

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/>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY

JULY 27 2010.

SPARK SETS WORKER ALIGHT AFTER SLIP IN FLAMMABLE LIQUID

Glenda Kwek

A young Sydney worker who slipped on flammable liquid suffered horrific burns when his clothes were set alight by a spark from a lathe. The 25-year-old is in a critical but stable condition in Royal North Shore Hospital with 40 per cent burns to his body. Police say the man had been decanting a drum of paint thinners at Pak-Mor Waste Equipment, a sheet metal fabrication business, on Walker Street in South Windsor when he slipped on a puddle of the flammable liquid about 12.30pm. As he began to clean up the spill with a shovel, sparks from a lathe close by set his clothing on fire, enveloping him in flames. His colleagues dragged him away and doused the fire. Bruce Butler, the owner of nearby business Butler Steel Fabrications, said he saw a large plume of black smoke blowing out from the building. WorkCover officers and police from the Hawkesbury Local Area Command are investigating the accident. A WorkCover spokesman said two investigators visited the business yesterday, but were still trying to confirm the circumstances of the accident.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/spark-sets-worker-alight-after-slip-in-flammable-liquid-20100716-10czx.html>

MEXICO, FRANCISCO I. MADERO

JULY 31 2010.

PEMEX'S MADERO REFINERY STORAGE TANK EXPLODES, AUTHORITIES EVACUATE 2,000

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez

About 2,000 people were evacuated by Mexican authorities after an explosion and fire at a coker unit gasoline storage tank at Petroleos Mexicanos's Francisco I. Madero refinery on the Gulf of Mexico. The blaze was under control at 6:30 p.m. local time yesterday, said a Pemex spokesman, who asked not to be identified in accordance with company policy. No other facilities at the refinery were damaged, he said. The people were moved by authorities in the Tampico area after the blast and are likely to start returning to their homes within hours, the spokesman for the state-owned oil company said. The refinery has a capacity to process 195,000 barrels of crude a day, according data compiled by Bloomberg.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-07-30/pemex-s-madero-refinery-storage-tank-explodes-authorities-evacuate-2-000.html>

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USA, NEV, SPARKS

JULY 31 2010.

3 HURT IN FIRE AT SPARKS BIODIESEL FUEL PLANT

Three people were injured in a fire and explosion at a biodiesel fuel plant in an industrial section of Sparks near the Truckee River. Sparks fire officials say one man suffered burns and was hospitalized in the blast around 11:30 a.m. Friday at Advanced Refining Concepts on Coney Island Drive. Fuel leaked from two of the 125-gallon tanks but officials said they didn't know how much or whether it made it as far as the sewer system. Fire Marshall Robert King says the man who was hospitalized was burned on his face and other parts of his body. There was no immediate word on his condition. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jul/30/3-hurt-in-fire-at-sparks-biodiesel-fuel-plant/>

USA, FLA, ORLANDO

AUGUST 4 2010.

MAN SUFFERS BURNS WHEN GAS CAN USED AS VEHICLE'S TANK

Gary Taylor

A man who was using a plastic gasoline container as the gasoline tank for his truck was burned Monday afternoon, a spokesman for the Daytona Beach Fire Department said. Firefighters responded to vehicle fire at George W. Ingram Boulevard and Ellsworth Street about 3:15 p.m., Lt. Larry R. Stoney said. When firefighters arrived they found smoke coming from under the hood of a late-model Ford pickup truck, Stoney said. There was a red plastic five-gallon container located inside the engine compartment on the right side of the engine with a tube running from it to the carburetor, Stoney said. It was being used as the vehicle's gasoline tank, he said. The driver, who was not identified, told firefighters he believed the container lost prime and he was attempting to prime it when the engine compartment caught fire. The man suffered first- and second-degree burns to his hands, face and head, Stoney said. He was taken to Halifax Health Medical Center.

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-daytona-man-burned-20100803,0,2082337.story>

CANADA, TORONTO

AUGUST 4 2010.

SUNRISE BLAST CAUSED BY ILLEGAL 'TANK-TO-TANK TRANSFER,' REPORT SAYS

The deadly 2008 propane blast was caused by an illegal "tank-to-tank transfer" and a gas hose leak, according to a confidential report by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office.

The 367-page report, which was obtained by the *Toronto Star*, said the cause of the explosion was accidental and occurred after a "tank-to-tank transfer" released liquid propane from a hose.

