Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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By learning about the misfortunes of others, it is STI's hope to educate the public by creating a greater awareness of the hazards with storage and use of petroleum and chemicals. Please refer to the many industry standards and to the fire and building codes for further guidance on the safe operating practices with hazardous liquids. Thanks and credit for content are given to Dangerous Goods-Hazmat Group Network.

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

USA, PA, LEHIGH COUNTY
SEPTEMBER 28 2008.
ETHANOL USE FUELS PENNSYLVANIA FIREFIGHTERS' WORRIES
Patrick Lester

Some firefighters in southern Lehigh County fear they could be reduced to helpless spectators if called to fight a fire at Buckeye Pipeline in Lower Macungie and Upper Milford townships.

Fire officials who have long had concerns about their ability to put out a blaze at the fuel distribution hub on Buckeye Road are growing increasingly uneasy since the company began using ethanol at its 180-acre property in June.

They say they may not have the equipment -- the special foam that they need to fight an ethanol fire is about two hours away -- or an adequate water supply to do their job.

It's a dilemma that's getting the attention of local government officials representing residents who stand to be evacuated if and when a fire occurs.

"I don't think it's a big secret to say that if any one of those tanks catch fire, it would be one heck of a fire," said Daniel DeLong, Upper Milford's manager.

"The concern is they won't be able to put out a fire," E. Keller Kline III, chairman of the Lower Macungie commissioners, said at a recent board meeting.

Buckeye spokesman Stephen R. Milbourne said representatives from his company are willing to listen to the concerns; a meeting to hash them out is scheduled for Oct. 15. He said the company already meets Department of Transportation fire protection regulations and he's confident it can adequately handle a fire.

Regulations require that "each operator shall maintain adequate firefighting equipment at each pump station and breakout tank area." The equipment must be in proper working condition, marked as firefighting equipment and easily accessible.

Milbourne couldn't recall a serious fire or evacuation in his 19 years with the company.

"Clearly, we try to operate our business safely and hope we do not have an occurrence," he said. "Our emphasis is certainly on prevention. We believe we are adequately prepared in the unlikely event that there would be a problem."

The firefighters aired their most recent concerns after Buckeye, which distributes fuel via pipeline and stores it in tanks, began adding ethanol that retailers need to meet fuel standards.

The company now stores ethanol in one of its many storage tanks. The product is shipped by rail and received at a railroad siding at the Buckeye complex.

Firefighters need a special foam to fight ethanol-fueled fires and Buckeye, which at one time kept the foam at its property, no longer has it.

Milbourne said the foam has a "shelf life and environmental concerns" and that Buckeye donated its supply to the county years ago. He said Buckeye contracts with a company that has foam available in the Philadelphia area and in Paulsboro, N.J. He said it would take about two hours for the foam to be transported to Buckeye.

Firefighters also are concerned about the amount of available water at the Buckeye property, according to a letter to Lower Macungie Township officials penned by Brent McNabb, assistant chief of the Lower Macungie Fire Company, after officials toured part of the property on Aug. 5.

McNabb wrote that there is only one fire hydrant near Buckeye and that it "cannot supply enough water to

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Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

provide fire [protection] for this facility."

The state Department of Environmental Protection has ordered Buckeye to stop using one supply well because of groundwater contamination at the property. An estimated 48,000 gallons of gasoline discharged from a storage tank in Oct. 2005, prompting an environmental cleanup that continues.

Mark Carmon, a spokesman for the DEP's Northeast Regional office, said the agency does not want the well used because it could affect the contamination plume.

Eric Supey, a manager for DEP's Environmental Cleanup Program, explained the concerns in a letter to fire officials.

"Since the fire suppression well is capable of pumping at a very high rate ... it is possible that it could draw contaminated water ... into the deep aquifer which could result in the unfortunate scenario where the well would actually be adding gasoline to a fire," Supey wrote in the letter, obtained by The Morning Call.

McNabb contends that Buckeye has made "absolutely no effort to correct the problems." He wrote that a major fire at Buckeye would require a large evacuation that would include several housing developments, as well as multiple schools and Lower Macungie's municipal building and library. Portions of Macungie, Emmaus and Upper Milford also would be affected.

Among the concerns in a large-scale fire are hazardous gasoline fumes spreading to residential areas.

Milbourne said Buckeye staff "clearly believes" firefighters will have enough water. He said fire companies have access to two ponds and a stream on the property in addition to a 12-inch water line extended to the property in 2005.

"The worst case scenario suggests we need about 2,000 gallons per minute of water to fight what they call a worst-case scenario fire," Milbourne said. "We have [a water line] that gives us 1,500 gallons per minute."

Lower Macungie fire officials declined requests for interviews. Officials from Vera Cruz Fire Company in Upper Milford did not return phone calls seeking comment.

David Lesak, the former chief of both the Lower Macungie Township Fire Company and the Lehigh County Hazardous Materials Team who now serves on the township's public safety commission, said the water supply at Buckeye has "always been an issue over there."

He said the foam is crucial.

"In terms of fighting those kind of tank fires, you have to wait until you have an adequate supply of foam," he said. "You can't start until you have that available."

