

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

USA, TX, CUERO

JUNE 18 2015.

LIGHTNING STRIKES BATTERY TANK, SURGES GENERATOR

Lightning struck a battery tank Tuesday in Thomaston, blowing the tank up and surging a nearby transformer, according to Cuero Fire Department. The battery tank off of Hotz Road exploded, but there were no hazardous material in it, said Fire Marshal Buddy Harwell. The lightning surged a transformer in the area and electrical crews from Victoria were sent to fix the issue. Harwell said it is typical for lightning to strike battery tanks which are used in oil collection and storage.

<http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2015/jun/17/lightning-strikes-battery-tank-surges-generator/>

USA, MN, GLENVILLE

JUNE 22 2015.

TWO INJURED IN ETHANOL PLANT EXPLOSION

Allie Krug

An explosion at the Poet Ethanol plant in Glenville is under investigation.

According to initial reports from the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to an explosion at the plant with reported injuries early Sunday around 3:20 a.m. According to officials on scene, ethanol vapors leaked from piping in the facility, caught fire and caused the explosion to take place. They have yet to find the source of where the leak originated.

According to Freeborn County Sheriff Kurt Freitag, "There were four employees inside during the explosion, and two employees were injured with burns on parts of their bodies." He goes on to say the investigation into how the explosion was caused, is in its "infancy" and they are currently working to assess the scene and find the source.

Steve McNinch, the General Manager of the facility says while this was an unfortunate incident, that has never happened before, it could have been a lot worse. "Coincidentally, we did have the fire department out here for their annual walk-through for the plant about a week or two ago," he explains. "We walked them through so that they knew where everything was so times like that pay off really well."

Assisting agencies with the incident were Gold Cross Ambulance, Glenville Fire Department, Hayward Fire Department, Myrtle Fire Department, Albert Lea Township Fire Department, Freeborn County Emergency Management, Albert Lea Police Department and the State Fire Marshall.

<http://kimt.com/2015/06/21/three-injured-in-ethanol-plant-explosion/>

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USA, FLA, CLEARWATER

JUNE 24 2015.

LIGHTNING STRIKE MAY HAVE SPARKED CLEARWATER AIRPARK FIRE

A fire at the Clearwater Airpark, located at 1000 North Hercules Ave. in Pinellas County, is now out. According to city spokesperson Joelle Castelli, a shed next to the fuel tanks was on fire. It was approximately 10 feet from two 10,000 gallon fuel tanks.

Lightning may have caused the fire but the exact cause is still under investigation, according to Castelli.

The shed had two drums of test fuel from both of those tanks.

A foam truck from the St. Pete-Clearwater Airport was brought in to cool the tanks down.

"We have some pretty credible evidence that it was probably a lightning strike," said Clearwater Fire and Rescue Chief Richard Riley. "Obviously, our fire investigations division will make the final determination. But we believe it was a lightning strike that struck that shed and then lit the barrels on fire that was inside the shed."

The airpark was the only thing shut down or evacuated. No planes were in the air at the time and no one was injured.

http://www.baynews9.com/content/news/baynews9/news/article.html/content/news/articles/bn9/2015/6/24/crews_responding_to_.html

YEMEN, ADEN

JUNE 30 2015.

YEMEN'S HOUTHI SHELL ADEN REFINERY FOR SECOND TIME IN 3 DAYS

Houthi forces in Yemen shelled the oil refinery in the southern city of Aden on Monday for the second time in three days, an official at the facility said, hitting an empty fuel tank with a rocket.

The Houthis, who took over the capital Sanaa last September, have been battling local fighters in the south for three months.

On Saturday, Houthi missiles destroyed two storage tanks at the refinery and a pipeline connecting it to the city's oil port. Its director of operations was also killed.

"The refinery suffered today a new rocket (attack) which targeted an empty storage tank at the refinery port," Nasser Shayef, a media official at the refinery, told Reuters.

"In the refinery's tanks there's a large amount of petrol and diesel which the shelling did not reach," he added. "We fear a catastrophe if there's new shelling."

Another official said the rocket landed in an open area next to the Aden Oil Company also within the premises of the refinery at Buraiqah, on the northwestern suburbs of the city.

