

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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By learning about the misfortunes of others, it is STI's hope to educate the public by creating a greater awareness of the hazards with storage and use of petroleum and chemicals. Please refer to the many industry standards and to the fire and building codes for further guidance on the safe operating practices with hazardous liquids. Thanks and credit for content are given to Dangerous Goods-Hazmat Group Network.

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

FRANCE, MARSEILLES

JULY 14 2015.

FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE 2 FIRES AT PETROCHEMICAL PLANT IN FRANCE

Marseilles firemen were trying to extinguish one of two fires that started overnight at a petrochemical plant owned by US firm LyondellBasell and located near the airport of France's second-largest city, a Reuters witness reported on Tuesday.

Marseilles authorities said no one had been injured on site but the causes of the two incidents were still unclear.

"A first fire involving a 11 000 cubic meters petrol tank started at around 03:00 this morning and is now under control", prefect of the Bouches-du-Rhône local authority Michel Cadot told France Info radio.

"A second fire started in a 42 000 cubic meters naphtha tank. This fire triggered a very powerful smoke plume and is not quite contained yet", he said.

Mixtures labelled as naphtha refer to products such as crude oil or refined products such as kerosene.

The cause of the fires were unknown, the prefect said, adding the two tanks were around 500m apart.

The Bouches-du-Rhône department said in a statement the smoke plume didn't pose immediate health risks. Air traffic at Marseilles Provence airport was unaffected, it said.

A formal investigation was underway, Cadot said.

<http://www.news24.com/World/News/Firefighters-battle-2-fires-at-petrochemical-plant-in-France-20150714>

YEMEN, ADEN

JULY 16 2015.

ADEN REFINERY ABLAZE AFTER FRESH ROCKET ATTACK

The Houthi militants on Tuesday attacked with rockets the Aden refinery and fuel storage tanks caught fire, local sources said.

The attack was the latest against the refinery in recent weeks. In previous attacks, pipes which carry crude from the fuel port into the refinery and fuel tanks were damaged.

The refinery was shut down due to escalating violence in Aden around two months ago. All oil and gas projects shut down when the Saudi-led military operation against the Houthis began in late March.

Today's attack happened after the pro-government forces retook control of Aden international airport and some districts after fierce battles with the Houthis.

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The Saudi-led coalition which has been bombing the Houthi camps and weapons provided direct support to the pro-government forces during the battles.

Meanwhile, sources within the popular resistance which has been backing the pro-government forces revealed plans to clear Aden from all militants in days coinciding with reports the government is expected to come back into the country in the near future.

The government, which was ousted by the Houthis early this year, has been staying in and acting from Saudi Arabia for months.

Separately, agencies reported today that tens of aid convoys entered into Aden which has been suffering for months from lacks of supplies and other crises including spread of diseases.

The aid included tens of tons of medicines and foodstuffs, according to the reports.

The situation in Aden has largely deteriorated because of the months-long confrontations between the pro-government forces and the Houthi militants.

A blockade on the city by the Houthis as well as a blockade on all Yemeni sea, land and air routes boosted the suffering of its population.

The blockade on the ports was part of the Arab military intervention against the Houthis.

<http://yemenpost.net/Detail123456789.aspx?ID=3&SubID=8107&MainCat=3>

USA, TN, MORGAN CO

JULY 16 2015.

LIGHTNING STRIKE CAUSED MORGAN COUNTY OIL TANK FIRE

Fire sparked by lightning Tuesday afternoon burned an oil storage tank in Deer Lodge.

Four fire departments responded to the scene, from Chestnut Ridge, Clark Fork, Deer Lodge and Sunbright.

The blaze was extinguished by 5:45 p.m. with foam.

Officials believed a lightning strike to a tank battery caused the fire on Perkins Trail in the Glades area.

Chief Deputy Steve Cochran said the fire was in a storage tank used by an oil company to store oil after it was pumped out of the ground. He said the tanks are smaller than a railroad tank car, but still hold several hundred gallons.

The fire was contained to one well. There are eight tanks on the property, and firefighters feared for a time they could be vulnerable to catching fire.

The wells are located in an isolated area, so no homes are in danger at this time.

No injuries were reported.

<http://www.wbir.com/story/weather/2015/07/14/lightning-likely-caused-morgan-co-oil-well-fire/30151657/>

USA, OKLA, ENID

JULY 17 2015.

ABANDONED PETROLEUM TANK TESTING ONGOING IN THE AREA

Emily Summers

Employees with the consulting firm Oklahoma Environmental Services have battled blazing heat this week to test petroleum storage tanks.

The consulting firm is conducting site assessments this month at former fueling facilities in the area. Environmental Services President Deanna Atkinson said sometimes abandoned petroleum sites, like gas stations, leave petroleum storage tanks on the property that will leak contaminants into the groundwater and soil. As a result, gasoline or diesel could leak into water sources or be held in subsurface soil.

“Ideally, sampling would be done when the tanks are removed,” Atkinson said. “Unfortunately, these tanks are orphans so no individuals are stepping up to remove the tanks.”

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Petroleum Storage Tank Division is in charge of tracking and

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monitoring storage tanks. OCC Petroleum Storage Tank Division Director Robyn Strickland said she would have preferred the money be used to remove the underground storage tanks, which are labeled as abandoned and unusable. However, the grant only covers sampling the facilities' soil and groundwater, not removal.

In order to remove, or close the tanks, they must be sampled and meet certain sampling protocols.

Environmental Services bid for the project through Oklahoma's Office of Management and Enterprise Services, and tanks have been tested in Fairview, Nash, Drummond, Ponca City and other areas of the state. Atkinson said tests of the soil and groundwater surround the petroleum tanks have not been returned from the lab.

"There are a couple of stations with visual petroleum impact," Atkinson said, but until lab analyses are completed, no action will be taken. Atkinson did not say in what area the visual impact was located. Oklahoma has about 1,700 underground out-of-use storage tanks and received funds to test 23 of those tanks.

