

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, MT. GLENDIVE

JANUARY 20 2015.

DRINKING WATER TRUCKED INTO MONTANA CITY AFTER OIL SPILL

Truckloads of drinking water were being shipped to the eastern Montana city of Glendive on Monday after traces of a major oil spill along the Yellowstone River were detected in public water supplies, raising concerns about a potential health risk.

Preliminary tests at the city's water treatment plant indicated that at least some oil got into a water supply intake along the river, according to state and federal officials. About 6,000 people are served by the intake, Glendive Mayor Jerry Jimison said.

Officials stressed that they were bringing in the shipments of drinking water as a precaution and did not know yet whether there was any health threat. Results of further tests to determine the scope of the danger were expected in coming days.

Up to 50,000 gallons of oil spilled in the pipeline accident Saturday. Cleanup crews trying to recover the spilled crude were hampered by ice that covered most of the river, making it hard to find the oil.

Initial tests of water supplies Saturday and Sunday revealed no evidence of oil. But by late Sunday, residents began complaining that the water coming from their taps had an unusual odor, officials said.

An advisory against ingesting water from the city's treatment plant was issued late Monday. After hearing about it, Glendive resident Ed Miller, 67, picked up an extra gallon of water from the fast-dwindling supplies at a convenience store.

Bob Habeck, left, with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, speaks at a meeting in Glend ...

Miller hadn't noticed any odors from his own tap water. But his neighbors had, and Miller said he wouldn't be drinking any city water until the advisory was lifted.

Glendive City Councilman Gerald Reichert said he first noticed an odor in the water at his house Sunday night. He said it smelled like diesel fuel.

Officials with Bridger Pipeline LLC of Casper, Wyoming, have said the break in the 12-inch steel pipe happened in an area about 5 miles upstream from Glendive, an agricultural community in east-central Montana near the North Dakota border.

Bridger spokesman Bill Salvin said Monday that the company is confident that no more than 1,200 barrels — or roughly 50,000 gallons — of oil spilled during the hour-long breach.

An oil sheen was seen near Sidney, almost 60 river miles downstream from Glendive, said Paul Peronard, the on-scene coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Paul Peronard, left, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, describes a pipeline spill

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along ...

Booms were being placed in areas of open water to try and trap oil. Near Crane, which is about 30 miles downstream from the spill, crews were chopping holes into the ice in hopes that they will be able to vacuum up crude as it comes down the river in coming days.

"These are horrible working conditions to try to recover oil," Peronard said Monday. "Normally you at least see it, but you can't see it, you can't smell it. ... We're going to have to hunt and peck through ice to get it out," Peronard said.

Bridger Pipeline crews were still working Monday to determine exactly where the breach occurred. If it happened on the bank, some of the oil may be trapped in the soil near the river. If it was beneath the river, "then it's all in the river," Peronard said.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock toured the spill site Monday afternoon. He said he expected Bridger to continue its cleanup efforts "until it's cleaned up to our standards."

A warning sign shows the location of a 12-inch oil pipeline owned by Bridger Pipeline Co. that spill ... "The water's a concern," Bullock said. "I expect Bridger to continue and provide all the resources needed."

The Poplar Pipeline system runs from Canada to Baker, Montana, and carries crude oil from the Bakken oil producing region in Montana and North Dakota. It remained shut down Monday while crews planned to pump out any remaining oil from the section of the pipeline where the breach occurred.

The pipeline receives oil at the Poplar Station in Roosevelt County, Fisher and Richey stations in Richland County, and at Glendive in Dawson County, all in Montana. It was last inspected in 2012, Salvin said, and is at least 8 feet below the Yellowstone River bed where it crosses the river near Glendive.

Bridger Pipeline, a subsidiary of True Cos., also owns and operates the Four Bears Pipeline System in North Dakota along with the Parshall Gathering System and the Powder River System in Wyoming, according to the company's website.

Bridge Pipeline Vice President Tad True said the company apologizes for the spill and has taken responsibility for the cleanup.

The company will not be able to restart the pipeline until it receives approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Inspectors from the federal agency were at the spill and also planned to inspect Bridger Pipeline's control room in Casper, Wyoming, to gather more information, PHMSA spokeswoman Susan Lagana said.

<http://news.yahoo.com/crews-clean-oil-spilled-eastern-montana-pipeline-154746319.html>

CANADA, B.C, SAANICH

JANUARY 21 2015.

MORE OIL TANK SPILLS, STILL NO NEW SOLUTIONS

Daniel Palmer

Three home heating oil leaks that have found their way into Bowker Creek and the Gorge Waterway this month are just the latest in a long list of expensive spills across the region, and local MLAs believe the province needs to do more to protect homeowners.

On the evening of Jan. 5, Saanich received a call from Oak Bay fire crews about an oil sheen and strong smell of diesel fuel on Bowker Creek near Mortimer Street. Booms were installed in the area, but finding the source of the leak proved difficult.

"Crews estimate they lifted over 50 manhole covers looking for the source of the fuel," said Harley Machielse, Saanich director of engineering.

It took about 24 hours before the leak was traced to a home in the 1700-block of Kisber Avenue, nearly three kilometres from the site of the Bowker Creek booms. An outdoor home heating oil tank was found to be leaking at the Shelbourne Valley home and into a perimeter drain, Machielse said.

Public works crews installed a siphon dam at the property line to stop fuel from leaving the property, and the oil tank was pumped out. Booms were also placed in nearby manholes to protect Bowker

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Creek, Machielse said.

"We'll keep those booms up in place and do regular checks on a daily basis to see if there's any additional contaminants being collected," he said. "In this case, they weren't large spills."

The spill on Kisber Avenue was estimated to be about 100 litres.

On the morning of Jan. 6, another oil sheen was called in by Saanich Fire Department along the Gorge. In that case, crews quickly found a storm water drain that was carrying the oil and traced the leak to a home on Walter Street, about half a kilometre away in the Tillicum-Gorge neighbourhood.