"And if you don't have the water, you can't do much of anything."

http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61084&sectionId=46

USA, OK, TULSA
SEPTEMBER 30 2008.
TULSANS LUCKY TO ESCAPE GAS STATION FIRE

Jerry Giordano

Several people are lucky to be alive after an explosion at a Tulsa gas station. It happened Saturday afternoon at the Sinclair gas station near west 41st and Union Avenue. Witnesses gave News Channel 8 details of how everything unfolded. "Here come a truck plowing around and banged into a parked car, and swerved into the gas pump--and kaboom," explained one eyewitness. The accident sent owner Dong Huong scrambling. "When I heard boom, and hand phone to customer, and call 9-1-1," said Huong. Heavy smoke and flames were everywhere. "All I seen were flames bursting, growing, the flames were as tall as the building," said Russell Biaselli, who witnessed everything. Fire fighters had to pull the two victims from their cars. Even so -- things here could have been much, much worse. "Obviously the fire is fed by gas and the pumps, but the owner reacted quickly and shut the pumps off," said Tulsa Fire Captain Michael Baker. Then come embraces of relief, knowing if it were not for that quick thinking owner the ending could have looked very different. James Crow is listed in critical condition. His wife has been treated and released from the hospital.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, CA, BARSTOW SEPTEMBER 23 2008. 

JET FUEL SERVICE AT AIRPORT SHUT DOWN - DAGGETT AVIATION LOSING THOUSANDS DURING TANK REPAIRS

“Obviously we have to get our fuel somewhere else. ...It’s more of an inconvenience, but a minor one at that. It’s not like we’re operating without fuel.”Chief Warrant Officer James Warner, NTC Aviation Company, Barstow-Daggett Airport

Alan Hamm estimates his family’s business in losing a thousand dollars a day. Hamm and his family own Daggett Aviation, a fuel company at the Barstow-Daggett Airport in Daggett. On Sept. 11, the county shut down their jet fuel tank, telling them they needed to bring the fuel system into compliance. “Just a thousand dollars a day,” Hamm said when asked how much the business is losing. “Hopefully it will just be down for a week or so.”

Angela Samayoa, a hazardous materials specialist with the San Bernardino County Fire Department division of underground storage tank compliance, said she became alerted to potential violations at the Daggett Aviation in March 2008. An internal pipe had ruptured, she said, risking soil contamination, and proper containment methods were not in use at the airport.

“They wouldn’t have been red-tagged if we didn’t see it as a serious risk to the environment,” she said. Samayoa was out at Daggett Aviation on Monday collecting soil samples. She said to resume jet fuel service, the company has to replace a five foot section of pipe and install above ground drip pan like containment devices wherever the company receives or dispenses fuel.

The airport still has a working aviation fuel pump. That pump, however, also needs similar upgrades and repairs, Samayoa said.

Daggett Aviation does not have many customers for its jet fuel, but the one they do have is a big one. Just down the airport’s runway from the fuel tank sits the Army’s fleet of helicopters. The helicopters support training operations at Fort Irwin, a mere 20-minute flight by Black Hawk, and account for 99 percent of Daggett Aviation’s jet fuel sales.

Chief Warrant Officer James Warner said it was an inconvenience not to have jet fuel on hand at the airport. Birds take off from the desert strip daily and now must stop at the Bicycle Lake fueling station at Fort Irwin. If the helicopter is flying elsewhere, pilots fill up at the Southern California Logistics Airport or the Apple Valley Airport.

Hamm hopes that the jet fuel service will be up and running again in a little more than a week. Samayoa said it could take about two weeks, but Warner and his crews with hope it is sooner.

Fact files

- 2,000 Gallons of jet fuel used daily by the Army during a National Training Center rotation
- 8 Missions flown daily by the Army during a National Training Center rotation
- 208 Gallons of jet fuel a UH-1 Huey helicopter can hold
- 5 Number of fuel tanks on a Black Hawk helicopter


CANADA, ONTARIO, DON MILLS SEPTEMBER 30 2008.

REFINERY ROW WORKER DIES AFTER ACCIDENT

Jamie Hall

A 48-year-old man who was seriously injured last week in an industrial accident on Refinery Row has died. The man was an employee of Bantrel Construction, which was contracted by Petro-Canada, said Barrie Harrison of Occupational Health and Safety. The accident occurred around 3:30 a.m. on Sept. 22. The employee was moving a "zoom boom," which is similar to a forklift, from one location to another on the job site. Harrison said the machine rolled and the man was thrown from the boom into the ditch. He died from his injuries Saturday. Occupational Health and Safety is continuing its investigation.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, KY, LONDON
OCTOBER 2 2008.

KENTUCKY WAL-MART EXPLOSION CAUGHT ON TAPE

An explosion outside a Wal-Mart in eastern Kentucky last week was caught on tape. It happened in London, Ky., when a man pulled up into the parking lot with a leaking propane tank in the back of his truck. Investigators think a buildup of static electricity sparked the explosion. The driver, Michael Mize, was knocked back by the force of the blast, which also rattled store shelves and knocked down light fixtures. Wal-Mart provided video from the store security system. The store was closed for about an hour.


SCOTLAND, WEST LOTHIAN
OCTOBER 4 2008. VAN EXPLOSION SPARKS MASSIVE INFERNO ON PETROL FORECOURT

Scott McAngus and Fay Winter

An investigation is under way into a huge fire which engulfed a petrol station forecourt, forcing customers to flee for their lives.

The blaze was started by an explosion from machinery inside a white Transit van as contractors carried out work in the middle of the forecourt at the Morrisons petrol station in Almondvale Road, Livingston.

There were around ten customers, including a young girl, on the forecourt when the explosion happened at 3.50pm yesterday. One woman was said to have been knocked of her feet by the force of the blast and the whole area was engulfed in flames within a few minutes.

Incredibly, there were no serious injuries and only the two pumps nearest the van were damaged, while the forecourt roof was extensively burned.

