

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

NEW ZEALAND, OTAGO

OCTOBER 28 2009.

TANK LEAK COULD COST \$60,000

Rosie Manins

An underground diesel tank at the Cromwell Memorial Hall has leaked 1000 litres of fuel into the ground and the ramifications could cost more than \$60,000.

In a report to the Cromwell Community Board, Central Otago District Council property manager Mike Kerr recommends the board approve an overspend of \$60,000 to cover costs of the tank's removal, replacement, and a site clean.

The diesel kept in the tank was used to heat the hall.

Speaking to the Otago Daily Times yesterday, Mr Kerr said he could only guess how much contaminated soil would have to be removed from the site, which is near Lake Dunstan.

He hoped \$60,000 would be enough, although it would depend on results of soil tests once the underground tank was removed.

The cost estimate included about \$10,000 for the cost of pumping out any remaining fuel, removal and disposing of contaminated soil, reinstatement of soil and site earthworks, and disposal of the underground tank.

Mr Kerr said more funding could be needed if large amounts of contaminated soil had to be removed and replaced.

"My hope is I don't have to go back to the board for more money, but we won't know the extent of contamination until the tests are done," he said.

Board chairman Neil Gillespie said the board had been aware of the situation since the first 500 litres of diesel disappeared in April.

At the time it was thought to have been stolen so the board contacted police and put a lock on the tank.

Another 500 litres was put into the tank and disappeared almost immediately, after which engineers did a pressure test and confirmed a leak.

Mr Gillespie said the site had not been disturbed since a temporary tank was installed above ground to cater for hall users throughout winter.

"We've done all the right things in terms of notifying the Otago Regional Council and other authorities," he said.

But Mr Kerr's report stated the temporary tank did not comply with regulations, and he recommended the installation of a third tank rather than compliance.

The above-ground tank was not constructed by an approved fabricator and did not have a compliance plate, stationary containment certificate, dipstick, venting, required signs, or vehicle protection bollards, he said.

Mr Kerr's report will be considered at the board's next meeting in Cromwell on Monday.

<http://www.odt.co.nz/the-regions/central-otago/79793/tank-leak-could-cost-60000>

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USA, TX, BIG SPRING

OCTOBER 28 2009.

3 INJURED IN EXPLOSION AT REFINERY

Thomas Jenkins

An explosion involving a boiler at the Big Spring Refinery Monday night sent three employees to the hospital, where they were treated and released, according to refinery officials.

According to Joseph Israel, chief operating officer for Alon USA, the company that owns the local refinery, the incident was reported at approximately 8:45 p.m. Monday.

"There was an incident at the Big Spring Refinery around 8:45 p.m. Monday, involving a boiler," said Israel in a prepared statement this morning. "Three employees were taken to the hospital and released."

According to Alon USA public relations spokesman Blake Lewis, at least one of the three men injured was airlifted from the scene, but only as a precaution.

"He was treated and released, just like the other two employees," said Lewis. "He was airlifted simply as a precautionary measure. I'm not sure which hospital the men were taken to, but I have received word this morning that all three have been treated and released."

Alon officials declined to discuss the cause of the explosion, saying only the incident is under internal company investigation.

"The refinery is operating at planned rates, with no impact on production," Israel said this morning.

Monday's explosion was the second in less than two years at the facility, which was heavily damaged in February 2008 when gas from a propylene tank caused a fire to rip through the refinery.

Repairs, which took nearly a year to complete following the 2008 explosion, cost approximately \$300 million to complete, according to information recently released by officials with the Howard County Appraisal District.

Alon officials declined to comment on the estimated cost to repair the damage caused by Monday night's fire.

<http://www.bigspringherald.com/content/view/192182/60/>

USA, IN, MT VERNON

OCTOBER 28 2009.

EXPLOSION AT MT. VERNON, IND., CHEMICAL PLANT

Braden Willis

An explosion rocked the SABIC chemical facility in Mt. Vernon, Ind., around 11 a.m. Tuesday.

Early reports from the scene indicated a storage tank at the phenol plant exploded, knocking several employees to the ground and releasing gas into the air.

One employee told The Times by telephone that all personnel went to a mandatory emergency muster and all hands were present and accounted for in the aftermath of the explosion.

Firefighting crews were on scene and precautions against any gas releases were being implemented. The employee told The Times the explosion knocked a handful of workers to the ground in the area.

At least one suffered a wrenched back but was not in need of immediate emergency medical treatment. Another employee told The Times there was a gas release but no other details about the gas or the severity of the release were immediately available.

The plant, formerly known as and owned by General Electric, makes plastics for use in manufacturing. SABIC is a Saudi Arabian company and purchased the site some years ago.

<http://www.carmitimes.com/news/x1520365771/BREAKING-NEWS-Explosion-at-Mt-Vernon-Ind-chemical-plant>

SOUTH AFRICA, KWAZULU-NATAL, UMBOGINTWINI

OCTOBER 28 2009.

TANK BLAST DAMAGE EXTENSIVE

Barbara Cole

So much damage was done by the explosion at the Southgate Business Park, near Umbogintwini, on Sunday, that investigators "won't know where to start and where to end".

Jason Naidoo, the assistant manager of Sati Container Services (a branch of SA Transport Investments) which is owned by Safmarine, said this on Monday night, adding that some R60-million of damage had been caused.

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"But that is likely to be more," he said.