Without a recent reading to indicate how much heating oil was in the tank, crews have no way of making an accurate approximation of the oil spill, Machielse said.

The Kirby and Walter Avenue spills aren't the first to cause financial headaches for homeowners. In 2012, a couple on Ambassador Avenue was forced to pay \$48,000 in clean-up costs after insurance didn't come through.

A 2011 report released by the University of Victoria's environmental law clinic titled Preventing Home Heating Oil Spills in British Columbia, focused on seven suggested provisions to take part of the onus of clean-up costs off homeowners.

Among the recommendations were: improved physical requirements for tanks and equipment; limiting the length of time a tank can be in use; regulating oil delivery; inspection and monitoring requirements; tank decommissioning requirements; and direct economic incentives for homeowners to change heating fuels. So far, the provincial, regional and local governments have not taken action.

"The number of spills from failed tanks is growing, which puts Saanich's waterways at even greater risk," said Victoria-Swan Lake MLA Rob Fleming. "The provincial regulations aren't at all preventative which leaves homeowners to potentially face shocking liabilities from oil contamination of their properties."

To initiate discussion on oil tank spills, Fleming and Saanich South MLA Lana Popham are jointly hosting a community forum to discuss how to reduce risks for the environment and homeowners on Feb. 5 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Spectrum community school, 957 Burnside Rd. West.

Machielse was confident that no more oil will leak from the concerned properties, and he said crews would continue their clean up. Property owners are responsible for hiring professionals to complete the work and for the municipality's clean-up costs.

<http://www.saanichnews.com/news/289183721.html>

USA, WI, MARSHFIELD

JANUARY 22 2015.

CREW REMOVES HAZARDOUS WASTE SPILL FOUND IN INDUSTRIAL PARK

Liz Welter

Authorities worked Wednesday to clean up about 150 gallons of diesel fuel that leaked from a storage tank Tuesday into a ditch in the Marshfield East Industrial Park.

A crew from Wausau-based REI Civil and Environmental Engineering, Surveying that's trained to remove hazardous waste worked throughout the day to clean up the diesel fuel.

The crew foreman said he planned for the crew to return to the site Thursday to finish the cleanup.

There was no danger to the public, and the frozen ground coupled with the snow cover allowed first responders to contain the spill when it was reported Tuesday, said Nick Wallor, Department of Natural Resources conservation warden.

"The city did a good job," Wallor said about an earthen dam being built at the site to prevent the spill from traveling south in the ditch.

"As far as spills go, the frozen ground and snow will probably prevent any ground contamination," Wallor said.

Firefighters responded at 5:20 p.m. Tuesday to the scene near the intersection of East Fifth Street and Anton Avenue.

The greenish-colored liquid was identified as diesel fuel, and the leak was stopped. The crew and a

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city worker with a back-hoe created a dam to contain the leak, said Lt. Steve Bakos of the Marshfield Fire and Rescue Department.

The dam was reinforced early Wednesday, Bakos said.

The party responsible for the spill will not be fined as long as the spill is cleaned up, Wallor said. He declined to name who was responsible for the spill.

<http://www.marshfieldnewsherald.com/story/news/local/2015/01/21/city-responds-hazardous-waste-spill-industrial-park/22104519/>

INDIA, GUJARAT, AHMEDABAD

JANUARY 23 2015.

2 LABOURERS CHOKE TO DEATH IN TANK

Two workers of a private firm, who had entered into an underground tank to clean it in a unit in Dholka GIDC area on Thursday morning, died after suspected asphyxiation.

Workers identified as Ravindra Solanki, 42, and Narendra Patel, 40, were on contract with a private firm, who were sent for cleaning of an underground chemical storage tank in a unit in Dholka GIDC on Thursday morning. During the work, they complained of breathing problems and soon collapsed in the tank. They were rescued and were rushed to a nearby government hospital where they died after a short treatment.

D D Solanki, inspector of Dholka police station, said that at the moment they have not included the names of the supervisors of the company where the incident had taken place. "According to the records, The firm was not working and there were no supervisors present. Investigation is on to ascertain how the incident had taken place. Prima facie, it can be a case of gas leakage in the tank that might have resulted into the duo's death," he said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/2-labourers-choke-to-death-in-tank/articleshow/45985416.cms>

USA, OK, MIAMI

JANUARY 25 2015.

MAN SUES WALMART OVER GAS-CAN BLAST

Jack Moran

A Coos County man who suffered burns over nearly half of his body in a "flashback" gas-can explosion has filed a \$13 million lawsuit against Walmart, which he alleges sold him a dangerous fuel container, the manufacturer of which went out of business amid a wave of costly litigation linked to the product's design.

The plastic can produced by Blitz USA burst and sprayed burning fuel onto Daniel Rowlett as he poured a gasoline-diesel mixture into a burn barrel while trying to start a fire on Oct. 21, 2013, according to the suit filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Eugene.

Blitz, based in Miami, Okla., was the largest seller of portable gas cans before it shut down in 2012 while facing product liability lawsuits filed by more than 80 people during a five-year period.

Like Rowlett's complaint, many of the lawsuits accused Blitz of not fitting the spout of its signature gas can with an inexpensive safety screen that would have blocked flaming fuel vapors from shooting into the container and causing an explosion. Other manufacturers equip their cans with the piece.

Walmart was named as a defendant in some of the gas can suits. In 2013, the retail giant agreed to chip in \$25 million to resolve the litigation, with Blitz paying another \$136 million toward the settlement.

In regard to Rowlett's lawsuit, a Walmart spokesman on Friday suggested the Coos County man's own negligence caused him to be burned.

"It's unfortunate when people misuse gas cans because tragic injuries can result," company spokesman Randy Hargrove said. "Safety is a top priority, and we require the products we sell meet or exceed safety standards established by federal and state regulators. We're looking into the complaint and

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will respond appropriately with the court.”

