

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

**USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS**

**MAY 24 2012.**

## **DELAWARE COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL DISCHARGES OF OIL IN JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA**

A Delaware company pleaded guilty today in federal court in the Eastern District of Louisiana to negligently discharging oil into the bayous of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, the Department of Justice announced.

Cedyco Corporation, headquartered in Houston, pleaded guilty to three counts of violating the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act). The Clean Water Act makes it a misdemeanor to negligently discharge harmful quantities of oil into navigable waters of the United States.

According to the plea agreement, Cedyco agreed to pay a criminal fine of \$557,000. All of the fine money will be directed to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to aid the United States Coast Guard in responding to future oil spills. Additionally, Cedyco also agreed to cease operations and divest itself of all hydrocarbon business interests in the state of Louisiana.

"Cedyco is being held accountable for its neglectful operations and poor management, which repeatedly resulted in illegal discharges of oil into the sensitive Louisiana bayou," said Ignacia S. Moreno, Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the Department of Justice. "Those who are permitted to develop energy resources in proximity to delicate ecosystems must do so in a sound and responsible manner or they will be held accountable for violations of the law."

"The protection of our precious environment is a critical mission which we take very seriously," said Jim Letten, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. "Simply stated, we will not tolerate negligence by the companies which are required by law to operate facilities carefully in order to protect our people and environment."

"It's important that we hold polluters accountable for their actions, and the successful prosecution of Cedyco does this," said Captain Peter Gautier, Commander of Coast Guard Sector New Orleans. "I applaud the efforts of our partner agencies and internal investigators for their tireless efforts in prosecuting this case. The Coast Guard, EPA, LDEQ and Department of Justice will continue to hold polluters responsible for their actions."

"Our nation's environmental laws are designed to protect oceans and inland waterways from illegal and harmful pollutant discharges," said Ivan Vikin, Special Agent in Charge of EPA's criminal enforcement program in Louisiana. "Today's guilty plea sends a clear message that companies that refuse to operate lawfully and pollute our waters, threatening people's health and the environment, will be vigorously prosecuted."

Cedyco owned and operated several hydrocarbon facilities, including fixed barges, platforms and wells, in the brackish bayous of South Louisiana. As a general matter, Cedyco's facilities were poorly maintained and operated without plans and permits required by regulations issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) as administrator of the federal Clean Water Act. Cedyco's negligent operation and poor maintenance of three of its facilities in Jefferson Parish led to harmful discharges of oil into the navigable waters of the United States. The three facilities are the tank battery known as the "Bayou St. Denis facility," the production and storage facility known as the "Bayou Dupont facility," and the production well adjacent to the Bayou Dupont facility known as "Well #10." Each facility will be addressed in turn.

"DEQ and its partners are dedicated to policing and enforcing environmental laws. Today's actions further illustrate that commitment," said LDEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch.

Cedyco's Bayou St. Denis facility was a tank battery located south of the Barataria Waterway. A May 29, 2008, joint inspection by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and LDEQ revealed that the facility was storing oil

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without the required Facility Response Plan, Spill Prevention and Control Plan, and LDEQ permit as required under Clean Water Act regulations. The condition of the facility was extremely poor with corroded pipes and spilled oil on the deck.

On June 15, 2008, enough oil was leaking from the facility that a sheen was visible on the surface of the water. A fisherman reported this sheen to the USCG, and a subsequent site visit by LDEQ on June 20, 2008, confirmed that oil was leaking into the adjacent waterway from the facility's outfalls.

Cedyco's Bayou Dupont facility is an oil storage and production platform located to the northeast of Bayou St. Denis, close to the Plaquemines Parish line. From February 18, 2008, to May 19, 2008, Cedyco operated this facility without a Facility Response Plan, Spill Prevention and Control Plan, and LDEQ permit. A joint USCG and LDEQ inspection on February 19, 2008, revealed that the facility was in extremely poor condition with pools of oily water and emulsified oil on the deck, as well as ample evidence of extensive corrosion and leaks. The required spill response equipment was either missing or defective. For example, an absorbent boom meant to soak up oil spills had a plant growing out of it. During rain events that took place from February 19, 2008, through May 18, 2008, the deck oil made its way unimpeded into the bayou through unfiltered outfalls and cracks in the deck and containment structures. The sources of this oil were not only chronic leaks and occasional spills, but at times resulted from acute events such as the leak from the slop oil tank that occurred on May 18, 2008. The May 18 slop oil tank spill was observed by an LDEQ inspector who took photographs at the scene. During the charged period, the quantity of oil that was present on the deck of Bayou Dupont facility was sufficient to cause a sheen when rain caused the oil to wash into the adjacent waterway.

