



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

June 2011

**Congratulations to
our new Associate
Members**

**Edward Janssen
NSW**

**Brian Roberts
South Australia**



Formaldehyde, Styrene Added To U.S. Health Department's Carcinogens List

Formaldehyde, a preservative used in labs and mortuaries, and styrene, the chemical used to make styrofoam cups and food containers, were among six chemicals that were added today to the U.S. health department's list of chemicals that are known to cause cancer or could raise the risk of cancer.

Formaldehyde, which is also used in the manufacturing of household products, and aristolochic acids, which are present in some plant species, were classified by government scientists as known carcinogens, according to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) report. Styrene, riddelliine (found in certain plant species), captafol (a pesticide), cobalt-tungsten carbide (a metal in powder or hard form), certain kinds of inhalable glass wool fibers (used for insulation) and o-nitrotoluene (used in the production of dyes and chemicals) were classified as substances that can reasonably be anticipated to be human carcinogens, the NIEHS said. People are usually exposed to styrene by working in a manufacturing environment, as the chemical is used to make plastics and rubber for insulation, car parts, pipes, food containers and carpet backing, according to the report. Smokers are also exposed to styrene because the chemical is present in cigarette smoke. The chemical can also leach out from styrofoam containers, but the levels that are released are very low, the report said.

Source: Huffington Post

Report: <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/roc/twelfth/roc12.pdf>

Coming Up!

**Ryde Eastwood Leagues
Club
Ryedale Road
West Ryde
Sydney**

Tuesday, July 5

**"Verification of Premises with
Dangerous Goods – A
Snapshot"**

**Presenter: John Simpson,
Senior Inspector, Dangerous
Goods Chemicals Team,
WorkCover NSW.**

**Friday August 5
Annual General
Meeting**

**Fukushima
The Story
August 16
Flyer out shortly!**

**AIDGC 2011
Conference
PARKROYAL
(formerly Crowne Plaza)
Sydney
September 23**

Arsenic at NT Cattle Station

About 140 residents of a Northern Territory cattle station are being evacuated after a number were found to have high levels of arsenic in their blood. The NT coroner has declared Mt Bundy Station, on the banks of the Adelaide River, a restricted area and has asked all residents and visitors to leave. NT Police said the declaration was made after elevated levels of arsenic were detected in eight long-term residents of the property 130km south of Darwin.

NT chief health officer Dr Barbara Paterson said the 8 who had recorded elevated arsenic levels had received medical attention. Mt Bundy Station will remain closed as authorities work towards finding the source of the arsenic. The developments follow the death of a 17 year-old Mt. Bundy Station resident in May. While the cause of the boy's death has not yet been confirmed, reports said he was suspected of having died from arsenic poisoning. Arsenic occurs naturally in the earth's crust and can be found at very low levels in ground/bore water. Exposure can come from drinking arsenic-contaminated water, working with timber treated with the element, or ingesting arsenic-based chemicals. However, it is usually only toxic after exposure over weeks or months.

A Royal Darwin Hospital spokeswoman said arsenic poisoning had been recorded only rarely as a cause of hospital admission - let alone death - in the NT. Just two arsenic-related deaths were recorded between 1964 and 2007, and there was one hospital admission between 1993 and 2010. The spokeswoman said a lethal dose of arsenic would not be caused through drinking water, but by ingesting solid chemical. "Naturally occurring forms of arsenic - for example, in ore from gold mining - is not generally in a form that is as toxic as a pure arsenic chemical like arsenic trioxide," she said.

Source: AAP

Overview of the Model Work Health and Safety Act

WorkCover NSW has been providing presentations across NSW on an overview of the new Work Health and Safety Act due to be introduced in NSW on 1 January 2012.

The link to download this presentation is available at:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/newlegislation2012/Pages/default.aspx>



Transport Security in the U.S.

Field officials with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will visit most of the nation's hazardous materials carriers in the coming months to increase the level of awareness of hazardous materials carriers to terrorist threats. The information being provided by the field staff will be in the form of recommendations and suggestions, except those regulatory requirements affecting the actual movements of hazardous materials. Some of the highlights of the 'Security Talking Points' are outlined below.