"By utilizing our own drilling rig, project managers and field staff, we will complete the sub-surface investigation at these 23 sites by the EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency's) Sept. 15 deadline," Atkinson said.

Most of the petroleum storage tanks failed to meet upgrade requirements in the late-1980s and have sat in the ground since then. In some areas, like Drummond, the gas station was demolished, but the petroleum storage tanks remained.

http://www.enidnews.com/news/local_news/abandoned-petroleum-tank-testing-ongoing-in-the-area/article_69cbffb3-7d06-5476-a065-f5bebb0ba319.html

USA, OKLA, WOODS CO

JULY 17 2015.

SHERIFF IDENTIFIES TWO INJURED IN OILFIELD ACCIDENT

Jessica Miller

Two men have been injured in an oilfield accident in Woods County.

Charles Dobbs, a Midstates Petroleum consultant, and Wayne Loebig, of Felderhoff Drilling Company, were injured when they were struck by a pipe, according to an incident report from the Woods County Sheriff's Office.

At approximately 9:32 a.m. Tuesday, a deputy was dispatched to an oilfield location — Felderhoff Rig 24 — on County Road 470, about half a mile south of Garvin Road, between Alva and Dacoma, according to the report.

Undersheriff Keith Dale said the pipe struck both men on their heads and one was medi-flighted from the scene, while the other was medi-flighted from a hospital in Alva.

Two witnesses of the accident stated a forklift was being used to lift the 40-foot long pipe. The pipe was strapped to the forklift.

The witnesses said Dobbs and Loebig instructed the forklift operator to lower the pipe to the ground and move it forward, but the strap slipped off and the pipe fell, striking the two men.

Both Dobbs and Loebig remain in serious condition at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

http://www.enidnews.com/news/update-sheriff-identifies-two-injured-in-oilfield-accident/article_6646247e-2b08-11e5-8509-534661788992.html

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CHINA, SHANDONG PROVINCE, PORT OF RIZHAO

JULY 17 2015.

CHEMICAL TANK WITH LIQUID HYDROGEN EXPLODED IN PORT OF RIZHAO

Chemical tank with liquid hydrogen caught fire and exploded at Port of Rizhao, China. Into the fire fighting of the giant explosion were engaged 300 fire fighters and 50 trucks. The local authorities are seeding clouds to force raining in the scene of the accident to assist with firefighting. The chemical tank is located in Lanzhao Port Area and rented and operated by the local petrochemicals company Rizhao Shida Technology, which has total 300,000 DWT of cargo in the port. The explosion caused evacuation of the people living nearby and workers at Rizhao Steel factory, which is located in the region. The fire is not yet under control and the shore brigades are fighting with it. The local authorities started investigation for the root cause of the fire, but according to preliminary information the cooling system failed and after warming the tank exploded and fire erupted. During the accident there were no seriously injured people.

The liquid hydrogen is the liquid state of the element hydrogen, which is naturally in the molecular H₂ form. To stay in such condition the liquid hydrogen need to be cooled at temperature below -252 degrees Celsius. The liquid hydrogen is a common liquid rocket fuel, in enriching the fuel cells, in neutron scattering and etc.

Port of Rizhao is deep-water seaport located on the southern shore of Shandong Peninsula on the Yellow Sea. It has 46 berths in Lanzhao Port Area and Shijiu Port Area. Port of Rizhao has annual throughput of 284 million metric tons. It is 10th busiest port in China.

<http://www.newsmaritime.com/2015/chemical-tank-with-liquid-hydrogen-exploded-in-port-of-rizhao/>

USA, TX, SAGINAW

JULY 18 2015.

1 KILLED, 2 INJURED IN SAGINAW STORAGE TANK EXPLOSION

One man was killed and two others injured at a Saginaw business when a storage tank being pressurized Friday morning exploded, MedStar officials said.

The incident happened about 8 a.m. at Troxell Trailer Manufacturing, 1004 Burlington Road.

MedStar spokesman Matt Zavadsky said the explosion occurred as the men were pressurizing some type of storage tank.

"From what the crew is telling me, the pressure caused some kind of explosion — not a fire explosion but pressure explosion," Zavadsky said.

Jose Gayton, 34, of Fort Worth was taken to Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth and was pronounced dead at 9:06 a.m.

Two other men were hospitalized with minor injuries, Zavadsky said.

<http://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/community/fort-worth/article27481426.html#storylink=cpy>

CANADA, ALBA, LONG LAKE

JULY 18 2015.

THERE WAS A 5-MILLION LITER MAJOR PIPELINE LEAK OF OIL EMULSION IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

A pipeline rupture near the heart of Alberta's oil sands has spewed 5-million liters of bitumen, wastewater, and sand, in what is being described as one of the worst spills in Canadian history.

The Nexen leak was first discovered Wednesday — and made public on Thursday — at its Long Lake facility, about 22 miles southeast of Fort McMurray.

The global energy company says the leak — which is roughly the equivalent of 31,500 barrels of emulsion, or two Olympic-sized pools — has since been "stabilized" and cleanup is underway.

"We are deeply concerned with this and I'll just say we sincerely apologize for the impact that this has caused," said Ron Bailey, a senior vice president of Canadian operations at the Chinese subsidiary, at a press conference on Friday.

He said the detection system in place that should have alerted the company to a breach did not in

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this instance, and the "visible burst" was discovered by a contractor visually inspecting the line, so it's not clear when exactly it occurred. The pipeline was fairly new, having been installed last year, and had two layers. He said an investigation is underway to figure out what went wrong.

"We shut down our operations immediately when we found the leak," said Bailey. It occurred in a somewhat remote area, which is near two indigenous communities. Bailey would not name the manufacturer of the pipe, saying that the company takes responsibility for what occurred. "We have walked the entire pipeline length looking for any other signs of other leaks and there are none," he added.

Nexen reported that the spill had affected a 16,000 square meter area, and that the spill was mainly limited to the area around the pipeline, which includes muskeg. Bailey said the company has detected "no immediate impact" to a nearby lake, adding that "one of our key responses has been to try to protect the lake."

