

# 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/>

**USA, KS, SHAWNEE**

**FEBRUARY 23 2010.**

## **OVERFILLED TANKS LEAD TO GASOLINE SPILL AT SHAWNEE GAS STATION**

*Caroline Boyer*

An overfilled tank at a gas station Sunday lead to a gasoline spill in the southwestern corner of Shawnee.

The Shawnee Fire Department was called to the Shell in the 23000 block of 83rd Street shortly before 5 p.m. to investigate a gas odor. Fire crews discovered gasoline in the storm sewers and gas on top of the water in a ditch along Kansas Highway 7 to the north of the property.

Fire Marshall John Mattox said the gas was linked to a delivery the station had received at 4 a.m. that day. It originally was thought that 350 gallons more than what was ordered was pumped into the station's tanks; environmental officials now have determined it was likely about 20 gallons that escaped the tank. A pressure check of the tanks determined they were not harmed, so the gas may have leaked out through vents in the tanks, Mattox said.

The gas station and neighboring Subway were closed for two hours during the investigation. The gas station is now working with the gasoline distributor and Johnson County Environmental Department to properly clean up the gasoline spill.

Betsy Betros, pollution control director for the county environmental department, said a firm has been hired to clean up the spill, and special booms have been set in the drainage ditches to absorb the petroleum. The storm sewers also will have to be flushed, but final clean-up measures will have to wait for warmer temperatures.

<http://www.shawneedispatch.com/news/2010/feb/22/overfilled-tanks-lead-gasoline-spill-shawnee-gas-s/>

**USA, ORE, SALEM**

**FEBRUARY 24 2010.**

## **CHEMICAL TANK ON NORTH RIVER SPRINGS LEAK**

*Bruno Matarazzo Jr.*

An environmental cleanup company is removing chromium once used at the old Salem Suede facility on Flint Street along the North River, after a crack developed in a tank holding the chemical.

Crews from South Essex Sewerage found the leak yesterday coming from a corner of the concrete settling tank, which is 7 feet high, 60 feet long and 15 feet wide. The crack ran vertically along the tank, but only a clear liquid was coming out from a spot in the middle, Deputy fire Chief Gerry Giunta said.

The concentration of chromium in that clear liquid is not yet known, according to Giunta.

Chromium, which is a heavy metal used during the process of making leather, eventually sinks to the bottom to form a "sludge" in the tank. Giunta said the sludge was not leaking.

But crews don't know if the liquid leaked into the North River or was absorbed into the ground.

"There are so many variables, we don't know if (chromium) got in there," Giunta said.

Booms set in place in the North River, which runs along the old tannery, when the property was demolished last year are still in place, the deputy added. The holding tanks were not removed.

Developers plan to build an apartment complex at the site but are currently tied up in a court appeal.

South Essex Sewerage monitors the tank for any leaks into the water system because the city's sewage

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treatment plant cannot process chromium. The North River is the largest source of fresh water to Salem Sound, according to the Web site of Salem Sound Coastwatch.

The last time the site was checked was Feb. 18, and the level in the tank was 12 to 18 inches higher, Giunta said.

When the leak was discovered, fire officials notified the state Department of Environmental Protection, the Coast Guard and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The state, federal and local agencies spoke with the property owner, Alan Zion, who agreed to get someone at the property to begin pumping out the holding tanks.

The type of chromium in the tank is trivalent chromium (or chromium III), according to Giunta.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration Web site said there is no evidence that chromium III compounds causes cancer in humans.

The EPA Web site said chromium III has a "relatively low toxicity and would be a concern in drinking water only at very high levels of contamination, unlike chromium-6 and -0, which are more toxic and pose potential health risks to people."

Cleanup at the property will continue today.

[http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local\\_story\\_053235828.html](http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local_story_053235828.html)

## ITALY, MILAN

**FEBRUARY 25 2010.**

### **OIL SLICK THREATENS PO RIVER**

A large oil slick was drifting towards the River Po on Tuesday after unknown vandals punched a hole in a petrol tank at a north Italian refinery.

