

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

USA, LA, TALLULAH

APRIL 25 2010.

STORM: POSSIBLE NITROGEN LEAK AT CHEM PLANT TANK

Louisiana State Police say there's a possible nitrogen leak from storm damage to a tank at a chemical plant near Tallulah. Sgt. James Martin says plant officials don't know of any chemicals leaking from the Complex Chemicals plant itself. He says he does not know the extent of damage at the plant. Owner Jerry Melton did not immediately reply to an e-mail Saturday. State Department of Environmental Quality spokesman Rodney Mallett says an emergency responder is going there.

<http://www.wxvt.com/Global/story.asp?S=12369066>

USA, WYO, GREEN RIVER

APRIL 27 2010.

COMPANY CLEANS 84,000-GALLON OIL SPILL

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality says cleanup work continues after a pipeline break caused about 84,000 gallons of crude oil to spill in the Bridger Valley. DEQ Emergency Response Coordinator Joe Hunter says officials believe the April 5 break was caused by pressure in a corroded segment of the pipeline. The spill occurred near Robertson in southwest Uinta County. Bridger Lake LLC of Louisiana owns the pipeline. Hunter says the company shut the line after discovering the leak and reported the incident in a —timely manner.|| Plans call for the oil-contaminated soil to be stockpiled on site and then disposed of. Hunter says some of the oil leaked into an irrigation ditch, but none of it —got into any live waters.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_c93f2ab4-50c3-11df-ac0b-001cc4c002e0.html

USA, CA, CARSON

APRIL 27 2010.

TOXIC SOIL LURKS BENEATH CARSON NEIGHBORHOOD

Jeff Gottlieb

When Ron and Belinda Oglesby moved into Carson's Carousel neighborhood in 2003, they saw a solid, middle-class area where homeowners set down roots and lived for decades, where Santa Claus paraded through the streets on a firetruck and children returned to buy their own homes.

This, they told themselves, was the perfect place to raise their three kids.

Six years later, they noticed workmen drilling holes and leaving cryptic white marks on the streets.

By last summer, they had discovered what the sudden activity meant: Preliminary tests under the direction of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board had found dangerous levels of potentially explosive methane gas and benzene under the 285 homes of the Carousel tract. In some spots, tests found benzene at concentrations seldom seen, levels that could significantly increase cancer risks for residents.

The discovery has transformed a 50-acre neighborhood of palm trees and quiet streets into an environmental case study — a reminder of Southern California's history as a center of the oil industry and the problems of ground pollution that continue to dot the region.

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"How can you get a good night's sleep?" Belinda Oglesby said. "I tell my husband, 'Get me out of here,' but where are we going? Who'd buy our house? It's like a nightmare that never goes away."

Things have only seemed to get worse. In March, the water quality board told residents not to eat fruit or vegetables grown in their backyards. Shell Oil Co., which once stored millions of gallons of crude oil in giant tanks where the houses now stand, sent letters to more than 20 homeowners recommending they minimize contact with "exposed soil in your yard."

Many residents have begun anxiously wondering about their health. Oglesby worries about whether contamination caused her weak immune system, the chronic rashes her daughters have developed and the 10-year-old's memory problems. A neighbor, Rosemary Noval, has the same questions about her husband's previous bout with cancer.

Others ask about the tar-like substance that sometimes bubbles up into their lawns or through cracks in their patio.

Noval said she worries that her years of gardening have exposed her to dangerous chemicals, especially after she watched investigators pull dark, wet soil from her backyard that smelled like oil.

"The garden is where the soul feels at home," she said. "That's how I feel when I'm in the garden. Now I'm no longer happy in my garden because I know what's underneath."

"Our lives are full of uncertainty and heartache and disappointment," she said. "That's our lives now. It's been ripped from us."

The contamination in Carson was discovered by accident. Two years ago, the state Department of Toxic Substances Control was investigating the site of an old chemical plant west of the Carousel neighborhood when workers found benzene and other petroleum products in the soil and groundwater. Because the chemical plant had rarely used those products, investigators concluded they had migrated from elsewhere. The old Shell tank farm was the most likely suspect.

Starting in 1924, Shell had stored oil in what were essentially giant concrete bathtubs covered with wood. The tank farm operated in conjunction with a refinery 1 1/2 miles to the east until the mid-1960s, when the tanks were demolished and Shell sold the property. The first homes were built on the site around 1970, state records indicate.

