

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

USA, N.M, WATERFLOW

MARCH 22 2015.

OIL SPILL REPORTED ON UTE LAND

CORRODED PIPELINE RUPTURES; INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

Jim Mimiaga

An oil spill from a ruptured pipeline was discovered on the Ute Mountain Ute reservation this month.

According to the National Response Center, a leaking oil pipeline was reported on March 9. The Center is a division of the U.S. Coast Guard that tracks oil and chemical spills nationwide.

The break reportedly occurred about Feb. 20, and spilled 10 barrels of oil onto the ground before being shut down. One barrel equals 42 gallons.

According to the report, "The caller stated due to corrosion, crude oil released from a well head on a gathering line to a tank battery." Biya Operators were listed as the responsible company.

The spill occurred north of Waterflow in an active oil field on a portion of the Ute Mountain reservation that dips into New Mexico. The EPA and the BLM responded to the incident along with Ute Mountain environmental officials.

Bryant Smalley, the EPA on-scene coordinator, told the Cortez Journal in an email that the duration and amount of the spill is still under investigation.

"Initial estimates were that 10 barrels were discharged," he stated. "Further investigation indicates it may be a larger amount."

Smalley said the pipeline was shut down to stop the release and make repairs. Vacuum trucks have been utilized to remove spilled oil on the ground, and a remediation plan is being drawn up for contaminated soil.

"These accidents do occasionally happen," said Peter Ortego, the tribe's attorney. "We take them very seriously and clean them up as quickly as we can in cooperation with the EPA, BLM, and BIA."

Ortego said the pipeline company is responsible for cleanup and land restoration. As contractors they can be fined by the tribe for improper operations.

This is the second oil spill recently reported on the Horseshoe-Gallop oil field, located on the southwest boundary of the Ute Mountain reservation in New Mexico.

On Aug. 14, 2014, a ruptured oil pipeline spilled an estimated 200 barrels of petroleum condensate in the same area, according to the EPA.

Over pressurization of the line was the reported cause. The agency said the pipeline is operated by Castleton Commodities International.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Also, on August 13 and 14, two oil pipeline breaks occurred in southeast, Utah, according to the Utah Department of Environment.

One broken pipeline near Bluff spilled 200 barrels of oil near the San Juan River, but it didn't enter the water source. Another near Montezuma Creek spilled three to five barrels of oil into a wash that was later carried to the San Juan River from heavy rains.

"A lot of the oil pipeline infrastructure is aging, so breaks are not out of the question," said Jennah Durant, a spokesperson for EPA Region 6, which includes New Mexico.

She said the recent spill did not reach a navigable water source.

Mike Eisenfeld is an oil-and-gas watchdog with the environmental group San Juan Citizen's Alliance, based in Durango. He said oil spills are more common than people might realize, and corroded pipelines are becoming a problem.

"There is such a large network of pipelines in this area, and many of them are 50 years old," Eisenfeld said. "Oil and gas in this area contains hydrogen sulfide, which is very corrosive. Spills are becoming more common, and oversight is sketchy."

<http://www.cortezjournal.com/article/20150320/NEWS01/150329997/Oil-spill-reported-on-Ute-land->

USA, FLA, ST AUGUSTINE

MARCH 26 2015.

DRIVER IN BP GAS STATION EXPLOSION TESTIFIES

Stuart Korfhage

Fuel truck driver David Cowles told jurors Tuesday that he didn't feel comfortable with the setup at the Fifth Wheel BP gas station in St. Augustine when he arrived on Aug. 19, 2011.

His concerns were warranted.

About an hour after pulling in with his fuel tanker, the station was engulfed in flames. Cowles was bloodied, burned and most likely alive only because some strangers dragged him away from the burning fuel tanks.

Cowles was talking about it three and a half years later as the blame for the incident and the monetary loss are hammered out in a St. Johns County courtroom. The civil trial began Tuesday and is expected to last two weeks.

Cowles was the first witness in the trial, which is taking place before Judge Howard Maltz.

The trial involves Florida Rock and Tank Lines, which employed Cowles as a fuel delivery driver, and Coomes Oil, owned by St. Augustine's J.B. Coomes. Coomes was the owner of the BP Fifth Wheel gas station off State Road 16, where the fuel spill led to a series of explosions and a fire that destroyed the business and nearly killed Cowles.

The ownership of the fuel supplier and its insurers are claiming that it was a combination of faulty equipment and Fifth Wheel management's lack of knowledge about how much fuel was in its tanks that led to the disaster.

Meanwhile, Coomes and a host of other co-defendants are arguing that Cowles parked his truck too close to the tanks and failed to adequately monitor the offloading process. That allowed for the spill and subsequent fire.

