



**AIDGC**

**Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants**

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

**December 2013**

**Congratulations  
to  
Anthony  
Warwick  
who is now a full  
Member**

**AIDGC 2014  
Conference  
September 19  
“Hazardous  
Areas”**

**HazMat 2014  
Melbourne,  
May 2014  
“Achieving a  
Productive &  
Resilient  
Industry”**



**The AIDGC Board would like to wish you a very happy holiday season and a healthy and successful 2014!**

**We hope you enjoy a relaxing, rewarding and rejuvenating festive break that's full of time with family and friends.**

**We'll be here to support you throughout the holiday period should you require it. As usual we will be contactable weekdays, evenings and weekends except on the following days:**

**Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day  
New Year's Eve and New Year's Day**

**Thanks for your continued support!**



**The AIDGC Hazardous Areas Workshop to be held in Sydney in February 2014 is completely booked.**

**We are looking to run another course, probably in March 2014, to accommodate those Members and non-Members who missed out.**

**If you are interested please email [robhogan@tpg.com.au](mailto:robhogan@tpg.com.au) and you will be advised as soon as possible.**

## **Ranger N.T. Begins Acid Leak Clean-Up**

Clean-up operations are well underway at Energy Resources of Australia's Ranger mine in the Northern Territory following an acidic radioactive slurry spill.

ERA chief executive Andrea Sutton said efforts are well-advanced.

"This is a serious issue and we are confident that we have the technical expertise to manage the incident," she said.

The Federal Government announced this week the mine will not be able to restart production operations without regulatory approval and has set up a taskforce to respond to the incident.

The company said monitoring at the site shows the tank rupture has had no impact on employees or the surrounding environment. "The monitoring has shown radiation dose levels are well within safe daily limit levels and continuous water quality monitoring has confirmed creeks and billabongs surrounding Ranger Mine have not been affected," ERA said. It said slurry had only been released into Ranger's processing area and has been fully contained.

Source: Alex Heber, Australian Mining

*The company initially suspended operations when the leak was discovered. A hole was found in the side of a leach tank within the mine's processing area.*

*Employees were evacuated before it collapsed.*

*It is not yet clear how much material leaked out of the faulty tank, which has a capacity of approximately 1,450 cubic metres.*

*A crane that had been used to assist in blocking the original hole was damaged when the tank gave way.*

## **Fiery Crash between Three Trucks in Victoria**

Two people have died and another has suffered life-threatening injuries in a fiery crash between three trucks in western Victoria. Police believe a B-double truck collided head on with a semi-trailer on the Western Highway at Black Range, and burst into flames.

Another semi-trailer then collided with one of the trucks.

Police have recovered two bodies. A third person, believed to be the driver of one of the trucks, has been taken to the Alfred Hospital in a critical condition.

The fire burned for about eight hours and has now been extinguished. Police are investigating what the trucks were carrying to try to find out why the fire burned for so long.

It is believed one truck was carrying household products which may have included aerosols and the other was transporting cars.

Video: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-12-05/two-dead-in-fiery-truck-crash-in-western-victoria/5135756>

## Spain - OGP Safety Alert: TEG Fire at Gas Dehydration Unit

This is a safety alert passed along from the The International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP) – OGP Safety Zone website.

After a TEG (Triethylene glycol) low level alarm at the natural gas dehydration unit, the unit was stopped and the operator waited 2 hours before opening the TEG inlet. A fire occurred when the TEG vapours, coming from inside the accumulator tank, reached the exhaust stack during the TEG refilling operation.

The burner zone has restrictions for operator escape, although on this occasion the operator reached the TEG inlet cap from outside the zone and was not caught by the fire.

The fire detector produced a level 1 emergency shut down and the fire was put out by the internal fire brigade without significant consequences.

### What Went Wrong?

#### Unsafe Acts:

- Opening the cap of TEG accumulator tank with vapours inside due to insufficient time for cooling the reboiler unit.
- Error in implementation of permit to work due to refilling operation being considered as routine.

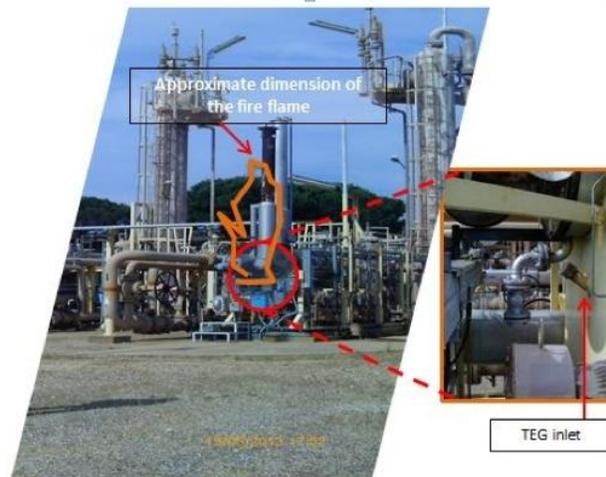
#### Unsafe Conditions:

- The design of the unit directs the vapours coming out of the refilling inlet towards a hot spot.
- Combustion soot had accumulated inside the exhaust gas stack, up to 3/4 of the internal section, contributing to a longer time for cooling of the hot spots.

Dehydration unit involved in the incident. Detail of TEG inlet.



Front and side view of the dehydration unit. TEG inlet design aiming to hot spot.