"There are no reported impacts to the public or wildlife at this time and the [Alberta Energy Regulator] has directed the operator to implement a wildlife protection plan in the area," the regulator, which also responded to the incident, said in a statement.

Nexen said "all necessary steps and precautions" have been taken and that it will do everything that is required to clean up the spill. No one was injured.

Greenpeace Canada, however, said the leak is a "stark reminder" of the dangers of oil sand production and shows that Alberta has a long way to go to address its "pipeline problems."

"We need to stop new pipeline projects before they're built and focus on building renewable sources of energy that are sustainable and won't threaten communities, our environment, and the planet," said Mike Hudema, with Greenpeace's Climate and Energy team, in a statement.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley told Edmonton's CBC radio that the government will do its own investigation into what happened and whether everything was done to catch the spill when it occurred. She said she was "troubled" by the "unfortunate accident" but said that pipelines are still the best way to transport oil and gas. "For instance, in Quebec, they know full well that rail is much more problematic a transportation method," she said, a reference to the disastrous train crash that decimated the town of Lac Megantic two years ago.

Reuters called the Nexen leak one of the largest spills on land in North America. In 2010, almost 21,000 barrels of crude leaked into Michigan from an Enbridge line.

The pipeline spill on the California coast earlier this year spilled 79,000 liters of oil into the ocean. <https://news.vice.com/article/there-was-a-major-pipeline-leak-of-oil-emulsion-in-northern-alberta>

TURKEY, ISTANBUL

JULY 19 2015.

FIRE BREAKS OUT AT CRUDE OIL TANK OF TÜPRAŞ ALIĞA REFINERY

A fire has broken out at a 160 cubic meter (m³) wide crude oil tank of TÜPRAŞ (Turkish petroleum refineries corporation) Aliğa refinery in western province of Izmir on Friday. Fire crews of Tüpraş and nearby Petkim (Turkey's leading petrochemical company) refineries, as well as Aliğa district and Izmir Metropolitan Municipality fire units arrived at the scene to extinguish the fire. Aliğa District Governor Bayram Yılmaz told Anadolu Agency that the fire was brought under control around mid-Friday, after roughly an hour of extinguishing efforts. Yılmaz said that the fire resulted from a fault in electric cable near the tank.

<http://www.dailysabah.com/nation/2015/07/17/fire-breaks-out-at-crude-oil-tank-of-tupras-aliaga-refinery>

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USA, TX, ARLINGTON

JULY 19 2015.

42,800 GALLONS OF FRACKING FLUID BOILED OVER — SPEWING INTO THE STREETS, SEWERS AND STREAMS OF ARLINGTON TEXAS

Two months ago, 100 homes in Arlington had to be evacuated as fracking fluid spilled out of a drilling site onto the city streets.

Now we know officially what happened, why it happened, and why Arlington officials are blaming the drilling company for "unacceptable behavior."

A series of video recordings obtained by News 8 shows the scene behind the walls of a fracking site 600 feet from a cluster of homes in the state's seventh largest city. In the incident, 42,800 gallons of fracking fluid — boiling up from thousands of feet underground — spewed into the streets and into Arlington storm sewers and streams.

Our attempts and 24 hours later, experts were finally able to plug the natural gas well. Nearby residents and Arlington officials feared the worst. Now, two months later, fire officials have concluded their investigation.

"Clearly there was a release of unpermitted materials into the stormwater system," said Arlington Fire Chief Don Crowson as he addressed Arlington City Council members on Tuesday.

The good news, according to Crowson: Despite numerous toxic substances being released into the environment, tests show it was not in amounts that did significant damage to the environment.

The bad news? He said the drilling company mishandled the spill.

"For my concerns, the main issue I articulated to you a few months ago was the delayed notification of 911," Crowson said. "It's not acceptable."

According to the report, Vantage Energy first contacted 911 nearly two hours after fracking water first started to spill. What's more, the call to 911 came not from the site, but from corporate headquarters in Pennsylvania.

"This is unacceptable behavior," said City Council member Robert Rivera. "The citizens of Arlington do not appreciate the lack of ability to control the site."

The official cause of the spill at a site adjacent to Lake Arlington Baptist Church is listed as equipment failure. Vantage Energy was issued a citation and has agreed to reimburse the city \$84,000.

But this was not included in the city's report: Records uncovered by News 8 of another 1,500-gallon spill at the same site one month earlier.

Arlington Resident Kim Feil said the two incidents one month apart reinforce her fears that drilling so close to homes is not safe.

"I just assumed this was a residential area and it would be free from industrial hazardous operations," Feil said. "Now we see it's not."

In the meantime, drilling operations remain shut down and will not resume until the city does a final inspection and the folks across the street and those affected are given official notification.

<http://www.wfaa.com/story/news/local/tarrant-county/2015/06/16/arlington-officials-report-on-fracking-fluid-blowout/28844657/>

NEW ZEALAND, WANGANUI

JULY 23 2015.

FIRM FINED OVER TUROA DIESEL SPILL

Petroleum Services has been fined \$34,500 and ordered to pay \$20,000 costs to WorkSafe for its role in the 2013 Makotuku Stream diesel spill.

The spill happened when a stationary container system at Turoa skifield on Mt Ruapehu failed and leaked over 19,000 litres of diesel.

Petroleum Services was sentenced in the Taihape District Court on Tuesday for failings under the Health and Safety in Employment Act and the Health and Safety in Employment Regulations.

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It is the second company to be fined over the incident, after Ruapehu Alpine Lifts was convicted last year for its part in the spill and for the contamination of the Raetihi water supply.

Petroleum Services was contracted in 2006 to design, manufacture and install a stationary container system made up of a 40,000-litre fuel tank and a piped delivery system. The system was modified with the addition of a booster pump after it was found that diesel was not flowing properly. Worksafe said that, by carrying out the modification, Petroleum Services failed to comply with a number of approved industry standards.

On September 26, 2013 the booster pump continued to operate after a transfer of 3000 litres of diesel from the container storage system to a chair lift site was completed. While some parts of the system shut down, the booster pump kept operating. The sustained pressure resulted in a hose becoming detached and the entire contents of the tank were then pumped into the environment.