Alison Abbott Chassin, Shell's external affairs manager, said the oil company sold the 50 acres as is, and it was the responsibility of the developer to clean up the site.

Shell officials also have said there could be causes of contamination other than the oil tanks. Gene Freed, Shell's project manager, said chemical residue at some homes could have been left behind by previous owners who enjoyed fiddling with cars, or been from pesticides or other household chemicals.

The company found no contamination in a house it tested near the spot on Neptune Avenue where benzene levels were highest, Freed said.

"It could be as simple as the gardener spilled gasoline there when filling up his lawn mower," he said. "There are all kinds of things we're finding that are not related to our operations."

Tracy Egoscue, the water board's executive officer, said no developer would be allowed to build on the Carousel tract today. Regardless of what the environmental laws were when Shell sold the land, the company now is legally responsible for cleaning it up, she added.

Shell was slow to cooperate with the investigation, Egoscue said. "Initially they were dragging their feet," she added. The agency sent the company a notice of violation in April 2009.

Most residents have joined a lawsuit against Shell and others including developer Barclay Hollander Corp., which was bought by Dole Foods, according to attorneys involved in the case. Tom Girardi, the homeowners' attorney, said Shell knew the area was polluted when it sold the property in 1966.

"It's the most despicable situation I've seen in 40 years of doing this," said Girardi, who represented plaintiffs in the case against Pacific Gas & Electric made famous by the movie "Erin Brockovich." He said it was Brockovich who alerted him to the situation in the Carousel neighborhood.

Sam Unger, the water board's assistant executive officer, said the Carousel tract "has the potential to be a very large cleanup, complicated by people living on it." In several previous cases around the country, oil companies, chemical firms and developers have ended up paying tens of millions — sometimes hundreds of millions — of dollars to clean up polluted sites and buy homes that were built on top of polluted soil.

The homeowner lawsuit claims Shell found "significant levels of benzene" at 66 of 73 locations the company drilled, mostly streets and other public areas. In a letter to the water board, Girardi said the cancer risk exceeds the federal Environmental Protection Agency's level of risk by a factor of 1,400. At the high level, the concentration of benzene in soil gas would be estimated to cause one additional cancer case for each 10 people who breathed it for 30

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years of a 70-year lifetime.

Several experts interviewed by The Times said they were surprised at the benzene levels. David Siegel, chief of the Integrated Risk Assessment Branch of the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, said if testing finds such levels inside homes, he would be worried not only about long-term effects, but short-term problems such as birth defects and neurological problems in children.

Martyn T. Smith, a professor of toxicology at UC Berkeley, said the key is how much benzene is entering people's houses.

Even if the levels in homes turns out to be low, however, a child playing in the dirt or a dog digging with a child nearby could lead to considerable exposure, he said. "I would be highly concerned about such a site," he said.

The level of benzene found so far "boggles my mind," said Stephen Lester, science director for the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, an environmental advocacy group that focuses on communities at risk from toxic chemicals. "It poses serious risks for homes and any place where it could reach the public."

Shell is now testing homes and digging for more samples under water board supervision. The company is splitting the samples with Girardi's firm.

Early this month, Girardi's investigators dug a 7-foot-deep trench in the frontyard of Adolfo Valdez's beige ranch-style house. They hit oil mixed with the dirt at about a foot and a half, said Mark Zeko, principal hydrogeologist for Environmental Engineering and Contracting Inc. The air around the house smelled like a gas station.

Valdez, a longshoreman who has done extensive remodeling to the house himself, tells his four daughters they can't kick the soccer ball around in the frontyard any more. "I wish I could leave," he said. "I wish they could put me up in a rental house. What are we supposed to do?"

A house two doors down was in escrow when the buyers learned about the contamination and pulled out.

Carson Mayor Jim Dear said he hoped the attorney general will file a civil suit against Shell.

He thinks Shell and the water board are moving too slowly. "Put yourself in the shoes of someone living there," he said. "Not knowing if it's a dangerous environment is psychological torture."

That's how Matt Priest feels. Priest grew up on Marbella Avenue and bought a fixer-upper four doors down from his parents in 2003.

The longshoreman figures he's spent \$100,000 on copper plumbing, a new electrical system, granite counters and a stainless-steel double oven.