The statement echoes earlier declarations made by Walmart in gas-can explosion cases. Blitz cans had warnings stamped onto them, which cautioned people against using gas to start fires.

Rowlett is represented by attorneys Derek Johnson of Eugene and Jonah Flynn of Atlanta. Flynn has taken a number of similar cases in the past. He says Rowlett “didn’t do anything wrong” when he was injured.

Rowlett is a rural Coos County resident who worked as a mechanic before suffering burns over 45 percent of his body, Flynn said.

On the day of the accident, Rowlett decided to pour fuel into his burning barrel after mistakenly believing that he had failed to get a fire going a short time earlier, the attorney said.

The suit asserts that a vapor trail from the gas can ignited when the fuel came into contact with something burning in the barrel. The trail then rushed back into the can, causing it to explode violently and spray burning fuel onto Rowlett.

Rowlett’s medical expenses from the incident so far have totaled more than \$324,000, according to the suit. Rowlett wants Walmart to compensate him for those costs, pay his future medical bills, and reimburse him for lost income. Flynn said Rowlett’s injuries will prevent him from returning to work as a mechanic.

The suit also seeks \$10 million to compensate Rowlett and his wife, Janet, for pain and suffering. Additionally, Walmart should pay the Rowletts \$3 million in punitive damages because it knew of dangers associated with the gas can and failed to provide “appropriate warning” to customers when the can was purchased, according to the lawsuit.

“It’s been absolutely devastating” to the Rowletts, Flynn said. “I’ve seen worse, but this is a very serious injury.”

Blitz cans have been associated with a number of deaths. In one notable case, a Utah jury in 2010 awarded more than \$6 million to a man whose daughter was killed when his plastic gas can exploded as he poured gasoline into a wood stove to start a fire.

The man’s lawyers argued during trial that a flame arrester would have prevented the accident. The jury blamed Blitz for 70 percent of the accident while ruling that the can’s user was 30 percent to blame, according to media reports of the case.

<http://registerguard.com/rg/news/local/32687100-75/coos-co.-man-sues-walmart-over-gas-can-explosion.csp>

USA, MS, MOSS POINT

JANUARY 28 2015.

OSHA GOES ALPHA ON OMEGA, SAYS WELDERS UNAWARE OF TOXIC, EXPLOSIVE FUMES UNTIL BLAST KILLS WORKER

Sandy Smith

Two temporary workers hired to cut and weld pipes at the Omega Protein plant in Moss Point, Miss., on July 28, 2014, had no idea that the storage tank beneath them contained methane and hydrogen sulfide gases and they had no training about the explosion hazard associated with those gases.

One of the two men found out later as he lay in a hospital with a fractured skull, internal injuries and broken bones. The second, a 25-year-old man named Jerry Taylor, died when the tank exploded.

An OSHA investigation determined that four companies violated safety regulations that could have prevented the tragedy. The companies are Accu-Fab & Construction Inc., Omega Protein and JP Williams Machine & Fabrication, all in Moss Point, and Global Employment, in Pascagoula, Miss.

“The Omega Protein plant explosion shines a spotlight on how critical it is for employers to verify, isolate and remove fire and explosion hazards in employee work areas,” said Eugene Stewart, OSHA’s area director in Jackson, Miss. “If the employer ensured a safe environment, this tragic incident could have been prevented.”

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Accu-Fab, a metal fabricator, was contracted by Omega Protein to manufacture and erect a wastewater storage tank that required modification of existing pipes. A staffing agency, Global Employment Services, provided Accu-Fab with the employees needed at Omega. JP Williams Machine, which provides industrial service and repair, was on-site the day of the explosion performing unrelated maintenance activities.

OSHA issued 13 citations to Omega Protein, a producer of omega-3 fish oil and specialty fish meal products, for willful, repeated and serious safety violations. The company received a willful citation for allegedly exposing employees to fire and explosion hazards due to Omega management's failure to inform Accu-Fab that the storage tank contained wastewater that could generate hydrogen sulfide and methane gases, which can be highly explosive and toxic, even at low concentrations. The repeated violations involve not having standard railings on open-sided floors and platforms and failing to label electrical boxes properly.

Omega Protein was cited previously for these same violations in 2012. Additionally, the serious hazards included allowing workers to weld and cut piping on an improperly prepared storage tank containing explosive methane and hydrogen sulfide gases and failing to label or tag the storage tank to note that it contained hazardous chemicals.

OSHA cited Accu-Fab for one willful, four serious and two other-than-serious violations. The willful violation was issued for failure to train workers on chemical hazards in the work area, such as hydrogen sulfide, methane, welding gas and paints. Global Employment Services was issued a serious citation for this same hazard. Additionally, both employers were cited for a serious violation for failure to instruct employees about avoiding unsafe work conditions.

Accu-Fab also was cited for failure to ensure employees working on top of a storage tank at heights of up to 29 feet were wearing fall protection and for not recording this fatality or two other recordable injuries.

JP Williams was issued one serious citation for improperly storing oxygen and acetylene cylinders. Exposure to acetylene can cause headache, dizziness, asphyxiation and even frostbite.

Proposed penalties for the four companies total \$187,620.

OSHA has conducted 13 inspections at Omega Protein facilities in Mississippi, Virginia and Louisiana since 1998. The company received citations for noise exposure, personnel protective equipment, machine guarding, welding and cutting and electrical hazards. Accu-Fab has three prior OSHA inspections, most recently in 2002, and has been cited for scaffolding, forklift, welding, cutting and electrical violations. Both JP Williams and Global Employment have no prior OSHA inspection history.

The companies have 15 business days from receipt of their citations and proposed penalties to comply, request a conference with Stewart or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

<http://ehstoday.com/industrial-hygiene/osha-goes-alpha-omega-says-welders-unaware-toxic-explosive-fumes-until-blast-kill>

USA, VA, HOPEWELL

JANUARY 29 2015.