"The standards for installing this type of above-ground container system are very clear," WorkSafe inspector Keith Stewart said. "Petroleum Services Ltd failed to meet the standards or regulations for an above-ground stationary container system with pressurised pipework. They also failed to test the system, which is an essential requirement, following its modification."

The harm caused to skifield customers, staff and Raetihi residents was recognised by the court as an aggravating feature.

"This case is a reminder to industry that you need to meet specific requirements if you design, manufacture or operate stationary container systems," Mr Stewart said.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/wanganui-chronicle/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503426&objectid=11485462

USA, PA, SCRANTON

JULY 23 2015.

STEAM HEAT PLANT'S LEAKY OIL TANK HAD DISPUTED OWNERSHIP

Brendan Gibbons

As demolition and cleanup continue at the Scranton steam-heat plant that leaked oil into the Lackawanna River last July, a dispute still exists over who owned the storage tank where the spill originated.

The state Department of Environmental Protection says the tank belonged to CL&W Inc., owned by Dunmore businessmen Louis and Dominick DeNaples, DEP spokeswoman Colleen Connolly said.

"They are the owners of the property, and the department holds the property owners liable for any spills," she said in an email Tuesday.

However, the 1997 deed of sale recording the transfer of the property at 1220 N. Washington Ave. to CL&W states otherwise. The deed reserves equipment and machinery used to generate steam to Community Central Energy Corp., owned by Scranton Sewer Authority director Eugene Barrett, Mr. DeNaples consultant Albert Magnotta said in an email Monday.

"Specifically reserving to the Grantor (Community Central Energy Corp.) and excluded from this conveyance is the steam production and manufacturing machinery, equipment and boilers and related equipment and systems and the transmission systems," the deed states.

Mr. Magnotta declined to comment further on the dispute.

On Monday, Mr. Barrett denied ownership of the tank that leaked an unknown quantity of No. 6 fuel oil onto the site's soil, into the sewer system and into the Lackawanna River through an outfall below the Poplar Street bridge.

"I don't own any of the equipment on the site," he said.

The fuel oil leak began after a brass valve was removed from the 508,000-gallon tank. Consultants hired by the DeNaples brothers began vacuuming oil and removing contaminated soil soon after the spill. Demolition of the defunct plant began in February and drew onlookers Sunday, when the 250-foot tower was brought down with explosives. The tank was removed in March.

The plant was still operating when the transaction was made in 1997, Mr. Barrett said. The state Public Utility Commission allowed its closure in 2006. Mr. Barrett said the only equipment he reclaimed

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from the site was a boiler for use in new plant adjacent to the Commonwealth Medical College.

The DEP never sent Mr. Barrett's company a notice of violation and has dealt exclusively with the DeNapleses' company, Ms. Connolly said. CL&W registered the tank and is now considered the owner, she said.

"Any debate as to who owns the tank, as far as the DEP is concerned, that's between CL&W and the tank owners," she said.

After months of cleanup and study efforts by DeNaples consultants, the DEP has declared that the soils at the site meet state health standards, and the spill's effect on the river had "no significant ecological risk," according to DEP documents.

After the spill, environmental response firm Datom Products Inc. sent three vacuum trucks to collect a mixture of water and fuel oil from the plant, sewer manholes and the sewer authority's South Scranton treatment plant.

Datom crews also removed and bagged oil-covered plants from the river's edge from the Poplar Street bridge to the Elm Street bridge. They pressure-washed oil-covered rocks and left a boom in place to catch any oil released during the washing.

Crews also excavated contaminated soil from the site. Twenty soil samples were taken near the leak's origin and showed compliance with the state's nonresidential health standard, with no effect on groundwater.

Consultants also performed an "ecological receptor evaluation" of the river. A DEP Clean Water program staff member reviewed the report and accepted the finding of "no significant ecological risk."

The ecological report was not available Monday because of its length, Ms. Connolly said. While it can be viewed through a file review request, the DEP typically takes about a month to fulfill those requests.

In November, the DEP announced it would fine the DeNaples firm for the spill. The department is still calculating the penalty amount, Ms. Connolly said.

Demolition and cleanup at the site should be finished in the next two months, Mr. Magnotta said. <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/steam-heat-plant-s-leaky-oil-tank-had-disputed-ownership-1.1916031>

USA, TX, BROWNSVILLE

JULY 24 2015.

RESIDENTS VOICE CONCERN ABOUT OIL SPILL, CREWS CONTINUE TO CLEANUP OIL SPILL

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is looking into an oil spill that happened at the Brownsville Public Works facility.

The city estimates 1,200 gallons leaked overnight; about half of that oil is said to have spilled into a nearby canal.

"I saw the canal dark this morning," Marta Lagunes of Brownsville said. Her family lives behind the affected canal.

"This morning at 7 a.m., city staff discovered that the relay tanker trailer used to store emulsion oil for paving projects ... was leaking," Brownsville Assistant City Manager Ruth Osuna said.

They estimate 500 to 600 gallons leaked from the tank down to the water. The Lagunes family is worried for the animals that use the canal and any neighbors who fish.

"Yes, I am worried because sometimes you can't get to the beach to fish, so they come out here and practice fishing," Lagunes said.

Luis Lagunes Jr. said he's concerned because they eat the fish they catch. "We take out a fish, we eat it, what could possibly happen," he said.

The city officials said there is no danger to the public, but they warn everyone to stop fishing immediately.

They are using chemical spray in the water to eat up the oil, moving dirt to protect against more spillage and placing hay bales inside the canal to catch the oil.

Officials said they understand there is concern. "It could kill the animals, like turtles and fish," Marta

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Lagunes said.

However, they announced there is no sign of harmful impact to the environment or the public. The water in the canal is not used for drinking; it is a storm water drainage canal.

<http://www.krgv.com/news/local-news/Brownsville-Residents-Voice-Concern-About-Oil-Spill/34283806>

USA, MS, AMITE CO

JULY 28 2015.