General Security Information

Recommend to carrier that a security plan be developed and implemented. It should include:

Personal Security

Hazardous Materials and Package Control

En Route Security

Technical Innovations

Request the company include security in all decision-making processes.

Recommend that management include all levels in security decisions.

Hazardous Materials and Package Controls

Is there adequate lighting for the facility grounds?

Are HM storage areas at the carrier's facility secured in fences or buildings?

Consider requiring personnel identification cards/badges for access to areas with HM.

Check the adequacy of locks and other protective measures.

Require records for removal of HM from secure locations.

Reinforce with drivers the importance to remain aware of their surroundings at all times

Recommend standard procedures on control of packages

Educate all personnel on package control measures

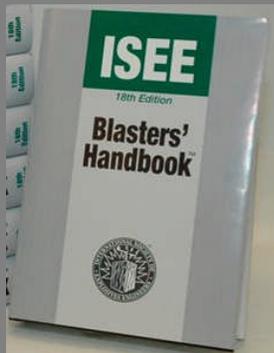
Provide notices to employees on package control procedures. Post procedures prominently at appropriate locations

Conduct security spot checks of personnel and vehicles

Source: DGAC



Peak Downs Queensland Source:
Australian Mining



Steering Group to lay down Queensland Blasting Guidelines

The Queensland Government has created a steering group to lay down new guidelines for blasting following a series of blasting incidents at BMA's Saraji and Peak Downs coal mines, where coal miners were allegedly exposed to toxic fumes after blasting.

Now the International Society of Explosives Engineers has released the 18th edition of the *ISEE Blaster's Handbook*. This new edition focuses on blasting principles and blast design basics for hands-on blasters.

It also features troubleshooting checklists, a new initiation systems chapter, colour graphics/photos and uses international units of measurement throughout. According to the ISEE, it represents over 100 years of blasting experience.

It stated that that "the 18th edition's mission is to provide brand neutral, non-mining methods, blasting reference handbook to help the blaster-in-charge understand the core blasting principles and factors to: (1) optimise blast performance, (2) independently make blast designs, (3) assess performance, (4) troubleshoot problems, and (5) conduct "safe" blasting operations."

Source: Australian Mining

OECD Chemicals Task Force Outlines Work Priorities

Later this month the OECD's Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology will discuss a number of recommendations relating to:

- the future of the chemicals information portal eChemPortal
- QSARs and the categorisation of chemicals
- the risk assessment of combined exposures to multiple chemicals.

The recommendations were agreed by OECD's Task Force on Hazard Assessment

Source: <http://chemicalwatch.com/global>





What's Happening

If you would like to make a contribution, have an interesting story, case study or report, please send to:
robhogan@tpg.com.au

This month my thanks go to Don Johnston and Peter Hunt for their contributions.

Lithium Batteries Need convincing?

Lithium batteries pose a unique hazard during transport because they contain stored energy, which if released through a short circuit is capable of causing a fire.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcd34tt8YPU&feature=player_embedded

Chinese Butcher Adds Industrial Grade Nitrates to Meat

A Chinese butcher has been sentenced to life in prison for adding industrial-grade nitrates to meat that was blamed in a man's poisoning death. The harsh sentence handed down to Gao Yanjun reflects authorities' efforts to crack down on widespread chemical contamination of food and other products that has caused repeated health scares in China and blackened the reputation of the country's exports. Gao was sentenced following the death last year of a man surnamed Sun who bought five yuan worth of pig intestine at his market stall and then ate it, Xinhua News Agency said. Authorities determined Sun had been poisoned. Another man who shared the intestine with Sun was taken to hospital in a serious condition. Beginning in 2005, Gao had illegally added industrial nitrate usually used in fertiliser to meat to improve its colour and texture, Xinhua said. There was no mention of any other victims. Four others were sentenced to up to 15 years in prison alongside Gao, Xinhua said.