Dust at Yarwun's landing wharf

## **Rio Tinto: Alumina Dust Not a Concern**

Rio Tinto say a photo of alumina dust escaping from its Yarwun wharf was nothing to worry about, stating the plume posed no threat to health or the environment. A Spokesperson said the area was developing engineering modifications that would minimize dust that comes off the wharf. "It looks intense but it's not, it's a very fine product."

A woman who previously worked at the company's Gladstone refinery took a photo of the dust which she says signals an alumina overflow", which happens when skirts break. "Today it was really bad, just pouring out ... it was like it was snowing," she said.

Earlier this year Rio Tinto Alcan plead guilty in court for breaching its environmental obligations at its alumina plant.

The company admitted it did not have the capacity to deal with flooding which hit its red mud dam last year.

Rio has since met the capacity requirements and is on schedule to meet this year's conditions.

While last year the company announced a gasket failure caused waste material to disperse from the site, with some residents reporting small amounts of the fine red material on cars and windows. Source: Gladstone Observer

## **Farm Tank Fumes Overcome 8 in Victoria**

A father and two sons remain in a critical condition after becoming trapped in a farm tank in Victoria's east. Simon Coster, 48, entered the tank to clean it with ammonia and was overcome by toxic fumes. His sons Tim and Ash then entered the tank to save him and were also overcome. A worker also attempted a rescue before he succumbed to the fumes, calling another son who, with other workers, cut a hole in the side of the silo.

It is believed they pulled the father and brother from the silo and the fellow worker from the tank.

Workers at the scene, as well as a policeman, policewoman and paramedic were affected by the toxic fumes and taken to hospital. Emergency crews raced to the Coster's dairy farm at Cloverlea, near Warragul in the LaTrobe Valley, yesterday afternoon.

The three emergency workers and further three farm workers were taken to Warragul Hospital.

Mum Cheryl Coster believed the tank contained corn starch syrup (used as cow feed) which had fermented for too long causing a chemical reaction. Ambulance Victoria says it has treated eight patients.

Source: mark.buttler@news.com.au



Pictures: Channel 7



## **Risk Control Measures Relating to Explosion Prevention in Coal Mines**

Explosions at coal mines worldwide have been occurring ever since coal mining began. **The flammable gases in coal mines are:**

- a) methane given off from the coal measures,
- b) hydrogen given off by underground fires in confined spaces or when charging and discharging electrical batteries,
- c) carbon monoxide given off by diesel engines and the use of explosives underground or by underground fires in confined spaces.

**The potential ignition sources that can be present in coal mines are:**

- a) portable gas detectors, cap lamps and flame safety lamps,
- b) spontaneous combustion,
- c) open fire / heat sources,
- d) smoking,
- e) the use of explosives,
- f) electrostatic sparking,
- g) electrical equipment,
- h) mechanical equipment,
- i) frictional ignition and,
- j) incendive sparking.

Dr John Ford - HM Principal Inspector of electrical engineering in mines, UK HSE, will examine the control measures that are employed by mine operators to prevent dangerous accumulations of explosive gases, the control of potential ignition sources and the methods of preventing a gas explosion propagating into a coal dust explosion. This paper will be presented at HazardEx 2014 in February. Contact them for details of the available delegate packages & offers.

<http://www.hazardexonthenet.net/event.aspx?EventID=2218>

## **Charges against Pike River Boss Dropped**

All charges laid against former Pike River mine boss Peter Whittall over the 2010 explosion which killed 29 miners, have been dropped. The Crown told Christchurch District Court today it would not proceed with the prosecution of Whittall who was facing 12 health and safety charges relating to the disaster 2010.

Prosecutors dropped the charges as a result of lack of evidence.

"Taking into account the available evidence, the ministry considered that the likelihood of obtaining a conviction was low," acting deputy chief executive of New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's health and safety group, Geoffrey Podger said. Source: Australian Mining



## **Rio Tinto Fined for Visible Dust**

Rio Tinto's Bengalla mine in the Hunter Valley has been fined for failing to minimize dust emissions after various warnings from the Planning Department. The Department says compliance officers made an unannounced visit to the mine in October 1 and observed two haul trucks being loaded during high wind conditions that generated dust.

Several days later the department issued a \$3000 fine for failing to minimize visible dust during adverse weather conditions. The department said the mine had received a warning letter about the same issue in August.

Bengalla mine has been advised to review its dust management processes and the mine is said to be implementing new practices. In a statement a Coal & Allied spokesperson said the mine took a number of actions on the day in question to minimize dust including shutting down equipment such as trucks, shovels and draglines. "We continually work to improve the way we manage impacts from our operation and have undertaken a thorough review of activities on this day the outcomes of which will form part of our continuous improvement measures," the spokesperson said.

Source: Vicki Validakis, Australian Mining

## **Californian Sriracha Sauce Factory Complaints**

The southern Californian city of Irwindale has had its request that a local Sriracha sauce factory be shut put under consideration, after residents requested a preliminary injunction.

AP reports that Judge Robert O'Brien would not say on Friday when he might rule on a temporary injunction sought by locals, which have complained over problems including asthma, bad smells and eye irritations related to the factory, which produces the popular hot sauce.

