

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/>

IRELAND, CO CORK, KEALKILL

JUNE 22 2014.

MAN DIES AFTER FALLING INTO SLURRY TANK

Darragh Collins

A 37-year-old man has died after he fell into a slurry tank

The tragedy occurred on a farm in Kealkill, Co Cork, yesterday evening at 5.30pm.

The man had been working on the farm when he fell into the slurry tank and was overcome by the fumes.

Emergency services were called to the scene and rescued the man from the tank before rushing him to Cork University hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The Health and Safety Authority has been informed and an investigation is now underway.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/man-dies-after-falling-into-slurry-tank-30373205.html>

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON, JUNE 23 2014. FREEDOM INDUSTRIES SLIPUPS ENDURE AFTER JAN. SPILL

Jonathan Mattise

For the West Virginia company that sullied 300,000 people's drinking water to start the year, slipups like not reading emails and leaving the company chemical headquarters unattended have produced problems for months.

Contractor troubles, miscalculations and missteps have kept state environmental violations rolling in after Freedom Industries' infamous chemical tank leak in January. Other state and federal investigations are still ongoing.

State environmental regulators aren't rushing to slap penalties against the company, however.

The Department of Environmental Protection doesn't want to drain Freedom of limited cash that could go toward extensive environmental cleanup costs and bankruptcy claims, said department spokeswoman Kelley Gillenwater.

Freedom's dwindling bank account almost certainly won't pay out everyone seeking the profits and wages they lost while water was rendered unusable for four to 10 days.

An essential cleanup phase also looms for Freedom. The company plans to start tearing down its tanks Wednesday. Then it will work to strip contamination from its beleaguered Charleston site.

Here is a timeline of violations by Freedom and its contractors detailed by state regulators.

Jan. 9: A leaky Freedom tank let a coal-cleaning agent seep past a faulty last-resort containment wall into the Elk River. The chemical, crude MCHM, flowed 1.6 miles downstream and entered the public water supply at West Virginia American Water's treatment plant. State environmental inspectors first

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showed up to check the site after neighbors complained of a licorice smell. A company executive who greeted the inspectors brushed off any cause for concern, until they asked to look at the tanks where the spill was obvious. Early estimates said 5,000 gallons spilled, but the company's guess kept growing until it reached 10,000 gallons.

Jan. 13: More safety hazards surfaced after the state ordered Freedom to get its chemicals off-site. The company moved some substances to its nearby Nitro plant, where state inspectors said there were holes in a containment wall. The facility had no documentation of inspections or proof of employee training over 10 years. Freedom brought in double-walled tanks to hold the chemicals.

Jan. 21: Freedom Industries revealed that it didn't spill just one chemical. Stripped PPH, another coal-cleaning substance, was also mixed into the leaky tank. State regulators said Freedom knew about the second chemical immediately and informed its employees the night of the spill. But none of the employees skimmed far enough down an email to see the note. Freedom President Gary Southern said it should've been brought to his attention, but wasn't.

March 11: The company that hauled away crude MCHM for Freedom was cited in its own spill. Federal investigators were at Diversified's St. Albans headquarters when they saw a sheen containing the chemical in a drainage system that empties into the Kanawha River. The company contained the chemical, and no public water utilities were immediately downstream. The federal groups were conducting a separate investigation.

June 12: In a rainy week, a collection trench at Freedom let stormwater pour into the Elk River below. The trench's job is to catch chemical-laden water before it flows downhill into the Elk River. Freedom said its employees and contract workers all had left the Freedom site unattended, and the gate was unlocked. Though the trench contained the chemical, tests at the water treatment plant didn't find any crude MCHM.

June 13: For a second-straight day, Freedom's collection trench spilled into the river. The second overflow lasted 50 minutes and occurred during a thunderstorm. Tests at the water plant didn't detect the chemical.

June 17: At the urging of the Department of Environment Protection secretary, Freedom Industries said it will drop its environmental contractor because of the stormwater spills. The Pittsburgh-based company, Civil & Environmental Consultants, responded that the spills were not its fault.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jun/21/freedom-industries-slipups-endure-after-jan-spill/#ixzz39ALQLFLo>

BANGLADESH, FENI

JUNE 24 2014.

GAS LINE EXPLOSION LEAVES 12 INJURED IN FENI

At least 12 people, including two officials of Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited (BGDCL), sustained burn injuries as the gas line of a CNG filling station in Chhagalnaiya upazila exploded yesterday. The incident took place at Majumder Filling Station in the afternoon when the BGDCL officials were repairing the gas pipeline of the filling station beside Dhaka- Chittagong highway. The injured are Md Wasim, deputy assistant engineer, Rafiqul Islam, technician, and Md Harun, a worker of BGDCL, Mamun Chowdhury, assistant engineer of the filling station, Nurul Alam, Md Bappi, Md Harunur Rashid, Nurul Amin, Md Hannan, Abu Sayed, Abdur Rahim, Air Ahmed and Jahangir Alalm. Of them, 10 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital while the rest to Feni Sadar Hospital. Police and witnesses said being informed that the fault at the pipeline was found at the filling station in Bakhrabad area, three staffs of BGDCL went to repair the pipeline and it blasted. Manager of BGDCL in Feni Tazul Islam said they were investigating the incident. A general diary was filed in connection with the incident, said Md Moazzem Hossain, officer in-charge of Chhagalnaiya Police Station.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/gas-line-explosion-leaves-12-injured-in-feni-29852>

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USA, OH, WASHINGTON CO

JUNE 25 2014.

UPDATE: FIRE MARSHAL: IGNITED VAPORS CAUSED ENVIRO-TANK EXPLOSION

UPDATE 6/25/2014 5:20 PM

An update on Tuesday's Enviro-Tank explosion, injuring three men.

Officials say the explosion was caused by water and gas.

Kevin McClain was taken to Cabell-Huntington Hospital for severe burns.

Hospital officials say he's still in critical condition.

Fred Johnston and Justin Flesher were both treated and released Tuesday.

Calls have been made to Ohio EPA to see if they will be conducting an investigation.

UPDATE 6/24/2014 5:15 PM

We spoke with state fire marshal Larry Flowers.

He says Tuesday morning's explosion at Enviro-Tank Cleaning had nothing to do with the process of cleaning a tank.

It was something as simple as transferring gasoline.

"The truck that they were transferring fluids out of into a storage tank and what they feel very confident about is that during that process there was some vapors that were released and in that area there were several ignition sources and those vapors found its way to one of those ignition sources and then that created the explosion," says Flowers.

The fire marshal added that things things can happen with something as simple as static from a cell phone or light wind to push fumes into an ignition source.

Enviro-Tank's website says the company was started in 1991.

And they also have a facility in Wooster, Ohio.

The company provides non-hazardous waste disposal services, including oily wastewater and organic waste.

Also, the company provides waste transportation and tank trailer cleaning services.

Enviro-Tank is privately owned.

Its customers come from the private and public sectors in 10 different states.

UPDATE 6/24/2014 3:55 PM

The Washington County Sheriff's Office releases the names of the three men injured in the explosion at Enviro-Tank Tuesday morning.

Kevin S. McClain, 32, of Ravenswood WV is seriously burned and is in serious condition at the Cabell Huntington Burn Center.

He was transported to there from Camden Clark Medical Center.

McClain is a truck driver for West Virginia-based BBU Transport service.

Fred E. Johnston, 53, of Belpre, has burns to his face, hair, arms and chest.

Johnston was treated and released from Camden Clark Medical Center.

Justin A. Flesher, 33, of Belpre has burns to his left arm.

He was treated and released from Marietta Memorial Hospital.

UPDATE 6/24/2014 3:15 PM

Tim Brunicardi with Camden Clark Medical Center says one patient from Tuesday morning's explosion at Enviro-Tank was flown to Cabell Huntington Hospital.

Brunicardi says a second patient was treated at Camden Clark Medical Center and released.

The third patient was taken to Marietta Memorial Hospital with minor injuries.

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UPDATE 6/24/2014 12:35 PM

Little Hocking Volunteer Fire Chief Mike Chevalier, who was first on scene of the Enviro-Tank Cleaning explosion, says heavy smoke and flames were showing when he arrived.

The Marietta Hazmat team was called in.

One injured person went to the hospital in a personal vehicle.

Chevalier says two others who were injured could be transferred to medical facilities outside the area.

Crews on scene coordinated with Washington County EMA to find out what materials were stored on site.

Responding firefighters were decontaminated as a precaution.

The state fire marshal is on scene investigating.

UPDATE 6/24/2014 11:50 AM

Authorities say two people were taken from the scene of the Enviro-Tank explosion to Camden Clark Medical Center, while one was taken to Marietta Memorial Hospital.

