

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, CA, SANTEE

MARCH 24 2012.

UPDATE ON OLIVE LANE FUEL SPILL, CLEANING UP 1,100 GALLONS OF DIESEL

OLIVE LANE MAY BE CLOSED INTERMITTENTLY AS CREWS CLEAN UP THE GAS SPILL NOW ATTRIBUTED TO VANDALISM.

Steven Bartholow

A diesel fuel spill at a trucking company on Olive Lane that occurred Sunday afternoon has been verified as vandalism- 16 gas tanks were punctured and about 1,100 gallons spilled, according to the Sheriff's Department and City of Santee.

The Sheriff's Dept. said that they have no suspects at this time, and are still investigating the vandalism. Private security can be seen posted at the trucking company and the site of the spill.

Hazardous-materials crews cleaned up all day Sunday and Harrison Trucking has had an environmental services contractor working on the cleanup since Sunday. Santee City Manager Keith Till said state Fish and Game officials are overseeing the work, and added that the cleanup requirements are stringent.

Areas affected and cleaned include the trucking facility, Olive Lane, residential properties on MacCool Lane, vacant properties off Olive Lane, the storm drain system and Forester Creek.

Santee Deputy Fire Chief Richard Mattick said his department was the first to the scene after odor of diesel fuel was reported about noon. Several agencies followed. Nobody was hurt, and no evacuations were ordered.

Till related a few factoids about the spill:

- A mobile analytical laboratory onsite is being used to analyze soil samples. New lawns and fences have been installed on private properties on MacCool that were damaged.
- The cleanup activities and data will be documented and submitted to Fish and Game for final approval.
- City staff involved in the response have included the fire department, that made the initial response; Community Services staff that provided access to portions of the storm drain for cleanup; Development Services staff, who ensured the response was sufficient to comply with Regional Water Control Board standards; and Sheriff's investigators.
- The private contractor cleaning up the site has handled intermittent street closures as needed.

<http://santee.patch.com/articles/update-on-olive-lane-fuel-spill-1-100-gallons-of-diesel>

USA, WA, ANACORTES

MARCH 24 2012.

CLEANUP OF PETROLEUM LEAK AT TESORO REFINERY

Cleanup is under way for a leak of about 27,000 gallons of petroleum at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes. The Washington Department of Ecology says the fuel spilled from an above-ground storage tank into a containment basin on Friday morning. The cause of the spill is under investigation. Ecology officials say it has not affected surface water in the surrounding area. The containment basin rests on highly compacted soil. Crews will drain the basin and recapture as much of the petroleum as possible. The rest of the water will go into the refinery's wastewater treatment system. The soil also will be cleaned.

http://seattletimes.nsource.com/html/localnews/2017827059_apwatesoroleak.html

825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

PAKISTAN, BHAKKAR

MARCH 29 2012.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS: FUEL BLASTS LEAVE 2 DEAD, 5 INJURED

TWO PEOPLE DIED AND AT LEAST FIVE WERE INJURED IN TWO INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN MULTAN AND BHAKKAR DISTRICTS ON TUESDAY.

Owais Jafri

In Bhakkar, two men died and two were injured when an oil tanker exploded while it was being welded to repair a leak.

Police said Rana Ebaad, the owner of the tanker, had brought it to a welding shop in Adda Jahan after it developed a crack. They said the cargo tank was emptied for repair but some amount of fuel remained inside the tank.

The blast occurred when two workers, Shaukat and Raheem, were inside the tank working on the crack. Gas accumulated inside the tank and reacted with the electric current that caused that explosion.

Both the workers died on the spot. Ebaad and his son, Yasir, who were standing next to the tank, were also injured. The injured men were taken to the district headquarters hospital.

Doctors treating them said that their condition was critical. They said they may be sent to Nishtar Hospital in Multan or to a hospital in Lahore.

Another blast occurred at an LPG cylinder refilling shop in Mandi Maweshian in Multan. Three men were critically injured in the incident.

Police said Asghar, who had recently set up the shop, and two passers-by were injured when one of the cylinders at the shop exploded due to gas leak.

Some shopkeepers in the market said they had reported the odour of fuel, an indication of a leak, to Asghar. They said he ignored them. They said the smell was getting strong.

