

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

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

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PORT STANVAC

AUGUST 16 2013.

REDUNDANT FUEL TANK CATCHES FIRE AT DISUSED MOBIL OIL REFINERY AT LONSDALE

Sam Kelton

More than 20 firefighters have contained a blaze in an old fuel tank at the disused Mobil oil refinery at Lonsdale.

Reports of the fire came in shortly after 11am.

The fire occurred in a tank that was being demolished as part of the works to demolish the former Adelaide Refinery's infrastructure, which has been underway since August 2012.

The fire was threatening other fuel tanks nearby - and fire crews focused their attention on preventing the fire from spreading.

Smoke, which was heavily present in the area has now cleared.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/national-news/south-australia/redundant-fuel-tank-catches-fire-at-disused-mobil-oil-refinery-at-lonsdale/story-fnij5yv4-1226698402125#ixzz2fSZtyYET>

USA, WEST VIRGINIA, CHARLESTON

AUGUST 17 2013.

COMPANY CITED IN FATAL TAYLOR GAS WELL EXPLOSION

Ken Ward Jr.

Federal regulators have cited the employer of a worker who was killed earlier this year in explosion at a natural gas production site in Taylor County, records show.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued one serious citation to Central Environmental Services LLC following its investigation of the Feb. 15 death at a site near Flemington.

Brian Hopkins, of Little Hocking, Ohio, died in the explosion, which occurred at an EQT Corp. well site, according to records from OSHA and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

DEP officials said at the time that the incident appeared to have occurred while Hopkins was attempting to transfer briny wastewater from an onsite tank to a truck that would haul the material to a disposal site. Central Environmental, a contractor for EQT, employed Hopkins.

OSHA issued a serious citation that alleged Central Environmental had employees using headlamps that were not "inherently safe" to prevent sparks, fires or explosions.

The citation included a proposed fine of \$4,500. An official from Central Environmental did not immediately return a call seeking comment on the OSHA citation.

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OSHA lists violations as serious if "there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known.

Records indicate that officials could not conclusively determine the source of the ignition that led to the explosion.

But OSHA said Central Environmental used improper headlamps "for illumination during hours of darkness when checking brine tank levels." Nearby residents said the explosion that killed Hopkins occurred about 6:45 p.m. DEP inspectors arrived onsite about 8:45 a.m., records show.

OSHA also issued two "other than serious" citations that involved not having proper employee training on the use of fire extinguishers and having an electrical receptacle without a faceplate. Those carried no proposed penalties.

EQT calls itself "a major player in the Appalachian Basin," with more than 3.5 million acres of drilling rights in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

Parkersburg-based Central Environmental says it is "a leading provider of a comprehensive suite of environmental, transportation, energy and industrial services," including the management of gas industry wastewater."

Between 2003 and 2011, the most recent figures available, at least 17 workers in West Virginia's oil and gas industry were killed on the job, according to an analysis by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201308160106>

BULGARIA, VARNA, EZEROVO

AUGUST 19 2013.

TWO VICTIMS BURNED BY EZEROVO GAS TANK EXPLOSION STILL IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Two of the victims who suffered serious burns in the Ezerovo gas tank explosion remain in intensive care, Director of the Military Medical Academy Stoyan Tonev told Nova TV.

Another seven people are also still hospitalized, but are not in intensive care.

The man who suffered 90% burns is in very severe condition. A prognosis in his case would be very difficult, Tonev said adding that the other seven injured in the fire are already recovering. Doctors have already begun with their plastic operations.

A total of 11 people, including seven firefighters, were injured in a fire and consequent explosions on Wednesday in a train complex of propane-filled gas cisterns in the village of Ezerovo.

The fire, which erupted at around 4 pm on Wednesday was extinguished at 11.30 pm.

No locals were injured and the accident posed no serious threat to the environment, official sources reported.

http://www.standartnews.com/english/read/two_victims_burned_by_ezerovo_gas_tank_explosion_still_in_critical_condition-326.html

USA, CA, CAROUSEL

AUGUST 19 2013.

CONTAMINATED SOIL TESTING AT CAROUSEL TRACT IN CARSON CONFIRMS RESIDENTS' HEALTH AND SAFETY FEARS

Sandy Mazza

Until recently, Barbara Post struggled to get people to react with urgency to her claims that Shell Oil's contamination of her Carson neighborhood caused her neighbor's 132 tumors, her daughter's flesh-eating disease and her deceased husband's irregular heartbeat.

After all, state health officials have repeatedly said the extensive contamination found underneath the 50-acre Carousel tract does not pose an immediate threat to human health. Constant exposure to the air may result in a slightly increased cancer risk over dozens of years, experts said. But there was no apparent rush to get people out of the area when large deposits of waste oil were found there about five

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years ago.