The airborne red dust particles produced by the factory have been likened by some to pepper spray. According to the LA Times, the city has requested both a permanent and a preliminary injunction. The owner of the factory, Huy Fong Foods, has claimed an injunction was unnecessary as the chilli harvest season had ended. The company had earlier claimed that the temporary injunction may have led to its bankruptcy. Source: LA Times

## **Fine over Acetylene Storage in Van**

A Darwin plumbing company has been convicted and fined for storing acetylene cylinders in an enclosed van, despite a formal warning by NT WorkSafe.  [media release 29 oct 2013.pdf](#)



See a Video:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-judge-decide-sriracha-20131121,0,6265056.story#axzz2lc89lBpd>



Photo: Illume Magazine

If you have any parts that might be useful or of interest to Members they would be much appreciated! Please forward to: [robhogan@tpg.com.au](mailto:robhogan@tpg.com.au)

**Watch a Video!**

<http://chinhdangvu.blogspot.com.au/2013/12/breathe-in-that-dirty-doublethink.html>

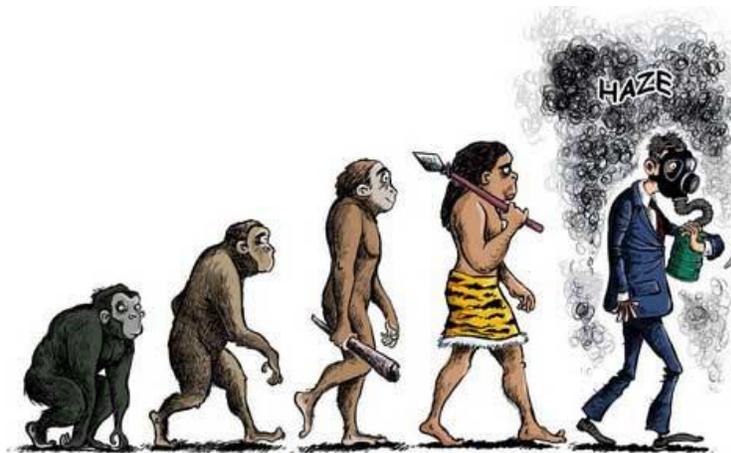
## Syria Chemical Weapons Disposal Plan

The plan for the destruction of all Syrian chemical stockpiles outside the country will be released on Dec 17, a UN spokesperson said on Wednesday. UN spokesperson Martin Nesirky said that what must be eliminated are the chemicals stored or prepared by Syria for the production of chemical weapons. "These chemicals are not weapons in the traditional meaning of this word ... They cannot be fired as such and they are not weaponized - - in other words, they have not been put into munitions."

The Joint Mission of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) will carry out the disposal project, with the assistance of a number of others, including member states of the OPCW. Since August, the OPCW staff have been in Syria to inspect and verify Syria's chemical weapon stockpiles. So far they have succeeded in conducting their mission in 22 of the 23 sites.

According to the organization, the most dangerous chemical substances will be transported out of Syria by the end of this year while the rest will be shipped out for destruction no later than June 30, 2014.

Source: [http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/syrian-chemical-weapons-disposal-plan-to-be-released-next-week-un\\_896200.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/syrian-chemical-weapons-disposal-plan-to-be-released-next-week-un_896200.html)



Source: China Daily

Last year, Shanghai's favourite winter sport was checking the air pollution readings in Beijing and gloating over how high they were.

That's not so much fun this year. In the past week Shanghai has racked up its worst pollution since records began, with the concentration of deadly PM2.5 fine particles topping 600 micrograms per cubic metre on Friday afternoon, at a time when Beijing's level was half that. (The World Health Organisation's safe level is 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> as a daily mean.)

The Shanghai government has the perfect solution to the current "airpocalypse": it "adjusted" the city's pollution standard so that it would trigger fewer hazard warnings.



Image via News.cn

## **Coal Mine Explosion Kills 21 in Xinjiang**

**Twenty-one miners were killed in a coal mine gas explosion on morning in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, according to media reports. Of the 22 people trapped in the mine after the explosion, only one survived.**

**The blast happened at 1:26 a.m. at the Baiyanggou coal mine in Hutubi County in Hui Autonomous Prefecture of Changji, when 34 miners were working underground, the prefecture government said. China's mines are believed to be among the deadliest in the world and often suffer explosions. Earlier this year, an explosion at an illegal coal mine in Guizhou killed 12 miners, and less than 24 hours later an explosion at a coal mine in Sichuan.**

Source: shanghaiist.com

## **Deadly Williams Olefins Fire**

**US federal regulator OSHA has proposed fining Williams Olefins \$99,000 for safety violations after the June explosion and fire that killed two workers and injured at least 80 others.**

**They cited Williams with six safety violations related to procedures designed to handle hazardous chemicals, in this case highly flammable propylene, the agency said in a news release. The workplace safety regulator deemed one of those violations “willful,” a designation that has larger significance. If OSHA determines there has been a willful violation of safety rules that led to a death, the agency can recommend that the U.S. Department of Justice conduct a criminal investigation.**

**The willful violation, according to the citation issued by OSHA, involves the company’s failure to develop and use procedures on changing and putting into service pressure vessels known as reboilers. This alone resulted in \$70,000 of the \$99,000 in penalties OSHA has proposed. Investigators with OSHA and the U.S. Chemical Safety Board have focused on a reboiler, or heat exchanger, that a safety board official has said “failed catastrophically” inside the Geismar complex’s propylene fractionation unit.**

