

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The Steel Tank Institute is unable to guarantee the accuracy of any information. Every effort has been undertaken to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this publication but it is not intended to be comprehensive or to render advice. Websites may be current at the time of release, however may become inaccessible.

The newsletter may be copied and distributed subject to:

- *All text being copied without modification*
- *Containing the copyright notice or any other notice provided therein*
- *Not distributed for profit*

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, KY, PIKEVILLE

DECEMBER 2 2006.

REPORT BLAMES FATAL MINE BLAST ON FLAME TORCH, LEAKY GAS

Samira Jafari

Human error -- bringing a torch near a poorly built protective seal -- sparked an explosion in an eastern Kentucky coal mine that killed five men, state investigators conclude in a report released Friday.

But after months of interviews and sifting through evidence, state officials still don't know who authorized the use of the torch in the first place, or why.

The protective seal, which should have blocked out naturally occurring methane, was "poorly constructed" and failed to meet federal guidelines, according to an investigation report released by the state Office of Mine Safety and Licensing.

The torch ignited the leaking methane May 20 as two miners were cutting away metal straps that intersected the top of the seal and were used as underground roof supports. They died in the blast; three others died from carbon monoxide poisoning and smoke inhalation while trying to escape.

The explosion at the Kentucky Darby No. 1 Mine was so powerful it broke mirrors on vehicles parked outside.

The report also said mine foreman Amon Brock and maintenance worker Jimmy Lee shouldn't have been allowed to use a torch at the site because ventilation current passed through the area on its way to the surface.

"The question that cannot be answered at this point in time is what was the impetus for someone going in and cutting the strap (with the torch)," said Susan Bush, commissioner of the state Department for Natural Resources.

According to witness testimony, Brock had said he had to make repairs to the area before an inspector from the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration returned to the site two days later.

MSHA, which is conducting its own investigation into the blast, declined to let state investigators interview inspector Stanley Sturgill. "MSHA asked all the questions it believed relevant during its interviews," agency spokesman Dirk Fillpot said.

State investigators reviewed Sturgill's responses Friday. They found nothing that would change their report and decided not to reopen their investigation, said Mark York, spokesman for the Department of Natural Resources.

Tony Oppegard, an attorney representing four of the victims' families, said the miners' widows had hoped to learn who ordered Brock and Lee to repair the straps.

The report "didn't bring any peace at all. I think it was very difficult for all of them," Oppegard said Friday. "There was anger and sadness."

The mine was sealed off and abandoned Nov. 10, federal authorities have said.

A lawyer for Ralph Napier, an owner of mine operator Kentucky Darby LLC, called the state's report incomplete.

"We disagree with many aspects of the report. But I don't want to get into specifics right now," attorney Kent Hendrickson said. "There's a more complete MSHA federal report to follow."

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

A telephone number for John North, co-owner of the mine, could not be found.
The federal report is expected by March, Fillpot said.

<http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/nation/16148317.htm>

USA, MO, ST. LOUIS

DECEMBER 4 2006.

BALLWIN GAS STATION CANOPY COLLAPSES UNDER WEIGHT OF ICE AND SNOW

An aluminum canopy at a gas station in Ballwin collapsed Saturday afternoon under the weight of ice and snow.

The accident happened at the Conoco station at the intersection of Manchester and New Ballwin Roads. Eight people were beneath the canopy at the time. One person suffered minor injuries.

The gas pumps shut off automatically when the flow was interrupted. Dale tucker's wife Brenda was among those was at the gas pumps.

"She heard a noise kind of like a trash can falling and something just told her to run and she took off running.

"The young man who was standing outside the car saw her run and he took off running too and the thing collapsed right behind him.

"It just missed her and caught him on the ankle I think," said Dale.

A volunteer firefighter showed up on the scene and helped two children get out of a car. They were not injured.

http://www.ksdk.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=108558

USA, NJ, POMPTON LAKES

DECEMBER 5 2006.

HOMEOWNER'S MISHAP SPILLS OIL INTO LAKE

Douglass Crouse and Justo Bautista

Firefighters and private workers cleaned up part of Pompton Lake after an estimated 140 gallons of home heating oil spilled from an underground tank, authorities said Friday. Peter Majewski, owner of the property at 7 Harding Ave., was using a backhoe to move the 275-pound tank when it tipped over Thursday afternoon, spilling oil onto the street, Capt. William Baig said. The spill occurred around 4 p.m. but wasn't reported to authorities until 6:14 p.m., Baig said. Majewski tried to soak up the spill with soil, police said, but it seeped into a sewer drain and then into the lake. The owner then called an environmental cleanup company, Allstate-ORC of West Milford, which sent a crew and boat to the lake, Baig said. Once informed of the spill, borough firefighters began to clean up and notified the state Department of Environmental Protection, the Passaic County Health Department, the Passaic County Sheriff's Department and Wanaque Reservoir officials. No fines had been assessed as of Friday.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk0MjQmZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTcwMzE1NzUmeXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkz>

USA, AK, ANCHORAGE

DECEMBER 6 2006.

BP SUBMITS REVISED SPILL PLAN FOR PRUDHOE BAY

BP PLC has submitted a revised plan for preventing and responding to spills at the Prudhoe Bay oil field following pipeline corrosion problems and oil spills earlier this year, a state official said on Monday.

BP's Alaska unit sent a proposed spill-contingency plan for the nation's biggest oil field to the state's Department of Environmental Conservation on Friday. The current plan expires in six months.

The new contingency plan was submitted as part of a routine renewal process that affects all oil operators and transporters in Alaska, said Lydia Miner, an official at the department's Division of Spill Prevention and Response.

It is the first new plan submitted by BP for its Prudhoe Bay field since a March spill from a corroded pipeline at the facility leaked about 200,000 gallons of oil, the largest crude oil spill on record for Alaska's oil-rich North Slope region.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Miner said the department had not yet reviewed the application to see what changes BP had proposed. Under state law, contingency plans are in effect for five years, and operators must obtain renewals to continue conducting business in Alaska.

However, new state regulations that expand regulation over flow and gathering lines -- the oil-field pipelines that carry a mixture of oil, natural gas and water -- will go into effect after this contingency plan update, she said.

BP spokesman Daren Beaudou said the renewal application is routine and a part of its adherence to state law.

BP operates the Prudhoe Bay field, but ConocoPhillips also own significant shares of the unit. http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=governmentFilingsNews&storyID=2006-12-05T022806Z_01_N04223110_RTRIDST_0_BP-ALASKA.XML

**DUBAI, AJMAN,
DECEMBER 6 2006.**

CIVIL DEFENCE SAYS DEAD WORKER IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ASLEEP

Bassma Al Jandaly

A worker, who was burned to death in a massive fire at an oil refinery in Ajman, was believed to be sleeping when the blaze started, civil defence officials said on Tuesday.