The petroleum was left from a Shell Oil tank farm that operated on the site from the 1920s to 1966, when the Carousel tract was developed. When the tank farm was demolished, concrete oil reservoirs were crushed and left in the ground along with untold amounts of waste petroleum.

On Monday night, the Carson City Council is expected to approve a city resolution declaring a "condition of emergency within the Carousel tract requiring immediate and comprehensive action by appropriate state regulatory agencies and the attorney general."

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is in charge of the cleanup, which the agency ordered Shell to do two years ago. Since the order, Shell has undergone extensive testing to uncover how much contamination exists and to develop a work plan to clean the soil to a depth of 10 feet. City officials and residents, however, want them to clean the soil to at least 40 feet below ground, because oil has been found as far down as the groundwater.

On July 16, the city officially joined Carousel tract residents in filing a complaint against Shell in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleging the company created a public nuisance that causes injury. A report released last month by investigators working with Girardi and Keese, the law firm representing residents and the city in court, found dangerous levels of carcinogenic benzene and explosive methane close to homes.

"These dangerous conditions are spread widely across the site, and the degree of exposure to these chemicals is highly variable and extremely difficult to predict," according to a report by environmental consulting firm L. Everett & Associates.

The report cites a flammable methane gas pocket found in the neighborhood with a concentration of 59.7 percent by volume, which far exceeds the "lower explosive limit" of 5 percent. Also, benzene levels were found in concentrations much higher than that accepted by the California Human Health Screening Level.

These findings prompted the council to demand an immediate solution from state regulatory agencies. As it is, Shell is still developing a final work plan, which must be approved by the regional water board before cleaning can begin. The process of developing and approving the plan is expected to at least take the rest of the year.

If the council approves its resolution, which it asked staff members to prepare last week, the city will ask Gov. Jerry Brown and the State Water Resources Control Board to help "address and mitigate the emergency conditions at the Carousel tract."

The city's resolution also asks the executive officer of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to "immediately order and require Shell to fully comply" with the cleanup order.

Technical experts contracted by Shell to review environmental hazards and the cleanup process in Carousel tract were not available for comment Friday, but a Shell spokesman said the figures cited by L. Everett & Associates do not represent a threat.

"Based on testing analysis, the water board, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the Department of Public Health have all indicated that there's no immediate threat," Shell spokesman Alan Caldwell said. "We have to leave it in the hands of the regulatory agencies. They have the final say, not Shell."

Caldwell said the test that found a pocket of methane at 59.7 percent volume and excessively high benzene levels was in the street, rather than under a home, and from a "one-time sample" that does not represent the average levels of contaminants found. Also, the "zone of flammability" for methane is a volume from 5 to 15 percent, which means the methane found in the Carousel tract was not flammable, Caldwell said.

But for residents like Post, there's no question dangers lurk beneath homes. They have been told not to garden or dig in the soil for any reason. Occasionally, a dug-up hole in the neighborhood reveals smelly, thick black goo.

"This place is a ticking time bomb, with all the methane moving around underneath us," Post said. "This place could go up. I'm one of the fortunate ones, I haven't had anything wrong with me yet, but it's all

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around me."

The city's decision to join the residents in demanding an immediate resolution is something Post has wanted for years.

"It's just not the same listening to the Barbara Posts of the world as it is the world-renowned experts," she said. "It gives some credibility to what we've been living through for the last five years." <http://www.dailybreeze.com/general-news/20130727/contaminated-soil-testing-at-carousel-tract-in-carson-confirms-residents-health-and-safety-fears>

USA, PA, PYMATUNING TWP

AUGUST 20 2013.

DEADLY EXPLOSION BEING INVESTIGATED IN PYMATUNING TWP.

Danielle Cotterman

A man killed by a diesel fuel tank explosion on Monday has been identified.

The Mercer County Coroner confirmed that Brian Krauss, 37, of New Castle, died as a result of head and pelvis injuries.

According to the report, Krauss was thrown from an elevated walkway to the ground following the explosion.

The death has been ruled accidental.

Krauss was killed while working on a tank at Brownies Oil Company in the Reynolds Industrial Park.

The tank, which held 10,000 gallons of off-road diesel fuel, caught fire and exploded.

Witnesses say the tank flew into the air, across Crestview Drive, barely missing a house.

"I looked out the front window and all I saw was the black smoke. I didn't realize that was in my yard at that time," says Mary Kress, pointing to the 10,000 gallon fuel tank in her yard.

"I called 911 and went flying out there because she was saying what's going on, and I stopped dead when I saw the tank sitting there because that's like 30 feet from my kitchen," says Kress.

Crews were called to the business, which is a division of Reed Oil Company, at 5:30 p.m.

"When your called out you just have all kinds of bad ideas of what could have happened," says Baugher. "Just glad it wasn't as bad as it could have been, but it was bad enough."