It is thought the contractors employed by Morrisons were operating the machinery to transfer petrol from one underground tank to another shortly before the explosion. The Health and Safety Executive is now leading the probe into what happened.

Gavin McRoberts, from Fauldhouse, who was visiting his mother in Livingston, was filling his Vauxhall Corsa up at the time.

He said: "I just heard a big bang and looked round, but I didn't see any fire at first. The side of the van was pushed out because of the explosion.

"My first instinct was to get away and I walked past the back of the van to go to the other side of the forecourt where everybody else was heading and that's when I saw the fire inside.

"I got a bit of a shock and it was only a matter of minutes before the flames were massive. It was lucky there was nobody injured."

Another man from Fauldhouse was filling his pick-up truck directly across from the van when he heard the loud explosion.

"When I turned round, I saw smoke coming from the van and within seconds the machinery inside had caught fire and the side of the van was blown out the way," he said.

"The explosion blew the door off on the other side as well.

"About 30 seconds later the flames were huge, and within two or three minutes the whole area was engulfed.

"If there was any sort of leak (of petrol) coming out of the pumps at the van, the whole place would have exploded.

"There was a small girl on that side of the van in a car who got quite upset and scared when it happened, but the fire crews were here very quickly and got it under control. They were brilliant."

Bill MacDonald, who was working just round the corner, said: "I heard the explosion and then all the blues and twos. The front of the filling station is charred and black with the smoke."

Officers from West Lothian Council's building standards department said the area would be sealed off today while an investigation was carried out.

A spokeswoman for Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service said: "The explosion started in a commercial van on the forecourt. It appears the van was carrying out work where petrol was being decanted into one tank from another. It appears that this is the cause of the fire, but an investigation is still ongoing in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive.
Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

"The van was totally destroyed by the fire and there was some damage to the underside of the roof of the garage. One lady was knocked off her feet by the force of the blast and was treated by paramedics at the scene but suffered no injuries."

http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/topstories/Van-explosion-sparks-massive-inferno.4555799.jp

USA, N.Y. PAINTED POST
OCTOBER 4 2008.
DRESSER-RAND EXPLOSION INVESTIGATION

The Dresser-Rand Company says it is still investigating just what caused an explosion its plant in Painted Post last weekend. Two employees were injured in Sunday’s explosion. They were testing high-pressure helium tanks when a metal part came off the tank and the explosion occurred. The company has contacted OSHA inspectors and formed its own team to investigate the incident. Gerald Leach, a 35-year employee with Dresser Rand, was operated on at Arnot Ogden Hospital. The second employee was not seriously injured.
http://news10now.com/content/all_news/125274/dresser-rand-explosion-investigation/Default.aspx

USA, AK, PRUDHOE BAY
OCTOBER 4 2008.
BP, ALASKA OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING NORTH SLOPE GAS PIPE BLOWOUT
Elizabeth Bluemink
The state has asked federal regulators to step in and help investigate the rupture of a high-pressure natural gas pipeline at Prudhoe Bay.
The Sept. 29 rupture broke apart the steel pipe and flung a piece of metal across the tundra in the nation’s largest oil field. No one was hurt.
The state Petroleum Systems Integrity Office has begun an investigation.
The agency has asked a federal agency, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, to assist. "The state's in charge of the investigation. We’re supporting them," said Dennis Hinnah, who heads the pipeline administration’s Anchorage office.
The pipeline administration began to ramp up its Alaska work following leaks from corroded, BP-operated pipelines in 2006. Ultimately, those incidents led to BP's Alaska subsidiary to plead guilty to a federal misdemeanor pollution crime. The company was put on probation for three years and fined $20 million in penalties.
Since the spills, the pipeline administration has ordered BP to improve pipeline monitoring and upkeep. BP is required to file monthly status reports.
The cause of the last month’s pipeline rupture remains undisclosed.
The pipeline carried natural gas to a well pad for injection underground. When the pipe ruptured, safety systems shut down the flow of gas automatically, BP spokesman Steve Rinehart said.
The rupture forced the shutdown of some wells producing about 5,000 barrels a day. That’s less than 1 percent of total North Slope production.

USA, NJ, HAMILTON
OCTOBER 5 2008.
FARM SOILED BY OIL: ONE ESTIMATE SAYS 3 MILLION GALLONS CLOGGED IN PIPE
Jack Knar
Authorities closed a national diesel fuel pipeline early this afternoon after construction workers struck the pipeline. A drill bit broke the into the pipe as workers worked on the New Jersey Turnpike expansion project off Yardville Allentown Road.
Mayor John Bencivengo’s office said about 1,000 gallons of fuel had leaked from the pipeline. Officials closed the pipeline between Bordentown and Cranbury to help control the leak.
Currently, a township front loader is on the scene helping to create earth beams in an attempt to contain the spilled fuel as authorities work quickly to clean up the spill.
Fire officials responded to a hazmat call about 11:45 a.m. Assessing the scene, the Groveville Fire Company requested the township’s hazardous material team to come bringing plenty of pans and booms.
The affected pipeline is possibly the Colonial Pipeline that stretches from Linden to the Gulf of Mexico and carries about 100 million gallons of fuel a day to the south and eastern portion of the United States.
435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444
Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

http://www.trentonian.com/site/news.cfm?dept_id=44551&newsid=20150667

USA, IA, CLINTON
OCTOBER 5 2008.
METHANOL VAPORS LIKELY CAUSE OF BIODIESEL PLANT FIRE
Steven Martens
A buildup of methanol vapors in a recovery column was the likely cause of a fire Tuesday at a Clinton biodiesel plant, the company reported Friday. The fire was reported at 2:40 a.m. Tuesday at the Nova Biosource Fuels plant at 5640 44th Ave. S. Firefighters from Clinton and Low Moor were on the scene more than four hours. The company estimated damage at $500,000 to equipment at the plant. One firefighter suffered a minor steam burn while battling the fire. The plant was closed for maintenance at the time of the fire. It will likely take at least 60 to 90 days to repair the damage, the company said in a news release.
http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2008/10/03/news/local/doc48e6e0ff984bc428065239.txt?spos=1

