

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

USA, KS, COFFEYVILLE

MAY 23 2013.

CVR REFINERY IN COFFEYVILLE, KAN., TO PAY \$300,000 PENALTY TO EPA

Rod Walton

An oil refinery in Coffeyville, Kan., will pay a \$300,000 penalty in what federal regulators called the facility's third environmental settlement in 13 months, the EPA announced Wednesday.

The CVR Energy Inc. facility, 75 miles from Tulsa, agreed to the civil penalty to settle alleged violations of the federal Clean Air Act. Coffeyville Resources Refining and Marketing, the CVR subsidiary, also must perform a series of audits and reviews of its risk management procedures.

The refinery also had agreed to settlements that were finalized in April 2012 and in March of this year.

"This third settlement with CRRM illustrates the extent of environmental problems the facility needed to fix," said a statement by Karl Brooks, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 7. "Together these settlements will result in sustained environmental improvement at the facility, making Coffeyville a safer place to live and CRRM a safer place to work."

The consent decree is subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by a federal court before it becomes final. CVR officials were asked for a response, but the Tulsa World did not receive a comment by deadline.

The first settlement also addressed several Clean Air Act violations and resulted in significant reductions in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from the refinery, according to regulators.

In addition, CRRM agreed to pay \$2.3 million in fines and reimbursements for the discharge of crude oil and diesel fuel into the Verdigris River during a 2007 flood. The settlement, announced two months ago, committed the refinery to pay a \$556,244 civil penalty and approximately \$1.75 million to reimburse the federal government for response costs tied to the river's cleanup.

On July 1, 2007, the Verdigris overflowed its banks and flooded the refinery. Crude oil spilled from a storage tank, while diesel fuel and oily water also leaked into the watershed.

Federal officials estimated the discharge at about 2,145 barrels. City of Coffeyville officials previously said the flood water and oil mix caused about \$15.8 million in residential and commercial damages.

Sugar Land, Texas-based CVR Energy also owns the Wynnewood refinery in southern Oklahoma. In a settlement last month, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined the Wynnewood refinery \$281,100 for a September explosion that killed two workers.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/article.aspx/CVR_refinery_in_Coffeyville_Kan_to_pay_300000_penalty/20130523_49_E1_Anoir150899

BRAZIL, RIO DE JANEIRO

MAY 24 2013.

ONE DEAD IN FUEL TANK FIRE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

One person died and seven other were injured when a huge fire destroyed at least six large fuel storage tanks outside Rio de Janeiro, local government sources said.

The fire broke out in the storage area of fuel and lubricant distributor Petrogold in Duque de Caxias, a municipality in the Rio metropolitan area, and it took firefighters four hours to bring it under control.

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The Duque de Caxias city hall confirmed the death of one of the storage center's workers and the fact that seven others had been admitted to Adao Pereira Nunes Hospital.

The man who died, apparently, inhaled toxic gases before being picked up by an ambulance.

The flames, which could be seen several kilometers (miles) away, spread to six fuel tanks and part of the administrative facilities at the site, which firefighters had difficulty accessing due to explosions caused by the blaze.

Given the difficulty of fighting the fire directly within the storage area, firefighters from six stations deployed to battle it were limited to a great extent to spraying water on the roofs and the yards of nearby homes to try and prevent the flames from spreading.

Firefighters also ordered the evacuation of residents in homes on six streets near the site, which is close to the highway linking the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Teresopolis. EFE

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=785166&CategoryId=14090>

USA, KS, ANDOVER

MAY 27 2013.

BUTLER COUNTY HOMEOWNERS SUE PIPELINE COMPANY OVER WATER CONTAMINATION, CO. DENIES ALLEGATIONS

Eighteen families in a south-central Kansas neighborhood have filed a lawsuit accusing a pipeline company of contaminating their water, but the company denies the allegations and says it has been working with the state to address their concerns.

The lawsuit, filed in Sedgwick County District Court on behalf of homeowners in an area northeast of Andover, seeks \$2.3 million in damages from San Antonio-based NuStar Pipeline Operating Partnership L.P. The case is scheduled for a jury trial in the summer of 2014.

NuStar has owned the pipeline since 2005, and denies the allegations. The company also maintains that residents have failed to show NuStar caused the contamination.

Gary Koegeboehn, vice president and general manager of the NuStar Central East Region, said in an email to The Wichita Eagle (<http://bit.ly/Z8HZ2Z>) that NuStar has been working "cooperatively and proactively" with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to address the concerns of the property owners, whose health and safety "is a top priority."

The lawsuit accuses NuStar of refusing to clean up contamination from a 1990 pipeline rupture in the backyard of the James and Keelie McCrays' house.