The Department of Environmental Protection worked with the company to clean up after the explosion.

The cause of the explosion is still being investigated.

<http://www.wfmj.com/story/23178297/deadly-explosion-being-investigated-in-transfer-pennsylvania>

USA, VA, RANOAK CO

AUGUST 20 2013.

PROBLEM AT MARATHON OIL STORAGE FACILITY PROMPTS EVACUATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY

Neil Harvey and Zach Crizer

Fire and rescue crews spent Monday afternoon and evening monitoring a Marathon oil storage facility in Roanoke County after an employee noticed a spark inside a fuel tank.

Roanoke County Fire & Rescue spokeswoman Jennifer Conley Sexton said crews remained at the facility, in the 5200 block of Terminal Road, deep into Monday night. Along with the Roanoke Fire-EMS hazardous materials team, the emergency personnel worked to alleviate concerns about static electricity building up inside the fuel tank.

The crews were on scene by 2:45 p.m., and evacuated some buildings in the vicinity of the facility, which sits just off Starkey Road.

As of 9 p.m., she said crews had set up a command post Monday night and were looking for ways to mitigate the risk of moving fuel from the tank into another tank. She said Marathon Petroleum Corporation workers were implementing a plan that will "bond and ground" the fuel tank to eliminate any static electricity and prevent a fire.

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She said once that process is completed, the company can perform an inspection of the tank and return to normal operation.

As of Monday evening, the incident had not affected scheduling for Country Bear Day School in the 5200 block of Starkey Road, which is about 400 feet from the Marathon facility.

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/2161294-12/problem-at-oil-storage-facility-prompts-evacuations-in.html>

BULGARIA, VARNA

AUGUST 22 2013.

BLEVE INJURES 11 INCLUDING 7 FIRE-FIGHTERS

The head of the fire-fighting department of the Bulgarian Interior Ministry, Nikolai Nikolov, said on August 15 that carelessness was the most likely cause of the gas tanker wagon explosion near the Bulgarian city of Varna.

Nikolov said that the most likely cause of the explosion was a gas leak, itself the result of a ruptured hose during the process of moving the gas from the tanker wagon into a tanker lorry. Investigators were still trying to establish what actually happened, he told reporters, as quoted by Focus news agency.

Eleven people were injured in the blast, which happened at the Ezerovo railway station, about 10km west of Varna, and the fire that followed the explosion. The number included seven fire-fighters; the rest were bystanders who were working in a nearby warehouse. Two people were still in intensive care, including one man with extensive burns that covered 90 per cent of his body.

Fire fighters from Varna's thermal power plant were the first on the scene, followed by teams from the Varna fire department and the Varna Airport, Nikolov said. The fire was finally extinguished late on August 14.

<http://sofiaglobe.com/2013/08/15/carelessness-blamed-for-blast-near-varna-official/>

NEPAL, NARAYANI, PARSA, BIRGUN

AUGUST 25 2013.

FUEL TANK EXPLOSION KILLS TWO IN BARA

Ravi Dahal

According to police, Naresh Paswan of Chhatapipara and Kanhaiya Sah of Bhatauda died after fuel tanks exploded and caught fire while they were trying to fix a pipe onto a tank at about 9:30am. "The workers were welding a pipe onto the furnace tank, which exploded along with another one and caught fire. Both the tanks were filled with acid," said Bishal Sharma, owner of the industry, adding the repair work was going on for the past three days.

"The contractors must empty the fuel tank before any work is started. They failed to follow the routine procedure and the acid-filled tanks exploded," said the kin of the deceased, hinting at negligence on the part of contractor Krishna Sapkota.

Following the incident, locals along with the army and police personnel took the fire under control about two hours later.

Meanwhile, police have detained the industry's administrative in-charge Dharmendra Karna and contractor Sapkota's representative Sanjaya Das. They have been kept in the custody of Area Police Office, Jitpur. Police said they would take initiatives to get compensation for victims' kin after holding a meeting with the industry management and the contractor.

Joint Trade Union Coordination Committee Parsa-Bara-Rautahat Coordinator Suresh Gupta described the incident as unfortunate and assured that his organisation would do the needful to provide compensation to the victims' families after the investigation was completed.

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Fuel+tank+explosion+kills+two+in+Bara+&NewsID=388523&a=3>

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USA, WA, CLE ELUM

AUGUST 29 2013.

GAS STATION REPLACES STORAGE TANK, DIRT

Zach Smith

The 76 gas station on the east end of Cle Elum is installing a new gas tank at its facility.

This renovation comes more than a year after approximately 550 gallons of gasoline spilled on the property.

Ben Joshi, owner of the Short Stop 76 station, said crews removed three of the station's old tanks and will be replacing them with a new 20,000-gallon storage tank. The crews also are removing and replacing the gasoline-contaminated soil surrounding the tank.