TANK RUPTURES AT HOPEWELL'S HONEYWELL PLANT; EMPLOYEES ORDERED TO TAKE SHELTER

A tank at the Honeywell plant ruptured while it was being cleaned Wednesday, prompting officials to order employees to take shelter, a spokesman said. No injuries were reported. Honeywell spokesman Peter Dalpe said the top of the tank ruptured about 11:30 a.m. when it became over-pressurized. The tank, which usually contains oleum, a form of sulfuric acid, was not in service at the time. There were six people working on the tank, which is 25 feet tall by 26 feet wide. The plant's emergency brigade was on standby, which is standard procedure for cleaning a tank of that type, Dalpe said. No one was taken to the hospital, he added. Dalpe said there was no fire associated with the incident, and the company was not regarding the loud rupturing as an explosion. Dalpe said employees at the plant were initially instructed to "shelter in place" as a precaution, but that the order had been lifted by 12:17 p.m. He said local emergency responders

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were notified and arrived at the scene. Hopewell Police Chief John Keohane described the plant explosion as a "very small, self-contained incident."

http://www.richmond.com/news/local/central-virginia/tri-cities/hopewell/article_83c38d95-643c-55fb-81ed-76c200165614.html

USA, HI, HONOLULU

JANUARY 31 2015.

EPA ISSUES ORDER AGAINST COMPANY IN MAJOR JET FUEL SPILL

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Friday ordered the continued cleanup of 42,000 gallons of jet fuel that spilled from a tank facility on Sand Island Access Road.

The order, issued Friday, requires facility operator Airport Service Group International (ASIG), and facility owner Hawaii Fueling Facilities Corp. to proceed with cleanup work to prevent fuel from entering waters or shoreline areas.

The spill was reported on Jan. 21, and more than 16,000 gallons of jet fuel has been recovered. Cleanup efforts have been overseen by the EPA along with the state Department of Health.

The health department has said the spill poses no risk to drinking water, but fuel has spread from the facility through subsurface contamination and is within 150 feet of the harbor.

"Our action today is to make sure the fuel is cleaned up quickly to protect public health and Oahu's ocean environment," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "We will be monitoring the work closely, and will investigate the cause of the spill to prevent one from happening again."

ASIG provides airplane fuel at the Honolulu airport.

Fuel is being pumped from extraction trenches and tank monitoring wells as part of the recovery effort. The EPA said its emergency response contractors are also conducting air monitoring.

The EPA order under the Clean Water Act requires the owner and operator to:

- >> Submit a work plan for daily response activities by Feb. 5.
- >> Clean up all petroleum or contaminated materials released.
- >> Prevent further releases and impacts to the environment resulting from releases of oil/fuel to waters and adjoining shorelines.
- >> Repair all damaged equipment at the facility to prevent future spills of petroleum
- >> Submit a plan by March 2 for environmental sampling to ensure that the cleanup activities are complete.

According to the EPA, ASIG said the spill came from a leak in the bottom of its above-ground Tank No. 2, which has a 2.8 million gallon capacity. There are 16 above ground tanks with a total facility capacity of 44.8 million gallons of fuel.

EPA is leading the response effort with an on-scene coordinator and contractors from its Pacific Southwest Regional Office in San Francisco. They are working with the DOH's Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response branch and staff from the ASIG facility.

http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/20150130_EPA_issues_order_against_company_in_major_jet_fuel_spill.html?id=290374731

USA, WA, LAKEWOOD

JANUARY 31 2015.

STORAGE TANK EXPLOSION CAUSES LARGE FIRE IN LAKEWOOD

A storage tank explosion at the Pick N Pull vehicle salvage yard on 112th Street created a large fire in Lakewood on Thursday, resulting in backed up traffic around Joint Base Lewis McChord. According to reports from fire officials, a gasoline vendor was there to pull gas out of the storage tank, which is routine. West Pierce Fire & Rescue officials say the vendor was blown 60 feet from the tank and was not hurt. The thick smoke was visible from I-5 and SR 512. Chopper 7 images showed firefighters working to put out the

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large blaze. Shortly before 5 p.m., the building was still smoldering. Some evacuations are in place for neighboring businesses but not for any homes in the area. 112th Street is shut down from South Tacoma Way to Steele Street in order to keep drivers a safe distance away and give firefighters room to work. The Department of Ecology is en route to assist with any spilled materials during the explosion.

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/crews-respond-explosion-fire-lakewood/njzZz/>

USA, ID, BOISE

JANUARY 31 2015.

OSHA CITES IDAHO STEEL TANK MANUFACTURER

OSHA's Region 10 office announced an enforcement action against Caldwell, Idaho-based Superior Steel Products Inc. after conducting a fatality investigation. A 30-year-old welder named Ernesto Paramo was in an unsecured basket raised improperly by a forklift, about 9 feet off the floor, when the basket fell to the concrete floor. According to the OSHA announcement, investigators concluded the company did not protect employees from hazards related to the use of forklifts, and they also discovered confined space, flammable liquid, and respiratory hazards. It says nearly one in four Idaho workplace fatalities during the past year resulted from improper forklift use, and there has been a Local Emphasis Program in Region 10 for powered industrial trucks since Nov. 26, 2013. OSHA has proposed fines of \$38,780 for these violations in this case. "We send our condolences to the family and friends of Ernesto Paramo. They lost someone they loved because Superior Steel Products did not ensure basic safety procedures for dangerous heavy equipment," said Galen Blanton, acting OSHA regional administrator in Seattle. Superior Steel Products manufactures steel and aluminum storage tanks, such as crude oil tankers, aviation fuel storage, fuel transportation tanks, fertilizer storage tanks, and chemical transportation tanks. To contact the OSHA Boise Area Office, call 208-321-2960.

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2015/01/30/osha-cites-idaho-steel-manufacturer.aspx?admgarea=news>

USA, HI, HONOLULU

FEBRUARY 5 2015.