Authorities estimate that 15,000 cubic meters of petroleum leaked out of the container and into the nearby Lambro River, which flows into the Po some 50 km downstream.

The civil protection agency warned that the Lambro was running fast and full after a spate of wet weather and that the slick had covered more than half the distance in just over six hours.

Civil protection chief for the Lombardy region, Stefano Maullu, said regional authorities were mulling whether or not to declare a state of emergency.

"Right now we're doing all we can to limit the damage and stop the slick from getting any further," he said.

The spill was first reported early Tuesday morning at an abandoned oil refinery near Monza officials say is slated for reclamation.

Police and fire fighters were able to contain it fairly quickly, but not in time to prevent the Lambro from being contaminated.

Further investigation revealed that someone had punctured the oil tank on purpose, though police have not said if they have any suspects.

"The priority as far as I'm concerned is finding out who is responsible for this as soon as possible," said Paolo Grimoldi, a local resident and MP with the devolutionist Northern League.

"In the meantime, we've already begun thinking about how to get the situation under control and clean up this mess," he said.

In an attempt to contain the damage, environmental protection authorities raised flood gates along the river and said they would attempt to pump as much of the oil out as possible.

While no stranger to pollution, the Po River as well as its tributaries are used by thousands of farmers to water their crops.

The wetlands of the Po Delta are also a wildlife preserve and home to over a 1,000 plant species and 300 different types of birds.

<http://www.lifeinitaly.com/node/18923>

## UK. IMMINGHAM

**FEBRUARY 25 2010.**

### **FINES OVER TAXI FIRM FATAL BLAST**

A taxi firm owner and a petrol station have been fined after an explosion in Immingham in which two people died.

Sue Barker, 43, and Ann Mawer, 52, died in the blast at Fred's Taxis in 2007 when petrol on the premises ignited.

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Mrs Barker's husband John Barker, 46, of Washdyke Lane, Immingham, was fined £2,400 after he admitted two counts of breaching health and safety laws.

Immingham Service Station Ltd was fined £7,500 at Grimsby Crown Court for breaching its petroleum licence.

The explosion happened on Christmas Eve, 2007.

After an investigation by North East Lincolnshire Council, Mr Barker was charged with failing to protect his employees in relation to the storage of petrol and failing to protect the public.

Immingham Service Station Ltd, of Pelham Road, Immingham, admitted breaching a condition of its petroleum spirit licence by dispensing the fuel into an unapproved container.

North East Lincolnshire Council said Mr Barker had bought nearly 25 litres of petrol from the service station.

He then carried it into the taxi firm's office, which also contained a gas heater and electrical appliances.

The container broke and the petrol spilled and ignited, causing the explosion.

The petrol station company and Mr Barker were fined at Grimsby Crown Court.

The council's head of public protection, John Seale, said: "We hope that the conclusion of this case will once again serve as a reminder to the public and the retail industry of the importance of adhering to health and safety legislation."

Councillor Steve Beasant, the council's portfolio holder for community safety and public protection, said: "This was a very tragic case which should never have happened and I only hope that lessons have been learned."

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/england/humber/8533715.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/humber/8533715.stm)

## USA, TX, ABILENE

**FEBRUARY 25 2010.**

### **CRUDE OIL PRODUCT IS LEAKED; LITTLE CONTAMINATION IS SEEN**

*Jared Fields*

A chemical spill in Abilene leaked about 45 gallons of a crude oil product Wednesday afternoon, but officials believe contamination will be minimal.

The spill was reported coming from a business after 1 p.m. Wednesday near the intersection of Virgil Street and T & P Lane.

Lt. Greg Goettsch with the Abilene Fire Department said the cause of the leak was uncertain, but the chemical escaped a barrier due to recent snows.

"It escaped a diked area where they store chemicals such as this," Goettsch said. "The melting of the snow filled up their dike area and they probably didn't realize whether or not they had a leak and then it ran over the side and onto neighboring property."

The chemical, tuloene, is a clear, colorless liquid with a strong smell. It is considered a moderate health hazard and a severe fire hazard.

However, Goettsch said earthen dikes were established to prevent the chemical from reaching a nearby creek.