**Though OSHA said Wednesday there were 80 injuries in addition to the two deaths, the company and others have previously reported more than 100 injuries from the blast.**

**The Geismar plant south of Baton Rouge employed 127 workers and specializes in the production of natural gas, ethylene and propylene. Williams said in early October that its own investigation found the ruptured reboiler released a vapour cloud that ignited. It concluded that unexpected hydrocarbon liquid was in the reboiler while it was in standby mode. When heat was added to the reboiler, the vessel, which lacked a pressure relief equipment, ruptured.**



**NICNAS MATTERS  
December 2013 is  
now available:**

<http://www.nicnas.gov.au/communications/publications/nicnas-matters/nicnas-matters-december-2013>

## **Pharmaceuticals Firms Fined for Chemical Incidents at Welsh Plant**

Two Flintshire pharmaceutical firms have been fined for multiple safety and environmental breaches which caused workers' major health problems and resulted in releases to the environment – including failures to comply with two HSE enforcement notices. Archimica Chemicals Limited and its trading partner, Euticals Ltd, were prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in proceedings covering four separate cases.

- In November 2011, methyl iodide, a highly toxic substance that can affect the central nervous system was released into the atmosphere as a result of poorly written procedures which failed to identify when a safety critical valve should be open.
- In February 2012, an agency worker was exposed to methyl iodide after being provided with inadequate respiratory protection.
- In June and July 2012, a worker was exposed three times to methyl iodide as a result of inadequate decontamination training.
- On 26 July 2012, an agency worker almost died from a pulmonary embolism after being exposed to methyl iodide while training. HSE found he had been issued with poorly fitted respiratory protection in the knowledge that methyl iodide levels were exceeding workplace exposure limits in many areas.
- In November 2012, three workers were exposed to dichloromethane (DCM), a hazardous substance with narcotic and possible carcinogenic effects that are potentially fatal, when a process vessel was overfilled and it overflowed into a ventilation system. The men were unaware of the vessel's filling rate and the filling apparatus was not fitted with a trip device or alarm to prevent overflow.

Archimica Ltd was fined a total of £80,000 and Euticals Ltd was fined £20,000 for the health and safety breaches and £20,000 for the environmental charges. Both companies are now in liquidation and the site is being decommissioned.

After sentencing, HSE Inspector Mark Burton, said:

“The lack of competent management, control and understanding of the site's major hazard and chemical processes could have led to these being fatal investigations, as could the incident to the workers who were exposed to methylene chloride. “Health and safety should not be neglected, overlooked or compromised, especially in a high risk environment where there are hazardous and dangerous substances.”

Source and Image: BBC.UK



One victim, Nigel Verdon, suffered brain damage in one toxic leak

This month my thanks for their contribution goes to Don Johnson, Peter Hunt and Scott Young.

## 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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Sydney Pty. Ltd.  
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## HSE: Consultation Opens on Plans to Simplify Petrol Legislation

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched an eight-week consultation on plans to simplify and modernise legislation on the storage of petroleum.

HSE is inviting comments on proposals to consolidate and refine eight pieces of legislation that apply to the storage of petrol at workplaces that dispense petrol, mainly petrol stations, and non-workplace premises such as private homes.

The proposal is to revoke all existing legislation and consolidate the provisions to be maintained into one single set of new regulations. Full details are contained within the consultation document available on the HSE website

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd264.htm>

## HSE : Updated Guidance on Dangerous Substances in the Workplace

Five pieces of health and safety guidance have been combined to help employers more quickly and easily understand how to protect their workers from dangerous substances and explosive atmospheres.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has consolidated five Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs) under the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR), covering issues from plant design and operation, through to maintenance. The consolidated document (with the series code L138) is relevant to businesses handling or storing flammable substances.

It is available to download or purchase from the HSE website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l138.htm>

The new ACOP is being introduced following public consultation and ministerial and HSE Board approval.

Kären Clayton, Director of HSE's Long Latency Health Risks Division, explained: "The text is now clearer and simpler overall and merging the five ACOPs eliminates repetition across the original documents. Navigation has been improved with an enhanced contents list to enable the dutyholder to find the advice that is of most interest to them."

Legal responsibilities (i.e. the requirements of the DSEAR regulations) to protect workers' safety are not altered by any redrafting to the ACOP.



This little label on a gas pump is the only thing standing between a boater and a dangerous misfueling of his gas tanks.



## **U.S. EPA Hearing – Boaters & other Groups Push for End to Ethanol Mandate**

**The Environmental Protection Agency has gotten an earful from an assortment of interest groups, including those representing boaters, about the nation's ethanol mandate.**

**Nicole Payla Wood, government affairs program manager for BoatUS, told the EPA at a hearing held in Washington, D.C., that the ethanol mandate is a real danger to the entire marine industry, and the problem has been exacerbated by the agency's approval of the sale of E15 in 11 states.**

**The risks of running E10 in outboard motors have been well-documented, and no marine engine is warrantied to run on E15, according to BoatUS.**

**"As the Renewable Fuel Standard policy pushes higher blends of ethanol gasoline into the market, there is an increased potential for misfueling and engine failure that needs to be made clear," Wood told the agency. "Not all Americans can afford to drive tow vehicles made after 2001, and for boaters, these higher blends are poison to our marine engines." That puts boaters' lives at risk, Wood said. "What may result in a roadside breakdown for a car can quickly lead to a search-and-rescue mission or search-and-recovery in a boat," she said.**