The fire believed to be caused by a short circuit resulted in approximately Dh20 million in damage to the refinery, which was completely destroyed. One man was killed and four cars damaged. The owner of the refinery, however, said six cars were damaged.

According to civil defence, the fire started at the new industrial area at about 1pm yesterday and lasted until 7pm with the fire brigade trying to cool the site until late last night. Civil defence and police patrols from Dubai and Umm Al Quwain arrived at the scene to assist Ajman civil defence.

Colonel Saleh Saeed Al Matroushi, director of the Ajman Civil Defence Department, said most of the workers on duty managed to escape the fire except for one, who is believed to have been sleeping when the fire broke out.

<http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/06/11/29/10085948.html>

**USA, CT, OXFORD
DECEMBER 7 2006.**

AT QUAKER FARMS SCHOOL, BREAK IN TANK CAUSES OIL LEAK

Leda Quirke

A sizable break in an underground fiberglass tank containing the fuel oil supply at Quaker Farms School was identified as the cause of a substantial oil leak, Board of Education Chairman Robert DeBisschop and District Business Manager Rich Carmelich told the Board of Finance last week.

A leak was suspected after a service technician noted, on November 15, that the oil level in the tank was low.

When it was determined subsequently that the oil supply had diminished by 3,300 gallons, the remaining oil was pumped into a temporary above-ground tank.

At a November 27 finance board meeting, Mr. DeBisschop said, on investigating the cause of the leak, EnviroScience Consultants of Newington found, when it dug up the tank on November 27, that it had been placed on a bed of crushed stone instead of sand and then strapped to a concrete pad. Customarily the concrete pads are overlaid with sand, he said.

Mr. DeBisschop said a crack eight to ten inches long was discovered on the bottom of the tank. He described the flaw as a slight separation as opposed to a tear or puncture.

EnviroScience, on removing the tank from the ground, recovered as much oil as possible from the soil, Mr. DeBisschop said.

School officials noted in letters sent to parents of students at the school that there was no concern regarding contamination of drinking water because the school is served by city water.

A test of the air quality at the school was done on Tuesday, November 28, and no problems were detected, Principal Pat Sullivan said.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Mr. DeBisschop said plans were to also conduct a survey of wells in the area to determine whether they were affected by the leaking oil. He said surveyors would be going to residents' homes and testing water from their taps.

EnviroScience also began on Tuesday of last week drilling holes in concentric circles starting with an area 10 feet away from the well site to see if they could find other pools of oil.

Mr. DeBisschop, while not speculating what the clean up and associated work would cost, said about 45 percent of the cost would be reimbursable from the state.

First Selectman Augie Palmer said costs could run up to a half million dollars because workers were on duty during the Thanksgiving weekend.

"We had no choice," he said.

Selectman Dave Haversat wondered if the lack of sand underneath the tank was responsible for triggering a hairline crack when the tank was strapped down. Normally fiberglass tanks last up to 30 years, he said.

"It's a hypothesis," responded Mr. DeBisschop.

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17552924&BRD=1380&PAG=461&dept_id=157533&rfti=6

USA, WI, MILWAUKEE, DECEMBER 7 2006. FACTORY EXPLOSION KILLS 3, INJURES DOZENS IN MILWAUKEE

Emily Fredrix

An explosion that may have started in a large propane tank devastated an industrial complex near downtown Milwaukee Wednesday morning, killing three people and injuring dozens, Mayor Tom Barrett said. An unconfirmed number of people were missing.

The explosion ignited a fire at a Falk Corp. warehouse near the Potawatomi casino and about a half mile from Miller Park, where the Milwaukee Brewers play, fire Chief William Wendtland said.

Falk employee David L. Mays, 61, said the company began to evacuate workers Wednesday morning after a leak occurred in one of six large propane tanks behind a building workers call the annex. He and others were outside when the tank exploded, he said.

"It sounded like when I was in Vietnam, incoming mortar rounds," said Mays, an Army veteran.

The concussion of the explosion knocked him down and flipped over his car, destroying it.

"But I'm OK," Mays said as a single tear rolled down his left cheek.

Three people died, 37 were injured and more workers were missing, Barrett said at an afternoon news conference.

Kevin Carter, 42, of West Allis, said he was inside the annex when the blast happened.

"First the lights went off, and then there was a big explosion," Carter said.

Falk spokesman Linda Mayor said she did not know how many other workers were in the building with him. The company makes large industrial gears and couplings, employing about 700 people in Milwaukee, she said.

Police investigating the cause of the explosion interviewed workers at Miller Park.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration also sent a team to investigate the explosion, said George Yoksas, director of OSHA's Milwaukee office.

Hospitals throughout Milwaukee were put on alert.

Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital admitted nine patients, including one with bleeding to his head, said Dr. Daniel DeBehnke, the hospital's clinical medical director. Another man had chest and lung injuries, while others suffered broken bones and numerous cuts, DeBehnke said.

Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Aurora's St. Luke's Medical Center and Columbia St. Mary's Hospital were treating workers with various injuries, including cuts and head wounds, hospital spokespeople said. None of those injuries were life-threatening, they said.

Hazardous materials crews and as many as 120 firefighters and paramedics responded to the fire, which was largely extinguished by 11 a.m., Wendtland said.

The explosion could be felt at the firehouse about a mile and a half away, fire Lt. Brian O'Connor said. It destroyed Falk's wood frame warehouse and numerous cars and damaged several other buildings in the complex, he said. The fire spread through rubble covering several blocks.

Construction crews working on buildings in the surrounding area were sent home by their companies because of concern about smoke from the spreading fire.

Construction worker Jack Obarski, 46, of Milwaukee, said he was working when he heard a loud boom and saw smoke hundreds of feet in the air.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

"Stuff was just flying up in the air," Obarski said as he headed home.

Gillen Co. had several workers driving piles nearby. Edward C. Crockett Jr., 41, of Milwaukee, said he felt the ground shake and saw debris fly into the air.

"I felt it and you knew something wasn't right. I thought it was a train engine," said Crockett, who motioned to nearby train tracks that run through the industrial area.

Dan Gartzke, 58, of Hartland, was shopping at Brookfield Square when he heard about the explosion. He immediately headed to Miller Park to check on his two sons who work for Falk.

"It certainly killed the Christmas spirit I was in," Gartzke said.

He later heard from other relatives who reported that his sons were fine.

<http://www.chippewa.com/articles/2006/12/06/news/am1.txt>

USA, MI, OGEMAW CO, WEST BRANCH

DECEMBER 9 2006.

VANDALISM SUSPECTED AS CAUSE OF OIL SPILL - 4,000 GALLONS FLOW FROM TANK IN WEST BRANCH

Helen Lounsbury

Authorities said Thursday they suspect that vandalism caused some 4,000 gallons of used motor oil to spill from a West Branch storage tank on Wednesday.