USA, NY, VILLAGE OF BARKER
OCTOBER 6 2008.
MAN NEAR DEATH WHILE PUMPING GAS
Ellen Maxwell
A man from Barker has an amazing story to tell of a near brush with death on Wednesday.
William Hall was struck by lightning, as he was pumping gas into his truck. Amazingly, it was all caught on tape. The video is remarkable. A security camera at the K & K Food Mart in Barker captured a lightning bolt striking the parking lot. Unfortunately, for William Hall he was pumping gas at the time.
Another security camera shows Hall paying for gas then heading out to the pump. A few minutes later you see the flash from inside the store and Hall falls over.
"I realized what happened, because I felt the current go through my body before I blacked out," said Hall.
Amanda Lamb from K & K Food Mart said, "There was a big light. You couldn't see the parking lot because it was so bright."
Chief Ross Annable from Barker Police said, "Which was fortunate that it was not a direct strike. It struck the parking lot and traveled through Mr. Hall." Hall said he saw a bright orange light then a bright white light and then total darkness. He was unconscious for about five minutes.
"I think because I was actually holding on to the pump itself, the nozzle, and machines are well grounded, that that probably saved my life," said Hall.
Chief Annable said, "It could have been terrible if there had been any kind of gas around that could have caused a large explosion in addition to the lightning struck. So, yeah, very lucky."
Apart from some small blisters on his elbow, Hall doesn't have any physical signs of the lightning strike. He said everyone is telling him to play the lottery.
"I wish I knew the numbers that were left on the pump before I blacked out. I'd probably play those," he said.
He went back to the same gas station the next day, to finish filling up. He said the close call won't scare him away from thunderstorms.
"I love watching lightning. I love storm chasers. I love going out there, and just, I try to get as close as possible but I never thought I'd get that close.
Hall said every muscle in his body was sore and he had a slight headache. Other than that, he felt fine.
He wanted to thank everyone who rushed to his help when this happened on Wednesday.

USA, HI, HONOLULU
OCTOBER 10 2008.
STATE REVEALS CIRCUMSTANCES OF FATAL BLAST
Leila Fujimori
The company that employed a 23-year-old Waipahu man, killed after an oil tank exploded Tuesday at Campbell Industrial Park, was contracted to weld rails onto a waste-oil tank, said Ryan Markham, spokesman for the state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.
Police reported the man was tacking or welding a metal footbridge when he stopped to ask a co-worker to
adjust a welding machine, seconds before the tank exploded a few feet away. The force sent him into an adjacent business parking lot.

An estimated 8,000 to 9,000 gallons of reconditioned motor oil was in the tank when it exploded Tuesday, claiming the life of Sean Miguel Norva, according to the state Department of Health's Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office.

The oil, however, did not catch fire in the explosion, but the blast apparently threw the man about 100 feet away, hurling the 9,500-gallon tank over a concrete wall and 30 feet away from its original location, leaving three others with minor injuries.

Norva was working at Philip Services Hawaii at its Komohana Street location.

"He's an absolutely excellent worker as far as working and performing jobs well," said Macario Panajon, Norva's boss and owner of Panco, a fabrication and welding company.

He said the company's employees are a tight-knit group.

"We're gathering to support each other and first and foremost to support the family," Panajon said.

He said he visited Norva's family members Tuesday night and they were grieving.

Panajon said he had been advised by investigators not to speak about the accident because of the ongoing investigations.

The Medical Examiner's Office determined Norva died of multiple internal injuries due to an industrial accident.

Jeffery Deer, president of Bonded Materials, which is next door to Philip Services, said his employee who was injured was simply unlucky.

The employee, who was not working for Philip Services, received minor injuries when the tank exploded and landed on Bonded's property, he said.

He was released from the hospital that day.

Two other men, who worked for subcontractors of Philip Services, were on Philip's property at the time of the blast. They also received minor injuries.

A gate welder who works next door to Panco in Kapolei said the company often handles dangerous jobs or works with flammable material.

The Honolulu Fire Department continued its investigation yesterday to determine the cause of the explosion.

The Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Division investigators combed the surrounding area yesterday for damage to nearby businesses.

The Health Department has contracted two companies - Pacific Commercial Services and Hawaiian Steam - for the extensive cleanup.


USA, WASHINGTON DC
OCTOBER 10 2008.
NEW CSB SAFETY VIDEO, 'HALF AN HOUR TO TRAGEDY,' HIGHLIGHTS TRAINING NEEDS FOR PROPANE EMERGENCIES

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today released a new 23-minute safety video, 'Half an Hour to Tragedy,' based on the deadly propane gas explosion at the Little General convenience store in Ghent, West Virginia, in January 2007.

The CSB's final written report on the tragedy, which killed two emergency responders and two propane technicians, was approved at a public meeting in Beckley, West Virginia, on September 25.

The title of the video refers to the nearly thirty minutes that elapsed between the beginning of the propane release and the moment of the explosion. During that period, no evacuation occurred, and volunteer firefighters and others entered the flammable propane cloud.