WELD FAILURE IN FUEL TANK CITED IN SPILL

Leila Fujimori

A 42,000-gallon jet fuel spill reported Jan. 21 is likely due to a weld failure on the bottom of an above-ground storage tank at a Sand Island tank farm, which supplies fuel to Honolulu Airport, the tank operating company said.

Although the spill remains under investigation, Aircraft Service International Group reported the weld failed when the company performed a vacuum test, but no hole is evident, said Terry Corpus, state on-site coordinator with the Department of Health's Hazardous Evaluation and Emergency Response Branch.

The leading edge of the plume of fuel, which has seeped underground, is 150 feet from the water's edge at Keehi Lagoon, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said in a news release Monday.

The state and the EPA have recovered more than 19,800 gallons of spilled jet fuel from two fuel extraction trenches excavated inside the tank farm. That's up from the 16,000 gallons recovered as of Wednesday.

On Friday the EPA issued a Clean Water Act compliance order requiring tank farm operator ASIG and facility owner Hawaii Fueling Corp. to submit a work plan by Thursday for daily response activities and cleanup of all petroleum or contaminated materials released into the environment as a result of the spill.

The plan should also include how the companies intend to prevent further releases and harm to the environment, the EPA said. By March 2 a plan for sampling to ensure the cleanup activities are complete is due.

The Health Department reports the spill has not affected harbor activities and that there are no closures.

The EPA said, "There are no drinking water wells in the area."

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Corpus said the area contains brackish water or seawater, and there are no freshwater sources anywhere.

Spill containment booms, placed at Keehi Lagoon as a precaution, are monitored daily, the EPA said.

The tank itself is roughly 200 to 250 feet from the water. A concrete wall, which goes below the groundwater table, is on the perimeter of the facility.

The EPA sent two on-site coordinators to assist in the response and recovery activities.

In the past week crews have dug 15 exploratory trenches and five monitoring bore holes inside the tank farm. A total of 42 exploratory bore holes have been dug outside the facility.

The facility has 16 tanks, each with a capacity of 2.8 million gallons for a total facility capacity of 44.8 million gallons of fuel.

A 2009 fuel spill also involved the current leaking tank, Tank No. 2, at the same facility.

Corpus said ASIG told the state that the 2009 spill involved wastewater processing.

He said water from condensation collects at the bottom of the fuel tanks, and the company must drain that water.

ASIG could not be reached for comment.

Dean Higuchi, EPA spokesman, would not speculate on how much the companies could potentially face in fines.

"We're still in response mode and trying to contain and make sure it's cleaned up," he said. "All facilities need to ensure they have proper containment and proper tank monitoring."

<http://www.aviationpros.com/news/11830483/weld-failure-in-fuel-tank-cited-in-spill-19800-gallons-recovered>

USA, ME, WALDOBORO

FEBRUARY 7 2015.

2,000 GALLONS OF OIL MISTAKENLY PUMPED INTO WALDOBORO SCHOOL'S SEPTIC SYSTEM

Stephen Betts

About 2,000 gallons of heating oil was accidentally pumped into the septic system at the Medomak Middle School on Wednesday.

The environmental impact is not yet known, but the school has provided bottled water to students and staff as a precaution, in the event the oil seeped from the leach field and contaminated the groundwater that supplies the school.

Regional School Unit 40 Superintendent Steve Nolan said Friday that Maritime Energy delivered oil to the school Wednesday. When a school custodian later checked the oil level, it did not match up with the delivery paperwork. Upon further investigation, the staff learned the oil had been pumped into a pipe connected to a pumping station that sends wastewater from the septic tank to the leach field.

The superintendent said Maritime Energy officials told him the delivery driver who made the mistake had not previously delivered oil to the school.

Medomak Middle School Principal Katherine Race said that the pipe to fuel oil tank and the one that leads to the septic system pumps are more than 50 feet apart. She said the fuel pipe had been cleared of snow in anticipation of the delivery but the other one had not. She said the Maritime Energy driver shoveled a path to that septic pipe before pumping the oil.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection was called in, and Interstate Septic responded and pumped oil out of the septic tank. Nolan said several hundred gallons of the oil was recovered, but the remainder has gotten into the leach field.

Maritime Energy Vice President Susan Ware Page said Friday afternoon that the company has taken ownership of the cleanup. She said the driver was an experienced one who was helping out. She said both the fuel pipe and sewer pipe were 4-inch camlock pipes and looked the same.

The chance of contamination of the well is extremely unlikely because the well is located 120 yards

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away and is uphill from the leach field, Page said. The company has hired a firm to pump out the septic tank regularly in case more oil should find its way in from the leach field. The firm also has hired a civil engineer to help save the leach field, she said.

The school administration considered closing the campus, which includes Medomak Valley High School, but determined that if drinking water was provided until the water is tested it would be safe. The water has been tested, but results have not yet been received.

No school days were missed because of the incident.

“The safety of our students and staff is the top priority,” Nolan said.

The superintendent and state officials met Friday morning and Nolan said he expected a plan to be developed by early next week to dig and clean up the leach field. He said the work will be done soon and will not have to wait for the snow to melt and ground to be thawed.

He said the environmental officials at Friday’s meeting were optimistic that the groundwater would not be contaminated. Even if the water test comes back with no sign of contamination, however, he said bottled water would be provided for a time and subsequent testing would be done.

Karl Wilkins, acting communications director for the DEP, said Friday it was too early to know what environmental impact has occurred.

The superintendent said he expects Maritime Energy will be responsible for the cleanup costs.

<http://bangordailynews.com/2015/02/06/news/midcoast/oil-delivery-mistakenly-pumped-into-schools-septic-tank/>

USA, N.J, CLIFTON

FEBRUARY 7 2015.

FEDS INVESTIGATING EXPLOSION THAT INJURED 3 AT AGL WELDING SUPPLY IN CLIFTON

A Paterson man was severely burned and another worker was injured at a Route 46 supply store when oxygen they were using to fill cylinders inexplicably exploded Friday morning, fire Chief Vincent Colavitti Jr. said.