Clean-up crews worked for two days and overnight to vacuum up most of the spill, preventing the oil from spreading to a local creek that feeds the Rifle River, workers said.

"It got into a drainage ditch and flowed downstream a ways," Greg Clark, Ogemaw County emergency management director, said. "But they put down a special absorption material and stopped it short of Eddy Creek."

A driver for Crystal Flash Energy, a Grand Rapids-based company, discovered the spill early Wednesday, police said. The driver found that the padlock typically kept on the storage tank valve was missing when he arrived at around 8 a.m. As a result, some 4,000 gallons had leaked from the 4-inch valve opening to the ground, investigators said.

The silo-shaped storage tank, about 20 feet tall, sits in West Branch's industrial park. Crystal Flash uses the tank to store motor oil it hauls from area service stations.

"Right now we're assuming vandalism," said Jim Tefft, vice-president of operations for Crystal Flash. "But we're still investigating."

Environmental crews would remain occupied with clean-up at least through Thursday, Tefft added. State and federal environmental regulators, too, were testing soils to ensure the ground was contamination-free.

Snow and frozen ground helped prevent the oil from seeping into soil beneath, on-site workers reported.

West Branch Police Chief Rodger Williams, meanwhile, said he'd pursue an investigation.

"We've got a few (neighboring) businesses with surveillance cameras," Williams said. "We're still optimistic we'll turn up something."

<http://www.mlive.com/news/bctimes/index.ssf?base/news-8/1165594804106840.xml&coll=4>

USA, CA. LONG BEACH

DECEMBER 9 2006.

BP CLEANING UP SMALL OIL SPILL IN LONG BEACH, CAL

BP workers were cleaning up a spill of about 75 barrels of crude oil after a pipeline leak earlier this week in Long Beach, California, near Los Angeles, a BP spokesman said. The leak occurred on Tuesday morning on a four-mile pipeline which runs from the Long Beach Terminal where oil tankers dock to the East Hynes Terminal in a heavily industrialized part of Long Beach, said BP spokesman Scott Dean. No oil went into waterways and most was retained by a concrete casing around the pipeline, Dean said. BP had by Friday afternoon cleaned up 60 barrels, he added. Much of the pipeline is buried underground. Local, state and federal officials are investigating the cause of the leak and monitoring its cleanup, Dean said. No one was injured because of the leak, he added.

http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?view=CN&storyID=2006-12-08T214932Z_01_N08441606_RTRIDST_0_ENERGY-BP-SPILL.XML&rpc=66&type=qcna

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

**USA, VT, DOVER
DECEMBER 9 2006.**

SKI RESORT SLAPPED FOR RECENT OIL SPILL

Howard Weiss-Tisman

Mount Snow, Ltd. has settled an environmental violation with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

The Windham County ski area has agreed to pay the state a civil penalty of \$8,000 for the violations.

Mount Snow will also contribute \$16,000 toward a yet-unnamed environmental project.

On April 8, 2005, compressor oil leaked out of one of the mountain's snow-making equipment and into Snow Lake, the area's main source of water for its snow making.

When Environmental Enforcement Officer Tim McNamara investigated the incident, he found that the staff was not properly trained on operating and maintaining the oil/water separator unit, according a press release from the Agency of Natural Resources.

The investigator also discovered the mountain was operating underground storage tanks without the proper permits.

"McNamara's investigation revealed that the staff that was knowledgeable about the operation and maintenance of the oil/water separator unit had left the company, and their knowledge was not passed on to the remaining employees," the press release stated. "After the investigation was completed, Mount Snow, Ltd. was notified of the violations, promptly worked to remediate the spill and agreed to settle the matter without going to trial."

The Environmental Court on Nov. 29 agreed to the settlement and reduced the incident to an Assurance of Discontinuance.

Mount Snow agreed to obtain the proper permits and to put procedures in place to make sure the staff is trained on all equipment.

The resort's communications manager, Chris Lenois, said the company agreed to pay the penalty after negotiating with the agency.

Lenois said the spill occurred after the oil/water separator malfunctioned. He said the machine was turned off and the oil spill was contained to the lake.

"We detected it and shut it down right away," Lenois said. "It was only leaking for a brief time."

He said the mountain was required to report the leak, which it did, and in the course of the investigation the underground tanks were discovered.

The \$16,000 contribution will go toward an environmental project in southern Vermont. Lenois said the mountain forwarded a list of potential projects. The agency will choose where the money will go.

Lenois said he did not want to provide a list of potential projects because not every project on the list will get some of the money.

http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_4801938

**KENYA, NAIROBI
DECEMBER 12 2006.**

WHEN CANCER FLOWS FROM OIL WELLS

Patrick Mathangani

Naisan Naingisan, 25, from Korr village in Marsabit District has a large wound that started as a growth on her left leg. She cannot afford to go to hospital.

Could death caused by cancer be looming behind the expensive prospecting for oil going on in Kenya?

A survey in some remote villages where foreign companies sunk oil wells in Marsabit District almost two decades ago reveals shocking statistics of villagers who have contracted throat cancer and others who have died of it.

The new claims are likely to turn the spotlight on international oil firms, which are currently engaged in the search for oil at the Kenyan Coast and elsewhere.

The cases in Northern Kenya raise suspicion that toxic substances brought to the surface by exploration that digs deep into the bowels of the earth, and failure to sweep or destroy the substances could be causing cancer.

Disease and death stalk poor villagers

The shocking observation from a region where oil exploration caused excitement in the late 80s will call environment bodies to attention.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

At one time in 1988, former President Moi hinted at the possibility of Kenya striking oil in the northern regions.

Moi and then Energy Minister Nicholas Biwott visited one of the drilling sites, at Kargi, in Marsabit District where a foreign company known as Amoco was prospecting and inaugurated one of the wells.

The Standard returned to Kargi last week and found that the excitement of the expected gush of oil then has since turned into misery as disease and death stalk poor villagers.

The Standard team tracked down the cancer patients from several villages in the district, where leaders and health workers say the killer disease has reached "epidemic proportions" in the last decade.

Uniformity and duration of disease

In Kargi village, about 70km from Marsabit town, residents said their lives were turned upside down soon after an oil firm drilled a well in search of deposits in 1988.

Two years later, thousands of cattle died on a single day after drinking water from a well near the drilling site.

It is only in the last decade that the effects of possible environmental pollution are being felt by humans. The Government has since closed the well and sunk an alternative one.

However, no specific study of the crisis specifically has pointed fingers at any oil firm, but experts say circumstantial evidence is enough to call for a major study to establish proof.

Interviews with health workers, villagers, patients' families and available records establish a pattern where most of those affected suffer from cancer of the esophagus and the digestive system.

