

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

USA, NH

JANUARY 27 2010.

NH INDUSTRIAL EXPLOSION INJURES 4 WORKERS

Bridget Hom

A reported industrial explosion sent four people to the hospital for burns and injuries, on Saturday morning, January 23, 2010, according to WMUR.

Nashua police, firefighters and medical officials rushed to the scene at Worthen Industries located at 3 E. Spit Brook Road, where the explosion occurred. Police reported that workers were welding inside the factory as part of building maintenance on an empty holding tank when the blast happened. The explosion severely burned two of the workers, who were flown via trauma helicopter to Boston hospitals to be treated by doctors and nurses. Two other people who sustained injuries in the blast were taken to local hospitals to be treated. Their identities and condition were not disclosed.

As soon as firefighters arrived at the scene, the flames from the blast had subsided. Two badly burned workers were flown to Boston hospitals for treatment, and two others were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment. Their identities and conditions were not immediately released.

Fire officials reported that plant was not operating at the time of the explosion, although there were other workers inside. Firefighters probed the scene, inspecting all electric, water and gas lines, which were determined to be safe. Government investigators are expected to look into the industrial accident. Fire officials were trying to determine what caused the blast. The company, which owns and runs the plant was temporarily shut down for the investigation.

http://www.newyorkinjurynews.com/2010/01/26/nh-industrial-explosion-injured-4-workers_201001262204.html

USA, CO, LEADVILLE

JANUARY 27 2010.

LEADVILLE EXPLOSION STARTED BY LEAKING FUEL TANK

Jeffrey Wolf

Investigators say a damaged fuel tank started a series of explosions that destroyed a former Coca-Cola bottling plant on Friday afternoon, sending four people to the hospital.

The first explosion happened just after 3 p.m., setting fire to the building and collapsing more than half of it in the blast. Firefighters rescued men who were trapped inside. One had to be airlifted to a Denver hospital, but is expected to be OK. The other three were treated and released for smoke inhalation.

Investigators say the fire started in one of the businesses housed in the building called Gas Consultants and was an accident.

There is no evidence of criminal activity, according to authorities.

Only one business, Millenium Towing, was not destroyed by the fire. Investigators say employees at AG Masonry will be able to salvage some of their equipment.

Four other businesses were also in the building.

It took crews nearly seven hours to put out the fire.

<http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=131542&catid=346>

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USA, IN, FORT WAYNE

JANUARY 30 2010.

LIBRARY LEAK SPARKS LAWSUIT

3,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL DISCOVERED

Matt McCutcheon

It appears that the Allen County Library Board will file a lawsuit, after thousands of gallons of diesel fuel leaked underneath the downtown main library.

It partially stems from the huge renovation of the library, which wrapped up in January of 2007 -- but not before crews made a nasty discovery.

In October of 2006, construction crews noticed that diesel fuel was leaking beneath the library. Somehow a hole formed in a pipe that carried the fuel from a tank to a generator.

It's how that happened that has been a major issue ever since.

The library says it's not at fault, and after a review process, it believes a contractor is at fault.

Shambaugh and Son is at least one of the companies named in a lawsuit that's expected to be filed, but officials with the company were unable to talk to NewsChannel 15 about the issue Friday.

The clean-up process has taken years and has required many different treatments, mainly since it's such an environmentally-sensitive issue and also requires constant communication from the state department of environmental management.

All told, nearly 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel went beneath the library. The lawsuit that's expected to soon be filed will try to seek money from to pay for the clean-up.

One estimate shows a price tag of nearly \$500,000 that's been spent to treat the problem. It's not clear if the library is trying to get all that money from one company, or if they'll seek additional dollars. We should learn those details when the case is officially filed.

Despite the problem and the years spent trying to fix it, the library has largely been able to operate as normal.

<http://www.wane.com/dpp/news/wane-fwLibrary-leak-sparks-lawsuit>

USA, TX, ANGLETON

JANUARY 30 2010.

OFFICIALS PROBE CAUSE OF FLASH FIRE IN TANK

John Tompkins

Investigators and owners of an Angleton business tried to piece together what happened Friday after two workers were burned by fumes that ignited inside a tank they were painting Thursday.

Mark Blevins, 56, and David Williams-Smith, 30, both of Clute remained in critical condition late Friday at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, hospital officials said. About 75 percent to 100 percent of their bodies had been burned in the flash fire, officials said.