Cowles, who suffered serious burns and was taken by helicopter to UF Health Gainesville, said he tried his best to make sure the operation was done properly. He knew how dangerous it was to overfill the tanks.

"I tried to find out how much fuel was in there," he said of the tanks at the station. "Everything was broke."

Trying to determine the capacity of the tanks, Cowles went inside the gas station and asked whether there was an electronic monitor. He was told there was not.

He found a 1970s-era tape gauge on the side but said that was also inoperable.

Because there were no working gauges, Cowles said, he called the dispatch office of Florida Rock

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

and Tank Lines.

“This is a totally dangerous situation; are you sure it’s going to fit?” Cowles said he told the dispatcher.

According to his testimony, Cowles was told Coomes Oil ordered 1,000 gallons of premium fuel and 7,500 gallons of regular (87 octane). The station was expected to know how much the tanks could hold, so Cowles was told to offload the amount that was ordered.

That’s what he did.

While offloading the last 2,500 gallons, the fuel began to spill out of the top of the 17-foot, above-ground tank.

Cowles said he was monitoring the progress while standing on the step that leads into the driver’s side of the cab.

“It looked like a plume of fuel,” he said. “It was landing on the front end of the truck.”

Attorney John Rine asked: “Were you scared?”

“Yeah, to death,” Cowles answered. “Fear for my life, everything.”

At that point, Cowles said he turned off the ignition in the truck in an attempt to stop the pump. However, the engine, which was a diesel, did not stop. Because of the gas vapor in the vicinity, the engine sucked in the fuel and continued to run.

Meanwhile, Cowles said he ran around the truck with the intention of shutting the valves on his truck.

He injured his ankle in the process and couldn’t stop the flow before the fuel was sparked and the flames spread through the area.

Cowles was knocked back by the ignition. He closed his eyes, held his breath and crawled away. He was pulled to safety and soon treated by emergency personnel.

Now 63, Cowles was the only person seriously injured in the fire. The gas station and two other automotive businesses on the property were all destroyed.

Attorney Jon Dale Derrevere, representing Coomes, said in his opening statement that it was the negligence of Cowles and Florida Rock that caused the explosion.

He said the defense will bring witnesses who will testify that Cowles was away from his truck when the fuel spilled over, leading to the disaster.

“He effectively deserted his post,” Derrevere said. “He was not paying attention and gas overflowed for three minutes.”

During cross-examination, Cowles denied being more than a few feet from his truck or being inattentive.

“I was standing on the step of the truck,” Cowles said. “The only time I was over there (in the shade away from the truck) was when I was calling the office.”

Cowles testified for several hours. Wearing a long-sleeve shirt, he showed no physical signs of injuries from the fire. He did, however, hint at some of the trauma he suffered during his treatment and recovery.

Rine, lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said the cause of the fire is traced back to the Coomes’ negligence.

“One simple (fact that) emerges throughout is that the owner of the gas station did not maintain an accurate inventory of his fuel,” Rine said. “Mr. Coomes ordered more fuel than would fit into his tank. And when the fuel was loaded, it came out the top and led to this fire.

“There are lots of other problems at this station, but mainly this accident occurred because of faulty inventory and faulty ordering.”

The current trial is far from the first legal action resulting from the incident at the gas station.

Initially, there was even a criminal charge of negligence filed against Cowles. That charge was dropped by the state in September 2013.

Both Cowles and Coomes filed civil suits against each other. Cowles was cleared of civil liability, and

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

his suit against Coomes was settled out of court for an undisclosed amount.

An investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration found fault with and fined both the BP station and Florida Rock & Tank Lines.

A news release from OSHA stated: "OSHA's inspection found that the gas station and Florida Rock & Tank Lines decided to refill the storage tank even though the liquid level gauging system was inoperable." <http://staugustine.com/news/local-news/2015-03-24/driver-2011-bp-gas-station-explosion-testifies-opening-day-civil-trial>

USA, TX, HOUSTON

MARCH 27 2015.

ASSEMBLED DATA SHOWS HOW AND WHERE REFINERY WORKERS CONTINUE TO DIE

Jim Malewitz, Jolie McCullough, Ben Hasson and Lise Olsen

How many people die at oil refineries each year?

Longstanding federal record-keeping practices make it incredibly tough to answer that simple question.

The public can easily search data at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which records deaths and injuries reported across all industries. But typing the code for "Petroleum Refining" - 2911 - into the agency's query tool only reveals a small fraction of all who died at refineries.

Oil refiners have increasingly contracted out some of their most dangerous jobs to companies that are classified elsewhere in the federal system.

The many categories include "3443, Fabricated Plate Work," "1799, Special Trade Contractors, Not Elsewhere Classified" and "1629, Heavy Construction, Not Elsewhere Classified."