The new video can be viewed on the CSB's video site, safetyvideos.gov, as well as the agency's YouTube channel, youtube.com/uscsb. Free DVD copies will become available within the next several weeks and can be pre-ordered by clicking on 'Request DVD' on the Board's website, CSB.gov.

The video includes a seven-minute, 3-D computer animation showing how a defective valve on a 500-gallon propane storage tank shot propane directly into the store building through attic vents, during what was to supposed to have been a routine change of propane service provider.

'This video shows how a number of factors - a tank placed too close to the building, a lack of necessary training for propane technicians, and a lack of awareness among technicians and responders to order an immediate evacuation - combined to take the lives of four people,' said John Bresland, CSB chairman and CEO. 'Across the United States,
Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

firefighters are responding to propane emergencies almost every day. Training and preparedness are the keys to preventing tragic accidents like the one in West Virginia last year,' Mr. Bresland said.

West Virginia State Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis, Jr., is featured in the video, along with CSB investigators Robert Hall, P.E., and Jeffrey Wanko, P.E., C.S.P.

'Our hope is that fire departments and propane companies throughout the nation will view this video and study the Board's findings and recommendations,' said Mr. Wanko. "The information in this video can save lives in case of a propane emergency.'

The Board recommended mandatory training for propane technicians using improved training materials, regular hazardous materials training and drills for responders, and new propane release guidance for 911 emergency operators.

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

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

USA, MA, PEABODY
OCTOBER 10 2008.
OIL SPILL COULD COST PEABODY $100G
Jenny Amaral

The recent oil leak at 70 Endicott St. in Peabody will cost the city an estimated $100,000 to clean up, said Community Development Director Jean Delios in a letter to the City Council.

"We are pursuing all avenues to try and recover costs associated with this spill including our insurance carrier," wrote Delios. "Since there are several parties who have expressed strong interest in this property, even in light of the oil spill, we are anticipating that should we proceed with another RFP for sale of the property that any revenue from the sale could be used to cover the cost of the remediation."

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection first received a call reporting the oil spill on Sept. 16. According to their spokesperson Joe Ferson, vandals broke into the vacant building several nights earlier and stripped copper piping attached to the four 330-gallon oil tanks located in the basement.

"At the time of the discovery, two of the tanks were approximately half full and two of the tanks were approximately three quarters full," wrote Jeffrey S. Kelly of Boston Environmental who helped in the remediation process. "Since the volume of oil present in the tanks at the start of the release is unknown, it is not possible to estimate the actual volume of oil released."

Kelly went on to explain, however, that assuming each tank was full before the leak, an approximate maximum of 450 gallons of oil was released overall.

Cleanup of the site began immediately after being notified of its existence. According to Delios, 800 gallons of heating oil remaining in the tanks has been removed. On Friday, Sept. 26 alone, an estimated 200 gallons of recovered free-phase oil and 1,800 gallons of "oily water" were transported offsite, said Kelly.

Such a spill could have been avoided had the oil been removed from the tanks when the former school administration building was vacated years ago.

"It was our understanding that the School Department has removed the oil from the tanks at this building and reused it for the schools," wrote Delios.

Superintendent Milt Burnett, who was not yet in Peabody at the time, is uncertain as to what happened. He said he was told by Business Manager Mike Musto that such was the case. Burnett's office is still in the process of locating the paperwork documenting the alleged oil transfer.

The Peabody Police Department has been looking into the Aug. 26 arrests of several individuals caught loading a large amount of copper into a vehicle parked up the road at 86R Endicott St. Delios said the copper was traced back to 70 Endicott St. as the copper was labeled with "PMLP." It is believed that those arrested could be the vandals responsible for the oil leak.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, PA, PETROLIA
OCTOBER 12 2008.
2,500 EVACUATED FROM THEIR HOMES IN BUTLER COUNTY
Michael A. Fuoco

Three people were taken to the hospital with respiratory problems and 2,500 residents of four Butler County communities were evacuated from their homes last night when a dangerous chemical was accidentally released at the Indspec Chemical Corp. plant in Petrolia.

Shortly after 9 p.m., Petrolia Fire Chief David Blair said the emergency was over but that a low-lying cloud containing the chemical oleum, which is similar to sulfuric acid, had not dissipated enough to allow evacuees to return to their homes.

Chief Blair said he was hopeful that residents wouldn't have to spend the night at three shelters that had been set up for the emergency. He said it all depended upon whether the wind picked up to clear the fumes.

"Of course, the concern here is ... the potential for respiratory damage and skin burns, things like that," said Freda Tarbell, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Protection.

She said a team with the federal Environmental Protection Agency arrived at the scene from its Wheeling, W.Va. office to conduct air monitoring.

Dave Dorko, manager of the Indspec plant that produces a bonding agent for the tire industry, said the incident occurred at 4:30 p.m. when a tank containing the oleum overflowed. Alarms were sounded and emergency procedures were immediately undertaken, he said. The 30 employees working at the plant at the time were evacuated and no one was injured.

"Safety at the plant is our primary concern for our employees and the community. We didn't do a good job of that today and we apologize to the community for that," Mr. Dorko said last night. "This is something you never want to see happen at your plant. We take our responsibility very seriously."

Emergency personnel went door-to-door alerting residents to the evacuation, Chief Blair said.

The evacuation area was a 3-mile radius from the plant in the mostly rural area containing about 2,500 residents. The affected area included Parker, Fairview, Washington and Concord townships.

Shelters were set up at Karns City High School, where a high school dance had to be canceled, the Bruin Fire Hall and the North Washington Fire Hall.