The explosion happened about 4 p.m. Thursday at Thermal Polymer Systems in the 900 block of Highway 288-B on the south side of the overpass at Kiber Street. Blevins and Smith were applying a primer coating to the tank when the fumes ignited.

A third man, 44, also from Clute, was treated at the scene and refused to go to the hospital, police said.

The owners met with employees Friday to discuss what happened and are offering counseling, said Darla Murrell, who owns Thermal Polymer Systems with her husband Donnie.

"We're both devastated," she said. "We're a very tight, close-knit family out here. Osur employees are handling it the very best they can."

Darla Murrell said she and her husband had been in contact with Smith's and Blevins' relatives since Thursday.

The company has been operating in Angleton for 15 years, Murrell said.

Angleton Police Lt. Mike Jones said what caused the flash fire is not known.

"We're looking at a light as being the possible source of ignition," he said.

The workers had a shop light on a stand inside the tank while they were applying the primer, Jones said.

Once the fumes ignited, they burned inside the tank and the flames immediately died out, he said.

"Structure-wise, there was no damage at all," Jones said.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration will investigate, police said.

The scene also was evaluated by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality officials on Thursday.

"There are no environmental hazards there," Jones said.

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Angleton Fire Marshal Robert Owens said the plant had no known previous incidents before Thursday.

Thermal Polymer Systems specializes in coating tanks for commercial and industrial use. They provide services for chemical manufacturers, power plants, nuclear plants and refineries, Darla Murrell said.

Each tank the company lines is unique and requires specific procedures, depending upon what types of chemicals it will hold, she said.

Blevins and Smith, "were following the procedure step-by-step," she said.

<http://thefacts.com/story.lasso?ewcd=82c0b743c82db9e6>

USA, TEN, NASHVILLE

FEBRUARY 4 2010.

BODY IDENTIFIED AFTER BEING PULLED FROM TANK

Chris Cannon

The Nashville Fire Department has identified the man whose body was discovered on the bottom of a tank at a North Nashville chemical distribution company.

The department's hazardous materials team was called to the Ashland Chemical Company on Clifton Street at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday.

They found 49-year-old Dan Dugan of Rock Hill, S.C. at the bottom of a tank that once held the solvent Heptane.

Dugan is part owner of D&D Construction out of Rock Hill. Ashland hired him to do routine maintenance on the tank.

Firefighters had to perch a ladder truck over the tank and lower two crew members into the tanks to retrieve Dugan's body. They finally were able to do that at 5:20 p.m.

Nashville Fire District Chief Charles Shannon said it was a tough task for the hazardous materials team to complete.

"To be able to get in and get this gentleman out, in what we consider a reasonable amount of time. Because understand, that hole is only 18 inches to 22 inches and our people are going in protective gear. It's very tight, you don't have a lot of room. It just takes a lot of physical work," said Shannon.

Dugan went into the tank around 8:15 a.m., and no one had heard from him all day. The private contractor was found unresponsive in the tank hours later.

Metro Police detectives did respond to Ashland Chemical Company. They are called out whenever there is an unexplained death.

Representatives from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration will also investigate the circumstances that led up to this deadly workplace incident.

The coroner will do an autopsy on Dugan's body to determine a cause of death.

<http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=11921590>

USA, WA, GRAND COULEE

FEBRUARY 7 2010.

MAN DIES AFTER FUEL TANK EXPLOSION

A 71-year-old Grand Coulee, Wash., man died Thursday after being burned when a combine fuel tank exploded Wednesday. Robert E. Vaughn was cutting up an old combine for scrap using a cutting torch on his property about 10 miles from Coulee Dam. The torch flame accidentally ignited fuel left in a tank and caused an explosion, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office said. Vaughn, who was seriously burned in the accident, was later found by his wife as he attempted to drive himself to the hospital, officials said. His wife took him to a hospital in Grand Coulee. He was transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, where he died Thursday.

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/feb/06/in-brief-rapist-sentenced-to-life-in-prison/>

USA, CA, CONTRA COSTA

FEBRUARY 7 2010.

INQUIRY ON TANK FARM TOUCHES MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kristin S. Agostoni

The regulatory agency overseeing an investigation of a former Carson oil tank farm has widened the probe to include Wilmington Middle School, where contractors have checked the soil and indoor air in search of possible contaminants.

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So far, Los Angeles Unified School District officials say they have no reason to worry about the health of students and teachers at the Gulf Avenue school, which sits southwest of the tank farm once operated by Shell Oil.