Cedyco's Well #10 is located in an area of bayou adjacent to the Bayou Dupont facility. Cedyco did not properly maintain Well #10, and as a result of that negligence, the well began to leak on or about May 17, 2008. The leak continued for at least two days. Before it was contained with boom, the leak resulted in an oily sheen that was detected as far as two miles downstream from the well. The leaking oil also resulted in an emulsion being deposited on the adjacent shoreline.

The court set a sentencing date for Cedyco on August 15, 2012.

The case was investigated by agents of CGIS and EPA-CID and by USCG and LDEQ inspectors. The case is being prosecuted by Christopher L. Hale of the Justice Department's Environmental Crimes Section and Dorothy "Dee" Taylor of the United States Attorney's Office in New Orleans.

[http://7thspace.com/headlines/413206/usdoj\\_delaware\\_company\\_pleads\\_guilty\\_to\\_unlawful\\_discharges\\_of\\_oil\\_in\\_ifferson\\_parish\\_louisiana.html](http://7thspace.com/headlines/413206/usdoj_delaware_company_pleads_guilty_to_unlawful_discharges_of_oil_in_ifferson_parish_louisiana.html)

## ENGLAND, MANCHESTER

**MAY 29 2012**

### **2 INJURED IN SOLVENT FIRE AT MILL IN LITTLEBOROUGH**

*Kirsty Allen*

Firefighters are tackling a blaze involving silos of solvents at a factory on Calderbrook Road, Littleborough.

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service received a number of repeat calls just before 1.00pm today (Monday 28 May).

Crews from Littleborough and Rochdale fire stations went to the scene and found a number of silos of solvent were on fire.

Ten crews are currently tackling the blaze. The GMFRS Control Room received more than 60 calls reporting the fire.

nearby resident described hearing a "massive explosion." A huge plume of thick black smoke can be seen for miles around.

Police have closed Calderdale Road and nearby residents are being evacuated.

UPDATE:

Residents have been evacuated in Littleborough after the explosion at a paint factory started a huge blaze. Residents have also reported seeing bitumen flow 'like lava' down a street.

There have been reports of at least one serious injury - a man, thought to be in his twenties, was taken away in an air ambulance. A second man has also been taken to hospital after suffering burns to his face, legs and hands. The blaze started at around half past twelve and residents say they heard a number of explosions before acrid black smoke started to plume into the sky. The blaze is still going on.

Stuart Littleford of Saddleworth, drove up to the area after seeing the smoke from his garden. He said: "When I arrived there were plumes of thick acrid black smoke rising into the sky.

"Police were evacuating everybody from the nearby houses due to concerns there would be an explosion.

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"Shortly afterwards an air ambulance arrived to take away a casualty who had been seriously burnt in the fire.

"Police are all wearing masks to protect themselves from the smoke and fumes.

"There are concerns there are storage tanks full of fuel still in there which might explode so there is a police cordon around the area."

Lee Hartley, 39, Sydney Gardens, returned home from work when he heard about the blaze. He said: "My mum rang me saying the factory's just exploded.

"My dog's in the house 60 yards from the factory but they won't let me rescue him because it's not safe.

"My mum said she heard very loud explosions; all the house shook."

David O'Neill, who lives close to the factory on Shakespeare Close, heard the explosion. He said: "There was one hell of a bang at first then I looked out and saw flames and it seemed as if it were raining soot. The first explosion was huge, it was lucky no one was killed. Then there was explosion after explosion."

<http://www.rochdaleonline.co.uk/news-features/2/news-headlines/70119/two-injured-in-solvent-fire-at-mill-in-littleborough>

### **CANADA, AB, CALGARY**

**MAY 30 2012.**

#### **RAINBOW LAKE SPILL PEGGED AT 22,000 BARRELS**

*Dina O'Meara*

Crews are working to clean up an estimated 22,000 barrels of water and oil that spilled onto muskeg when a waste disposal line sprung a leak in northwestern Alberta.

Workers have dug out a trench around the 4.5hectare site near Rainbow Lake and about 11 per cent of the emulsion, a 50/50 mix of oil and water, has been recovered, operator Pace Oil and Gas said Friday.

"The cleanup operation is well underway," said Todd Brown, the company's chief operating officer.

Brown said oil-skimming equipment was on site and containment booms would be installed by late Friday. A local wildlife management firm was also on site ensuring animals did not enter the affected area, he said.

So far, one dead water fowl has been found there.

The spill, located about 20 kilometres southeast of Rainbow Lake, was found May 19 during a routine flyover by another oil-and-gas company with operations in the area.

Initial investigations pointed to a leaking surface pipe moving fluid produced along with natural gas to a disposal well. All the remaining water-injection lines in the area have been shut down for inspection, the company said.

Regulators noted emulsion spills are infrequent in Alberta, despite thousands of natural gas wells being operated in the province for decades.

"These types of spills are rare," said Darin Barter, with Alberta's Energy Resources Conservation Board.