**The entire ethanol mandate has come under fire in recent months from a diverse range of groups. Representatives from fuel and manufacturing associations as well as food, restaurant, poultry and meat producers argued against the mandate. Many environmental groups have also begun to oppose the mandate.**

**The EPA last month lowered the proposed ethanol standards for 2014 because the country is approaching what's called the "ethanol wall." If the ethanol requirement were to stay at the mandated level for 2014, refiners would have to mix more than 10-percent ethanol with their fuel to meet that level. That's because fuel consumption hasn't grown as much as expected when the mandate was implemented through the Renewable Fuel Standard in 2007.**

### **Newspaper Report on the Risks of Running E10 in Outboard Motors**

<http://www.nola.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2012/12/higher-ethanol-fuel-starting-t.html>

### **Blowers and Ethanol Don't Mix**

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20131209/FEAT/312099968/1011/feat>



## **Mexican Police Block Hospital as Radioactive Load Hijackers Admitted**

**Mexican police have blocked a hospital in the city of Pachuca where people have been admitted for radiation poisoning, which could have come from a stolen shipment of cobalt-60.**

**A cargo truck with a radioactive cargo of cobalt-60 was stolen by gunmen from a gas station in the central state of Hidalgo, where Pachuca is located.**

**The material had been removed from obsolete radiation therapy equipment at a hospital in the northern city of Tijuana and was being transported to a nuclear waste facility.**

**The missing shipment was discovered on Wednesday about 40 kilometers from the site where it was taken by the perpetrators. The atomic energy agency said the cobalt has an activity of 3,000 curies, or Category 1, meaning *"it would probably be fatal to be close to this amount of unshielded radioactive material for a period in the range of a few minutes to an hour."***

**Mexico's national nuclear safety commission CNSNS said that the thieves must have received a lethal dose of radiation as they had removed material from them.**

**The United Nation has warned that the stolen cobalt-60 could be used to make a so-called *"dirty bomb,"* a weapon that combines radioactive material with conventional explosives.**

**Source: <http://rt.com/news/mexico-radioactive-load-hospital-858/>**

## **Baking Manufacturing Plant Explosion**

**An explosion at a baking manufacturing plant in Kansas, injured three workers with one employee suffering serious burns.**

**An employee was mixing bulk baking products when the explosion occurred.**

**"What we are looking at here is probably like a dust explosion that you would have inside a silo," KCK Fire Department Deputy Chief Craig Duke said. "Basically these baking products like flour and sodium carbonates have static electricity that must have caused the explosion that did set the equipment on fire initially."**

**Firefighters put the fire out in the mixing equipment quickly.**

**One employee suffered third-degree burns to that employee's arms and second-degree burns to that person's face. Two other employees were treated at an area hospital for smoke inhalation. Firefighters at the scene initially said just one suffered smoke inhalation.**

**Video: <http://www.kctv5.com/story/24155636/explosion-at-baking-manufacturing-plant-injures-3-workers>**



## Smoking Was a Bad Choice for Adelaide Man

...who accidentally set several cars on fire by lighting a smoke while allegedly trying to steal fuel in Millicent overnight, police say. Police were called to Mount Gambier Rd about 11.10pm after reports of a fire in a car yard. Police searched the area and found a man with burns on his legs. He had allegedly been trying to siphon fuel from one of the cars when he lit a cigarette, causing the fuel to ignite.

CFS crews were also called to the scene to battle the blaze and managed to stop it from spreading to nearby buildings. The damage bill is estimated at \$100,000. The 26-year-old Millicent man was arrested and charged with arson and illegal interference with a motor vehicle.

Watch the Video: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/man-accidentally-sets-cars-on-fire-while-having-a-smoke-while-allegedly-stealing-petrol-causing-100000-damage/story-e6frg6n6-1226778477394>



## 200 People Exposed to Chemical Gases

Initially smoke was reported coming out of vents in a roof at 146 Railroad Avenue, Monrovia, Pasadena. An unknown resin was off gassing. Monrovia Fire, Health HazMat and AQMD (Air Quality Mgmt District) went to the scene to identify the chemical and treat patients.



Approximately 200 people were exposed to the chemical gases, 45 became symptomatic, reporting dizziness and other symptoms. 9 have been taken to local area hospitals, 2 with immediate needs and IV support. The fire department and city officials are encouraging all those experiencing symptoms to be transported to area hospitals, but it is not mandatory. No firefighters have been exposed.



Officials asked residents near the immediate area to shelter in place until the hazardous material can be identified and contained. The material has not yet been identified. Railroad Avenue is mostly manufacturing. The company at 146 is AirLogistics.

Photographs and source: Pasadena Independent

## It Was a “Chemical Cocktail”

Monrovia fire officials told the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* that three unknown chemicals had been mixed together to create a cocktail of hazardous gas.

The chemicals have since been identified as cyclo aliphathic resin, boron trifluoride, and ancamine.

The fumes, carried through a ventilation system, originated at Air Logistics Corp, which mixes chemicals as part of its manufacturing processes in Southern California. Source: Hazmatmag.com



## Mad Max Fuel Tanker: What Would Putin Do?



An apocalyptic lorry has been prowling the motorways of Belarus - but it would look more at home on the set of Mad Max. The black rig, a custom lorry covered in sharp spikes, rusty rivets and battle armour has been spotted on motorways in Mogilev.

