

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, ILL, LEMONT

OCTOBER 25 2013.

CITGO REFINERY FIRE EXTINGUISHED IN LEMONT

Jason Knowles

Will County environmental experts said crude oil fueled the fire at a CITGO refinery in Lemont. Officials say employees and residents near the plant say the air is safe to breathe.

Huge flames and plumes of smoke shot out of the CITGO refinery for about three hours on Wednesday night before firefighters got it under control. An employee said crews were working on a valve when the leak of crude oil caught fire. However, fire officials have yet to release an official cause.

As for the quality of the air around the refinery, a CITGO media spokesperson said no reportable admissions of chemicals were detected Thursday morning. Last night, Will County Emergency Management Director Harold Damron said chemical levels discovered during the fire were "below the threshold of concern."

"The length of the fire how long it might take them to put out could create a different situation but in this case they were able to shut off the supply of oil to the fire which allowed them to extinguish it relatively quickly last night," Damron said. "The duration of the fire was three hours. So if this was a situation where we might have a fire burning for you know, many more hours or days it could create a different situation."

Few people live close to the industrial area where the refinery is located, but residents a few miles out were able to see the smoke hovering above.

"My main concern right now is the quality of the air coming over this area right now," said Joe Ebert, Lemont resident.

Residents who believe they may have been impacted by smoke or residue on their property may call the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency complaint hotline at 1-888-372-1996. The IEPA says it is working with CITGO personnel to determine any impacts to the surrounding areas and monitoring air quality.

The CITGO refinery is in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Recent records show 1 air pollution citation. The company released a statement: The crude unit fire that was reported last night at the CITGO Lemont Refinery has been extinguished and there were no injuries. Air monitoring showed no readings of any hazardous materials and the work of repairing the unit and investigating the cause has begun. At this time we do not have a schedule on when the crude unit will again be operational but we will provide updates as more information becomes available. The refinery operations have been significantly reduced, but we do have some downstream units still in

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operation. We would like to thank our neighboring municipalities, Will County Emergency Management Agency and all of the first responders for their assistance. The safety of our employees and the surrounding community remains our first priority.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=9299230&vid=9299099>

USA, N.D, BISMARCK

OCTOBER 26 2013.

NEARLY 300 OIL SPILLS WENT UNREPORTED TO NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SINCE 2012

STATE TESTING WEBSITE

James MacPherson

North Dakota, the nation's No. 2 oil producer behind Texas, recorded nearly 300 oil pipeline spills in less than two years, state documents show. None was reported to the public, officials said.

According to records obtained by The Associated Press, the pipeline spills — many of them small — are among some 750 "oil field incidents" that have occurred since January 2012 without public notification.

"That's news to us," said Don Morrison, director of the Dakota Resource Council, an environmental-minded landowner group with more than 700 members in North Dakota.

Dennis Fewless, director of water quality for the state Health Department, said regulators are reviewing the state's policies for when to publicly report such incidents after a massive spill was discovered last month in northwestern North Dakota by a wheat farmer. State and company officials kept it quiet for 11 days — and only said something after the AP asked about it.

Soon after the AP published its report Friday, the Health Department announced it is testing a website to publish information on all spills reported to the department.

North Dakota regulators, like in many other oil-producing states, are not obliged to tell the public about oil spills under state law. But in a state that's producing a million barrels a day and saw nearly 2,500 miles of new pipelines last year, many believe the risk of spills will increase, posing a bigger threat to farmland and water.

"We're certainly looking at that now and what would be a threshold for reporting to the public," Fewless said. Taking notice of the recent criticism, the state issued a statement Oct. 17 on an estimated 7-barrel oil spill in Divide County, which borders Canada in far northwestern North Dakota.

The state also is mulling a better system to track spills in-house, Fewless said, from their origin to cleanup status.

Dave Glatt, chief of the department's environmental health section, said the website announced late Friday would likely go live in two to three weeks. He said officials are still considering how large a spill should trigger a public announcement in addition to being published on the website.

A spill-tracking system would be valuable for the public, said Louis Kuster, who raises wheat near Stanley in northwest North Dakota. Farmers and ranchers rely on land for their livelihood, so information on spills that could threaten land or water supplies "absolutely is important for us to know," he said.

Between coffee-shop talk and chatting with neighbors, nothing much happens around the fourth-generation farmer's land without him knowing about it — except when it comes to oil spills.

"What you don't know, nobody is going to tell you," Kuster said.

Earlier this month, Kuster and his neighbors noticed truckloads of oil-tainted dirt being hauled away from an adjacent farm. It was allegedly from a broken pipeline, but no one really knows for sure, he said.

"We have no idea how big the spill is and why it happened," he said. "I'd try to get more information from the state but I'm too busy getting my harvest in."