Pace Oil and Gas has been operating in the area since 2010, but said the original waste-disposal pipeline had been in the ground since 1977.

"We were fortunate there was good access," said Colin Merrick, with investor relations. "We can come right in on a road here. Depending on where you are in the area, you have to build roads in the winter time but absolutely not in this case, so we are very fortunate. But it's still very muskegy."

Alberta Environment and Water staff are on site, as well as representatives from the conservation board, he noted.

Western Canadian Spill Services, an industry oil spill co-operative, has sent resources, and SWAT Consulting, a leading North American emergency spill response firm, was on its way to the site, the company said.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Rainbow+Lake+spill+pegged+barrels/6683338/story.html#ixzz1xUtzHqgK>

### **USA, NEB, OMAHA**

**MAY 30 2012.**

#### **\$1M FINE FOR WATER CONTAMINATION**

Two Texas companies have agreed to pay more than \$1 million in fines for natural gasoline spills that contaminated waters in Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas.

Mid-America Pipeline Co. and Enterprise Products Operating LLC, both based in Houston, agreed Tuesday to the \$1.04 million fine to settle violations of the federal Clean Water Act, according to the Environmental Protection Agency in Kansas City.

The companies also agreed to spend at least \$200,000 to help prevent breaks in the 2,769-mile-long West Red Pipeline. The pipeline transports liquid natural gasoline, used as an additive to ethanol and other fuels, from Conway, Kan., to Pine Bend, Minn. Mid-America owns the pipeline, which is managed by Enterprise Products.

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The spills that led to the consent decree:

- 34,400 gallons leaked into the Missouri River on Aug. 13 near Onawa, Iowa, following a rupture caused by last summer's extended flooding.
- 70,000 gallons spilled March 29, 2007, into Otoe Creek near Yutan, Neb., after a break caused by a landowner using heavy equipment to remove beaver dams.
- 74,000 gallons spilled April 23, 2010, into tributaries of the Solomon River near Niles, Kan., after a hole was discovered in the pipeline. Although the cause of the break was not determined, evidence suggested the pipeline may have been hit by farm equipment.

Rick Rainey, vice president of public affairs for Enterprise Products, said in both cases where heavy equipment broke the line, advance calls were not made to diggers hotlines as required by law. The third break involved a historic natural disaster.

The company also has made repairs that exceed regulatory requirements. For example, the break near Onawa occurred in a floodplain where the pipeline was buried to a depth of 5 feet. It has since been reburied to 80 feet, Rainey said.

The settlement is part of a consent decree filed in U.S. District Court in Omaha.

The decree is open for 30 days of public comment and must be approved by a federal judge.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20120529/NEWS01/705309997#-1m-fine-for-water-contamination>

## **USA, WA, SEATTLE**

**MAY 30 2012.**

### **NEWTON GRADUATE, 19, DIES IN FALL FROM OLD FUEL TANK IN SEATTLE MIDNIGHT CLIMB PROVES TRAGIC**

*Evan M. Allen*

A Newton South High School graduate died after he fell off an abandoned fuel tank at Gas Works Park in Seattle Friday, according to officials in the Seattle Police Department and the Newton School Department.

Lucas Voss-Kernan, 19, was headed to California on a "dream road trip" with his friends when the accident occurred, said Newton South's principal, Joel Stenbridge.

Gas Works Park is a 19-acre park in Seattle that used to be a gas-manufacturing plant.

It was opened to the public by the city as a park in 1975, said a spokeswoman for Seattle Parks and Recreation.

Voss-Kernan was in a fenced-off area and climbing on a fuel tank just after midnight when he fell, said Detective Mark Jamieson of the Seattle Police Department.

Periodically, Jamieson said, people scale the fences to climb the old gas plant structures that are still standing in the park.

"Usually, what happens is they get part way up or all the way up and they slip and fall," he said.

Less than two weeks before Voss-Kernan fell, a 25-year-old broke his leg after climbing a tank in the park, according to the Seattle Fire Department.

A spokeswoman for the King County Medical Examiner's Office said Voss-Kernan died of blunt force trauma.

Stenbridge said Voss-Kernan's family asked him to share that Voss-Kernan's death was not anyone's fault.

Voss-Kernan was a 2010 graduate, said Stenbridge, who described him as a "great friend to many — and a charismatic young man."

Family members declined to comment.

<http://bostonglobe.com/metro/2012/05/30/newton-graduate-dies-fall-from-old-tank-seattle/EAU7O5ODWyc8uKO83bq9iO/story.html>

## **UK, ESSEX, BRAINTREE**

**MAY 31 2012.**

### **BRAINTREE: MAN IN HIS 50S DIES AFTER BEING TRAPPED UNDER FUEL TANK**

*Richard Porritt*

Four fire crews were sent to Modular Building Systems Ltd in Straits Mill, Convent Lane, Braintree. A 52-year-old man became trapped under a container at 12.10pm today. A spokesman for the ambulance service said the man was pronounced dead at the scene. On arrival crews used rescue equipment and worked with the ambulance service to release the man by 12.50pm. Police and the Health and Safety Executive are now dealing with the incident.