Insurance investigators would probably be visiting the site on Monday.

The cause of the explosion remains a mystery and Sati, together with relevant authorities and the insurers would be investigating. A round tank container, which was in a frame, exploded at 12.30pm on Sunday, sending flames and black smoke shooting high into the air, as the contents - 16 100 litres of non-hazardous lube oil additive used in manufacturing - flew in all directions.

The explosion rattled windows at the nearby Arbour Crossing shopping centre and a crowd of onlookers gathered on a road overlooking Southgate Business Park, next to Umbogintwini Industrial Complex, whipping out their cameras to record the dramatic scenes.

Five people were working in the area at the time of the blast and four were injured, although three were discharged from nearby Kingsway Hospital the same day.

The remaining worker, who sustained 17 percent burns to his arms, legs and face, underwent surgery and is still in the hospital's surgical ward, said Naidoo, although it was initially thought that he would be discharged yesterday.

A hospital spokesperson, nursing manager, Annatjie Demetriou, declined to make any comment, citing patient confidentiality.

"Thank goodness it was a Sunday. It could have been much worse. We usually have 63 staff working on a weekday, but there were only about 11 working on Sunday," Naidoo said.

The tank container arrived at Southgate Business Park from Europe on Friday and was due to be moved out to its final destination on the Reef on Monday.

Not only was the tank container destroyed, but Sati Container Services lost 100 refrigerated containers as well as 70 steel containers, which were empty.

The cladding on five other containers was burnt off and as a result, the identity of their owners still has to be established.

On Monday, spillage experts from two specialist companies were busy soaking up the oil and glucose at the site.

"We don't want the spillage to enter the streams and rivers. There is a bird park nearby," said Naidoo, explaining that the experts who had been called in would issue Sati Container Services with certificates once everything had been safely disposed of.

MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Mike Mabuyakhulu, visited the scene on Monday, to inspect the damage.

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=594&art_id=vn20091027103217792C993497

USA, TX, FREEPORT

OCTOBER 28 2009.

TOXIC PIPELINE LEAK FORCING FAMILIES OUT

Peggy O'Hare

Seventy-five families residing in the shadow of a Freeport Dow Chemical Co. facility began making plans Tuesday to live elsewhere until the company can fix an underground pipeline that's leaking toxic chemicals. "It's a pain — we're going to be relocated to another city, and we both work in Freeport, so that's an inconvenience for sure," Gay Ennis, 55, said of herself and her husband.

Dow officials are calling for families in part of the Velasco Heights neighborhood to be out of their homes by 8 a.m. today so crews can begin excavating the pipeline, which is expected to take three to five days. They hope everyone will be able to return home by Sunday.

In the meantime, Ennis must also make special arrangements for her pet. "I'm going to have to board him during the day at the veterinary clinic," she said, pointing to her dog, "because I don't want him staying at the hotel by himself."

It's the first such event that Freeport Mayor Larry McDonald can recall in the half a century he has lived in the Brazoria County waterfront town. "I've lived here 56 years, and I don't remember anything of this nature," he said.

Dow to Pay Costs

The evacuation is being done as a precaution and applies to homes in an area spanning four street blocks, bordered by North Avenue U on the north, Zapata on the west, North Avenue R on the south and Terry Street on the east.

541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551

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Dow will pay the families' hotel costs, issue \$50 vouchers or debit cards to each person for each day they are displaced from their homes and arrange for any special transportation needs. Freeport city officials said they have not been notified of anyone refusing to evacuate, but said they will not force any residents to leave. "I've already made up my mind that I'm not going to run anyone out of their house," McDonald said. "But if they leave, they're not going to be able to go back into their neighborhood until it's over."

24-Hour-a-Day Roadblocks

Roadblocks will be set up around the neighborhood and manned 24 hours a day, while Freeport police will do extra patrols to keep looters from the affected area. A lineman discovered the leak Sunday morning when he found the pipeline, located 4 feet underground, was emitting toluene diisocyanate, known as TDI — a major ingredient in polyurethane foam, used primarily in bedding, furniture and car seats. The chemical is a toxic, flammable substance that irritates the lungs, skin and eyes.

Dow officials immediately began monitoring the air and found no emissions of the chemical aboveground, said Gary Hockstra, Dow Texas Operations vice president and site director.

The pipeline is no longer charged, and there have been no reports of any residents sickened or irritated by the chemical, Freeport city officials said. However, city leaders and some residents along North Avenue U, whose property directly abuts the area where the pipeline is located, complained that Dow should have notified them sooner. Some noticed a flurry of activity at the pipeline site Sunday. But Dow waited a day before alerting city officials of the leak Monday afternoon, then went door to door to notify the 75 families Monday night.

"We really ought to have been notified sooner," McDonald said. "Sunday would have been nice."

Delay Investigated

Freeport City Manager Jeff Pynes also expressed disappointment. "It would have been the right thing to happen," Pynes said, adding that Brazoria County's emergency management office is investigating the reporting delay.

Dow officials said they followed all procedures and policies properly. Residents were never at risk between the time the leak was discovered Sunday morning and the time door-to-door notifications began Monday night, they said. "Every time we go through an incident, we learn," Hockstra said. "I'm not saying we can't improve."

Billy Kelly, 65, who has lived on Avenue T for more than 40 years, is annoyed by the evacuation, noting he didn't even leave his home during past hurricanes. "I kind of think it's excessive. No use getting upset about it," the retiree said. "I'd just as soon take my chances right here."