Joshi said because the extent of the soil's contamination is unknown, he does not have a timeline for the completion of the project.

"I don't know how long construction will take," Joshi said. "We don't know how far it is contaminated."

In July 2012 a truck driver from R.E. Powell Distributing Co. of Grandview filled the wrong tank with gasoline, causing the spill, according to the state Department of Ecology. Department spokeswoman Joye Redfield-Wilder told the Daily Record after the incident that the trucking company would be held accountable for cleaning up the spill.

"The spill on the ground is the responsibility of the trucking company," Redfield-Wilder said last week. "When you have a spill, you're responsible for the clean-up. We have some pretty strong oil spill laws."

Redfield-Wilder said there has been other spills at this particular site — including an 84,000-gallon spill in 1994 — which led the Department of Ecology in 1996 to include the station on its cleanup list. She also said, however, that the clean-up currently taking place was not mandated by the Department of Ecology.

"We didn't issue a formal order," Redfield-Wilder said. "It's always a good idea to get the site cleaned up. It's more valuable cleaned up."

Redfield-Wilder said the process of replacing contaminated soil is a standard cleaning practice at the site of gasoline spills. She said when gasoline spills onto the ground, it is possible for it to leak into the ground water, which is why the dirt needs to be removed.

"By digging up that contaminated dirt, they are removing the source of contamination," Redfield-Wilder said. "If they clean up the soil that will prevent continual transfer to the ground water."

http://www.dailyrecordnews.com/members/gas-station-replaces-storage-tank-dirt/article_5e966d78-1008-11e3-a788-0019bb2963f4.html

USA, N.Y, FORT EDWARD

AUGUST 30 2013.

GASOLINE LEAK DAMAGE SETTLEMENT YET TO BE REACHED

REMAINING REPAIRS TOP \$1 MILLION, OFFICIALS TOLD

Roughly 20 months after a gas leak at a Cumberland Farms that led to numerous underground, infrastructure-damaging explosions, a settlement for funding the repairs has yet to be reached.

"We're hoping they're willing to pay up and do the repairs," Sewer District Superintendent Joe Brilling told the Washington County Board of Supervisors Public Works Committee this week. "We haven't had service issues, but we have video evidence that there is damage to the system."

Cumberland Farms paid for repairs to infrastructure on Satterlee Lane in the village and at the Washington County wastewater treatment plant, with a \$330,000 payment last year. But talks about further compensation for damage slowed after that.

The gas leak occurred the night of Dec. 27, 2011, when a customer at the Cumberland Farms on Main Street in Hudson Falls backed into a gas pump and damaged it. More than 1,000 gallons of gasoline

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ran downhill to Fort Edward, and the ensuing underground explosions caused manhole covers to blow off, damaged streets, blew out windows and caused residents to be evacuated.

Satterlee Lane in the village was the site of some of the worst explosions, sustaining about \$200,000 worth of damage alone, officials said.

Cost estimates for the remaining repairs to the system top \$1 million, Brilling told Washington County supervisors this week.

Talks are again moving forward, with attorneys for both sides and Cumberland Farms' insurance carriers involved.

A finalized figure that both sides agree upon will be dependent on the scope of work for the repair project, said attorney Matt Fuller, who represents the village of Fort Edward and the sewer district.

There has been correspondence back and forth between the two sides recently, and Fuller said he'd hope to have a response back from Cumberland Farms within the next few weeks.

"We're trying to take a reasonable approach with them," Fuller said. "I don't think we're asking for more than is necessary."

Calls to Cumberland Farms were not returned this week.

Village water lines remain a concern for Fort Edward officials. If sewer system repairs move forward, village streets that have been repaved in the past several years will need to be partially dug up, Fort Edward Mayor Matt Traver said.

"If we do the sewer only for repairs, we do not want the streets to be partially dug up and have checkerboard-paved streets," Traver said. "Another major concern is when they are doing sewer line repair and replacement, our water lines will be compromised. Those lines are as old as the sewer and some date back 100 years or so."

http://poststar.com/news/local/gasoline-leak-damage-settlement-yet-to-be-reached/article_05d835c0-10e6-11e3-baab-001a4bcf887a.html

USA, OK, OKLAHOMA CITY

AUGUST 31 2013.

CREWS CONTAIN OIL SPILL IN OKLAHOMA RIVER

AN ESTIMATED 385 BARRELS, OR 16,940 GALLONS, OF OIL AND SALTWATER SPILLED

William Crum

Cleanup crews corralled oil that spilled into the Oklahoma River before most of the slick, sticky fluid could find its way to the Boathouse District.

An estimated 385 barrels, or 16,940 gallons, of oil and saltwater spilled into Mustang Creek, near SW 15 and Morgan Road, after lightning struck a tank battery Aug. 12.