The crazy truck was custom built by members of the Night Wolves, Russia's most famous motorcycle club. Founded in 1989, the Night Wolves are Russian president Vladimir Putin's favourite biker group. He has met with them on at least three occasions and appeared at a biker festival with them in April. Putin arrived at the festival on a huge black trike to the sound of the group's anthem. Source: [Mirror.co.uk](http://www.mirror.co.uk)  
Watch the Video: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/mad-max-fuel-tanker-lorry-2905536>



Map of TCE vapour intrusion testing areas

## TCE Vapour Intrusion – General Mills, U.S.A.

Residents of the Como neighborhood in Minneapolis have filed a lawsuit in the federal court against General Mills over chemical contamination that has been linked to vapour intrusion in their homes. The suit was brought by Karl Ebert and Carol Krauze, both for themselves and for other families affected by trichloroethylene (TCE) vapour contamination in the Como neighbourhood.

General Mills has not contested that the industrial solvent and degreaser was used and dumped at a research facility the company owned and operated in the area. Rather, they spent 25 years treating water in two contaminated aquifers; however, those efforts ended in 2010.

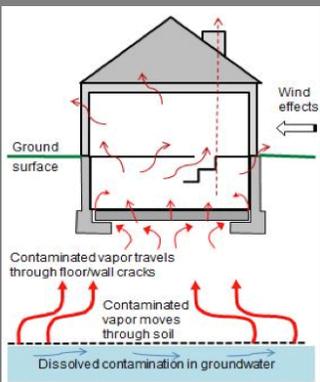
In early November, residents were notified that TCE vapour had been found in soil samples collected in the neighbourhood, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is currently urging homeowners in the area to allow inspectors to perform tests in order to determine whether a ventilation system should be installed. General Mills is covering the cost of the inspection and the ventilation systems, which work in much the same way radon mitigation systems do.

The lawsuit claims at least 200 properties are currently known to be affected by the contamination, many at extraordinarily high levels. Initial results recently became known, and while the MPCA puts a safety threshold at 20 units per cubic meter, some homes registered more than 15,000.

Source: [Fox9.com](http://fox9.com)

Video Report:

<http://playvideo.co/317d43a8-4335-493d-8011-1991f614bab1>



TCE vapour intrusion process



TCE vapour test sampling results as of Dec. 4, 2013



Photo: [www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au)

## **Chemical Spill in W.A. Under Control**

**A chemical spill at a facility between Kalbarri and Northampton in Western Australia's mid west region has been contained.**

**Thousands of litres of hydrochloric acid spilled from a tank at BASF's Hutt Lagoon site at Yallabatharra with the operator blaming it on a faulty valve while the Department of Fire and Emergency Services attributed it to a ruptured pipe.**

**'Any content leaked from the tank has been fully captured by the containment bund,' BASF said in a statement. 'Local fire brigades from Kalbarri, Northampton and Geraldton have responded and are in the process of determining the best course of action to transfer the leaked content.'**

**They are expected to remain there for several hours as chemical recovery personnel travel to the site.**

**DFES has warned of fumes in the area.**

**The Hutt Lagoon site is part of BASF's Nutrition and Health business, where it derives beta-carotene from naturally occurring micro-alga. The product is used as food and beverage colouring and in dietary supplements.**

**Production at the site will be suspended until the situation is under control, BASF said.**

**Source: SkyNews.com.au**

## **CSB Releases Safety Message on Preventing Accidents in High School Chemistry Laboratories**

**The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today released, ["After the Rainbow,"](#) a video safety message focused on potential dangers in high school chemistry laboratories. The message features Calais Weber, an accident survivor, who on January 23, 2006, at age 15 was burned over 40 per cent of her body during a chemistry demonstration performed by her teacher at a prestigious boarding school she attended in Ohio.**

**In her own words, Calais describes the demonstration, called the "rainbow experiment," that was meant to show how various mineral salts produce different color flames when burned. Mineral salts were mixed with highly flammable methanol in small dishes.**

**The video is a follow up to ["Experimenting with Danger,"](#) concerning laboratory accidents in three major universities.**

**CSB videos may be streamed and downloaded at [www.CSB.gov](http://www.CSB.gov) from the CSB media room. They are also available on [www.YouTube.com/uscsb](http://www.YouTube.com/uscsb).**



The explosion in Wright Street, Newark, caused the Rourkes' home to collapse



The explosion killed two family members



File photo.

## **Explosion and Deaths Caused by Cans of Foam**

Two people were killed when fumes from DIY work built up and caused an explosion, an inquest has heard.

Leslie Rourke, 71, is thought to have used at least 12 cans of inflammable foam to treat damp in a confined cellar at a home in Newark, Nottinghamshire. The fumes were ignited by either a cellar light or freezer motor, killing Mr. Rourke and his daughter-in-law Jeanette Rourke, 40, on 19 May.

A coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Nicholas Rourke, son of Mr Rourke and husband of Mrs Rourke, was injured in the explosion and pulled out by rescuers.

Giving evidence at the inquest in Nottingham, he said the expandable foam was labelled inflammable but not explosive.

They had bought 18 cans of it to fill up the coal chute in the cellar to get rid of damp, he said.