Next, they said, he left the shop for lunch. When he returned and opened the shutter, there was a cylinder explosion.

Two passers-by were also injured. The injured were taken to Nishtar Hospital in a Rescue ambulance.

Doctors treating them said that Asghar was in a critical condition. The other two injured men, identified as Aslam and Akram, they said, were out of danger.

Salman, a shopkeeper in the market, told The Express Tribune that the blast was so severe that glass windows of three nearby shops were shattered.

Some residents of a nearby colony said that they also heard the explosion. Some of them said they panicked and rushed out of their houses.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/356113/industrial-accidents-fuel-blasts-leave-2-dead-5-injured/>

GERMANY, MARL, CHEMIEPARK

APRIL 1 2012.

ONE DEAD, ONE INJURED IN GERMAN CHEMICAL PLANT BLAST: POLICE

An explosion at a German chemical plant killed one person Saturday and left another injured, rescuers and industrial park administrators said.

The explosion of a tank at the Evonik Degussa plant in the western town of Marl sent black smoke billowing over the town, and residents were warned to stay indoors, with their windows and doors closed.

The injured man was flown to a hospital, but officials later said his life was no longer in danger. A third person suffered only light injuries and had already left hospital.

Police later said that two employees who had been reported missing were found to be at their homes.

The substance contained in the tank is used in the production of plastic parts in the auto industry, as well as in cosmetics and electronics, an industry spokesman told AFP.

"Firemen have the blaze under control," a police spokesman said.

"A column of smoke rose 100 metres (320 feet) high in the wake of the explosion, but initial checks by environmental authorities don't indicate there's any danger to health," the spokesman added.

The cloud spread south towards the centre of town but was rapidly dispersed by the wind, he added.

The cause of the blast was not immediately known.

Marl, a town of 87,000 in the Ruhr industrial heartland, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Dortmund, is a key chemical industry centre.

<http://www.omglobe.com/2012/03/31/top-news-world/one-dead-one-injured-in-german-chemical-plant-blast-police/>

USA, AZ, YUMA

825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832

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APRIL 11 2012.

FARM TANK ROLLS, SPILLS FUEL

Mara Knaub

A farm nurse tank rolled over and leaked diesel fuel after an accident Monday afternoon.

The cargo tank reportedly tipped over as the tractor pulling it turned west onto Highway 95 from Avenue G.

The Somerton/Cocopah Fire Department responded to the intersection of Avenue G and Highway 95 at 3:30 p.m. Firefighters found the tank on its side, leaking fuel.

About 35 gallons of diesel spilled onto the roadway. Firefighters built a dike around the tank to keep it from spreading further. The intersection was closed while firefighters worked.

Firefighters used MicroBlast foam on the fuel spill. It is a microorganism that attacks hydrocarbons, stops flammability and controls the vapors, according to SCFD spokesman Robby Rodriguez.

Somerton and Cocopah police departments, Border Patrol and Yuma County Sheriff's Office all responded and assisted with traffic control.

Marine Corps Air Station Fire Department backfilled the Somerton station in case additional calls came in.

<http://www.yumasun.com/articles/tank-78156-firefighters-fuel.html#ixzz1syMBcxej>

USA, ME, MANCHESTER, APRIL 11 2012. MAN INJURED AT MANCHESTER FIRE

Betty Adams

A man suffered second- and third-degree burns in an explosion that occurred about 1:15 p.m. today while he was attempting to saw an old fuel tank in half.

The man, identified as Edward Bishop, 33, of Oakland, was using a gas-powered saw to make the cut, according to a neighbor.

"It ignited the fumes or fuel inside it," said Manchester Fire Chief Clarence "Bug" Cram.

Cram said Bishop, who had burns on his face and arms, was taken by ambulance and then transferred to a LifeFlight helicopter to finish the trip to Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston.

Cram also said an investigator with the State Fire Marshal's Office was expected at the scene about 3:30 p.m.

Jason Vanderveld, who lives on Foye Road, said he ran over to the site after hearing the first of two explosions.

"He was about 30 feet back on the ground on the phone with 911," Vanderveld said. "I grabbed the phone from him."

