their second diesel trip from a San Fernando gas station.

Two suspects were arrested yesterday.

They told police they had bought 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel at a gas station in San Fernando for only \$25,000.

With diesel selling at National Petroleum (NP) stations at \$1.50 per litre, this quantity of fuel would have cost upwards of \$100,000 at pump prices.

Sources close to the investigation said the truck would usually arrive on the seafront, via a compound that has a steel gate with a lone house on it, before driving onto the seafront and parking near a huge mound of dirt, approximately 20-25 feet in height.

Authorities say they spotted the two men later attaching an industrial marine hose to the truck's tank and later making their way up the hill to place the hose into a hole in the ground.

The men, who were caught in the act by a joint patrol of police, Customs, NP police and army officers, were later detained.

Strewn just a stone's throw away from the dirt mound that had at least four metal holes on top were used intermediate bulk container (IBC) containers that are used for storing diesel.

Smugglers usually run a line from the diesel tank to smaller boats with configured tanks that take the diesel to larger vessels out at sea.

Law enforcement authorities combed the shoreline for at least an hour, looking for any evidence of existing fuel lines but could not find any.

"What we know is that Caricom boats would come to purchase diesel, especially Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and smaller boats would come up to this Sea Lots seafront, collecting fuel from them and, in exchange, they would give them drugs and guns," explained a senior police investigator.

The sources say the majority of guns they have discovered in the Laventille area in recent times came through this part of Sea Lots.

Others who wished to buy the subsidised diesel, which usually costs \$1.50 per litre, would pay between US\$6-8 per litre.

Senior sources inside NP and the Ministry of Energy say this operation was being tracked for over two years, and the mastermind behind the operation is a notorious gang leader (named called) who also

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has ties with officials in various law enforcement agencies, as well as NP and Unipet.

NP chairman Neil Gosine later arrived on the scene yesterday and after being briefed about the situation spoke to the Sunday Express for a short while.

“We have information that this operation has been costing the Government more than \$4 billion.”

NP officials were called in and tested the fuel in the configured tank on the truck, and after collecting a sample in a glass bottle, they were able to confirm after initial tests that the product in the tank was diesel fuel.

The authorities’ next task was to uncover the storage tanks, concealed under mounds of earth littered with grass and gravel.

It took authorities three hours to dig through the dirt carefully to ensure the rusted diesel tanks underground were not damaged.

“We found five storage tanks, each with a capacity of 5,000 gallons, and what I can tell you is that these storage tanks were from the NP compound in Sea Lots, and more than likely, they were stolen or the people had help moving them out,” said an NP official, speaking on the condition of strict anonymity.

Law enforcement authorities say this is not the end of the investigation, and they will continue to dig deeper to find out who are some of the other major players involved in this illegal trade.

Commenting briefly yesterday on the racket, Energy Minister Kevin Ramnarine said, “Diesel is sold to the population at a subsidised price for a reason, and that reason is not for people to profit and to get large economic gains by illegal exportation of that diesel.”

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/DIESEL--SOLD-FOR--GUNS-212643031.html>

CANADA, ALBA, LITTLE BUFFALO

JUNE 25 2013.

PIPELINE SPILLS 5,000 LITERS OF OIL IN ALBERTA, CANADA

A pipeline in Canada has leaked more than 5,000 liters of oil in the province of Alberta, close to where most First Nations residents live, affecting the area’s waters and lands. The Lubicon Lake First Nation said on Sunday that Pennwest Exploration, which operates the pipeline, believes the spill took place a day earlier only 25 kilometers from the First Nations community of Little Buffalo. The affected area is also a proposed area of future reserve lands for the indigenous Canadian population. The company initially estimated that the oil spill affected the surface waters and muskeg lands over 2.5 square kilometers. However, Lubicon Lake said the spill is now thought to be much larger. Lubicon Lake Chief Bernard Ominayak said the safety of the First Nations citizens and their environment is the “primary concern.” Another big concern is how the leaked oil will affect the areas used by hunters and trappers. Pennwest Exploration is trying to control the spill but says that the clean-up efforts are being held back by the mass floods at the company’s head office in Calgary. According to the company, there are no reports yet showing that the recent heavy rain in the area contributed in any way to the oil spill. This latest oil spill came just weeks after a huge spill on June 1 in northern Alberta, which caused 9.5 million liters of toxic waste from oil and gas operation to poison the nearby area. Environmental organizations have long criticized the Canadian government for being slow to notify the public when faults occur within the oil industry.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/06/24/310548/pipeline-spills-5k-liters-oil-in-canada/>

USA, N.D, ROSS

JUNE 25 2013.