About six minutes before the blast on the morning of Aug. 10, 2008, the leaked liquid propane from the hose vaporized. The actual cause of ignition is still unknown, says the report.

The report notes that the Sunrise Propane did not have the appropriate license to conduct "tank-to-tank" transfers. The company had previously been ordered to cease and desist tank-to-tank operations by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority in November 2006, the report says.

"Tank-to-tank transfers continued to occur at the site subsequent to the 'order,'" the report says.

The explosion and fire at the Sunrise Propane facility on Murray Rd., near Keele St. and Wilson Ave., caused the evacuation of a 1.6-kilometre area and affected thousands of residents and businesses. The destructive blast rained asbestos and burning metal over the northwest Toronto neighbourhood.

The body of Sunrise employee Parminder Singh Saini, 25, was found in the charred remains of the propane facility. He was a student at Sheridan College in Brampton.

Several sections of the report were blacked out, including accounts by witnesses and details of damages to nearby residences and businesses.

Toronto city Councillor Maria Augimeri, in whose ward the explosion took place, says the report confirms her belief that such facilities shouldn't exist near residential communities, and that the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) didn't properly enforce regulations.

"One problem is the very fact that these types of establishments exist next door to communities," she said in an interview with the *Star* on Tuesday.

"The other is the TSSA. We've always said that their bark was worse than their bite. They didn't have the teeth, the willingness to oversee the company that they purport," she said.

The report says more consideration should have been given to whether it was appropriate for Sunrise Propane

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

to have been built near a residential area.

In 2009, the Sunrise Propane Energy Group and its directors were charged under the Environmental Protection Act.

A class-action lawsuit is underway against Sunrise Propane and the owners of the site, claiming to represent any residents or business owners affected by the blast.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/843631--sunrise-blast-caused-by-illegal-tank-to-tank-transfer-report-says>

USA, N.J., EDGEWATER

AUGUST 4 2010.

EPA EXPLAINS TOXIC CLEANUP PLAN

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS — PCBs — WERE FOUND ON THE PROPERTY IN SOME OF THE 61 ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANKS AND 10 UNDERGROUND TANKS.

Merry Firschein

The federal Environmental Protection Agency intends to cap the contamination at the Quanta Resources site on River Road by capturing toxic chemicals in the soil and groundwater into solid blocks, agency representatives told residents Tuesday night.

The agency will leave alone a neighboring property, 115 River Road, which also sits atop contaminated soil, for now and has the option to revisit that decision in the future, said John Prince, the EPA's section chief for New Jersey remediation. That adjacent commercial building contains about 50 or 60 small businesses, including a day-care center.

The agency is acting now because tests have found cancer risks or non-cancer hazards, such as neurological damage, "exceeding EPA's acceptance levels for at least one" group of people who live or work in the area, Prince said.

"This is a better remedy for the site than some of the other alternatives," Prince told the crowd.

About 50 people came to the EPA's two-hour meeting Tuesday night at the American Legion post to hear a plan by the federal agency to cap contamination at the facility. Federal officials presented a feasibility study on the alternatives for taking care of the toxic chemicals found in the soil and groundwater there.

Coming Next

* The EPA will hold two question-and-answer sessions today, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at the American Legion post, 1165 River Road. Residents will have a chance to voice their concerns and opinions to EPA officials on the plan to cap the contamination at the Quanta Resources site.

Prince presented six alternatives, including several options that suggested excavation of the contamination or demolishing 115 River Road, but only went into detail on the one that the EPA likes best.

About a dozen residents asked questions and voiced their opinions after the presentation. Many were not happy.

"I'm highly, highly disappointed," said resident Jill Kleinman, chairwoman of the Quanta Community Advisory Group of Edgewater. Not doing anything about the contamination under 115 River Road is "just pushing it off" for the future, she said.

The agency will hold two informal question-and-answer sessions on the proposal today from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

The site is filled with coal tar residue — in oily liquid and solid waste forms — arsenic and other toxic chemicals. The groundwater also is contaminated.

The EPA, in a 70-page report, has decided to cap the contaminated 5.5-acre site by solidifying the coal tar, arsenic and other potential carcinogens into underground blocks. Under the proposed plan, the agency also would install a filter to make sure contaminated groundwater doesn't reach the Hudson River.

The agency also would install a vapor mitigation system and basement seal at 115 River Road.

Cleanup could take as long as three years at an estimated cost of \$72.2 million, the report states.

The public can send written comments about the plan to the EPA through Sept. 20. The federal agency will consult with the state Department of Environmental Protection before choosing a remedy, the plan states. The agency hopes to choose a remedy option no later than October, Prince said.