Vanderveld said he prevented others from coming near the site in case more explosions occurred.

He said about 8 or 9 inches had melted along the sleeve of the windbreaker Bishop was wearing.

"I think he was more in shock than anything else," Vanderveld said.

Another neighbor, Phillip Thamert, said the man had been cleaning up a junkyard on property formerly owned by Leonard "Blackie" Hilliard.

A contract on file at the Manchester Town Office shows that Edward Bishop of Oakland was retained as an independent contractor to do the cleanup.

Bishop was to remove "all tires, gas tanks, miscellaneous metals, oil barrels, propane tanks and other hazardous materials that may be found on property."

The cleanup agreement was signed Jan. 7 and the work was to be completed by May.

Another contract, also filed at the town office and signed Feb. 1, is an agreement between Bishop and MaineGeneral Retirement Community, to clean up the debris on the property and to have the cleanup supervised by the town's code enforcement officer.

The fire call — which was originally reported as a structure fire — drew a response from more than a half-dozen surrounding communities.

Cram said the fire could have spread very quickly on the dry grass surrounding the rusted oil tank.

"They had quite a battle of it for a few minutes," Cram said.

Cram said he was unsure what was in the tank. "It smells like old gas," he said.

The fire was extinguished with chemicals, which left a white residue on the tank.

<http://www.kionline.com/news/One-Injured-at-Manchester-Fire.html>

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USA, IN, GREENBURG

APRIL 12 2012.

HOOSIER PETE FINED \$6,900

The Hoosier Pete convenience store at 3401 E. Memorial Drive has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$6,900 to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for alleged regulatory violations. The penalty is being paid to the state's underground petroleum storage tank trust fund. The owner of the store, Varinder Sahi, agreed to pay the penalty, bring the site into compliance and take other action, but he did not admit to any violations. According to IDEM, inspections in 2010 found the store failed to provide corrosion protection for the metal piping under the premium gasoline dispenser; failed to perform an annual test of the automatic line-leak detector; failed to perform an annual line tightness test on underground piping, and failed to inspect the internal lining of the underground storage tanks at the site.

<http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20120411/NEWS01/204110309>

EGYPT, SUEZ

APRIL 15 2012.

EXPLOSION AT OIL STORAGE TANK KILLED 4 IN EGYPT

FOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED AND 22 OTHERS INJURED BY AN EXPLOSION AT AN OIL STORAGE TANK IN THE EASTERN EGYPTIAN CITY OF SUEZ.

The blast occurred at around 6 p.m. local time (1600 GMT) on Saturday at one of the tanks of the Nasr Petroleum Company and caused a massive blaze, the Xinhua news agency reported.

Troops were mobilized to evacuate the site and help contain the fire.

Dozens of fire trucks and four helicopters were still struggling to put out the fire late on Saturday.

A section of an Egyptian pipeline supplying gas to the Israeli regime and Jordan was recently blown up in the fourteenth attack on the energy link since January 2011.

The attack on the gas pipeline, which crosses the Sinai Peninsula, occurred on April 9 in the northern Sinai at the entrance of the Mediterranean coastal town of Al-Arish.

No group or individual claimed responsibility for the attack.

The gas pipeline's operations had been suspended following the last bomb attack on February 5 and had only been resumed one week before the attack.

The issue of supplying gas to Israel has always been a contentious topic for Egyptians, who view Israel as their number-one enemy and oppose engaging in any form of business with it.

Egypt was forced to agree to the supply of gas to Israel as a major precondition for an annual US economic aid package, which was part of the 1979 US-sponsored "peace treaty" between the two sides.

According to a \$2.5-billion export deal with Tel Aviv signed in 2005, the Israeli regime receives around 40 percent of its gas supplies from Egypt at a below-market rate.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/236299.html>

CHINA, INNER MONGOLIA, HOHHOT

APRIL 15 2012.