NORTH DAKOTA TRUCKING OPERATION CITED BY OSHA FOLLOWING WORKER DEATH

Plains Trucking, Ross, N.D.. has been cited by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration for nine safety violations after a worker was fatally injured March 27 while cleaning the inside of a crude oil tanker that exploded at the company's facility in Ross.

The incident occurred when another worker lowered a treble light, not approved for use in such conditions, into the tanker. The second worker suffered a concussion and a head laceration.

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One willful safety violation involves failing to develop and implement a confined space entry program. A willful violation is defined as one committed with intentional, knowing or voluntary disregard for the law's requirement, or plain indifference to employee safety and health.

Eight serious safety violations were cited, including:

- Failing to evaluate the need for personal protective equipment;
- Lack of machine guarding on pulleys and belts;
- Failing to develop and implement a written respiratory protection program;
- Use of electrical lighting not approved for a hazardous location;
- Failing to compile a list of chemicals, such as crude oil, which was in use, and provide workers training on those chemical hazards and precautions.

A serious violation is defined as when there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known.

OSHA has placed Plains Trucking in its Severe Violator Enforcement Program, which mandates targeted follow-up inspections to ensure compliance with the law. OSHA's SVEP focuses on employers that endanger workers by committing willful, repeat or failure-to-abate violations. Under the program, OSHA may inspect any of the employer's facilities if it has reasonable grounds to believe there are similar violations.

Proposed fines total \$28,000. The company has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Plains Trucking is a small operation, with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration records showing it has just four power units.

<http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/story/2013/06/north-dakota-trucking-operation-cited-by-osha-following-worker-death.aspx?prestitial=1>

USA, KS, STAFFORD CO

JUNE 25 2013.

OIL TANK BATTERY FIRE

Steve Moody

During a lightning storm is next to an oil tank battery. These structures have a strong tendency of being a lightning attractant. Shortly before nine o'clock this evening that's exactly what happened in northern Stafford County. An oil tank battery located a quarter mile south of 170th Street – just west of Highway 281 – was struck by lightning. The photo of the fire was taken shortly after firefighters arrived on scene. Firefighters from three stations responded to the fire. The firefighters cooled the perimeter to prevent the surrounding grassland from igniting. Once the fire had burned down to an extinguishable level they applied a blanket of foam to the battery. Firefighters remained on scene for two hours.

<http://www.kiowacountysignal.com/article/20130625/BLOGS/306259999#ixzz2XDggRvLA>

USA, OH, PERRY TWP

JUNE 30 2013.

VEHICLE STRIKES GAS PUMP, PUMP FALLS ON ANOTHER VEHICLE

Steven M. Grazier

In his three decades as a firefighter, Capt. Harry Ellis says he has never run into a scene such as the one he saw Friday afternoon.

A red Mercury Mariner driven by a teenager pulled into a Speedway gas station about 2:40 p.m. and careened into a gas pump, sending the 800-pound device crashing down on top of another car.

"I thought right away it was the pump crashing down," said Linda Smitley, of Bolivar, who was sitting inside her 2006 Volkswagen Jetta getting ready to pump fuel when the gas pump tipped over. "It busted my back window out, so I'll need a rental (car) for a while."

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The gas pump was resting on Smitley's car at about a 45-degree angle. No injuries were reported, Ellis said.

Township firefighters and Massillon police responded to the crash at the Speedway, which is at Navarre Road SW and state Route 21.

The brief storm that rolled through the area Friday was not a factor in the crash, noted Ellis, of the Perry Township Fire Department.