Coal tar, along with paving and roofing materials, were made at the site beginning in the late 1800s. The site was once part of a larger 15-acre parcel owned by Honeywell, then called Allied Chemical Co., which held a waste-oil recycling facility. Allied operated a tar processing plant at the site for about 40 years before Quanta bought the land for an oil recycling facility in the mid-1970s.

The state shut down the Quanta site in 1981 after polychlorinated biphenyls — PCBs — were found on the property in some of the 61 aboveground storage tanks and 10 underground tanks.

626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

The EPA conducted an initial cleanup of the site in the 1980s, removing more than 9 million gallons of waste. The site was added to the federal Superfund National Priority List in 2002.

The last meeting held for Edgewater residents was in August 2008.

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/99918894 EPA explains toxic cleanup plan .html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/99918894_EPA_explains_toxic_cleanup_plan_.html)

USA, PA, CUMBERLAND CO, LOWER ALLEN TWP

AUGUST 5 2010.

WRONGFUL-DEATH SUIT TARGETS TOYOTA, BP

Robyn Sidersky

For five months, Lori Rector hasn't been able to pump gas without having a panic attack.

On March 5, her nephew, L. David Byers, 19, was killed in a rare accident at a gas station in Lower Allen Twp. when gasoline fumes ignited.

Byers was killed when he inhaled superheated gases from the flash fire, Cumberland County Coroner Todd Eckenrode said. A static-electricity discharge sparked the flames, a state police fire marshal said.

Byers' mother, Lisa Rickenbach, filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against BP Oil Co., Toyota Motor Corp. and others in Philadelphia, and sought to obtain a copy of video taken by a security camera.

The gas station was open at the time of the accident -- 2:45 a.m. -- but there were no attendants on duty.

"People know it could happen. You just don't think about it. You think about getting hit by a car. You think about drunk drivers. You don't think you're going to die pumping gas," Rector said.

Stewart Eisenberg, one of Rickenbach's attorneys, explained why so many defendants are listed in the lawsuit.

Byers drove a 2009 Toyota Yaris. The attorneys claim that Toyota failed to adequately design seats that would minimize the amount of static charge when someone exits the vehicle. Toyota declined to comment because the litigation is pending, but a spokesman said accidents such as this happen with other cars, too.

Also listed are the owner of the gas station and BP, the franchise owner, and the manufacturer of the equipment at the gas station.

Rickenbach's suit claims that BP and the owners of the gas station did not properly design or maintain the station and did not manage it in a safe manner.

After the accident, the station was inspected by the state's Bureau of Occupational and Industrial Safety and found to be in violation of at least 20 flammable and combustible-liquids regulations. The station reopened after correcting the violations.

Rickenbach's attorneys said they believe the most serious violation was that there was no attendant on duty.

The attorneys said that's one of the reasons getting the surveillance tape is crucial.

The tape could hold potential answers to many questions, Eisenberg said.

Only the owner of the station, police and the coroner have seen the tape.

<http://www.pennlive.com/news/patriotnews/index.ssf?/base/news/1280889606189450.xml&coll=1>

USA, MI, INGHAM CO, MASON

AUGUST 7 2010.

CHEMICAL PLANT EXPLOSION IN MASON UNDER INVESTIGATION

PLANT MAKES RACING FUELS, LACQUER THINNERS AND METAL WORKING FUELS.

Melissa Domsic

UPDATED 6:20 p.m.

An explosion and fire that destroyed a building at Americhem Sales Corp. this afternoon remains under investigation.

No one was seriously hurt in the incident that involved a truck containing mineral spirits, a chemical used in paint thinners.

At about 3 p.m., a tanker containing up to 7,000 gallons of mineral spirits entered a weighing facility and either blew up or sparked a fire, said Bruce Whetter, Americhem's president.

Employees were evacuated from Americhem, 340 North St. in Mason.

"Thank God that nobody was hurt," Whetter said while firefighters battled the blaze. "It'll be a bad incident but it'll be contained and we'll be back in business and nobody in the community has to worry about anything."

Several residents stood by watching the smoke billow out of the building.

"Our houses shook," said Mason resident Adrienne Niswonger, 42, who lives nearby on Okemos Street.

She said she heard about three or four explosions and went to the site to see what happened.

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Several departments, including the Ingham County Health Department, were monitoring the situation.