LIGHTNING STRIKE CAUSES OIL TANK EXPLOSION

Roslyn Anderson

An explosion rocked the town of Liberty during storms Saturday. Amite County Civil Defense Coordinator Grant McCurley tells us that lightning struck an old crude oil storage tank causing it to ignite. It happened at Bridger Logistics at Highways 24 and 48 around 6:15 p.m. McCurley says one of four oil tanks inside a containment wall caught fire. The blaze was extinguished with foam. Several fire departments, the Amite County Sheriff's Department and Liberty Police, as well as MDEQ and MEMA responded to the scene. Officials say the nearest home to explosion was about 1,500 yards away. No evacuations were ordered, and no injuries were reported.

<http://www.msnewsnow.com/story/29636146/lightning-strike-causes-oil-tank-explosion>

NEW ZEALAND, WANGANUI

JULY 31 2015.

SCHOLARSHIP OFFER AFTER DIESEL SPILL CONTAMINATES WATER SUPPLY

Zaryd Wilson

Petroleum Services Ltd - a company involved in the diesel spill that contaminated Raetihi's water supply - is to offer \$5000 educational scholarship to Raetihi youth.

The company was fined \$34,500 and ordered to pay \$20,000 costs to WorkSafe in Taihape District Court last Tuesday for its role in the 2013 Turoa skifield diesel spill. It had pleaded guilty to charges under the Health and Safety in Employment Act in relation to its work on the Turoa diesel tank's fuel pump.

It is the second company fined over the incident. Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, which owned and operated the tank, was convicted last year for its part in the spill and for the contamination of Raetihi's water.

"We have learned a great deal about processes as a result of this incident," Petroleum Services managing director David Kraakman told the Chronicle. He said it was not shown that his company's failure to adhere to requirements contributed to the spill but he accepted it could have done things better.

"This incident has had a major impact on the company and me personally," he said. "The company will emerge from this better and stronger - we must accept mistakes were made and ensure they are never repeated."

Meanwhile, a hui was held a few weeks ago with the community, Uenuku and Ngati Rangi iwi and Petroleum Services.

Ngati Rangi chief executive Pou Arahi Andy Gowland-Douglas said it was heartening to see some money from those involved in the spill coming back to benefit the people of Raetihi.

Ngati Rangi, Uenuku and community representatives have begun consultation on how to use \$100,000 paid by Ruapehu Alpine Lifts to Horizons Regional Council following its conviction. The money is to be used to benefit iwi, community and local organisations affected by the spill.

"If WorkSafe were to choose to do the same, that would make a considerable difference to the ability to deliver a project of long-term benefit to the community of Raetihi," Mr Gowland-Douglas said.

"Community wellbeing is at the forefront, as it should be as we move forward through the healing process."

He said what would be done with the money offered by Petroleum Services was not yet confirmed but expected it to be used specifically as an education grant or grants for Raetihi students.

Mr Kraakman said it had been a privilege to meet iwi to discuss the impact of the spill.

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"We explained our position and listened to them. I think the hui was very beneficial for both sides," he said. "We were deeply upset to hear first hand about the impact this spill had and continues to have on the community.

"I met some wonderful caring people and I will continue to keep in touch with them."

In 2006 Petroleum Services installed a 40,000-litre fuel tank and a piped delivery system for Ruapehu Alpine Lifts. The system was modified with the addition of a booster pump after it was found that diesel was not flowing properly. Worksafe said that, by carrying out the modification, Petroleum Services failed to comply with a number of approved industry standards.

On September 26, 2013, the booster pump continued to operate after a transfer of 3000 litres of diesel from the container storage system to a chair lift site was completed. While some parts of the system shut down, the booster pump kept operating causing a hose to become detached and the entire contents of the tank pumped into the environment.

WorkSafe said Petroleum Services Ltd failed to meet the standards or regulations for an above-ground stationary container system with pressurised pipework and to test the system following its modification.

Mr Kraakman said the company accept shortcomings by pleading guilty but that there were conflicting and confusing standards for pipework.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/wanganui-chronicle/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503426&objectid=11487867

USA, TX, GAINSVILLE

JULY 30 2015.

DIESEL STORAGE TANK IGNITES FIRE ON HIGHWAY 82

Kit Chase

Two Gainesville Fire and Rescue Department engines and a tanker were dispatched to Gainesville Fuel, Inc., 1400 E. Highway 82 at approximately 11 a.m. Tuesday to extinguish an unintentional fire in an older, diesel storage tank.

The tank was located in the rear yard of the business.

According to the incident report, there was an unintentional cause of ignition while cutting on the tank.

"There was residual fuel in the tank and sparks from the welding caught the diesel fuel on fire," said Gainesville Fire and Rescue Chief Wally Cox. "Water was used to cool the metal and then foam applied."

The scene was cleared at 11:42 a.m. No injuries were reported.

"We've had several small grass fires," Cox said. "The grass has dried out from the earlier rains and now that temperatures are hotter, grasses have dried out. We're starting to see fires pop up."

Cox said welders working outdoors where there is grass such as building fence should have a nearby water source or extinguisher nearby. Any tank used for fuel storage should be thoroughly cleaned first before welding.

According to the American Welding Society, flying sparks, spatter and molten metal are the main cause of fires and explosions in welding and cutting. They can travel up to 35 feet from the work area. They can travel greater distances when falling, or with some processes, they can pass through or become lodged in cracks, clothing, pipe holes, and other openings in floors, walls, or partitions. Heat can be transferred through walls and surfaces.

"We're starting to see more fires and it's important to take proper precautions around any heat source," Cox said.

http://www.gainesvilleregister.com/community/diesel-storage-tank-ignites-fire-on-highway/article_243fe0e4-3579-11e5-8391-1bf810a888e8.html

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, WA SEATTLE

JULY 31 2015.

SEATTLE EMPLOYER FINED \$424,850 FOR 50 VIOLATIONS

Sandy Smith

Seattle Bulk Shipping, a marine terminal operator, is facing more than \$400,000 in fines from the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) in connection with multiple serious safety and health violations at its facility on Harbor Island.