The three people were inside a building when a tank exploded.

The state fire marshal is on scene.

Officials with Enviro-Tank say they will not answer any questions until an investigation is complete.

We have reporters on scene and we'll bring you the latest information as it becomes available.

UPDATE 6/24/2014 10:50 AM

Authorities say the explosion at Enviro-Tank Cleaning happened when material was being transferred from inside a building to a truck.

Washington County Chief Deputy Mark Warden says the scene is under control.

He says three people were transported to the hospital with injuries ranging from minor to severe.

The Little Hocking, Belpre, Marietta and Dunham Fire Departments responded, as well as the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

The Hazmat team is on the scene for clean up.

The fire marshal is responding, as well.

We have a reporter on the scene and we'll bring you more information as it becomes available.

UPDATE 6/24/2014 10:30 AM

Washington County Sheriff Larry Mincks says the explosion at Enviro-Tank happened at 8:50 Tuesday morning.

He says numerous fire and EMS personnel are on scene.

Victims have been removed and are being treated.

The fire is currently under control.

Both lanes of State Route 7 northbound are open and one lane of southbound State Route 7 is open.

A representative of Enviro-Tank said there are no hazardous materials at the scene.

UPDATE 6/24/2014 10:10 AM

One southbound lane of State Route 7 remains closed.

Four people are injured as a result of an explosion at Enviro-Tank Cleaning.

A helicopter is taking at least one of the injured from the scene.

We'll bring you the latest as it becomes available.

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Washington County Sheriff Larry Mincks says multiple fire departments are on the scene of an explosion at Enviro-Tank Cleaning on State Route 7.

Sheriff Mincks says there are injuries, but the extent of those injuries is unknown.

The cause of the explosion is unknown.

Southbound Route 7 is closed in that area.

We'll keep you updated.

<http://www.thenewscenter.tv/home/headlines/Explosion-at-Enviro-Tank-264390691.html>

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON

JUNE 25 2014.

CHEMICAL SPILL LAWSUIT TARGETS CHARLESTON AIRPORT

Anna Baxter

A federal lawsuit blames a Charleston airport runway construction project for the January chemical spill that left 300,000 West Virginians without clean water for days.

The consolidated lawsuit filed Friday in Charleston says Yeager Airport's now-complete runway extension never safeguarded against stormwater runoff.

Plaintiffs say the airport let water flow downhill to the Freedom Industries site below, which eroded the foundation of the tank that spilled.

The lawsuit says effects of the runway project that started in 2004 "significantly caused or contributed" to Freedom leaking coal-cleaning chemicals into the Elk River on Jan. 9.

Yeager Airport Executive Director Rick Atkinson said, "Our general position is not to comment on pending litigation. However, I would like to make three basic points regarding this filing."

"First, from 2004, when the project started, till now, Freedom Industries never registered or filed a single complaint with the Airport, the Department of Environmental Protection, the county or any other agency of which we are aware about storm water runoff from the airport impacting their operation in any way, shape or form. Not a single complaint.

Second, before the first shovel full of earth was moved on this project, the West Virginia DEP approved our construction and earth moving plans above the tank farm. These plans included diversion of storm water runoff from above the Etowah River Terminal tank farm from the airport property. The permit was released by the DEP after the projects satisfactory completion.

Finally, Mike Dorsey, the director of emergency response and homeland security for the state Department of Environmental Protection was quoted today in the Charleston Gazette as saying there was "no obvious stream of water coming off the hillside." The same article notes that officials have looked into whether any of runoff coming on to Freedom's site was made worse by construction projects at Yeager, and Dorsey said 'we're not seeing that.'"

The lawsuit filed Friday also targets a former and current Freedom executive, the company that produces the chemical, the water company and its parent and runway project contractors.

"Yeager Airport takes its responsibility to the community very seriously and that's why we took great care to select qualified, experienced contractors and engineers to design and construct this vital airport safety improvement project," Atkinson said.

<http://www.wsaz.com/news/charlestonnews/headlines/Chemical-Spill-Lawsuit-Targets-Charleston-Airport-264403081.html>

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USA, WA, TERRACE HEIGHTS

JUNE 25 2014.

FUEL TANK BELIEVED TO BE EMPTY EXPLODES; LATE-NIGHT NEWS ROUNDUP

Kasia Hall

A fuel tank that was believed to be empty exploded at a recycling plant about three miles east of Yakima on Monday, KIMATV reports. The explosion occurred when employees at the plant tried to dismantle the tank by cutting into the metal, which created sparks. Although the tank was thought to be empty, some fuel residue remained inside, fire officials said. The explosion shot the lid off the tank, and no injuries were reported.

http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2014/06/fuel_tank_believed_to_be_empty.html

USA, VA, PETERSBURG

JUNE 26 2014.

EPA SETTLEMENT WITH PETERSBURG, VA., BUSINESS HELPS PROTECT SOIL AND GROUNDWATER FROM CONTAMINATION

Donna Heron

An underground storage tank (UST) at the Petersburg Deli, Inc., in Petersburg, Va., will now be regularly monitored and inspected under a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to resolve alleged violations of UST regulations. The required monthly and yearly inspections of leak detection equipment on a 6,000-gallon UST that stores kerosene will help prevent soil and groundwater contamination. The inspections will also help reduce the need for costly cleanups from accidental leaks. Petersburg Deli has agreed to pay a \$9,155 penalty. EPA cited the company for not complying with safeguards designed to prevent, detect, and control leaks of petroleum and other hazardous substances from USTs. According to EPA, the company failed to conduct required monthly leak detection activities, and annual tests of leak detection equipment. With millions of gallons of petroleum products and hazardous substances stored in USTs throughout the U.S., leaking tanks are a major source of soil and groundwater contamination. EPA and state UST regulations are designed to reduce the risk of underground leaks and to promptly detect and properly address leaks thus minimizing environmental harm and avoiding the costs of major cleanups. As part of the settlement, the company did not admit liability for the alleged violation. The settlement penalty reflects the company's cooperation with EPA in correcting the alleged non-compliance and resolving this matter.

<http://www.epa.gov/oust/index.htm>.

USA, N.Y, WASHINGTON CO

JUNE 26 2014.

DA TO PROSECUTE CUMBERLAND FARMS OVER 2011 GASOLINE SPILL

Don Lehman

Washington County prosecutors plan to begin a criminal prosecution in the coming weeks against Cumberland Farms for the 2011 gasoline leak that caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in infrastructure damage in Fort Edward.

Washington County District Attorney Tony Jordan acknowledged this week that he has been in discussions with the convenience store chain about a possible resolution to the 2.5-year investigation.

Jordan would not discuss what that resolution would entail, but acknowledged it would include the filing of at least one criminal charge.

He said he believed a court appearance would occur in the coming weeks.

Adam Micheleni, court attorney for Washington County Judge Kelly McKeighan, said no court date was set but the court was advised an appearance was possible in the coming weeks.

Jordan said there were discussions between the village of Fort Edward, Washington County Sewer

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District and Cumberland Farms about a settlement of claims related to repairs of damage, but no deal had been reached.

"Unfortunately, I don't think it will be a global resolution that will include the civil part of it," the district attorney said.

Cumberland Farms paid \$330,000 toward repair costs in 2012, but the village and Washington County have estimated an additional \$600,000 to \$700,000 worth of repairs was needed.

The lawyer for the village of Fort Edward and Washington County Sewer District, Matt Fuller, said there has been progress in recent months as the village and county try to reach an agreement with Cumberland Farms for repair costs.

"We've been going back and forth with some proposals," Fuller said. "We've been having some good discussions and hopefully we'll get it resolved."

A call to Cumberland Farms was not returned Wednesday. In fact, the company has not responded to more than a dozen calls for comment on the matter since early 2012.

An estimated 1,200 gallons of gasoline leaked from a pump at the chain's store on Main Street in Hudson Falls the night of Dec. 27, 2011.

It ran into the storm drain system and flowed downhill into Fort Edward, where it was somehow ignited as it pooled in the village of Fort Edward.

Numerous underground explosions rocked the village, damaging streets, homes and pipes. At least one person was hurt.

The store was not equipped with an emergency shutoff button for the gas pumps that was required.

The pump failed because a vehicle hit it. Hudson Falls Police were confident they located the vehicle that hit the pump, but it was not determined who was driving it.

http://poststar.com/news/local/da-to-prosecute-cumberland-farms-over-gasoline-spill/article_c2c72308-fcae-11e3-be25-001a4bcf887a.html

USA, KS, OLPE

JUNE 26 2014.