<http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/braintree-man-in-his-50s-dies-after-being-trapped-under-fuel-tank-1-1394271>

## **USA, NY, N.Y., CHELSEA**

844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852

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## **JUNE 1 2012. EXPLOSION INJURES 2 AT FORMER GAS STATION SITE PROBABLY A SPARK FROM A SAW CAUSED THE VAPORS INSIDE THE TANK TO EXPLODE**

The city Department of Buildings is investigating a small explosion in Manhattan that left two construction workers seriously injured Friday.

The New York City Fire Department says it occurred around 10:30 a.m. at the site of a former Mobil gas station on 14th Street and Tenth Avenue in Chelsea.

Officials say the workers were trying to remove several underground gas tanks when the explosion occurred.

"As they were cutting that steel, probably a spark from that saw as they were cutting caused the tank to heat, which caused the vapors inside the tank to explode," said FDNY Battalion Chief Mike Myers.

"The work was being done pursuant to a safety plan. The tank had been flushed out more than a week ago. They had been monitoring for the build-up of vapors and other things," said Ken Fischer, an attorney for the property's owner.

The two workers were taken to Bellevue Hospital with serious but non life-threatening injuries.

Two nearby buildings were evacuated shortly after the blast which could be heard blocks way.

Witnesses at the scene described a very loud, possibly underground explosion with a fireball rising up but then quickly going out.

"I got close to the window, and you could see the ball of fire, smoke and fire coming up. Obviously you don't know what's going on so your reaction is run, or see. The safety guy started taking us out of the building. But it was a literal scary moment," said one worker who was nearby.

"People want to see in the window but nobody let the people, everybody says 'Go out, go out.' So everybody go out," said another worker.

A portion of the nearby Highline was briefly shut down but has since reopened.

Work at the construction site has been stopped as the investigation continues.

[http://manhattan.ny1.com/content/top\\_stories/162279/explosion-injures-two-at-former-chelsea-gas-station-site/](http://manhattan.ny1.com/content/top_stories/162279/explosion-injures-two-at-former-chelsea-gas-station-site/)

## **WALES, PEMBROKESHIRE, MILFORD HAVEN**

**JUNE 2 2012.**

### **CHEVRON REFINERY DISASTER ANNIVERSARY MARKED BY "SCARRED" TOWN**

*Sion Morgan*

Today marks the first anniversary of the devastating Chevron refinery blast which killed four workers at the plant near Milford Haven. Sion Morgan caught up with a community scarred by the events of June 2, 2011.

Sitting proudly on the mouth of the River Cleddau in picturesque Pembrokeshire, the natural landscape surrounding Milford Haven conceals an industrial heart that provides life to the town's population of 13,000.

Its natural deep water port, the third biggest in the UK, handles more than 20% of the UK's energy, with a cluster of related businesses along the Waterway driving economic activity in West Wales.

But on June 2, 2011, the harsh realities of that industry were starkly observed by people across Wales as four members of the tight-knit community lost their lives in Britain's worst refinery disaster for almost four decades.

The families of Julie Jones, 54, Denny Riley, 52, Robert Broome, 48, and Andrew Jenkins, 33, are no closer to learning why a 730 cubic metre storage tank at the Valero (formerly Chevron) oil plant in Rhoscrowther exploded with such devastating effect that day.

Surviving victim Andrew Phillips still does not know why or how his colleagues perished.

Now, as the town marks the one year anniversary of the disaster, the people of Milford Haven reflect on a tragedy which will shape the community for generations to come.

"A year on, people here have moved on but have not forgotten," said Milford Haven port chaplain Steve Traynor.

"The amazing thing about Milford Haven is its community spirit, and the disaster did draw people together in an inspiring way.

"You have to remember, though, that the industry here is the lifeblood of the community. Almost everybody who lives in the area is connected in some way to our refineries and oil companies and so if you took the industry away the community would disappear."

Villagers in nearby Angle and beyond can still vividly remember the bang and the sweeping expanse of thick, black smoke which engulfed everything in its path 12 months ago.

Rob Noble from the Old Point House pub said: "It's something that anyone who saw or heard it will never forget. The noise actually shook the windows of the pub."

In Milford Haven resident Jane Philpott can still smell the burning black smog.

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"Everyone here will tell you the same," she said.

"The awful stench rising up into the air, and the realisation that nobody near the blast could have survived it.

"I never want to experience that sense of blind panic again, when people were phoning each other for news, desperately trying to reach loved ones to check they were fine."