In the 2005 Texas City blast, for instance, all of the 15 workers killed were contractors. None of their deaths show up in the federal government's annual tally for the refining industry.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics began tracking contractors' deaths at refineries for the first time in 2011, but still misses incidents, records show.

The following is a list of all refinery deaths that The Texas Tribune and the Houston Chronicle could confirm after an exhaustive search that included OSHA records, government investigation reports, newspaper archives and legal filings.

At least 64 people died at refineries in the 10 years before the BP explosion. At least 58 people have died since March 23, 2005.

This list includes all deaths on refinery grounds discovered through various searches. Few deaths that appear to be from natural causes are included.

Do you know a refinery worker who should be included on this list? If so, contact us at

tribinvestigates@texastribune.org.

[Download the data here.](#)

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2015/mar/25/assembled-data-shows-how-and-where-refinery-worker/>

USA, ORE, PENDLETON

MARCH 29 2015.

DIESEL DUMP SPELLED DOOM FOR PENDLETON HOME

Phil Wright

Demolition began Thursday on a Pendleton couple's home in the wake of a local company dumping 150 gallons of diesel into their basement.

Pendleton Grain Growers made a mistake Nov. 24, 2014, when it delivered the fuel to 515 N.W. Furnish Ave., Pendleton, home to Brent Merriman and Michele Lowary. The mess finally meant the end to the three-story home that Merriman owned for 28 years. Crews started tearing down the house Thursday and were in full swing again Friday.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Merriman said they moved out of the house and rented a home across the street. Friday morning the couple watched as workers in two excavators smashed and grabbed chunks of the structure and dropped those into a semitrailer. Merriman said the materials filled two trailer loads Thursday.

The couple said they had to take it in stride, and PGG's insurance is covering the cost of the demolition work and to rebuild a new, larger house in the same location. Rebuilding, though, can only commence after testing the site for contamination.

A Pendleton Grain Growers spokeswoman last year said a driver for the agricultural co-operative was confused about where to deliver the fuel. The house used heating oil some years ago, and the driver pumped the diesel into the basement. She said the company would work with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and contractors to clean up the mess, and PGG would take steps to make sure employees do not repeat the mistake.

A spokesperson from Pendleton Grain Growers did not return a call Friday.

This was the second diesel spill at Pendleton-area homes in less than a year. A semi crashed March 1, 2014, on Highway 37, about a mile-and-half north of Pendleton, and its trailer broke off, landed in a gully and spilled 5,000 gallons of diesel near a 109-year-old farm home. That led to the removal of 20,000 cubic feet of earth and then in April the old house also had to come down.

<http://www.eastoregonian.com/eo/local-news/20150327/diesel-dump-spelled-doom-for-pendleton-home>

USA, FLA, STUART

APRIL 1 2015.

CHEMICAL FIRE SHUTS DOWN ROADS, EVACUATES DOZENS CREWS CONTINUE TO BATTLE MAJOR FUEL FIRE IN STUART

Martin County Fire Rescue extinguished a fire Wednesday at Viesel Fuel, a biodiesel company located on Southeast Dominica Terrace in Stuart.

When fire crews arrived at the scene just before noon, they found four 10,000-gallon biodiesel tanks on fire outside the facility.

Crews immediately evacuated the building and area businesses.

"Our biggest concern was we were not going to be able to contain the fire," Fire Bureau Chief Dan Harshburger said.

He said the top of a methanol tank on the property blew off while crews battled the fire.

Harshburger said sand was hauled in to help create a berm to prevent runoff and crews used foam to put out the blaze.

Port Salerno Elementary School was also evacuated. The school released the following statement:

Due to a fire in the area, we are taking safety precautions and have evacuated your children to Pinewood Elementary. All students are safe. There is no access to Port Salerno Elementary School at this time. The situation may affect traffic to and from our schools in this area. We are asking that you report directly to Pinewood Elementary located off of Willoughby Boulevard. Should you need to contact Pinewood the phone number is 772-219-1602. Thank you.

Steven Barrett, who works across the street, said he saw the flames, heard an explosion and then ran.

Robert Cusmano was standing outside the biodiesel building when the fire started. He said his car, about 20 feet from the fire, likely melted from the flames.

"A couple of people started running, trying to put it out, and once it started building momentum, then it was just (time to) wait for the fire department," he said.

There were no reports of any injuries.

Southbound traffic along U.S. 1 just south of the scene was tied up while crews rushed to the scene.

Sheriff William Snyder said eight streets were closed. Most were reopened by 6 p.m.

"It's really been a boxing match, the fire against the fire department. The fire has won some rounds. The fire department is now winning," Snyder said.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The cause has not been determined. The state fire marshal is investigating.

Firefighters will remain at the scene through the night to monitor the situation.

<http://www.wpbf.com/news/slco-large-gas-tank-fire-reported-in-stuart/32130268>

USA, W. VA, MOUNDSVILLE

APRIL 2 2015.