A consultant surgeon Dr Hussein Alkama, who has been treating cancer patients from Marsabit, said the uniformity and duration when the disease started occurring indicates that it likely was caused by substances in the patients' diet, drinking water or atmosphere.

Too poor to seek treatment

Alkama said last month alone, he handled three patients from Marsabit suffering from cancer of the esophagus, referred commonly as throat cancer.

"This ailment has reached epidemic proportions," Alkama said. "I suspect people have been exposed to dangerous chemicals. These cases were not there before oil exploration took place."

Records at the Marsabit District Hospital show it handled 29 suspected throat cancer cases in 2004 and last year. Of these, 20 - or 69 per cent - affected the mouth and the digestive system.

The figures seem to confirm Alkama's concerns that the ailment was caused by substances in the patients' diet or drinking water or in the atmosphere.

Marsabit Hospital's Dr Solomon Sambu, however, said the figures do not reflect the real picture in the district, where a big chunk of the population lives hundreds of kilometers away from hospitals and are too poor to seek treatment.

But he downplayed the gravity of the disease. He said "cancer is not a major killer in the district."

Oil drilling and exploration itself produces dangerous substances

Local nomads said since the death of livestock, they have abandoned large swathes of precious grazing land near the well, fearing it is contaminated.

Oil drilling and exploration itself produces dangerous substances, including radioactive material lodged in underground rocks and is a cause of concern for environmentalists worldwide.

The Kenyan law requires oil exploration firms to clean up the environment after completing their activities.

Without a study on the cause of the ailments people are living in fear and many questions remain unanswered.

Says Alkama, "the question is, what is peculiar to people in that area? What has happened to bring about this disease, which was not known here 10 years ago? It is possible that some chemicals could have contaminated the water table, which is very close to the ground in some areas."

Last month, North Horr MP, Ukur Yatani told Parliament cancer had become a major killer in northern Kenya and claimed rogue companies had dumped radioactive waste there. Yatani is also the Assistant Minister for Science and Technology.

State denied dumping claims

In Parliament, Health Assistant Minister Enoch Kibunguchy said the Ministry had sent a surgeon to the hospital to check the spread of cancer of the gullet, but denied dumping claims.

A nurse at the Kargi Catholic Dispensary, Ms Asunta Galgitele, said it received at least two suspected cases of throat cancer every month. The dispensary serves a small village population.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Mr Soko Godana, from Bubisa village in North Horr constituency, gave the names of five patients from the area who suffer from suspected cancer of the esophagus, all acquired around the same time.

Many villagers who live in far-flung manyatta where poverty is widespread, get sick and die without even seeking diagnosis or treatment.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200612110024.html>

IRAQ, BAGDAD

DECEMBER 12 2006.

FIRE BREAKS OUT AFTER EXPLOSION AT OIL STORAGE FACILITY SOUTH OF BAGHDAD

A huge fire broke out at an oil storage facility after explosions in a volatile area south of Baghdad on Monday, police said. Iraqi firefighters extinguished the blaze shortly after it broke out at about 9:15 p.m. at the Latifiyah facility, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Baghdad, area police officer Lt. Haidar Sattar said. He said sabotage was suspected, but more details would not be available until Tuesday because the blast occurred after dark in the Sunni-dominated area south of Baghdad known as the "Triangle of Death" because of the large number of insurgent attacks. Since the U.S.-led war toppled Saddam Hussein in March 2003, the country's oil industry has suffered many such attacks on its pipelines, which run through remote areas of the country.

http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/12/11/africa/ME_GEN_Iraq_Oil_Fire.php

CHINA, GANSU PROVINCE, LANZHOU,

DECEMBER 12 2006.

GAUSU CHEMICAL PLANT EXPLOSION KILLS THREE

Three people were killed in an explosion in a chemical plant in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province on Monday afternoon, officials said. A water tank blasted at 2:20 p.m. at Lanzhou Petroleum and Chemical Company and claimed the three lives, said a public relations manager surnamed Wang. An official with the work safety office of Lanzhou confirmed the death toll and said the office are investigating the accident. Fire trucks and ambulances have rushed to the site. It is not known how many people were injured at the moment. The Lanzhou company has more than 18,000 employees and posted 3.8 billion yuan (485 million US dollars) in business income last year.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-12/11/content_756124.htm

USA, AZ, NOGALES

DECEMBER 13 2006.

GASOLINE THAT SPILLED INTO SEWAGE LINE IN MEXICO POSES THREAT

Emergency crews work quickly to contain the fuel as fumes could ignite

Emergency workers on both sides of the border were alarmed Thursday, Dec. 8, when gasoline spilled into the wastewater system in Nogales, Sonora and could possibly flow into the United States.

Strong odor reported

They worked quickly to contain the problem because they knew that the fumes could ignite. Guillermo Vasquez, director of civil protection for Nogales, Sonora, said that at 11:40 a.m., the 066 Emergency Call Center in Mexico received a report of a strong order of gasoline or fuel in the area of Obregon Avenue and Cinco de Febrero Street, about half a mile from the border.

When the fire department and other emergency personnel arrived it appeared that fuel had leaked into the tunnel at the Arroyo de los Nogales.

Officials took environmental readings and determined that fumes made up 10 percent of the air in the tunnel. According to Vasquez, "15 percent would be considered dangerous, but 10 percent was enough to be concerned."

Residents and businesses within two blocks of the area were evacuated. Investigators traced the fuel leak to a gas station within 600 meters of the area called Aero Plano. They found that a hose that brought fuel from the reservoir tanks to the pumps had broken.

The station was shut down and the leak was stopped, but not before 190 liters had escaped into the wash that runs into the United States. City of Nogales Public Works Director Manuel Tapia Jr. was notified and he alerted agencies on the Nogales Wash Emergency contact list.

Manager

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

John Light was notified. He is the project manager for the International Boundary Water Commission at the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rio Rico. Light said that when he received the call, it was thought that gasoline had spilled into the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), a pipeline that brings sewage from Nogales, Sonora, into Nogales and then to the Rio Rico the plant for treatment.

Fumes in pipe

If fuel fumes concentrated in the pipeline and found a point of ignition there could potentially be an explosion, Light said. It was quickly determined that the gasoline leaked into the wash, which was a concern but less dangerous.

"The wash is a bit different," he said, "we're still worried about fumes igniting there, but that would be more of a flash."

The Nogales Fire Department responded immediately when notified and began taking atmospheric readings on the U.S. side of the IOI. Light said they reported that fumes did not reach the Lower Explosive Limit.

"There were no readings above 5 parts per million, which is the alert limit for our purposes. The standard alert limit is 10 ppm," Light said.

Safety agencies in Mexico cleaned the wash with soap and water to dissolve any gasoline. No dangerous levels were detected in the United States, but crews placed petroleum absorbing booms in the wash as a precaution.