"Weather conditions and topography aided in containment of the vapors and there was no evacuation of area residents," Goettsch said.

The ground being saturated from recent precipitation should keep much of the chemical from sinking deeply into the soil, Goettsch said.

The chemical company and the city's Storm Water Services Division began the removal of the product and diverted surface water with the use of earthen dikes.

Goettsch said no injuries or chemical exposures were reported.

Other agencies responding included the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Abilene Police Department, city of Abilene Street Department and MetroCare Services.

<http://www.reporternews.com/news/2010/feb/24/crude-oil-product-is-leaked-little-contamination/>

## USA, MO, KANSAS CITY

**FEBRUARY 26 2010.**

### **EXPLOSION CAUSES MASSIVE FARM FIRE**

A machine shop exploded on a farm near Leavenworth this afternoon. About 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel, 1,000 gallons of unleaded fuel and some oxygen tanks caught fire about 4 p.m. inside a building on April Valley Farms, a large

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farming operation at 18432 Mount Olivet Road, according to Chuck Magaha, Leavenworth County emergency management director. The building, which is used to maintain tractors and combines, was a total loss. Almost a dozen tanker trucks responded because the closest water source was about four miles away, Magaha said. Firefighters fought to control the fire for two hours. A hay barn and a building that housed pigs also caught fire, Magaha said, but they sustained only minor damage. One of the farm workers suffered minor smoke inhalation while freeing pigs from a shed on the side of the machine shop. Some of those pigs were injured, according to one of the farm's owners. Officials think a natural gas leak caused the blaze. Pipes that transport natural gas into the machine building leaked into a furnace.

[http://www.kansascity.com/2010/02/24/1771564\\_explosion-causes-massive-farm.html](http://www.kansascity.com/2010/02/24/1771564_explosion-causes-massive-farm.html)

### USA, ME, SOUTH BERWICK

MARCH 1 2010.

#### SOUTH BERWICK HOME OIL-TO BIO-DIESEL SYSTEM BLAZE TRICKY FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Jason Claffey

Had the operator of a homemade frying oil-to-biodiesel fuel conversion system gone to the fire department beforehand for safety tips, Wednesday morning's fire that destroyed three structures at his property on Boyd's Corner Road could have been prevented or mitigated, according to the town's fire chief.

There are no codes that govern such homemade systems, which have gained popularity among environmentalists in recent years. Biodiesel fuel, which can be used to power cars, burns cleaner than gas. The only drawback is a french fry smell.

Wednesday morning's fire smelled more like rotten french fries, said Fire Chief George Gorman.

The fire ignited in a detached garage that homeowner Richard Nowak used to make biodiesel for himself and friends. It burned down the garage, a shed, and a tent-like structure.

Such fires have become more common across the country in recent years, according to Bob Benedetti, a flammable liquids engineer for the Massachusetts-based National Fire Protection Association.

"The main issue appears to be that you are handling a flammable liquid that is easily ignited, in a quantity that really isn't appropriate for a residence," he said. "There definitely needs to be some control and limits."

Establishing those controls and limits on homemade operations could be difficult, according to John Raymond, assistant director of the New Hampshire Fire Marshal's office.

"It's very hard to regulate something in somebody's home," he said.

Larger conversion operations, however, like the University of New Hampshire's EcoLine, are regulated, Raymond said.

The New Hampshire Fire Marshal's office is notified of only a handful of home biodiesel operation fires a year, and has never received a report of a deadly one, Raymond said.

A call to the Maine Fire Marshal's office was not returned Thursday.

Wednesday's fire on Nowak's property caused no injuries.

Gorman said Nowak didn't have a proper containment unit, like a concrete barricade, protecting the biodiesel setup. He also never went to the fire department for guidance, Gorman said.

Nowak didn't return a phone message Thursday.

Gorman said that if the fire department had at least known there was a biodiesel conversion system there, firefighters could have attacked the fire more effectively.

"We went in there blind," Gorman said, adding the frying oil fed the flames.