PIPELINE SPILLS 1,300 GALLONS AND KILLS CROPS

Ariana Cohen

A Thursday pipeline spill near Olpe has caused acres of damage to surrounding vegetation. However, people are not a risk.

Crews are still cleaning up five days after a pipeline spilled just north of Olpe near the Panhandle Eastern's Plant.

"It was a bad spill. It was a bad situation," says Brian Rees, Lyon County Extensions Office Agricultural Department.

"We haven't had a pipeline spill like this in Kansas as far as the 1980's which is as far back as our digital records go," says Sarah Belfry with Kansas Department of Health.

Belfry says workers were cleaning out a pipeline last Thursday when 1,300 gallons of natural gas condensate was blown out of the pipeline, killing acres of soybean crops and leaving a dark, oily residue on some nearby buildings. However, Belfry says people are not at risk.

"If people got it on their skin in that immediate area, if you wash it off with soap and water you are perfectly okay," says Belfry.

13 News spoke to Panhandle Eastern's Plant communications representative Vicki Anderson Granado. She told, "We are working with the proper authorities to make sure this situation is taken care of quickly and efficiently. We also are working with property owners to make sure any impacted crops are properly taken care of."

But for now, Rees says the farmers he's spoken with are devastated.

"It is their livelihood. It's not an everyday occurrence and we would hope that it would have never

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

happened at all," says Rees.

No injuries were reported. Rees says it will probably be about 1-2 weeks before the clean-up is complete.

State health officials have been at the site of an accident along an eastern Kansas natural gas pipeline that spewed a natural gas cloud that left a dark, oily residue over now withering crops and trees.

The Emporia Gazette reports the incident Thursday along a Panhandle Eastern pipeline near Olpe occurred as crews were trying to perform pipeline maintenance. Residents reported seeing a dark, oily plume burst from the line and spread across nearby fields and yards.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment says the substance released was natural gas condensate. Natural gas condensate can come in various compositions, but typically contains benzene, a known carcinogen.

KDHE spokeswoman Sara Belfry says she doesn't know how much condensate was released, but that KDHE crews are assessing the situation.

<http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/Natural-Gas-Pipeline-Erupts-Near-Olpe-264323501.html?ref=501>

CANADA, QC, BÉCANCOUR

JUNE 26 2014.

NO INJURIES AFTER OLIN FACTORY EXPLOSION IN BÉCANCOUR, ROOFTOP CYLINDER AT THE CHLORINE FACTORY EXPLODED WEDNESDAY BEFORE NOON

Provincial police have taken down the security perimeter they set up earlier today after an explosion at a chlorine factory in Bécancour— about 150 kilometres west of Quebec City. At around 11:30 a.m., firefighters were called to Olin Chlor Alkali, a manufacturing facility that produces bleach, chlorine, hydrogen and hydrochloric acid. Provincial police said it appeared a reservoir containing acid exploded, sending a cloud of yellowish smoke into the sky. The company said no one was hurt. "All site employees have been accounted for and are well. The [chlorine] release has been stopped and employees took immediate precautionary procedures. As another precautionary measure, neighbours of the facility were advised of the situation," a company statement read. One person, a pizza man, who was affected by fumes, was transported to hospital. The explosion occurred in the industrial park area of Bécancour, along the Saint Lawrence River. "At this time, we have no reason to believe this release presents any risk to anyone else or to the environment and we are still inspecting the area," Olin's statement said. The plant has been in operation since 1974.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/no-injuries-after-olin-factory-explosion-in-bécancour-1.2687721>

INDIA, ANDHRA PRADESH, NAGARAM VILLAGE

JUNE 27 2014.

15 PEOPLE KILLED IN ANDHRA PRADESH GAS EXPLOSION

LIGHTING OF STOVE BY A TEA VENDOR MAY HAVE SPARKED FIRE: POLICE

P. S. Jayaram

In a horrifying early morning tragedy in Andhra Pradesh, at least 15 persons were killed, many of them charred to death, and another 15 seriously injured when a gas pipeline of the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) exploded into flames at Nagaram village in West Godavari district on Friday.

The accident, suspected to be on account of negligence, not only claimed 15 lives including that of women and children but also transformed the otherwise lush green and coconut palm-dotted area into a dump of ash and debris. The fire brought down and razed about 50 houses and shops in the vicinity.

All the injured were rushed to hospitals in Amalapuram, Kakinada and Rajahmundry, and the condition of some of them was stated to be critical. Consequently, the death toll may go up, district administration officials feared.

Television clips on Telugu channels showed disturbing images of charred bodies lying around,

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injured with skin peeled off screaming in pain and burnt carcasses of cattle and birds. Coconut palm in about 10 acres of land was also destroyed with just the trunk standing out following the fire.

East Godavari District Collector Neetu Kumari Prasad, confirming the deaths, said the fire was brought under control after several fire-tenders rushed from neighboring areas battled with it for about three hours. "Fire engines were rushed to the spot and rescue operations were taken up subsequently," Prasad said.

According to a district official, so far 13 bodies had been from the accident site while another death was reported from the hospital where the injured are being treated. The villagers, most of them still sleeping, woke up to the deafening noise of the explosion at around 5am, and saw fire billowing out reaching heights of 30 feet. The 18-inch pipeline, officials said, carried gas to the Lanco Power Station at Kondapalli near Vijayawada, and was maintained by the GAIL.

Andhra Pradesh police said the lighting of a stove by a tea vendor might have sparked fire in the GAIL pipeline after leaked gas from the line enveloped the area.

However, only after a detailed inquiry the exact cause of the incident will be known, IGP North Coastal Zone Atul Singh said.

Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu who was in New Delhi when the mishap occurred immediately directed deputy chief minister N Chinnarajappa and other senior officials to rush to the accident spot and supervise the rescue and relief operations.

Speaking to the media in the national capital before leaving for Rajahmundry by a special flight, Naidu said he had ordered an inquiry to ascertain the cause for the gas pipeline blast. "It is a shocking incident and our first priority is to carry out rescue and relief operations. We always believed that gas is an essential commodity which benefits the people, but this accident has turned our focus to the safety of the people," he said, adding that the government will extend all help to the families of victims and those injured in the mishap.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also extended his condolences to the bereaved families of the victims and to the families of the injured survivors. "My thoughts are with the families of those who lost their lives in the GAIL pipeline fire in AP, and my prayers are with the injured," Modi said.

The prime minister also spoke to Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Cabinet Secretary Ajith Kumar Seth and Gail Chairman B C Tripathi and asked them to ensure immediate relief at the accident site. The prime minister also announced an ex-gratia of Rs200,000 to families of each of the dead besides another Rs50,000 to the injured from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. This would be in addition to the relief from the Gail and the state government.

Pradhan, speaking to mediapersons, said a high-level inquiry headed by a joint secretary has been ordered. The probe panel will also have officials from the Oil Industry Safety Directorate, National Disaster Management Authority and the Hindustan Petroleum Corpn Ltd (HPCL). However, GAIL and ONGC, from whose fields the gas was being supplied, have been kept out of the probe panel. Naidu, accompanied by Dharmender Pradhan, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Union Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju, and some MPs is expected to reach Rajahmundry early evening and immediately leave for the accident spot to review the situation.

Meanwhile, the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (NTPC) has shut two gas fields in Andhra Pradesh following the pipeline blast. "Fields connected to the pipeline have been shut as the pipeline is closed because of the fire," a senior NTPC official said.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/international/2014/June/international_June747.xml§ion=international

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USA, TX, PALO PINTO CO

JUNE 27 2014.

TWO TANK BATTERIES STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

Graford, Possum Kingdom East and Mineral Wells volunteer fire departments were kept busy after lightning struck two tank batteries in the Graford area Wednesday afternoon. The Palo Pinto County Sheriff's Office dispatcher toned out Graford VFD between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. with a report of a lightning strike along Turpin Road about two miles north of Graford. Flames were on the ground and Graford Fire Chief Alton Reed requested mutual aid from PK East VFD a tanker for additional water. Some 30 minutes later, the dispatcher again toned Graford VFD with a report of another lightning strike on a tank battery, this one south of Graford along Ragle Road. Reed asked dispatch to call the Mineral Wells VFD. Before PK East arrived at the Turpin fire, Reed notified them that fire was under control and asked PK East units to respond to the Ragle Road fire. Upon arrival three of four tanks were on fire. The fourth, a metal tank, was in danger. Firefighters began cooling the metal tank while a plan of attack was formulated. Graford, Mineral Wells and PK East firefighters used foam to help contain the flames while keeping oil from spreading to other areas. Three tanks were destroyed in the fire, no injuries were reported.

http://www.lakecountrysun.com/ci_26036404/two-tank-batteries-struck-by-lightning

NIGERIA, PORT OF QUA IBOE OIL TERMINAL

JUNE 28 2014.