Lumber and drywall are stacked in the living room, and he wonders whether he should bother continuing with the renovation. The smell of gas permeates the house.

His mother has a rare liver disease, and his father has a disabling brain condition. At 42, Priest has an enlarged prostate, and he wonders if the contamination contributed to these medical problems.

"I'm hoping they'll buy us out and knock down the houses," he said. "I don't want to live here anymore. Every day I live here is a bad day."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-carousel-shell-20100427,0,511813,full.story>

USA, TX, NEW LONDON

APRIL 27 2010.

1 DEAD, 1 INJURED IN OIL FIELD EXPLOSION EXPLOSION LEAVES TWO FAMILIES HOPING FOR HEALING

Layron Livingston

The investigation continues into what exactly caused a fatal, early morning explosion. The body of Melissa Helsel-Williams, 24, was found near a group of oil well tank batteries, around 1:30, Monday morning. She was pronounced dead on-scene.

The explosion happened near County Road 111 in Rusk County. Authorities also found Joseph Crisp, 24, just yards away from the explosion site. He is in critical condition at a Shreveport hospital.

A crew worked to clean the mangled metal from the scorched site. The exact cause of the explosion is still to be determined, but sources told us it was likely a cigarette lighter that ignited fumes venting above the tank batteries. We're told the tank that exploded was still in service, but not full.

"There are always explosive gases contained within the tanks," said Ron Duncan, chief deputy with the Rusk County Sheriff's Department.

Duncan said Crisp was blown nearly 180 feet into the nearby woods.

"I got a phone call around 2 a.m. saying, there's been an accident," said Cara Anderson, Crisp's sister. "We grabbed the kids and left."

When we spoke to Anderson, she'd just arrived from visiting her brother in the hospital. She said her brother 597, 598, 599, 600, 602, 603, 604

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suffered injuries to his head, spine, and spleen. He also has burns on a quarter of his body.

"Accidents happen," she said. "God takes who he wants to take."

We are told Crisp was found groaning, but conscious, when firefighters arrived. He told authorities his friend, Melissa Helsel-Williams, was somewhere nearby. Sources revealed her body was found underneath the shell of the blown-up tank.

"To us, [she] was... 'Bootsie Kay,'" shared Jerry Smires, Williams' uncle.

Smires joined other family members outside a relative's home near New London.

"Her heart was so big, and she was so beautiful," he said.

"She loved family and would do anything for anybody," said Angela Smires, Williams' cousin.

Jerry Smires just happens to live within yards of the explosion site. "I thought, 'My goodness, a plane has hit, or something,'" he recalled. "It was so loud!"

Smires said he has visited the tank battery before. "Never thought anything about it."

Smires said his niece leaves behind a husband of three years.

<http://www.kltv.com/global/story.asp?s=12374145>

USA, LA, BOSSIER,

APRIL 28 2010.

OIL TANK BLAST SENDS SMOKE PLUME OVER BOSSIER CITY

An oil tank filling a tanker truck with crude oil exploded Tuesday afternoon, sending a black cloud of smoke into the air over Bossier City.

We now know the cause of the explosion. Fire officials say the explosion was likely caused when the tank's heating system ignited flammable gases inside the tank.

The explosion happened about 1:45 p.m. at Plains Marketing, located on Benton Road near I-220.

Authorities say the truck driver who was loading the oil from the tank into the tanker heard a hissing sound, and then the tank exploded. The driver managed to run from the scene and was not injured.

The tank was blown 40 yards away from its original location.

When the first emergency response crews got to the scene, they noticed a second nearby oil storage tank was signaling a high pressure warning. They were able to fix the problem before anything happened with the second tank.

Firefighters had the blaze under control quickly, according to Bossier City Spokesman Mark Natale. One firefighter did suffer a minor injury when he burned his hand.

Natale also said some of the crude oil did spill. A team from the Department of Environmental Quality will assess any damage from the spilled oil.

Authorities say nearby Willis-Knighton Hospital had to shut down their air conditioning units because of the smoke.

<http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=12384359>

USA - HOT-WORK EXPLOSIONS CAUSE DEATHS

Performing hot work around combustible gases is as clear-cut a recipe for disaster as can be found in industrial environments. Yet this highly dangerous activity is one of the most common causes of worker deaths, says the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB). Following investigations of several hot-work accidents that killed workers in the past 2 years, CSB has issued a safety bulletin identifying seven key lessons aimed at preventing worker deaths during hot work in and around storage tanks containing flammable materials.