Seattle Bulk Shipping performs several operations at its facility including transferring large quantities of ethanol fuel from rail cars to tanker trucks, loading grain on rail cars and transferring it between trucks and trailer and forklift repair.

L&I recently cited Seattle Bulk Shipping for more than 50 workplace safety and health violations. The state began investigating the company after a worker was hospitalized with injuries when he fell into an underground grain storage pit in December 2014. L&I inspectors found several noticeable serious hazards during that initial visit to the location, which prompted a comprehensive safety and health inspections of the entire worksite.

During the inspection, L&I placed an immediate restraint order on the company's ethanol transfer operation because of inadequate emergency response planning. The department was concerned about the possibility of a catastrophic release of the highly flammable fuel, and the potential impact on workers and the traveling public on the West Seattle Bridge above the facility.

L&I worked with the Seattle fire marshal's office and the employer to ensure that the most serious gaps in emergency response training were addressed before the hazardous material transfer operations were allowed to resume.

During several visits to the site, L&I safety and health compliance officers found that employees were routinely exposed to multiple hazards that could cause death or serious injuries or illnesses. The employer had been cited on multiple prior occasions for many of the same violations or issues.

In total, the company was cited for five "willful" and 33 "serious" violations, as well as two "failure-to-abate" for failing to correct previous violations and 19 general violations. A violation is considered willful when an employer knowingly violates a rule or is plainly indifferent to employee safety and health, while a serious violation is one where there is a substantial probability of serious injury or death.

The \$424,850 fine is among the largest L&I penalties of a business in recent years. The violations and penalties include:

- Not ensuring personal protective equipment was available to use during an emergency response to a possible ethanol fuel release, \$21,000.
- Not establishing an employee alarm system to provide warning time for a safe escape in an emergency such as an ethanol fuel release, \$63,000. This violation was previously cited in 2010 and had not been corrected.
- Not developing an emergency response plan to address a possible ethanol fuel spill, \$63,000. This violation previously was cited in 2010 and had not been corrected.
- Using chain slings to lift loads beyond their rated capacity, \$45,500.
- Modifying a powered-industrial truck (PIT) such as an industrial forklift to increase its load capacity by strapping concrete blocks onto the back end of the machine, \$45,500.
- Not ensuring that all operators were trained to safely operate PITs, \$45,500.
- Not ensuring that all PITs were maintained in safe working order, \$45,500.

Among the 33 serious violations the employer was cited for were multiple "confined space" violations. Working around or inside a "confined space," such as grain pits, without safety precautions can be deadly to workers and would-be rescuers.

As a result of these violations, Seattle Bulk Shipping Inc., has been identified as a severe violator and will be subject to follow up inspections to determine if the conditions still exist in the future.

The company already has appealed the safety violations and has until Aug. 6 to appeal the health

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

violations. Penalty money paid in connection with a citation is placed in the workers' compensation supplemental pension fund, helping workers and families of those who have died on the job.

<http://ehstoday.com/osa/seattle-employer-fined-424850-50-violations>

USA, GUAM, SAIPAN

AUGUST 7 2015.

FUEL SPILL

Cargo containers are strewn about at the Port of Saipan following Typhoon Soudelor, which brought gusts of more than 100 mph to the island on Sunday.

A 20-foot cargo container hit a 120,000 gallon fuel storage tank at the adjacent Mobil tank farm, causing about 11,000 gallons of gasoline to spill. The leak has been stopped, Mobil Guam said Wednesday, but it wasn't safe to begin drawing fuel from the facility. "We will have to wait until terminal operations can be safely carried out before resuming deliveries to the service stations," said Charles Ewart, president of Mobil Oil Mariana Islands and Mobil Oil Guam. "We are hopeful that we may be able to resume terminal operations for fuel deliveries to the service stations ... Aug. 6." The spilled gasoline was contained on land, in a containment area with firefighting foam, the Energy Department report from CUC states. While the gasoline spill was contained, a separate 500-gallon diesel spill at the Saipan port — outside of the Mobil facility — prompted authorities to declare a "major pollution event."

<http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2015/08/05/power-water-restoration-could-take-month-0806/31148857/>

USA, N.Y, BEACON

AUGUST 7 2015.

MANHOLE GASOLINE EXPLOSION IN BEACON; NO INJURIES REPORTED

An explosion at a City of Beacon gas station caused 140 gallons of gas to run "down Main Street" Thursday, said City of Beacon Fire Chief Gary Van Voorhis.

No one was killed or injured in the explosion, which happened at the newly renovated Coastal Fuels gas station, on Main Street and Fishkill Avenue around 1:18 p.m., Van Voorhis said.

An American Petroleum Equipment and Construction employee was testing a fuel pump in a manhole opening over an underground gasoline tank when "an unknown electrical arc caused a flash fire and explosion in the manhole," Van Voorhis said. "The explosion caused gasoline from another underground tank to be released into the air."

About 140 gallons of gas "shot out of the hole and ran down Main Street," the fire chief said.

"The tank caps blew up 20 or 30 feet in the air," said Beacon police Chief Doug Solomon.

But the spill only affected the Main Street block between Fishkill Avenue, or Route 52, and Veterans Place, Solomon said. The section of the road re-opened by 4 p.m. Some buildings on Main Street were temporarily evacuated while first responders monitored buildings for any suspicious odors.

Beacon firefighters reported gasoline flowing on Main Street near the curb and "controlled the spill" before any gas got into the street drains, Van Voorhis said. "All power to the fuel pumps were locked off." Beacon firefighters and "American Petroleum employees covered the gasoline spill area with oil-dry."

The American Petroleum employee was not injured, but he was covered in gas, Van Voorhis said. He "refused medical treatment...we hosed him off" and got him a change of clothes.

Solomon said he doesn't believe there was any property damage.

Clean-up was handled by the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the City of Beacon Building Department.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The fire department was assisted by the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance, Rombout district firefighters, and other emergency responders from the city. The American Petroleum Environmental spill team also responded to the scene.