FIRE GUTS EXXON-MOBIL'S TANK FARM

A crude oil storage facility belonging to Mobil Producing Nigeria (MPN), operator of NNPC/MPN joint venture at Qua Iboe Terminal in Ibeno Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom was gutted by fire in the early hours of Friday. The fire, Saturday Tribune learnt, was caused by leakage of crude oil from one of the ExxonMobil's Tank Farms, at about 9:00a.m. on Friday, but did not extend beyond the company's facility. According to eyewitnesses, "It was about 9:00a.m. on Friday that we received information that there is a fire outbreak in Mobil facility in QIT, Ibeno as a result of crude oil leakage that burnt a few barrels of crude oil." Though fire service department was said to have swung into action to put out the fire preventing it from escalating to other parts of the tank farm, some barrels of crude were said to have been destroyed. In a reaction to the report, Mr Akaninyene Esiere, the Manager, Public and

Government Affairs, QIT, in a telephone interaction with confirmed the incident, stating that the fire was caused by a strike of lightning even as the situation. According to him; "Mobil Producing Nigeria, operator of the NNPC/MPN Joint Venture, confirms a fire incident this morning at our storage tanks in Qua Iboe Terminal. "The fire was caused by a lightning strike and was safely extinguished by noon today (Friday). All personnel in the facility are accounted for and there are no injuries. No oil was released in the incident."

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/news/news-headlines/item/9226-fire-guts-exxon-mobil-s-tank-farm>

USA, ILL, PATOKA

JUNE 30 2014.

CRUDE OIL LEAK PROMPTS ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CLOSURE

A crude oil leak prompted the closure of US 51 just north of Patoka, the Illinois Department of Transportation said Sunday. Patoka is located between Vandalia and Centralia along Highway 51, and is about 70 miles east of St. Louis. Marion County Sgt. Kevin Cripps said there was a breach in one of the lines at the Patoka Tank Farm Crude Oil Storage Facility, which stores oil for multiple agencies, including Marathon, Amoco, Exxon Mobile, and Plaines. The leak allowed crude oil to seep into the ground, which then surfaced at a roadside ditch off US 51. According to Joseph Monroe, an IDOT spokesman, the closure is expected to remain in place until Monday, June 30. Commuters are encouraged to use Kinoka Road, I-57, IL 185 and US 40 as alternate routes.

<http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/illinois/2014/06/29/hazardous-material-release-prompts-illinois-highway-closure/11710405/>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, KS, LIBERAL

JULY 1 2014.

NO INJURIES REPORTED IN ETHANOL PLANT EXPLOSION

Larry Phillips

Firefighters responded to an explosion Sunday evening at Conestoga Energy's Arkalon Ethanol Plant. Fortunately, no one was injured from the blast or subsequent fire, according to Seward County Fire Chief Mike Rice. "We got the page at 7:04 p.m. (Sunday) about a possible explosion at the plant at 8000 Road P," Rice said earlier today. "Preliminary reports from plant staff is they had a natural gas explosion in a combustion burner in the feed dryer system on the second floor." Firefighters had contained the fire and left the scene at 3:18 a.m. today, but were called back out at 5:23 a.m. "We're, basically, on standby right now (9:27 a.m.) while plant staff cuts some holes in equipment so they can get to some smoldering insulation that's around some of the piping and duct work in that area," Rice said. Though no injuries occurred in the incident, Rice said preliminary reports indicate significant damage was caused by the explosion. "Early, early damages – from reports of the plant's staff – indicate damages could be in the \$1- to \$2-million range," Rice said. The exact cause of the explosion has yet to be determined, and Rice said further investigation is under way.

http://www.leaderandtimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17233:no-injuries-reported-in-ethanol-plant-explosion&catid=12:local-news&Itemid=40

NEW ZEALAND, OHAKUNE

JULY 1 2014.

COMPANIES FACE SPILL CHARGES

A total of 28 charges are expected to be heard over the diesel spill at the Turoa ski area last September.

Up to 19,000 litres of diesel is believed to have leaked from a tank at the ski area into the ground and the Makotuku Stream on September 26-27.

The stream is a source of water for Raetihi, and the town's supply had to be shut down for several weeks.

Raetihi survived on water delivered by tankers and then from the Makara Stream until residents were finally able to draw drinking water from the Makotuku again in March.

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts and Petroleum Services (2001) are expected to lodge pleas to the 28 charges at their next appearance in the Taihape District Court, sitting in Ohakune, on July 11, the Ruapehu Bulletin reports.

Under two breaches of the 1991 Resource Management Act, the Horizons Regional Council claim the companies allowed the discharge of a contaminant, up to 19,000 litres of diesel, from an industrial trade premises at the Turoa ski field, which entered the Makotuku Stream between September 25 and 28, 2013 the Bulletin said.

The maximum fine that can be imposed by the court on each of these charges is \$600,000.

WorkSafe New Zealand has also lodged 16 charges against Petroleum Services and eight against Ruapehu Alpine Lifts.

Most of those charges attract a maximum fine of \$500,000.

The prosecution is claiming that in August 2006 the company responsible for the installation of the tank which was used to hold the diesel failed to ensure the container system and associated pipe-work was designed, constructed, installed, tested and inspected so it was fit-for-purpose.

Additional charges have also been laid pertaining to the tank's manufacture.

WorkSafe NZ also claims that Petroleum Services obstructed, hindered or delayed an inspector following the September spill.

The eight charges laid against Ruapehu Alpine Lifts by the Government health and safety watchdog

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

vary in date and pertain to the maintenance and repair of the system and pipework from as early as April 2008.

It is also alleged that between October 2011 and October 2013 the company failed to ensure an emergency response plan which identified every person with responsibilities; that this plan was tested every 12 months; and that between May 25, 2013, and October 21, 2013 the plan was available to the relevant people.

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts is also charged that between September 27 and October 11 the company failed to take all practicable steps to notify WorkSafe New Zealand of the diesel spill as soon as possible. http://www.nzherald.co.nz/wanganui-chronicle/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503426&objectid=11285072

USA, ILL, PATOKA

JULY 1 2014.

US 51 REMAINS CLOSED FROM PATOKA TO VERNON

Greg Sapp

U. S. 51 from the Kinoka Road to Vernon remains closed today as a cleanup continues from the spill of an estimated 500 barrels of crude oil at the Patoka Tank Farm that is just east of the highway.

Marathon Pipeline Company spokesperson Angela Graves reports they requested U. S. 51 be shutdown as a precaution because of some of the chemical odors given off by the crude oil that could make someone ill. She says Marathon's operations at the tank farm have been shut down until there is an investigation into what caused the spill.

Graves says the initial work was to contain the spill.

"We have a response team that will be there to do various clean-up activities from removing the material in the ditch to potentially excavating some of the soil in the area that has been impacted," said Graves.

Graves says an official of the EPA is on scene monitoring the clean-up.

"We have established a safe zone around the actual incident. Of course, our responders will be wearing the appropriate safety equipment to go in and do the clean-up," said Graves. "We have also taken the precautionary measure of shutting down the highway there probably through this evening just until we can get the clean-up underway."

U. S. 51 has been shut down between the Kinoka Road in Patoka and Vernon until further notice. Northbound truck traffic is being diverted onto U. S. 50 to Interstate 57, while southbound truck traffic is being diverted onto Route 185 to Farina and I-57.

Graves reports air testing has indicated there is no need to evacuate any residents in the area.

The Marion County Sheriff's Department, Patoka Fire Department and Emergency Services and Disaster Area all assisted in shutting down traffic on U. S. 51. Many were released early Sunday afternoon after the Illinois Department of Transportation put up barricades. Marathon officials asked for the highway to be shutdown around 7:30 Sunday morning. Reports of oil in the roadside ditch began coming in during the overnight hours.

<http://www.thexradio.com/news/78-local-news/11925-us-51-remains-closed-from-patoka-to-vernon>

USA, KS, LIBERAL

JULY 2 2014.