FIVE STORAGE TANKS CATCH FIRE AT GASTAR EXPLORATION'S ARMSTRONG PAD IN MARSHALL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

An emergency official says no one was injured when a storage tank fire broke out at a drilling well pad in Marshall County. Marshall County Emergency Management director Tom Hart says the fire was reported around 4:45 a.m. Wednesday at Gastar Exploration's Armstrong pad near the Wetzel County line. Hart says four to five tanks were burning when firefighters arrived. The fire was extinguished in about an hour and the well pad wasn't damaged. Hart didn't know what the tanks contained, but they obviously flammable material.

<http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/e4a9f04d227640919681f3cba0909587/WV--Tank-Fire>

BRAZIL, SANTOS

APRIL 3 2015.

3-FUEL TANKS ON FIRE AT STORAGE FACILITY IN SANTOS, BRAZIL

Eighty firefighters were battling a fire at a fuel tank storage facility run by Ultracargo near Brazil's port of Santos, Latin America's largest, the local fire service said on Thursday.

The company said there had been no victims and the area had been evacuated. It was too early to say what had caused the fire, which was limited to four tanks and was now contained, it added in a statement.

Television footage showed large plumes of black smoke and fireballs coming from the site, near facilities run by Norway's Stolt-Nielsen Ltd and Transpetro, a subsidiary of state-run oil company Petrobras.

Transpetro said it had temporarily suspended operations and evacuated its personnel following instructions from the fire service, but that there was no risk to its facility. Stolt-Nielsen was not immediately available for comment.

The fire started at around 10 a.m. local time (1300 GMT), the fire service said on Twitter, adding that 22 fire trucks and one boat were involved in trying to control it.

The fire will take "a while" to put out, a fire official told local Globo TV. He added that so far they had focused on wetting down nearby tanks to stop the fire from spreading further.

The port of Santos said it had moved five ships docked at a nearby terminal due to the fire.

Ultracargo is Brazil's largest liquid bulk storage company and is owned by Grupo Ultra. Its Santos facility stores up to 301,300 cubic meters of fuels, chemicals, vegetable oils, ethanol and corrosive products, the company's website said.

Shares in Grupo Ultra were down 2.1 percent in afternoon trade in Sao Paulo.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL2N0WZ13A20150402>

USA, FLA, ST JOHNS CO

APRIL 3 2012S.

JURY DECIDES FLORIDA ROCK, COOMES OIL SPLIT 75-25 ON LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY IN 2011 FIRE

Stuart Korfhage

Jon Dale Derrevere, lead attorney for Coomes Oil, closed his final argument Thursday with a video showing the 5th Wheel BP gas station burning and excerpts of a deposition from the fuel truck driver who nearly died in the incident.

With the images of destruction came statements from former Florida Rock and Tank Lines Inc. driver David Cowles that he wasn't entirely confident in his assignment to pump fuel into a tank that

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

eventually overflowed and led to a devastating fire on Aug. 19, 2011.

A St. Johns County jury seemed to agree — in part — that Cowles was in a dangerous situation due either to his own mistakes or inadequate instructions from his company.

After three hours of deliberations, a jury of six decided Thursday that Florida Rock was 75 percent legally responsible for the fuel spill and fire that burned the 5th Wheel and ancillary businesses. Coomes Oil, which owned the station, was deemed 25 percent responsible.

Coomes Oil owner J.B. Coomes of St. Augustine was not found to be personally negligent.

The civil trial took place in front of Judge Howard Maltz at the St. Johns County courthouse to settle the dispute over who was at fault for the fire at the gas station off State Road 16 in St. Augustine.

The jury was also asked to determine the fair market value of the station at the time it was destroyed. Coomes' attorney had asked for \$1.5 million, while Florida Rock/National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh argued the value was just more than \$600,000. The jury decided on \$800,000.

Florida Rock was the lead plaintiff, and Coomes Oil was the lead defendant. But technically, the sides were also counter defendants and counter plaintiffs, respectfully.

Coomes, who sat through the trial at the defense table, was smiling after the verdict was announced but declined to offer a statement. Attorneys from both sides also chose not to speak about the decision.

Although the trial included eight days of testimony and arguments, the case fell mostly to the claims of Cowles and Coomes.

Both sides pointed to the other as engaging in practices that led to the accident. But there was no overwhelming evidence either way, which likely explains the jury's decision to split fault.

Cowles testified on the first day of the trial that he tried but could not find any working gauges at the 5th Wheel. Coomes testified Tuesday that the gauge on the side of the tank that overflowed (the one used for 87-octane fuel) was indeed working. In fact, he said he checked the tank twice himself on the day of the fire.