"It's the first time I saw this one after 30 years," said the longtime firefighter. "I've never seen a pump tipped over like that."

No gas was leaking from the crash scene.

Just before 3:30 p.m. Friday, officials were waiting for a crane to remove the pump from the top of the car.

Damage from the crash appeared minor to both vehicles.

<http://www.indeonline.com/news/x1808709159/Car-hits-gas-pump-at-Perry-Twp-Speedway-station#ixzz2Zt3D3PTS>

USA, N.J, JERSEY CITY

JULY 3 2013.

'TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION' INJURES 2, BLASTS BACK ON CAR IN JERSEY CITY MAN WAS LOADING TANK, POSSIBLY OF PROPANE, INTO CAR AT TIME OF BLAST

An explosion in a car left two people injured in Jersey City on Tuesday.

As WCBS 880's Alex Silverman reported, buildings blocks away shook from the force.

"So everyone started panicking and we ran up this way," a witness named Dion told Silverman

He said when he got to the scene of the explosion, he saw the silver Toyota sedan with its back end blown to bits.

"It was actually a hard top car and then it looked like a convertible afterwards, it must have been a tremendous explosion," Dion told Silverman.

A fire department spokeswoman said a man was working on a refrigeration unit at the corner liquor store. As the man was loading a tank possibly containing propane into his car, the tank suddenly blew, sending the worker flying.

"Bleeding from his ears and nose and stuff like that," said another witness. "He looks better than the other guy. The other guy was laying on the floor and he looks really bad."

That man said he helped pull the other victim, a passer-by, away from the burning car.

Another witness said the explosion was a close call for him.

"My mom is coming around the corner three seconds, it just exploded. I had no words," Wayne, 9, told Silverman.

<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2013/07/02/tremendous-explosion-inju-on-car-res-2-blasts-back-off-car-in-jersey-city/>

USA, N.Y, BROOKLYN

JULY 3 2013.

GREENWOOD HEIGHTS WATER MAIN BREAK LEADS TO OIL SPILL ON 23RD ST WATER BURNS UP CABLES, RELEASING COOLANT. RESIDENTS TOLD TO BUY BOTTLED WATER.

Brooklyn is getting slimed.

A water main break caused a huge oil spill on 23rd St. in Greenwood Heights, turning the quiet block into a smelly danger zone.

The menacing substance bubbled up Tuesday morning after a water feeder pipe broke between Third and Fourth Aves. The subsequent gusher fried high-voltage underground electrical wires, releasing a sticky

coolant that typically protects the energy infrastructure.

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The heat from the sizzling cords also melted the asphalt, causing the water and the oily coolant — officially called dielectric fluid — to flood the street, FDNY officials said.

“It happened because of old infrastructure in the city,” said FDNY Chief Kevin Woods as 75 emergency workers from the Fire Department, Con Edison, and the Department of Environmental Protection tended to the mess.

But the slick substance is not expected to seep into the city’s water system and is not a long-term threat to Brooklyn’s drinking water.

“Our Hazmat team is taking samples for precautions,” said city Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Mercedes Padilla.

Con Ed spokesman Allan Drury said it’s unclear whether the energy giant’s overheated wires caused the street to melt. Residents said they heard a quick explosion at around 8:30 a.m. followed by a trickling stream of street water.

“I heard a boom,” said Zoraida Febles. “I looked out the window and saw there was a splash in the street.”

But by 2 p.m., the slimy flow was still out of control.

Workers dropped kitty litter to soak up the mess.

“It is pretty thick whatever it is, and it stinks,” said Sela Lopez, 32, who lives on 23rd St. near the soggy hole. “They told us not to drink (tap) water.”

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/oil-spill-slimes-greenwood-heights-article-1.1388361#ixzz2Zt9V8JY8>

USA, IA, DES MOINES

JULY 3 2013.

OFFICIALS CLEAN UP DIESEL FUEL SPILL AT DRAKE U.