MASSIVE DAMAGE REPORTED AT KANSAS ETHANOL PLANT DAMAGE ESTIMATES \$1- \$2 MILLION DOLLARS

Authorities in southwest Kansas say the damage from an explosion at an ethanol plant could top \$1 million. KWCH-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/1IKPRmU>) the Seward County Fire Department was called to the Arkalon Energy plant in Liberal around 7 p.m. Sunday. County Fire Chief Mike Rice says plant officials told crews a piece of equipment that dries corn exploded on the second floor, blasting out three walls and blowing panels off the building. No injuries were reported. Firefighters left more than eight hours later, then

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

were called back shortly around 5:30 a.m. Monday when the fire re-ignited. Rice says fire had gotten into insulation and ventilation pipes. Arkalon officials and their insurance company say the blast may have been caused by a natural gas explosion in the corn dryer's combustion chamber.

http://www.emporiagazette.com/news/state/article_1260c70f-5453-5a62-b559-d1658afa09cf.html

USA, TX, PALO PINTO CO'

JULY 3 2014.

LIGHTNING HITS TWO TANK BATTERIES NEAR GRAFORD

Mark Engebretson

Graford, Possum Kingdom East and Mineral Wells volunteer fire departments were kept busy after lightning struck two tank batteries in the Graford area Wednesday afternoon.

The Palo Pinto County Sheriff's Office dispatcher toned out Graford VFD between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. with a report of a lightning strike along Turpin Road about two miles north of Graford. Flames were on the ground and Graford Fire Chief Alton Reed requested mutual aid from PK East VFD — a tanker for additional water.

Some 30 minutes later, the dispatcher again toned Graford VFD with a report of another lightning strike on a tank battery, this one south of Graford along Ragle Road. Reed asked dispatch to call the Mineral Wells VFD.

Before PK East arrived at the Turpin fire, Reed notified them that the fire was under control and asked PK East units to respond to the Ragle Road fire.

Upon arrival three of four tanks were on fire. The fourth, a metal tank, was in danger. Firefighters began cooling the metal tank while a plan of attack was formulated.

Graford, Mineral Wells and PK East firefighters used foam to help contain the flames while keeping oil from spreading to other areas.

Reed said one tank was destroyed at the Turpin Road fire when it exploded. That spread oil across the ground.

"We saved three tanks," he said.

Inspectors from both the Texas Railroad Commission and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality checked the sites.

Monday, Precinct 2 Commissioner Louis Ragle said the RRC inspectors were very satisfied with steps taken to clean up the Ragle Road site.

TCEQ inspectors took air samples and reported test results would be available in about six weeks.

Three tanks were destroyed at the Ragle Road fire, no injuries were reported.

http://www.lakecountrysun.com/news/ci_26075072/lightning-hits-two-tank-batteries-near-graford

USA, TX, LUBBOCK

JULY 3 2014.

LUBBOCK FIRE, HAZMAT RESPOND TO OIL TANK LIGHTNING STRIKE

Lubbock fire crews and a hazardous materials team put out an oil fire Wednesday at a Rip Griffin Truck Stop at 4315 Idalou Road. Officials responded just after 9 a.m. to reports of an oil storage tank that had been struck by lightning, Deputy Chief Kelly Morman said. Upon arriving, fire crews discovered the top of the tank had been blown off and the oil inside was on fire. Morman said a special unit sprayed foam on the fire for three or four minutes before the flames were abated.

<http://lubbockonline.com/filed-online/2014-07-02/lubbock-fire-hazmat-respond-oil-tank-lightning-strike#.U7TBNcanry0>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, AKA, FAIRBANKS

JULY 3 2014.

ALASKA ARMY POST REDUCES FUEL TANK WATER CONTAMINATION RISK IN EPA SETTLEMENT

According to a settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Army is taking steps to improve management of its fuel storage tanks and comply with federal laws designed to protect groundwater at Fort Wainwright Garrison, located near Fairbanks, Alaska. EPA inspections found that from at least 2012 to 2013, Fort Wainwright failed to perform leak detection tests, monitor underground storage tanks regularly and investigate suspected releases as required under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). "Underground tanks hold hundreds or even thousands of gallons of fuel and other liquids that can leak into groundwater if not properly maintained," said Peter Contreras, manager of the Groundwater Unit at the EPA Seattle office. "Communities in Fairbanks, including those living at Fort Wainwright, depend on groundwater for drinking water. Fuel tanks have to be in compliance and in good working order to protect water resources." Fort Wainwright uses the tanks, some of which have a capacity to hold up to 30,000 gallons, to store gasoline, diesel, used oil, jet fuel, and anti-freeze. These products are used in vehicles, jets, emergency generators, ski hill and golf course maintenance carts, and other equipment. EPA found that 19 out of 20 tanks at Fort Wainwright were out of compliance. Fort Wainwright has hired a new operator who will manage compliance with federal and state underground storage tank requirements. In addition, some of the tanks have been decommissioned and taken out of service. Fort Wainwright agreed to pay a penalty of nearly \$158,700 for violations of the RCRA.

<http://www.waterworld.com/articles/2014/07/fort-wainwright-reduces-water-contamination-risk-from-fuel-tanks-in-epa-settlement.html>

USA, N.D, MCKENZIE CO

JULY 9 2014.

IN NORTH DAKOTA OIL PATCH, LIGHTNING CAUSES EXPLOSION, SALTWATER SPILL

A lightning strike caused an explosion, fire and release at the Helling Saltwater Disposal Well outside Alexander, N.D. on Monday, July 7, 2014. A lightning strike Monday afternoon caused an explosion, fire and spill at an oilfield site in McKenzie County in western North Dakota. McKenzie County Emergency Manager Jerry Samuelson said the strike occurred at 5 p.m. at the Helling Saltwater Disposal Well off U.S. Highway 85, three miles south of Alexander. As of 7 p.m., the fire was still burning with no injuries reported. "There are 11 tanks: nine saltwater and two oil. All of the tanks are destroyed," he said. More than 2,000 barrels of saltwater were released as well as 167 barrels of oil. One of the oil tanks was completely destroyed, the other -- charred, but still standing -- contains 230 barrels of oil, Samuelson said. Alexander Fire Department initially responded to the incident, he said. However, policy stipulates that no one is allowed on site until a company representative arrives to monitor an emergency response. "We're letting it burn out, we don't want people to get hurt," he said. Samuelson said payloaders were at the site building berms to try to contain the saltwater release. He said McKenzie County sees one or two lightning strikes per year. "This is very common when you've got fiberglass tanks -- a lot of static electricity." It is not known how much saltwater was released offsite.

http://www.twincities.com/nation/ci_26108371/north-dakota-oil-patch-lightning-causes-explosion-saltwater

USA, TX, ROBERSTON CO

JULY 12 2014.

OIL TANK FIRE INJURES ONE

Belinda Wilson was serving the lunch crowd Wednesday at New Baden General Store off Main Street when she heard loud explosions coming from somewhere nearby.

The noise was so loud, an off-the-clock employee came running from her home half a mile away to check on everyone because she thought something at the general store had exploded, Wilson said.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

It didn't take long for Wilson and her co-workers to learn the blasts had come from half a mile in the other direction, where crews had been working to close a dormant oil well.

One of the men was at work on top of a storage tank when something caused the container to explode, critically injuring the man, who was eventually life-flighted to a Houston hospital with severe burns, said Robertson County Sheriff's Deputy Steve Misterek.

Authorities were dispatched to the oil well off Cazez Loop shortly after the first call came in at 12:09 p.m., Misterek said.

Details about the man, including his name, age and the company he worked for, were not available Wednesday evening, the deputy said.

Other specifics, such as the task the man was performing atop the tank or how the explosion is believed to have occurred, were being withheld while the incident was under investigation, he said.

Heavy black plumes of smoke from the explosion could be seen from more than eight miles outside of town.

Standing about 300 yards from the tank on the side of Texas 79 near Schultz Road, which was as close to the well as the public was allowed, bright orange flames could easily be seen engulfing the tank as fire crews monitored close by.

Misterek said emergency officials, having assessed the fire as being under control, had decided to allow the fire to burn out.

However, at about 3:30 p.m., fire crews from College Station with special training in extinguishing oil well fires arrived, and within an hour the fire had been put out.

The specialized fire units were hired by the well owner, Misterek said.

Volunteer firefighters from Franklin, Calvert, Bremond, Wheelock and Easterly responded to the explosion, along with the Texas Department of Public Safety and Texas Department of Transportation workers.

<http://kagstv.com/News/KAGSNews/ID/4255/UPDATE-Oil-Tank-Fire-Injures-One>

USA, FLA, LEESBURG

JULY 12 2014.

FUEL SPILL CLEANUP COSTING THE COUNTY \$490,000

COUNTY LEFT TO PAY \$500,000 FOR ASTATULA FUEL SPILL

Livi Stanford

The cleanup of a fuel spill at the Astatula Refueling Facility more than 20 years ago is costing Lake County an estimated \$490,000 to clean up.