While industrial nitrates are poisonous, sodium nitrate and nitrite approved for human consumption are commonly added to food as preservatives and colour-enhancers. Nitrate-related substances have been reported to cause cancer in animals, but there is no proof they do so in people. China faces a host of challenges in cleaning up the rampant use of illegal additives and drugs, which are often churned out by makeshift chemical factories, making them particularly hard to trace. Too many agencies oversee food safety, penalties are too light and local officials lack incentives to crack down. The problems persist despite a crisis in 2008 when six babies died and 300,000 were sickened from drinking infant formula or other dairy tainted with the industrial chemical melamine. The scandal prompted the government to overhaul how it polices food, forming a cabinet-level food safety commission and passing a comprehensive food safety law.

Source: SkyNews.com.au



U.S. C.S.B. Iron Dust Testing

There is a Video available on the testing of metal dust collected after the January 2011, incident at the Hoeganaes Corporation in Gallatin, TN. The video shows two different tests, the first clip is filmed at normal speed followed by the two tests filmed in slow motion at 1,000 frames a second.

Watch: <http://www.csb.gov/videoroom/detail.aspx?VID=52>

New Standards

AS/NZS 60079.18:2011

Explosive atmospheres - Equipment protection by encapsulation 'm'

Abstract

Adopts IEC 60079-18 Ed 3.0 (2009) to give specific requirements for the construction, testing and marking of electrical equipment, parts of electrical equipment and Ex components with the type of protection encapsulation 'm' intended for use in explosive gas atmospheres or explosive dust atmospheres.

I.S. EN 15947-1:2010

Pyrotechnic Articles - Fireworks, Categories 1, 2, and 3 - Part 1: Terminology

Supersedes:

I.S. EN 14035-1:2003

DIVEX USA: Response & Removal

This video highlights a unique site consisting of two different locations within Richland County, South Carolina. After a large explosion resulted in the death of Divex's site operator, the U.S. EPA, working in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Department of Defense, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Coast Guard Strike Force, determines the extent of contamination at the chemical company's site. The cleanup personnel perform many dangerous tasks, including identifying and moving scores of unknown volatile chemicals and detonating 40,000 pounds of explosives. Running time is 22 minutes.

<http://www.clu-in.org/goto.cfm?link=%2Fasxfiles%2Fert%2Fdivex%2Easx&id=237>





Service Station Australia

The winter issue of this magazine is now available online from: http://www.ssa.org.au/magazine/2011_winter/index.php
Regulation of Underground Fuel Tanks in NSW and the new UPSS Regulation are covered on page 15.

Shell UK Sentenced over Norfolk Gas Blast

Energy giant Shell UK Limited has been ordered by Ipswich Crown Court to pay a total of £1.24million in fines and costs over the explosion and fire at its Bacton gas terminal in Norfolk in 2008. Experts from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said it was only good fortune that no one was killed or seriously injured in the blast.

The explosion blew the concrete roof off a buffering tank within the plant, hurling concrete and metal debris over a large area and sucking a nearby drain out of the ground. After investigating the incident HSE and Environment Agency (EA) jointly prosecuted the firm over safety, environmental control and pollution-prevention failures at the plant leading to the explosion.

The court heard the blast happened shortly before 6pm in the plant's water treatment plant.

Ten appliances from Norfolk Fire Service attended the scene and the court heard it was fortunate at the time of the explosion that daytime plant personnel were returning to offices to prepare for shift handovers.

Investigators traced the cause of the explosion to a leak of highly flammable hydrocarbon liquid into a part of the plant responsible for treating waste water before discharging it into the sea.

The leak was caused by the failure of a corroded metal separator vessel, which allowed water contaminated with the highly flammable condensate to enter a concrete storage tank where it was heated by an electric heater. The heater's elements were exposed within the tank, raising the surface temperature significantly causing the explosion and fire.

Bacton is operated by several energy companies and houses gas processing plants along with the Interconnector system feeding gas between Britain and Europe.



The damage caused to Bacton Gas Terminal by the explosion



Corporate Members

Our Corporate Members provide a range of products and services to the Dangerous Goods Industry. Their contact details are:

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Due to the large quantities of hazardous substances present on the site, Shell Bacton is classified as a top tier site under the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) regulations.