Refinery officials said firefighters on Monday brought under control a blaze ignited by Saturday's missile attack, although an oil tank was still smouldering.

Officials added that the refinery's port, the last one in the city still in anti-Houthi hands, remained unharmed.

An Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia has been bombing the Houthis for three months to try to restore Yemen's exiled government, and has imposed a near-blockade on the country, cutting off trade in food and fuel.

Industry sources said in April the 150,000 barrels-per-day Aden refinery had shut its operations and declared force majeure on its imports and exports due to the war.

Residents say that despite heavy shelling in the area, locals had been tapping the refinery's oil and gas supplies to meet their own needs.

Nationwide fuel shortages have spread disease and suffering in arid Yemen, where access to water usually depends on fuel-powered pumps and over 20 million people - 80 percent of the population - needs some form of aid, according to the United Nations.

Rights groups have complained that closure of air and sea ports along with the deliberate denial by

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warring factions of supplies meant for civilians amounts to collective punishment of the population.

The Houthis say their armed push on Aden is part of a revolution against corrupt officials and al Qaeda militants who, they say, are holed up in the city.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/06/29/yemen-security-refinery-idUKL5N0ZF2M420150629>

USA, CO, DENVER

JUNE 30 2015.

OIL, GAS SPILL REPORTS FOR JUNE 28

The following spills were reported to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission in the past two weeks.

Information is based on Form 19, which operators must fill out detailing the leakage/spill events. Any spill release which may impact waters of the state must be reported as soon as practical. Any spill of five barrels or more must be reported within 24 hours, and any spill of one barrel or more which occurs outside secondary containment, such as metal or earthen berms, must also be reported within 24 hours, according to COGCC rules.

- Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. reported on June 24 a buried load line at the bottom of water tank broke after high groundwater caused the water tank to float, outside of Erie. It is approximated that less than a 100 barrels of produced water released. About 12 barrels of the spill were contained within the berm. A vacuum truck recovered the free-standing liquids. The contaminated soils were scraped and taken to a disposal site. To determine compliance with COGCC standards, samples of soil and groundwater will be collected.
- Noble Energy Inc., reported on June 19 that a flowline for a well developed a leak, outside of Kersey. The leak surfaced in the landowners field. It is approximated that less than five barrels of condensate were released. The remediation options are being evaluated.
- Foundation Energy Management LLC reported on June 17 that a leak developed in a flowline, outside of New Raymer. The leak released about four barrels of fluid, both produced water and oil released. The well was shut in, and the flowline was repaired. Soil samples revealed that the soil was clean. The soil was treated on site and returned to the hole. The open hole has been fenced off to prevent injury.
- Foundation Energy Management LLC reported on June 17 that during minor contamination clean up, historical contamination was discovered outside of Frederick. It is unknown the amount of oil that was released, but it is estimated to have been less than five barrels. The well was shut in. The full extent of the release is still being examined.
- Kerr McGee Oil & Gas Onshore LP reported on June 16 that water based drilling fluid overflowed from a storage tank, after a storage tank valve was left open, during surface casing drilling operations outside of Fort Lupton. It is estimated that less than 100 barrels of drilling fluid were released. About 10 barrels of water-based drilling fluid were recovered via vacuum truck. Soil samples will be collected for confirmation with COGCC standards.
- Great Western Operating Company LLC reported on June 15 that an empty hose filled with fluid and kicked itself out of a half round tank, releasing a spill outside of containment, during a fluid transfer, outside of Brighton. It is estimated that nine barrels of fluid released. The derrick hand and mud engineer had overlooked a suction valve being open. The spill area was evaluated.
- Kerr McGee Gathering LLC on June 12 that during the transfer of liquids from a condensate tank, the produced water sump overflowed, outside of Brighton. The spill released about two barrels of produced water and one barrel of condensate onto the ground surface outside of containment. The release stopped after the valves to the vessel were shut. Approximately two barrels of liquid were recovered with a vacuum truck. At the initiation of an excavation, historical impacts were discovered. Excavation activities are still ongoing.
- Kerr McGee Oil & Gas Onshore LP reported on June 10 that petroleum hydrocarbon impacts were

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discovered beneath the produced water sump, following construction activities outside of Milliken. It appeared that there was no indication of a leak in a dumpline or produced water sump. It is unknown the volume of condensate and produced water that released, but it is approximated to have been less than five barrels. Groundwater samples were submitted for analysis and it was found that benzene concentrations exceeded COGCC standards.