The \$490,000 price tag for the cleanup is an unwelcome addition to a budget that is already projected to have a \$15 million shortfall. County commissioners must decide whether to raise taxes or make substantial cuts to services.

County Public Works Director Jim Stivender informed county commissioners this week of the efforts needed to mitigate the fuel spill and keep it from Lake Idamere an estimated 400 yards from the source.

Since August 2011, "a ring of recovery wells (were) installed around the perimeter, to hold the contamination from spreading further," Stivender told board members.

Despite those efforts, he said, "contamination has spread beyond the perimeter walls."

"It is migrating to the lake slowly," he said.

Stivender said the fuel spill was discovered prior to 1992 in on-site landfill monitoring wells at the facility, located off of County Landfill Road in Tavares.

CB&I Environmental & Infrastructure Inc., the consultant studying the wells for the county, wrote in a report that the Astatula Refueling Facility "previously dispensed gasoline and diesel fuel to county vehicles from a 15,000-gallon and 22,000-gallon underground storage tank."

Then, in 1987, both tanks were replaced with above-ground storage tanks.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

"The bulk of the fuel is still at the source," he said. "Some of it has migrated away to the west and the north."

But Stivender said in an interview prior to the meeting that the spill is above the water table, underground on the property.

"There is no potable water involved," he said.

In fact, the county could not receive state funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection because it received a low rating.

In an email to the Daily Commercial, Mara Burger, public information specialist for the FDEP, wrote the current site score for Astatula was an 11 on a scale of 1 to 124. The highest score represents a maximum threat to drinking water, according to the FDEP.

"Site scores are intended to provide a numeric ranking of the degree of threat to drinking water posed by each site," Burger wrote. "Points are awarded for criteria such as distance from the discharge to drinking water supply wells, type of supply wells, surface water used for drinking water, aquifer type and recharge potential."

The \$490,000 in next year's budget will pay for more recovery wells, pumps and filters to remove contamination, Stivender said.

Cleanup is expected to take 10 years, Stivender said, with maintenance costing \$205,000 a year.

Commissioner Sean Parks said he wants to ensure the spill does not degrade water resources.

"Unfortunately as we go into another tight budget season, this is a mandatory cost we can't cut out of the budget," he said.

Commissioner Jimmy Conner said funding the cleanup is not an option for the county.

"Now that we know the extent of it, we are being aggressive in getting it cleaned up," he said.

Commissioner Tim Sullivan said the cleanup costs come at a tough financial time for the county.

"It is something we have put a short-term fix on and now we are at the stage we can't do it anymore," he said.

http://www.dailycommercial.com/news/article_7a2a9c9e-82c4-5976-b991-94e5e26d9033.html

USA, OH, HARRISON TWP

JULY 13 2014.

INDUSTRIAL FIRE AT ALPINE METAL PLANT RULED 'SUSPICIOUS

A three-alarm industrial fire Friday night at Alpine Metal Finishing Products, which forced the evacuation of several nearby residences, is being listed as suspicious.

The building at 2030 Drill Ave., probably 200 feet by 200 feet in size, is a total loss, Harrison Twp. Fire Chief Mark Lynch said.

The cause is under investigation and the fire will remain listed as suspicious, "being that it was in the evening and nobody was there," he said, until all other possibilities are ruled out.

A state fire marshal's investigator will be on site Saturday morning, he said.

Because of the corrosive and flammable chemicals in the building, crews attacked the exterior and later took a defensive posture and allowed the fire to burn itself out, Lynch said. No water was used on the fire because crews didn't want any runoff into the groundwater or the river. "We would have had a contaminated water runoff" go directly to the river, which is less than a quarter-mile from the facility.

Crews were initially dispatched sometime after 10:30 p.m. and found the building fully engulfed, he said. Operations at the plant ended at 4:30 p.m. and everybody was off the property at that time, Lynch said a preliminary investigation revealed.

Alpine Products has been serving the metal finishing industry for more than 60 years, providing metal finishing, coating and painting for the military and aerospace industries.

Lynch said evacuations of an estimated 120 to 125 people occurred on streets surrounding the plant, but there were no immediate reports of any injuries. The American Red Cross was notified. Montgomery County sheriff's deputies went door to door to get residents out and loaded onto RTA buses

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

for a trip to Northridge High School. Lynch said he understood that at least 25 people were taken to the school.

Residents would be allowed back to their homes probably within two to three hours, he said.

At 1 a.m., there were still some hot spots and natural gas to the building was still on, Lynch said. Crews were looking for a valve so they could shut off the gas. The owner of the company has been contacted, he said, declining to discuss any details.

An evacuation area of about a quarter-mile was to the north and west of the facility as a precaution because of the smoke, he said.

Joseph Royalty, of 2057 Drill Ave., said, "I went outside and just looked and my whole street was lit up."

Royalty, who said he has lived in his home 18 years, said he spotted the large fire "as soon as I walked out the door -- it was above the buildings and above the trees."

He said he was concerned for his family, which includes his mother and children. He said he went in and woke his mother right before authorities evacuated his street.

"I didn't comprehend at first it was that dangerous," Royalty said.

Justin Shawhan, an extended-stay resident of the Traveler's Motel on North Dixie Drive, said he was evacuated by a manager.

"It was completely engulfed," Shawhan said of the blaze that produced thick, black smoke. "It looked like something out of a movie."

Several Montgomery County residents commented about the fire on Facebook. One person said he could smell the fire at Needmore and Frederick Pike, even with his air conditioner on and his windows closed. Another resident who said he lives on Riverside Drive near Helena said the odor is "very heavy."

Crews from Vandalia, Clayton and Wright-Patterson provided mutual aid. All told, an estimated 100 fire personnel responded to the scene.

Anyone who saw anybody around the building is asked to call the township fire department at 937-274-4351, Lynch said.

<http://www.whio.com/news/news/industrial-fire-explosion-alpine-metal-finishing/ngdqF/#sthash.auWjFSYN.dpuf>

USA, TX, NEW BADEN

JULY 13 2014.

CUTTING TORCH BLAMED FOR OIL TANK EXPLOSIONS IN ROBERTSON COUNTY

State regulators say a worker had used a cutting torch when a Central Texas oilfield storage tank exploded and left him critically hurt. The Eagle (<http://bit.ly/VThmkk>) newspaper reported Friday that the worker was removing bolts from a catwalk atop the tank near New Baden (BAY'-dun). Texas Railroad Commission investigators say the 12,000-gallon tank contained oil sludge during Wednesday's blast. Authorities say the worker was wearing a safety harness as he was thrown clear during the explosion, then the safety line slammed him face-first into the hot steel. The fire burned through a strap and the man fell to the ground. He was in critical condition when transported to a Houston hospital. His name and further details on his condition weren't immediately released. New Baden is 100 miles northeast of Austin.

<http://wtaw.com/2014/07/11/cutting-torch-blamed-oil-tank-explosions-robertson-county/>

USA, FLA, LAKELAND

JULY 13 2014.

POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS CHEMICALS, FRAUD ALLEGATIONS PLAGUE FAILED LAKELAND BIODIESEL PLANT

Toxic and flammable chemicals that may be at an abandoned Lakeland biofuel plant pose a potential danger, according to an examination by an engineering company.

There are several problems with the land and equipment at 1248 George Jenkins Blvd., and they're

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

intertwined. They include the possibility of hazardous waste, some unpaid taxes and accusations that the head of the company that vacated the plant defrauded the government of \$2.3 million.

The Clean Fuel Lakeland plant in Lakeland Industrial Park, which made biodiesel fuel, has been idle for almost four years, but it may have left behind unwanted remnants.

There are huge, sometimes rusting, chemical tanks and corroded pipes and valves that may contain hazardous chemicals, according to a three-person examination of the plant by Penn Pro, a local engineering company owned by Wayne Pennewell.

The most dangerous item on Pennewell's list of chemicals that may remain at the plant appears to be sodium methylate, which he describes in a report as "flammable ... highly toxic to eyes, skin, respiratory tract and ingestion. Causes burns and easily causes blindness if exposed to the eyes."

Two other chemicals on the list also are flammable — biodiesel and methanol. Methanol is described as "highly flammable." In all, there are eight chemical concerns at the five-story plant. The five others are hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, sulfuric acid, glycerol and chloride salts.

"Let's just say, I wouldn't want to live next door to that plant," Pennewell told The Ledger.

Lakeland Industrial Park is surrounded by businesses, not homes. And Tom Phillips said he isn't pleased being next door. He's the executive director of the Polk Transit Authority.

Phillips said he was "extremely concerned" to learn from The Ledger that an engineer said there are potential problems with dangerous chemicals on the site.