North Dakota officials have urged pipeline industry to officials to quickly — and safely — expand the network to keep pace with record production in the oil patch. The state has about 17,500 miles of pipelines, including the addition last year of 2,470 miles, roughly the distance from New York City to Los Angeles.

For almost two weeks, no one knew about a break in a Tesoro Corp. pipeline that was discovered Sept. 29 in a remote area near Tioga. Officials say no water was contaminated or wildlife hurt, but the spill

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was one of the largest in North Dakota's history, estimated at 20,600 barrels. Oil oozed over an area the size of seven football fields.

Records obtained by the AP show that so far this year, North Dakota has recorded 139 pipeline leaks that spilled a total of 735 barrels of oil. In 2012, there were 153 pipeline leaks that spilled 495 barrels of oil, data show. A little more than half of the spills companies reported to North Dakota occurred "on-site," where a well is connected to a pipeline, and most were fewer than 10 barrels. The remainder of the spills occurred along the state's labyrinth of pipelines.

"The public really should know about these," Morrison with the landowner group said. "If there is a spill, sometimes a landowner may not even know about it. And if they do, people think it's an isolated incident that's only happening to them."

North Dakota also had 291 "incidents" this year that leaked a total of about 2,209 barrels of oil. Data show that all but 490 barrels were contained and cleaned up at the well site. In 2012, there were 168 spills reported that leaked 1,089 barrels of oil; all but 376 barrels were contained on site, data show. Only one incident — a crash involving an oil truck last year — was reported publicly.

Department of Mineral Resources director Lynn Helms — the state's top oil regulator — said regulators worry about "over-reporting" spills. The goal, he said, is to find a balance to so that "the public is aware of what's happening but not overwhelmed by little incidents."

Kuster believes most people would like to immediately know about even the smallest spill, because even a barrel of spilled oil likely could ruin water sources and take untold acres of cropland out of production. He also said timely, accurate and accessible information would hold companies and regulators accountable.

"It would tell me if there is enough oversight and why these accidents happen and if they could have been avoided," he said. "Right now, you don't know if there is a spill unless you find it yourself."

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ap-newsbreak-100s-nd-oil-spills-not-publicized>

ENGLAND, LANCASHIRE

OCTOBER 30 2013.

FUEL TANK BLAST FIRM FINED £91K AFTER WORKER SERIOUSLY BURNT

A Morecambe firm has been ordered to pay £91,000 by Preston Crown Court after a worker cleaning a fuel tank was seriously injured in a blast.

Karol Robaczewski, 38, of Morecambe was inside a fuel tank when he was engulfed by a fireball on 9 September 2011.

The court heard it caused severe burns and left him almost completely paralysed and reliant on a wheelchair.

Fuel Proof Ltd, which makes airport fuel tanks, admitted safety failings at an earlier hearing.

"I can't play football with my son or give my children a cuddle, and my life will never be the same again"

Karol Robaczewski Worker injured at Fuel Proof Ltd

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said Mr Robaczewski was cleaning the inside of the tank using a cloth with a highly flammable solvent when he unplugged a lamp which was getting hot.

'Appalling and shocking'

As he did so, a spark caused an explosion, the HSE said.

The fire melted the visor on his mask and his protective suit and only the elastic from the collar and cuffs were left.

Mr Robaczewski suffered multiple burns including to his arms, legs and face. His hair and eyebrows were burnt off and his lips badly burnt.

The HSE investigation found Fuel Proof had failed to carry out any risk assessment on the cleaning of the tanks.

It also found there was no supervision of workers or monitoring of the fumes in the tank and masks and lighting provided were "entirely unsuitable".

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The HSE said Fuel Proof Ltd did not need to use the flammable solvents to clean the tank. Fuel Proof Ltd was fined £66,000 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £25,000 after pleading guilty to breaching section 3.1 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Rose Leese-Weller said: "Karol suffered horrific injuries in the explosion and will need to use a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

"It is shocking that Fuel Proof allowed workers to use a highly flammable solvent to clean the inside of fuel tanks for four years without giving a single thought to the risks.

"What's even more appalling is that there was never any need for workers to use solvents to clean the tanks, as the company now uses soapy water to clean them out."

'Life will never be the same'

Mr Robaczewski said: "I wish that what has happened to me never happens to anyone else. I am not able to lift my arms, move my legs and feet or hold anything in my fingers and hands.

"Every morning after breakfast, I am moved into my wheelchair and stay there until it's time for bed.

"I am not able to do anything I used to do before the accident such as drive, go to karate sessions or play my trumpet which I played since the age of 12.

"I can't play football with my son or give my children a cuddle, and my life will never be the same again."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-24726232>

MEXICO, JALISCO, TLAJOMULCO

OCTOBER 31 2013.

MEXICO EVACUATES 5,000 FOR GASOLINE PIPELINE LEAK

Mark Stevenson

A geyser of gasoline spewed into the sky from a state-owned pipeline in western Mexico, forcing officials to evacuate about 5,000 people Wednesday. Authorities blamed the accident on fuel thieves tapping into the pipe.