But his friend Amos Herrera, who has lived in Freeport since 1956, said residents have to expect such events, living so close to the petrochemical complex. "It's a little inconvenient because I have to be out of the house for four or five days, but I don't mind," said Herrera, 64, whose house is across the street from the leak site. "When I moved here, I knew all these pipelines were here. You've got to expect the unexpected."

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6689594.html>

USA, ILL, ST. ELMO

OCTOBER 29 2009.

FIRE ROCKS PLANT NORTH OF ST. ELMO

An above-ground storage tank north of St. Elmo containing a natural gas byproduct caught on fire Wednesday injuring two workers. The fire occurred at Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America Station 206 at about 1 p.m. when welding caused the tank to ignite resulting in several explosions, according to eye witnesses. Two workers were taken to the hospital. There conditions are unknown. The tank where the fire occurred contained only the plant's byproduct in the form of oil, according to company spokesman Larry Pierce. He added the station's underground storage tanks containing natural gas were not affected and no interruption in natural gas service is anticipated. Several area fire departments and law enforcement were on scene. The incident is currently under investigation.

http://www.effinghamdailynews.com/local/local_story_301180900.html

INDIA, JAIPUR

OCTOBER 31 2009.

JAIPUR FIRE: RS 500 CRORE GOES UP IN FLAMES

As Rs 500 crore worth of fuel burned through the second day of the Jaipur inferno, there were two

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questions no one had answered satisfactorily. How did it happen? And how many had died in the blaze that started with a blast on Thursday evening?

Although officials have confirmed five deaths, six others present at the site at the time of the fire are feared dead. Five bodies have been recovered but the IOC employees are still untraced. Many more are critical in the city's hospitals.

"It's not known whether these employees are dead but they were at the depot during the time of the fire. Those declared dead are people who had been admitted to various hospitals since Thursday," Rajasthan home secretary Pradip Sen said.

During the day, petroleum minister Murli Deora visited the site but could not throw much light on what exactly triggered the killer blaze and how it spun out of control. He was resigned to the fact that there was no way but to let the one lakh kilolitres of fuel in IOC's 11 tankers at the oil depot in Sitapura Industrial Area to just burn out.

But experts were unanimous: the incident happened due to human negligence. There were other who said timely action could have prevented the scale of damage. "There were alarms, and the smell of oil. That should have been enough to warn officials. They should have acted instantly. But it seems they took it easy and let things go out of control," said an expert from Jamnagar.

"We had heard the wails of a siren on the IOC premises hours before the fire and the blast. The entire area smelled of oil. Why is it then that preventive measures were not taken in time?" said Mohammed Zabbal, who works at Genus, a factory near the IOC depot. His factory was gutted and he sustained splinter injuries and is now admitted at Sawai Man Singh Hospital.

On Thursday, IOC officials said that based on preliminary reports the fire broke out after a pipeline valve failed when petrol was being transferred from the IOC terminal to Bharat Petroleum's terminal just a little distance away.

While officials stuck to the leak theory, they found it difficult to pinpoint what provided the spark. Some suggested that the power which had been cut off at around 4.30 pm following reports of a gas leak from the depot was switched on again around 7.30 pm, before they had received the all-clear. Some others suggested that a minor earthquake triggered the blaze.

On Friday it was decided that a central committee would probe the blaze. The five-member team will be headed by former HPCL chairman and managing director, M B Lal. The committee is to submit its report in six weeks, Deora said. He was accompanied by Indian Oil chairman Sarthak Behuria, who has been instructed to personally oversee the operations.

The state has also set up a committee to assess the damages in nearby factories. Initial estimates suggest factories in the Sitapura area took a Rs 300-crore hit because of the blaze.

The flames, though a bit subdued, have thrown up huge columns of thick, black smoke which are blocking sunlight. "There is little we can do. The fuel has to burn itself out before we can start any operation," Deora said after an early morning inspection. Deora, on behalf of the IOC, also announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh for the dead, Rs 2 lakh for those severely injured and Rs 1 lakh for those who suffered simple injuries.

Through the day fire experts of IOC from Mathura, Delhi, Panipat, and those from ONGC Hazira, just stood and watched the leaping flames. By afternoon an area of 5 km radius around the fire was cordoned off.

"There are chances of further blasts from the depot and that is why we do not want anyone to come near it. Moreover, the toxic fumes can be injurious to health," said district collector Kuldeep Ranka.

All educational institutions and industries in the area remained shut through the day. Even train and bus routes plying through the area were changed. The Mahatma Gandhi Hospital that lies in the Sitapura area was vacated.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Jaipur-fire-Rs-500-crore-goes-up-in-flames/articleshow/5182092.cms>

INDIA, JAIPUR

NOVEMBER 1 2009.

JAIPUR FIRE: BLAZE IN FIVE OF 11 TANKS DIE DOWN

The massive fire at the Indian Oil Corporation's fuel depot at Sitapura near Jaipur is still continuing, but it has reportedly died down in five of the 11 storage tanks.

According to officials at the sites, the fires in the remaining six tanks are expected to die down in the next 12-hours.

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The death toll has reached between eight and 11, while over 150 people have been injured and there is also the fear of confronting more lives lost when the flames die down.

"There may be people inside. So, we may even have to do some rescue and relief operations, salvage whatever we can," said Sartak Behuria, IOC chairman.