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/2015/08/06/140-gallon-gas-explosion-beacon/31225669/>

USA, PA, LAWRENCE CO, NEW CASTLE

AUGUST 13 2015.

STATIC ELECTRICITY BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR JUNKYARD FIRE

Nancy Lowry

Two trailers and about 10 junk cars were damaged Tuesday morning by a fire at Feezle Auto Wrecking in Enon Valley. Chief Manny Hostetler of the Enon Valley Volunteer Fire Department said workers at the wrecking yard at 3064 Old Enon-Unity Road were transferring gasoline from a 300 gallon tank to a 500 gallon barrel about 11:20 a.m. Tuesday. "Somehow there was a spark of static electricity and it went from there," Hostetler said, adding, "They have a couple of high lifts on the site. They were able to come in and move things around or the loss would have been greater." The chief explained that when cars are hauled to the junkyard, gasoline is drained from the fuel tanks and transferred to holding tanks on the site. Since the junkyard is in a rural area, Hostetler said, additional tankers were needed to fight the fire. He said volunteer departments were called in from East Palestine and New Springfield in Ohio, North Beaver Township, Darlington and Big Beaver boroughs to join the Enon Valley department. Firefighters remained at the site until about 2:30 p.m. No injuries were reported. "More tankers were on the way but we called them off," Hostetler said. "We had it under control,"

http://www.ncnewsonline.com/news/static-electricity-believed-responsible-for-junkyard-fire/article_540030c2-4069-11e5-9c5e-371959e08026.html

CHINA, BEIJING, TIANJIN

AUGUST 16 2015.

CHINA EXPLOSIONS: WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN TIANJIN

Two massive explosions in the port of Tianjin, northern China, have killed more than a hundred people, left hundreds more injured and devastated large areas of the city.

Much of what took place, or is still happening now, is unclear - but here is what we do know.

How did the blasts happen?

They took place at a warehouse at the port which contained hazardous and flammable chemicals, including calcium carbide, sodium cyanide, potassium nitrate, ammonium nitrate and sodium nitrate.

Officials insist it is not yet clear what triggered the blasts and say they are still investigating. Chinese media said that at least one member of staff from Tianjin Dongjiang Port Ruihai International Logistics, which owns the warehouse, has been arrested.

Before the explosions, several firefighters were already at the scene trying to control a blaze. There have been suggestions that water sprayed on some of the chemicals could have led to the blasts.

Calcium carbide, known to be at the site, reacts with water to create the highly explosive acetylene.

Chemical experts suggest an acetylene blast could then have detonated the other chemicals for a much larger blast.

How big were the explosions?

The China Earthquake Networks Centre said the initial explosion, in a city with a population of around 15 million, had a power equivalent to three tonnes of TNT detonating, while the second was the equivalent of 21 tonnes.

The second was so big that satellites orbiting Earth picked it up as well. Chinese data site Cnbeta published pictures showing the sudden flare.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

How bad is the devastation?

The explosion destroyed a significant amount of goods stored at and around the port, in the Binhai New District.

Large shipping containers were tossed into the air like matchsticks and were crumpled by the blasts.

A logistics park containing several thousand cars was incinerated by the fireball. Renault says some 1,500 of its cars were lost, while Hyundai said it had around 4,000 cars on the site - although it has not yet assessed the level of damage.

The blast wave rippled out several kilometres from the port into residential areas.

The impact rocked entire buildings, shattered windows and tore doors off their hinges.

More than 720 people were taken to hospital, of whom nearly 60 are either critically or seriously injured. Reuters reports that several thousand people living near the port have had to leave their homes, and are now staying in local schools.

How are the blasts being dealt with?

More than 1,000 firefighters were dispatched to the scene to contain the fires. On Monday, authorities said they were putting out one last area that was still burning, and the last of the toxic chemicals would be neutralised and disposed of by the end of the day.

More than 200 chemical and biological experts from the military were on site earlier.

President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang have vowed to hold a thorough investigation and ensure "open and transparent information disclosure to the public".

China has also ordered a nationwide check on dangerous chemicals and explosives.

Is it safe?

About 700 tonnes of sodium cyanide was present at the site. It is soluble in water and, when dissolved or burned, it releases the highly poisonous gas hydrogen cyanide.

Authorities on Monday confirmed that three waste water discharge monitoring stations within the evacuated area saw excessive levels of cyanide, with one station recording a level 27.4 times the normal limit, reported People's Daily.

But authorities have insisted that the pollutants are contained and not at risk of spreading beyond the evacuated area.

What impact will this have on Tianjin port?

Tianjin is a significant industrial port near Beijing, and is a gateway for goods going in and out of the capital and China's industrial north. It is also a main trading hub for metals and steel.

The port remains partially open as the explosion was contained in one section.

But authorities have imposed stringent checks and movement in and out of the port has slowed down, which is likely to affect some industries, the Mysteel.com news portal reported.

Mining giant BHP Billiton saw some disruption to its port operations and shipments.

On Monday, carmaker Toyota said it was closing production lines at its factories near Tianjin until the end of Wednesday, while agricultural machinery maker John Deere said it suspended work indefinitely. Both saw some of their workers injured by the blasts.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-33844084>

USA, AKA, SITKA

AUGUST 18 2015.

UP TO 7,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL SPILLED FROM SITKA POWER PLANT

Rachel Waldholz

A storage tank at Sitka's Jarvis Street Diesel Plant failed over the weekend (8-15-15), spilling an estimated 4,000 to 7,000 gallons of diesel into Sitka Sound near the mouth of Indian River.

Teams from the city, state, and Coast Guard are working to contain and clean up the spill — and to find out what caused it.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

As of Sunday night, it wasn't yet clear exactly how much diesel had actually made it into Sitka Sound.

The Jarvis Street Diesel Plant is owned by the city — it's Sitka's backup power station — and City Administrator Mark Gorman said the failed storage tank released about 30,000 gallons of diesel into a cement containment enclosure. Some portion of that — perhaps as much as 7,000 gallons — then leaked into the storm water system, which empties into the ocean at Eagle Beach.