Chief Blair said about 250 people reported to the shelters and that the remaining residents most likely stayed at hotels or with relatives.

Two elderly women and a 44-year-old man with a medical condition were taken to Butler Memorial Hospital with respiratory problems. It was unclear whether their problems were caused by the chemical leak, Chief Blair said.

Mr. Dorko said last night that the leak was contained and that employees wearing hazardous material suits were back in the plant performing cleanup duties.

No further evacuations were planned as of midnight, but residents in the path of the noxious cloud were told to remain inside, to close doors, windows and vents, to shut down any system that draws air from the outside, and to put out any fires in fireplaces.

Dale Pinkerton, chairman of the Butler County commissioners, said that while the situation "could have been very, very serious," he was pleased with the emergency response.

"Things went very well. I grade it up at the top."
http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08286/919444-54.stm

USA, WV, CHARLESTON
OCTOBER 12 2008.
SECOND WORKER DIES AFTER BAYER EXPLOSION

The death toll after the August explosion at the Bayer CropScience Plant in Kanawha County is now two.

A second worker, identified as Bill Oxley, died Friday at a Pittsburgh hospital from injuries sustained in the explosion. His co-worker Barry Withrow died the night of the explosion in Institute.

After issuing a public apology last week for its role in the August 28th explosion, officials with Bayer CropScience in Institute say they're working to try to fix the problems encountered that night.

"Our objective moving forward is to restore the confidence the public here has got in Bayer," says Nick Crosby, Site Leader for the Institute plant.

Crosby and the team at Bayer have been meeting with county and state officials to do just that. So far, they've come up with a list of several things the company hopes will improve emergency preparedness at the plant. Those steps 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444
Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

include having a security leader in charge of the communications with Metro 911, providing more detail on future emergencies, continuing to build on that detail as information becomes available, and clearly telling emergency officials what impact the incident will have on the community. In addition to that, key personnel at Bayer will have Metro 911 radios to keep in contact with emergency officials. It not only provides direct access to the 911 center, but it also provides Bayer with another avenue to contact the proper people if the phone lines become congested.

"It's very important to us that the citizens in the area accept us as being part of the community," says Crosby. Not only that, but Crosby has reassured community members that the plant will not restart the unit where the explosion took place until it knows exactly what happened and how to prevent it in the future. http://www.wvmetronews.com/index.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=26881

USA, HI, KALAELOA
OCTOBER 13 2008.
OIL TANK EXPLOSION FUELS CONCERNS OVER WELDER SAFETY
Mari-Ela David

Some local welders are worried that tough economic times could fuel more accidents like the one that happened at Campbell Industrial Park on Tuesday.

Sean Norva, a 23-year-old welder from Waipahu, died in the explosion. No answers yet as to whether Norva's death could have been prevented.

Investigators are still trying to find out what went wrong. But the 'what if's have some welders worried that the troubled economy may possibly fuel more hazards in the industry.

PSC Industrial's plant remains closed and under investigation after a tank filled with waste oil explodes, killing one, and injuring three others.

Across the street, welders wonder if the tragic accident is a reflection of the nation's financial shake-up.

"I'm just worried that with the economy right now, that people don't want to go through procedures. They're going to shortcut and hire welders that aren't capable of understanding what the dangers are and maybe have a problem like this," said Max Black Crow, a local welder.

Crow says Norva and PSC may in fact have been following protocol.

Authorities say Norva was welding rails on the tank. Flames near fuel seems like a lethal combination.

But welders say you can weld on a tank of fuel with no problem, just as long as you follow safety measures.

Black Crow says the deadly accident is a wake up call.

"It's dangerous. A lot of people die - confined spaces, explosions, electrical shocks, falls, it's all there you know. You have to remember this plant and other plants with tanks are like a hand grenade with a pin pulled out and one guys mistake can kill everybody in this plant," said Black Crow.

Norva's family has hired a lawyer their attorney says he cannot comment at this time. http://www.khnl.com/Global/story.asp?S=9156716

USA, ILL, DENVER
OCTOBER 16 2008.
FUEL TANKS IN DENVER CATCH FIRE
Jarod Wells

A fuel tank caught fire in Denver, IL Wednesday, October 15th. We were unable to speak to any fire officials, but we were able to talk to any eye witness and a worker on the scene. There were several large, diesel fuel tanks behind the Denver Fire Department that were no longer in use. As they were being removed and cut up for scrap metal, a spark ignited some fuel residue inside the tank. The cloud of smoke could be seen for miles and flames were said to reach a few stories high. The flames were successful ly extinguished and there were no injuries. http://www.khqa.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=207628
Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, MA, NEEDHAM
OCTOBER 17 2008.

OIL TANK TROUBLES AT NEEDHAM’S NEWMAN SCHOOL AGAIN
Steven Ryan

The underground oil tank at the Newman School was emptied last week after the town suspected a breach in the system.

Public Works Director Rick Merson said the town is looking into the matter and if a breach is found, the town will try to fix the tank. For now, a temporary unit has been installed.

Drummy Rosane Anderson Inc., the architects conducting a feasibility study of the school’s heating and ventilation system, which will likely have to be replaced, noticed a gassy smell in the loading dock area, according to Superintendent Dan Gutekanst. That smell was traced to the oil tank.

Last month, an electronic check valve to regulate the level of oil from the main tank into the day tank apparently failed, causing a gasket above the day tank to spring a leak after too much oil was pumped into the tank. Some oil ended up on the floor after a secondary tank overflowed. That valve was replaced later that day.


USA, TX, GALVESTON
OCTOBER 17 2008.