"We are breathing a sigh of relief," said health department spokesman Marcus Cheatham. "As far as we can tell at this time, nobody was exposed."

One employee who was in the facility at the time of the explosion was taken to the hospital because of hearing problems.

UPDATED 4:20 P.M.

Emergency officials say a fire at a chemical company has been contained and there were no injuries.

They continue to advise the public to avoid the area of North Street in Mason due to a chemical company fire.

The fire was reported around 3 p.m. Many report hearing an explosion.

Americhem Sales officials said in a statement there were 25 employees at the site and all were evacuated safely. One worker who was near the explosion was hospitalized as a precautionary measure because of hearing problems.

The company said the chemicals on site included solvents used for paint thinners and oils used in manufacturing.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20100806/NEWS01/308060005/Chemical-plant-explosion-in-Mason-underinvestigation>

USA, IA, FAIRBANK

AUGUST 7 2010.

VICTIMS IN CRASH THAT SHUT DOWN HAWKEYE ETHANOL PLANT IDENTIFIED

Dennis Magee

A second person has died as a result of an auto crash near an ethanol plant here.

Corey Allen Annis, 23, of Fairbank died Saturday as a result of the Friday crash that also killed Brad William Higgins, 49 of Fairbank, who died at the scene.

Funeral arrangements for both men are being handled by Woods Funeral Home in Fairbank.

The crash near the Hawkeye Renewables plant shut down ethanol production there due to a natural gas leak resulting from the crash. Mike Loeffler, a spokesman for Northern Natural Gas in Omaha, Neb., said gas service to the plant was restored at 5 p.m. Saturday.

A Northern Natural Gas pipeline station was damaged in the one-car crash. The car plowed through a chain-link fence, crashing into the pipeline. Higgins was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene, according to Fairbank firefighter Jason Kayser.

Emergency personnel used Jaws of Life equipment to extricate Annis from the severely damaged car. Emergency personnel at the scene said he was in critical condition and was he airlifted to local hospitals for treatment but died Saturday.

Officials evacuated the ethanol plant because of the gas leak. Workers shut down the plant before leaving, according to Kayser, the fire department's operations officer during the incident.

The accident was reported at about 5:30 a.m. Friday. The flow of gas was shut off about two hours later.

"You could hear it from way far away. It was obviously leaking," Kayser said.

"There was a small leak, and that's why we are going to proceed as safely as possible," Loeffler said shortly after the accident.

Northern Natural Gas is a subsidiary of MidAmerican Energy and is based in Omaha. The company operates more than 15,000 miles of natural gas pipeline, moving 5.3 billion cubic feet of gas per day, according to its website.

EARLIER STORY BY JOSH NELSON

One person died in a wreck near an ethanol plant, according to Buchanan County Sheriff Bill Wolfram.

Emergency crews were called to the Hawkeye Renewables ethanol plant early Friday after a car crash ruptured a natural gas line next to the facility.

The ethanol plant was evacuated while crews worked on the leak, said Rick Wulfekuhle, emergency management coordinator for Buchanan County.

Members of the Fairbank and Oelwein fire departments, Northern Natural Gas Co. and other first responders were called out to get the leak contained.

Details weren't available on the cause of the wreck, which occurred before 8 a.m., but an air ambulance crew was called out to assist with victims, Wulfekuhle said.

626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Courier staff at the scene said it appears a single vehicle, apparently westbound on Iowa Highway 281, left the roadway and traveled through a field some distance before striking a Northern Natural Gas facility near the plant. http://wfcourier.com/news/local/article_458d5c9c-a16b-11df-8394-001cc4c03286.html

USA, TX, MASON

AUGUST 9 2010.

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION: STATIC ELECTRICITY SPARK CAUSED AMERICHEM CHEMICAL PLANT BLAST

Susan Vela

Static electricity caused a catalytic spark that caused an explosion and fire Friday at an Americhem Sales Corp. building, according to a preliminary investigation.

"That's what we're saying right now," said Sgt. Robert Ott of the Ingham County Sheriff's Office and the county's Homeland Security and emergency management coordinator.

"When those guys are loading and unloading those trailers, they're supposed to be grounded to prevent any type of static. The driver said he was grounded. (However), there's nothing else out there that would have caused the spark."

Bruce Whetter, Americhem's president, maintains the tanker that entered the company's weighing facility around 3 p.m. Friday containing 500 gallons of mineral spirits most likely exploded, destroying the building.