EXPLOSION KILLS 1, INJURES 3 IN N CHINA

Fire fighters on Sunday morning put out the blaze in a chemical plant in North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, which has caused one dead and three others injured. The accident happened around 5 pm Saturday at Inner Mongolia 3F Fluorochemical Co Ltd. in the city of Fengzhen. A huge amount of flammable gas has been leaked after the chemical plant caught fire and exploded. Some tanks containing VDF gas, a flammable and narcotic gas, on the ground floor of the plant's high-rise workshop caught fire. Fire fighters rescued three injured workers trapped in the flames, and evacuated other workers out of the building. Firemen are still clearing embers to prevent secondary explosions. The plant, located in the city's industrial park, is 10 km away from the city proper, and the nearest residential area is 3 km away. An investigation into the cause of the blast is under way.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-04/15/content_15051359.htm

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USA, MI, BATTLE CREEK, ALBION

APRIL 15 2012.

FIRE BATTLED AT OIL SPILL SITE

Justin A. Hinkley

Firefighters here today battled a small blaze at the same shuttered factory where cleanup crews reportedly dumped petroleum products that made their way into the Kalamazoo River.

Firefighters from Albion, Marshall, Albion Township, Sheridan Township and Jackson County's Blackman Township contained the fire at the former Union Steel plant within about 20 minutes, said Scott Kipp, chief of the Albion Department of Public Safety.

The fire was reported just before noon. No one was injured.

The fire started in a bathroom area on the first floor of the plant, Kipp said, and the blaze was contained to that area. The chief said crews scrapping parts of the building at 501 N. Berrien St. initially reported people inside the building, but a search party found no one and the fire was quickly contained.

The cause of the fire was unclear, Kipp said.

"With the oil and all the pallets in there, it could be anything," he said.

On Wednesday, oil sheen on the Kalamazoo River in Albion started a hunt that led investigators back to Union Steel, where officials believed crews scrapping the building dumped liquids into a drain that fed into the waterway. On Thursday, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials said the spill had been contained and cleanup would take a couple more days.

The plant has been shuttered since the 1980s.

At about 12:30 p.m. today, firefighters worked to clear the heavy smoke from the dilapidated building so they could continue investigating the scene.

A crowd of onlookers gathered around the building as the stench of smoke hung in the air.

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20120414/NEWS01/304140010/Fire-battled-oil-spill-site>

SCOTLAND, GLASGOW

APRIL 15 2012.

OIL CONTAMINATION FEARS FOLLOWING WAREHOUSE BLAZE FIREFIGHTERS WARN THAT OIL MAY SEEP INTO NEARBY DRAINS.

Firefighters fear that oil from the site of a warehouse blaze could contaminate drainage systems. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue said on Saturday that there is a threat of oil seeping into nearby drains following Friday night's fire in Lancefield Street, in the Finnieston area of Glasgow. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency is now monitoring the situation and inspectors from Glasgow City Council's building control team are also at the scene. More than 30 firefighters tackled the fire at the Alfa Wholesale Grocer which broke out just after 8.30pm on Friday and was only brought under control at around 3.20am on Saturday. An investigation is underway into the cause of the fire, which created plumes of black smoke seen billowing from the premises. Water was still being sprayed over the warehouse from a high hose reel jet on Saturday morning and a large pillar of smoke continued to rise from the building.

<http://news.stv.tv/scotland/west-central/303469-oil-contamination-fears-following-warehouse-blaze/>

USA, WASHINGTON DC

APRIL 20, 2012.

CSB RELEASES NEW SAFETY VIDEO ON FATAL HOT WORK EXPLOSION AT DUPONT FACILITY IN BUFFALO; "HOT WORK: HIDDEN HAZARDS"

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today released a new safety video detailing a fatal 2010 hot work accident that occurred at the DuPont facility near Buffalo, New York.

The video, entitled "Hot Work: Hidden Hazards" features a computer animation showing how hot work being conducted on top of a tank led to a deadly explosion that killed one contractor and injured another.

CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "This is another in our series of safety videos in wide use in industry throughout the world; our hope is that this dramatic depiction will result in greater emphasis in safety during hot work activities like welding and grinding."

In the video, Dr. Moure-Eraso notes that, "The tragic explosion at the DuPont facility exposed weaknesses in how process hazards were analyzed and controlled. The result was the death of a welder in a preventable hot work accident." In the video Chairperson Moure-Eraso emphasizes that hot work is often seen as a routine activity, but it can prove deadly if fire and explosion hazards are overlooked."