Gorman said that though the release is near the mouth of Indian River, so far there's no sign of diesel in the river itself, and the spill has been contained to Eagle Beach and the water near Cannon Island.

The Fire Department estimated that about 40 people from the city, the state Department of Environmental Conservation, the Coast Guard, and the National Park Service were on site Sunday, using boom and absorbent material to contain and soak up the spill. Speaking Sunday evening, Gorman said the efforts so far have had a visible impact.

"I was down at the impacted area this evening twice, and you can smell it in the air, but there's no sheen on the water at this point in time, so it seems to be dispersing pretty rapidly," Gorman said.

According to a press release from the city, the Fire Department first received a call around 11 a.m. Saturday (8-15-15) reporting a heavy smell of diesel near Eagle Beach. Assistant Fire Chief Al Stevens says the department found a small patch of diesel in the water, but couldn't locate its source. He says responders thought it had perhaps come from a fishing vessel in the area, and contacted both the state and Coast Guard.

The city then received a second call on Sunday, reporting a sheen on the water near Cannon Island. This time, the Fire Department traced the spill to a storm drain on Sawmill Creek Road, and eventually followed it back to the Jarvis Street Diesel Plant.

Around 1 p.m. Sunday, The Fire Department initiated its Incident Command System, marshalling resources from the city, state, Coast Guard, and National Park Service. Stevens says the leak was stopped around 3:30 p.m. Sunday, and teams worked throughout the afternoon to mop up the spill. "It certainly is a big deal," he said.

But Gorman added that diesel is much easier to clean up than, say, crude oil.

"Diesel is not [crude] oil," Gorman said. "If this was an oil spill, I think the 7,000 gallons going into the Sound would be alarming. It's not good to have diesel going into the sound, but diesel does evaporate and dissipate quite rapidly."

It's not yet clear why the tank failed, or how the diesel leaked out of the containment enclosure. The city, state and Coast Guard are all involved in that investigation.

<http://www.kcaw.org/2015/08/17/up-to-7000-gallons-of-diesel-spilled-from-sitka-power-plant/>

CHINA, BEIJING

AUGUST 19 2015.

TIANJIN EXPLOSIONS: WAREHOUSE 'HANDLED TOXIC CHEMICALS WITHOUT LICENCE' – REPORTS

The warehouse at the centre of last week's explosions in the Chinese city of Tianjin received a licence to handle hazardous chemicals just two months before the disaster, China's state-run news agency has reported.

Xinhua said on Tuesday that Tianjin Dongjiang Port Rui Hai International Logistics, the company that owns the warehouse, did not have legal permission to handle such dangerous materials between October 2014 and June 2015. But the company had continued to work with hazardous chemicals, Xinhua reported, citing an unidentified company official.

Local media reported that the president and vice-chairman of the company were among the 10 Rui Hai workers who were detained by authorities as early as last Thursday, the day after the blasts.

According to state media reports, Rui Hai company president Yu Xuewei and vice-chairman Dong Shexuan were put "under control" on the afternoon after the blasts. Local news outlet Caijing reports that four of the Rui Hai workers are in hospital and six others are at Tianjin No 1 Detention Centre.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

On Tuesday afternoon a former deputy mayor of Tianjin and current director of the State Administration of Work Safety – the country’s work safety watchdog – was also put under investigation.

Yang Dongliang, who was vice-mayor of Tianjin between 2009 and 2012, is suspected of “serious violations of discipline and law”, according to a statement published on the government’s anti-graft website.

The news came as rain hit the site of last week’s devastating blasts for the first time on Tuesday morning, raising fears that it might set off more chemical reactions, potentially creating toxic gas, endangering local residents and hampering rescue efforts.

Residents have been on high alert since news of the toxic chemicals circulated, with local media reports showing many wearing gas masks and accompanied by armed police when returning to their homes to pick up belongings.

Authorities are concerned that the rain will react with up to 700 tonnes of sodium cyanide discovered at two locations at the hazardous goods storage facility. Officials announced the discovery of more dangerous chemicals on Tuesday.

Niu Yuegang, deputy director at Tianjin’s fire department, confirmed that over 40 different types of chemicals have now been discovered at the blast site, including 700 tonnes of sodium cyanide, 800 tonnes of ammonium nitrate and 500 tonnes of potassium nitrate, according to local reports.

Drone footage taken by rescue workers and broadcast on state TV channel CCTV indicated that the enormous crater at the centre of the blast had filled with water as early as Friday afternoon, two days after the blast.

Earlier on Monday, in his first public appearance since the explosions, Tianjin’s vice-mayor He Shushan admitted that sodium cyanide had been found as far as 1km from the blast site.

As the country observes a traditional day of mourning, on the seventh day since the twin explosions occurred at the port city, details of the death of a 25-year-old firefighter added to the grief and frustration felt by local families.

Zhang Sumei was among the support staff at the No 4 fire brigade of Tianjin Public Security Bureau. Zhang remained at home while her husband of three years left to fight the blaze on the Wednesday night, but died when the force of the explosion razed their apartment to the ground, according to local reports.

Her team, along with the No 5 team, were among the first fire crews to arrive at the scene of the disaster on Wednesday night.

Families of missing contract firefighters have taken to the streets in recent days to stage protests, interrupting an official news conference on Saturday and even clashing with police in one instance.

Officials announced at a press conference on Tuesday morning that 83 of the 114 dead have now been identified, with more than 700 injured and 57 people still missing, most of them firefighters.

In a rare impromptu interview on Monday, Chinese premier Li Keqiang told Hong Kong’s i-Cable news that all firefighters who died – contract and professional – should be equally recognised.

“For our heroes, no one is outside the system,” Li said. “Regardless of whether they’re firefighting officers or non-military firefighting workers, we will treat them the same.”

Questions about how the blasts occurred are still being asked, with the state council – the country’s highest state administrative body – setting up an investigation team to look into the cause of the explosions.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/18/tianjin-blasts-warehouse-handled-toxic-chemicals-without-licence-reports>