"It's not likely we had a spark because everything is grounded," he said. "We're thinking it had to be some kind of an explosion. We've been doing this here 13 years the same way. I've been thinking about this for two days now and I'm not sure what could have happened."

Americhem's insurance company is scheduled to start its investigation Monday, when Whetter plans to continue doing business with customers.

Whetter expects cleanup to continue for a few more days. Employees were evacuated from Americhem, 340 North St., when the fire happened. No one was seriously injured.

Homeland Security is involved because of the chemicals stored at the site. Americhem is a Midwest chemical distributor and blender carrying a full line of industrial chemicals, solvents, oils and automotive fluids.

While the agency is investigating the matter because of the chemicals stored on site, Whetter added: "We are not a high-risk chemical facility as determined by Homeland Security.

"We do handle hazardous material, but not extremely hazardous material."

Whetter said the amount of damage at the site will be assessed Monday. Cleanup crews were out until Saturday morning at the site of the explosion. He added deliveries are scheduled for Monday.

"We wanted everything to get back to normal for the community as soon as possible," Whetter said. "This is my responsibility."

No one was seriously injured, but employees were evacuated as Mason firefighters brought the blaze under control.

Officials of the Ingham County Health Department, which monitored the blaze, determined there was no need to evacuate residents in the area. Neighbors reported hearing about three or four explosions. The blast could be heard more than a mile away at the Ingham County Fair.

Americhem Sales Corp. is a Midwest chemical distributor and blender that carries a full line of industrial chemicals, solvents, oils and automotive fluids.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20100808/NEWS01/8080542/1001/NEWS/Americhem-chemical-plant-blast--firestill-under-investigation>

USA, MI, MARSHALL

AUGUST 9 2010.

MICHIGAN OIL SPILL CAUSED BY 5-FOOT TEAR IN PIPELINE

Jeffrey Jones

Oil that fouled a Michigan river system spewed from a rip less than five feet long in an Enbridge Inc pipeline, a company executive said on Saturday after crews extracted the ruptured piece.

The pipeline, part of Enbridge's system that carries most of Canada's crude oil exports into the United States, ruptured nearly two weeks ago near Marshall, Michigan, and there is still no estimate when it might be restarted.

Looking at the length-wise tear does not provide enough information to determine what caused 800,000 gallons of heavy crude oil to spill into the Kalamazoo River system, said Steve Wuori, president of Enbridge's liquids pipelines division.

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Under the watch of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, crews extracted a 50 foot (15 meter) section on Friday and it is being shipped to Washington for analysis, officials said.

"I would think it will be late tomorrow before the replacement section is welded into place," Wuori told reporters in conference call to discuss the incident.

Authorities must approve Enbridge's restart plan before it can resume shipping crude on the 190,000 barrel a day pipeline, called Line 6B. Even then it will likely run at reduced rates.

The Environmental Protection Agency had enforcement officials at the excavation as they investigate whether Enbridge was negligent in the period leading up to the July 26 spill, EPA administrator Susan Hedman said.

The pipeline serves refineries in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Ontario that produce more than 700,000 barrels a day. At least three plants have cut output and others have been forced to seek supplies on alternate pipelines.

The spill represents one of the largest pipeline leaks in recent U.S. history. It arguably gained increased profile against the backdrop of the much bigger BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

<http://planetark.org/wen/59077>

USA, IA, FAIRBANK

AUGUST 9 2010.

SECOND MAN DIES FOLLOWING CAR WRECK AT ETHANOL PLANT IN FAIRBANK

The driver of a vehicle that crashed into a natural gas line at an ethanol plant has died. Authorities say Corey Allen Annis, 23, of Fairbank, who lost control of his 1998 Pontiac Firebird, died Saturday. Brad William Higgins, 49, died at the scene Friday. The car rolled and then slammed into a fence Friday morning at the Hawkeye Renewables ethanol plant and ruptured a gas line. The ethanol plant was evacuated as crews sealed the gas leak. Gas service to the plant was restored by Saturday evening.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100809/NEWS/8090315/1001/NEWS/Second-man-dies-following-car-wreck-in-Fairbank>

USA, TX, PORT OF BROWNSVILLE

AUGUST 10 2010.