Gasoline plumed above a field close to a housing development in Tlajomulco, a town near Guadalajara, which is Mexico's second-largest city and the capital of Jalisco state.

The fuel did not catch fire, and crews were able to shut down the flow of gasoline in the pipeline, which was leaking about 150 yards (meters) from some homes. There were no reports of injuries.

"There's a lot of odor of gasoline in the entire area," Jalisco state Interior Secretary Arturo Zamora said, adding that the evacuation area was "approximately in a radius of 1 kilometer (half mile)."

On its Twitter account, the state-owned Petroleos Mexicanos oil company, known as Pemex, wrote that the leak "was caused by a clandestine tap."

Emergency personnel erected a sand-bag barrier around the leak to contain the gasoline and prevent it from contaminating more soil or entering storm drains. In 1992, gasoline leaked into Guadalajara's drains and ignited, effectively creating a bomb 6 miles (10 kilometers) long that demolished 1,000 homes and killed at least 210 people.

Pemex said it closed the nearest valves to isolate the leak and reduce pressure. Jalisco Gov. Aristoteles Sandoval said later that the leak "is now 100 percent controlled."

"This was due to a fuel robbery, and we are going to go after the thieves" Sandoval said. "We have already detained several organized gangs" and "are calling on the public not to buy stolen gasoline, not to buy gasoline outside official gas stations."

On some Mexican highways, vendors known as "huachicoleros" stand under palm-frond shacks selling stolen gasoline or diesel to passing motorists.

"Clearly, organized crime is behind this," Sandoval said of the latest incident. He said investigators had found fuel containers in a nearby abandoned house.

Pemex has suffered a huge problem with illegal taps drilled into fuel pipelines. In July, the company

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said 1,421 illegal fuel taps were discovered in the first six months of this year, almost twice the 722 taps uncovered in the same period of 2012.

Experts say that given the skill and timing required to tap into high-pressure pipelines, it is likely thieves are getting advice and inside information, if not outright help, from people inside the company.

Pemex announced Wednesday that 39 company employees and nine subcontractor drivers of fuel delivery trucks had been arrested on suspicion of fuel theft in the neighboring state of Guanajuato.

In a statement, Pemex said the drivers and Pemex employees were accused of falsifying weight measurements on loaded tanker trucks at a Pemex distribution facility in the city of Salamanca.

Prosecutors seized 10 tanker trucks, it said.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/mexico-evacuates-4500-gasoline-pipeline-leak>

CANADA, QUEBEC, LAC-MEGANTIC

NOVEMBER 7 2013.

WATER NEAR LAC-MÉGANTIC TAINTED, GROUPS WARN

SVP AND GREENPEACE TESTS SHOW SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF CRUDE OIL AND A "SOUP" OF CONTAMINANTS, EXPERT SAYS

Monique Beaudin

Parts of the Chaudière River remain contaminated despite weeks of cleanup operations and the removal of nearly 43 million litres of oily water from the river.

But Quebec Environment Minister Yves-François Blanchet said there is no threat to people living in Lac-Mégantic or along the river. Drinking water supplies are safe and there is little danger posed to flora and fauna, he said.

More than 40 kilometres of river shoreline have been cleaned so far in areas of medium to high contamination, Blanchet said in a statement issued late Wednesday. While the results are "encouraging" and show a significant decrease in contamination, some areas are still contaminated, he said.

The statement detailing work his department has done on the river came a day after two Quebec environmental groups revealed they had found high levels of carcinogenic pollutants in sediment samples taken from the Chaudière a month ago.

Blanchet said those results, made public by Greenpeace Quebec and the Société pour Vaincre la Pollution (SVP), confirm testing done by his department. He said his department has collected more than 600 samples from the river and lake.

The groups collected sediment samples from the lake and river on Oct. 2 and 3, two weeks after Quebec lifted drinking-water bans for communities that take their water from the river, downstream from the accident site.

They say pollutant levels were as much as 27 times higher than accepted levels in samples taken from the river at a site 4.7 kilometres downstream from the lake.

"Our findings show clearly that the contamination episode of the Lac-Mégantic spill is not over," SVP's Daniel Green said. "There is still a lot of oil on the bottom of the Chaudière River."

The train that derailed in Lac-Mégantic July 6 was carrying more than 7 million litres of crude oil, most of which spilled or was burned in the ensuing fire that killed 47 people.

Blanchet said the site where the groups collected the sediment sample is known to have been highly contaminated, and has been cleaned three times, most recently between Oct. 28 and Nov. 1. That means the samples taken by the environment groups aren't representative of the current situation, he said.