Firefighters thought they were responding to a traditional garage fire and attacked it with water hoses. Water can actually make oil fires worse, Gorman said. When the firefighters saw drums containing hundreds of gallons of frying oil, they used a special foam to combat the flames.

Crews from the state Department of Environmental Protection also cleaned up the scene, as the property was located next to a swamp and there was a danger of contamination.

Gorman said the cause of the fire likely won't be determined because the garage was so badly burned. He said there was no evidence of methanol — a highly flammable liquid commonly used to convert frying oil into biodiesel.

Gorman said there should be codes in place for such home setups. Short of that, he advised anyone who has or is interested into home biodiesel conversion to consult their local fire departments. An inspection or safety tips can prevent fires like the one that erupted Wednesday, Gorman said.

[http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100226/GJNEWS\\_01/702269874/-1/FosNEWS](http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100226/GJNEWS_01/702269874/-1/FosNEWS)

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**USA, NM, ARTESIA**

**MARCH 3 2010.**

## **2 EMPLOYEES KILLED IN NEW MEXICO OIL REFINERY FIRE**

Authorities say two employees at an oil refinery in southeast New Mexico are dead and two others critically injured after a storage tank exploded into flames. Artesia police say warning sirens sounded just before 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Navajo Refinery. Emergency crews arrived and were able to contain the fire a short time later. Authorities say two employees, both from Texas, died from injuries sustained in the explosion. Two other workers were airlifted to the Lubbock Hospital in Texas, where authorities say they remain in critical condition. No names were released. Authorities say the explosion's cause remains unclear. Calls to the Dallas-based company that owns the refinery were not immediately returned Tuesday night.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5juOkIdnurWtyN3ZDe73vk99FjwDQD9E6UB3G0>

**USA, NM, ARTESIA**

**MARCH 8 2010.**

## **LAWSUIT DETAILS SOURCE OF NEW MEXICO OIL REFINERY EXPLOSION**

### **SURVIVOR: WELDING ISSUE, SAFETY FAILURE CAUSE OF BLAST, FIRE**

*Tim Korte*

A survivor of a deadly explosion and fire at a southeastern New Mexico oil refinery has filed a lawsuit, saying the cause was a welding accident, and the plant operator failed to follow safety procedures.

Juan Carlos Hermosillo, also known as Elias Aleman, remained hospitalized Thursday with injuries from Tuesday's explosion at Navajo Refinery in Artesia, N.M.

The 24-year-old Hobbs man suffered multiple fractures to both arms, a broken hip and back, and facial cuts. He said the accident happened at a large tank partially filled with tar. He is seeking unspecified damages to be determined in a jury trial.

Navajo Refinery and its parent company, Dallas-based Holly Corp., didn't immediately return telephone messages seeking comment. Another defendant, Houston-based Total Safety Inc., declined to respond to the allegations in the lawsuit.

The 24-hour refinery, located at the intersection of two busy highways in Artesia, turns oil into diesel, gasoline, jet fuel and other products, including asphalt. The plant has the capacity to process about 95,000 barrels of oil a day, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

According to the lawsuit, Navajo Refining failed to follow reasonable safety procedures and was negligent in authorizing work that led to the accident. The lawsuit also says Total Safety's representatives failed to inspect the site before the explosion.

Aleman's attorney, Noe Valles, said the worker had secured authorization permits earlier in the day to perform welding work on a 40-foot tank that is used to produce asphalt.

"As he returned to welding after lunch, Mr. Aleman ignited his welder, and the tank exploded," Valles said.

Inspectors from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration were investigating.

Artesia police said the blast killed two men, with one body recovered at the site Tuesday. A second man was missing and presumed dead, but police Sgt. Lindell Smith couldn't say if that body had been recovered because police no longer were investigating.

"It has to do with industrial-type stuff, and we investigate crimes," Smith said.

The dead men were identified as Natividad Andajo of Odessa, Texas, and Victor Villa of Midland, Texas.

Aleman's complaint was filed in state District Court in Santa Fe.

Valles said details of the explosion were provided by Aleman, who is married with a 2-year-old daughter. The couple is expecting another child.

Asked why Aleman uses two names, Valles said, "because they have some legal implications." He declined to elaborate.