TANK VALVE RUPTURE CAUSES FIRE AT PORT OF BROWNSVILLE

Steve Clark and Ildefonso Ortiz

Fire crews have extinguished a blaze on Chemical Drive at the Port of Brownsville. Port of Brownsville spokesman Manuel Ortiz says the fire began at 11 a.m. at the RTW Terminals when a valve ruptured and ignited. The northside of the port was been evacuated and extra exits were opened to allow 100 employees to leave the facility, Ortiz said. RTW Terminals is a liquid bulk storage facility. Ortiz says the fire burned an oil made of animal fat. Smoke from the fire could be seen from at least a mile away. There were no reports of any injuries. Ortiz says RTW will remain closed while the fire is under investigation, he says all other companies in the area are back in operation.

<http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/port-115260-fire-brownsville.html>

USA, UT, OGDEN

AUGUST 11 2010.

MOST OF FRESENIUS DIESEL SPILL CAPTURED

A broken valve in a diesel oil storage tank at Fresenius Medical Care spilled an estimated 2,900 gallons of fuel Tuesday afternoon, but a containment system at the facility captured almost all of it.

Ogden Fire Marshal Matt Schwank said the company's containment system at the plant, 435 W. 13th St., captured most of the fuel and the company responded quickly.

"They got it stopped pretty quick, and we've got cleanup crews down there," he said.

Some oil got to a drainage canal but, he said, "they've got the canal blocked. They've got most everything cleaned out. Some went down the canal. We've got a cleanup crew making sure none of it goes down (farther)."

The Ogden Nature Center is beside the canal and downstream from the Fresenius facility.

Mary McKinley, the nature center's executive director, said because of the fast reaction, "there are all sorts of things in place to capture any diesel, should it reach our property."

As of several hours after the 1 p.m. break, she said, none had reached the nature center.

After a similar break three years ago that did allow some fuel to reach the nature center, Schwank said, the company put new containment measures into place.

In addition to the company's workers, he said, the fire department's hazardous materials team responded.

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Schwank said officials from Weber County Health Department and the State Department of Environmental Quality were on hand to monitor the response.

"Everything's good," he said.

Steve Marler, senior director of operations at the Fresenius plant, said the diesel spill was caused by a broken valve in the storage tank.

The containment system installed after the last break consists of an oil trap in the drainage line, similar in function to the trap in a sewer line, he said.

It captured almost all the spilled diesel, he said.

Marler said Fresenius will work with Ogden Fire Department to make any further necessary changes to the system.

<http://www.standard.net/topics/business/2010/08/10/most-fresenius-diesel-spill-captured>

USA, PA, PLAINFIELD TWP

AUGUST 15 2010.

PEN ARGYL COUPLE ALLEGE COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR GAS TANK EXPLOSION THAT KILLED THEIR SON, LAWSUIT SAYS

Bill Wichert

The Pen Argyl couple whose 12-year-old son died last month in an explosion at a Bushkill Township farm is suing two companies they claim are responsible for the underground propane tank that set off the blast.

Kraig and Dana Hahn claim the tank was defective and had been installed negligently, leading to the explosion that killed their son, Luke, and left Kraig Hahn with severe burns on more than 80 percent of his body.

The legal challenge is being brought against Cumberland County, Pa.-based American Welding and Tank Co., the tank manufacturer, and Missouri-based Inergy Propane, LLC, which installed the tank, according to the lawsuit.

A separate lawsuit against the same companies is slated to be filed within the next two weeks on Luke's behalf, according to Mark Altemose, the attorney representing the Hahns. Kraig Hahn remains in an induced coma at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

"They're taking it day by day," Altemose said of the family. "That's all they can do."

Ted Reilly, vice president of sales & marketing for American Welding and Tank, declined to comment Friday and referred questions to company President Terry Ross. Ross did not return a call late Friday afternoon for comment.

Debbie Hagen, an Inergy spokeswoman, also did not respond later Friday afternoon to a phone call and e-mail seeking comments.

The accident occurred July 5 at the Cherry Hill Tree Farm when Kraig and Luke Hahn were working to expand the play area near a swimming pool, according to the lawsuit. Luke Hahn was driving a dump truck over the area of the underground propane tank and knocked into the tank, causing a propane gas leak, the lawsuit states.

Luke Hahn got out of the truck and Kraig Hahn, who was operating a backhoe, turned toward the dump truck as the tank exploded, according to the lawsuit. The 1,000-gallon tank burned for two more days.

Altemose said two of the primary problems with the tank were the fact that its cover was painted green and a barricade was not placed there to guard against vehicular traffic. These types of housing covers are not designed to withstand the weight of heavier vehicles, he said.

"We believe you don't camouflage hazardous tanks," Altemose said.

