

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

USA, VA, ARLINGTON

OCTOBER 31 2015.

REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT JET FUEL SPILLS INTO POTOMAC RIVER

Mary Ann Barton

Thousands of gallons of jet fuel has spilled into the Potomac River south of Reagan Washington National Airport, according to airport authorities.

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority personnel -- including Airport Operations and MWA Fire and Rescue -- U.S. Coast Guard, D.C. Department of Energy and Environment, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and D.C. Harbor Patrol are responding to the spill, which took place Thursday night, officials said.

Authorities say the spill amount is an "estimated worst case of 7,500 to 9,000 gallons of Jet A aviation fuel."

The Airports Authority is directing the unified response to the incident. As of 10 a.m. Friday, the source of the spill is secure, authorities said.

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter observed that the fuel was largely contained around the source of the discharge, extending to Four Mile Run and the southern boundary of Reagan National Airport (see map above; click on map to enlarge).

As of 4 p.m. Friday, all recoverable fuel has been removed from storm water overflow drains on airport property, officials said. Absorbent materials have been deployed to collect any remaining fuel.

Cleanup of the site is estimated to be completed by 7:30 a.m. Saturday, according to airport officials.

The spill has not been observed in the main channel of the river, airport officials say. The U.S. Coast Guard has adjusted an initial Safety Zone on the Potomac River to cover an area within a 1,500 yard radius of the emanation point from the airport.

An environmental cleanup team, Miller Environmental, has been contracted by Allied Aviation Fueling, the fuel contractor for the airlines at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, to undertake the cleanup efforts. A timeline has not yet been set for the cleanup effort.

Following consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it is believed the environmental impact from the spill will be limited.

The spill has not impacted airport operations.

The Transportation Security Administration has reduced staffing at its facility on the south side of the airport. The reduction is not expected to impact security screening operations at the airport.

The fuel spill came to the attention of airport personnel Thursday at approximately 9:15 p.m. on

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when they responded to reports of a fuel odor on the south side of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

At 10:25 p.m., responding personnel identified a fuel sheen on the Potomac River adjacent to the location of the initial reports of the odor.

It is believed that fuel from an earlier 2 a.m. spill remained trapped in the airport's storm water overflow drains and was flushed into the surrounding water following a higher than usual tide. The initial spill was believed to have been contained and cleaned. The Airports Authority and its partners will undertake a full examination of the cause of the initial fuel discharge.

Airport Operations and Airports Authority Fire and Rescue, in coordination with D.C. Harbor Patrol placed barriers in the river to contain the observed spill.

<http://patch.com/virginia/delray/reagan-national-airport-jet-fuel-spills-potomac-river>

USA, OK, OKLAHOMA CITY

OCTOBER 31 2015.

HAZMAT CREWS INVESTIGATE SUBSTANCE COMING OUT OF GROUND AT OIL WELL SITE

A hazardous materials crew is at oil well site Friday to investigate something that is coming out of the ground near Northwest 23rd Street, Oklahoma City Fire Department officials said. Authorities said crude oil mixed with some kind of salt water was bubbling out of the ground after a pipe broke, producing a white smoke at a site in the 2700 block of North Dittmer Road. The pipe was shut down, and crews worked to repair it. Crews set up a perimeter to keep people away from the area until they can determine what the substance is. Officials are trying to contact the property owner.

<http://www.koco.com/news/hazmat-crew-investigating-substance-coming-out-of-ground-near-oil-well-site/36162712>

USA, HI, HONOLULU

NOVEMBER 1 2015.

RED HILL FUEL SPILL POSES THREAT TO WATER SUPPLY, OFFICIALS CONCLUDE

Nearly two years ago, when one of the Navy's Red Hill fuel tank leaked 27,000 gallons of jet fuel, officials were quick to conclude that the spill did not reach the area's water source.

"I have high degree of confidence that petroleum products from this incident have not migrated from the Red Hill tank facility towards the Red Hill well aquifer," Capt. Mike Williamson said in January 2014.

But on Friday, the head of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply said the contamination did in fact hit the aquifer and that readings from monitoring wells had spiked in April.

Ernie Lau, the board's manager and chief engineer, said that in April the monitoring well closest to the leaking tank detected fuel contamination levels higher than those recorded in January 2014 when the leak occurred.

What's unusual is that the tank had been empty for more than a 18 months.

"That indicates signs of petroleum contamination that is pretty high," said Lau. "The groundwater aquifer, which contains the water, is contaminated to various levels from petroleum contaminants below and near the facility."

Lau's comments came during a task force meeting on the Red Hill spill. The Navy recently reached an agreement with the state Health Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to upgrade its 20 fuel tanks on Red Hill, which hold more than 250 million gallons of fuel.

The aquifer is a large underground layer of water-bearing rock. The aquifers in the Moanalua and Halawa provide up to 25 percent of the drinking water in urban Honolulu.