[http://durangoherald.com/sections/News/Business/2010/03/07/Lawsuit\\_details\\_source\\_of\\_New\\_Mexico\\_oil\\_refinery\\_explosion/](http://durangoherald.com/sections/News/Business/2010/03/07/Lawsuit_details_source_of_New_Mexico_oil_refinery_explosion/)

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## **USA, DE, WILMINGTON**

**MARCH 9 2010.**

### **MAN CUTTING FUEL TANK INJURED BY EXPLOSION**

A 27-year-old Claymont man was injured this morning in an industrial accident in Wilmington, city police said. The incident happened about 8:40 a.m. as the contractor was dismantling an above-ground fuel tank at Graydon Hurst & Son, 2901 Baynard Blvd. He began to cut into the tank with a saw when residual fuel in the tank caused a small explosion, said Master Sgt. Steven Barnes. The blast knocked the man to the ground and he suffered second- and third-degree burns over the front of his body. He was taken to Crozer Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pa., where he was in stable condition, Barnes said. The Wilmington Fire Department and the state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control also responded to the scene. Barnes said the investigation is continuing.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100308/NEWS/100308037/Man+cutting+fuel+tank+injured+by+explosion>

## **USA, OH, COLUMBUS**

**MARCH 11 2010.**

### **STORAGE TANK AT CAPITAL UNIVERSITY BLAMED FOR ALUM CREEK OIL SPILL**

*Spencer Hunt*

An underground storage tank at Capital University that had malfunctioned was the source of an oil spill that fouled Alum Creek on Valentine's Day, according to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. At least 200 gallons of fuel oil spilled into Alum Creek from a storm sewer at Livingston Avenue on Feb. 14. The spill prompted a nine-day cleanup funded by the EPA, said Erin Strouse, an agency spokeswoman. Strouse said one of two tanks used to store backup fuel for a university power plant boiler malfunctioned. That caused the other tank to overflow into the storm sewer. Although the agency's final report on the incident is not complete, Strouse said, Capital University likely will be tapped to pay the \$29,000 bill. Nichole Johnson, Capital University's spokeswoman, said the school is conducting its own investigation.

[http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2010/03/09/storage-tank-at-capital-university-blamed-for-alum-creekspill.html?sid=101](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/03/09/storage-tank-at-capital-university-blamed-for-alum-creekspill.html?sid=101)

## **USA, TN, MIDDLEBROOK**

**MARCH 13 2010.**

### **NO INJURIES IN PETROLEUM TANK FIRE**

The Knoxville Fire Department extinguished a fire Thursday in a large petroleum tank in the 5200 block of Middlebrook Pike.

Westbound traffic in the immediate vicinity was temporarily rerouted following the 10:10 a.m. call. The fire was under control by about 11:15, KFD Capt. D.J. Corcoran said.

Corcoran said the tank at Enterprise Oil Co. is slightly larger than a tank car tank. Though its capacity is 16,000 gallons, it contained only about 3,000 gallons of recycled motor oil, he said.

Two engine companies, a ladder truck and a hazardous materials unit responded. Firefighters contained the blaze with a foam-based retardant as well as water. There were no injuries.

The fire started during a process of cleaning the oil, but the exact cause has yet to be determined. Corcoran said there was no danger of the fire spreading or of an explosion.

"Had this been gasoline instead of oil, it could have been a different story, because gasoline has such a higher flash point," he said. "But oil is not as difficult to deal with."

Corcoran said the company recycles old motor oil, and the cleaning process includes heating it up to about 170 degrees.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/mar/11/no-injuries-in-petroleum-tank-fire/>

## **AFGHANISTAN, KABUL**

**MARCH 18 2010.**

### **AFGHAN GAS TANK EXPLOSIONS KILLS 32**

*Mohammad Hamed*

At least 32 Afghan travellers were killed when several gas tanks in a small truck exploded in a mountain pass in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday, a provincial official said. The passengers were travelling in Salang, a treacherous alpine pass connecting northern Afghanistan to the capital Kabul, when the gas tanks started exploding, General