Another resident, Tony Davies, said: "Even now, months later I don't think a week goes by when you aren't reminded about what happened.

"Whether you here someone talking about it in the shop, see an article in the paper or hear about some other industrial incident, it's always in the back of your mind.

"And of course every day we see the refinery, the chimney stacks, huge ships in the port.

"It reminds you of what happened, but it also reminds you that life goes on in a strange way."

Mr Noble added: "The aftermath here has been tinged with a feeling of low-key anger.

"Angle in particular is a village where most, if not all the community is connected with the refinery or businesses that feed it.

"And everyone who worked there knew the people who died.

"People want to know why their friends and loved ones have gone.

"There seems to be an underlying sense of mistrust but of course we all understand that investigations must be thorough.

"It is not something that is spoken about so much anymore but it's not something that will be forgotten."

A renewed sense of community saw thousands gather at Milford Haven RFC's Observatory Ground in Hakin in August for a charity rugby tournament which raised thousands for the families of the victims.

Milford Haven RFC full-back Lee Riley, the plasterer son of refinery blast victim Mr Riley, said: "All the lads here grew up with my dad, they all knew him and were keen to get involved."

Organiser Darren Lewis said: "Without a doubt the whole community here felt the effect of what happened.

"In the aftermath local businesses supported us and everyone pulled together."

Today, all personnel at the Valero refinery will gather together for a private remembrance and period of silence to remember the tragic incident which took the lives of four contractor colleagues.

A spokesman for the company said: "Neighbouring industrial sites surrounding the Haven Waterway will also mark the silence at 1.30pm.

"Prayers will be offered in the towns of Pembroke, Milford Haven and surrounding areas in remembrance of those who lost their lives."

Milford Haven mayor Guy Woodham will also call for a moment of reflection at the town's jubilee celebrations today.

"It is amazing just how quickly a year has passed since the awful tragedy," he said.

"It feels like far less time, probably because the community remains deeply affected by what happened.

"It shocked everybody but of course also brought them together and as the anniversary approaches that awful raw emotion has been rekindled for many, especially I imagine for the families of those who died and everyone who knew them."

Mr Woodham added: "Milford Haven is an area of extreme natural beauty but we are also in an area driven by the industry created from our waterway and the Chevron disaster reminded everyone here just how vulnerable we are in this location.

"That is why the most important thing now is that lessons are learnt.

"Of course there is also a feeling that we cannot yet get closure because the findings of investigations into the explosion's cause still hang over us.

"It's obviously vitally important that no stone is left unturned and so that is why the process has taken so long.

"But for many it is difficult to move on without knowing why this happened so we can stop it from happening again."

Earlier this week Dyfed-Powys Police revealed that two employees of US oil giant Chevron have been questioned in connection with gross negligence manslaughter following the deadly explosion.

An investigation into the cause of the explosion is ongoing.

It is being conducted by Dyfed-Powys Police and also a dedicated team at the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

A spokesman for the force said in excess of 1,800 potential witnesses have come forward in 12 months with over 200 providing statements to date.

A spokesman for Valero said: "The HSE and Police investigation into the incident is on-going and Chevron and Valero continue to provide their full co-operation to all the investigators."

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Port chaplain Steve Traynor added: "The important thing to do, and the thing that people are united in achieving, is making sure lessons are learnt, changes are made and a tragedy like this never happens again.

"If you take another recent anniversary as an example, we have just marked 100 years since the Titanic sank.

"It was obviously a very long time ago but the changes made in protocol, design, almost every aspect of shipping since then has made a huge difference.

"Lessons must and will be learnt but we will never forget those who lost their lives."

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/need-to-read/2012/06/02/chevron-refinery-disaster-anniversary-marked-by-scarred-town-91466-31094389/>

## PAKISTAN, KARACHI

**JUNE 2 2012.**

### **CLEANUP GONE WRONG: FIVE SUFFOCATE IN WATER TANK**

At least five people died of suffocation after going inside an underground water tank to clean it at their house in Bhains Colony, within Sukkan police limits, on Friday. Police said that Bakht Zada, 13, son of Gul Zada, was the first to go into the tank, but reportedly fell unconscious. Naseem Zada, 15, and Taj Mir, 22, went in to rescue their brother. Bakht's cousin, Sher Hassan, 18, and a neighbor, Ghufuran, 35, son of Khan Mohammad, followed Naseem and Mir, but also fell conscious.

A large number of neighbours gathered outside the house and called the police and volunteers from welfare organisations for help. The men were later pulled out and taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where doctors pronounced them dead. Their bodies were handed to families after medico-legal formalities had been completed. SHO Sarfaraz Ali informed that the water tank was full of gas, and that the doctors said that all the men died due to gas suffocation.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/387560/cleanup-gone-wrong-five-suffocate-in-water-tank/>

## USA, OK, WASHINGTON COUNTY

**JUNE 2 2012.**

### **MYSTERY OIL WELL LEAKING INTO WASHINGTON COUNTY CREEK**

*Tess Maune*

Oil from a 100 year-old well, is spilling into a Green Country creek. State workers are trying to pinpoint the exact leak's location along Coon Creek northeast of Dewey.