The court heard that during the incident there was an unauthorised release into the North Sea of 850 tonnes of fire water and fire fighting foam which ought to have been prevented. Shell UK had failed to close the sea gate until about an hour after the fire started. It also failed to notify the Environment Agency, as required, meaning that valuable advice on environmental protection during the incident or its aftermath was not available to either Shell or the fire service - an emergency response priority first identified in 2004. The delay in notification also meant an assessment of environmental harm was not possible. At an earlier hearing Shell pleaded guilty to seven charges covering safety, environmental control and pollution-prevention failures at the plant which led to the blast. Shell UK was fined a total of £1million and ordered to pay £242,000 costs.

After sentencing, HSE Inspector Steve Johnson, said: "The fact no-one was seriously hurt in this incident was solely down to good fortune as the company's internal report acknowledges. Shell UK neglected basic maintenance leading up to the explosion.

"Our investigation found key components had been failing for some years and the company knew this, yet there had been no appreciation of the potential for an incident such as this." In particular there had been no attempt to assess the risk that arose from condensate entering the water treatment plant despite the fact that the plant was not designed to handle highly flammable liquids like condensate. "The investigation revealed significant failings in the safety management system operating on the plant and hopefully other operators will take note of the outcome of this incident and maybe review their own procedures."

Environment Agency Environment Manager for Norfolk and Suffolk Marcus Sibley said: "We are disappointed that a company such as Shell with its experience in the fuel industry should have operated in this fashion." "This is a high risk industry and that is why we expect high standards. "The explosion could have led to a major environmental disaster as other highly flammable materials were stored nearby." Source: HSE



CSB Investigate Fatal Explosion and Fire in Kentucky USA

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), is deploying to the scene of a fatal accident at Carbide Industries, a producer of calcium carbide products located in Louisville, Kentucky.

Two workers were killed and two others injured Monday evening as a result of a fire and explosion that occurred at the facility. According to emergency responders at the scene of the incident both of the fatally injured workers were located inside a control room at the time of the accident.

The CSB team will be led by Investigations Supervisor John Vorderbrueggen, P.E., and is scheduled to arrive in Louisville tomorrow afternoon. Investigators will be accompanied by CSB Board Member Mark Griffon.

Board Member Mark Griffon said, “CSB investigations look at a wide range of issues. Previous CSB investigations have included assessing a plant’s facility siting practices and examining the location of occupied buildings such as control rooms.”

According to the company’s website, Carbide Industries primarily produces calcium carbide which is used to manufacture acetylene gas, as well as a number of specialty chemicals. In its pure form, calcium carbide is a colorless chemical compound that reacts violently with water.

Source: <http://www.csb.gov/investigations/detail.aspx?SID=103>



CSB Votes down DuPont Report

It’s been 16 months since a phosgene leak at the DuPont Co. chemical plant in Belle, W.Va., claimed the life of a plant worker in January 2010. At the end of May there was a sulphuric acid leak at the DuPont Co. chemical plant in Belle, W.Va., CSB officials revealed on June 6 that board members plans to hold a public meeting to release the report have been stopped. You can read their comments on the proposal, but for example, former board Chairman John Bresland called the meeting rules proposal “a heavy handed attempt by the Chairman to deny the other four board members the right to speak their mind on issues of concern to them.”

Board Memorandum: <http://wvgazette.com/static/watchdog/DuPontVote.pdf>

Article Source: <http://blogs.wvgazette.com/watchdog/2011/06/>



There is a comprehensive rebuttal of this article and position in an issue of **Business Spectator**. Titled 'The non-poisonous truth about pesticides' and written by David Leyonhjelm.

You will find this at:
<http://www.businessspectator.com.au/bs.nsf/Article/Farming-crops-chemicals-agriculture-food-prices-repd20110617-HW3M7?OpenDocument&src=kgb#>



Obsolete pesticides. Source NzdI.org



The UK Government is being asked to investigate a possible link between a new generation of pesticides and the decline of honey bees.

Source: lamodeverte.wordpress.com

Government Pressured by Groups Over Pesticide Safeguards

The federal government must promise to test high-risk pesticides every five years to ensure health and safety, a new alliance of health and consumer groups says.