But a decontamination expert said the tests done by SVP and Greenpeace show significant amounts of crude oil and a "soup" of contaminants in the river in areas where the current is low. The fact that they are present four months after the accident means they could have an impact on the river's ecosystem, said Rosa Galvez-Cloutier, chair of Université Laval's civil and water engineering department.

She said the government should do further testing to determine toxicity levels in the river.

Environment Canada also collected samples after the derailment, but a spokesperson said

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Wednesday the results "will only be released when appropriate, as investigations are ongoing and all samples collected may become subject to future legal proceedings."

Green said he's concerned about further contamination in the spring, when ice on the river breaks up and there is spring flooding. That could stir up oil from the riverbed, posing risks to drinking water and agricultural lands along the river, he said.

Blanchet said the environment department will monitor the situation, but the risk of flooding contaminating fields along the river is very low.

While the tests showed heavy contamination in the river, Green said he couldn't say what the state of the lake is because the groups were only able to take one sediment sample there.

An estimated 5.9 million litres of oil spilled or burned in the July 6 derailment. Quebec's environment department recently revealed that nearly 400,000 more litres of oil spilled than had been previously thought.

The department estimates 100,000 litres of oil entered the river, but Greenpeace's Patrick Bonin questioned that figure, given the contamination the group's tests showed and the fact they saw and smelled oil while taking their samples.

The environmental groups called on Quebec to make public information it has on what contaminants are in the river, where they are, what decontamination work was done, and what is planned for the fall and winter, Bonin said.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions," Bonin said.

Blanchet said work on the river will go on as long as possible as long as the weather cooperates and it is safe for the workers.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Sediment+water+near+Mégantic+heavily+contaminated+groups/9132781/story.html>

USA, LA, OPA-LOCKA.

NOVEMBER 8 2013.

CHEMICAL EXPLOSION KILLS ONE, INJURES OTHERS LARGE INDUSTRIAL STORAGE TANK EXPLODES

Police say one person has died after an explosion at a local warehouse.

The explosion occurred at American Vinyl Company at 2410 N.W. 147 St., Thursday afternoon.

According to hazmat crews, a storage container in the building that holds 20,000 gallons of liquid unexplainably exploded. The storage container went airborne creating a hole in the roof of the company.

"If it over-pressurizes and some sort of reaction occurs, a chemical reaction, within the tank, and there's no outlet for that pressure to be released, it can very easily cause an explosion," Miami-Dade Fire Rescue spokesperson Arnold Piedrahita said. "As you can see, it blew through the roof."

One person passed away and five employees were injured. Two of them had trouble breathing and were transported to the hospital.

Crews are not sure whether the man died because of the initial impact of the explosion or if the storage container landed on top of him.

The hazmat team found the employees covered in a yellow liquid. Investigators are unsure what the liquid is exactly.

"We see chemical spills, that's a common occurrence, but something of this nature where a large chemical tank explodes through the roof of a warehouse, that's not something that we get every day," Piedrahita said.

The area around the building is clean and no one else was injured or transported to the hospital.

<http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21012155742595/chemical-explosion-kills-one-injures-others/>

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**USA, CT, CHESTER
NOVEMBER 8 2013.**

OIL TANK LEAKS 400 GALLONS INTO CHESTER RIVER

Bob Wilson

There is a big mess Wednesday in the pretty little town of Chester. Nearly 400 gallons of oil leaked into a stream near a restaurant and the battle is on to clean up the mess.

They have a lot of equipment on hand. Oil absorbent booms, pads and containers. The bulk of the work is being done with the hoses. They run off the embankment which is a 70 foot drop, and then they have giant vacuum trucks sucking it up and putting it in.

Meanwhile, they are saying tonight they will be there until the wee hours of the morning trying to get the brook clean.

Pumps roar and bright lights burn over head in the parking lot as DEEP crews suck oil from the brook behind the Brush Mill by the waterfall in Chester.

Deep investigators say the room hanging over the waterfall contains the furnace and oil tank for the restaurant. They believe a filter at the furnace let loose sending 400 gallons of heating oil into the brook.

"That's a lot, a lot of heating oil. It's going to be dangerous to the wells in the area," said Diane Stanley, Chester.

Many people thought the same thing. But DEEP wanted to be absolutely clear, while the houses around the brook are on wells, oil cannot get into the drinking water.

Their biggest problem is that the steep 70 foot embankment is the only way to the spill.

"We have to traverse that area, set the vac trucks up in the parking lot, send the hoses down to the water site, and then start recovering the product at that point," said Jeff Chandler, DEEP emergency response.

Down the brook, there are layers of booms put in to contain as much of the oil up river as possible. The idea is to stop the contamination from spreading, then clean it up as fast as they can to minimize the environmental damage.

DEEP did catch a break as there was already a small dam a hundred yards from the restaurant.

"That dam was very helpful to containing the oil prior to our arrival. Some did get by it, but the majority was contained by the dam," said Chandler.