IN IKE’S WAKE. ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE AND A NERVOUS OIL INDUSTRY.
Stuart Hampton

The devastation of Galveston and the nearby Bolivar Peninsula by Hurricane Ike was well publicized. As was the extended power outage for the Houston area’s more than one million people (about 10,000 households are still without power).

What is less well known is the environmental damage that the storm inflicted. According to a federal report released by the Minerals Management Service last week, Hurricane Ike was truly devastating.

Among the statistics:

- 448 releases of oil, gasoline, or other petrochemical pollutants
- 500,000 gallons of crude oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico
- 3,000 pollution reports
- 1,500 sites requiring environment remediation or clean up
- 54 oil platforms (out of a total of 3,800 in the Gulf) destroyed
- 32 more oil platforms badly damaged

The 54 destroyed platforms produced a total of 13,300 barrels of oil per day and 90 million cu. ft. of natural gas per day.

The biggest single spill (about half the total crude oil spillage) occurred at a storage facility operated by St. Mary Land & Exploration Company on Goat Island, Texas, in a desolated area north of Bolivar Peninsula. The storm surge flooded the plant, breaking the pipes connecting its eight storage tanks.

There was only one confirmed report of an oil spill at an offshore platform, a leak of 8,400 gallons. However, such was the scope of Ike’s wind field that officials could find no trace of the spilled oil because it was completely dissipated by the strong winds and ocean currents.

Precautionary shutdowns of Gulf refineries and power outages affecting the Colonial Pipeline caused gasoline shortages across the Southeast for weeks.

Overall, industry experts are breathing a sigh of relief for having dodged what could have been a much larger disaster. The region’s heavy industry (including oil refineries) generally have seawalls, dikes, bulkheads, and other barriers that meet the 15ft high guidelines established by the US Army Corp of Engineers in the 1960s. Ike’s storm surge was no higher than 12 feet in most places directly affected by the storm’s wrath, not the 20ft that many feared, and the barriers — for the most part — held.

But with major hurricanes Ike, Gustav, Rita, and Katrina all slamming onshore in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico coastline in the last three years, industry analysts have been reminded that most of the country’s offshore rigs, not to mention its major cluster of refineries, are all exposed to these dangerous and destructive Gulf storms. And the weather pattern is pointing to a cycle of more intense Atlantic Basin hurricanes in the coming years. Not comforting.

A postscript. Hurricane Katrina (2005) is ranked as one of the worst environmental disasters (and the most expensive hurricane) in US history, with about 9 million gallons of oil spilled.
Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

http://www.bizmology.com/2008/10/16/in-ikes-wake-environmental-damage-and-a-nervous-oil-industry/

USA, OH, LARUE
OCTOBER 20 2008.
TWO KILLED IN OIL-TANK EXPLOSION
An explosion at a remote Marion County oil well killed two men today and, to hear Hobert Conley tell it, very nearly took his life, too.

Less than a quarter-mile away, Conley's country home is the closest one to the oil well that operates on private property just off Rubins Road in northwestern Marion County.

Conley was in his woodshop when he heard and felt the explosion just after 2:30 p.m. He and his wife took off in his pickup truck and were first on the scene. They were too late to help.

Authorities say Jessie Price, 45, and Kevin Fout, 53, were welding a catwalk on one of four large crude-oil storage tanks at the rig site when a tank exploded. Both men, who lived in the LaRue area, died instantly.

When Conley got to the long gravel drive leading to the tanks, he called 911 and sent his wife to get more help. The flames were contained to one tank but were shooting probably 30 feet into the air.

Conley saw a victim lying on the back of a truck next to the tanks. Despite the searing heat, he went closer.

Just feet from the fire, something told him to stop.
He turned and began to run.

A second tank exploded. The ground beneath Conley's feet shook, and the roar hurt his ears.

The billboard-size lid from the tank sailed over him through the air. It sheared off branches and ripped hunks out of the trunks of four-story-tall trees in a nearby woods. It landed about a football field away from the tanks and that's where it was, embedded in the last, night.

"I knew I was running for my life," the 56-year-old Conley said. "A few seconds either way or a different decision and I wouldn't be here. What happened is tragic, and what I saw is nothing I'll soon forget."

The explosions were heard as far as 6 miles away and the calls "lit up the switchboard like a Christmas tree" at the 911 center, Marion County Sheriff Tim Bailey said.

Six fire departments responded, and the fire itself was extinguished in probably less than 20 minutes, said Marseilles Volunteer Fire Department Chief Steve Dickinson.

Investigators from the state fire marshal's office were at the scene, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration had been notified, although it was unclear if the federal agency would get involved.

Bailey said the oil wells are operated by a company called Mar Oil and the property is owned by the Roszman family, although nothing else about either could be confirmed last night.

Relatives of Fout and Price who were at the scene declined an interview.

But it wasn't only family members who were hurting. In a small, rural community like this one, everyone feels the loss, said Tim Benjamin, chaplain of the Marseilles department.

Standing near the tanks, the smell of oil still chokingly thick in the air, Benjamin reached under his firefighter's helmet and wiped the sweat.

Several of the volunteers knew the victims, he said.
"This one is personal," he said. "Out here, they're all personal. And it is so hard to take."

He said he was there as members of the Marion County sheriff's office tried to comfort the men's families.

Benjamin said everyone felt simply helpless.

"Here were two men, just working hard on a Sunday afternoon and trying to do their jobs," he said. "God must help us make sense of terrible times like these."