Roberto Silva, 45, has been taken to St. Barnabas Medical center and it appeared Friday afternoon that he would survive, Colavitti said. The other worker, who suffered from minor smoke inhalation, and a truck driver working nearby who also was shaken up by the force of the explosion were treated and released.

The 7 a.m. explosion at the AGL Welding Supply Co. at 600 Route 46 also ignited a fire that went to three alarms and prompted shutdowns of both vehicular and mass transit traffic in the immediate area.

The fire was declared under control at 8 a.m. But the chief said the three alarms had been needed in summoning enough staffing to deal with bitter cold conditions. The fire also had been contained by the building’s sprinkler system until firefighters arrived.

With oxygen still leaking from the storage tank after the explosion, Route 46 near the plant was shut down in both directions, as was Exit 154 of the Garden State Parkway northbound. Also, nearby trains were halted because of the possibility of additional explosions, Colavitti said. Firefighters were able to shut off the tank’s valve and traffic began moving again.

Silva initially was taken to St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center in Paterson and then was transferred to the burn unit of St. Barnabas, in Livingston.

There had been 26 employees in the building and all were accounted for, Colavitti said. The plant was to be allowed to reopen later in the day.

Fifty firefighters from Clifton, Paterson, Passaic, Nutley and Montclair responded to the call for help. The Passaic County Sheriff’s Office, State Police and NJ Transit police assisted.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which probes workplace accidents, the fire investigation bureau of the Clifton Fire Department and the county Prosecutor's Office are investigating, given the severity of Silva's injuries. But authorities said the explosion's ignition is believed to have been accidental.

<http://www.northjersey.com/news/feds-investigating-explosion-that-injured-3-at-agl-welding-supply-in-clifton-1.1266250>

USA, HI, HONOLULU

FEBRUARY 7 2015.

EXCLUSIVE: FUEL TANK OWNER WAITED A MONTH BEFORE REPORTING LEAK

The massive fuel leak at Sand Island may have started a month before it was first reported.

A report by the EPA says that Hawaii Fueling Facilities Corp. noticed a large loss of volume in its No. 2 tank back on Dec. 22, or nearly a month before it reported the leak.

And some say delay could have allowed the spill to spread further.

"Greater damage may have occurred because they sat on their thumbs doing absolutely nothing," said environmental activist Carroll Cox.

"The oil is still in the ground and the plume is migrating and moving about."

The EPA and state authorities say they're unable to act unless they're notified of a spill.

"Until a facility makes a report to the national response center, the EPA, the Coast Guard and the state can't get mobilized to assist and respond to a spill," said Dean Higuchi, EPA spokesman.

Under federal law, the company is required to report any leak of 1,000 gallons or more. According to the state, a total of 42-thousand gallons has been spilled so far.

Back in December, the fuel gauges on tank No. 2 showed a loss of volume for six straight days, according to a source familiar with the investigation.

But the source said the company couldn't find the leak until it emptied the tank, which took several days.

Making matters worse, a concrete wall built around the storage facility that was supposed contain large leaks was unable to slow the spread of the spill.

The owner, the Hawaii Fueling Facilities Corporation, is a consortium owned by nearly two dozen airlines, including United and US Airways.

It has a history of spills at the site, the latest occurring in 2008.

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/28040483/exclusive-fuel-tank-owner-waited-a-month-before-reporting-leak>

USA, MT, LAUREL

FEBRUARY 7 2015.

MONTANA FIBERGLASS TANK MANUFACTURING BUSINESS BURNS

The main building of a southeastern Montana company that makes fiberglass tanks for use in oil fields was destroyed by fire Thursday afternoon, company officials said. Heavy, black smoke rose into the air as firefighters from Billings and Laurel battled the blaze at Fiberglass Structures Inc. in Laurel. There were 20 employees inside when the fire started, and all of them got out safely, plant supervisor Bob Degely told The Billings Gazette. The black smoke was likely caused by the highly flammable resin used in construction of the fiberglass tanks, company president Rob Harris said. Employees initially tried to put out the fire and the building's sprinkler system was activated, Harris said, "but we work with a lot of flammables, and once it got going, it was totally unstoppable." Officials advised people to stay away from the area because it was unclear if the smoke was hazardous. The company has a second facility in Laurel and will shift some of the work there, Harris said.

http://mtstandard.com/news/state-and-regional/montana-fiberglass-tank-manufacturing-business-burns/article_b9467d58-7e0f-56e4-b4f1-89d660a01f46.html

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON

FEBRUARY 7 2015.

MAJOR CHANGES POSSIBLY COMING TO ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANK BILL

Major changes have been proposed to the above ground storage tank bill that was passed in the wake of the water crisis.

Senator John Unger, who championed the storage tank bill last year, said lawmakers need to put people and water safety ahead of money concerns.

House Bill 2574 addresses only above ground storage tanks in what lawmakers are calling the “zone of critical concern” or near water sources.

But, that leaves out potentially thousands of tanks in rural areas where well water and aquifers could be impacted.

On the one year anniversary of the water crisis, House Speaker Tim Armstead was steadfast that the water tank bill would not be gutted.

“We are absolutely not going to rip the guts out of this bill, that is not going to happen,” Armstead said.

But now, huge changes to House Bill 2574 would exempt about 94 percent of the tanks that would have to be registered and inspected every year. Only those zones of critical concern would be inspected, meaning if they’re near a public water intake.

Last year, Senator John Unger was praised for drafting Senate Bill 3-73, which put numerous safeguards in place that, if this new bill passes, would exclude more than nine out of every ten tanks in the state.

“If we roll back the gains that we had in Senate Bill 373 that will resonate throughout the country. And then it's going to be very difficult to attract businesses and industries to a place, where we can't guarantee a safe water supply. But if you have groups who want to be exempt, particularly those who have tanks that are 30 years and older, from the way the bill reads right now, doesn't that sound counterintuitive to what you're trying to accomplish? Those tanks are probably the most dangerous, the newer tanks are up to standards,” Unger said.