The Hahns want to make sure a similar situation doesn't happen again, their attorney said. One of the goals of the litigation is to convince manufacturers and installers to take the appropriate precautions and inform the public of the potential dangers posed by these systems, Altemose said.

"Notification needs to be made to the public," he said.

<http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/slate-belt/index.ssf?/base/sports-0/1281758946196940.xml&coll=3>

CANADA, ONT, TORONTO

AUGUST 16 2010.

PREVIOUSLY BURIED FUEL TANK LEAKS INTO DON RIVER

A piece of Toronto's past was unearthed Sunday, courtesy of a summer rain storm.

That's when construction workers excavating the back lot of a Staples office supply store in Leaside ruptured an underground fuel tank — a remnant of a First World War airfield used to train pilots, mechanics and maintenance crews for the Royal Flying Corps.

The punctured tank didn't raise any eyebrows at first. The construction company made arrangements to have
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the contents pumped out yesterday.

But then the rain came, kicking off a chain of events that led to the decades-old chemicals, including aviation fuel and kerosene, seeping into the sewer system and eventually into the waters of the Don River.

By yesterday, the fuel spill had been contained by a series of booms and the tank taken away, but Toronto Fire Capt. Mike Strapko said his hazardous materials team was still a little shocked over what had been uncovered.

"It's routine for us to control these kind of spills that get into the waterways and sewer system ... but this one has been a little unusual," he said. "It could have been much worse."

The airport's biggest claim to fame came in 1918 when Brian Peck safely landed the country's first airmail flight there.

What authorities didn't realize at the time was that Peck had used the delivery as a guise to transport several cases of liquor from "wet" Montreal to "dry" Toronto at the height of prohibition.

<http://www.metronews.ca/toronto/local/article/604860--previously-buried-fuel-tank-leaks-into-don-river>

USA, PA, PITTSBURGH

AUGUST 16 2010.

FIRE MARSHAL: OIL VAPORS IN STORAGE TANK EXPLODED FROM WELDER'S SPARK IN DEADLY PA. WELL BLAST

A fire marshal says an explosion that killed two welders and caught a western Pennsylvania natural gas well on fire last month was triggered by flammable fumes from oil in a storage tank.

Allegheny County Fire Marshal Robert Full says he's confident a welder's spark ignited the vapor and caused the July 23 explosion at a well near Pittsburgh owned by Monroeville-based Huntley & Huntley Inc. The welders worked for Indiana, Pa.-based Northeast Energy Management Inc., which was hired to fix leaks in the tank.

The well produced methane gas but also drew oil from the ground. The leaky tank was used to store that oil and had been emptied of all but a couple hundred gallons before the welders arrived.

The two companies haven't responded to requests for comment left Monday.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=11414519>

USA, PA, PITTSBURGH

AUGUST 17 2010.

FIRE MARSHAL SAYS FLAMMABLE OIL VAPORS CAUSED WELL BLAST

An explosion that killed two welders and caught a natural gas well on fire last month was triggered by flammable fumes from a relatively small amount of oil remaining in an aboveground storage tank, a fire marshal said.

Allegheny County Fire Marshal Robert Full said Monday he's "confident" that's what caused the July 23 explosion at a well near Pittsburgh owned by Huntley & Huntley Inc., of Monroeville. The men killed worked for Northeast Energy Management Inc., of Indiana, Pa., which Huntley & Huntley had hired to weld leaks in the tank.

The well produced methane gas but also drew oil out of the ground as part of that process, Full said. The leaky tank was used to store that oil and had been almost emptied before the welders arrived. The explosion damaged the gas well and caused it to catch fire, Full said.

The metal tank could hold about 200 barrels of oil, or roughly 8,400 gallons, and all but about 200 gallons had been removed. The valve used to empty the tank was about a foot off the ground, so the only oil in it was that below the valve, Full said.

Because it was hot that day, with temperatures in the 90s and a heat index near 100, the metal tank heated up, causing oil vapor to fill the tank, Full said. The welders, who were there to repair pinhole leaks in the tank, were killed when a spark ignited that vapor, causing the five-ton tank to rocket over 100-foot-tall trees and land in the woods about 220 feet away, chief deputy fire marshal Donald Brucker said.

Brucker said findings that the tank still had some oil in it might result in updated safety procedures for maintaining such tanks.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration routinely investigates workplace fatalities. Spokeswoman Lenore Uddyback-Fortson said the agency doesn't comment on preliminary findings and won't have anything to say until its investigation is finished. Regulations require OSHA to finish its investigation within six months of an incident, she said.