So far, nearly five lakh residents in the radius of five-kilometre area around the fire spot have been moved to safer locations after it was declared "danger zone".

Among those who were evacuated were all the patients, doctors and staff of a government hospital and engineering and medical students of 10 hostels.

According to IOC sources, a total loss of 300 crore has been estimated.

The IOC also said that it would take at least 15-18 months to rebuild the facility in Jaipur.

Meanwhile, Petroleum Minister Murli Deora has ordered a probe to ascertain the cause of fire.

"I won't say anything even if I know something. Our enquiry committee will go into the reasons why this fire happened. We'll also try to find out corrective measures to prevent such tragedies in future," Deora said.

Although the flames have been contained within the depot's premises, all 12 containers have exploded, so the fire is expected to last for another day.

<http://sify.com/news/jaipur-fire-blaze-in-five-of-11-tanks-die-down-news-national-jk5wuccjefc.html>

USA, MS, CARNES

NOVEMBER 2 2009. OIL TANK BLAST KILLS 2 TEENS

BODIES FOUND NEAR FORREST COUNTY HOME OF ONE YOUNG VICTIM

Two area teens killed in an early morning explosion Saturday near Carnes in south Forrest County were known as good guys, relatives and friends said.

Devon Byrd, 16, and 18-year-old Wade White died at the site of an oil holding tank that exploded around 4 a.m. near White's home on Phillip White Road.

"He had a lot of friends," said Byrd's mother, Shirley Byrd.

She said her son was shy but enjoyed playing football and the outdoors.

Byrd, also son of DeVon "Dee" Byrd, was a sophomore at Forrest County Agricultural High School, and White had just graduated.

No one knows why the teens were out that early.

"They were good kids," White's mother, Wanda White, said. "Wade was about to start looking for a job this week. They were both well-liked. We just can't understand what happened."

White said she and her husband, Phillip, were awakened by a noise early in the morning. After checking on the boys, who weren't in the house, they discovered the fire just a stone's throw from their home.

Forrest County Coroner Butch Benedict said the cause and manner of death are pending an autopsy. Results are expected to be in on Monday.

Forrest County Sheriff Billy McGee said the bodies were found between 50 and 75 feet from the oil tank.

There was a sign posted in the middle of the field that listed a contact phone number for Delphi Oil Inc.

A message left at that number by the Hattiesburg American was not returned as of press time.

"They'd sold most of the oil out of the tank," McGee said. "That's what a representative for the pipeline said."

McGee said it's estimated that less than 20 gallons of oil remained in the tank. There was a second tank that was full of salt water.

McGee said pipeline representatives said holding tanks like that are more dangerous when they're empty because of the natural gases that remain in the tanks.

Jonathan Morris, 17, grew up less than a mile from Wade White, and attended school with both White and Byrd. He heard the news from a family member who also lives near the Whites' home.

"I woke up this morning and thought I heard something fall," he said. "I stayed awake and about 30 minutes later, my aunt called. This is unbelievable. It's just a shock."

Wade White's girlfriend, Maria Morrison, 17, said she talked to him around 12:30 a.m. and had spent time with both teens Friday night.

"When I talked to him, everything was just fine," she said.

Wanda White said the well had been at the location for three or four years. She added that similar wells are scattered around the community, located several miles off Mississippi 13.

"Those were two awesome kids who would have made a really big difference in the world."

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Shirley Byrd said her son was involved in the Future Farmers of America and talked about going into forestry after graduating.

"He really loved that," she said. "He loved working with tractors, being outside, hunting and fishing."
<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20091101/NEWS/911010359/1001/news>

USA, MI, MARYSVILLE

NOVEMBER 3 2009.

ONE INJURED IN LARGE MARYSVILLE EXPLOSION

Fire fighters are still on the scene of a fire that was triggered by an explosion at a Marysville welding supply company.

It happened at South Park Welding Supply on Gratiot Boulevard, near the Marysville-Port Huron border. Witnesses say they heard three or four large blasts, and one man says he saw a tank shoot over his house and land in the St. Clair River. Witnesses also say they felt the walls of their houses shake.

Officials tell Action News that the explosion was set off when the injured man removed a cap from a tank at the welding supply company. It's not clear what sparked the explosion. The injured man's condition isn't known.

Businesses and homes near the scene have been evacuated. It's not clear when they will be allowed back. The Marysville police chief told the Times of Port Huron that anyone near the area should stay inside because of the possibility of chlorine gas.

The chemicals at the scene are also keeping investigators out of the building. They say they are waiting for the scene to stabilize until they go inside and begin their investigation.

Officials say that South Park Welding Supply is in compliance with all state and local regulations.

A woman living near the scene tells Action News that this isn't the first incident at the business. She says that another explosion happened 24 years ago. No one was injured in that blast, and no other incidents have been reported.

http://www.wxyz.com/mostpopular/story/One-Injured-in-Large-Marysville-Explosion/DLtCs5oT_EO5IQ8NPQx6RQ.csp

USA, MI, MARYSVILLE

NOVEMBER 3 2009.

SOUTH PARK WELDING SUPPLIES EMPLOYEE: EXPLOSIONS WERE 'HORRIFYING'

Liz Shepard

Patricia Shappee described the explosions and fires that rocked South Park Welding Supplies on Monday morning in one word: "horrifying."