The tanks were torn down long ago to make way for the Carousel housing tract just north of Lomita Boulevard, between Marbella and Panama avenues. Since elevated levels of benzene and methane were discovered in the soil beneath single-family houses there, many in the 285-home tract have joined a lawsuit against Shell.

"We were very anxious," said Tom Watson, LAUSD's environmental program manager for new construction. But, he added: "based on the preliminary data that we've collected, the school is safe."

The district on Friday sent an update on the investigation to students and parents, explaining the next steps required of Shell Oil. A final report on soil samples and vapors is expected within the next several days, and LAUSD will later host a community meeting to explain the findings and answer questions, the district's notice states.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, which is overseeing the testing, also plans to hold a community forum in mid-March for residents of Wilmington and Carson, board Chairwoman Mary Ann Lutz said Friday.

LAUSD officials said they learned late last year that the regional water board was concerned about the proximity of the former oil tanks to the 2,200-student middle school campus.

As a first step, the district said it tested the air inside the school and determined the classrooms were safe.

Then, over the holiday break, a contractor for Shell collected soil and soil vapor samples along the campus's northeast boundary. Preliminary data detected elevated levels of various substances related to chemical manufacturing and refining, Watson said, but the district maintains they don't pose a threat because there are no pathways for exposure.

Petroleum-related chemicals, including benzene and methane, were also found although Shell Oil spokeswoman Alison Chassin said both were "below school- based screening levels."

Last month, following a preliminary analysis of the soil and vapor samples, Shell agreed to conduct indoor air testing at the urging of the district and the regional water board, according to a Jan. 20 letter from Tracy Egoscue, the board's executive officer.

At the time, Egoscue wrote that the regional board and LAUSD had expressed concerns about the preliminary soil vapor data.

But Watson said the screening results ultimately showed that the air quality inside the school "is similar or equivalent" to the air students are exposed to outside the school or "on their way to the supermarket."

Nonetheless, Watson said the district will ask for another round of indoor air sampling following Shell's release of a more detailed report on Feb. 15.

The technical document will discuss in more depth the soil and gas samples collected from the campus, Chassin said, and "may indicate that more testing is required, or a certain type of remediation is required."

In the industrial community of Wilmington, news that the tank farm investigation had extended to the school property was a cause for alarm for some, said Teresa Vallejo, head of the campus parent center.

"The parents, we know about this because we received a notice from the district and the school," Vallejo said. "We know that in Wilmington, there is a lot of pollution. Yes, as parents, we are worried."

According to water board records, Shell operated the tank farm from 1924 to about 1966.

It sat on 50 acres and consisted of three crude oil reservoirs, together capable of holding 3.5 million barrels.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_14349476

USA, WYO, SINCLAIR

FEBRUARY 7 2010.

BULGING TANK RELEASES ABOUT 30 BARRELS

NONESSENTIAL PERSONNEL EVACUATED; NO INJURIES REPORTED

A bulging tank roof released about 30 barrels of gas oil and prompted an evacuation at Sinclair Wyoming Refining Company on Friday morning. No injuries were reported in the incident, and the refinery's investigation is ongoing, said John Pfeffer, refinery environmental health and safety manager. Refinery officials believe the gas oil — an intermediate stream that's heavier than gasoline but lighter than asphalt — became hot enough to cause water in the tank to turn to steam and create a pressure buildup in the tank, he said. That pressure could have caused the tank's fixed roof to bulge. "When that happens, that's not normal and we treated it as an emergency and responded accordingly with our internal emergency response team," Pfeffer added. A plant-wide alarm was sounded and all non-essential personnel were evacuated "because at the time of the incident we were not sure exactly what we had and whether it might escalate to something more significant," he said. Sinclair officials notified the Wyoming Department of 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575

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Environmental Quality; John Zeiger, Carbon County Emergency Management coordinator; and Sinclair Police Chief Jeff Sanders, Pfeffer said. Dikes surrounding the tank contained the spilled gas oil and workers were brought back into the plant at 9 a.m., he added. Soil and product cleanup is scheduled to be finished this weekend.

<http://www.rawlinstimes.com/articles/2010/02/06/news/doc4b6d00b5454c8891058453.txt>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, NEWPORT

FEBRUARY 8 2010.