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2008/10/19/oilrig.html?sid=101

USA, OH, MARION CO
OCTOBER 22 2008.
INVESTIGATORS LINK WELDING TO CAUSE OF OIL WELL EXPLOSION
Jessica Cuffman

Investigators continued to look into the source of an explosion at an oil well that killed two area men just south of Marseilles Sunday afternoon.
Division of State Fire Marshal investigators returned to the scene Monday and determined that welding directly contributed to the ignition of the explosion, said Shane Cartmill, public information officer.

Jessie Price, 45, and Kevin Fout, 53, both of the New Bloomington area, were thought to be working on routine 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444
Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

maintenance when one of the four oil tanks at the site exploded, killing them both instantly.
The well is located on Rubins Road between Ohio 37 and Falls Road. Authorities say Mar Oil owns the well and the men were working as independent contractors.

Investigators were on the scene Sunday and will continue to scrutinize the matter Tuesday, continuing to examine the material at the scene, interviewing experts and re-interviewing witnesses.

"Our main concern is to figure out why there was a fire and how it happened," Cartmill said.

Previous to Sunday, the last fatalities caused by an oil well explosion were in 2005 when two people were killed in Summit County after a battery caused an explosion. Previous to that incident, one person was killed in 2004 in Wayne County when smoking materials got too close to a gas leak.

Marion County Sheriff's Office deputies guarded the scene through the night, said Chief Deputy Al Hayden. He assured that there was no indication of any criminal activity at the scene.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration officials also were investigating the scene Monday, he said.

OSHA Toledo area director Julie Hovi was unable to be reached for comment.

A neighbor to the property reported the explosion at about 2:40 p.m. Sunday. He went to check the scene, and as he was leaving, witnessed a second explosion that catapulted the top of one of the tanks into the surrounding wooded area.

The victims are the only two people thought to be on the property at the time of the accident. The families of the victims were unable to be reached for comment.


USA, GA, ATHENS
OCTOBER 22 2008.
ATHENS EXPLOSION RATTLES PART OF CITY, INJURES ONE

One man was badly hurt after an old gasoline tank was severed at the intersection on highway 72 and Jefferson Street in Athens.

Rebecca Presley was at cash register nearby.
"I was with a customer and then we heard a big boom over here and flames went higher than my canopy. So I ran outside to see if everything was alright and one of the workers fell and hit the ground so I ran back in and called 911, where they can get some help for him."

Firefighters say the crews were working on widening Highway 72.

Lt. David Ledford told WAFF 48 News that "Keenum Construction was cutting a hole in an abandoned gas tank to fill it with concrete and while the gentleman was making the cut, sparks got into the tank. The worker in question had already cut two holes in two gas tanks. But when he made that 3rd cut...that's when it happened.

Ledford says it was fierce. "It blew the lid off and Athens-Limestone did the transport."

That worker was cut on his face. He is recuperating at a Birmingham Hospital.


USA, DE, GASTON
OCTOBER 26 2008.
EXPLOSIONS, FIRE LIGHT UP MORNING SKY - AT LEAST THREE 500-GALLON PROPANE TANKS BLEW UP AT COX FARMS INC. IN NORTHERN DELAWARE COUNTY.

Nick Werner

A series of early-morning explosions at a commercial vegetable farm injured a worker and a firefighter and burned 15 greenhouses Friday.

A fire at Cox Farms Inc., at Delaware County Roads 700-N and 450-W, heated a 500-gallon liquid propane tank until it blew up, according to Hamilton Township Fire Chief Tim Baty.

The explosion spread liquid propane throughout the facility, fueling the existing fire and sparking the explosion of at least two more liquid propane tanks.

"The liquid propane did all the damage," Baty said. "It made one heck of a fire."

Eaton and Gaston firefighters reported seeing the fire from their stations miles away, Baty said.

The first explosion around 4 a.m. woke neighbor Cary Malchow, who lives directly across Delaware County Road 700-N from the farm.

Malchow’s bedroom window faces away from the farm, but Malchow could still see a glow.

435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444
"It looked like a red sunset," he said. "It just lit up."
Malchow raced outside in time to witness another explosion that propelled a fiery propane tank at least 75 feet in the air, he said.
One tank was found near CR 500-W, almost half a mile away, according to Baty.
An employee who lives at the farm suffered burns to his face, hands and feet.
Farm owner Greg Cox identified the injured man as Stephen Popa, and said he was treated at the Ball Memorial Hospital emergency room and released.
"We're pretty lucky that things weren't worse," Cox said.
Eaton fire chief Kyle Goe suffered a knee injury while fighting the fire and was also treated at Ball Memorial Hospital and released Friday.
Firefighters extinguished the blaze around 9 a.m.
The fire melted the plastic shells from at least 15 greenhouses, destroyed a semi-trailer and at least one pickup truck, damaged a mobile home and littered the farm with heavy steel shrapnel.
Cox said the farm has been producing watermelons, peppers and tomatoes since 1985.
The farm starts the plants in it's greenhouses and then ships them to customers throughout the Midwest for transplant outdoors.
Because the growing season was over, the greenhouses were empty, Cox said.
Cox estimated his damages at several hundred thousand dollars and said he was covered by insurance.
The farm will be repaired and ready for the next growing season, which starts March 1, Cox said.
Firefighters are not sure what caused the fire that led to the explosions or where the fire started.
Investigators from the State Fire Marshall's office are expected to be on the scene through Tuesday.
About 50 firefighters from Gaston, Hamilton Township, Eaton, Yorktown, Summitville and Matthews responded, Baty said.
The Hoosier Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross also responded to provide emergency personnel with food and water.
http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20081025/NEWS01/810250306