The former homeowner of the McCray's home in 1990 found what looked like gasoline in his yard and told the pipeline's then-owner, Kaneb Pipe Line Operating Partnership. Kaneb said it removed the contaminated soil and repaired the pipeline. But the lawsuit says that more than two years later, the homeowner began to smell gas in the drinking water. Neighbors said the contamination from the McCrays' backyard eventually spread to some of their yards.

The KDHE says a resident contacted its Wichita office about the rupture and contamination on Dec. 22, 1992. Sampling found benzene, classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a carcinogen, in the water and found that the pollution had spread to another home. Kaneb supplied bottled water to both homeowners and in 1993 installed a carbon filter at the home where the rupture occurred.

KDHE said sampling of the wells in 1995 and 2001 found no contamination. But the lawsuit says monitoring showed contamination in the neighborhood in 2002, 2003, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

KDHE and NuStar began a well-sampling program in the neighborhood in 2012 at the request of residents and found benzene and other petroleum hydrocarbon-related contaminants above allowable levels for drinking water at six homes. NuStar offered bottled water service to 12 homes and had carbon filtration systems installed on nine wells.

Koegeboehn also said the testing in January 2012 showed that the contamination "was not consistent with the products our pipeline carries" and not connected to the 1990 rupture. "In addition," he said, "the contamination quickly disappeared. And recent sampling of these wells in 2013 has not detected contamination. In fact, there has been no detection of the contamination identified in early 2012 since May 2012."

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/1de42e7bee4d08be7511029829270c/KS--Pipeline-Water-Lawsuit>

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USA, ILL, PEKIN

MAY 29 2013.

NO INJURIES FROM FIRE SPARKED BY LIGHTNING AT PEKIN CORN PLANT

No one was injured this morning when a lightning strike apparently ignited a blaze at a large alcohol tank at the Illinois Corn Processing plant in Pekin.

The fire began with an explosion at the container shortly after 6 a.m., said city Fire Chief Kurt Nelson. The blast blew the lid off the tank, releasing the 200,000-gallon container's burning contents into a large concrete containment area.

Pekin firefighters first poured water on the flames to reduce their intensity and doused nearby tanks with water to keep them cool, Nelson said.

Foam supplied by company-based firefighters, more from the adjacent Aventine Renewable Energy plant and a snorkel truck from the Illinois National Guard eventually doused the burning fuel, Nelson said.

The flaming liquid never spilled beyond the tank's surrounding containment walls, he said. City firefighters finally left the scene at about 1:30 p.m.

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/x1039449380/No-injuries-from-fire-sparked-by-lightning-at-Pekin-corn-plant#ixzz2WslRm1WU>

USA, CT, BRANFORD

MAY 30 2013.

TANK REMOVAL SPARKS SMALL BLAST IN BRANFORD, TWO LEFT WITH MINOR INJURIES

Evan Lips

Firefighters responded to a former gas station site on Route 1 Wednesday afternoon after workers removing an old underground tank accidentally triggered a small explosion, injuring two. They did not require hospitalization.

Fire Chief Jack Ahern said the accident, which occurred at the vacant Jay's Food Market at 487 E. Main St., occurred just before 12:20 p.m.

The work was being performed by McVac Environmental, a New Haven company specializing in disposal services.

Ahern said workers were performing a routine task at the time. The removal process involves using a specialized saw to cut a hole in the tank.

The explosion occurred once workers broke through the tank's inner layer. Typically, dry ice is used to clear out any remaining oxygen.

"Nine out of ten times, this doesn't happen," Ahern said of the explosion.

Firefighters pumped foam into the tank after the blast to remove any remaining fumes. Ahern confirmed there was no ensuing fire.

Fire Marshal Shaun Heffernan is investigating the accident, along with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Heffernan added officials are formulating a plan to safely remove aging, underground tanks.

<http://nhregister.com/articles/2013/05/29/news/shoreline/doc51a6abb1c0351550414124.txt>

CHINA, LIAONING PROVINCE, DALIAN

JUNE 3 2013.

2 MISSING AFTER BLAST AT REFINERY

Zhu Chengpei and Zhang Xiaomin

Investigators still trying to identify cause of accident at Dalian plant

Two workers were seriously injured and two others were missing after an explosion and ensuing fire at an oil refinery in Dalian, Liaoning province, on Sunday.

Two oil tanks with residual diesel exploded in succession at about 2:30 pm on Sunday at the Dalian plant of the China National Petroleum Corp, the country's largest oil and natural gas producer and supplier.

Heavy smoke could be seen several miles away.

According to Xinhua, hospital sources said the two injured workers were in critical condition.

Sources from the city's emergency command center said the cause of the accident is still under investigation.

The tanks, which were used to store tar and other materials, was undergoing maintenance.

Nearly 100 firefighting vehicles and more than 300 firefighters responded, and the blaze was extinguished by 4 pm.