Now despite all of the measures there, the vacuum truck and booms, they say they are not going to get all of the oil out of the brook. But they say that's ok because it's very light and will evaporate and what is left behind will be absorbed by the environment.

<http://www.wtnh.com/web/wtnh/news/middlesex-cty/oil-tank-leaks-400-gallons-into-chester-river>

**USA, N.D, ALEXANDER
NOVEMBER 8 2013.**

SALTWATER TANK EXPLODES IN WESTERN ND, CAUSING FIRE, 2,700-BARREL SPILL

Amy Dalrymple

A saltwater tank exploded near here Thursday causing several tanks to catch fire and spill about 2,700 barrels of saltwater and oil, the North Dakota Department of Health said.

The tank explosion at a disposal well site about 8 miles southwest of Alexander was reported about 12:15 p.m. Thursday, said McKenzie County Emergency Manager Jerry Samuelson.

The explosion, which occurred after a truck driver unloaded and was leaving the site, caused a total of 13 tanks to catch fire, Samuelson said. The cause of the explosion is unknown, Samuelson said.

The facility, operated by Mesa Oil Services, had an estimated 2,440 barrels of saltwater and 270 barrels of oil on site at the time of the fire, said the North Dakota Department of Health.

Kris Roberts, with the department's Division of Water Quality, inspected the site Thursday and said the spill was contained on location.

The fire was extinguished by about 4:30 p.m., Roberts said. Most of the oil burned in the fire, he

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said. A significant amount of saltwater remained Thursday with a thin film of oil floating on the water, he said.

An environmental contractor was on site and the liquid was expected to be recovered within hours, Roberts said.

The Alexander Fire Department responded and the truck driver who was on the site when the explosion occurred offered to get more water to extinguish the fire, Samuelson said. While the truck driver was heading back, he suffered a suspected heart attack, Samuelson said.

The man was taken to the hospital in Williston, Samuelson said. The man's name and his condition were not available.

No other injuries were reported, Samuelson said.

<http://oilpatchdispatch.areavoices.com/2013/11/page/3/#sthash.XEmH7m1l.dpuf>

INDIA, MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA

NOVEMBER 8 2013.

OIL LEAK DESTROYS MANGROVES ON MUMBAI COAST

Vinaya Deshpande

Mangroves stretching over several kilometres along the coast in the eastern suburb of Mahul have been destroyed due to an oil leak from a pipeline carrying furnace oil from the sea to a refinery in the area. The sprawling black sheet of oil has settled on the mudflats too, affecting the seedlings of mangroves.

Forest officials told The Hindu that the damage was serious and had happened over a period of time. "We did not know the source of the oil leak then, but we issued a preliminary report on October 17 pointing out that oil was continuously leaking in the area," Sanjay Mali, divisional forest officer told The Hindu after inspecting the location on Thursday.

The pipeline is owned and operated by the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT), which denied that the extensive damage was caused by their leaked pipeline alone.

"We have plugged the leak and will inspect all pipelines in the area," said MbPT spokesperson Mohan Chandran.

Forest officials said they would soon conduct a survey to gauge the extent of damage.

"It is difficult to estimate the exact area of damage as we will have to conduct a detailed survey through the sea route," Mr. Mali said. But oil slick-damaged mangroves could be seen on the entire stretch of the coastline from Mahul to the area behind the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Local fishermen claimed that the slick had spread at least three kilometres till Sewri on the opposite side too. The entire stretch is at least 10 kilometres.

Contaminated catch

The slick has impacted the local fishing community. "Our boats and nets have got damaged due to the oil. The thick layer which settles on the nets is difficult to clean. The fish that we catch are either dead or contaminated. We are not getting a good price for our catch," says Jitendra Waman Koli (36), a fisherman from Mahul village said.

Many said their health had been affected. "There are rashes all over the body. We feel weak, suffer from ailments. How often will we keep going to the doctor?" asks Dharma Koli (42).

Mahul village has around 15,000 people, mostly fisherfolk. "Different communities fish from different locations, but the oil has been spreading, affecting most of them," said former corporator Rajendra Mahulkar. "We have submitted a written complaint to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the local police," Mr. Mahulkar said.

There are several oil refineries in the area. Among them are those of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited. However, none of them reported this extensive leak.

It was finally the local fishermen who complained to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on November 1. It had taken the MPCB almost five months to locate the source of the leak. "We have visited

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the location. We will summon the highest officials of the MbPT and BPCL, and take a detailed action plan from them to contain this," MPCB assistant secretary P.K. Mirase told The Hindu.

Inspection of the leakage site shows timely action could have prevented the damage. "It was a small crack. Had it been plugged immediately, it would have saved the mangroves, fish and livelihoods," said Suryakant Vaiti, the president of Vanewale Macchimaar Mandal.