The government is under pressure to outline how it will better protect the health of Australians and the environment in a reform of the nation's pesticides regulator. The new alliance of health, consumer and green groups has accused the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) of being in denial about the lax job it's doing regulating chemicals designed to kill.

The groups, including Choice, WWF and the Public Health Association of Australia, say more than 80 pesticides registered here are no longer authorised in Europe due to the risks to human and environmental health.

They say at least 17 pesticides are suspected carcinogens, and 48 have been flagged as potential endocrine disruptors which can interfere with hormones in animals and humans, leading to birth defects and other developmental disorders. Eight chemicals have been under review by the Australian regulator for more than 13 years, and some up to 15 years, with use continuing in the meantime. Specifically, they want the government to force the APVMA to test the safety of high-risk chemicals every five years and put the onus back on manufacturers to prove their products are safe for ongoing use in Australia. The conservation group WWF says new pesticides have to meet a higher threshold but old ones have not been forced to undergo a rigorous, contemporary registration process. APVMA has defended its systems, saying regulators worldwide typically take years to complete reviews because the task is so complex. Interest groups had neglected to reveal that many chemicals not approved for use in Australia were still used overseas. "We have chemicals that aren't available here, more than 80, that are still available in Europe," she said. "Does that mean they're at fault?"

"It's a fictitious claim to suggest 80 chemicals available here are banned in Europe and therefore the Australian public is at risk."

Source: AAP NewsWire



Published: June 2011

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS, Rev.4)

The GHS addresses classification of chemicals by types of hazard and proposes harmonized hazard communication elements, including labels and safety data sheets. It aims at ensuring that information on physical hazards and toxicity from chemicals be available in order to enhance the protection of human health and the environment during the handling, transport and use of these chemicals. The GHS also provides a basis for harmonization of rules and regulations on chemicals at national, regional and worldwide level.

This fourth revised edition of the GHS contains various new or revised provisions concerning, inter alia, new hazard categories for chemically unstable gases and non-flammable aerosols; further rationalization of precautionary statements, and further clarification of some of the criteria to avoid differences in their interpretation.

OSHA Cites AL Solutions in Fatal Explosion – West Virginia, USA

A federal agency investigating a December explosion that killed three men announced it cited a West Virginia chemical plant for 18 violations, 16 of them considered serious and one labeled "willful."

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration said titanium and zirconium recycler AL Solutions could have prevented the tragedy but instead exposed workers to unnecessary risks. The proposed fines total \$154,000. AL Solutions said it was aware of OSHA's action, but the accident remains under investigation by other agencies, and it cannot comment until all of them are complete. In January, the chief investigator for the U.S. Chemical Safety Board said his team believes either metal shavings or dust were the fuel for the explosion, but they were trying to determine which form ignited and how. The victims were processing both metals when the blast happened. Killed were brothers Jeff Fish and James Fish, both of New Cumberland, and co-worker Steven Swain of Weirton. It was the third fatal explosion at the Northern





Fireman battle a fire at AL Solutions after an explosion rocked the plant
Photo: AP

Panhandle plant in 15 years. The CSB, which is collaborating with OSHA, tries to find out more than just what happened the day of the accident. It also looks into how industries and companies manage and control known hazards, so the team wants to learn about AL Solutions' safety procedures and how well employees understood the dangers of the materials they handled. The CSB has yet to issue its report and did not immediately return a phone call. OSHA, however, cited as a willful violation the use of an unsafe water sprinkler system with flammable materials. That created an explosion hazard, it said. A willful violation is one committed with knowledge of and disregard for the law, or with indifference to worker safety. OSHA's serious violations included failure to provide a proper hydrogen gas detection system, over-pressure protection, emergency egress, personal protective equipment and hazard communication training. It also cited AL Solutions for failing to safely store flammable materials and ensure the safe use of forklifts. A minor violation was for failing to keep proper injury and illness records. OSHA said AL Solutions is now in its Severe Violators Enforcement Program, designed to focus on "recalcitrant employers that endanger workers by committing willful, repeat or failure-to-abate violations." AL Solutions, which also has a plant in Washington, Missouri, has 15 days to comply, contest or request a conference on the citations.