She was one of the few employees at the business at 50 Gratiot Blvd. when it was hit about 8:30 a.m. by a series of explosions and fire.

"My life is there," said Shappee, who has worked in the company's accounting department for more than a decade.

As firefighters took a defensive stance on the incident and worked to keep more acetylene tanks from exploding at the industrial gas supplier, Shappee watched the buildings burn, including her office where her wedding rings, cell phone and purse sat.

"We're holding together," she said. "We're not co-workers; we're like family."

Shappee said she discovered the building was on fire after hearing a thud from her office. She initially thought it was a tank being moved. "The guys hit the side of building with tanks all the time," she said.

Leaving her office, she checked immediately outside of the building but saw nothing. Walking around to the other side, she saw the building was engulfed in flames.

"We all just took off running," she said.

One employee — Gary Hall, 48 — suffered burns to his head, arms and hands.

He was listed in good condition at Detroit Receiving Hospital, a hospital spokesman said.

Hall's sister-in-law, Jodee Hall, said family members were in shock when they heard about the explosion.

"It was like a panic, because we don't need to lose family members," she said.

Marysville Police Chief Tim Buelow said an employee was removing a valve from an acetylene tank when the explosion occurred, resulting in the fire.

Stephanie Darczy, the daughter of the owners of South Park Welding Supplies, said the explosion happened when Hall, the plant manager, was testing an acetylene tank, a regular process for the business.

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"It just exploded," she said of the highly flammable gas.

She said Hall has worked at the company for 17 years.

Tom Konik, the Marysville fire chief, said he was "surprised" and "grateful" only one person was injured in the incident, especially considering the six people working in the building at the time, the debris that flew into the neighborhoods and the size of the emergency crew that responded to the incident.

"I'm very grateful that if anybody had to be hurt, we limited it to one," he said.

Konik said the investigation is continuing into the cause of the explosion.

Konik said it originated in the rear of the main building in a maintenance area. It wasn't clear late Monday what the employee may have been doing to cause the explosion, he said.

Firefighters from Port Huron, Port Huron Township, Kimball Township, St. Clair and a fire boat from Clay Township responded to the scene. Also, several law enforcement and federal agencies assisted.

Within 30 minutes of the initial blast, about six more explosions could be heard, shaking Marysville and southern Port Huron and sending debris flying into the air, landing on neighboring properties.

Konik said some debris went as far as the back yards of riverfront homes along Gratiot Boulevard. The reverberations from the explosions also could be felt in downtown Port Huron. Black clouds of smoke also were visible throughout the city.

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20091102/NEWS01/91102022/South+Park+Welding+Supplies+employee++Explosions+were++horrificing+>

USA, OH, LIMA

NOVEMBER 10 2009.

CONTRACTOR DIES IN FALL AT OHIO REFINERY

A Lima man was killed Thursday morning after falling five stories while working on construction of a new tank at the Husky Lima Refinery.

Adrian John Flores, 59, was pronounced dead at St. Rita's Medical Center at 11:30 a.m., less than 30 minutes after falling from a telescoping lift inside the empty, above-ground storage tank, said Platoon Chief John Norris of the Shawnee Township Fire Department.

Husky spokesman Graham White said Flores was an outside contractor employed by the Lima-based International Tank Service. The tank, which will be used for gasoline storage, is on the southeast side of the refinery.

Flores was near the top of the 56-foot-tall tank when he fell. The accident was reported at 11:04 a.m.

In a statement released Thursday afternoon, International Tank Service president Butch Kirk said the company didn't yet have all the facts and is conducting an internal investigation.

"This is a great tragedy we at International Tank Service deeply regret," Kirk said. "Our sympathy goes out to the family of Mr. Flores, who was a well-respected part of International Tank Service."

Flores' body was taken to the Lucas County Coroner's Office for an autopsy.

Shawnee Township officials were not releasing additional details of the accident. The township police department and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are conducting an investigation.

White also said he couldn't elaborate on any of the circumstances surrounding the accident.

"We know that there were other ITS employees on site, but whether he was alone in the lift or someone was with him, those kind of details are going to come out in the investigation," White said.

Norris declined to say if Flores was wearing any type of safety harness when he was found.

A grief councilor was on site at the refinery for both refinery employees and outside contractors.

"We do want to express our deepest sympathies to the family," White said.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=19149&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1

UK, SOMERSET

NOVEMBER 11 2009.

WARMINSTER FIRM FINED FOR BURYING OIL-FILLED TANKER

A Warminster demolition company was ordered to pay £8,235 in fines and costs after it buried an oil-filled road tanker in the ground.

The case was brought before magistrates in Yeovil by the Environment Agency yesterday.

On February 15, 2008 the agency was alerted by a member of the public who claimed the demolition contractors, LA Moore, were excavating a tanker at its premises near Wells, Somerset.

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The company has used the old railway siding at Haybridge for a number of years to store vehicles and heavy plant equipment. There is also a workshop at the site.

It was alleged LA Moore had acquired a tanker in the mid-1990's and filled it with fuel oil to heat its vehicle workshop. The tanker, that could hold approximately 3,000 litres of oil, was parked at the company's main depot at Haybridge.

At some point the company decided to bury it in the ground. Then, in 2008 the tanker was excavated as LA Moore prepared to clear the site for a future development.