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Mohammad Rajab, head of the Kabul-Salang highway, told Reuters. "Most of the victims are women and children burnt to death from a very unfortunate passenger bus close to the truck carrying gas tanks," he said. He said at least six other people were wounded and several cars were torched. There was no indication the explosions were caused deliberately. Last month, nearly 170 people lost their lives and hundreds were injured when avalanches and snow storms hit Afghan travellers in the same mountain pass. The highway through the Salang was built by Russian engineers in the 1960s. Its 2.6 kilometre (1.6 mile) tunnel at nearly 3,400 metres (11,000 feet) altitude provides the main overland route through the Hindu Kush mountain range connecting the Indian subcontinent to Central Asia.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFTRE62G15H20100317>

## **USA, TX, FORT WAYNE**

**MARCH 19 2010.**

### **HUNTINGTON REFINERY CONTAINS FUEL-TANK SPILL**

*Michael Zennie*

About 230,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled from an overflowing holding tank at a Huntington refinery early Thursday. The fuel leaked for nearly three hours after a worker mistakenly left a pump on at Gladieux Trading and Marketing Co., Vice President Rasik Raval said. The fuel spilled into a containment area, and environmental inspectors have not found any places where it leaked into surrounding property or leached into groundwater, Huntington Fire Chief Matt Armstrong said. The Huntington Fire Department asked several crews to stand by as Gladieux employees and contractors cleaned up the diesel fuel. An employee was transferring fuel from one holding tank to another and forgot to turn the pump off about 3:30 a.m., Raval said. Control room workers didn't notice the error until shortly after 6 a.m. Gladieux plans to institute better controls that will promptly alert workers before a tank overflows. Employees at the facility, at 4757 E. U.S. 24, will also have greater supervision and more training, Raval said. Armstrong said the company and firefighters were prepared. Cleanup was expected to wrap up this morning. The fire department had trained at the refinery last fall in the event of just such an accident, he said.

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20100312/LOCAL07/303129954/-1/LOCAL11>

## **USA, NY, ONONDAGA TWP**

**MARCH 19 2010.**

### **INVESTIGATORS SEEK CAUSE OF FUEL OIL TANK FIRE AT BEAK & SKIFF IN ONONDAGA**

*John Mariani*

Investigators are seeking the cause of a fire at Beak & Skiff Apple Farms that caused a fuel oil storage tank to explode early today, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office said. Emergency officials were called about 12:43 a.m. to the scene about a quarter-mile from Hitchings Road, said Sgt. Charles Ames, speaking for the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office. There they found a 5,000-gallon tank about one-quarter full of fuel oil sludge on fire, he said. South Onondaga firefighters were able to keep the blaze from reaching a 1,500-gallon tanker truck next to it, Ames said. He said he did not believe anyone was hurt battling the fire.

[http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2010/03/investigators\\_seek\\_cause\\_of\\_fu.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2010/03/investigators_seek_cause_of_fu.html)

## **USA, TX, DECATUR**

**MARCH 20 2010.**

### **OIL TANKS EXPLODE IN WISE CO., 2 WORKERS INJURED**

Authorities in Wise County confirm there has been an explosion at an oil tank farm, just south of Decatur. The blast occurred around 11:30 a.m. According to the Wise County Sheriff's Department, one tank exploded and is burning, a second tank had its top blown off and a third tank has been knocked over. At least two people were injured. One man has first-degree burns on his arms and was taken by air ambulance to Parkland Hospital. A second injured person had minor burns and was taken to Wise Regional Hospital in Decatur. The two people injured are oil tank workers, who allegedly were in the process of making valve repairs with welding gear. The explosion was touched off when they lit their welding torch. The oil tank farm is owned by Oklahoma City-headquartered Devon Energy. CBS 11 News contacted the company for comment and was told that media inquiries were being deferred to emergency responders and that it "would be premature to speak" at this time. Smoke and flames from the explosion could be seen for miles away.