Heavy rain the next morning overwhelmed containment materials put in place by firefighters, said Paul Bronson, Oklahoma City's assistant public works director.

Maintenance crews saw oil in the Oklahoma River the next morning "and they said, 'Oh, boy,'" Bronson said.

Oil that washed downstream was trapped in the lock at the May Avenue dam and by containment booms at a railroad trestle just downstream.

"I'm fairly certain that we got 90 to 95 percent of it," Bronson said.

The city will seek reimbursement from the well operator for an estimated \$6,000 to \$6,500 in cleanup costs, he said.

Lightning hit a "gun barrel" — which separates water and oil — at a saltwater disposal well around 10 or 10:15 p.m. on Aug. 12, Bronson said.

He said the piece of equipment was blown outside the containment dike.

The installation, consisting of what appears to be 10 tanks and other equipment, is visible in a Google Maps satellite view adjacent to the SW 15 bridge over Mustang Creek.

An aerial photo taken Aug. 14 shows an oil sheen on the Oklahoma River west of Western Avenue.

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Bronson said the Oklahoma Corporation Commission oversaw the spill response. Some containment booms still are deployed to catch oil-coated debris, he said.

<http://newsok.com/crews-contain-oil-spill-in-oklahoma-river/article/3877390>

USA, OKLAHOMA, BRISTOL

SEPTEMBER 5 2013.

WORKER KILLED IN OIL-FIELD EXPLOSION SOUTH OF BRISTOW

Amanda Bland

An oil-field worker was killed and his co-worker was injured Wednesday when a holding tank exploded as they were moving its contents, authorities said.

The men, both in their 20s, worked for Cromwell Dozer & Backhoe, Creek County deputies said.

They were trying to replace an aging 12-by-12-foot oil-field tank six miles south of Bristow when a fire started and the tank exploded, deputies said.

Authorities confirmed that the men were not from the Bristow area but did not release their names Wednesday.

A welding rig was destroyed in the blast, and an oil-field service rig was heavily damaged, Sheriff John Davis said. Investigators weren't immediately able to determine whether the men had been welding at the time.

Bristow firefighters worked for 20 minutes to contain the blaze, which was in a wooded area near 281st Street and 337th West Avenue and three-fourths of a mile from the closest gravel road, they said.

The tank sat on Kay Mason's land. She said she's used to seeing workers riding four-wheelers to and from the site.

The explosion "shook my house a little bit, ... but I didn't think anything of it," Mason said.

Area residents told Deputy Daniel Brashear that they'd felt the blast from more than a mile away.

When he was dispatched from the Shamrock area, 21 miles northwest, he saw smoke billowing from the scene, he said.

"I didn't know what to expect," Brashear said.

Mason said she's aware of the risks of oil-field work and is concerned for the workers.

"It's crazy," she said.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/article.aspx/Worker_killed_in_oil_field_explosion_south_of_Bristow/20130905_11_a11_cutlin70128?subj=1

USA, TX, HIDALGO COUNTY, ALTON

SEPTEMBER 7 2013.

FUEL STORAGE TANK EXPLODES

A storage tank filled with fuel exploded early Friday morning near Alton.

Alton Fire Chief Javier Garcia told Action 4 News a fuel storage tank caught fire just after 8 a.m. Friday on Mile 14 and Jarachinas.

Chief Garcia said the investigation is ongoing, but they believe the flames sparked after the top of the storage tank was left open creating a spark.

It took Alton and La Joya fire departments two hours to put out the fire and clear the scene.

Luckily, no injuries were reported.

Fire crews responded to a similar fire at the same location a few years ago.

http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=943296#.Uionq8anq_k

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USA, N.H, MANCHESTER

SEPTEMBER 10 2013.

2 MEN INJURED IN MOBIL MANCHESTER, NH UST FLASH FIRE

Josh Brogadir

"The smoke was coming pouring out and I was watching over there and one of the guys that was working climbed up out of the hole and fell down on the ground with his arms up in the air," said John Brewer, the owner of Johnny B's Car Care.

Below the ground, a massive diesel fuel tank was smoldering after having caught fire about 1 p.m. Monday at the Mobil Station on Hanover Street in Manchester, N.H.

"It appears that at some point one of the industrial lighting fixtures was inadvertently dropped," said Manchester Fire Chief James Burkush.

Two workers were underground. One man freed himself, the other was stuck in the tank.

The crew from Missouri-based Tank Tech was re-lining the empty 8 foot by 24 foot tank.

It's a two step process that is somewhat new to New Hampshire, an alternative to a full replacement of a fuel tank using highly flammable fiberglass, then a hardener.

"Until it hardens there's a possibility of a flash fire, so there can't be any explosive vapor or source of ignition," Chief Burkush said.