During a follow-up interview with Hawaii News Now, Lau said the fuel has not reached the Board of Water Supply's Halawa drinking water wells, which are about a mile away from the Red Hill Fuel Facility. But he said if more isn't done to contain the problem, the fuel could pose risks.

"Over the long term, possibly decades, there could there be a movement of fuel in the ground

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water in the aquifer in our direction. That's a concern," Lau said.

Lau is urging the state and the Navy to place more monitoring wells near its Halawa wells to ensure that the fuel spill isn't migrating that way.

Added state Rep. Chris Lee, who is a member of the Red Hill Task Force and chairman of the House Environmental Protection Committee, "We don't know how far and how fast this is spreading so we just need to keep on top of it and make sure we take action before this enters our drinking water."

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/30399540/red-hill-water-contamination>

USA, N.H, KEENE

NOVEMBER 1 2015.

OIL SPILL SOAKS WEST STREET SIDE OF KEENE LIBRARY PROPERTY

Michael Moore

About 20 to 40 gallons of fuel oil spilled on the West Street side of the Keene Public Library Friday at about 11:30 a.m.

Keene Fire Chief Mark F. Howard said Friday afternoon the spill happened while oil was being delivered to the library, and the cause remains under investigation.

The library didn't have to be evacuated, as the spill caused no hazardous conditions inside the building, he said.

He said the driver of the oil truck was able to quickly put the oil spill response kit he had on board to use, and that prevented the spill from being much worse.

Howard said the driver had filled the 3,000-gallon tank with about 2,700 gallons of oil, which would have left room in the tank, but something went wrong. What exactly went wrong is being investigated.

Lou Berube, owner of Discount Oil of Keene, which was making the delivery, said Friday afternoon the tank wasn't venting properly because a vent was plugged. That caused oil to spill back out of the tank, he said.

Howard said the oil spilled on the library lawn, onto the sidewalk and then onto the road, affecting an approximately 700-square-foot area. Crews were using Speedi Dri to absorb the oil on the sidewalk Friday. Howard said the oil-drenched soil on the lawn would have to be dug up and replaced and reseeded. The area was marked with wooden stakes and caution tape, and cleanup crews were on site as darkness fell excavating the contaminated soil.

http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/oil-spill-soaks-west-street-side-of-keene-library-property/article_e4bf19f3-c14d-515b-9d06-0ea9109eea6a.html

USA, W.V, GRAFTON

NOVEMBER 3 2015.

WEST VIRGINIA CLAIMS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS' OWNER BROKE THE LAW

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) recently sued a real estate company for allegedly violating the state's Underground Storage Tank Act.

Scott G. Mandirola, director of the Division of Water & Waste Management in the WVDEP, filed the lawsuit on July 31 in Taylor Circuit Court against TRC Realty, LTD, alleging the Ohio-based company failed to properly register ownership of three underground tanks with the state, failed to properly close one of the tanks, failed to notify the state about a change in ownership related to the tanks and failed to pay various penalties.

Mandirola claims TRC is the owner/operator of three underground storage tanks located at the intersection of U.S. Route 50 and U.S. Route 199 in Grafton, and that said tanks were found to be in violation of safety codes, ownership transfer notification and payment plan upkeep. Mandirola alleges TRC was given time to comply and fix violations as well as pay fees, but the company has failed to do so.

Mandirola is asking that TRC be required to pay all fees and correct all violations, plus pay a civil penalty of no more than \$10,000 per tank per day of its violation of rules, as well as a civil penalty not to

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exceed \$25,000 per day for code violation, as well as any further relief the court deems just. Mandriola is represented by Andrew F. Tarr of the WYDEP's Office of Legal Services in Charleston, West Virginia.

<http://wvrecord.com/stories/510644418-west-virginia-claims-underground-storage-tanks-owner-broke-the-law>

**USA, MN, ELKTON
NOVEMBER 4 2015.**

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA LEAKS LEAD TO INTERSTATE SHUTDOWN, EVACUATION

Josh Moniz and Heather J. Carlson

Authorities shutdown Interstate 90 near Elkton for nearly four hours on Monday evening and evacuated nearby homes after two separate anhydrous ammonia leaks happened in the span of a few hours.

The first leak happened shortly before 5 p.m. Monday, according to Rochester Fire Department news release. The Grand Meadow Fire Department got a call about a farm field anhydrous ammonia accident. The hose was leaking on a tandem farm nurse tank of anhydrous ammonia being used for fertilizing.

The Rochester Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team was called in shortly before 6 p.m. to help with the incident. Several nearby farmsteads in the path of the anhydrous ammonia cloud were evacuated.

The tractor pulling the anhydrous ammonia tank was severely damaged but authorities say the farm is lucky to have escaped without injury. No injuries have been reported in connection with the leak. Mower County Sheriff Terese Amazi said she believes the tanks belonged to Cenex Harvest States, an agricultural cooperative.

The Hazardous Materials Team provided chemical monitoring along four miles of Interstate 90 and portions of Mower County Road 7 in order to follow the chemical cloud and determine when it was safe to reopen the interstate.