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The 11-minute video details the events leading up to the accident noting that although DuPont personnel monitored the atmosphere above the tank, no monitoring was done to see if any flammable vapor was inside the tank. The CSB investigation found the hot work ignited the vapor as a result of the increased temperature of the metal tank, sparks falling into the tank, or vapor wafting from the tank into the hot work area. The welder died instantly from blunt force trauma, and a foreman received first-degree burns and minor injuries.

CSB Investigator Mark Wingard says in the video, "We found that the contractors did obtain hot work permits for welding, but those permits were authorized by DuPont employees who were unfamiliar with the specific hazards of the process and did not require testing the atmosphere inside the tanks."

The CSB released its final report and formal safety recommendation at a news conference and public meeting in Buffalo on April 19.

The video is available to stream or download on www.CSB.gov and may be viewed on the CSB's YouTube channel, USCSB (www.youtube.com/uscsb).

The CSB's safety videos continue to garner awards, including three recent Peer Awards given by the Television, Internet & Video Association of Washington, DC in November 2011. The CSB video program was specifically cited when the CSB was named the 2008 recipient of the American Chemical Society's (ACS) Howard Fawcett Award, honoring "outstanding contributions in the field of chemical health and safety," marking the first time the 25-year-old award has been presented to an entire organization.

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.

www.csb.gov

USA, OH, SPRINGFIELD

APRIL 21 2012.

MASSIVE FIRE AT OIL COMPANY POSES ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

A massive blaze at an oil company took firefighters six hours to get under control Thursday and will require an extensive environmental cleanup. More than 50 agencies responded including every fire department in Clark County to the fire at the R.D. Holder Oil Co., 2219 Folk Ream Road. The blaze produced flames that shot 200 feet up, black smoke could be seen as far away as Dayton and Butler County, and the plume even showed up on weather radar.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency officials at the scene determined that oil spilled into a tributary of Donnels Creek, which feeds into Mad River, said spokeswoman Heather Lauer.

Officials used vacuum equipment and other techniques to remove environmental contaminants, according to Bethel Twp. and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Fire Chief Jacob King.

"We pushed hard to protect the environment," King said. "We should have things back to normal in a couple days."

Public and private hazardous materials teams contained petroleum-based contaminants to no more than a quarter mile downstream, said Lt. Brian Wirth of Springfield Fire Rescue Division and a member of the Clark County hazardous materials team.

Firefighters ramped up the use of water and foam to quench the flames after the fire spread throughout R.D. Holder's entire facility.

A Bethel Twp. firefighter was treated for a minor leg injury, and all 15 employees at the R.D. Holder plant were accounted for. Homes in the surrounding area had minimal to no damage.

The fire started about 11 a.m. as R.D. Holder crews loaded a semi-tanker, said company owner Bob Holder.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but King believed it ignited while workers transferred a fluid from one tank to another. It was not immediately known what type of fluid was being transferred.

After about 45 minutes, firefighters ordered first responders and company employees back as the blaze spread. Transformers exploded and electric lines fell on the scene about 12:45 p.m., forcing firefighters back even more. And as the fire spread, the building began to collapse.

The company supplies diesel fuel, heating oil, gasoline, Dragon racing fuel, bio-diesels and lubricants.

Before the fire spread, R.D. Holder employees salvaged all servers and some files, and hope to operate out of their Bellefontaine facility today, Holder said.

At the time of the fire, Holder said the company only had lubricants at the site. However, King said the fire involved several petroleum products and fuel oil, including 55 gallon drums of petroleum product.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Some oil was found in the tributary near the facility. Lauer said the tributary was "running orange-red." Veolia Environmental Services of Dayton had booms in the tributary to try to stop the flow of the oil.

Michelle Simmons, environmental manager for the Dayton Water Department, said her department recommended the Mad River intakes closed overnight as a precaution, even though the Ohio EPA does not expect any impact to the Mad River surface water from runoff.

"They expect minimal impact where our intakes are," she said. Any possible runoff will have passed the water supply intakes by morning, she said.

The city of Springfield's water supply isn't threatened by the fire runoff, Operations Engineer Tim Weaver said.