Mr Rourke said the cellar door and other windows in the house had been left open to provide ventilation while his father did the work. He said that he "did not have a clue" what had happened in the moments after the blast, but did remember being carried across the street by people who pulled him out of the rubble.

A woman and two children were also treated for smoke inhalation, and several people had to move because their homes were damaged. Photos and Source: BBCNews

## **Road transport Accidents Trending Down**

An insurance provider says it has had its lowest claims year on record for heavy vehicles in the dangerous good sector.

According to Grant Stillman, head of DG insurance at OAMPS and a 30 year veteran in the insurance business, there are a lot of lessons that can be drawn from analysing insurance claims. "We are currently experiencing our best run in history with claims reducing year on year " he said. "We had one spike two years ago, which highlights how volatile the industry can be even with the most risk-conscious clients."

The reduction in claims is not due to luck but a focus by the insurers and also the companies insured to 'get it right' with proper systems and procedures.

"There has been a lot of focus of late about tanker maintenance, yet our records show that we have not had to pay out on one claim based on poor maintenance in years," Mr Stillman said.

OAMPS' main concern is driver error that leads to accidents. "More than 70% of our claims are attributed to driver error. Read More:

<http://www.tandlnews.com.au/2013/12/12/article/road-transport-accidents-trending-down/>



Emergency services at the scene of the spill. Photo / Adam van Raalte



## **Chemical Spill at Auckland Airport**

**Fire fighters are cleaning up a chemical spill at Auckland Airport. A Fire Service spokesman said three fire trucks were called to the chemical spill at an Air New Zealand cargo building on Ogilvie Crescent shortly before 11am. "There are no fumes and it seems to be very minor."**

**One of the appliances was a hazardous materials unit, he said. It was not yet known what type of chemical was involved in the spill. Air New Zealand was not immediately available to comment on the incident. Source: Teuila Fuatai, APNZ**

## **Company Admits Shipping Explosive Cargo**

**An aviation company, which shipped unlabelled, dangerous explosive goods from Stansted Airport to America, must wait to hear its fate after pleading guilty to failing to comply with safety regulations. Burwood Aviation Supplies Ltd, of Verwood, Dorset, was prosecuted by the Civil Aviation Authority for sending a chemical oxygen generator – used in overhead oxygen masks if aircraft decompresses - for repair via Federal Express to Kansas, but it was not packaged properly.**

**The CAA prosecutor told Chelmsford Magistrates Court today (Friday, December 13) a chemical charge triggered the working of oxygen masks for passengers in the event of decompression. The carriage of units on their own and their packaging is strictly regulated because of the dangerous combination of oxygen and explosive.**

**As an example of their potential risk, prosecutor Alison Slater said: "In 1996 a passenger aircraft crashed in the Florida Everglades [killing 109 people]. The American authorities investigated and found what caused the crash was an explosion caused by chemical oxygen generators accidentally being activated."**

**Burwood Aviation pleaded guilty to failing to comply with the regulations on or about April 13 this year at Stansted Airport by sending the generator without technical instructions and not packaged in fit condition for carriage by air.**

**When it was opened on arrival on April 15, BE Aerospace immediately reported it to the Federal Aviation Authority, which passed on the information to the CAA.**

**The prosecutor said two retaining pins to stop the chemical charge starting accidentally in transit were not complied with; the cardboard box was marked with "oxygen mask container" instead of the proper description; and it did not have a hazard label or cargo-only label. In addition the important dangerous goods transport document was missing. Source: Herts and Essex Observer**

**How important your role is if you import, manufacture, reformulate, repackage, transport, store, sell or even just use chemicals.**

<http://www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au/Resources/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au/Media1/FINAL%20chemical%20security%20podcast.MP3>

## **Ottawa to Designate Crude Oil as Highly Dangerous**

**The federal government will, for the first time, designate crude oil a highly dangerous substance and introduce tougher safety and testing measures for shipping oil by rail, Transport Minister Lisa Raitt has said.**

**The fundamental shift, in response to mounting concerns about crude safety, comes after investigations detailed how the oil that exploded in Lac-Mégantic, Que., last summer was far more dangerous than regulators and shippers considered. The investigation found that numerous warning signs about the volatility, corrosiveness and content of the crude were ignored before the disaster.**

**Until now, the government considered crude flammable, but not highly explosive. Ms. Raitt said on Thursday there is a clear need for higher safety standards to deal with the massive growth in oil being shipped by rail through cities and towns. Transport Canada also plans to pursue oil shippers who are not properly testing crude before shipping it**

**For decades, specialized safety procedures were required for dozens of explosive hazardous materials, but not for crude oil. The Lac-Mégantic disaster, and a similar explosive derailment last month in Alabama, have shown that particular types of oil, such as the light crude shipped from North Dakota, can be unusually volatile. Ms. Raitt said she has asked a special working group inside Transport Canada to come up with an Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP) for crude oil. She has given the department until the end of January to formulate the plan, which will move oil to the highest level of dangerous goods, and expects the new regime governing oil shipments to be in place by mid-2014.**

**Those new rules will require railways and importers to have specific emergency plans for crude, including ensuring specialized response teams are available along the route in the event of an accident. The addition of crude to the list could ensure future accidents are better controlled. Transport Canada must decide which forms of crude are on the list and whether rules will differ depending on volume of oil. In the past five years, a shortage of pipelines has resulted in unprecedented amounts of oil moving by rail, including trains of more than 100 tanker cars.**

**The government said it would take “targeted action” to increase the safety of transporting dangerous goods.**

**Source: Grant Robertson and Jacquie McNish, The Globe and Mail**

**Watch the Video: [From the U.S. to Lac-Mégantic: Inside the massive growth of oil by rail](#)**

## **OSHA Looks for Chemical Safety Update**

National workplace safety regulators are starting to work on new regulations to prevent major chemical accidents.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has asked the public to weigh on potential changes to its standards, which could pave the way for new rules for companies that deal with chemicals.