John Brewer saw it all play out from his Citgo station across the street and did everything he could.

"I was kind of holding his head, keeping his mouth open so he could breathe about the time the fire department got there. About the time the fire department got there he tried to move, he was moving but he was in bad shape and wasn't responding at all," Brewer said.

Chief Burkush says the workers are 24 and 31 years old, both from South Carolina. They were medflighted to Shriners Hospital in Boston.

OSHA is investigating.

<http://www.necn.com/09/09/13/2-men-injured-in-Manchester-NH-flash-fir/landing.html?blockID=851909&feedID=11106>

USA, NEW JERSEY, CARLSTADT

SEPTEMBER 11 2013.

WORKER PULLED FROM VAT OF SOLVENT AT CARLSTADT PAINT PLANT

Jim Norman and Abbott Koloff

A worker was overcome by fumes and fell into a large vat containing a solvent at the Hartin Paint plant on Broad Street on Wednesday afternoon, authorities said.

Carlstadt Police and Fire Departments and Bergen County HAZMAT respond to an incident at Hartin Paint & Filler Corporation on Broad Street in Carlstadt. An employees was found unconscious and transported to Hackensack University Medical Center on 9/11/13.

The worker, who was unconscious when he was taken to a hospital, was pulled out of the vat by another employee, said Dennis Monks, spokesman for the Carlstadt Fire Department. The second worker, who also was taken to a hospital, was conscious and alert when emergency medical workers arrived at the scene.

Monks said the vat contained a chemical called toluene and was capable of holding at least 500 gallons. The accident, which occurred sometime after 4 p.m., took place in a tank located behind a two-story, gray concrete manufacturing building, witnesses said.

Both men were taken to Hackensack University Medical Center, Monks said. A spokeswoman for the hospital referred questions about their condition to the Carlstadt police.

The borough police said on Wednesday evening that they had no information to provide about the accident. Neither the victim nor the person who pulled him from the vat was identified by authorities.

Hartin Paint was cited in 2007 for serious violations involving flammable liquids and the storage of materials that created a hazard, said Leni Forston, a spokeswoman for the federal Occupational Safety and

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Health Administration. She said Hartin also was cited then for "less than serious" violations involving flammable liquids and respirators, which are used to protect workers.

The CEO of Hartin Paint could not be reached Wednesday night.

Two OSHA investigators arrived at the site around 5 p.m. Forston said the agency was notified about the accident by the Carlstadt police sometime after 4:15 p.m.

The borough Fire Department hosed down the two men to decontaminate them and emergency medical workers administered first aid, Monks said.

http://www.northjersey.com/news/Worker_is_pulled_from_vat_of_solvent_at_Carlstadt_paint_plant.html#sthash.FtZBd0AG.dpuf

USA, WYO, CAMPBELL COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 11 2013.

TANK FIRE SMOKE SEEN IN MONT.

A tank battery explosion near Barber Creek Road caused an estimated \$12,000 worth of damage Monday afternoon. The explosion in a 100 barrel oil tank caused the top of the tank to blow off and land 50 feet away, according to the Campbell County Fire Department. Firefighters were able to shut two pump jacks off that were feeding oil to the burning tank battery and put the fire out. Fire damage to power lines and power poles prompted Powder River Energy to disconnect electricity going to the oil field location. The oil in the tank that exploded was lost in the fire, and an adjacent tank was damaged by the heat, but the oil is believed to be salvageable. There were no injuries, and the cause for the fire is unknown, according to a fire department press release. Smoke from the fire reportedly could be seen in Montana. It also prompted another fire call an hour later when someone saw smoke on Highway 50, according to the fire department.

http://www.gillette newsrecord.com/stories/Tank-fire-smoke-seen-in-Mont,96627?category_id=93&content_class=1&sub_type=stories,maps

USA, CA, SONOMA COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 11 2013.

TANK EXPLOSION SENDS FLAMES 20M INTO THE AIR

Dramatic footage has captured the moment a 3700-litre propane tank exploded, sending flames soaring 20m into the air.

What started as a small brush fire quickly escalated when it spread to a neighbouring pallet factory in Sonoma County, California on Sunday, The Press Democrat reports.

The explosion sent firecrews running for cover as they struggled to contain the blaze, which was fuelled by 40 stacks of wooden pallets stored inside the factory.

The fire started about 1.30pm when sparks from a tow truck ignited dry grass on the side of the highway, Schell-Vista Fire Protection District chief Ray Mulas said.

"Once it got into the pallets it became a very intense fire that was quite difficult," he said.

No one was injured but as many as 1000 residents were left without power following the explosion.

Heat from the fire blew out at least one overhead electrical transformer.

In all, five structures were destroyed or damaged and about 10 cars burned.