Just as authorities were preparing to reopen the interstate to traffic, a second anhydrous ammonia leak occurred near the site of the original leak, prompting authorities to keep the roadway closed an additional hour, according to the news release. The second accident centered around problems with a hose coupling but authorities were able to shut down the equipment before the leak engulfed any equipment.

Rochester Fire Department Deputy Chief Steven Belau said the weather conditions exacerbated the problem. Mild winds blowing in variable directions, along with humidity in excess of 75 percent, allowed the anhydrous ammonia to stay together in an organized cloud and hug the ground, according to the news release.

Several agencies responded to the leak, including the Dexter Fire Department, Minnesota State Patrol, Mower County Sheriff's Office, Lyle Police Department and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The Rochester Fire Department and Grand Meadow Fire Department plan to check on the dozen or so homes near the leak to assure there is no lingering vapors present in the homes.

http://www.postbulletin.com/news/local/ammonia-leaks-lead-to-interstate-shutdown-evacuation/article_3dd5dcab-9cf6-5c70-aa42-c2eee1d5ea99.html

**USA, FLA, STUART
NOVEMBER 4 2015.**

STUART COMPANY REFUSING TO PAY FOR CLEANUP FROM EXPLOSION, FIRE EXPLOSION, FIRE ROCKED VIESEL FUEL IN APRIL

A Treasure Coast biodiesel company is refusing to pay for cleanup costs following a massive explosion and fire earlier this year. Viesel Fuel, in Stuart, erupted in flames in April forcing schools, homes and businesses in the area to be evacuated. The cleanup costs from the incident exceeded more than \$1.3

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million, but the company's attorney said it's not obligated to help Martin County pay the bill. The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration did issue three serious safety violations stemming from the explosion and slapped the company with a \$13,000 fine.

<http://www.wpbf.com/news/stuart-company-refusing-to-pay-for-cleanup-from-explosion-fire/36227468>

USA, TX, REEVES COUNTY

DECEMBER 28 2015

VIDEO - TERRIFYING MOMENT FLEEING WORKERS CAPTURE HUGE GAS PLANT EXPLOSION

Oil and Gas People has been sent this exclusive footage from an eye witness to the Dec 3rd Ramsey Gas Plant explosion in Reeves County, Texas. The explosion injured 2 workers and an early evacuation of the plant is thought to have saved countless lives.

The exact cause of the explosion is not expected to be released until after the OSHA Investigation is concluded, a process expected to take up to 6 months. However Oil and Gas People has spoken to a witness who was working at the site on December the 3rd and can reveal that the incident was most likely caused after a valve became frozen and a diesel burner was used in an attempt to unthaw it. The process is known in the industry as a Hot Z.

Attempts were made to control the initial fire but as they failed the order was given to evacuate the site. less than 5 minutes later fleeing workers captured the resulting explosion as most of the plant was engulfed in flames in an instant. 250 workers were evacuated with only seconds to spare.

After the explosion a 10 mile exclusion zone was set up around the site and roads into Texas from New Mexico were closed. Workers were taken by bus to a civic centre in Carlsbad.

Further disaster was narrowly avoided when the slug Catcher was blown 150 yards in the initial blast narrowly missing huge NGL (Natural Gas Liquid) storage tanks. Workers that returned to the site to help fence of the blast area have reported seeing thick bore 36" pipes twisted like they were straws.

Juan Rodriguez, an official spokesperson with OSHA, confirmed the U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA is investigating the incident at the Ramsey Natural Gas Processing Plant.

"Although it is difficult to say how long an investigation may last, OSHA by law has six months to complete an investigation," Rodriguez said in an email.

"If OSHA finds violations," he said, "then OSHA can issue citations and those citations accompany a monetary penalty."

According to an OSHA fact sheet, before conducting an inspection, OSHA compliance officers research the inspection history of a work site.

"They [compliance officers] gather appropriate personal protective equipment and testing instruments to measure potential hazards," the fact sheet said.

According to Midland TV station KWES NewsWest 9, several recent safety violations were discovered during a planned inspection by the OSHA, which resulted in five violations.

The company also was cited for issues related to how they handled highly hazardous chemicals.

<http://www.oilandgaspeople.com/news/6569/video-terrifying-moment-fleeing-workers-capture-huge-gas-plant-explosion/>

USA, TX, ORLA

DECEMBER 5 2015

TEXAS GAS PLANT EXPLOSION CAUGHT ON CAMERA

More than 250 oil workers escaped injury Thursday morning after an explosion rocked the Anadarko gas refinery near Orla and forced safety workers to evacuate people from a 10-mile radius, officials said. Only two workers were reported to have minor injuries by late Thursday. The black plume of smoke from the refinery was visible from as far away as the Guadalupe Mountains and the explosion could be felt 25 miles away. The fire broke out about 9 a.m. at the Ramsey Natural Gas Processing Plant near Orla,

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about 45 miles away from Carlsbad. The plant is owned by Western Gas Partners and is operated by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation.

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=1dd_1449265684#hJio7KoXHykyfK5L.99