The basic argument by Florida Rock was that Coomes was responsible for ordering only as much fuel as the tanks could handle. Lead attorney John Rine also argued the 5th Wheel was set up in a dangerous manner for fuel delivery.

"Mr. Coomes, at the most simple level, ordered more fuel than his tank would hold," Rine said during closing arguments. "If he did (measure capacity properly), the tanks wouldn't have overflowed. If he did, we would not have had an explosion."

Rine said evidence showed there was a discrepancy between what Coomes Oil employees thought they ordered and what was conveyed to Florida Rock. He said invoices show Florida Rock understood the order to be 7,800 gallons of 87-octane fuel, while Coomes Oil expected the delivery to be 7,500.

But either way, Rine said Coomes' calculations had to have been well off the mark because the overflow was by more than 300 gallons.

"The problem is none of the numbers work," Rine said. "You still don't get to the point where there is an overflow. Mr. Coomes wasn't keeping an accurate daily inventory."

The difficulty for the jury was that there was little physical evidence to back either side. The gauges couldn't be evaluated after the fire, and Coomes' log books where he recorded fuel sales and deliveries were also destroyed.

Derrevere argued that it was Florida Rock that caused the fire because of its reckless practices, especially in regard to Cowles.

Derrevere said Cowles failed to comply with several safety regulations by: Not verifying the available capacity in the tanks, parking too close to the tanks and not staying next to the cut-off valves during the offloading process.

"The direct and immediate cause of the fire was Mr. Cowles abandoning his post," Derrevere said.

Cowles had testified that he was standing on the running board next to the driver's side of the cab when he noticed the spill. He said he turned off the ignition of the truck and then ran around the back of the

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

truck. He said he got knocked down when the fire ignited, before he could stop the flow of fuel.

During the spill, the diesel engine of the truck ingested the fuel from the air and revved up rather than shutting down. It is believed that is what sparked the fire.

Cowles was badly burned in the fire. He was the only one injured in the incident.

Before things ever got to that point, Derrevere said Florida Rock company policy and the law demanded that Cowles determine the available capacity of the fuel tank.

Because he believed the tank gauge to be inoperable, Cowles said he called his office for instructions.

At that point, Derrevere said Florida Rock should have told Cowles to stand down and wait until Coomes could get there and give an accurate reading of tank capacity. He said Cowles should have known it wasn't safe to proceed.

Instead, Cowles was told to pump the amount of fuel ordered.

"Mr. Cowles needed to say, 'Thank you, I'm out of here. I'm not doing it because it doesn't comply with our manual. I'm not going to do a pump off blind,'" Derrevere said. "That was the unwritten company policy: 'Pump away.'"

Derrevere said it was Florida Rock's fault that Cowles was sent into a situation for which he wasn't prepared.

"Frankly, Mr. Cowles was sent out without even knowing where he should be, without knowing what he should do," Derrevere said.

Rine countered that other drivers parked in the same place that Cowles parked when offloading fuel and didn't necessarily check the tanks, either. He also challenged witnesses' accounts that Cowles was away from his truck when the spill occurred.

<http://staugustine.com/stuart-korfhage/2015-04-02/jury-decides-florida-rock-coomes-oil-split-75-25-legal-responsibility#.VR5aavmUeSo>

USA, N.J, ATLANTIC CITY

APRIL 9 2015.

ATLANTIC CITY TROPICANA OIL SPILL CAUSED BY CONTRACTOR, SUIT ALLEGES

Jeff Goldman

The Tropicana is suing a contractor that allegedly caused an oil leak that led to more than \$75,000 in damages, according to a report.

A contractor caused a leak at Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City that spilled more than 500 gallons of oil and caused more than \$75,000 in damage, a lawsuit alleges. An Cliffwood Beach company hired to upgrade underground storage tanks "capped, shut off or disconnected the return lines," according to a suit filed in U.S. District Court in Camden. The June 2014 spill happened after that alleged error when oil backed up during a standard test of the hotel's emergency generator system, PressofAtlanticCity.com. said. The suit added that Michael Marra Inc didn't perform its work in a "proper, safe and workmanlike way," the Press reported.

http://www.nj.com/atlantic/index.ssf/2015/04/atlantic_city_tropicana_oil_spill_caused_by_contractor_suit_alleges.html

RUSSIA, KRASNOYARSK KRAI, KRASNOYARSK, APRIL 12 2015. WORKER KILLED AS FIRE BREAKS OUT AT ROSNEFT REFINERY

An investigation has been launched after a worker was killed after a fire broke out in a refinery in east Siberia. The incident happened on Friday at the facility, which is owned by Russian company Rosneft. A spokesman for the company said the fire broke out shortly before 10am. He said: "The work of the enterprise has not been suspended, output has been carried out as planned." It's understood the fire had broken out at a pipeline which was under maintenance during repair works.