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A preliminary environmental evaluation indicates no environmental damage was caused. But residents disagree.

"With such heavy smoke, how is it possible that there's no environmental damage?" said HanLin, who lives near the plant.

She said she worries a lot about safety as accidents occur from time to time.

"We really hope that we'll be able to move somewhere far away from the plant," Han said.

This is the sixth fire at CNPC's Dalian plant in three years.

On July 16, 2010, an oil pipe exploded at the Xingang Port and caused serious oil leakage into the Yellow Sea.

About three months later, workers were found to have caused a fire at the same oil terminal as they dismantled an oil tank that still had fuel inside.

On July 16,

2011, oil refinery equipment leaked oil and caused a fire at the plant in the Ganjingzi district, the same area as Sunday's accident. On August 29, 2011, a fire broke out in a diesel tank there.

The day after the fourth fire, Jiang Fan, the general manager of the Dalian plant, was removed from his post.

In November 2011, the State Council said that the four accidents were caused by human error, and 64 people found responsible for the accidents were punished.

Jiang Jiemin, chairman of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, and president of the CNPC at that time, was also given a disciplinary warning.

The most recent fire before Sunday's was on Nov 22,

2011, when lightning set two oil tanks ablaze at the Xingang Port in the city's Jinzhou New Area.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2013-06/03/content_16557997.htm

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, COOPER BASIN

JUNE 3 2013.

AUTHORITY KEEPS WATCH OF CLEAN-UP OF SANTOS 240,000 LITRES OIL SPILL IN OUTBACK QLD

Kate Stephens

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection says it is closely monitoring the clean-up of an oil spill in south-west Queensland. About 240,000 litres of oil spilled from Santos's 'Zeus' oil field in the Copper Basin last month before the company plugged the leak. A Santos spokesman says the leak was plugged quickly and the company is working with the Queensland Government to remediate the site. Rehabilitation work at the site is already underway. Department spokeswoman Anne Lenz says the cause of the incident is being investigated to determine what actions are required to prevent another spill. She says the department is monitoring the clean-up and will determine what enforcement action, if any, is appropriate.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-06-03/authority-keeps-watch-clean-up-of-santos-outback-qld-oil-spill/4728516>

USA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 8, 2013.

STATEMENT BY CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD CHAIRPERSON RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO ON MISSISSIPPI SUPREME COURT DECISION UPHOLDING COUNTY LAW TO REQUIRE FENCING, GATES, AND WARNING SIGNS AT OIL AND GAS SITES

Yesterday's decision by the Mississippi Supreme Court upholding a county law to require fencing, gates and warning signs at oil and gas sites is an important one that will ultimately save the lives of young people who are tempted to socialize at these locations.

The Court upheld a Forrest County ordinance that was passed following an October 31, 2009, explosion in Carnes, MS, in which two young boys aged 16 and 18 were tragically killed when a gas condensate tank suddenly exploded at an unsecured gas well site a short distance from the house of one of the boys.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigated the incident and other similar ones across oil-producing states. In April 2010 the Board voted to urge "barriers, security, and warning signs" at the sites and released a safety video, "No Place to Hang Out," which was made in partnership with parents, students, and Forrest County officials who were affected by the explosion. The video was designed to educate other teenagers across the country about the dangers of oil and gas sites. In September 2010, the Forrest County Board of Supervisors approved the fencing and signage ordinance governing sites in the county.

The introduction of an ignition source (such as a match, lighter, cigarette, or static electricity) near tank hatches or vents can trigger an internal tank explosion, often launching the tank into the air and killing or injuring

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people nearby, the CSB found in its October 2011 study of the problem. The study identified a total of 26 incidents since 1983 that killed 44 members of the public and injured 25 others all under the age of 25. The CSB's safety recommendations urged states, standards organizations, and trade associations, to take action to protect members of the public – particularly children and young adults – from these hazards.

In 2010 I had the opportunity to visit the gas site in Carnes, Mississippi, where this tragic accident occurred and meet with parents, students, and local leaders who have fought tirelessly and heroically to improve public safety at these sites. At that time I urged Mississippi legislators and officials to increase safeguards at oil and gas sites across the state. That year the Board of Supervisors of Forrest County, Mississippi did take action. The county passed an ordinance requiring critical security measures, including fencing and signage, be placed around hazardous oil sites. The recent decision by the Mississippi Supreme Court upheld the ordinance, affirming a lower court decision.

I applaud this final Court decision, as well as the leadership shown by Forrest County. It will protect lives; particularly those of teenagers and young adults who may socialize at these sites in rural areas. I urge other counties in the state, and all jurisdictions where these hazards exist, to pass similar laws.