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/news/16988726-113/oil-gas-spill-reports-for-june-28>

USA, HI, SAND ISLAND

JULY 3 3025.

FEDS BLAST OWNER FOR SAND ISLAND FUEL SPILL

Rick Daysog

In a scathing report, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety is requiring the owner of the Sand Island Tank Facility to inspect all 16 of their massive fuel tanks.

The feds cited owner Aircraft Services International Group for faulty inspections, poor record keeping and corrosion on the tanks in its investigation into the 42,000 gallon spill near the Keehi Small Boat Harbor in December.

"The likelihood that the conditions could worsen or develop on other areas of the facility and impact its serviceability, it appears that the continued operation of the affected pipeline facility without corrective measures would posed a pipeline integrity risk to public safety, property or the environment," the report said.

The spill came within 100 yards of the harbor and was due to a hole at the bottom of the tank in area that had been previously patched up.

In its order, the Office of Pipeline Safety said that there were a number of "undersized patches" that were used to repair the tank floor but that the owner had no records of those repairs.

The feds also said the owner "believed the tank had a double floor when there was only a single floor," which is much less effective in preventing spills.

"The maintenance records indicates a high level of neglect," said Denise Antolini, an environmental expert and University of Hawaii law professor. "This report raises many, many red flags. This is a serious report that has many implications."

The Sand Island Tank Facility stores jet fuel for the major airlines that land in Honolulu. All sixteen of its tanks contain 44 million gallons, which is about four times the amount of petroleum spilled by the Exxon Valdez in 1989.

Aircraft Services did not return calls. The company has 30 days to contest the findings or to come up with a plan to inspect the tanks.

Experts said that will be a monumental task.

"They have to drain each tank and as you can see, 26,000 barrels (or 2.8 million gallons) in each tank, where's that fuel going to go," asked environmental activist Carroll Cox, who filed a complaint with the Office of Pipeline Safety over the spill.

Environmentalists said it's the right thing to do.

"They're so close to the ocean, they're in urban Honolulu, the risks to our environment are unacceptable," said Marti Townsend, director of the Sierra Club's Hawaii Chapter.

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/29467817/exclusive-feds-blast-owner-for-sand-island-fuel-spill>

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USA, V.I, GALLOWS BAY

JULY 3 2015.

FUEL TANKS ORDERED OFF GALLOWS BAY DOCK

Gerry Yandel

Responding to public concerns and with the safety of residents in mind, the V.I. Port Authority will stop fuel tanks from being delivered at the Gallows Bay Marine Terminal beginning Aug. 1.

Port Authority Executive Director Carlton Dowe said his agency recognizes the logistics involved for businesses in the fuel industry, so the Port Authority has instituted a 30-day grace period for shippers to make the adjustment.

"We have to be considerate of entire public because this would cut off the fuel entirely, if we abruptly tell them to stop," Dowe said Wednesday. That's why we didn't immediately issue a cease and desist."

After Aug. 1, vessels that brought fuel tanks to Gallows Bay will have to take their cargo to the south side of the island to offload it.

However, the Port Authority will allow small vessels with no more than three tanks to continue offloading at Gallows Bay, as long as they immediately remove the tanks from the Gallows Bay Terminal property, according to Dowe.

"We're not going to allow them to store them when they're empty and just leave them there for days or weeks," Dowe said.

There will be no grace period after Aug. 1 for tanks to be kept at the terminal facility, he said.

"Not even 24 hours," Dowe said. When tanks come in, there will have to be someone there waiting for them to take them away immediately, he said.

The Port Authority has designated Molasses Pier - which is on the south shore of St. Croix, adjacent to the Wilfred Allick Port and Transshipment Center, also known as the Container Port - as the facility for staging all fuel tanks and the unloading of more than three tanks.