The bill said tanks that hold fewer than 10,000 gallons would be exempt from the new regulations, including tanks holding materials related to the state’s booming natural gas industry.

“If we get criticized for doing what’s right, we’ll get criticized for doing what’s right,” Unger said.

Speaker Armstead said with a limited number of inspectors, lawmakers are left with no choice but to prioritize tanks in zones of critical concern.

Unger conceded prioritizing is fine, but he hopes it doesn’t stop there.

“With anything, you have to prioritize, those tanks that are most at risk with the toxic waste that could very well pollute people's water, we need to go after first. And then work down the line,” Unger said.

Senator Unger said the vast majority of West Virginia is on well water and that farming and agriculture should be exempt from the bill.

The bill has been sent to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. Speaker Armstead said he’s willing to work with the chairman of that committee on this legislation, should the bill make it out of the committee.

http://www.wchstv.com/news/features/eyewitness-news/stories/Major-Changes-Possibly-Coming-To-Above-Ground-Storage-Tank-Bill-73576.shtml#.VNXh_CuUeSo

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, PA, NORTH STRABANE TWP

FEBRUARY 11 2015.

OIL FROM HYDRAULIC LINE CAUSED FIRE AT GAS DRILLING SITE

RANGE RESOURCES SAYS NO INJURIES REPORTED

Oil from a ruptured hydraulic line is being blamed for sparking a fire at a Washington County gas drilling site Wednesday evening. But officials with Range Resources and the state Department of Environmental Protection are trying to determine how the oil leaked and was ignited, and how to prevent similar accidents in the future. The blaze was reported at about 5:15 p.m. at the Range Resources site on Ross Road in North Strabane Township. Spokesman Matt Pitzarella said Range Resources crews working with local first responders managed to extinguish the flames. No injuries were reported. Pitzarella says workers failed to put out the fire with a hand-held extinguisher before it spread to a plastic liner used to contain pollutants. County officials say the fire burned the drilling rig and two nearby trailers before it was extinguished about an hour later. The company said a piece of machinery apparently discharged some engine oil that caught fire along with plastic liners used for environmental prevention on the ground. DEP spokesman John Poister says some details of the fire "need to be further explained."

<http://www.wtae.com/news/fire-burning-at-north-strabane-gas-well-site/31098032>

USA, N.C, MORGANTON

FEBRUARY 12 2015.

EXPLOSIONS REPORTEDLY HEARD BEFORE FIRE BREAKS OUT IN BURKE CO SERVICE STATION

A large fire broke out at a service station in Burke County after investigators say multiple explosions were heard. Firefighters were called to a large fire at Jim's Service Center along Highway 70 in Morganton before 2:30 p.m. Wednesday. Officials say heavy fire was seen in the auto repair facility of the shop. According to early indications, two explosions were heard at the shop before the fire broke out. A photo provided to WBTV by Bryan with The Unifour shows Jim's fully engulfed in flames. Investigators said that the fire likely started after a minor fuel spill. They say the fumes were ignited by a wood stove. Several people were inside when the fire started and all escaped safely. Heavy equipment was brought in late Wednesday afternoon to tear down some of the walls to make it safe for investigators to go inside. Jim's Service Center has been a part of Morganton for almost 40 years. It has been at the current location for the past decade. No word yet if the family that owns the site will rebuild.

<http://www.wbvtv.com/story/28084744/explosions-reportedly-heard-before-fire-breaks-out-in-burke-co>

USA, IA, ANKENY

FEBRUARY 13 2015.

AUTHORITIES: MAN PULLED OUT OF CHEMICAL TANK

Christopher Pratt

Employees of a Polk County agricultural and industrial products company used a safety rope to pull a colleague from a tank filled with a chemical cleaning solution, authorities said Thursday in a news release. Polk County deputies, fire personnel from Saylor Township and Ankeny and the Des Moines hazardous materials squad were called just before 1 p.m. to Chemorse at 1596 N.E. 58th Ave., according to a news release.

Officials said the person who called 911 had heard a splash and seen the other employee, a 28-year-old man who has not been identified, inside the tank.

Witnesses said the incident actually occurred at the building located at 5888 N.E. Industry Drive. Employees pulled the man out. He was rinsed off and taken to a hospital. Witnesses said he was conscious and alert, the news release said. More information on the victim was not available.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office said it wasn't clear how the man ended up in the tank. Truck driver Paul Anderson of Minnesota arrived at the site around the time of the incident. "It looked like he got burned," Anderson said. Saylor Township Fire Department service director Scott Cross said he couldn't recall

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

any similar calls at the company.

Chemorse acts as a manufacturer and formulator of agricultural adjuvants and a distributor of industrial chemicals, according to its website.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2015/02/12/ankeny-chemical-tank-rescue/23308959/>

SAUDI ARABIA, QATIF, AL KHOBAR

FEBRUARY 17 2015.

SIX INJURED IN FUEL TANK FIRE IN QATIF

Sultan al-Sughair

Four citizens and two residents were injured when a fire broke out at three fuel tanks at a gas station in Qatif.

The injuries ranged from moderate to serious and all were transferred to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Civil Defense teams surrounded the site and brought the fire under control. Red Crescent teams transferred the injured and security patrols kept the public at a safe distance.

A spokesman for the Eastern Province Civil Defense, Mansour Al-Dossary, said: "The operations room in Qatif received a communication at 8:10 p.m. about the fire."

He added that the fire was limited to 3 tanks — 2 gasoline and 1 diesel — with a capacity of 32,000 liters.

"Four firefighting squads participated in the operation, with the assistance of two rescue squads. The cause of the fire was negligence of safety measures while unloading fuel in the ground tanks," said the spokesman.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Red Crescent spokesman in the province, Fahad Al-Ghamdi, said that its teams had received a communication about the incident and immediately two ambulance teams in addition to an advance ambulance headed to the site.