Officials are cleaning up a diesel fuel spill at Drake University that drained into a nearby creek. The state Department of Natural Resources says 35 gallons of diesel fuel spilled Tuesday morning from a portable fuel tank onto the university's ground. The fuel entered a storm drain that goes into Clones Creek. Officials say they utilized absorbent material on the affected area and applied booms across the creek. Clean Harbors, an environmental contractor onsite for other work, assisted the university. DNR spokesman Dave Perry says residual material from the spill is not expected to affect the water.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Officials-clean-up-diesel-fuel-spill-at-Drake-U-4642791.php>

USA, CT, EAST LYME

JULY 5 2013.

EAST LYME WATER RESTRICTIONS RESULT FROM DIESEL FUEL SPILL AT YORK

Greg Smith

Town officials are implementing mandatory water conservation measures for all town utility customers effective 9 a.m. today in the aftermath of a recently discovered diesel fuel leak at Niantic’s York Correctional Institution, according to a Department of Correction news release.

The department has said a broken underground pipe led to a diesel fuel leak that was contained on the grounds of the prison. The leak was discovered about three weeks ago in the area that supplies about half of the town’s water supply for the 6,500 town utility customers, said East Lyme First Selectman Paul Formica.

Formica said the conservation measures will help to slow water flow and aid ongoing testing at the on-site monitoring wells.

Kropp Environmental, a state-licensed contractor, is managing the remediation plan and continues to test the soil and 40 monitoring wells for contamination each day. Kropp representatives will continue to monitor the situation through and after the holiday weekend.

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The Department of Correction said in the release that no contaminated soil has been found outside the correctional facility's grounds and the exact amount of fuel spillage has not been discovered.

The following restrictions will apply to all customers of the East Lyme Water System: Prohibiting the sprinkling, watering or irrigation of lawns; prohibiting washing of motor vehicles and the outdoor surfaces of all buildings and structures, sidewalks and driveway; prohibiting the filling or cleaning of swimming and wading pools; and prohibiting the service of water to customers of public restaurants except at the specific request of customers.

The measures will remain in place through Monday.

<http://www.theday.com/article/20130703/NWS01/130709875/1019&town=>

USA, MT, BILLINGS

JULY 5 2013.

CLEANUP, INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY AFTER PHILLIPS 66 PIPELINE LEAKS GAS ON CROW LAND

Cindy Uken

A pipeline that may have leaked as many as 1,000 barrels of gasoline near Lodge Grass this week has a history of problems.

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline Safety Administration, Phillips 66, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Crow Tribe responded to the scene of the Seminole Pipeline leak on reservation land.

Though Dennis Nuss, a spokesman for Phillips 66, said the amount of gasoline has not been determined, Crow Chairman Darrin Old Coyote said company representatives told him that early estimates were about 1,000 barrels, or 42,000 gallons.

Phillips 66 personnel detected a leak at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in its 8-inch, below-ground Seminole Pipeline 15 miles southwest of Lodge Grass and immediately shut it down, Nuss said.

Phillips 66's pipeline control center in Bartlesville, Okla., which monitors the company's pipeline systems, detected the leak.

Crews were sent to assess the leak, which is in the Soap Creek area, Nuss said. State, local, federal and tribal organizations were notified.

"We are concerned," Old Coyote said. "The leak happend on allottees' land. We're trying to resolve the leak and work out the details later."

There were no injuries related to the leak and no threat to the community or water sources, he said.

"We continue to monitor the area to ensure the safety of our workers and the community," Nuss said, adding that Phillips 66 is cooperating with other interests to clean up the impacted area, repair the pipelne and restart the pipline system.

The cause of the leak has not been determined.

"At this time, there is no anticipated health impact to the community," Nuss said. "The safety of the community and the environment are of the utmost importance to our company, and these priorities will guide our efforts as we work with local and state officials on the response."

A Phillips 66 remediation team that works with the appropriate agencies on cleanup were at the leak site Thursday, Nuss said.

Leaks like the one that occurred Tuesday are "very uncommon," Nuss said, adding that Phillips is committed to managing its pipelines to a "very high standard."

It's not the first incident on the Seminole Pipeline.