<http://www.idevmail.net/message.aspx?d=86&m=1179&e=PETENV@OPTUSHOME.COM.AU&r=6254856>

USA, S.C, PICKENS COUNTY

JUNE 12 2013.

GAS SPILLED NEAR PICKENS COUNTY CREEK

Julie Howle

An environmental contractor was on the scene Tuesday to do clean-up after gasoline spilled into a small creek Monday night that feeds into Town Creek in Pickens County, authorities said.

A gas station on State 8 received a delivery of fuel Monday and several hours later someone noticed that the above-ground tank was leaking, said Chuck Haynes, director of emergency management for Pickens County.

"The Pickens County hazmat team and Pickens Fire Department responded and did mitigation work to protect lives and the environment," Haynes said.

Jim Beasley of the state Department of Health and Environmental Control said it wasn't clear exactly how large the leak was.

A small amount of gasoline was captured in a stream near the spill, but there was no evidence that it had moved farther downstream, said Lindsey Evans of DHEC. Haynes said it was captured at Fox Squirrel Ridge Road.

Evans said the investigation will continue, including sample collection and analysis to ensure that any contamination is addressed.

Evans said the investigation will continue, including sample collection and analysis to ensure that any contamination is addressed.

"As of now, there are no health hazards to the people in the area," Evans said.

Haynes said the gas station, Ike's Food Mart No. 11, is near the intersection of Fox Squirrel Ridge Road and State 8.

How the leak happened was still being investigated, he said. "There was a hole in the tank about the size of a pencil," Haynes said.

He said the owner of the gas station hired an environmental contractor to do the clean-up. The company was working with DHEC representatives on site Tuesday, Haynes said.

The leak was discovered and initial calls were made around 7:30 p.m. Monday, he said.

"Due to the response from Pickens fire and Pickens County hazmat team the product was isolated to a specific area and was not allowed to enter into the main waterways," Haynes said. "That really cut down on the loss of vegetation and fish and impacting a larger population than it did."

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130611/YOURUPSTATE10/306110067/Contractor-cleans-up-after-gas-spill-near-Pickens-County-creek?nclick_check=1

USA, N.J, PALMYRA

JUNE 15 2013.

CONTRACTOR INJURED IN GULF STATION FUEL TANK EXPLOSION IN PALMYRA

David Levinsky and Lisa Irizarry

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and several other agencies are investigating an underground gasoline tank explosion at the Gulf gas station on Route 73 that resulted in severe burns to a contractor, authorities said.

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The explosion happened Friday at 12:35 p.m. while a contractor was cleaning an empty underground fuel tank. Police said they believe a spark caused the blast.

The man, who was not identified but was described as an independent contractor hired by Gulf, was taken to Cooper University Hospital in Camden. His condition was not immediately available. However, borough police Chief Scott Pearlman said the man was still conscious when first responders arrived, and another police officer said his injuries did not appear to be life threatening.

A witness said the man appeared to be badly hurt.

"It looked like his stomach had exploded," resident Heather O'Donnell said Friday from near the station.

O'Donnell said she was at a nearby hair salon when she heard the loud explosion and ran to see what happened.

"There was fire and smoke pouring out of this hole," she said. "(The worker) was on the ground. ... He didn't look good. I hope he makes it."

Another witness said the explosion sent a plume of thick black smoke 100 yards into the air.

"It shot up fast, and you could smell it. It was this noxious kind of smell," said Walt Moska, a sales employee at the Auto Store dealership on Route 73.

Pearlman said that the explosion set fire to residual fuel and fumes in the empty tank, but that firefighters were able to prevent the blaze from spreading to other fuel tanks.

Two of the three tanks at the station were empty. A third was filled with high-octane fuel, the chief said.

Route 73 North was closed for more than an hour while firefighters filled the tanks at the station with water and fire suppression foam. The road reopened about 2:30 p.m.

"The fire company is telling us there is no danger," Pearlman said.

Police declined to release the contractor's employer. OSHA, which had an investigator on-site within two hours of the explosion, said two companies were involved, Tyree Environmental Corp and JCW Contractors.

Neither company had any recent OSHA violations, according to a public affairs official for the administration.

An employee who answered the phone at Tyree's corporate headquarters in Farmingdale, N.Y., said there was no one from the company available to comment. Messages left at the firm's office in Mount Laurel were not returned. JCW Contractors could not be reached for comment.

In April 2010, Tyree was named as Gulf's preferred maintenance equipment vendor and would provide service at more than 1,400 stations nationwide.

"Every time you go to a gas station, it's a concern," the employee said. "You're dealing with gasoline."

In addition to OSHA, the explosion is being investigated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Burlington County Department of Health

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/contractor-injured-in-gulf-station-fuel-tank-explosion-in-palmyra/article_c2d1cde1-3422-51a8-a9f3-864095c3e274.html