The city's well fields tap an aquifer along Mad River off of Eagle City Road west of U.S. 68. It also has a ridge line along it, creating almost a confined pond that provides more protection.

"We are upstream of their problem," Weaver said.

Runoff of contaminated surface water is a common concern in fighting fires near hazardous materials, Lauer noted. "When you knock down a fire of any size, you're going to have the water picking up contaminants."

The Ohio EPA likely will monitor the stream and other water sources for the foreseeable future. Residents near the fire have well water, and several horse farms in the area rely on the stream.

The OEPA and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration have no record of problems at the site.

Chemical fire posed numerous risks

Nick Heimlich, chief of the Springfield Fire Rescue Division, said firefighters have to be aware of numerous risks when fighting a fire of Thursday's magnitude.

The chemicals can seep into the clothes and skin of first responders, contaminate the air, and when mixed with water can create a slurry that will create an environmental hazard as it seeps into streams and waterways. It is not like fighting a typical fire.

Some surrounding homes were evacuated and people with farm animals had been advised to keep them away, King said.

Having enough water to keep flames under control was a challenge. Without hydrants, fire crews trucked water into the site, including from Northwestern schools and a North Hampton water tower.

Firefighters used 5,000 to 6,000 gallons of water a minute, King said.

Firefighters handling the blaze went to Springfield's distribution district and filled up tankers with water from the city's hydrants, said Allen Jones, superintendent of Springfield's water treatment plant.

As crews worked to keep a steady supply of water handy, officials remained concerned about the potential for explosions. There were countless large explosions during the first several hours of the fire -- a large boom followed by a ball of flame and a heat wave that spread across the area. Soot and ash rained down across the scene.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office advised people in the immediate area to close their windows and turn off air conditioning. The advisory was issued about 1 p.m. and lifted about 6 p.m.

Clark County Health Commissioner Charles Patterson said his agency worked closely with incident commanders on the scene, as well as the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency.

Brian Huxtable, of the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency, advised people to avoid the smoke if possible but said as far as he knows, it's not a serious inhalation hazard.

"I think you're going to be OK" if you came in contact with the smoke, Huxtable said. "It may cause coughing. ... Just try to avoid going out in it."

People with prior breathing problems like asthma would probably be affected most, he said.

Neither of RAPCA's two air pollution monitors in Clark County picked up the smoke by midafternoon, he said, probably due to their placement in relation to the smoke plume.

Northwestern Local Schools dismissed early and canceled all evening activities. Officials closed ventilation systems at the schools.

Residents near the fire expressed concern but remained calm.

Kelly Phares of 2300 Folk Ream Road lives across from the scene of the fire.

"I heard some pops and literally my house shook," she said. "I'm concerned that something could fly over, but we don't have any trees or anything (that would catch fire)."

Katey Willis lives at 2400 Folk Ream Road and said black debris from the fire is in her yard.

"I just happened to look outside because I thought it was just getting cloudy," she said. "I saw (the fire) before the fire trucks got here. It's pretty scary."

<http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-us.cfm?articleID=103898>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, OH, SPRINGFIELD

APRIL 20 2012.

STATIC SPARK LIKELY CAUSED OIL COMPANY BLAZE

Numerous agencies are still at the site of a major fire that may have caused oil to contaminate surrounding soil and waterways.

Officials now believe the fire started from a spark of static electricity.

Fire erupted at R.D. Holder Oil. Co, at 2219 Folk Ream Road, around 11 a.m. Thursday as workers at the company transferred a liquid fuel into a tanker.

About 50 different agencies needed about six hours to get the fire under control.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is attempting to determine any additional environmental damage, a task made difficult by the unsound structure that burned yesterday.

"There are still hot areas," said Ohio EPA spokesperson Heather Lauer of the site. Agents "are wrapping up the work that needs to be done with the insurance company, and we don't know what will happen."

Currently, Veolia Environmental Services of Dayton is digging a trench by the unnamed tributary of Donnels Creek that was contaminated by oil yesterday to intercept any additional oil or oil run off. Lauer said Veolia did much of the oil clean up yesterday and set up booms in the waterway, which runs behind R.D. Holder.