EMERGENCY WORKERS MOP UP ALTONA PETROL SPILL

Mobil has apologised after a tank at its Altona refinery leaked 30,000 litres of petrol, sparking a major emergency.

The leak was detected at the refinery, on the corner of Kororoit Creek and Millers roads, about 11.45pm yesterday. Almost 70 firefighters attended, fearing an explosion.

Mobil refining manager Glenn Hanson said the company was sorry for the incident.

"We very much regret this incident and apologise for any inconvenience to our neighbours," Mr Henson said.

"We care about the community of Altona and want to reassure our neighbours that we are working hard to protect our site personnel, the community and the environment.

"At this stage we estimate the product spilled is a small percentage of the tank capacity.

"The tank area is protected by a bund (raised walls) to contain any spilled product and enable faster clean-up.

"The transfer of remaining product to another tank continues and we expect that the transfer will be complete early this afternoon."

Two major roads were closed as workers cleaned up a petrol spill.

The tank can hold 10 million litres, but was only about 40 per cent full when the leak was discovered.

Hobsons Bay Mayor Bill Tehan said they had enacted the council's emergency response plan.

"In this instance, the council assisted authorities by providing some minor traffic management assistance," Cr Tehan said.

"The council was concerned, but has been assured by the authorities that the leak has been fully contained and there is no impact on the abutting coastal park or homes.

"The council expects to be involved in a de-brief with authorities once the cause of the incident has been investigated."

This is not the first time Mobil has been the centre of a major fuel leak.

In December 2006, one of the company's underground fuel pipes started leaking petrol in Newport, causing several residents to feel sick.

Mobil had been advised in 2003 to fix the problem.

The company was fined in 2008 and ordered to contribute cash towards local environment schemes.

Mr Hanson said the Altona refinery was today operating normally and there is no impact on fuel output.

An investigation into last night's incident had started.

"A thorough investigation into the cause of the leak will be carried out, and we will cooperate fully with relevant authorities," Mr Hanson said.

"We look very carefully to identify root causes of incidents in order to apply learnings.

"We will certainly review all investigation findings for this incident."

The Environment Protection Authority was overseeing the clean up.

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/pictures-emergency-workers-mop-up-altona-petrol-spill/>

USA, WI, SCHOFIELD

FEBRUARY 10 2010.

CHEMICAL EXPLOSION OCCURRED DURING PAINT STRIPPING AT QSP

Kelsi Schindler

31-year-old Eric Simpson was taken to St. Clare's Hospital with severe injuries after a chemical accident at Quality Surface Processing Tuesday morning. Two other workers were treated for smoke inhalation on site.

Just before 9:30, Everest Metro Police and Schofield Fire Department received a call of an industrial accident at QSP in Schofield.

Sgt. Mark R Klemm says, "This company processes metal for different businesses throughout the community and they were stripping some paint off a piece of metal in a hot salt bath and somehow that reacted and caused a chemical explosion."

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Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Sgt. Klemm says the owner of the company is not sure how it happened. The owner says they've processed this type of material for approximately six years and have not had a problem.

Sgt. Klemm says, "It was a reaction when the piece of metal they were processing. Basically, it strips paint off the metal and they were immersing it in this hot salt bath which is approximately 800-900 degrees and somehow when the piece of metal being treated was immersed into the hot salt bath it reacted."

Klemm says there doesn't appear to be any damage inside the building.

Simpson has been transferred to another hospital but officials won't say where.

According to an official from the Everest Metro Police Department, a 31-year-old man has severe injuries after a chemical explosion at a Schofield business.

Officials say the man was transported to St. Clare's Hospital.

Two other workers were treated for smoke inhalation on site.

Officials tell Newsline 9's Colby Robertson that workers were in the process of stripping paint when excess heat was generated and the explosion occurred.

Everest Metro police and the Schofield Fire Department responded.

Crews say there was minimal damage to the QSP building. Wisconsin Public Service was also on scene to access the damage.

Emergency crews are currently responding to an industrial explosion in Schofield, according to the Marathon County Sheriff's Department.

Lt. Dale Wisnewski says a caustic bath explosion has injured one person, who was transferred to an area hospital.

Newsline 9's Colby Robertson is on scene and says she saw one person being taken into an ambulance on a stretcher.

The incident is near Quality Surface Processing, a manufacturing service company on Pine Street.

The company was formerly Chem-Chrome, according to the Lt. Wisnewski.

<http://www.waow.com/Global/story.asp?S=11956991>

USA, TX, PORT ARANSAS

FEBRUARY 13 2010.