He said the appropriate state or federal environmental agencies should investigate and determine the severity of the problem, and, if it's serious, they should make quick work of getting it cleaned up.

Phillips said Citrus Connection has moved parked buses away from the fence bordering the site.

The Florida Department of Health in Polk County and Florida Department of Environmental Protection are responsible for inspecting the plant.

The health department

visited the site last fall and found no serious problems, said Ana Gibbs, a spokeswoman for DEP.

And she said that, based on a review of documents, DEP "feels confident the materials were moved" years ago. Some, she said, were sold at a profit.

The documentation Gibbs mentioned came from Clean Fuels Lakeland, the same company accused by the U.S. Secret Service of cheating the government of \$2.3 million.

Neither Pennewell nor the state has checked inside the numerous tanks at the site to determine their contents.

And Pennewell noted the many pipes at the plant could also contain chemicals.

The Clean Fuel Lakeland plant is in the 20-acre Lakeland Industrial Park, with four other tenants. Dower Drummond, an Orlando real estate broker, is trying to sell the park, which is owned by Bob Stanley, 87..

Drummond said cleaning up the mess and tearing down the plant could cost more than \$1 million. That's a priority complicated by back taxes owed on Clean Fuel's equipment. He said Stanley is trying to hire a company to dismantle the plant in return for the scrap metal that's there, which he said is worth a substantial amount. Stanley, who has been visiting family in Georgia, has been paying \$200 per night for security. Drummond said thieves have been sneaking onto the Clean Fuel Lakeland plant at night, trying to steal scrap.

The need for a security guard became abundantly clear when one of the thieves was caught on a night camera trying to steal metal — with a lit cigarette dangling from his mouth, oblivious to the possible danger of flammable chemicals at the site.

ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD

This isn't the first time the biodiesel business at Lakeland Industrial Park has been in the spotlight.

Karl Rehberg, formerly of Lakeland, started the business to essentially turn used restaurant grease into fuel for diesel engines. Instead, federal investigators said, Rehberg bilked more than 2,000 investors of more than \$20 million in the 1990s by selling unregistered securities in his business, called NOPEC.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Rehberg and his wife, Helen, left Lakeland in 1998 just as he was about to be arrested. The couple went on the lam for nine years before being picked up in Arizona. He was sentenced to five years in federal prison for conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States. Helen Rehberg got two years for obstruction of justice.

After Rehberg, a series of companies tried to make a long-term go of the biodiesel business at the park, but none did.

Lee Maher is chief executive of Clean Fuel, also known as Clean Fuel Lakeland. The company bought the old NOPEC plant in April 2009.

Activity at the plant stopped in September 2010, a federal government report said, and Maher, along with a Clean Fuel grant writer, have run into trouble with the government.

In December 2010, the company received \$2.2 million in state grant money that was funded by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Clean Fuel Lakeland was supposed to use that money to buy equipment for the plant. But that never happened, according to an April 2013 affidavit by Special Agent Emily Byers of the Secret Service.

Instead, Byers wrote, the money was used to fund other companies, to make payments on a Manhattan penthouse condominium and to pay for a suite at Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Maher did not respond to The Ledger's requests for comment.

BACK TAXES

Further compounding the problems at Clean Fuel Lakeland and Lakeland Industrial Park are bills for back county taxes totaling \$81,000, plus about \$30,000 in interest and penalties, for the years 2010 and 2011. Drummond, the broker, said the tax bill for Clean Fuel Lakeland isn't based on the land, which Stanley owns, but on the company's equipment.

Drummond said Stanley is willing to pay the back taxes in order to get clear title to his land, but nothing close to the money the Tax Collector's Office is demanding.

Stanley says the tax bill is grossly inflated because it includes equipment that's not there but was supposed to be purchased with the grant money, including a generator valued at more than \$2 million.

The generator has never been in Florida, much less at Lakeland Industrial Park, Stanley said in a court pleading.

Also in a court filing, the Polk County Tax Collector's Office asserted Stanley owns the land but not the equipment and therefore can't pay the taxes.

The Tax Collector's Office said there is no evidence the Polk County Property Appraiser included the value of the new generator in its assessments of the equipment.

Drummond said Stanley's problem in cleaning up and selling the property is that he can't get a clear title to the land until the tax situation is cleared up.

So, for now, it continues to be a worrisome neighbor to businesses in the area.

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20140711/NEWS/140719825/-1/WIRE20?Title=Potentially-Dangerous-Chemicals-Fraud-Allegations-Plague-Failed-Lakeland-Biodiesel-Plant>

USA, OH, WASHINGTON CO

JULY 14 2014.

DIESEL FUEL EXPLOSION SPARKS MASSIVE FIRE ALONG ROUTE 7

Firefighters spent Sunday on the scene of a massive fire along Route 7 between Belpre and Marietta. It happened just before noon at Greenleaf Recycling. WSAZ's sister station, WTAP, reports that the fire started near some diesel tanks-- causing them to explode. Route 7 remains closed in the area, and isn't expected to reopen until Monday morning. Dominion Gas also shut off natural gas service in the area.

<http://www.wsaz.com/news/ohionews/headlines/Diesel-Fuel-Explosion-Sparks-Massive-Fire-Along-Route-7-266949221.html>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, TX, AUSTIN, JULY 15 2014. TEXAS TANK EXPLOSION BLAMED ON CUTTING TORCH

The worker was reportedly removing bolts from a catwalk at the top of the tank near New Baden. The 12,000-gallon tank at an abandoned well contained oil sludge when it ignited Wednesday. The worker was wearing a safety harness and was thrown clear during the explosion. But the safety line swung him into the tank and face first into hot steel. The fire then burned through the safety strap and the worker plunged to the ground. He was brought to a Houston hospital and reported to be in critical condition. His name hasn't been released. The tank was located 100 miles northeast of Austin.

<http://petroglobalnews.com/2014/07/texas-tank-explosion-blamed-on-cutting-torch/>

USA, PA, SPRINGFIELD TWP

JULY 16 2014.

DEP INVESTIGATES OIL TANK FIRE

Eric Hrin

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was on the scene Monday in Springfield Township to investigate a fire that occurred at some oil tanks Sunday night following a lightning strike, according to a DEP official.

Daniel Spadoni, Community Relations Coordinator for the DEP Regional Director's Office in Williamsport, said a total of five oil and brine production tanks, for the Vavco oil wells along Brace Road, were involved.

He said a lightning strike Sunday night ignited a fire at the tanks.

He said these production tanks are connected to multiple shallow oil wells, and are located within an earthen containment structure.

According to Spadoni, the Troy Volunteer Fire Department extinguished the fire and the electric company disconnected the electric service to the production units.

No one was injured, he said.

"A DEP Water Quality Specialist was on scene (Monday) morning to investigate the incident and to sample a water supply well at a nearby residence," Spadoni said in an email, when asked for comment by The Daily Review.

"Vavco is initiating clean-up activities by utilizing a vacuum truck to remove contained fluids and will then begin excavating impacted soil," he continued. "The release is estimated to be around 80 barrels of oil, brine and fire suppressant foam, with most of it inside containment."

Bradford County Public Safety Director Robert Barnes said the incident occurred around 6:30 p.m. and emergency responders were back home by 8 p.m.

He described the tanks involved as three above ground oil tanks and one moisture-separator unit, with two tanks attached.

Barnes said they weren't huge tanks, about 15 feet high and 12 feet across.

With all the natural gas activity in the area, he noted, "people forget about the crude."

Troy Fire Chief Roy Vargson acknowledged the unusual nature of the incident, with the lightning strike at the tanks.

"It's the first time this happened to us, and they've been up there for years," he said.

Vargson said most of the oil burned off in the fire.

He noted that the lightning struck the tank located closest to the road.

<http://thedailyreview.com/news/dep-investigates-oil-tank-fire-1.1719096>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, PA, SCRANTON

JULY 17 2014.

FUEL TANK THAT LEAKED INTO LACKAWANNA RIVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN REGISTERED WITH STATE

The owners of a fuel oil tank that leaked into the Lackawanna River should have registered it with the state, a Times-Tribune investigation found.

Because the tank owned by Dunmore businessmen Louis and Dominick DeNaples was not registered, there was no state oversight to ensure it was emptied as required by state code.

A missing brass valve from a pipe on the side of the tank caused the leak, said DEP spokeswoman Colleen Connolly.

Before 2007, owners of aboveground tanks storing fuel oil only for on-site use could claim exemption from the state's registration, monitoring and inspection requirements, Ms. Connolly said.

An amendment now requires owners of fuel oil tanks greater than 30,000 gallons, meant for on-site use, to register with the DEP.