Magistrates heard the site lies within a groundwater protection zone. The River Axe flows through the premises and there are a number of boreholes nearby, one of which supplies water to a local paper mill. There is also a public road and a number of houses nearby.

On February 16, 2008, officers from the Environment Agency's Environmental Crime Team arrived at the LA Moore site armed with a warrant. They were shown to a yard where the tanker had been buried. A small section of the top of the tanker was showing above ground.

The tanker was found to contain a 'thick viscous black' oil. When they returned two days later Agency officers found two men heating up the oil so it could be pumped out of the tanker and taken to a refinery for recycling. They were advised to stop because of the risk of pollution to surrounding surface and groundwater.

During excavation groundwater was seen running freely into the exposed area around the tanker.

A large dent and scratches were visible in the side of the tanker. During discussions with LA Moore Ltd it became apparent the company didn't recognise the seriousness of its actions and risk of pollution from the tanker.

As a result the agency served the company with an anti pollution works notice clearly stating how the removal operation should be conducted to minimise any risk of pollution of surface and groundwaters.

When the tanker was finally pulled out of the ground it was found to have sustained major damage to its front nearside. A large sack had been used to 'plug' a hole in the main tank.

'The burial of a fuel-filled tanker was highly irresponsible, particularly given the location of this company within a groundwater protection zone where oil spillages can have a very serious impact on the environment and surrounding water supplies,' said Malcolm Newton for the Environment Agency.

LA Moore of Market Place, Warminster, Wiltshire was fined £3,000 by Yeovil magistrates and ordered to pay £5,235 costs after pleading guilty to causing poisonous, noxious or polluting matter, namely heating oil, to enter controlled waters, namely groundwater, at the Old Railway Yard, Haybridge near Wells, an offence under Section 85(1) of the Water Resources Act 1991.

http://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/latestheadlines/4729858.Warminster_firm_fined_for_burying_oil_filled_tanker/

USA, TX, HOUSTON

NOVEMBER 11 2009.

WORKER FALLS INTO TANK AT GREASE PLANT

Mena El-Sharkawi

Emergency personnel rescued a man who fell into a 20-foot deep tank at a northwest Houston grease recycling plant. Officials did not disclose how the man fell into the tank at the plant on Schalker and Cavalcade late Tuesday morning. Houston firefighters and a hazardous materials team pulled the man out of the tank, and he was transported to a local hospital. The worker may have suffered a broken leg, but the extent of his injuries were unknown. No other details were immediately available.

http://www.myfoxhouston.com/dpp/news/local/091109_worker_falls_greast_plant_tank

USA, UT, PERRY

NOVEMBER 12 2009.

PLANNED HAZMAT EXPLOSION GOES AWRY

PUBLIC SAFETY » NOBODY HURT AS ROCKET FUEL CAUSES CRATER IN BOX ELDER COUNTY.

Lindsay Whitehurst

A planned law enforcement explosion went awry and blew a huge crater in the ground in Box Elder County last week, police said.

No one was hurt and nothing was damaged in the explosion, which happened as hazardous materials teams destroyed a large amount of model rocket fuel discovered last month, said Box Elder County Chief Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Potter.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

An Ogden owner of a model rocket business stored the fuel along with other chemicals in hundreds of thousands of barrels, paint cans, and other containers in seven self-storage bays in Perry and South Willard, Potter said. A family friend reported them after the man's wife asked him to clear out the units.

After finding the propellant, deputies picked a spot on Perry city property near the sewer lagoon to destroy the more dangerous chemicals. On Nov. 3, they put the rocket fuel inside a 6-foot trench along with explosives designed to destroy it.

But on the fifth batch, something went wrong.

"It actually made the explosion bigger," Potter said. The explosion was two or three times the size intended, and created a crater about 20 feet deep and 30 feet wide.

"You could drive a car right into it. It was a pretty big deal," Potter said. Explosive chemicals can become more volatile as they age, said Perry Mayor Jerry Nelson. The spot is about a mile from the nearest home, on the west side of Interstate 15.

http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_13765606

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO

NOVEMBER 17 2009.

OVERFLOWING TANK PEGGED AS CULPRIT

John Upton

An overfilled fuel tank caused a ship to spill hundreds of gallons of oil into San Francisco Bay last month after operators failed to use the required containment equipment. Original reports blamed a ruptured fuel line.

West Coast shipping services company Foss Maritime was filling the Dubai Star tanker's fuel tanks near San Francisco's southern shoreline Oct. 30 when 400 to 800 gallons overflowed.

Foss Maritime's barge was equipped with legally mandated oil containment equipment, but operators failed to use it to control the spill, according to California Office of Spill Prevention and Response counsel Steve Sawyer.

At least 36 birds were killed by the toxic bunker fuel, which washed onto East Bay shorelines. Cleanup efforts were still under way Monday at Robert Crown Memorial Beach in Alameda.

The onboard oil containment equipment, known as the boom, wasn't deployed after the spill because the barge and all ship workers were on the other side of the vessel, Sawyer said.

Two tanks were being successively filled using the same fuel line, but fuel continued to be pumped into the first tank after it became full, causing it to overflow and spill, according to Sawyer.

"Foss didn't realize there was a spill until the oil had already spilled and was half a mile away," he said. "So it wouldn't have done them any good to put the boom out."

Sawyer said he expects to meet with investigators from his department Thursday to discuss their findings.

"We're looking at the vessel transfer plan," he said. "I've not seen that document, so I don't know if there's supposed to be somebody on both sides of the vessel."