At 5:30 p.m., the NFD determined that any potential threat had passed and cleared the scene. At 1 a.m. Friday, Mexican officials allowed people to return and there were not reports of illness.

<http://www.nogalesinternational.com/articles/2006/12/12/news/news3.txt>

USA, NY, FORT DRUM

DECEMBER 13 2006.

FORT DRUM INVESTIGATING FUEL SPILL

Amy Ohler

Officials on Fort Drum are investigating a significant spill of fuel. The spill was first detected six months ago at the Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield. We're told pumps were immediately shut down at the oasis site and the airfield is now using fuel trucks to reload helicopters and other aircraft. Wells were also shut down. So far the fuel has been detected at ground level about 45 feet. Fort Drum has contracted out a private environmental contractor to determine just how bad the spill is.

http://news10now.com/content/all_news/watertownnorth_country/?ArID=89085&SecID=90

USA, OHIO, CINCINNATI

DECEMBER 13 2006.

HOME FUEL SPILL CLEANED UP

Hazmat workers and five fire departments responded to a Deerfield Township home Monday morning after a 250- gallon oil tank in the basement burst. The incident happened about 9:22 a.m. in the 9600 block of Ronbet Drive. A refueling truck was filling the storage tank for the oil furnace when the tank split open. Fire crews were able to contain all but 20 gallons of the fuel. They cleaned up the oil, which is considered a hazard because it is flammable. Furniture and carpet in the finished basement were destroyed. Damage is estimated at \$2,000.

<http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061212/NEWS01/612120407/1056/COL02>

SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG

DECEMBER 13 2006.

AIRPORT FUEL SPILL: HOW IT HAPPENED

Hila Bouzaglou

Conservationists panicked when more than a million litres of jet fuel spilled out from OR Tambo International Airport and flowed into the Blaauwpan Dam, east of Johannesburg, in early November. As a result, small animals died and soil was contaminated.

It has been a month since the leak occurred and the area is still being rehabilitated, a task that may take "a couple of years" and "cost millions", says the Airports Company South Africa (Acsa).

But while environmentalists rage against Acsa over the damage its alleged negligence has caused, losing 1,5-million litres -- accounting for most of the two million litres of fuel spilled over 16 months -- is nothing to Acsa when compared with the amount of fuel needed for aeroplanes and the amount that is stored in the "fuel farm" (which stores hectolitres of fuel), said Musa Dlamini, Acsa's environmental manager.

277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

A class-E commercial aeroplane, such as a Boeing 747, can hold more than 240 000 litres of fuel.

The Mail & Guardian Online visited the airport to see how it was possible for so much fuel to end up in a dam 1,5km away.

Fuel is pumped into the tip of an aeroplane wing at 3 000 litres per minute from a refuelling point situated next to a valve chamber.

A "fuel farm", which is situated in a far-off corner of the airport, pumps hectolitres of fuel to nine such valve chambers, which in turn supply the refuelling points.

It was inside a newly installed valve chamber, situated on the section of the airport's tarmac where aeroplanes park, where the leak started, but Acsa is still investigating the cause.

"Nobody can say whose fault it was. The gasket [part of the valve that connects two flanges together] could have been faulty from manufacturing. There are so many things to put in place: there's the technician, there's the support, the contractors," said Dlamini.

What Acsa does know is that on the evening of November 7, a gasket inside the dark chamber pit, which contains a small network of pipes and manual wheels amid the stench of petroleum, broke. Fuel filled the 30-cubic-metre chamber within hours.

The fuel then flowed into "sleeves", which are holes on the sides of the chamber that connect other cables to the chamber.

Because the sleeves are connected to a service tunnel, which is in turn connected to storm-water pipes, the fuel rode on the water's surface all the way to the protected wetland.

By the morning of November 8, a team of employees from pump company Rapid Allweiler, which was hired by Acsa, was working hard to build a temporary dam wall to block fuel from streaming into the dam. The team also pumped fuel out of the dam and took it to a recycling facility.

But by then the fuel had seeped into the soil below the dam's surface, said Nicole Barlow, chairperson of the Gauteng Environmental and Conservation Association.

Speaking to the M&G Online, Barlow said: "In 10 years, ecologists will still be feeling the effects of this spill. You can't dig out the whole dam. Between 4 000 and 5 000 cubic metres of soil have been polluted."

Acsa is currently performing tests to see how much damage has been done to the soil, but Barlow said Acsa will not make its report public.

The Gauteng Environmental and Conservation Association also spent R80 000 trying to save birds in the area. When it performed five autopsies on geese and ducks, the association found that the birds' insides had been eaten away. "The environment is totally toxic," said Barlow at the time of the spill.

Dlamini said that "obviously" the ducks died -- fuel is carcinogenic and that if humans were to drink fuel, it would burn through their insides. But he adds that the spill was an accident.

"When there is an accident and someone gets killed, what can you do?" he asked, replying to a question about the charges of criminal negligence against Acsa from water-quality management -- part of the Gauteng department of water affairs and forestry -- as well as the Gauteng Environmental and Conservation Association.

Acsa is in the process of installing new sensors in the valve chambers that will detect large amounts of hydrocarbon in the chamber. If too much hydrocarbon is detected, "the sensor will signal back to the airport's headquarters and they will be able to shut down that section of the fuel line", explains Dlamini.

In the meantime, it is conducting daily inspections of the valve chambers.

"I can't imagine how such a thing could happen ... it's a new installation," said Dlamini.

http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=293066&area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_national/

USA, CA, LOMPOC DECEMBER 13 2006.

OIL COMPANY CHARGED WITH POLLUTION

Samantha Yale

An energy company with local operations is facing more trouble.

The state attorney general's office has filed four misdemeanor counts of state water pollution against Greka Oil and Gas Inc.

The alleged violations of the California Fish and Game Code were filed in Santa Barbara County Superior Court in Santa Maria Wednesday. The Department of Fish and Game was the investigating agency, according to the attorney general's office.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The complaint alleged that Greka “unlawfully deposited in, or permitted petroleum or other deleterious substance to pass into, the state waters of California.”

Greka allegedly committed these violations Dec. 7, 2005, at 5017 Zaca Station Road in Los Olivos; May 4 and May 16 at 3851 Telephone Road in Santa Maria; and Aug. 10 at 6572 Dominion Road in Santa Maria, according to the complaint.

According to reports from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Los Olivos incident was caused by tank failure, and the spill went into an unnamed seasonal creek before it was contained.

The Santa Maria spill on May 4 was a pipeline leak, according to the report, and the petroleum went into an unnamed dry creek. The May 16 spill at the same location was reported by a caller as caused by a ruptured flow line, but it did not go into a waterway.

The Santa Maria spill Aug. 10 was due to old pipe repair and the petroleum went into a seasonal creek with a spring, according to the hazardous materials spill report.