"Two residents suffered second-degree burns on different parts of their bodies, especially in the face, and they were taken to Qatif Central Hospital," he said.

<http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/705146>

USA, N.D, BISMARCK

FEBRUARY 19 2015.

OPEN VALVES SPILLING SALTWATER GARNER SUSPICION

Lauren Donovan

From a four-day period this week, state regulators dealt with 28 separate spill incidents and an unusual number involved saltwater and oil fouling wetlands and watersheds.

One of the latest to be publicly reported occurred Sunday when a diesel tanker unloading at Rolfson Oil bulk plant near Alexander left a valve open and spilled 400 gallons of diesel, with some spilling into a tributary of Lonesome Creek.

Earlier, Hess Corp. reported that suspicious activity may be to blame for saltwater spills at two oil wells in Williams County.

Hess spokesman John Roper said employees found wide-open valves on saltwater storage tanks on two well locations 3 miles apart.

"We call that suspicious," he said.

The open valves were discovered Sunday morning. One, at a well northwest of Tioga, spilled 500 barrels of saltwater that at least partially ran off into a wetland area.

The second one spilled about 460 barrels of saltwater and also ran into a wetland.

The saltwater that's produced with oil contains 150,000 to 300,000 parts per million of salt, a concentration five to 10 times saltier than ocean water and toxic to plants, aquatic life and soil.

Roper said the matter was reported to the Williams County Sheriff's Department for investigation.

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He said the company has no reason to speculate about any motive or person and said the company has not laid off workers in North Dakota.

Remediation activities

The State Health Department is overseeing remediation at these locations and at another water-impact spill in far western McKenzie County near Cartwright reported this week.

There, a tanker overflowed 30 barrels of oil, spilling some into an isolated oxbow of Charbonneau Creek that did not reach the creek, the department says.

Charbonneau Creek is still in remediation from a 2006 incident in which a Zenergy saltwater pipeline failed and spilled about 24,000 barrels into the creek.

Unusual numbers

The department's water quality director Karl Rockeman says the number of spills impacting wetlands and watersheds over so few days is out of the ordinary.

"We have had a number of spills that impacted water. We haven't had a large number like that for quite a while," Rockeman said.

Companies are required to file remediation plans and are subject to fines and inspections.

Rockeman said state incident reports are not organized in such a way that it's possible to add up all the cumulative acres fouled by saltwater and other spills.

The North Dakota Oil and Gas Division reported that a leaky pump spilled 500 barrels of saltwater at a Murex Petroleum well in Divide County. The fluid remained on the well pad within the perimeter dike, according to the agency's report.

The Health Department oversees spills that flow off the well pad, or occur elsewhere, while Oil and Gas oversees spills contained to the well site.

http://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/open-valves-spilling-saltwater-garner-suspicion/article_fbacff8e-17a2-59ea-92ce-aaa752932b63.html

SOMALIA, MOGADISHU, BAKARA

FEBRUARY 24 2015.

MASSIVE BLAZE DEVOURS MOGADISHU PETROL DEPOT

A massive blaze burnt down a petrol depot in Mogadishu's Hawlwadag district according to officials on Monday, Garowe Online reports. Witnesses say plumes of black smoke could be seen from the Black sea junction, with Banadir and Hormuud firefighting trucks racing to contain the spread of heavy fire.

Hawlwadag district commissioner Ahmed Nur Ali told the media that the blaze resulted in vast loss and the destruction of facilities. Speedy winds and slow response reportedly hampered efforts to put out flames billowing from the depot. The most recent fire gutted down a fuel station at Mogadishu's KM4. As a result of delicate stability following the removal of Al Shabaab militants in early 2011, petrol and gas businesses have been in boom.

<http://www.garoweonline.com/page/show/post/1830/somalia-massive-blazedevours-mogadishu-petrol-depot>

INDIA, TELANGANA, HYDERABAD.

FEBRUARY 24 2015.

BLAST AT GULF OIL CORPORATION IN HYDERABAD, TWO DIE, 13 HURT

Two persons were killed and 13 seriously injured in an explosion at a detonator manufacturing unit of Gulf Oil Corporation Ltd here. The company is India's largest exporter of explosives.

While Amarendra (25) and Shravan Kumar (26), both contract labourers, died on the spot, the wounded were taken to two separate hospitals in the city. Witnesses said the blast occurred when the labourers were disposing of detonators that were either not working or had been rejected by the company.

"Everything was fine as the workers were on their routine duty of disposing the detonators," said a witness. "But one detonator accidentally fell on the ground during unloading from a truck. Suddenly there

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

was a huge noise and thick smoke everywhere."

Nagarjuna Reddy, district fire officer, Ranga Reddy, said unused or faulty detonators were usually immersed into a lake and then detonated. "It seems the contract labourers were not well-versed with the handling of the material," Reddy said. "While they were unloading the detonators, there might have been some mishandling, which led to the blast." He said the two labourers who were unloading the detonators died on the spot. "The force of the impact hurled their bodies against a wall," he said. "They didn't stand a chance. The hands and legs of a few workers were blown off in the accident."

The company was formerly known as IDL Industries Ltd. In 2002 it merged with Gulf Oil India Ltd to form Gulf Oil Corporation Ltd.

"The manufacturing unit deals with a lot of explosives and there has been a blast here earlier as well," said Mohammad Fazal, a fire officer who was present at the site. "The workers who were injured in the accident were employed as regular daily-wage labourers. They're paid Rs 180 per day."

The fire department said the unit was used to manufacture packaged explosive products, bulk explosives and detonators.

Home minister Nayini Narasimha Reddy and other senior government officials went to the site and later visited the wounded in hospitals. A probe has been ordered into the accident.

Locals complained that though accidents had plagued the factory for years, safety standards were often not met.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/Blast-in-Hyderabad-two-die-13-hurt/articleshow/46346041.cms>