Hot work is any activity that involves burning, welding, cutting, brazing, grinding, soldering, or similar spark-producing operations that can ignite a flammable atmosphere.

CSB says it started investigating hot-work hazards following an explosion on July 29, 2008, at a corrugated cardboard mill in Wisconsin, which killed three maintenance workers and injured another. CSB determined the explosion resulted from welding above an 80-foot-tall storage tank that contained highly flammable hydrogen gas—the product of bacterial decomposition of organic fiber waste inside the tank.

CSB subsequently investigated explosions ignited by hot work at an oil refinery, a food manufacturer, a produce company, and a waste oil facility, among others. Each incident resulted in worker deaths or severe injuries. CSB says it has identified more than 60 fatalities that have occurred since 1990 as the result of explosions and fires caused by hot work.

"A common feature of virtually all these accidents is the failure to recognize all the locations where a flammable atmosphere could be present," said CSB Investigations Supervisor Don Holmstrom. "The absence of

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flammables needs to be verified before and during any hot work.”

CSB notes that combustible gas monitors are relatively inexpensive handheld electronic instruments that measure the amount of flammable material in the atmosphere. Proper training and calibration are essential for using gas monitors effectively, says CSB. OSHA does not require combustible gas monitoring for hot work on or near flammable storage tanks.

CSB has produced several computer-animated safety videos on hot-work accidents.

The safety bulletin and videos are available at <http://www.csb.gov>.

<http://safety.blr.com/news.aspx?id=115988>

USA, TX, NEW LONDON

APRIL 29 2010.

UNSECURED OIL, GAS TANK EXPLOSIONS CLAIM 2 MORE LIVES

Ross Levitt and Susan Candiotti

Two people were killed by oil and gas tank explosions in recent weeks, even as the Chemical Safety Board launched a major drive to improve safety conditions around the tanks following the deaths last fall of two Mississippi teenagers.

The Chemical Safety Board, created by Congress, investigated the Mississippi incident and found at least 40 other deaths involving oil and gas wells in the past 25 years, most involving young people.

The board said a 24-year-old woman died Monday in an oil tank explosion in New London, Texas. A 24-year-old man was seriously injured in the incident.

And on April 14, a 21-year-old died in an explosion in Weleetka, Oklahoma. The safety board said the "site ... was unsecured and appeared to lack fire or explosion hazard warning signs."

The CSB said it is "deeply concerned about the recent surge of accidents at oil and gas production sites across the country. The board said it is "[urging] the oil and gas production industry, state legislatures and federal and state regulators to take action."

The Oklahoma incident came one day after the CSB released a video about the two boys who died in an explosion in Carnes, Mississippi, last fall.

Devon Byrd, 16, and Wade White, 18, were killed when a natural gas tank at a well production site exploded.

The dead teens' parents said the explosion could have been prevented if some warning signs had been posted - "something simple as fences, gates and signs, probably very inexpensive, and certainly a lot less expensive than what a child's life is worth," said White's father, Phillip.

Local teenagers said the site is a popular hangout because it's quiet and secluded.

Police said they don't know exactly what ignited flammable vapors inside the tank, but when it exploded, the teenagers were killed instantly. Their bodies were found about 40 yards from the tank's base; the tank landed another 20 yards from them. Investigators say they found a lighter, but don't know whether it was involved.

The CSB said it found a patchwork of laws nationwide that don't uniformly address security around oil and gas wells. It's asking the industry to police itself by voluntarily installing fences and warning signs.

"If these tanks are sitting out there in the middle of nowhere, no protection around them, no warning, they are just an accident waiting to happen," CSB Chairman John Bresland told CNN.

Delphi Oil, the company that owns the Mississippi tank that blew up, told CNN it could not discuss the accident because of pending negligence lawsuits filed by the families. A spokesman called the boys' deaths tragic, but the company says it is complying with all rules.

However, authorities tell CNN there are no state regulations requiring locked gates or no-smoking signs.

The CSB asked family and friends of Byrd and White to help them make an educational video about the dangers of oil and gas production sites. It's called "No Place to Hang Out," and it's part of a national campaign to teach young people about the potential danger of tanks. But it also urges the industry to improve itself.