<http://news.ninensn.com.au/world/2013/09/10/11/52/tank-explosion-sends-flames-20-metres-into-air>

CANADA, QC, LAC-MÉGANTIC

SEPTEMBER 12 2013.

IRVING OIL MAY FACE FINES OVER MISLABELLED CRUDE OIL ON LAC-MÉGANTIC TRAIN

Scott Deveau

Irving Oil Co. could be facing some hefty fines after it was determined the crude oil involved in the Lac-Mégantic disaster had been improperly labeled.

The Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday its investigation into the July 6 Lac-Mégantic

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

derailment, in which 47 people died, determined the oil contained in the railcars was mislabeled and more flammable than previously thought.

“The lower flash point of the crude oil explains in part why the crude oil ignited so quickly,” said Donald Ross, the lead TSB investigator into the Lac-Mégantic disaster, at a press conference announcing the news.

As a result, TSB called on Transport Canada and U.S. authorities to review the processes they had in place for ensuring those transporting or importing dangerous goods are labeling and documenting their shipments properly.

Mr. Ross said it was TSB’s understanding the ultimate responsibility for the mislabeled crude lay with whomever was responsible for importing it into Canada.

In the case of Lac-Mégantic that was New Brunswick’s Irving Oil, he said.

“It’s our understanding that according to Canadian regulations, the importer of products into Canada would have that obligation to ensure that all the requirements of [the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act] are being applied,” Mr. Ross said.

Related

Under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, a company or individual found guilty of transporting improperly labeled dangerous goods could face up to two years in prison and/or fines up to \$1-million. No responsibility for the mislabeling of the oil involved in the Lac-Mégantic disaster has yet been proven.

“We continue to offer our full support to authorities as this tragedy is investigated,” said Samantha Robinson, Irving Oil spokeswoman, in an email.

“We are unable to offer further comment at this time,” she added.

Mark Rowan, a partner at Vancouver’s Affleck Hira Burgoyne LLP law firm, said he believed the suppliers of the oil and carriers that transported it may also share in the responsibility for it being mislabeled.

The TSB said the crude originated from 11 suppliers in North Dakota, where it was picked up by Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd., transported to Montreal, and transferred to Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway before the derailment.

Mr. Rowan said he would expect prosecutors to pursue “substantial fines” for whomever was ultimately deemed responsible for the mislabeling.

Transport Minister Lisa Raitt would not say what action the federal government was considering pursuing in the matter. But officials will be examining the issue on “an expedited basis,” she said.

Petroleum crude oil is considered a Class 3 dangerous good in Canada. But it is further subdivided based on the level of potential hazard it presents, ranging from Class 3 Packing Group I [PGI] product, which is the most flammable, to Packing Group III [PGIII], which is the least.

TSB investigators determined the crude involved in the Lac-Mégantic disaster was mislabeled as PGIII product when in fact it was a more volatile PGII product.

There are, however, no regulations currently in place in Canada that would have prevented a PGII product from being transported through Lac-Mégantic, or limited the amount of rail cars transporting it, Mr. Ross said.

Nor would it have had any impact on the emergency fire response, he added.

But it does point to a broader issue that mislabeled dangerous goods are potentially moving across the country with little oversight.

Olivia Chow, NDP transport critic, urged Ottawa to follow the lead of U.S. regulators, which started a series of spot checks on dangerous goods being shipped to ensure they are properly labeled last month, among other measures to improve safety.

Mr. Ross said the investigation continues, but the TSB found the material safety data sheets [MSDS] filed for the 72 rail cars involved in the Lac-Mégantic crash carried varied and contradictory information.

Of the 10 MSDS the TSB reviewed for the cars involved in the derailment, at least four classified the

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product as PGI, and two others indicated that testing was required to properly label them, he said.

The investigation revealed the oil was labeled PGII when it was transferred from the wellheads to the transloading facility, where it was loaded into the rail cars, and based on the shipper's information, labeled PGIII.

The accident also drew into question the safety of transporting goods in older tank cars, the TSB said. The TSB has called for a more resilient type of rail car to be used in the country than the current 111A tank cars that are commonly used to transport goods across North America.

Ms. Raitt said Transport Canada has accepted the TSB's recommendations on the 111A rail cars, and noted the new rail cars are being built to the new standards.

<http://www.theprovince.com/business/a9gantic+train+mislabeled+less+dangerous+crude/8898333/story.html>

USA, WI, OSHKOSH

SEPTEMBER 15 2013.

STORAGE TANK CRACKS LEADING TO OSHKOSH CHEMICAL SPILL?

CAUSTIC CLOUDS FLOATS OVER CITY FORCING THOUSANDS TO EVACUATE!

An Oshkosh chemical spill at Hydrite Chemical led to massive evacuations after a storage tank cracked and 60,000 to 70,000 pounds of muriatic acid spilled, leaving a giant caustic cloud to float over the city, Inquisitr reported Friday.