In all but the May 16 Santa Maria incident, for which there is no indication either way, drinking water was not affected.

The case is due back in court Jan. 4.

The prosecutor in the case, Deputy Attorney General Christopher Crook, declined Monday to discuss the allegations.

Steve Martarano, spokesman for the Department of Fish and Game, said his department does not discuss cases they investigate once they are handed over to prosecutors.

The attorney representing Greka in the case, Steve Cochran, could not be reached for comment Monday.

Greka Energy is familiar with legal battles.

The corporation settled last month the remainder of a civil lawsuit filed in 2004 by the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, which accused it of more than 100 safety and environmental violations. Greka agreed to pay a total \$675,000 to the county and the county Air Pollution Control District in the settlements, according to a prosecutor in that case.

The U.S. Attorney's office began an investigation late last year into possible criminal acts committed by Greka, but there have been no public developments in that investigation since it began, U.S. Justice Department spokesman Thom Mrozek said Monday.

<http://www.lompocrecord.com/articles/2006/12/12/news/centralcoast/news04.txt>

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES

DECEMBER 13 2006.

OIL COMPANY FACES 9 CHARGES FOR SLUDGE LEAK

A not guilty plea was entered Tuesday on behalf of an oil company facing nine misdemeanor charges stemming from a sludge leak that displaced 130 residents and forced the closure of a street in downtown Los Angeles in late February.

The charges against St. James Oil Co. include causing a public nuisance, along with violations of the California water and fish and game codes, municipal codes, and health and safety air quality rules.

The leak was caused by a breach at the company's petroleum plant about two blocks away as workers tried to force pressurized heated water -- or rhine -- into the ground to squeeze out more petroleum from its injection wells, according to City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo.

Sludge eventually caused a portion of Olive Street to buckle and manholes to spew, filling a residential basement. It took 50 days to complete the street repairs.

About 130 residents were displaced from their homes for several days and many had to take up shelter in a local school, while Olive Street was completely off-limits to traffic for six weeks.

Some residents -- mostly low-income families with children -- complained of nausea, vomiting, dizziness and headaches, Delgadillo said.

The plant was immediately forced to discontinue its operations in the area after investigators learned of the leak, according to the city attorney.

A Jan. 18 pretrial hearing is scheduled.

http://cbs2.com/topstories/local_story_346162030.html

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, GA, GAINESVILLE

DECEMBER 14 2006.

DOUGLAS CO. REFINERY FIRE DOUSED

The investigation continued Wednesday after a fire in a 26,000 gallon tank at a refinery plant in Douglasville. The fire happened at the Young Refining Plant in Douglasville, just off Bankhead Highway. A tank of molten asphalt caught fire and caused an explosion just before 5 a.m. Wednesday. Witness David Kearney saw it all unfold while he was working at a motel just across the street. "It was frightening right at first, I guess I was expecting the worst," said Kerney. Douglas County firefighters worked fast to control the fire, pouring a steady stream of water that was able to put the blaze out in about two hours. There were no injuries, no evacuations or environmental repercussions from the fire. "When you're dealing with a refinery, with asphalt you always the possibility that something like that might happen. They know the back roads in, the front roads in and they were able to respond very, very quickly," said Wes Tallon, Douglas County spokesperson.

http://www.11alive.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=89035

USA, ME, SCARBOROUGH

DECEMBER 14 2006.

UNDERGROUND OIL SPILL INVESTIGATED BY DEP

Andrea Rose

Black oil was discovered seeping from two separate stormwater management drains on a vacant lot next to the Mousam River on High Street.

The substance is being contained at the outfall site while environmental officials investigate the source and the extent of the contamination. Officials say the oil originally came from a 550,000-gallon underground storage tank and pipeline in the former Goodall-Worsted Mill complex at the corner of High Street and Spruce Street.

One official estimated the amount of oil at the underground site is at least 7,000 gallons.

Oil and Hazardous Materials Specialist Stephen Brezinski of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has been on the case since August.

"Using some crude math, I estimated a low of 7,000 gallons of discharged oil we're dealing with under the ground," Brezinski wrote in an email to everyone involved in the project on Dec. 7. "Most of it from piping leaks, then some old tank leaks and overfills during fuel deliveries and transfers," he continued.

But, he said, it's not a new situation.

"It's been seeping in (to the Mousam River) for 10 to 15 years," he said in a telephone interview Monday. "It's an old spill. There's nothing new that's leaking."

According to Brezinski, the leak originally came from a 550,000-gallon underground storage tank once used by the Goodall Worsted Mills. He said the tank was emptied and filled with sand and other debris in 1995 when the old mill buildings were leveled.

The oil has since migrated and is seeping out of two separate stormwater drains on wooded property along the Mousam River on High Street.

When York County Community Action Corporation built its new office on the site several years ago, organization officials agreed to participate in the DEP's Voluntary Response Action Program. The program helps redevelop contaminated properties by providing liability protections to those who voluntarily investigate and/or remediate potentially contaminated properties. These properties are also called Brownfields.

Although officials from the town of Sanford and Environmental Protection Agency were aware the oil existed, they first noticed an increase in the volume late this summer when they were evaluating riverfront properties as part of the Brownfields assessment process.

Despite the fact that some of the product has entered the Mousam River, Gulnac insists there is no health hazard for neighborhood residents.

"It's not the public drinking water supply," he said.

Brezinski confirmed that there are no wells in the area, but voiced his concern about the effect on the river.

"This will have an effect on wildlife; that's why we're trying to control it," he said, but added it would be difficult to measure the impact the spill would have on fish and the habitat in general.

Analysis of soil samples and other test results are expected to be completed by the Maine Environmental Lab by Dec. 14, Brezinski said. As soon as he receives the test results, Brezinski said he hopes to hold a meeting with town officials, the Brownfields team and representatives from YCCAC as early as next week.

<http://www.keepmecurrent.com/Government/story.cfm?storyID=29269>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

AUSTRALIA, NSW, COFFS HARBOUR

DECEMBER 14 2006.

ENVIRONMENT DEPT CONSIDERS BEST OPTIONS FOR FUEL CONTAMINATION CLEAN-UP

The Department of Environment and Conservation says it cannot set a time frame for the clean-up of fuel contamination in Coramba, north-west of Coffs Harbour.

The department says unleaded petrol leaked from an underground tank in the town more than four years ago.

The department's Craig Lamberton says the fuel is flowing under more than 30 homes.

Mr Lamberton says ways to clean up the petrol include installing a trench to clean the water seeping from the river bank, excavating the most polluted areas, or digging wells.

"Those options could be fairly disruptive of people's lives, so we need to work through a set of options that are practical, least disruption to land owners and also the greatest chance of working," he said.