"There's nothing we can do to bring Devon and Wade back, " said White's girlfriend, Maria Thompson, 16. "But if it can save someone else's life, I'd like to see it happen."

Mississippi state Sen. Billy Hudson told CNN he plans to introduce a state law requiring barbed-wire-topped fences, locked gates and "Danger – Keep Out" signs.

"There's no guarantees," Hudson said. "You could cut the fence with a bolt cutter, or you can shoot off a lock. But it'll be a deterrent, and it's a step in the right direction."

White's father says his son would be proud that friends and family are speaking out: "He'd be proud that we're trying to do something to keep other kids and other families from going through what we're going through."

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

<http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2010/04/28/unsecured-oil-gas-tank-explosions-claim-2-more-lives/>

USA, WA, FEDERAL WAY

MAY 1 2010.

CREWS CLEAN UP DIESEL FUEL SPILL AT DASH POINT STATE PARK

jacinda howard

Crews continued cleaning up a diesel fuel spill Friday at Dash Point State Park.

The spill originated from a recently-filled 300-gallon fuel tank, owned by a private contractor, being used for a state Department of Transportation project in which the nearby FB Hoit bridge is being stripped and repainted, DOT spokesman Mike Murphy said.

Around 7 p.m. April 29, the spill was discovered by a Washington State Parks and Recreation Commissioner ranger. The ranger discovered fuel leaking from the tank into the park's parking lot, where the tank was stored. The fuel flowed across the parking lot, down a hill and into the nearby Thames Creek, which empties into the Puget Sound just a few hundred feet from the state park.

The Washington state Department of Ecology (DOE), the U.S. Coast Guard and South King Fire and Rescue responded to the spill during the wee morning hours Friday. DOE was notified of the spill around 10 p.m., spokesman Larry Altose said. Sorbent pads, containment booms and an underflow dam were placed in and across the creek overnight to soak up the spill and prevent more oil from reaching the Puget Sound.

The overnight efforts appear to be keeping more fuel from reaching the Puget Sound, DOE incident commander Shannon Dickson said. At its peak early Friday morning, the spill is estimated to have caused a roughly one-half square mile white sheen on the surface of the Puget Sound, Dickson said. The sheen dissipated by 2 p.m. Friday.

It's unknown the precise amount of fuel that made its way to the Puget Sound, Dickson said. The tank is mostly empty. Fuel spreads fast in water and as little as 2 gallons can cause a large sheen, she said. Regardless of the amount that made it into the creek and the Sound, DOE is taking the incident seriously.

"Any spill is serious because oil is toxic," Altose said.

Most of the fuel soaked into the soil bordering the parking lot and creek, Dickson said. The area still had the faint smell of fuel and the park was closed April 30.

National Response Corporation, a private environmental cleanup contractor, was on site responding to the spill. DOE oversaw the work. The contractor deployed a boat into the Puget Sound around 9 a.m. It pulled a strip of material designed to skim oil from the water's surface.

Later in the afternoon, the contractor removed contaminated soil and debris from the spill site and nearby beach. The soil was replaced with new dirt to prevent further contamination. Oil in dirt continues to seep into the environment over time, Dickson said. The contaminated soil will be analyzed in an effort to determine exactly how much fuel escaped the tank, Altose said.

The investigation should reveal the cause of the leak, he said. The spill appears to be a result of mechanical failure of the holding tank, Dickson said. The ranger witnessed the fuel being pumped out from the top of the tank, and a faulty filter could be to blame, Dickson said.

The investigation should also help DOE and DOT staff figure out a timeline of events and if the proper reporting procedure was taken, Altose said. A few hours elapsed between the time the spill was discovered and the time it was reported.

"A major spill needs to be reported promptly," he said.

No immediate impacts to wildlife were seen at the site. The contractor and DOE have removed as much of the toxins from the water and dirt as possible, Altose said. However, that does not mean the diesel won't have negative unseen effects on wildlife, he said.

"We hope the impact will be minimal because of the cleanup that's been done," he said.

The painting contractor is responsible for the cleanups costs, Altose said. National Response Corporation was hired by that company. This is normal procedure unless DOE does not know who caused the spill, he said. The painting firm may be cited if the investigation reveals there was negligence or a violation on its part, Altose said.