A specially trained crew was brought in from Texas to extinguish the blaze hours later, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is assessing the environmental impact. DEP spokeswoman Helen Humphreys said her agency isn't commenting on Full's findings because it doesn't deal with workplace safety issues.

626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

Officials with Huntley & Huntley and Northeast Energy did not immediately respond to requests for comment Monday.

Northeast Energy employees Andy Yosurak Jr., 56, of Creekside, and Kevin Henry, 46, of New Florence, were killed in the blast.

Full said two employees for another firm, Pennsylvania Production Services Inc., also of Indiana, Pa., were at the well moments before the explosion. Those workers were well-tenders, whose job was to take pressure readings at the well, but they weren't involved in the tank maintenance, Full said.

A Pennsylvania Production official declined to comment.

Huntley & Huntley has a clean OSHA record, but Northeast Management paid \$5,965 to settle seven serious violations after a September 2007 explosion and fire at a well near Sligo, in Clarion County, OSHA records show.

Workers at that natural gas well "were exposed to an unsafe air mixture environment resulting in an explosion and fire causing injuries," OSHA said.

In November 2008, the company was fined \$4,000 for a drilling rig fire in Charleroi, in Washington County. Nobody was hurt, but OSHA found workers used electrical wiring and equipment not approved for hazardous locations. http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/206/2010/august/16/2-killed-in-gas-well-explosion-in-western-pa-1.html

USA, MS, HATTIESBURG

AUGUST 19 2010.

TRAGIC ACCIDENT RELAYED TO SAFETY OFFICIAL

FATHER OF YOUTH KILLED AT OIL TANK SITE PUSHES PREVENTION

La Tonya Frelix

During the early morning hours of Oct. 31, 2009, Wade White and Devon Byrd probably were doing something they'd done several times before.

The two were outside near two oil-holding tanks that sat unsecured just a stone's throw from White's home in the Carnes community.

Only that morning something went terribly wrong, and both White, 18, and Byrd, 16, were killed after a tank exploded — throwing their bodies 50 feet from the tank.

Now Phillip White, Wade's father, hopes no one has to endure the same tragedy.

"I would love to see regulations passed so no family will have to go through the things these families are going through," he said. "We have to relive this for the rest of our lives."

On Wednesday, White walked with Rafael Moure-Eraso to the site where his son died and talked about the need for increased awareness and signage around oil tanks.

Moure-Eraso, chief executive officer of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, will testify at an informal hearing today before the state Senate about the need for additional fencing, signage and public education to keep an incident like this from occurring again.

"I realize also there are two sides to everything, but it's hard for me to see the other side because I know these people. They're my friends and I've known them a long time," Sen. Billy Hudson, R-Purvis, said. "In fairness, we don't need a formal hearing but this is a fact-finding meeting to let everybody say what they want to say."

In a report presented to the Forrest County Board of Supervisors in July, Steed stated there are 119 well sites in Forrest County. Only 15 were fenced and 38 had some sort of locked gate.

Still sitting at the open area near Phillip White's home is the now rusted tank that also was thrown 50 feet from its base after the explosion. Metal parts litter the ground around it. Between it and a newer oil storage tank sits two makeshift memorials for the teenagers.

The site remains open and easily accessible to anyone.

The Chemical Safety Board is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents.

Moure-Eraso visited several other oil well sites in Forrest County that he said didn't have adequate warning signs or fencing.

"At one site I was able to observe the venting of flammable hydrocarbons into the atmosphere," he said. "In my opinion, if individuals are required to have fences around their swimming pools (for safety), why shouldn't a company be responsible for establishing safeguards around tanks that could potentially explode?"

"We expect this level of protection around electrical substations which pose a serious electrocution risk to children and adults. Why not expect the same for hazardous oil and gas sites?"

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

What Hudson hopes to eventually push into law are requirements for oil companies to post signs, fencing and locks to prevent unauthorized entry.

Hudson said he agrees with the July recommendations Steed made to the board of supervisors.

His report calls for additional safety measures such as perimeter fencing, gates with locks, hazard signs and emergency contact information on the gate leading to the site.

Hudson added the Senate attorney also will attend today's meeting and they will take notes and write a bill that will have a chance of passing.

"This is not an easy process but we want to make sure we do it right," he said. "This happened in my district to some of my friends. I'm determined to do something to try and help to make sure it doesn't happen again."

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20100819/NEWS/100818048/Tragic-accident-relayed-to-safety-official>