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Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/06/14/business-us-plant-explosion-west-virginia_8516344.html

Transocean: BP Caused Disaster

An internal investigation by the owner of the rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico last year largely blames oil giant BP for the disaster. The Transocean report released Wednesday said the Deepwater Horizon explosion and resulting oil spill was the result of a succession of well design, construction, and temporary abandonment decisions that compromised the integrity of the well and compounded the risk of its failure. The Swiss firm said many of the decisions were made by well owner BP in the two weeks before the incident. Transocean said its evidence indicates that BP failed to properly assess, manage and communicate risk.

Source: The Independent on Saturday



Fireball: Facility Rocked by Blast Louisiana, U.S.A.

An explosion of unknown origin rocked the facility and forced the evacuation of residents for several miles.

Katie Dupuis, a spokeswoman for Multi-Chem, said the fire started where the company stores chemicals in outdoor tanks. Multi-Chem blends a variety of chemicals used in the oilfield industry.

Agencies from across the state continued to battle the remnants of massive chemical explosion and fire that consumed the Multi-Chem facility on West Admiral Doyle in New Iberia. Residents were evacuated from a one-mile radius from the building after explosions rocked the facility. Multi-Chem spokeswoman Katie Dupuis said “We are very grateful that there were no serious injuries in this situation, but we do regret that the incident caused an evacuation among the immediate area and concern among the local community”. To ensure safety of local and facility personnel, local authorities ordered an evacuation of the nearby area (one-mile radius) and a request to some residents to remain indoors

Approximately 20 people were working in and around the facility at the time of the explosion but all were accounted for after the accident. No injuries were reported.

The evacuation zone was in place as of 8 a.m. today with residents and business prohibited from entering the one-mile zone around the smouldering building. Immediately following the initial explosion, hundreds of emergency personnel began flooding in to begin containment of the disaster. As of this morning, air monitoring is continuing through the state Department of Environmental Quality to make sure that all emission remain at safe levels. This monitoring is being conducted at five different locations around the area. Acadiana Regional Airport Authority airport’s control tower was closed as of 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and the Federal Aviation Administration has issued a three-mile temporary flight restriction that prohibits any flights except for emergency personnel.

Source: http://www.iberianet.com/news/fireball/article_7f4d077a-976a-11e0-8cf6-001cc4c03286.html

Watch the Video: <http://www.wafb.com/story/14912417/evacuation-remains-in-place-near-plant>

Watch the Video:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/06/14/national/main20071171.shtml>



**Smoke and fire fill the sky as a chemical fire burns itself out
Photo Source: AP**



An aerial view of the fire raging at Multi-Chem Corp.



Fuel Leak Worse than Initially Reported - Canada

The environmental damage from a fuel leak at Toronto on Kelowna's downtown waterfront was much larger than the city first reported last year. While only about 1 litre of gasoline made its way into Okanagan Lake, a staggering 10,000 litre of fuel has saturated the soil in Kerry Park. Initial testing of the soil around a fuel storage tank by the beach showed no contamination last year, following testing by the city. But further research by environmental consultants found that a decommissioned gas line near the fuel tank at Kerry Park had leaked thousands of litres of fuel deep into the soil.

The City of Kelowna is waiting to remove the contaminated dirt because the smell is so strong when the land is excavated; the project was initially planned for last fall. Right now we anticipate shutting Kerry Park down in September, probably for about a month, said Ron Forbes, property manager for the City of Kelowna. We'll re-establish the walkway on the promenade as quickly as we can, but the remainder of the landscaped area will probably remain closed for a couple of months, until the grass can take hold again. The property from the edge of Queensway to the parking lot in Kerry Park will be excavated. The city did not renew the lease for the business, known as the Kelowna Marina, because soil removal is planned for late this summer. The gas bar and boat rental will not be open this year.

The city wants to improve the amenities along the downtown waterfront for 2012 and is seeking proposals for a new business that will operate at the location and provide boat fuel sales, boat rentals, public moorage.