The tank on the DeNaples' property at 1220 N. Washington Ave. holds 378,000 gallons, Ms. Connolly said in an email. Ms. Connolly had previously said the tank held 500,000 gallons.

"As such, this abandoned (aboveground storage tank system) no longer qualifies for the previously awarded exemption," she said.

Earlier this week, Ms. Connolly said the DEP did not challenge the DeNapleses claim to exempt the tank 15 years ago. When the newspaper pointed out a DEP factsheet indicating the tank should have been registered, she confirmed they should have done so after 2007.

The tank was built in 1965, Ms. Connolly said. Until Community Central Energy Corp.'s conversion to natural gas in the mid-1990s, fuel oil was the main energy source for steam heat the plant piped to downtown buildings, the company's former president Gene Barrett said.

Though county records show a 2002 date for the property transfer to CL&W, which is owned by the DeNaples brothers, Mr. Barrett said he has a record of the transaction on Jan. 31, 1997. The DeNapleses created CL&W Inc. on Jan. 28, 1997, according to the Pennsylvania Department of State.

CL&W requested an exemption in 1999, Ms. Connolly said. The 2007 amendment required the company to register the tank by Jan. 9, 2008, according to Chapter 245 of the Pennsylvania Code. Monitoring and inspection requirements should have started in November 2010.

These inspections verify whether a tank is serviceable and compliant with state regulations and industry standards, Chapter 245 states. It includes leak detection requirements.

If the tank had been temporarily or permanently removed from service under Chapter 245, it would have had to be emptied and "secured against unauthorized entry."

DEP officials don't know how long the tank leaked onto the facility grounds before last week's rain washed it into the sewer system, Ms. Connolly said. The agency revised its estimate of how much oil remains in the tank — 69,900 gallons.

Some of the oil entered the sewage treatment plant, said Mr. Barrett, now director of the Scranton Sewer Authority.

"So far, there hasn't been any issue," he said. "It came into the system, but it didn't get to a point where it was harmful to the system."

CL&W must have the tank and contaminated soil removed from the site, Ms. Connolly said. The DEP is still continuing its investigation into possible violations, she said.

"They are cooperating, which goes a long way," she said.

On Wednesday, a crew with Datom Products Inc., the Dunmore spill response team contracted to clean oil from the river, chopped oil-coated Japanese knotweed plants from the river's edge.

"They're going to be out there all week, but the cleaning is progressing nicely," Ms. Connolly said.

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/fuel-tank-that-leaked-into-lackawanna-river-should-have-been-registered-with-state-1.1720527>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON

JULY 17 2014.

CSB INVESTIGATION FINDS NO RECORD OF INSPECTIONS ON FREEDOM INDUSTRIES CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS; LEAK IN BOTTOM OF TANK THAT CONTAMINATED CHARLESTON, WV, DRINKING WATER RESULTED FROM CORROSION CAUSED BY WATER SEEPING THROUGH HOLES IN TANK ROOF. PIECES OF TANK REMOVED, UNDERGOING METALLURGICAL EXAMINATION

In an update on the investigation into the chemical storage tank leak that contaminated the drinking water of up to 300,000 residents of nine West Virginia Counties, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) reported today it has thus far found no record of a formal, industry approved inspection performed on any of the chemical storage tanks at Freedom Industries prior to the massive leak which occurred on January 9, 2014. Informal inspections may have occurred, preliminary findings indicate, but investigators have found a lack of appropriate engineering inspections with prescribed frequency and rigor of inspections.

The CSB commissioned an inspection of tank 396 and similar tanks at Freedom Industries, scanning the tank interior and the surrounding topography of the river bank. Investigators oversaw the recent extraction of metal for metallurgical analysis.

The investigation found that two small holes ranging in size from about 0.4-inch to 0.75-inch in the bottom of the 48,000-gallon tank 396 were caused by corrosion, likely resulting from water leaking through holes in the roof and settling on the tank floor. Furthermore, the CSB inspection found a similar hole penetrating the bottom of nearby tank 397, containing the same chemical at the facility, located in Charleston. Other tanks also showed multiple signs of pitting and metallurgical damage, investigators said. The growing corrosion in these tanks went unnoticed until the bottom of 396 was breached and up to an estimated 10,000 gallons of the chemical 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM), mixed with propylene glycol phenyl ethers, or PPH, made their way through the underlying mixture of soil and gravel under the facility and into the Elk River on January 9, 2014.

Investigator Lucy Tyler said, "While our investigation is still underway, it has become clear that Freedom Industries did not have a rigorous inspection program for these chemical storage tanks sited close by the Elk River and just upstream from the facility supplying water to hundreds of thousands of people."

The update on the Freedom Industries accident was presented by investigators at a mid-day CSB public meeting today in Charleston, called to release the same team's final report and recommendations on the combustible dust explosion and fire that killed three workers in 2010 at AL Solutions, Inc., a company that processes titanium and zirconium scrap metal.

CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "An underlying root cause of many of our investigations, including these latest two in West Virginia, is the lack of thorough inspections and hazard reviews, and the need for stricter regulations in areas where we find self-policing is not preventing accidents. The Board looks forward to the team's final report which will examine regulatory oversight of aboveground storage tanks in West Virginia and the U.S."

The CSB released video of the tank dismantling activity in which high pressure water tools cut through the metal at various places, and extracted pieces for analysis. CSB Investigation Supervisor Johnnie Banks, who oversaw the activity, said, "I am confident the forensic data we will obtain will enable us to determine the exact cause of the corrosion and, we hope, determine how long it had been going on."

Mr. Banks added, "We are also trying to pin down the installation dates for the tanks to review their manufacturing and service history. Whatever the governing regulations, and whatever the precise failure mechanism, companies have a responsibility to operate in a safe manner. Not inspecting corrodible steel aboveground storage tanks proved to be an accident waiting to happen."

At their public presentation, investigators noted that the West Virginia America Water Company water treatment center, 1.5 miles downstream from Freedom Industries, serves 580,000 people in the state, including industrial and residential clients. Investigators noted the state's Department of Environmental Protection identified the MCHM release at 11:15 a.m., but that the water company did not

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

notify the public of the “Do Not Use” order until more than five hours after it became aware of the chemical release.

The West Virginia governor issued a state of emergency order that evening at 9:30 p.m. On January 10, 2014, the president declared that an emergency existed in West Virginia and announced federal assistance.

Investigators noted that the public continues to distrust declarations that the water is safe to drink. While there is some information available on the acute effects of MCHM and PPH, little is known about the chronic health impacts of exposure at low concentration levels. The chemical’s material safety data sheets (MSDSs), required by law, do not provide information on the potential health hazards to assist in the timely notification of water usage restrictions.

However, the CSB presentation cited data from the state’s Bureau of Public Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control, noting 369 patients were treated for possible exposure following the release into the drinking water, and 13 were hospitalized. Of these, 38% exhibited symptoms of nausea, 28.5% skin rashes, and 28% vomiting. Reported symptoms are consistent with known acute health effects of MCHM based on limited animal studies.

Chairperson Moure-Eraso noted the CSB investigation is moving along quickly and is a high priority of the agency. “Upcoming activities include the metallurgical examination of the MCHM tanks, computer modeling of the way in which the MCHM and PPH moved through the topography to the river shore, further assessment of public health impact, regulation of aboveground storage tanks, evaluation of water treatment intake systems and emergency planning and notification. This accident was a disaster of the highest magnitude, was preventable, and must be averted in any other community.”

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

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

USA, TX, BRYAN

JULY 21 2014.

AREA OIL TANK SITE WHERE WORKER INJURED INVESTIGATED BEFORE BLAST

The Texas Railroad Commission, the state’s oil and gas regulator, had been investigating a Central Texas oil tank site for suspected leaks before an explosion earlier this month that critically injuring a worker. The Railroad Commission had been inspecting the site since March, the Bryan Eagle reported Sunday. Cameron McDonald, 25, was critically injured earlier this month when the tanks blew up as he used a torch to separate a catwalk from one of the tanks. Railroad Commission records show inspectors found less than 20 barrels of oil and water leaking from a tank and well equipment in disrepair. Finaly Resources, a company based in Long Beach, Calif., was notified of the problems. On June 9, the Texas agency warned that if the problems weren’t fixed the company could be fined as much as \$10,000. McDonald was wearing a safety harness as he was thrown clear in the explosion Wednesday and then the safety line slammed him face-first into the hot steel, officials said. The fire burned through a strap and the man fell to the ground. He was flown to Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston.

<http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/Area-Oil-Tank-Site-Where-Worker-Injured-Investigated-Before-Blast-267854141.html>