Dowe said the issue of fuel tanks filling up the Gallows Bay facility began during the last several months when HOVENSA closed its truck racks. Up to that point, tanker trucks could load up gasoline at the refinery and deliver it to the gas stations.

"The first this issue came crashing in is when HOVENSA changed. Before HOVENSA closed, for just about all the gas on-island folks used, they would drive into the HOVENSA rack and drive up to the service station," Dowe said. "Now people are getting the fuel from Puerto Rico or off-island. First it was three, then five tanks. Now it is like 30-something tanks."

Dowe said the combination of heavy fuel tank traffic and the fact that some of the tanks were being stored at the Gallows Bay facility - which is right in the middle of a residential area that also houses restaurants and other businesses - created a safety hazard.

Local residents voiced their opinions at a meeting last week with Port Authority officials about their concerns with the fuel tank situation at Gallows Bay.

Before that meeting, though, Dowe said his agency met with businesses in the fuel tank industry, the U.S. Coast Guard, the V.I. Fire Service, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources and even the Internal Revenue Bureau, to deal with excise tax issues.

Ultimately, the bottom line came down to safety.

"Even if it cost a couple more dollars, how do we value that against a catastrophe that could happen," Dowe said.

The Gallows Bay dredging project, which also is in process, is a separate issue from the fuel tank situation, Dowe said.

The Port Authority has received the CZM and other local permits it needs, and now it is waiting on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue a permit to begin dredging.

The purpose of the project, Dowe said, is to allow for small cruise ships and mega-yachts to be able to use Gallows Bay.

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Dowe said the next step is for the Port Authority to contact the Army Corps to find out where in the process the permit is.

<http://virginislandsdailynews.com/news/fuel-tanks-ordered-off-gallows-bay-dock-1.1906904>

USA, KS, TOPEKA

JULY 4 2015.

OSHA INVESTIGATING OIL FIELD WORKER DEATH

Kion Hudson

OSHA opens investigation into death of an oil field worker. The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Wichita office has opened an investigation into the report of a worker's death. The 30 year-old employee of Klima Well Service, Inc., an oil field pumping unit service was found unresponsive June 30th. The employee was working with a three member team, moving tubing and pipe at a well site. OSHA authorities believe the Klima oil field worker died from an heat related illness. Klima Well Service, Inc., has previously been cited by OSHA for a workplace fatality in December 2006, when an employee was electrocuted while operating a control panel near Ellinwood, Kansas.

<http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/OSHA-Investigating-Oil-Field-Worker-Death--311533481.html>

SOUTH KOREA, ULSAN

JULY 4 2015. ULSAN STORAGE TANK EXPLODES, 6 DEAD

Lee Sung-Eun, Yu Myung-Han and Cha Sang-Eun

An explosion at a chemical plant in South Korea killed six workers on Friday, fire officials said. The victims were doing welding work when the blast tore down a waste storage facility at a chemical plant run by Hanwha Chemical Co. in the southeastern city of Ulsan, according to the officials.

The exact cause of the explosion wasn't immediately known. But fire officer Kim Jung-Sik said that gas trapped inside the storage might have triggered the blast.

South Korean media reported the six workers were on top of the storage at the time of the explosion, but fire officials said they couldn't immediately confirm the reports.

<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=151&sid=35339821>

USA, N.D, TIOGA

JULY 10 2015.

MINOR CONDENSATE SPILL REPORTED IN NORTH DAKOTA

PRODUCT FROM PIPELINE BREACH REACHED MINOR WATERWAY IN WILLIAMS COUNTY.

Daniel J. Graeber

The North Dakota government reported a minor spill of so-called condensates migrated to a drainage ditch feeding a creek in the west of the state.

About 1 barrel, or roughly 42 gallons, of condensates spilled from a pipeline operated by a division of Hess Corp.

"Condensate consists of heavier hydrocarbons present in natural gas that condense as liquids in a pipeline," the state Department of Health said in a statement. "The spill impacted an intermittent drainage of Dry Fork Creek [10 miles south of Tioga in Williams County]."