The park will remain closed throughout the weekend. The equipment in the creek will stay and be replaced periodically for the next few weeks as a safety measure, Dickson said. The beach is accessible to private homeowners living beachside.

http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/fwm/news/92550699.html

USA, NORTH DAKOTA, ALEXANDER

MAY 7 2010.

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OIL TANK EXPLODES NEAR ALEXANDER WORKER IS INJURED, CAUSE IS UNKNOWN

Jacob Brooks

One man was injured when an oil tank exploded in McKenzie County Wednesday afternoon, officials said. Four oil tanks owned by Landtech Enterprises were destroyed in the ensuing fire that lasted for hours, and smoke could be seen for miles. The blast occurred between 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m., about 15 miles south of Williston, along U.S. Highway 85, near Alexander. The cause of the explosion is not yet known, said Landtech Enterprises owner Mark Johnsurd, who was at the scene Wednesday evening. The fire, which did not spread far from the oil tanks, was under control and being watched by Johnsurd and Alexander firefighters. He said one worker was hurt in the explosion, suffering burns, and was transported to Ramsey Burn Center in St. Paul, Minn. The worker was checking one of the oil tanks when the explosion occurred, Johnsurd said. The name of the worker was not released.

<http://www.willistonherald.com/articles/2010/05/06/news/doc4be2e06c1797b579427557.txt>

USA, N.J, MORRIS CO, WASHINGTON TWP

MAY 13 2010.

2,000-GALLON GAS TANK EXPLODES, KILLS NJ MAN, INJURES BROTHER

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP EXPLOSION CLAIMS LIFE OF NEWTON MAN

Cindy Capitani and Tehani Schneider

A Newton man died and his brother was injured after a 2,000 gallon gasoline storage tank exploded while they were trying to saw it open outside a Long Valley house on Tuesday afternoon, said Capt. Jeff Paul, spokesman for Morris County Prosecutor Robert A. Bianchi.

Donald Brodhecker, 50, of 62 Flocktown Road, suffered facial burns and was transported to Hackettstown Regional Medical Center after being treated at the scene by the Long Valley First Aid Squad, authorities said. His brother, Michael Brodhecker, 43, of Newton, was pronounced dead at the scene at 4:20 p.m. by Deputy Morris County Medical Examiner Carlos Fonseca.

The explosion also resulted in Michael Brodhecker's 2002 Ford F350 utility vehicle being totally destroyed. The underground storage tank was dug up from Donald Brodhecker's property when the brothers decided to take a gas powered commercial saw to it, Paul said. Sparks from the sawing ignited vapors in the tank, resulting in an explosion that prompted neighbors to call the Washington Township Police Department.

Authorities are still investigating why the brothers were cutting into the storage tank

The fiery scene required the assistance of Schooley's Mountain Fire Department, Long Valley Fire Department, Long Valley First Aid Squad and the Morris County Haz-Mat team, as well as Washington Township police, the MCPO homeland security unit, its major crime unit and the Morris County Sheriff Office Criminal Investigation section. A representative of the state Department of Labor was also on site.

More than a dozen emergency vehicles and unmarked cars were parked on the private, long winding driveway on Donald Brodhecker's sprawling property late Tuesday afternoon. Police said the property is approximately 100 acres. Authorities declined to comment at the scene, noting the investigation was ongoing, and deferred comment to the prosecutor's office. The explosion, which occurred in a wooded area far to the left of the house, left a lingering smell of fuel in the air but no smoke was visible late Tuesday afternoon.

The area in question was cordoned off with yellow caution tape. A Schooley's Mountain fire truck was parked in front of the vehicle destroyed in the explosion, and sections of yellow tape appeared to separate the two vehicles. Only a section of the charred vehicle was visible from behind the engine.

People were seen entering and exiting Brodhecker's house, but authorities barred further access to the area. A woman traveling on a golf cart down the driveway shook her head sadly when asked by a reporter for comment.

At the bottom of Brodhecker's driveway off Flocktown, the area--yards away from the action-- was quiet. A woman at an adjacent house answered her door but also declined comment. She acknowledged seeing emergency vehicles coming and going up the driveway but refused to comment on her neighbor.

<http://www.app.com/article/20100512/NEWS03/100512006/1004/NEWS01/2-000-gallon-gas-tank-explodes-kills-NJ-maninjures-brother>