Source:

<http://www.globaltoronto.com/Fuel+leak+worse+than+initially+reported/4957871/story.html>

Dangerous Goods iPhone Apps

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/chemical-compatibility-database/id408288716?mt=8> OR <http://tinyurl.com/3gdf2mq>

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gefahrqut/id375975267?mt=8>

<http://itunes.apple.com/au/app/danger-goods/id410785071?mt=8#>

Caltex plans to upgrade a pipeline at Kurnell wharf to increase its fuel supply to Sydney Airport



Pipeline Work Seen as “Band-Aid”

Botany Bay Planning and Protection Council has criticised Caltex's proposal to upgrade infrastructure and a pipeline to supply more jet fuel to Sydney Airport, saying it is another "Band-Aid" on an ageing refinery. Caltex's \$24 million application to the state government will see about 1.5 kilometres of the existing pipeline between the refinery boundary and Caltex's wharf at Kurnell replaced, installation of new pumps at the refinery, and new booster pumps, pipeline modifications and an electrical switch room at Caltex's Banksmeadow terminal.

Caltex said the project would reduce the risk of contamination and pollution in the future as a result of ageing infrastructure. Botany Bay Planning and Protection Council president Bernie Clarke said there were significant risks arising from the expectation that contaminated soil and groundwater would be encountered, and acid sulphate soils would be disturbed. He said the excavations would be near sensitive wetlands — the same area damaged by an oil leak for which Caltex was fined \$45,000 in the NSW Land and Environment Court in 2004. It cost \$3.2 million to clean up the area after the spill and the corporation promised \$13 million would be spent on reducing environmental risk in "coming years". "Acid sulphate soil has the same acidity level as acid in a car battery," Mr Clarke said. "This is what will be disturbed. They will have to be very careful not to discharge that into wetlands and Botany Bay." A Caltex spokesman said if any soil was contaminated, it would be disposed of in accordance with the waste management plan. The Caltex spokesman said the corporation's investigation into the oil sheen on Botany Bay on March 20 resulted in improved stormwater management actions. The corporation still faces possible legal action by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage which is still investigating the incident that occurred because the refinery's stormwater management system was overwhelmed by heavy rain.

Source: <http://www.theleader.com.au/news/local/news/general/pipeline-work-seen-as-a-bandaid/2190685.aspx>

Rio Tinto Faces Charges

Mining giant Rio Tinto will face court in the Northern Territory over a petrol spill at its alumina refinery on the Gove Peninsula, about 1,000 kilometres east of Darwin. In June last year, Rio Tinto revealed that about 70,000 litres of unleaded petrol had leaked from an old tank at its Alcan plant and into the soil below. The Territory Department of Resources this week decided to prosecute the mining giant over the environmental spill, lodging papers with Darwin's Magistrates Court. A spokesman for Rio Tinto says the company is committed to protecting the environment, and has worked with the Resources Department and environmental advisers to develop and implement an action plan to contain the material and remediate the affected area. When the incident was first reported by Rio Tinto, Territory Resources Minister said an overhaul of mine regulation was needed. The Northern Territory Minerals Council argues against changing the industry's self-regulation regime. Council executive director Peter Stewart told the ABC earlier this year that the Territory Government should not overreact. "Regulation has a role but how much regulation do we need to be subject to?" he asked. "I think there needs to be some careful consideration given to this before we just overreact and move into a highly regulated or more regulated regime." Source:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/06/17/3246732.htm?section=business>

Tank Farm Ignited by Lightning A Year Ago in North Carolina

June 13th, 2010 was hot, humid and stormy with a lot of lightning. For those who witnessed the lightning's sky show, the sharpness and intensity of it was a sure recipe for disaster. And, it happened - the lightning strike. What happened after turned into one the biggest, most intense fires in 2010. Lightning had struck a gas tank at, of all places, the Greensboro Tank Farm. Mother Nature delivered a bolt so powerful; the lightning protectors couldn't deflect the strike. Go here to read more:

<http://www.digtriad.com/news/local/article/179104/57/Lightning-Strike-Ignites-One-Of-Greensboros-Biggest-Fires-In-2010>



About 70,000 litres of unleaded petrol leaked from an old tank at the Alcan plant.