It's unusual because oil wells aren't drilled in creeks, and this well was never intended to be in such a place.

But over time, erosion pushed back the creek banks, essentially swallowing the well. It's a messy and mucky mystery,

John Hurd, a field inspector with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, says there's an oil well somewhere in the area that was abandoned possibly a century ago.

Hurd says he suspects at some point the well quit producing enough oil to turn a profit, so the operators shut it down and took every bit of equipment with them. He also believes they didn't cap the well.

"What we end up with is a hole in the ground which makes this 50 times harder to find, because we've gone over this whole thing with metal detectors," Hurd said.

The leak was spotted about three weeks ago and ever since workers have been trying to unearth the well. Hurd says it could be buried some 600 feet under the earth's surface.

"They drilled into that, now it's beginning to pressure up and it's pushing the fluids to the surface and they're breaking out in shale," Hurd said.

Right now the oil is contained because of series of dams have been created to keep the oil from flowing up Coon Creek.

As far as wildlife is concerned, Hurd says so far the leak is having very little effect. The majority of the oil was safely flushed from the water.

"I have not seen one dead minnow, and that just amazed me," he said. "We have no dead fish."

For now, contaminated soil is being pushed to one side for the EPA to inspect.

"That's the least of my worries right now," he said. "My biggest worry is this hole in the ground."

Hurd says at this point, it's impossible to say when they'll find the well. But once that happens, crews will anchor it, mark it, and then plug it with cement to stop the flow.

<http://www.newson6.com/story/18681623/mystery-oil-well-leaking-into-washington-county-creek>

## USA, TX, HOUSTON

844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

**JUNE 3 2012.**

## **1 KILLED, 1 INJURED IN CHANNELVIEW EXPLOSION WORKER KILLED IN WELDING ACCIDENT EXPLOSION**

One person was killed and another was injured Saturday in a blast at a Channelview oil storage facility, officials say.

It was supposed to be a normal day for workers at the Oiltanking Partners storage facility on Jacintoport Boulevard near South Sheldon Road, but a welding accident quickly changed that.

Authorities said the explosion occurred around 8:10am.

No hazardous material was released and there were never any fire, environmental or health concerns, officials said.

According to Oiltanking Partners, the victim who died was employed by L-Con Constructors Company -- a Houston-based independent contracting company that was doing work on the premises.

The injured man is also a contracted worker with L-Con Constructors. He was taken to an area hospital with unknown injuries.

We spoke with a witness who heard and felt the explosion from about 100 yards away. He described hearing a large "boom" and then feeling the ground shake beneath him.

"It shook the ground," Mac McClanton said. "The guys felt it all the way over there at the tower over there. One of my buddies works over there, said he felt it."

The names of the two men have not been released.

A spokesperson with Oiltanking Partners said in a statement that the company is "concerned by this unfortunate accident" and their "main focus right now is on the welfare of the injured worker and to the families of those two workers."

"We remain totally committed to the safe operation of our facilities and will provide additional information regarding the accident after the investigation is complete," the statement read.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8686450>

## **AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, BORROLOOLA**

**JUNE 5 2012.**

### **XSTRATA SUBSIDIARY CHARGED OVER FUEL SPILL**

A subsidiary of Swiss mining giant Xstrata is facing a fine of more than \$1 million for leaking thousands of litres of fuel at a Northern Territory mine.

McArthur River Mining (MRM) notified the NT Department of Resources in May last year that a leak had been detected from a pipe connected to the main fuel storage area at its zinc mine at Borroloola.

A statement from the department said the valve was believed to have been open for nearly two days and it was estimated more than 27,000 litres of diesel had leaked into the ground.

The NT government slapped MRM with a complaint of serious environmental harm, which if proved would mean a maximum penalty of \$1.05 million.

The matter was brought before the Darwin Magistrates Court last week.

MRM general manager Etienne Moller said the company would address in court the matters raised in the government's complaint.

"McArthur River Mining has confirmed receiving a complaint and summons by the Northern Territory government in relation to a diesel fuel leak on site during 2011," the company said.

The McArthur River mine supplies 70 per cent of global demand for high grade bulk zinc/lead/silver concentrate, according to the company's website.

<http://news.ninensn.com.au/article.aspx?id=8478863>

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

## USA, TX, CANADIAN

JUNE 10 2012.