In 2004, the Conoco Pipe Line Co. agreed to pay \$465,000 for environmental violations after the line broke twice in a week in 1997, spilling more than 2,300 barrels of gasoline near Lodge Grass and Banner, Wyo.

The oil company changed its corporate and pipeline company name after merging with Phillips Petroleum in 2002.

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Underground earth movements caused the fractures in the Seminole Pipeline at that time, according to court documents.

After cleaning up the Lodge Grass spill and making temporary repairs to the pipeline, the company laid about 3,400 feet of steel-coated replacement pipeline at a lower-than-normal depth of 6 to 8 feet below grade to avoid future ruptures from unstable soils. The company also installed strain gauges on portions of the pipeline in the area of the spill to monitor future ground movements.

This week's leak occurred in "unusual terrain," said Patricia Klinger of the Pipeline Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The investigation could take several days to several months, she said.

Representatives of the Pipeline Safety Administration, Phillips 66, the Environmental Protection Administration and the Crow Tribe, including historic preservation monitors, are all at the site.

U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., said he will make sure that the spill gets cleaned up.

"Tapping into our natural resources creates jobs, but it must be done safely and responsibly," Tester said. "This incident shows why Sen. Baucus and I passed our pipeline safety bill, and why we must continue to do everything we can to protect our treasured lands and waters."

U.S. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., said cleanup and safety are the No. 1 priority. "My team and I are talking with the tribal, state and federal officials to gather the facts so we can make sure the Crow Tribe and Montana have the resources to restore any damaged lands and protect landowners."

The office of U.S. Rep. Steve Daines, R-Mont., issued a statement: "I am concerned and will work with the Crow Tribe and local, state, and federal officials to closely monitor this situation and ensure that the community is equipped to respond to this issue."

The Seminole Pipeline transports finished petroleum products such as unleaded gasoline, diesel fuel and jet fuel from the Billings refinery to Wyoming, Utah and Colorado.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/cleanup-investigation-underway-after-phillips-pipeline-leaks-gas-on-crow/article_8873edf5-f94e-5f16-a684-257996cddc55.html#ixzz2ZtCa4tAv

USA, WI, TOWN OF JACKSON

JULY 6 2013.

TESTS REVEAL CHEMICALS IN 23 MORE JACKSON WELLS, IN ADDITION TO 42 ON OFFICIAL STATE COUNT

Don Behm

Tests not previously made public detected petroleum compounds in water from 23 additional private wells within a one-mile radius of a July 2012 gasoline pipeline spill, state environmental officials confirmed.

The wells are in addition to a total of 42 wells contaminated with benzene or other petroleum compounds after the spill, state Department of Natural Resources officials said.

Three wells were added recently to the official count after tests confirmed contamination of water at two homes on Mockingbird Drive, southwest of the spill site, and one on Wildflower Lane, northwest of the spill, officials said.

The 23 other wells have not been included in the state's official count because a laboratory could not quantify the concentration of petroleum chemicals detected in the water, said Marty Nessman, a DNR hydrogeologist in Madison.

Although chemicals were detected in one or more tests, there was not enough of them to measure accurately. For that reason, the wells are not considered to be contaminated, Nessman said.

A list of the 23 wells was released to the Journal Sentinel in response to a records request.

State records show the majority of those 23 wells — 12 — have not been equipped with carbon filters the pipeline company has installed on 77 other wells in the area.

This information contradicts a June 14 statement from DNR Southeast Regional Director Eric Nitschke that "all wells with detects" have the carbon filters.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Nitschke clarified the statement Tuesday and said he was referring to all wells with detects that could be quantified.

West Shore placed filters on 11 wells with concentrations too small to quantify "due to their proximity" to wells where the level of petroleum compounds exceeded a health standard, according to Nessman.

The health protection standard for benzene in drinking water is 5 parts per billion. The laboratory limit for quantification is lower, but it varies, he said.

Filters, known as point-of-entry treatment systems, were placed on at least 77 wells as a temporary measure until homes in the area can be connected to the Village of Jackson municipal water supply next year.