A fuel-line valve that should have prevented the overflow is being inspected, according to Sawyer.

"It's either a situation where the valve wasn't fully closed or it was defective," he said.

Foss Maritime is cooperating with investigators, spokesman Sam Sacco said. The company employs 1,000 people at major West Coast ports, according to its Web site.

California regulations require fuel barges to carry oil-absorbing, buoyant boom or to preboom around a ship before fueling begins.

More than a dozen environmental and fishing groups, including San Francisco-based nonprofit Pacific Environment, sent a letter last week to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger calling on California to enhance and enforce those regulations.

"It's paramount that prebooming be the norm," Pacific Environment Program Director Jackie Dragon told The Examiner.

Avian disaster

4 Oiled East Bay shorelines closed after spill

20 Oiled birds found dead

16 Oiled birds that died after being rescued

10 Oiled birds rehabilitated and released

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Overflowing-tank-pegged-as-culprit-70257372.html>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

PUERTO RICO, BAYAMON

NOVEMBER 18 2009.

PUERTO RICO FIRE LINKED TO FAULTY GAS TANK MONITORING SYSTEM

A faulty monitoring system on a gasoline tank at a Puerto Rico storage facility most likely led to a massive fire in October that damaged homes and businesses more than a mile away, federal investigators said Tuesday.

A storage tank at the Caribbean Petroleum Corp. facility in Bayamon, near San Juan, was being filled with gasoline from a ship docked in San Juan harbor when the tank apparently overflowed, U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigators said at a news conference.

"Gasoline spilled from the tank without detection; as the material spilled, it vaporized and spread across the facility," the agency said in a release. "CSB investigators estimate that the vapor cloud spread to a 2,000-foot diameter until it reached an ignition source in the northwest section of the facility."

The liquid level in the tank could not be determined because the facility's computerized monitoring system was not fully operational, the CSB investigators said.

To monitor the level in the tank, operators used a mechanical gauge on the tank's exterior wall, the investigators said. As the gasoline level in the tank rose and eventually overflowed, employees in the facility's control room were not aware of the situation.

"The filling of a tank without a functioning monitoring system is the type of activity the CSB will be examining very closely," said lead investigator Jeffrey Wanko. "The CSB's investigation will examine operations particular to Caribbean Petroleum, but will also look at the regulations and best practices surrounding the industry as a whole in an effort to improve safety practices at similar facilities."

The fire, which started at 12:23 a.m. on October 23, burned for three days. There were no fatalities, but thousands of residents were forced to evacuate to avoid the thick clouds of black smoke.

The FBI has determined that the explosion was an industrial accident, said Agent Harry Rodriguez of the San Juan office.

"It was not a terrorist act or an act of sabotage," he said.

He said the FBI had determined that graffiti found on two San Juan tunnels that referred to a fire were not painted by anyone with connection to the blaze. The spray-painted message on the tunnels, less than three miles apart, said: "Boom, fire, RIP, Gulf, Soul, ACNF." Caribbean Petroleum owns the Gulf Oil brand in Puerto Rico.

Nonetheless, Rodriguez said, the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were still investigating.

Caribbean Petroleum supplies a significant portion of Puerto Rico's petroleum products. The facility includes a tank farm and refinery that was shut down in 2000. Before the fire, the tank farm stored gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel and fuel oil in about 30 aboveground tanks.

The Chemical Safety Board is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. CSB investigators 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, which is appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, does not issue citations or fines. The board does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups and regulatory agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/US/11/17/puerto.rico.fire.investigation/>

PUERTO RICO, BAYAMON

NOVEMBER 18 2009.

CSB CONDUCTING FULL INVESTIGATION OF MASSIVE TANK FIRE AT CARIBBEAN PETROLEUM REFINING; INVESTIGATIVE TEAM PLANS TO THOROUGHLY EXAMINE FACILITY SAFETY PRACTICES

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today announced that it will be conducting a full investigation of the October 23, 2009 explosion and fire at Caribbean Petroleum Refining. CSB investigators continue to examine the events and circumstances surrounding the catastrophic tank explosion and fire.

At 12:23 a.m. on October 23, a large vapor cloud ignited at the Caribbean Petroleum facility near San Juan, Puerto Rico. The blast damaged homes and businesses over a mile from the facility. Investigators from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board arrived in Puerto Rico that evening. Over the past few weeks the five-person investigation team has conducted numerous interviews, requested hundreds of pages of documents and catalogued key pieces of evidence.

CSB Board Member William Wright said, "The CSB will conduct a thorough and comprehensive

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

investigation of this accident; our team will uncover exactly what events led to an explosion of this magnitude. Our goal is to determine not only what happened, but why it happened.”

Caribbean Petroleum is a significant petroleum products supplier for Puerto Rico. The facility includes a tank farm and refinery that was shutdown in 2000. Prior to October 23 the tank farm stored gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and fuel oil in approximately 30 operational aboveground storage tanks.

At the time of the incident a tank was being filled with gasoline from a ship docked in San Juan harbor. Investigators have determined that a likely scenario leading to the release was an accidental overfilling of the tank. Gasoline spilled from the tank without detection; as the material spilled it vaporized and spread across the facility. CSB investigators estimate that the vapor cloud spread to a 2000 foot diameter until it reached an ignition source in the northwest section of the facility.