### PIPELINE WORKER HURT IN TEXAS PANHANDLE EXPLOSION

An equipment operator has been slightly hurt in a fiery explosion near a natural gas pipeline in the Texas Panhandle. Hemphill County Sheriff Morse Burroughs says the accident happened Friday morning about 11 miles east of Canadian. Burroughs says a Presser Construction Inc. crew was working on a pipeline that had been shut off. The sheriff says some residual gas got sucked into the running engine of a track hoe, which ignited. Burroughs says the track hoe operator suffered minor injuries and was treated and released from a hospital. The track hoe and three service trucks burned. Firefighters monitored the blaze, which burned itself out. Denver-based DCP Midstream says company officials are investigating and regulators have been notified. The accident involved a 4-inch low pressure gathering line. Presser declined comment.

<http://www.newschannel10.com/story/18739201/pipeline-worker-hurt-in-texas-panhandle-explosion>

## NEW ZEALAND, HAMILTON

JUNE 12 2012.

### FORMER CITY COUNCILLOR SAYS SORRY' FOR HYDRAULIC OIL SPILL INTO WAIKATO

The man responsible for 640 litres of hydraulic oil spilling into the Waikato River has come clean to say he is "deeply sorry".

Property manager Steve McLennan, a former Hamilton city councillor, blew the whistle on himself after learning that a plumbing malfunction in the Tower Building on Ward St caused the oil spill on Saturday morning.

Mr McLennan manages the building on behalf of its owner, Waiheke Island farmer Chris Reeve.

A member of the public notified the Waikato Regional Council after seeing a large oil slick flowing into the river near Claudelands Bridge from a stormwater drain.

Mr McLennan yesterday apologised to the city council, regional council and visited the Waikato River Authority office to apologise, as well as emailing the 30 tenants of the building.

"It's embarrassing for them to be associated with a building that caused a leak like this," he said.

Mr McLennan said he confessed after learning the oil had gone into the river and not the sewerage drain - as he had been initially told.

"We are fully prepared to face the music. We did nothing to precipitate this. We do everything we can to make sure our buildings are safe. It's an unforeseen tragedy ... we are deeply sorry."

The error occurred on Friday night after the ballcock valve in one of the three water tanks broke, causing it to overflow across the carpark in the lower basement and into the lift shaft.

The sump pump could not push the water out fast enough and the overflow began to cover the hydraulic buffer, which contains 640 litres of oil.

As a result, the fluid ran into a stormwater drain in Worley Place which discharges into the river.

The ballcock valve had been replaced in November and Mr McLennan was working with plumbers to install early warning systems.

"We are doing everything we can to make sure it doesn't happen again. We are very upset," said Mr McLennan.

Waikato Regional Council compliance and education manager Rob Dragten thanked Mr McLennan for owning up to the spill and said the council would decide whether to prosecute when the investigation was completed.

Mr Dragten said the council would have to consider whether the statutory defence of an unforeseen mechanical failure leading to a discharge could be applied under the Resource Management Act.

Mr McLennan said he felt like "lightning had struck twice". In 2009, he was forced to apologise after the wrong application of a bird repellent killed more than 70 swallows.

The birds became stuck to a pipe on a Garden Place building after too much Hot Foot gel was applied.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=10812384](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10812384)

## USA, MD, BALTIMORE

JUNE 15 2012.

### AS COMPANY TO GIVE \$500,000 IN FRACKING SPILL DEAL

### GANSLER NEGOTIATES FUNDS FOR SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

A natural gas company has agreed to give \$500,000 to monitor water quality in the Susquehanna River basin after a Pennsylvania well blowout last year spilled "fracking" fluids into a tributary of the river, Maryland Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler announced Thursday. Gansler had formally threatened to sue Chesapeake Energy Corp. for

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

allegedly endangering the health of Marylanders by the April 2011 spill in Bradford County, Pa. The river supplies drinking water to 6.2 million people and is home to sensitive Chesapeake Bay fish populations of American shad and striped bass, Gansler noted. The company agreed after negotiations with the Maryland attorney general's office to donate the funds to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, which oversees the bay's largest tributary.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/blog/bs-md-fracking-susquehanna-20120614,0,1377545.story>

## **USA, AZ, PHOENIX**

**JUNE 15 2012.**

### **TANKS EXPLODE IN FIRE AT PHOENIX WELDING COMPANY**

A lightning strike was the apparent cause of an explosion and major fire at the JBS plant in Grand Island Thursday night.

The Grand Island Fire Department was called at approximately 7:50 p.m. with reports of explosions and a large fire east of the plant on Swift Road. The lightning strike ignited chemicals in the holding pool, according to information overheard on the emergency scanner.

Numerous calls came into the newsroom to report the fire, which was reportedly visible from a good distance away. Google map shows the presence of what appears to be a tarp-covered holding pool or lagoon east of the plant.

While the large flames shooting into the air died down fairly quickly, slightly smaller fires seemed to burn a little longer in the lagoon. Independent photographer Matt Dixon reported seeing many motorists driving along the perimeter of the plant in the immediate aftermath of the explosion in an attempt to see the fire.