The oil company supplies diesel fuel, heating oil, gasoline, Dragon racing fuel, bio-diesels and lubricants, although yesterday owner Bob Holder said they only had lubricants at the scene.

Fire department officials at the scene said there were several petroleum products and fuel oils at the scene, including 55 gallon drums of petroleum product.

Lauer said Ohio EPA agents on site are attempting to determine how much oil was loosed onto surrounding areas, as well as area water wells.

"The facility had a concrete pad and containment area, so not as much oil was lost as it would have been," Lauer said.

<http://www.whiotv.com/news/news/rd-holder-fires-effect-pose-environmental-risk/nMdfy/>

RUSSIA, MOSCOW

APRIL 21 2012.

RUSSIA THREATENS TO SUE TNK-BP OVER 'SIBERIA SPILLS'

Emily Gosden

TNK-BP, owned by the British oil giant and a group of Russian billionaires, has been accused by Russia's Energy Ministry of sacrificing pipeline maintenance for dividend payouts. BP has received \$19bn (£11.8bn) in dividends from TNK-BP since the joint-venture was launched in 2003.

Yuri Trutnev, Russia's Natural Resources Minister, said he had ordered an ecological watchdog to "prepare a lawsuit to seek damages" against TNK-BP over spills that have allegedly polluted two Siberian river basins. Mr Trutnev, who is reported to be pressing for office in Siberia, suggested the joint-venture produce "a plan on overhauling their pipeline system".

Mr Trutnev said that he had visited an oil production region of Western Siberia and "deemed TNK-BP's ecological safety work unsatisfactory".

TNK-BP said its record on oil spills had improved in 2011 and that, since 2004, it had been carrying out a "pipeline integrity programme" to replace worn-out sections and prevent corrosion.

A BP spokesman said: "The entire Russian oil and gas industry faces environmental challenges and TNK-BP's position is not unique.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/oilandgas/9215282/Russia-threatens-to-sue-TNK-BP-over-Siberia-spills.html>

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USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY

APRIL 21 2012.

AMERICAN FORK REFINERY FIRE UNDER INVESTIGATION

INVESTIGATION » FIREFIGHTERS SAY THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME THE REFINERY HAS HAD A FIRE.

Cimaron Neugebauer

A massive fire broke out in American Fork on Thursday at the Rock Canyon Oil refinery after a combustor ignited a tank filled with oil, according to a filing with the federal National Response Center.

The fire started at about 7 a.m. Thursday morning and was put out by firefighters twelve hours later. No one was injured.

American Fork Fire Chief Kriss Garcia said this isn't the first time firefighters have responded to the refinery, located just north of Utah Lake.

"We have had a fire here once before," Garcia said Friday. The previous fire happened six months ago and was much smaller, but was also due to a combustor catching fire.

Garcia said workers at the refinery noticed a small fire coming from the metal tank filled with oil, but they were able to put it out. Later they noticed a larger fire from the same tank. The sprinkler system turned on and put out that fire. However, the metal tank and the oil were already hot and the fire continued to reignite.

The fire reignited about 30 times throughout the day, Garcia said. Explosion-proof pumps were put on the tank to contain and pump out the oil and water mixture.

Some of the oil and water mix seeped into a storm drain that leads to Utah Lake, but was eventually stopped, Garcia said. Booms were put in place at Utah Lake, as a precaution, but none of the oil made it to the lake, Garcia said.

Some nearby businesses were evacuated Thursday, but were allowed to go back on Friday, he said.

A clean-up company will take care of steam-cleaning the tanks, pipes and area. Garcia said that during the firefighting, tens of thousands of dollars worth of fire equipment was contaminated by the oil and ruined.

The State Fire Marshal's office, the Utah State Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste and the Environmental Protection Agency are all currently investigating the fire.

"It is going to be a big investigation," Garcia said.

Rock Canyon Oil was founded in 2010 and is a re-refinery that reclaims used oil.

By law, U.S. companies must notify the NRC if they release hazardous material above reportable amounts.

Bloomberg News contributed to this report.

<http://www.sItrib.com/sItrib/news/53955214-78/fire-american-fork-refinery.html.csp>

USA, OH, PIKE TWP

APRIL 22 2012.