<https://www.energyvoice.com/other-news/healthandsafety/77185/worker-killed-as-fire-breaks-out-at->

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

[rosneft-refinery/](#)

PAKISTAN, KARACHI, KORANGI

APRIL 13 2015.

ONE AFTER THE OTHER: SIX MEN FALL TO THEIR DEATHS IN CHEMICAL TANK

Faraz Khan

When one of the factory workers came to work, he realised what had happened. His screams attracted the attention of the neighbours who called the police helpline 15 and told them that several bodies are lying in the underground tank.

Rescuers from different welfare associations also reached the site along with the law enforcers and retrieved the bodies. "Some parts of the bodies had turned black and blue because of the chemical reaction," said Asif Khan, one of the rescue workers. "Some kind of foam was also coming out of their mouths."

The pickle manufacturing factory is built on a 400-square-yard plot on Darussalam Cooperative Housing Society in Korangi's Allahwala Town. The tank from where the bodies were retrieved is around eight by 10 square-feet wide and nearly 20 feet deep. There was no cover over the underground tank, just some wooden planks. It was used mainly to store the chemicals the manufacturers use to make pickles.

According to the residents, the factory was established around 15 years ago but no such incident had occurred before. The factory owner, 45-year-old Mehtab, who was among the victims, was a resident of Delhi Colony, said a neighbour, Shaukat Ali. "Those who lost their lives were all his relatives." The factory operated throughout the week and the workers would take turns for their off days, he explained.

The bodies were taken for autopsies to Jinnah hospital where the remaining victims were identified as Adnan, his father Saleem, Sohail, Nawab and Imran. All the men were between the ages of 30 and 35 years, except Saleem, who was around 50 years old.

"All the six men were dead when they were brought to the hospital," said Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre's joint executive director Dr Seemin Jamali. "It appeared the men died from suffocation due to poisonous chemical gases," she told The Express Tribune. "But the cause of the death can only be confirmed following a post-mortem examination."

The police have, however, termed the tragedy an accident. "One of the employees, Adnan, fell inside the tank and then his father went inside through the ladder to rescue him but he also fell down," said Korangi SP Afnan Amin. "Later, the remaining employees also fell one by one trying to save each other."

SP Amin admitted they cannot confirm any details as the investigations are in their preliminary stages. He added that the factory was operating in a residential area, they have yet to determine whether or not it was illegal.

The Korangi Industrial Area police have detained a watchman, Taj Muhammad, and three other employees of the factory who were present when the tragedy occurred. The police said they will register an FIR if they find any criminal elements in the investigations.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/868909/one-after-the-other-six-men-fall-to-their-deaths-in-chemical-tank/>

CHINA, FUJIAN PROVINCE, ZHANGZHOU, APRIL 13 2015. 'NO DAMAGE' AFTER BLAST AT CHEMICAL SITE

Si Huan

Local authorities are optimistic that there has been no damage to the environment after an explosion at a chemical plant in Fujian province that forced thousands of residents to evacuate.

The city's environment protection bureau said on Sunday that monitoring of air and water quality in Zhangzhou, Fujian, since the disaster on April 6 showed "no significant harm to the natural environment due to the explosion has been detected so far", according to a Xinhua report.

The blast was caused when an oil leak caught fire and the flames spread to three storage tanks at the plant, which produces paraxylene, or PX, an industrial chemical used mainly to manufacture polyester. Paraxylene poses health and environmental risks because it is flammable and toxic.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

An emergency headquarters set up after the explosion has assembled a panel including environmental, maritime and meteorological experts to monitor readings of poisonous gas, toxic chemicals and industrial sewage. No major hazard has been detected so far, said the report.

More than 29,000 local residents were evacuated from the area around the plant after fire broke out for a second time in two storage tanks in the early hours of April 8, two days after the explosion.

According to the emergency HQ, 28,257 evacuated residents have now returned to their homes, and the supply of tap water, electricity and gas have been restored. Roads closed during the emergency have also been reopened.

The report, quoting local officials, said all of the 40,000 people who live on Gulei Peninsula, where the plant is located, will be moved 15 kilometers away to Duxuan by October.

It was the second accident in 20 months at the plant, which is owned by Tenglong Aromatic Hydrocarbon (Zhangzhou) Co.

Qin Tianbao, an environmental protection expert at Wuhan University, said that even though paraxylene has low toxicity, building such plants should be strictly regulated after an environmental assessment and public review.

<http://www.ecns.cn/2015/04-13/161461.shtml>

USA, WASHINGTON DC

APRIL 15 2015.

NIOSH SAYS VOCs FROM SAMPLING TANKS RESPONSIBLE FOR NINE DEATHS

Charlie Passut

Researchers with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) said nine oil and gas extraction workers were killed over a five-year period after inhaling volatile organic compounds (VOCs) while manually gauging or sampling production tanks at oil and gas well sites.