Hess last year said it would use revenue from a future initial public offering toward development of a natural gas processing plant and rail terminals in North Dakota.

Midstream operations in North Dakota will include pipeline and rail terminals for crude oil deliveries as well as a natural gas processing plant in Tioga.

The company had no statement on the pipeline release. The Department of Health made no indication of a threat to the public.

Hess last week completed the sale of half of its midstream holdings in the Bakken reserve area of North Dakota to Global Infrastructure Partners for cash consideration of \$2.68 billion.

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The company said it would use the proceeds to build a position of strength in the Bakken in the weak crude oil price environment and support future growth opportunities.

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2015/07/09/Minor-condensate-spill-reported-in-North-Dakota/6001436438147/

USA, TX, FRITCH

JULY 10 2015.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER DIES ON SITE OF NEW ALLSUP'S GAS STATION

A man is dead after a construction accident in Fritch. OSHA is now investigating the death of 63-year-old Juan Castaneda. It happened around 2:00 Tuesday afternoon at 206 East Broadway where workers were building a new Allsup's. According to the Fritch Police Department, while installing fuel tanks a worker was crushed by dirt walls and the fuel tanks. The man was declared dead at the scene. Construction has been shut down until the investigation is complete.

<http://www.newschannel10.com/story/29447599/construction-worker-dies-on-site-of-new-allsup>

USA, PA, MERCER

JULY 11 2015.

DEADLY MERCER COUNTY TANK EXPLOSION RESULTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATION

Mike Gauntner

A New Castle energy company which has already been fined for a deadly explosion in Mercer County has been convicted of violating the Pennsylvania Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act.

According to a criminal complaint, the charge stemmed from allegations that Reed Oil violated the law by hiring Brian Krauss to perform welding work on a storage tank, which exploded on August 19, 2013 at Reed Oil's off-road facility in Pymatuning Township.

Investigators say that Krauss, who died in the blast, was not certified to perform the welding work.

Prosecutors also claimed that Reed Oil the tanks had not been inspected by the Department of Environmental Protection for ten years.

Reed Oil originally faced two counts which could have brought a maximum fine of \$2,500 and not more than one year in jail.

The company pleaded no contest to one of the charges this week, and the other count was dropped.

Instead handing out a prison sentence and fine, Mercer County Common Pleas Judge Robert Yeatts ordered Reed Oil to hire a full time compliance officer.

Reed was also ordered to donate \$15,000 to the Shenango River Watchers, a non-profit watershed group formed to restore and protect the environmental, scenic, and recreational attributes of the Shenango River Watershed.

The DEP has already fined Reed Oil \$62,470 for 21 violations of the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act in connection with the 2013 explosion. The DEP says a spill resulting from the blast contaminated nearby soil.

According to the Department of Environmental Protection, the Reed Oil Company dropped its appeal of the fine in April and paid the fine.

The monetary penalty has been paid to the Storage Tank Fund, which funds the administration of the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act.

<http://www.wfmj.com/story/29520626/deadly-mercer-county-tank-explosion-results-in-environmental-violation>

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USA, MO, SIKESTON

JULY 14 2015.

FIRE ERUPTS AT SIKESTON OIL DISTRIBUTOR

Erin Ragan and Katherine Webster

Fire and explosions on Monday blackened Santie Wholesale Oil Co., causing evacuations, cutting power to businesses and forcing road closures in a large area near U.S. 60.

By about 1 p.m., firefighters brought the blaze under control, and smoke wafting from 126 Parcel Drive had dissipated considerably.

On Monday morning, an ominous black and gray mass of smoke could be seen by motorists as far away as Benton, Missouri. Tall flames were visible above the walls of a large warehouse-type facility about 11 a.m., near the intersection of the highway and South Main Street in Sikeston.

No one was injured in the blaze, but two firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion.

Witnesses near the company said they heard loud explosions Monday morning and began to see smoke. Capt. Jim McMillen of the Sikeston Department of Public Safety said the initial call was about 9:40 a.m., when a fire broke out in a propane storage area.

Sikeston DPS director Drew Juden said all Santie workers were able to leave the building safely.