Patchy repair

Even as MbPT has claimed it has plugged the leak, this correspondent found that the officials had only hammered a plank of wood on the crack. Officials said they will need time to fix the crack permanently.

Moreover, no agency has taken the responsibility of clean-up.

"The leak has not happened due to any act of omission or commission on the part of MbPT. The mudflats don't fall under our jurisdiction. But we will work together with other stakeholders to restore whatever is possible," a spokesperson of MbPT said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/oil-leak-destroys-mangroves-on-mumbai-coast/article5326829.ece>

ENGLAND, LANCASHIRE, HEYSHAM

NOVEMBER 10 2013.

FUEL TANK DANGERS HIGHLIGHTED FOLLOWING ACCIDENT

Heysham-based airport fuel tank manufacturer Fuel Proof has been prosecuted by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) after a member of staff suffered horrific burns following an explosion.

Preston Crown Court heard this week (October 29th) how 38-year-old Karol Robaczewski has been left almost completely paralysed and wheelchair-bound after being engulfed in a fireball while cleaning a 20,000-litre fuel tank in September 2011.

He was working inside the six-metre tank when the lamp he was using became too hot. As he pulled the plug from its socket to turn off the device this caused a spark and coupled with the flammable solvent he was using to clean the walls of the tank this caused the explosion.

An investigation carried out by the HSE later revealed Fuel Proof had failed in its duty of care to Mr Robaczewski by failing to carry out an adequate risk assessment of the use of flammable solvents in the cleaning process for its tanks, while it also showed the work should not have been carried out unsupervised.

Mr Robaczewski was hospitalised for three months following the incident and has been left with injuries that will never heal.

The company pleaded guilty to a charge under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined GBP66,000. It was also ordered to pay prosecution costs totalling GBP 25,000.

HSE inspector Rose Leese-Weller commented after the hearing: "What's even more appalling is that there was never any need for workers to use solvents to clean the tanks, as the company now uses soapy water to clean them out."

<http://www.hja.net/legal-news/news-articles-list/directnews-import/fuel-tank-dangers-highlighted.aspx>

USA, TX, HUTCHINSON CO, BORGER

NOVEMBER 10 2013.

BLAST DAMAGES OIL RIG IN HUTCHINSON COUNTY

NO INJURIES REPORTED

JC Cortez

Authorities said no one was injured Friday after an oil rig exploded in Hutchinson County about 20 miles northeast of Stinnett.

About five acres of land was scorched, while three trucks and other equipment were burned in the blaze at Turkey Track Ranch, according to Hutchinson County Fire Marshal Danny Richards.

About 3:10 p.m., fluids being circulated in a pit got too close to an oil rig and ignited, causing an explosion that knocked workers clear of the resulting flames, Richards said. The men were able to evacuate

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on foot, and no injuries occurred, he said.

Fire spread from the rig to nearby grass and three large tanker trucks, Richards said, adding the well was capped and did not ignite.

Richards said crews from Borger, Stinnett, Spearman and Hutchinson County fire departments extinguished the fire by 6:30 p.m.

Four companies suffered equipment losses in the blaze: Palo Duro Equipment, Tom Coble Gas & Oil, Phil Dollar Rig Service and Turner Energy, Richards said.

<http://amarillo.com/news/latest-news/2013-11-08/dps-no-serious-injuries-hutchinson-county-explosion>

USA, CA, AVILA BEACH

NOVEMBER 11 2013.

IN QUIANT AVILA BEACH, OIL FIRM PLANS RESORT WHERE 400,000 GALLONS OF CRUDE ONCE SPILLED

Scott Gold

Pretty regularly, the clouds cartwheel in from the sea and sock everybody in around here, except tiny Avila Beach. It'll be dreary up in Morro Bay and dreadful down in Pismo, but here, the hills cut through the fog and leave a little circle of sunshine. It's a microclimate, technically. But locals like to think of it as a halo.

Things often seem to just happen here, whether it's a feeding frenzy of humpback whales in the bay or a nude volleyball game over at Pirate's Cove. It had been a charmed Central Coast existence, with one disastrous exception: a massive leak from an oil tank farm that sent 400,000 gallons of petrochemicals oozing under the town.

This was not just any oil spill — it was an underground lake of muck that built up over decades, polluting Avila Beach so severely before it was discovered in 1989 that the town had to be destroyed, effectively, to be saved.

Much of Avila Beach, including its entire business district, had to be torn down and reconstructed, its iconoclastic, working-class character, many believe, lost in a thicket of bulldozers, lawyers and regulators.

Today, a final chapter to that saga is underway: An oil company wants to build a resort on the very piece of land where the spill originated.

The development is viewed by many area officials as an inevitability — even, potentially, a transformative addition, one that would mark the opening of a spectacular seaside property to the public for the first time in a century.

But among some of the salty old guard in Avila Beach, word of the resort proposal has been sobering — as if the bitterness associated with "the trauma," as one official called it, was always just a shovelful away, like the crude oil that once permeated the dirt.