In a blog post on Friday, NIOSH, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said the fatalities occurred between January 2010 and December 2014. Using photoionization detectors, the researchers found that peak short-term levels of total VOCs were above 2,000 parts per million (ppm) during tank gauging activities at separators and flowback tanks, and sustained levels were as high as 500 ppm. But they ruled out exposure to hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), another toxic gas associated with oil and gas production.

NIOSH said researchers from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration also found concentrations of butane, propane and pentane at open hatches of production tanks.

"Data collected to date shows that concentrations of these hydrocarbons in excess of immediately dangerous to life or health levels can occur near open tank hatches and these concentrations can exceed the lower exposure limit [LEL] presenting risks for fires and explosions," NIOSH said. "Many VOCs from hydrocarbon sources have occupational exposure limits much lower than their LEL."

NIOSH added that data collected from a multi-gas monitor worn by one of the deceased workers found LEL concentrations greater than 100%, and simultaneous oxygen deficiency -- meaning less than 10% -- at around the time of the worker's death. "These conditions could occur due to high concentrations of gases and vapors inside the tank which are released in a burst of pressure as the tank hatch is opened by the worker for manual gauging or sampling operations."

The agency said it is continuing to work with industry partners to further investigate the magnitude of the risk to oil and gas workers. In the meantime, NIOSH recommended that the industry help limit the exposure to workers by implementing alternative tank gauging procedures, including electronic testing. They also recommended additional training for workers and having them consistently wear calibrated multi-gas monitors to measure LEL and oxygen concentration.

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/101969-niosh-says-vocs-from-sampling-tanks-responsible-for-nine-deaths>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, ILL, HARTFORD

APRIL 19 2015. PHILLIPS 66 ESTIMATES 25,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL LEAKED NEAR WOOD RIVER REFINERY

Jacob Barker

Phillips 66 estimates about 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel leaked on Friday into the Cahokia Canal, a waterway that drains into the Mississippi River.

The spill prompted the Coast Guard to close a 35-mile section of the river.

Phillips 66 discovered a leak in a pipeline that runs from its storage terminal to a barge loading dock. The facilities are near the Wood River Refinery, which Phillips 66 co-owns with Cenovus Energy.

Company spokeswoman Melissa Erker said the fuel was spotted in the canal and the leak detected about 8:45 a.m. Friday. The pipeline was shut off immediately and by 10 a.m. the company confirmed the leak had stopped, she said. The barge loading dock is offline while the company continues to investigate the cause of the leak.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman Kim Biggs in an email her agency, the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard were all on site responding to the spill Friday. She said her agency has not confirmed the quantity of fuel spilled and declined to provide an estimate. Nor did it know when the leak began or stopped.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. EPA referred questions to the Coast Guard. That agency issued a press release that said the pipeline had been secured and the cause of the spill is under investigation.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources spokeswoman Gena Terlizzi said the agency was informed of the situation and is monitoring it. It is not responding to the spill because the diesel was contained on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River, she said. "The indication we have is no waterways in Missouri are threatened."

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/phillips-estimates-gallons-of-diesel-leaked-near-wood-river-refinery/article_92970b2f-98d3-5275-bff8-5d0264950352.html

SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN

APRIL 19 2015.

EXPLOSION ROCKS SAPREF PIPELINE IN DURBAN

The Sapref pipeline, which forms part of a joint venture between SA Shell and BP Southern Africa, exploded around 10pm, according to initial reports. Early reports said a number of fire, rescue and medical vehicles had been dispatched to the Bluff which appeared to have borne the brunt of a series of explosions.

A tweet from Pamela Thoms3c read: "I live on Buldana road I saw Sapref explode right in front of my eyes. the flames reached our houses. It was a huge explosion."

Vaneshree Naidoo tweeted: "According to my bro and folks that bang shook the doors and roof. #sapref"

Cheryl Pillai reported on twitter that there had been "3 big explosions".

Sapref lays claim to be the largest crude oil refinery in Southern Africa with 35% of South Africa's refining capacity.

<http://citizen.co.za/365240/explosion-rocks-sapref-pipeline-in-durban/>

USA, CO, GREELEY

APRIL 19 2015.

SPECTACULAR MOMENT LIGHTNING STRIKE CAUSED A CHAIN REACTION OF EXPLOSIONS AT A CHEMICAL PLANT CAUGHT ON CAMERA - AS HUGE STORMS CAUSE HAVOC ACROSS THE SOUTH AND MIDWEST

A Colorado wastewater facility went up in flames on Friday after a fracking tanker was hit by lightning, setting off a series of explosions and oil fires.

Dale Lyman, a spokesman for the Greeley Fire Department, says firefighters were called to the site northeast of Greeley airport shortly after 1 p.m.