EPA: NO LINGERING PROBLEMS FROM R.D. HOLDER FIRE

Everdeen Mason

The last, lingering flames leftover from a massive fire at a Clark County oil company have been completely extinguished.

The Pike Township said the last flare up at the R.D. Holder Oil Company happened Saturday morning, and all fire crews have cleared the scene. Ohio EPA workers and private contractors were still removing hazardous chemicals from the site as of 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

Fire erupted in a tanker at the 2219 Folk Ream Road facility around 11 a.m. Thursday as workers at the company transferred a liquid fuel into a tanker. Officials believe the fire started from a spark of static electricity.

Fifty agencies worked six hours to get the fire under control, using water from a number of area sources and foam. Ohio EPA officials said the water used caused runoff of oil and debris to flow into surrounding waterways.

"It doesn't look like there will be any long-lasting environmental impact," said Heather Lauer, Ohio EPA spokeswoman. "There is no indication that any oil got below the ground. The facility had a concrete pad and containment area where (oil) could be collected."

Investigators were unable to get in the building to test the soil Friday because the building was still hot. A small fire rekindled at the site around 3 p.m., but Pike Twp. firefighters were able to swiftly put out the blaze.

"If the building isn't sound, we can't go in," Lauer said.

"We don't actually know how much oil has burned off."

Some smoke and a strong stench of burned petroleum and tires remained, but officials recorded no spike in air pollution, according to the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency. Officials there said the monitors situated in the area did not pick up any abnormal readings.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Oil runoff was found in an unnamed tributary of Donnels Creek which runs behind R.D. Holder. Veolia Environmental Services of Dayton cleaned up the oil, set up booms in the water and dug a trench off the waterway to intercept any additional oil or runoff.

Viki Hyslop lives just a block away from the oil company and owns land the tributary runs through. Hyslop, who lives at 6394 Detrick Jordan Pike, said R.D. Holder has always been a good neighbor and has been clean and safe.

"We've been farmers here for years ... so we're concerned with the environment, but they assured us," Hyslop said. "They immediately started to build a dam and clean up, so I feel good about the whole thing."

The oil company supplies diesel fuel, heating oil, gasoline, Dragon racing fuel, biodiesels and lubricants, although owner Bob Holder said they only had lubricants at the scene.

Fire department officials at the scene said several petroleum products and fuel oils were at the scene, including 55-gallon drums of petroleum product.

Jack Shane, who lives next to the company at 6502 Detrick Jordan Pike, isn't concerned about environmental damage. During the fire, firefighters kept a steady stream of water on the home to prevent it from burning. Shane said the only damage for him was some melted siding on the back of his home.

"Most of (the oil) is contained anyway because of the building design," said Shane, who has leased the residence from Bob Holder for almost nine years.

For now, Shane said he has not been drinking the tap water and opting to drink bottled water.

Kristin Shoup at 6281 Detrick Jordan Pike said she and her husband discussed having their well water tested but said she thinks they are safe.

"We were just talking about it, but it doesn't seem like it would affect us. The (fire) was kind of uphill from here," she said.

Activity at the site had calmed down significantly by Friday evening. A crane ruffled through the debris at the scene, and firefighters remained on standby for any hot spots. Veolia Environmental had a trailer as crews worked in the area, and R.D. Holder had another trailer for the owner and insurance company officials to meet.

Bob Holder declined to comment. However a statement on the company website says it will operate out of a facility in Bellefontaine.

R.D. Holder supplies some school districts with diesel fuel to operate buses.

"We were concerned yesterday because R.D. Holder is our diesel fuel supplier," said Michael Whitfield, business operations manager for Springfield City Schools.

The district's transportation department had requested a supply of diesel fuel Thursday morning before the fire started.

"They did deliver, amazingly a load of fuel to us about 2:30 p.m. yesterday," Whitfield said. "We're good for the next month or so with our diesel fuel."

The company's other locations in Bellefontaine and Washington Courthouse also could provide fuel, he said. <http://www.whiotv.com/news/news/local/epa-no-lingering-problems-rd-holder-fire/nMfKD/>