But fear of drinking water tainted with gasoline is part of daily life for those property owners in a state-designated advisory area whose wells have not been equipped with carbon filters, said Julie Heidtke. Her family lives in the 3200 block of Maple Road, at the intersection of Sherman Road, less than a mile northwest of the spill site in the 1800 block of Western Ave.

The company has rejected her repeated requests for carbon filters, even though her family's home is about 1,000 feet west of an officially contaminated well on Sherman Road, Heidtke said.

Other homes at a greater distance south of the Heidtke residence on Maple Road have contaminated wells or wells with trace amounts that could not be quantified, according to DNR reports. So far, there has been no detection of benzene in the Heidtke well.

Heidtke says she and her husband, Ron, feel as if they are living in a bull's-eye, directly in line with the northwest spread of gasoline contamination in groundwater.

But their home is not adjacent to any of the properties with contaminated wells, so the company will not provide them with a filter, Julie Heidtke said.

The company is installing filter systems where there is a need to protect families from spreading contamination, said Patrick Hodgins, director of health, safety, security and environment with Buckeye Partners LP. Buckeye operates the pipeline for West Shore.

"We watch the well testing data very carefully," Hodgins said. The plume of contamination is stable and not spreading, he said.

West Shore continues to provide the Heidtkes with bottled water because they are inside the advisory area. For that reason, Heidtke questions why they are not eligible for a filter on their well.

"It's extra protection," she said. Her 21-month-old daughter is not old enough to understand she shouldn't drink water while bathing.

Her 8-year-old son has Down syndrome, and the family doctor has advised Heidtke he is more susceptible to illness and diseases, such as leukemia.

"And that's without putting exposure to benzene in the picture," she said.

On July 17 of last year, a section of a regional fuel distribution pipeline ruptured and spilled an estimated 54,600 gallons of gasoline in a farm pasture in the 1800 block of Western Ave.

One hundred or more properties could be connected to village water next year under a plan approved by the Town Board.

Julie and Ron Heidtke are among more than 200 Washington County families who have joined a lawsuit against West Shore and Buckeye Partners. The lawsuit contends the companies were negligent in not preventing the spill.

The families are seeking compensation for emotional distress, reduced property values, reduced quality of life and other claims.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/ozwash/tests-reveal-chemicals-in-23-more-jackson-wells-b9946404z1-214289551.html>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, N.D, WATFORD

JULY 9 2013.

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Mike Soraghan

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There are thousands of oil spills at the nation's onshore oil and gas well sites every year. But the data are scattered amid databases, websites and even file drawers of state agencies across the country. EnergyWire spent four months mining the data for the most comprehensive report available on the spills that result from the nation's booming oil and gas industry.

It was one of the more than 6,000 spills and other mishaps reported at onshore oil and gas sites in 2012, compiled in a months-long review of state and federal data by EnergyWire.

That's an average of more than 16 spills a day. And it's a significant increase since 2010. In the 12 states where comparable data were available, spills were up about 17 percent.

Drilling activity in those states, though, rose 40 percent during that time.

More common than the Newfield blowout are 100-gallon leaks that are contained to the well site and get cleaned up the same day.

But together they add up to at least 15.6 million gallons of oil, fracking fluid, wastewater and other liquids reported spilled at production sites last year. That's more than the volume of oil that leaked from the shattered hull of the Exxon Valdez in 1989. About 11 million gallons gushed from that ship.

And 15.6 million gallons is almost certainly an undercount, because reports in drilling-heavy states such as Colorado, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania often exclude spill amounts. That figure also doesn't include spills from interstate pipelines or offshore wells.

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"They admit that it happens all the time," Subra said.

People who live amid the country's newly booming oil fields say the carelessness they see makes them worry about not only environmental damage, but also health and safety.

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Kristen Mesker and her husband have a 1,200-acre ranch in Burke County, N.D., amid the Bakken boom. They've seen a pasture and two wetlands (called "prairie potholes") destroyed by a hot water spill and had a calf die after falling in a waste pit.

"All this stuff happens to our fences and cattle," said Mesker, who testified at the state Capitol earlier this year for legislation to keep wells farther from homes. "You wonder when that's going to happen to a family."