Reports said that the Oshkosh Fire Department crews worked with the company to contain the 60,000 to 70,000 pounds of muriatic acid spill, and although the spill has been cleaned up by 4 p.m., officials ordered for an evacuation of the Oshkosh Corp. manufacturing plant as well as its company headquarters. The company, which was formerly called Oshkosh Truck, is famous for being the leading manufacturer of specialty vehicles.

Oshkosh Corp. Spokesman John Daggett said the company had canceled its second shift Friday as a precaution to the Oshkosh chemical spill.

"The main threat would be inhalation issues," Oshkosh Fire Department Spokesman John Holland said. "The good news is you have to be very close to it have any issues."

Meanwhile, several residents were alarmed after noticing that the Oshkosh chemical spill left a caustic cloud floating over the south side of the city in Wisconsin.

Postcrescent reported that muriatic acid is a highly corrosive chemical to proteins such that it can damage respiratory organs, eyes, skin, and the intestines. The chemical is commonly referred to as hydrochloric acid and in extreme cases it can lead to blindness or death when a certain amount has been inhaled or ingested.

According to authorities, after police discovered the source of the Oshkosh chemical spill, they had ordered for an evacuation in the area that stretched from West Waukau to Perimeter Road to West 28th Street, where Hydrite Chemical Company is located.

Residents nearby were asked to stay inside their homes and keep their windows and doors closed.

However, the evacuation order was lifted by the Oshkosh Fire Department almost three hours after the spill was discovered.

An Oshkosh police officer reportedly arrived at 3:15 p.m. to inform the evacuees that they could return to their homes within the hour.

No reports mentioned the exact number of evacuees or if there were any injured people due to the spill, but there are approximately 160,000 people in the Oshkosh metro area.

A year ago, 4,700 gallons of muriatic acid spilled in a northeastern Pennsylvania creek, leading to the death of several fishes. Fortunately, officials were able to build a dam to keep the acid from flowing into a larger creek.

<http://www.jobshire.com/articles/5488/20130914/storage-tank-cracks-leading-oshkosh-chemical-spill-caustic-clouds-floats.htm>

Tank and Petroleum Use Mishaps

USA, VIRGIN ISLANDS, CHARLOTTE AMALIE
SEPTEMBER 16 2013.

FUEL TANKS EXPLODE AT VIRGIN ISLANDS GAS STATION

Authorities say fuel tanks at a U.S. Virgin Islands gas station have exploded, resulting in a huge blast and fire but causing only two injuries. Residential areas around the Gas Works station in the St. Thomas community of Bovoni were evacuated and traffic was diverted after the explosion on Saturday night. Firefighters and other emergency personnel contained the blaze shortly before midnight, about three hours after the tanks ignited. Government spokesman Jean Greaux said there was a flareup early Sunday but it was quickly extinguished. An all-clear has been issued, allowing residents to return home. Authorities say a man who was at the gas station received burns to 18 percent of his body. A woman also received injuries. Investigators were scouring rubble Sunday looking for the cause of the blast.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/09/15/3628653/fuel-tanks-explode-at-virgin-islands.html>

USA, TEXAS, FAYETTE COUNTY
SEPTEMBER 28 2013

EXPLOSION CAUSED BY LIGHTNING DESTROYS FAYETTE COUNTY FACILITY

Officials with Fayette County Sheriff's Office were the scene of a tank fire near La Grange on Saturday.

Officials said lightning struck one of five combustible containers at the La Grange Salt Water Disposal Plant around 6:30 a.m., causing it to explode. The blast triggered fires in the remaining four containers.

It took firefighters an hour to get the fire contained and under control.

Ralph Burris, owner of the plant, said that when wells produce oil, they also produce salt water. The salt water is injected into a well so it can be returned to the area from where it is released.

These types of facilities exist because the Railroad Commission of Texas says the salt water must be disposed of in a way that won't pollute other water. Fiberglass tanks are used as containers.

Officials said the facility, located 50 miles southeast of Austin, was a total loss.

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/texas-news/Explosion-caused-by-lightning-destroys-Fayette-County-facility-225664911.html>

CZECH REPUBLIC, PRAGUE
OCTOBER 2 2013

1 KILLED IN CZECH FUEL TANK EXPLOSION

An official says an underground tank at a fuel station near Prague has exploded, killing one person.

Rescue service spokeswoman Tereza Vojtova says the accident took place Tuesday afternoon during maintenance work at the facility just north of Prague. He says the worker died after his head was seriously injured by the shock of the explosion.

Czech public television says the 10,000-liter (2,642-gallon) fuel reservoir was nearly empty when the blast occurred.

Authorities had to close part of the highway that links the northern part of the country with Germany following the explosion.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11133345