They are working with NGL Energy Partners, the company that owns the site, but had to wait for

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

the explosion risk to subside so they could use fire suppression foam to extinguish the fire, Lyman told The Greeley Tribune.

Nearby homes were evacuated, however no injuries were reported.

The fire began when lightning struck a water storage tank, launching it into the air. It landed 60 feet from the site.

The water contained traces of hydrocarbons and petroleum as a result of hydraulic fracturing, which ignited, Fox 31 reported.

The tanker was near an injection well where fracking wastewater is pumped into the ground.

The area was linked to earthquakes near Greeley in May and June last year.

The site is located near the intersection of Weld County Road 47 and Weld County Road 64, just northeast of the Greeley Airport.

The suppression foam that used to extinguish the flames is for fighting liquid fire and cuts off the fire's oxygen supply and cools it down, Lyman said.

NGL Energy Partners have several similar facilities across the country.

The company's vice president, Doug White, said they had the incident under control.

'It was quite a lightning storm that was moving through here,' White told The Greeley Tribune.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3045226/Fracking-tanker-launched-air-struck-lightning-setting-array-explosions-oil-fires-wastewater-facility.html>

USA, NV, LAS VEGAS

APRIL 19 2015.

CLARK COUNTY FACES \$600,000 BILL FOR DIESEL SPILL CLEANUP

Ben Botkin

Clark County is facing a bill of up to \$600,000 for cleaning up a 200-gallon diesel spill at Spring Mountain Youth Camp after a sensor failed and fuel leaked out of a small hole where county staff had failed to reinstall a bolt.

Commissioners plan to vote Tuesday on the environmental services contract with environmental and engineering firm Broadbent and Associates that has an estimated cost of \$350,000 to \$600,000 for excavation and working with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to ensure compliance.

County officials said the cost could be higher, but that would need approval from the commission.

The county's path to the six-figure bill started a year ago. In April 2014, county staff were doing maintenance work in the camp's mechanical room on the system's piping. At the time, they failed to reinstall a bolt on top of the 250-gallon tank, county records show. That oversight left a small hole in the tank.

The tank is refilled automatically by pipes connected to two 10,000-gallon storage tanks, with a sensor that controls the fuel level.

"In combination with failure to install a bolt, fuel leaked from the tank until it was discovered by staff," County Manager Don Burnette wrote in a report.

It's unclear what would have happened had the sensor failed with the bolt securely in place. But county officials acknowledge that the bolt shouldn't have been left out of the tank.

"It's a maintenance mistake," Assistant County Manager Randy Tarr said.

Tarr noted that the county has a staff of 130 people who service equipment on several million square feet of property.

"I think we have a pretty good crew out there," he said.

The contract also will cover cleanup efforts for a larger area with a larger contamination of an unknown source. Details about the scope of that older contamination weren't immediately available, though officials plan to address it.

Spring Mountain Youth Camp, overseen by the county's Department of Juvenile Justice Services, houses male offenders between 12 and 18 years old in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

outside Las Vegas.

The work will entail removing dirt from the site of the spill and contamination and either replacing it or cleaning it. The contractor will test soil samples and shore up the building structure to keep it stable during the work. It also will provide documentation to satisfy the state Division of Environmental Protection.

The county started cleaning and replacing the drywall from the control room where the spill started and removing the contaminated soil last year. In May, the county suspended the work temporarily because of concerns about the impact on the foundation of the building. The scope had grown beyond that of the initial emergency response.

Broadbent in August got the go-ahead for the excavation with the existing soil because development of a plan was needed to do the work in sections with a shoring system for safety reasons.

By the end of October, after the backfilling work was finished, the county delayed doing any more work until spring because of the winter weather.

The county's insurance carrier determined it won't cover any of the county's costs because sensor failure is a "maintenance item and failed due to normal wear and tear," the county report states.

Jo Ann Kitrell, a spokeswoman for the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, said the county doesn't face any penalties because it reported the spill and took responsibility for the cleanup.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/clark-county-faces-600000-bill-diesel-spill-cleanup>

USA, TA, KARNES CITY

APRIL 20 2015.

LIGHTNING BLAMED FOR EXPLOSION AT OIL DISPOSAL COMPANY

Lightning is being blamed for an explosion and fire at an oil and natural gas disposal company north of Karnes City. Lightning hit 12 tankers filled with oil and salt water at the Shale Tank Truck company, causing them to explode. All of the workers got out safely, and no injuries were reported. Officials said these type of incidences are common and the company was well prepared. They are letting the fire burn for now. As of 6:15 p.m. officials said Highway 181 would remain closed for the next couple of hours.

<http://www.kens5.com/story/news/2015/04/17/explosion-at-shale-plant-in-karnes-county/25958927/>