The CSB found that on the evening of the incident, the liquid level in the tank could not be determined because the facility’s computerized level monitoring system was not fully operational. In order to monitor the level in the tank, operators used a mechanical gauge on the tank’s exterior wall. Therefore as the gasoline , employees located in the facility’s control room were unaware of the emergency.

“The filling of a tank without a functioning monitoring system is the type of activity the CSB will be examining very closely,” said Investigator-in-Charge Jeffrey Wanko, P.E. CSP. “The CSB’s investigation will examine operations particular to Caribbean Petroleum, but will also look at the regulations and best practices surrounding the industry as a whole in an effort to improve safety practices at similar facilities.”

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 plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, www.csb.gov. Photos and security camera footage is available at <ftp://ftp.csb.gov/caribbean>.

USA, NC, WAKE CO, NEW HILL

NOVEMBER 18 2009.

SHEARON HARRIS OIL "LEAK" SLICKS PLANT WITH 7,000 GALLONS

John Murawski

The officially dubbed "oil leak" that shut down the Shearon Harris nuclear plant over the weekend was no mere trickle but a geyser that drenched surrounding equipment and coagulated into a pool on the floor.

About 7,000 gallons gushed out of the plant’s main generator’s oil seal system, draining half of the system’s pressurized lubricant, according to Progress Energy, the company that owns the power plant.

The accident serves as a reminder of the sheer industrial scale of a nuclear power complex that generates 900 megawatts of power and employs 600 people. Within five minutes of the mishap, Shearon Harris operators shut down the nuclear reactor at 10:42 p.m. Sunday night and embarked an industrial cleanup that has continued until this afternoon.

Several dozen workers are cleaning up the spill at the nuclear plant located about 25 miles southwest of Raleigh.

"An operator was manipulating the valve when the valve handle came flying out," said Joey Ledford, spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "They've got a lot of people in there cleaning up oil."

The NRC, which oversees nuclear plant safety for the nation’s 104 commercial reactors, said the oil spill posed no public hazard and did not affect the reactor itself. Raleigh-based Progress, the majority owner of the Shearon Harris plant, shut down the reactor because the plant wasn’t able to produce electricity with the generator out of commission.

An NRC event report described the incident as a "large oil leak."

Ledford said the oil streamed out like a punctured artery and coated equipment in the generator room. Progress has already replaced a pump motor that was damaged by oil spray, he said.

There’s still no word on when Progress expects to resume generating electricity at the plant as operators tackle the goopy mess.

"It’s an oil spill at a nuclear plant, it’s not out of a lawnmower," said Progress spokesman Mike Hughes. "A spill like this takes a lot of cleanup."

<http://blogs.newsobserver.com/business/shearon-harris-oil-leak-slicks-plant-with-7000-gallons>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, NJ, LIVINGSTONE

NOVEMBER 24 2009.

EXPLOSION AT LIVINGSTON GAS STATION INJURES TWO WORKERS

CONTRACTORS WERE REMOVING UNDERGROUND TANKS

A contractor dismantling a defunct gas station in Livingston this morning set off a powerful explosion that sent him to the hospital and injured at least two others, authorities said.

The blast, at a former Exxon Mobil station at the corner of South Livingston and McClellan avenues, shattered storefront windows at the two neighboring businesses, Center Cleaners and Livingston Mart, but caused no other injuries.

The contractor was using a gas-powered saw to cut through tubular metal barriers when sparks set off lingering gasoline vapors in underground tanks, Mullin said.

The blast, shortly before 10:30 a.m., scattered debris, pebbles and small rocks in residential front yards roughly 200 yards from the station. Township building department personnel determined that it caused no structural damage to the businesses or nearby residences, Mullin said.

Fire department personnel treated the worker and two others at the scene, Chief Christopher Mullin said. The worker was taken to a local hospital with shock symptoms and possible internal injuries that were non-life threatening, Mullin said. The two others suffered slight injuries, but fire officials did not return calls seeking information on their conditions.

Lisa Lim, who owns and operates Center Cleaners with her husband, Hank, next door to the former gas station, said that if not for receiving a call on her cell phone, she would have been seated at the sewing machine in the front of the store when the blast occurred about 30 feet away.

"I thought the whole building was coming down," Lisa Lim said as she stepped around thick shards of broken glass and a massive potted plant knocked to the floor by the force of the blast.

No customers were inside at the time. "Thank God," Lim said.

Hank Lim said Thanksgiving week is typically among the cleaner's busiest. He said he hoped to reopen for business either later today or on Tuesday.

"This is hell," he said as he swept glass from the sewing table.

The station closed in September 2008, an Exxon spokesman said. He said the company still owned the property but did not know what was planned for the site, which is enclosed by Cyclone fencing.

A representative of the engineering firm in charge of the station's decommissioning, California-based Kleinfelder, said the injured worker was employed by Industrial Environmental Contracting Inc. in Metuchen, also known as I.E.C. Inc. A person answering the phone at I.E.C. declined to comment.

The explosion is the second incident at a gas station in Essex County in less than a week. On Thursday morning, a fire consumed most of an Exxon station in Millburn and sent a mechanic to the hospital with burns on his hands and face.

The fire, at the corner of Vauxhall Road and Millburn Avenue, is listed as accidental, pending lab results, township fire officials said.

http://www.nj.com/news/local/index.ssf/2009/11/worker_sets_off_explosion_in_f.html