"It's probably going to be a staged approach. We probably need to get consent for it, so that's going to take a little while.

"So it's not unfortunately going to start tomorrow, even though I think everyone would like this to happen, but at least now we've got a good information base and a good proposal to go forward."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/items/200612/1811227.htm?midnorthcoast>

CANADA, CALGARY

DECEMBER 15 2006.

CRITICAL INJURIES FOLLOWING INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT NEAR SYLVAN LAKE

An industrial accident near the central Alberta community of Sylvan Lake has left a 40-year-old man in Calgary hospital fighting for his life. The blast occurred Monday at a business that repairs storage tanks. The worker was grinding inside one of them. It's believed emergency crews spent about 45 minutes trying to free the man. He was flown by STARS to Foothills Hospital, where he's listed in critical condition with severe facial injuries.

http://www.770chqr.com/news/news_local.cfm?cat=7428218912&rem=54158&red=80121823aPBIny&wids=410&gi=1&gm=news_local.cfm

USA, ME, PORTLAND, SANFORD

DECEMBER 16 2006.

OIL LEAK FROM CLOSED MILL SPREADS FAR AFIELD

Noel K. Gallagher

A 1930s-era concrete oil tank on the site of a long-closed mill leaked at least 10,000 gallons of oil into the surrounding soil, environmental officials say, and the oil is showing up in storm drains that dump into the Mousam River.

The 500,000-gallon tank served the Goodall Worsted Mill, part of a large complex of mills along the Mousam River that was broken up into parcels and sold to multiple owners.

The tank was drained and filled with soil and debris in 1995, and the state Department of Environmental Protection gave the area a clean bill of health after removing more than 1,000 cubic yards of oil-saturated soil, officials said.

"They thought they got it all (but today) you can see blobs of oil in the joints of the storm drain" just across the street from the old tank's site, said Stephen Brezinski, the lead DEP investigator on the project. "This is stuff that has already leaked."

The tank is huge -- 100 feet long, 30 feet wide and 10 feet deep. The oil is on top of the water table, which is 5 to 20 feet below the surface, depending on where one drills, Brezinski said.

Investigators still are trying to determine the scope of the contamination, but Brezinski said 10,000 gallons would be a conservative estimate.

The main contamination site is the York County Community Action building, which was built in 2000 above the oil tank, Brezinski said.

DEP began its investigation in August, when a caretaker at a nearby mill reported seeing oil in the river.

Brezinski said the investigation showed oil-saturated soil around the tank, near a 700-foot pipeline to a nearby railway, and under two streets. More wells will be drilled next week as investigators try to determine how far the contamination has spread.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

To contain oil flowing into the river, the DEP has set up several sandbag dams near storm drains, allowing water to flow under the dam while holding oil on the surface. The DEP removes the oil several times a week.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials are also involved, because the contamination has reached a navigable waterway.

Barbara Crider, York County Community Action's deputy director, said DEP officials have assured the agency that there is no concern about the safety of workers in the building.

"It was a big surprise to us when they appeared and asked if they could do some testing. We didn't have any indication of a problem," Crider said, adding that DEP officials had said the site wasn't contaminated when the agency bought it.

Crider said that a meeting with various environmental officials is scheduled to be held in two weeks so they can discuss the investigation.

DEP spent \$65,000 on the 1995 cleanup, but the official overseeing the project died before documenting the effort, making it hard to reconstruct what happened, Brezinski said.

"They didn't drill (monitoring wells). We have no photos. He passed away before he could write a report," he said. "It wasn't necessarily followed up on."

Town councilors were first told about the issue about two weeks ago during a presentation of a brownfields grant that the town is seeking, said council Chairwoman Anne-Marie Mastraccio.

Brezinski said the investigation will last through the winter, with DEP officials at the site two or three times a week. A cleanup could begin in the spring.

Brezinski said the cost of the investigation and initial cleanup may be as much as \$150,000 while a plan is developed. The DEP is paying the cost of the cleanup so far.

The cleanup will be "very hard" because the contamination has spread so far, particularly under the streets and some buildings, he said.

"We're going to have to do a lot of thinking before we do anything on this," Brezinski said.

The DEP plans to work with town officials, property owners and the EPA to develop a cleanup plan. Cleanup cost estimates vary depending on the extent of the work. Simple efforts such as replacing storm drains and excavating soil could take less than a month, but digging up streets would take longer and cost more.

Another neighbor in the old mill complex said that, so far, his property is unaffected.

"This comes as a huge surprise," said Jonathan Morse, who bought what were the Goodall Worsted Mill administration buildings in 1999. His property is one or two parcels northwest of the main pollution site. The DEP has tested the soil at the site, he said.

"We've said to just tell us what we need to do, and we'll cooperate."

<http://pressherald.maintoday.com/news/local/061215oilspill.html>

USA, PA, OIL CITY

DECEMBER 17 2006.

CREWS CONTINUE OIL SPILL CLEANUP - WORKERS ARE STILL LOOKING FOR POOLS OF OIL ALONG A TRIBUTARY OF TIONESTA CREEK.

Sheila Boughner-Blair

Cleanup efforts are continuing following Tuesday's oil spill along a tributary of Tionesta Creek in Forest County.

A faulty valve in an oil storage tank caused more than 100 barrels (or roughly 4,200 gallons) of crude oil to leak from the tank into a surrounding dike. Some of the oil went through the sides of the dike, passed under Route 666 and entered an unnamed tributary about two miles above Kellettsville.

Tionesta Creek feeds Tionesta Lake, and by Wednesday afternoon the spill had made its way into the lake, Freda Tarbell, a spokesman with the state Department of Environmental Protection's Meadville office, said Wednesday.

The spill was discovered Tuesday morning by two Tionesta Lake park rangers.

East Resources Inc. of Warrendale, which operates the tank, hired EAP Industries of Titusville to clean up after the spill.

The crews placed booms across the creek above the Kellettsville Bridge and Nebraska Bridge to trap the oil, and have been flushing the site of the spill with water as part of the cleanup process, Tarbell said Friday.

Workers also transported equipment to the site that will be used take out the old dike and install a new dike and containment system, she said.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

They have also been working from boats on Tionesta Creek to collect additional oil from the stream. Crews are still recovering oil from the site of the spill, and the amount collected will be used to estimate how much oil entered the creek, Tarbell said.

She said there is still no sign of dead fish resulting from the spill.

The relatively high water levels should have a "dilution effect" by moving the spill along and dispersing it, Tarbell said.

Workers are still looking for pools of oil, and the pace of the cleanup will depend on what they find, she said.

While fines "will probably be discussed as things move along," the discussion is "not yet at the point," she said.

Along with the DEP, the state Fish and Boat Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the 3,184-acre manmade lake located about a mile above the creek's confluence with the Allegheny River, are assisting with the response to the spill.