"Whoever's got the billions and the trillions always gets the last laugh, right?" said Michael Reichman, who was born here in 1962. Reichman sipped his coffee with a friend the other morning at Avila Grocery & Deli, a Front Street pillar. "It's a joke."

In 1906, Union Oil Co. built the oil tank farm on 95 acres just south of San Luis Obispo. By World War II, 2 million gallons of crude oil a day was being pumped from huge storage vats into tankers in the bay. The pipes went right under Front Street.

In 1989, a man was working on his basement when he struck oil.

Diesel fuel, gasoline and crude, it turned out, had been saturating the soil under the town and its quaint beach for years. Public health advocates and the state accused Unocal of spilling toxic substances into a source of drinking water.

Unocal signed one of largest environmental settlements in California history: an agreement to cleanse Avila Beach that cost the company as much as \$200 million, the equivalent of half a million dollars for each of the town's 400 residents.

It was a terrible slog. Bulldozers removed about 300,000 cubic yards of earth, sometimes digging 15 feet deep in the heart of town to excise the last of the pollutants. Commerce ground to a halt. Many

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

residents were displaced; some were given a check for their pain and inconvenience and never came back.

"We kind of miss the old town," said Mike Cullen, 65, who lived and owned businesses here for more than three decades, and now visits from his home in Oahu with his dog, Buddy Blue VI. "The whole thing just got erased."

The town was rebuilt as something different — more tourist-friendly, a little less dive bar, a little more wine and cheese. Many see it as a nicer, more welcoming place.

"It was, quite frankly, an eyesore," said Rick Cohen, executive director of the Avila Beach Community Foundation. The agency dispenses at least \$60,000 each year in community-building grants financed, still, through the Unocal settlement. "Now it's beautiful."

"But there is an acceptance that it is a different kind of town," said San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Adam Hill, whose district includes Avila Beach. "You can't reconstruct funky."

Chevron Corp. bought Unocal in 2005, acquiring both the legacy of the oil tank farm and the majesty of the bluff, which is now wiped clean of the massive storage containers.

Talk of redevelopment has been percolating for years, but it is suddenly getting serious; Chevron was recently granted permission from the county to take the first substantive step, changing the zoning of the land.

Many people in town want the fenced-off property essentially opened up but undeveloped — a notion summarized nicely by Reichman, who said he'd like to see "a bitchin' park for the people, for the public."

Chevron, officials said, is well aware of the sensitivity of its new mission.

Its early plans call for an "intimate resort retreat," including a 100-room hotel and 95 cottages, along with a spa, restaurants and a seaside amphitheater. But they call, too, for 60% of the property to be set aside for open space and natural habitat — for scenic overlooks, a coastal trail. Chevron has pledged low-slung construction, no more than two stories, to avoid disrupting the coastal vista.

"We are committed to restoring the Avila Point property to be a healthy and safe place for future generations," the company said in a statement. Chevron declined to discuss the proposal in detail.

Chevron could benefit, too, from the passage of time. Many of the old guard who were displaced with the reconstruction of the town have passed away or moved on, Cohen said.

"With that goes the memories and the hard feelings," Cohen said. "The only thing that is constant is change."

At the same time, Cohen said, there remains enough fierce protectionism of the town to block any sort of development that would be out of character with this stretch of the California coast — "enough noise among locals to discourage anything that would be out of line," he said.

"There is enough resistance," he said. "And what we've seen so far looks pretty good. It's going to be a crown jewel when it's all done."

Chevron expects to conduct environmental assessments throughout 2014, hold public hearings and pursue county and state governmental approval in 2015 and 2016, and then choose a developer in 2017.

"I don't have any issue with private development scenarios as long as we get as much public benefit as possible," said Hill, the county supervisor. "I don't want to see window dressing. I want to see major windows."

Locals, stung once in a way that brought a little beach town to its knees, will be watching carefully throughout, Hill said.

"They've gone through stuff that most people don't go through," Hill said. "Their concerns are valid, and they are not easily mollified. This is a big deal, and there are a lot of people paying attention. There is no way you could just slip anything in here."

<http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-avila-beach-oil-20131110,0,3426108.story#ixzz2mWfpbCwg>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

**USA, CO, LOVELAND
NOVEMBER 12 2013.**

TWO MEN INJURED IN LOVELAND FUEL TANK EXPLOSION

Two men were injured Monday afternoon when a fuel tank they were attempting to cut with a welding torch exploded, Loveland firefighters said.

Two men were working on a 200-gallon metal tank in a workshop near Kauffman gravel pit, 808 S. County Road 9E, officials said.

Shortly after 1 p.m., the tank exploded. It was not immediately clear whether there was fuel remaining in the tank, or if another cause was to blame. A fire started, but was quickly extinguished before firefighters arrived.