As the fire moved through the area, it began to ignite propane canisters, causing large explosions that continued to fuel the blaze.

Sikeston resident Karen Cooper said she could see the fire flare up and heard a boom.

"Things were flying. The flames were higher than the telephone poles," she said. "It was massive."

The smoke intensified as the blaze spread, and the heat of the fire caused propane containers to explode and fly like projectiles hundreds of feet in the air. Some even crossed U.S. 60 and landed in a field near Wal-Mart. McMillen said the containers were 20-pound tanks like those found on gas grills.

"The propane tanks were just like little missiles, going 'whoosh!'" Cooper said.

McMillen said it was not known how the fire started, but when firefighters arrived, the building was engulfed.

Santie owns all the property where the fire took place, but Monsanto stored products inside a warehouse that was damaged, McMillen said.

Of particular concern was a 30,000-gallon propane tank on the property estimated to be about 50 to 60 percent full.

Had the tank exploded, "it would have leveled that whole area back there," McMillen said, adding when a tank like that is threatened, an area of about a half-mile is evacuated.

"We didn't really have to worry about that happening. ... We were lucky in the fact that the fire wasn't around that large vessel," McMillen said.

John Pillers of Sikeston lives about two miles from the company and was at home when the blaze began.

"This morning, I started hearing a thumping noise, and I wasn't sure what it was," he said. "There is a lot of construction nearby, but I thought it was odd."

He went outside to mow his lawn, saw smoke and checked his phone. That's when he started seeing fire videos being posted online.

Because of dangers posed by the blaze, the Missouri State Highway Patrol requested parts of U.S. 60 and U.S. 61 be shut down, said Nicole Thieret of the Missouri Department of Transportation. U.S. 60 was closed from Interstate 55 to Route Y, and U.S. 61 was shut down from U.S. 60 to Route H. The roadways remained closed until early afternoon.

Traffic backed up along Interstate 55 and the Sikeston exit ramp as well.

Santie, which serves as a distributor for companies such as Chevron/Texaco, sits near several area businesses affected by a power outage.

While some businesses in the area remained open at a limited capacity, others -- including Dollar Tree, Break Time, McDonald's and Sonic -- closed. Others nearby, such as a SEMO Electric Cooperative,

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evacuated employees and closed offices. Three Rivers College canceled classes at a campus building across the road from the distribution facility.

McMillen said, to his knowledge, all employees of businesses in the area were accounted for.

"I understand that they have their own safety operations when they have an incident like this take place. I think they, of all people, understand how dangerous this can be ..." he said.

McMillen said the two firefighters recovered from their heat exhaustion and were back to work Monday afternoon.

Ambulances from several nearby cities and districts staged an area for handling an emergency in front of Lowe's Home Improvement on South Main Street. Police redirected traffic.

McMillen said the Cape Girardeau and Morehouse fire departments provided aid by responding to calls while the Sikeston Fire Department fought the fire. About 40 firefighters were on the scene, he said.

The Cape Girardeau department also sent its truck kept at the Cape Girardeau Regional Airport, McMillen said. That truck is equipped to handle fires involving a lot of fuel.

"To have a truck like that we can maneuver quickly is key," McMillen said.

American Red Cross volunteers provided food and beverages to the emergency teams fighting the blaze, according to a news release. Forty-five people were provided with snacks, and 70 with lunch and dinner.

A call to Santie Oil seeking more information about the fire was not immediately returned.

The Standard Democrat contributed to this story.

<http://www.semissourian.com/story/2212795.html>

USA, TX, HOUSTON

JULY 14 2015.

500-GALLON FUEL LEAK REPORTED AT BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT

Anavid Reyes

Crews are working to clean up 500 gallons of fuel that leaked onto the runway Sunday night at Bush Intercontinental Airport.

The airport said that gates 30 through 35 will be closed Monday until the spill has been cleaned up. According to officials, a faulty hose that fuels planes in Terminal C caused the leak.

There are no backups or late departures or arrivals expected, an airport spokesperson said.

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/5000gallon-fuel-leak-reported-at-bush-intercontinental-airport/34129222>