The large parking lot south of the JBS plant remained filled with employee cars after the fire. However, a long line of semi-trucks filled with cattle were parked along the north side of Swift Road, on the south side of the plant and north side of the parking lot. The cattle trucks apparently were not being permitted to enter the plant while firefighters were still on the scene.

The trucks lined the east-west Swift Road from Stuhr Road on the west almost to the end of the JBS property line to the east.

With nobody other than firefighters and police allowed onto the JBS property, it was impossible to get an official version of the fire from the Grand Island Fire Department.

[http://www.theindependent.com/news/local/lightning-strike-ignites-explosion-near-jbs-plant/article\\_71904c18-e82d-5c3a-babd-96b4afcce206.html](http://www.theindependent.com/news/local/lightning-strike-ignites-explosion-near-jbs-plant/article_71904c18-e82d-5c3a-babd-96b4afcce206.html)

## **CANADA, ALBA, GLENNIFER LAKES**

**JUNE 16 2012.**

### **GLENNIFER LAKE RESORT COMMUNITY GETS A CRUDE AWAKENING FROM OIL SPILL RESIDENTS TALLY DAMAGE FROM PLAINS MIDSTREAM PIPELINE OIL LEAK**

*Colette Derworiz*

One week after a pipe-line leaked crude oil into the Red Deer River and closed Gleniffer Lake, Diane Bender is worried about her livelihood.

For the realtor, who also manages rentals at the resort, the stakes are high: She doesn't have any other income.

"People are phoning and wanting to cancel," says Bender, who has already had cancellations on cottage rentals and boat slips in the marina at Gleniffer Lake Resort & Country Club.

Her property sales, which average between 35 and 40 a year, have also dried up.

"I had sales up until the oil spill," she says, noting eight vacation properties already sold this spring. "Now, the phone is not ringing at all."

A week ago, a section of pipeline owned by Plains Midstream Canada running under a river tributary near Sindre leaked up to 475,000 litres of oil.

The company has said high river levels flushed most of the oil downstream into Gleniffer Lake, a man-made reservoir and recreational area about 75 minutes northwest of Calgary.

People like Bender worry that with the lake closed, the resort development, which relies on an already short summer tourism season, could suffer.

According to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, the cleanup efforts on both the river and lake are going well.

"We're not seeing pooled oil in the reservoir," says Martin Bundred, noting most of the cleanup involves picking up trees and other oily debris, and hauling it away for disposal.

Bundred, who is overseeing the cleanup by the company for the province, says they will eventually be able to

## Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

move a boom now dissecting the lake back to the mouth of the river.

"We don't believe it will take too long," he says, suggesting it will likely be weeks rather than months. "We have to be realistic about the weather."

In a statement Thursday, Plains Midstream said it's focused on the cleanup and understands the leak's impact on residents and local tourism.

"We have 209 people working on cleanup and environmental monitoring," said Darlene Crowell, director of corporate communications.

"We understand that everyone would like things to progress as quickly as possible - including ourselves."

Indeed, as the cleanup continues, the opening date for the lake is critical.

Those who rely on it for their livelihood say the summer tourist season kicks into full swing by the July long weekend, now just 14 days away.

"If it's two weeks, it's probably not going to be a big issue," says Randy Westergaard of the resort and country club. "If it's two months, it'll be a big issue."

"We'll just have to wait it out, see what the timeline is."

Several provincial campgrounds in the area remain closed, while two privately run campgrounds - Dickson Leisure Campground and Carefree Resort - declined to discuss the impacts.

"We are being treated very well; they are doing a fantastic job," says Don Shewchuk, general manager of Carefree Resort, which also has a marina with room for 198 boats.

Westergaard agrees, noting the company has been trucking in water for residents already living at the resort. It has also set up the containment booms halfway down the lake to prevent oily debris from reaching the resort's shoreline.

"Historically, coming into spring, we get a lot of debris coming down the river," says Westergaard, pointing at the large trees caught up by the boom.

He's hopeful the lake will reopen, even partially, by the time the July rush starts.

"Unfortunately, Alberta doesn't have the longest season in the world," he says. "Tour-ism has got a very short season."

Westergaard, who still has 35 lots for sale at the resort, is hoping for a quick remedy to the spill, but understands they can happen.

"When you live in Alberta, it's inevitable. When you've got oil, you're going to have issues with it," he adds.

"How many people are able to afford property because they made (money) in oil?"

The irony isn't lost on Diane Bender.

"It's a catch-22," she says. "A lot of people in the park are affiliated with oil and gas," adds her husband, Gary.

"Hopefully it gets cleaned up fast."

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/Gleniffer+Lake+resort+community+gets+crude+awakening+from+spill/6786043/story.html#ixzz1zByfLwVA>