<http://www.thederrick.com/stories/12162006-6008.shtml>

ALBANIA, TIRANA

DECEMBER 19 2006.

ALBANIAN FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE FUEL STORAGE BLAZE FOR 30 HOURS

A massive fire at a fuel storage facility in northwestern Albania raged for nearly 30 hours before Albanian and Greek firefighters managed to bring it under control Monday, the Interior and Environment ministries said.

One of three storage tanks exploded at the facility in the town of Shengjin, 60 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of capital, Tirana, and at least seven Albanian firefighters were injured in the blast and from the fumes, officials said.

Police said they evacuated scores of residents from nearby homes, and set up checkpoints along roads leading to the area to keep people away.

About 1,000 tons of oil leaked from the storage tanks, polluting the waters of Knalle Lagoon, authorities said.

The Environment Ministry said the leak had caused serious damage, while environmental groups voiced fears that the oil could leak into the nearby Adriatic Sea.

Environment Ministry spokesman Tom Thercaj said authorities would block the link between the lagoon and the sea in an effort to prevent the spill from spreading.

It was not immediately clear what caused the fire or the leak, and authorities had launched an investigation.

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=52587>

USA, TX, PARKER CO, SPRINGTOWN

DECEMBER 20 2006.

BOY IGNITES CRUDE OIL, DIES IN EXPLOSION

Brett Hoffman

A 14-year-old boy was killed in a fiery explosion after he ignited a tank of crude oil Monday afternoon, authorities said.

The boy climbed on top of the tank, lifted the lid and dropped a lighted object inside, causing an explosion, Parker County Fire Marshal Shawn Scott said.

The explosion destroyed the tank and spilled the oil, which continued to burn.

The teenager was with a 15-year-old boy, who was treated for minor injuries at Weatherford Regional Medical Center and released, officials said.

Neither boy had been identified by late Monday.

The tank, owned by Canadian oil company EnCana, is near a well that produces both oil and gas. It contained about 45,000 gallons of crude oil, officials said.

"It was oil that they stored until they can come back and collect it," Scott said.

The 15-year-old told sheriff's deputies that his companion lit a piece of paper, Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler said. The boy told deputies that he was standing below the tank when the oil was ignited. They went up to this tank and messed around," Fowler said. "It ignited and killed one of them."

The tank is about two miles west of the intersection of Texas 199 and Farm Road 51, just outside Springtown, officials said. Firefighters responded to the call about 3:40 p.m.

277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Students were initially kept inside Springtown High School to protect them from the smoke.

Officials used a Reverse 911 call to alert residents to stay indoors when possible because of the smoke until about 2 1/2 hours after the explosion.

At least three fire departments responded, including Springtown and Poolville.

<http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/16272916.htm>

USA, FLA, NAPLES

DECEMBER 23 2006.

UNDERGROUND TANK REMOVED AT AIRPORT MAY HAVE CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER

John Henderson

An underground tank that airport officials suspect might have contaminated soil and groundwater on Naples Municipal Airport property was being removed Thursday.

The Naples Airport Authority at its Thursday meeting endorsed the removal of an effluent separating tank that has been used for years by Continental Aviation Services owner Jim Lennane, who is also an authority commissioner.

The underground concrete tank, designed to contain potential contaminants flowing from an aviation business, has been taking runoff from the business for decades. Airport officials say they are disturbed that Continental officials acknowledge the tank has not been flushed out for years.

The authority on Thursday also endorsed the "declaration of emergency" made by executive director Ted Soliday on Dec. 4, which allowed him to spend more than \$25,000 for tests to determine if there has been any contamination from the tank.

Soliday's move prompted a livid Lennane to go before the Naples City Council earlier this month and criticize Soliday's declaration as alarmist.

The airport authority on Thursday also gave staff permission to order a second round of soil testing if needed between now and the authority's meeting on Jan. 18.

A firm the authority hired has been taking soil samples around a 2,000-pound effluent separating tank; results are expected back next week.

Lennane, who was not at Thursday's meeting, said in a previous interview that the tank was disturbed when workers were moving soil for a new sheriff's operations and aviation center next to his business.

When workers dug around the tank earlier this month, a black, gooey liquid seeped out of it.

An environmental engineering firm hired by the authority has been checking soil samples around the tank for petroleum products, benzene and other potential contaminants related to a jet business.

The groundwater at the site is just a few feet below the surface, and Naples Bay is within a few hundred feet.

Earlier this week, the Department of Environmental Protection was at the site to take tests. Continental Aviation Services also has hired its own firm to take its samples.

Lennane's lawyer, Larry Farese, defended Continental's actions, noting the tank was installed more than two decades ago by a prior tenant.

Airport officials say they were unaware of the tank, which is on property not covered under Lennane's lease.

But Farese said the authority knew the tank was being installed in 1979 and has known about it ever since. He said because it has been used for 27 years with airport officials' knowledge, Lennane has acquired a "prescriptive easement" to continue to operate the tank.

"In an effort to avoid conflict, my client has elected not to bring a lawsuit to get an injunction to stop the removal of the tank that is occurring at this very minute," he told the authority.

But Farese said Lennane should not be expected to pay for the removal of the tank, which could cost \$70,000 to \$80,000.

"It is our position that CAS (Continental Aviation Services) will not willingly pay for the cost regarding the removal or the replacement of the tank," he said.

He also insisted the tank is not causing an environmental problem.

"This is an anti-pollution device which prevents pollution into the system," he said.

Lennane and another Continental official recently said their tests show only a minor clean-up is necessary.

Authority attorney Joseph McMackin told authority members the outflow pipe to the tank has been capped. He said the tank has to go.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

“At some point they should begin to make arrangements to replace this tank,” McMackin said. “They need the tank. It is their responsibility.”

Soliday said the tank would not be allowed today under current environmental regulations.

“It does not go into a city sewer system. It does not meet existing specifications, nor does it meet any of our existing airport stormwater pollution prevent plans or permits,” he said.

http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2006/dec/22/underground_tank_removed_airport_may_have_contamin/?local_news

USA, MA, SOMERVILLE

DECEMBER 27 2006.

HUGE OIL SPILL AT HIGH SCHOOL

An estimated 700 gallon oil spill was discovered today at Somerville High School. The leak was traced back by officials to a faulty feeder line on the school's underground 10,000 gallon tank. The potential cost to Somerville for the remediation and repair work is \$75,000, according to CommTank, the remediation team. CommTank will be working around the clock to clean up the spill and have the heating system operational in two to four days, in time for students to return next Monday. The building has been evacuated of the few staff who were still working during this holiday week and is being ventilated and negative air machines are being used to remove vapors. City employees discovered the problem at 7 a.m. today.

http://somervillenews.typepad.com/the_somerville_news/2006/12/huge_oil_spill_.html