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Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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Oil and gas industry officials say companies have a good overall record of safety and environmental protection.

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Pits and tank batteries can leak into groundwater for years before anyone notices. That's what a crew found last year at an old well near an irrigation ditch and reservoir outside Greeley, Colo. Tests showed the groundwater had 300 times the state's allowable limit for benzene.

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Not all spills are accidental. Drillers reported vandalism at 21 Colorado well sites in 2012. And state officials are finding that truck drivers paid to haul briny drilling wastewater to approved disposal sites sometimes just dump it instead.

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Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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But industry officials say that's likely because companies in North Dakota have to report more spills than in other states. In North Dakota, they have to report any spill of more than 1 barrel (42 gallons). In Texas, the threshold is five barrels. And in Oklahoma and Montana, it's 10 barrels.

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USA, MT, MUSSELSHELL CO

JULY 9 2013.

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Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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Additionally, no other structures were destroyed in the fire.

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ENGLAND, BRIERFIELD

JULY 11 2013.

PETROL EXPLOSION BREAKS BRIERFIELD MAN'S LEG

A man was taken to hospital with a suspected broken leg after an explosion threw him up in the air when he put petrol on a bonfire. The man had been burning rubbish at a house in Wood Clough Platts in Brierfield, at around 11pm on Monday when the incident happened. Fire chiefs said the man tried to increase the intensity of the fire by putting the petrol into a metal container, which then exploded and threw him backwards. Neil Hardiman, watch manager at Nelson Fire Station, who attended the incident, said the man was treated before being taken to hospital. He said: "The young man had decided to accelerate the fire by pouring petrol into a metal container which flashed, throwing him backwards, resulting in a possible broken leg. He was treated by paramedics on site and taken to hospital." Fire officers warned people not to put fuel or flammable liquids onto fires or barbecues, and to try and avoid burning rubbish. Mr Hardiman said: "We would advise people to never fuel fire with flammable liquids. "They should also consider taking all rubbish to refuse sites rather than trying to burn it themselves and consider the environment." One resident of Wood Clough Platts said: "I saw the fire engine and ambulance arrive at around 11.30pm. "There looked to be quite a lot of activity going and there did seem to be some concern about a fire or someone who had been injured."

http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/10538627.Petrol_explosion_breaks_Brierfield_man_s_leg/

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, ARK, LITTLE ROCK

JULY 12 2013.

EXXON CITES MANUFACTURING DEFECT FOR ARKANSAS OIL SPILL

Chris Tackett

Exxon Mobil announced today that it believes a manufacturing defect is the cause of the pipeline rupture that spilled nearly 300,000 gallons of tar sands oil in Mayflower, Arkansas.

From the Exxon press statement:

Based on the metallurgical analysis, the independent laboratory concluded that the root cause of the failure can be attributed to original manufacturing defects — namely hook cracks near the seam.

Additional contributing factors include atypical pipe properties, such as extremely low impact toughness and elongation properties across the ERW [electric resistance welded] seam.

There are no findings that indicate internal or external corrosion contributed to the failure.

Their claim about there being no corrosion is important because there has been concern that the abrasive tar sands oil being transported in this pipeline may have contributed to the spill. The pipe was not originally designed to carry that type of fuel.

John Upton at Grist notes that this raises more concerns about the entire Pegasus pipeline, which was installed in the 1940s.

The findings bring into question the integrity of the entire Pegasus pipeline system — and other oil pipelines that crisscross the nation. The Pegasus system, which runs from Illinois to Texas, was laid in 1947 and 1948. The pipeline manufacturer, Ohio-based Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co., is no longer in business but was reportedly one of the leading suppliers of pipelines in the 1940s.

<http://www.treehugger.com/energy-disasters/exxon-cites-manufacturing-defect-arkansas-oil-spill.html>

USA, N.Y, SOMERS

JULY 13 2013.

SOMERS CLOSES LAKE LINCOLNDALE AFTER OIL SPILL

Nathan Bruttell

Somers officials have closed Lake Lincolnale for swimming until further notice after oil leaked into the lake early this week.