<http://cbs11tv.com/local/oil.tank.farm.2.1575380.html>

# Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

**USA, PA, PITTSBURGH**

**MARCH 23 2010.**

## **ANOTHER LEAK REPORTED AT FLOREFFE TANK FARM**

For the second time in a month, a leak has occurred at the Marathon Petroleum Co.'s Floreffe tank farm in Jefferson Hills, prompting the state Department of Environmental Protection to begin a review of operations there.

Monday's leak of 4,055 gallons of an oil-based asphalt emulsion was contained in an on-site drainage channel and prevented from entering the Monongahela River by sediment in the channel, according to the DEP.

The company deployed a series of booms on Lobbs Run, which runs along the tank property and enters the Mon about 24.5 miles upriver from Pittsburgh, but no asphalt product entered the creek, according to Robert Calmus, a Marathon spokesman.

On Feb. 22, 660 gallons of a hydrochloric acid solution leaked from a 6,000 gallon storage tank in the Marathon tank farm and into the ground under a secondary containment area.

None of the spilled material flowed into the Monongahela River from that leak either and no one was injured, but Katherine Gresh, a DEP spokeswoman, said the two incidents happening in such a short period of time have raised concerns.

"We're treating this as something that needs further evaluation," Ms. Gresh said. "We'll do a walk-through of the plant and operation in the near future. Once we determine the cause, we'll decide if an enforcement action is appropriate."

Mr. Calmus said Marathon is also conducting its own investigation. He said Monday's leak from a valve on a 58,800-gallon mixing tank was discovered by Marathon employees around 5 a.m., and employees immediately began transferring the asphalt mixture into other holding tanks. By 8 a.m. the first of three vacuum trucks had begun collecting the material from the ground and the drainage channel.

The spilled material, a combination of asphalt, oil, water and a small amount of hydrochloric acid, looks like black tar and is used as a kind of glue in pothole repairs to make the asphalt stick to the bottom of the hole.

The Marathon facility was formerly owned by Ashland Oil and under that prior owner was the site of one of the biggest inland water pollution disasters in history. In January 1988, a tank holding 3.5 million gallons of diesel oil collapsed, spilling 700,000 gallons into the Monongahela River. Ashland was fined \$2.25 million.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10082/1044875-55.stm>

**USA, VA, COLONIAL BEACH**

**MARCH 25 2010.**

## **MAN INJURED WHEN GASOLINE STORAGE TANK EXPLODES DURING EXCAVATION**

*Frank Delano*

An owner of a Colonial Beach coffee shop was killed yesterday when an underground gasoline tank that he was trying to excavate exploded and hurled him across a street.

Jeff Malecha died at MCV Hospital in Richmond, where he was flown by helicopter after the 1:30 p.m. explosion, said Jim Jett, chief of the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

According to Jett, Malecha and a helper were using a front-end loader and a tracked excavator to remove two 6,000-gallon underground gasoline-storage tanks buried near the coffee shop's front door. The tanks were apparently installed when the property was an Esso gas station years ago.

Jett said that the men had pumped out the liquid gasoline that remained in the tanks, but the gasoline vapors that remained in one tank were somehow ignited while Malecha worked on top of it in the excavation.

Colonial Beach Police Chief Chris Hawkins said the explosion blew the tank halfway out of the hole and catapulted Malecha 100 feet across North Irving Avenue into the backyard of a house.

Donna Speiser, who lives across the street from the coffee shop, said she witnessed the incident.

"I was out in the yard getting ready to plant potatoes," she said, "and all of sudden a fireball went up in the air and the guy went flying."

Some patrons were in the coffee shop at the time of the blast, but authorities reported no other injuries. The shop itself did not appear to have been damaged.

The Fire Department sprayed foam in the tanks and on the excavated area to reduce the risk of another explosion, said Jett. Agents of the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry today will begin an investigation of the incident, he said.

The popular coffee shop is owned by Malecha and his wife, Julie.

"The Espresso Station has done wonders for the town. It was one of the most positive things that has



## Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

happened here in recent years. It was my office," said the Rev. Ronald S. Okrasinski, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. The church is located across Washington Avenue from the coffee shop.

Okrasinski said Malecha was excavating the tanks to install a patio for outdoor dining.

<http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2010/032010/03242010/536489>