One victim was driven to the hospital in a civilian vehicle. His condition was unknown. The other man, conscious but suffering from facial injuries, was taken to the hospital in an ambulance.

An investigation was under way.

<http://kdvr.com/2013/11/11/two-men-injured-in-loveland-fuel-tank-explosion/>

**USA, MISS, PASCAGOULA
NOVEMBER 16 2013.**

1 KILLED IN MISSISSIPPI REFINERY BLAST, FIRE IDENTIFIED AS TONYA GRADY

Authorities are investigating the cause of an explosion and fire at a southern Mississippi refinery Friday that killed one worker.

An operator at the Cracking II Processing Unit died after something detonated inside a furnace and sparked a fire, Chevron Mississippi general manager Tom Kovar said. The operators were outside the furnace at the time and the fire was contained to a small area.

He identified the victim as Tonya Graddy, who had worked as an operator at Chevron for five years. Graddy was among about a dozen workers in the area when the explosion happened, Kovar said, but there were no other injuries.

Jackson County Coroner Vicki Broadus said Graddy was from Semmes, Ala. She was about 50 years old.

The cracking area of the refinery is the first step in breaking down crude oil into various components so it can become gasoline or coke. It's a hot process and furnaces are involved. The refinery is located east of Pascagoula and runs round the clock.

"We're trying to piece together all the facts and data now," he said. "The most important thing now is that we keep the refinery running securely and deal with the investigation ... to get to the root cause of the event," Kovar said.

Crews secured the unit and isolated the fire to keep it from spreading, and the refinery kept running, he said.

"There was no danger to the community," he said.

A company statement said the area was secured and safe for investigators and other personnel.

"We have begun the process of investigation this incident and are cooperating with appropriate regulatory agencies," the statement said.

Chevron said the last fatality at the plant was in 2003.

"It's a very, very busy refinery and we're very proud of our safety record," Kovar said.

Kovar said a 50th anniversary celebration of the plant's opening, planned for this weekend, has been cancelled.

About 30 firefighters and police officers responded to the fire. Many of them remained at the site late Friday.

The Pascagoula facility is Chevron's largest wholly owned refinery. It has a workforce of 1,610 and processes up to 330,000 barrels per day of crude oil to produce gasoline, jet fuel, diesel and other products.

In 2009, Chevron's Pascagoula refinery was cited by the Occupational Safety and Health

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Administration for 11 violations relating to improper handling of hazardous chemicals. Two of those violations were dismissed in an informal settlement process and Chevron ended up paying a \$19,125 fine, online records show. OSHA also fined Chevron \$1,625 for bad lighting that year.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-11-15/1-killed-in-mississippi-refinery-fire>

JAPAN, CHIBA PREFECTURE, NODA

NOVEMBER 16 2013

FACTORY BLAST IN CHIBA KILLS TWO

An explosion at an oil recycling facility in Noda, Chiba Prefecture, killed two people and injured 16 others Friday afternoon. The deceased were identified as Ever Clean Corp. employees Kenji Ida, 50, and Kazuo Masuda, 52. They were pronounced dead after being found buried under debris, the Chiba Prefectural Police said. The blast injured people at the plant and adjacent factories.

Ever Clean, which runs the plant, said the explosion occurred at a waste oil distillation facility where workers were handling engine oil. The cause remains unknown, but witnesses said it was so powerful that it was felt kilometers away.

"We heard a loud blast, then the house shook. At first we thought there had been an earthquake," said an elderly female resident near the site. "In no time at all the house was turned upside down," said a cousin. The explosion just after 4 p.m. blew apart the roof and walls of the plant, which later caught fire.

It was so strong that it shattered windows at an elementary school around 600 meters away. No schoolchildren were hurt and the fire at the plant was extinguished around an hour later.

Ever Clean President Eisaku Kato issued an apology Friday night, saying: "Smoke came out of a (waste oil) centrifuge and the blast followed after it was stopped for an emergency. We apologize to everyone in the neighborhood."

The prefectural police said they are investigating whether there were any procedural problems at the plant leading up to the incident.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/11/16/national/factory-blast-in-chiba-kills-two/>

THAILAND, CHACHOENSAO PROVINCE

NOVEMBER 16 2013.

OXYGEN TANK BLAST KILLS 3 IN THAILAND

At least three people were killed and five injured when a blast thought to be from an oxygen tank tore through a dozen buildings in a province near Bangkok yesterday, Thai police said. Police said the incident was believed to have happened when customers returned an oxygen canister to a shop in Chachoengsao province. "Three people including the shop owner were killed and of the five injured, three are in a critical condition," said local police officer Lieutenant Colonel Prompong Theptubtim. He said the oxygen tank was bought to inflate balloons and was thought to have been shaken as it was returned.

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/asia/260925-oxygen-tank-blast-kills-3-in-thailand.html>