An oil tank in the basement of a home on Myrtle Drive leaked out and rain waters from earlier this week caused the spill to leak into Lake Lincolnale, said Somers Town Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy on Friday. Representatives from the Department of Environmental Conservation and Westchester County Health Department have responded to the scene and have hired a company to clean up the spill, Murphy said.

"There is no swimming at the lake until the health department clears it," Murphy said Friday. "I think they're coming out and testing on a daily basis but they have not given a date for allowing swimming in the lake again."

Murphy wants residents to know the town responded to the situation as quickly as possible and that cleaning the lake is a priority.

"It's unfortunate that this has caused problems here in town but everyone should be patient with us," she said. "The appropriate agencies are on top of it and it will get cleaned up just as quickly as it can be."

<http://somers.dailyvoice.com/news/somers-closes-lake-lincolndale-after-oil-spill>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, MI, EASTPOINTE

JULY 16 2013.

FAULTY CO2 TANK NOT TESTED SINCE 1996

Frank Defrank

A pressurized carbon dioxide (CO2) tank that malfunctioned and exploded inside an Eastpointe bar last month had not been tested since 1996, a violation of federal safety standards, federal officials announced.

The supplier of the tank, North American Coil and Beverage Group of Eastpointe, "improperly filled" the cylinder without verifying the device met appropriate safety standards for continued use, according to the report issued by The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Association, a division of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Manufactured in 1973, the tank was supposed to be "requalified" for continued use through a visual inspection and pressure tested at least once every five years.

The tank burst on June 25 inside Sullivan's bar in Eastpointe. The blast caused extensive damage, but no injuries were reported.

The report indicated all cylinders provided and filled by North American should be considered suspect and should be removed from service immediately. Officials have estimated hundreds and perhaps thousands of the cylinders may be in circulation in southeastern Michigan.

The federal report advises any individual or establishment in possession of the CO2 cylinders from North American to contact the company at 586-775-7229 to arrange for the return of the cylinders.

<http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20130715/NEWS01/130719678/faulty-co2-tank-not-tested-since-1996>

USA, FLA, SANTA ROSA

JULY 18 2013.

QUICK THINKING COUNTY EMPLOYEE PREVENTS EXPLOSION

Jason Jandura

A quick-thinking Santa Rosa County employee man prevented a major disaster Monday afternoon in Milton. David Thomas, senior road foreman, is being credited with putting out a fire at a pumping station with 40,000 gallons of gasoline as fuel.

Fire officials say the hose and surrounding area of a fueling truck caught fire right after dropping off a load of gasoline at the Santa Rosa County Public Works Department, according to emergency services personnel.

The truck was parked in the middle of three 10,000 gallon above-ground fuel tanks. The driver was detaching the fueling hose when a fire started, according to Fire Chief Sid Wiggins of the Avalon Fire and Rescue Department. The fire was fed by fuel residue in the hose, which quickly spread to spilled fuel on the ground by the tanks.

Sabrina Brown in Developmental Services, a building in close proximity to the fueling station, said she was on the phone with an inspector when someone stormed in saying there was a fire. Brown hung up and immediately called 911.

Several county employees darted across to the county fueling station to assist with what is being called a potentially devastating situation. David Thomas rushed in armed with a handheld fire extinguisher. The employee stepped in, pulled the trigger and drenched the flames. When firefighters arrived, the fire had already been extinguished by Thomas.

"I don't need to tell you how bad it could have been," Wiggins said, pointing at the large fuel tanks. "There's 10,000 there. There's another 10,000 there. There's 20,000 on the truck."

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Wiggins said the fire started by a spark originating from a wire in the fuel hose itself. When the truck driver began to detach the hose from his rig, a spark jumped from the metal of the hose to the fuel tank of the truck.

The damage left behind is nil.

"Everything's back to normal," said Tom Collins, Fleet and Facility Manager. "The truck's gone and everything's cleaned up."

<http://www.srpressgazette.com/news/close-call-quick-thinking-county-employee-prevents-explosion-1.173393>