BIRDS NEAR SPILL RECEIVING HELP

FIVE CAUGHT AND REHABILITATED ARE FORECAST TO SURVIVE

David Sikes

Four oil-covered birds and an emaciated one were recovering Friday at the Animal Rehabilitation Keep at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas.

The birds suffered from the fallout of a large oil spill Tuesday at a wetlands near Ingleside, where more than 1 million gallons of crude leaked from storage tanks at the former Falcon Refinery near Farm-to-Market Road 2725 and Bishop Road.

The four oil-covered birds are all water fowl and included: two coots, a northern shoveler and a double-crested cormorant. A black-crowned night heron was found in the oil spill area and appeared sick. While the heron was not covered in oil, biologists included it in the recovery effort.

All are expected to recover, said Guy Davis, an ARK employee.

Except for about 200 minnows near the spill site, no other wildlife seemed to have been affected by the mishap, based on observations earlier this week aided by spotting scopes and binoculars, said Alex Nuñez, an on site kills and spills biologist with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

"We lucked out," he said. "Some wetlands were impacted, but it was contained mainly to the (spill) site itself."

By late Friday, crews had recovered about 42,000 gallons of crude from the wetlands and anticipated they had several hundred more barrels to go, said Jimmy Martinez, regional director for the Texas General Land Office. A barrel contains 42 gallons.

To help keep other birds out of harm's way, workers brought in scare cannons, which emit a sound about as loud as a shotgun blast, Nunez said. Cannons at three locations near the wetlands are set to go off at 30- to 60-minute intervals. The blasts begin about an hour before daybreak and continue until about an hour after dark.

"They did a fantastic job of keeping the wildlife out of the area," Martinez said.

On Friday, cleanup efforts continued, involving workers from the parks and wildlife department, the land

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office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Railroad Commission, U.S. Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency, along with crews supplied by Superior Crude Gathering Inc., which leases the tanks and owns the oil.

Nuñez said midday Friday the oil had been contained. Any potential threat of the crude reaching the Intracoastal Waterway, which is about a quarter- to a half-mile away, had been averted, he said.

The oozing crude would have had a difficult time reaching coastal waters, Nuñez said, because of the distance and three roads with culverts between the two sites. Workers had blocked the culverts as a precaution, Nuñez said.

Crews plan to work around the clock sucking up the mess with four pumps, which skim the floating oil from the water's surface. Thursday's heavy rains aided the cleanup by washing crude into a natural depression. This helped concentrate the spill and provided workers easier access, Nuñez said.

Nuñez and Martinez estimated Friday the cleanup would continue for days.

<http://www.caller.com/news/2010/feb/12/ark-cleans-up-birds-recovered-from-site-of-oil/>

USA, FLA, MIAMI

FEBRUARY 14 2010.

2 INJURED IN FUEL TANK EXPLOSION

Two men were injured at a South Florida gas station when the fiberglass tanks they were cutting up exploded. Miami-Dade firefighters responded to the U.S.A. Truck Service Plaza Friday morning. Two men had removed three old, underground fuel storage tanks and were trying to cut them up. The explosion knocked the men back several feet, but they were conscious when rescuers transported by helicopter to a Miami trauma center. Firefighters eventually used white foam to contain the flames. Official believe fumes might have caused the fire, but they are still investigating. See slide show of the fire <http://www.justnews.com/slideshow/news/22542180/detail.html>
<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/florida/AP/story/1479780.html>

USA, OK, OKMULGEE

FEBRUARY 18 2010.

1 KILLED IN OIL TANK EXPLOSION NEAR OKMULGEE

A man died when an oil tank exploded in rural Okmulgee County on Wednesday afternoon. Okmulgee County Sheriff Eddy Rice said the man died while cleaning out an oil tank that had been pumped dry but still had fumes in it. Authorities were working to determine the cause of the explosion, which might have been a spark from a tool or a number of other factors, Rice said. Okmulgee County Emergency Management Director George Jacobs said the tank is located on Dentonville Road just north of Oklahoma 56 about nine miles west of Okmulgee. Rice said the oil tank was about 10 feet in diameter and that other tanks are nearby. Two other men were cleaning nearby tanks when the explosion occurred, but both refused treatment from medics at the scene, he said. The name of the man who was killed was not released Wednesday evening.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=12&articleid=20100217_12_0_OKMULG862922&allcom=1