In its notice OSHA said that it wants the public to comment on whether it should update its rules for safe handling of highly hazardous chemicals as well as standards for explosives, flammable liquids and spray finishing. It is also curious whether its enforcement policies should be updated to crack down on companies that break the rules. "OSHA will use the information received in response to this [request for information] to determine what actions, if any, it may take," it said.

Once the notice is formally published in the *Federal Register*, the public will have 90 days to submit comments.

Source: Julian Hattem, The Hill

## **Up to 30 dead in Indonesian Train Crash**

A passenger train has crashed and exploded into flames killing an estimated 30 people, mostly women, after crashing into a gas truck in south Jakarta.

The Serpong to Tanah Abang train was passing through the southern suburb of Bintaro when it hit the liquefied gas truck and burst into flames. Read the story and Watch the Video:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/asia/9495737/Up-to-30-dead-in-Indonesian-train-crash>

## **Blast in NE China Chemical Plant Kills 2**

A chemical plant early December in northeast China's Shenyang City of Liaoning Province killed two people, local authorities said.

The blast happened at the Shenyang Sanmu Chemical Company.

One of the three people working at the scene escaped the blast.

Cause of the blast is under investigation. Source: Global Times

**"The Promise"** The AIChE Foundation has produced a new short film about the legacy and future promise of chemical engineering, which is narrated by John J. McKetta, former AIChE president and emeritus professor of chemical engineering at the University of Texas, Austin. The film is raising awareness of -- and financial support for -- chemical engineers' responses to society's grand challenges [Watch the film.](#)

## **National Transport Commission: the Future Extracted from the NTC Annual Report 2012/2013**

Outlined below are some of the key initiatives the NTC will undertake to continue to improve safety in the transport sector during the coming year.

### **National Rail Safety Regulator**

The NTC will continue to work with the regulator to resolve any remaining issues relating to the implementation of the national law and regulations.

### **National Heavy Vehicle Regulator Forward Work Program**

The NTC will continue to support the regulator in its administration of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) throughout 2013–14. This includes the following projects:

- Providing secretariat support to the Chain of Responsibility (COR) taskforce – an issues paper will be released for public consultation in July 2013. A policy directions paper will be provided to SCOTI in November 2013, with the final report due to SCOTI in early 2014 to align with the National Penalties

### **Framework Review.**

- Undertaking a National Penalties Framework Review, with the final report due to SCOTI for approval in early 2014.
- Undertaking further heavy vehicle policy development and reform in consultation with stakeholders. This includes the development of a Heavy Vehicle Compliance Review, which is designed to inform future directions in compliance and enforcement and the NHVR's operational strategy in this area. The review will be released for public consultation by the end of 2013.
- Monitoring and reviewing the impact of the HVNL to ensure that it delivers its intended outcomes.

- Undertaking a 'residual risk' review arising from changes to the way time is counted for the national driver work diary.

The NTC is assessing any residual risk arising from this methodology, with expert advice being sought from fatigue scientists across the country to inform the review.

### **A corporate approach to transport safety**

Australia's business sector will take the lead in the National Road Safety Partnership Program (NRSP), to be launched later in 2013. The NTC has served in a facilitating role in establishing the program and will transfer the program to another entity by mid-2014.

### **Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems**

The NTC will conduct further research into the policy implications of Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) and will make final recommendations to transport ministers by the end of 2013.

### **Regulatory Telematics for Compliance and Enforcement**

The NTC will investigate how voluntary telematics could be used to support regulatory compliance and what barriers exist to uptake. Industry, government and technology stakeholders are currently being consulted as part of the process.

### **Electronic Work Diaries (EWD)**

The NTC will release its regulatory issues paper for public consultation by the end of 2013.

### **Review of the Australian Road Rules and Australian Vehicle Standards Rules**

The NTC will release its *Review of the Australian Road Rules and Vehicle Standards Rules – Draft Evaluation Report* for public consultation in July 2013.

### **Amendments to the transport of dangerous goods laws**

The second package of amendments to the transport of dangerous goods laws (including ADG7) will be released for public consultation in August 2013, with final recommendations to be presented to SCOTI in November 2013.

### **Australian Road Rules amendments (10th package)**

The 10th package of proposed amendments will be released for public consultation in July 2013, with final recommendations to be presented to SCOTI in November 2013.

### **Strategic framework review of the regulation of land transport of dangerous goods**

A final recommendations paper will be released by the NTC by the end of 2013. The recommendations aim to determine the most effective framework for regulating the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail.

### **CheckMyTruck**

The NTC has created an online vehicle assessment tool to assist truck and trailer manufacturers, operators, compliance officers and roads authorities to determine whether a vehicle's specifications—such as mass and dimensions—are compliant. The user-friendly tool will initially be hosted by the NTC. Further details about the NTC's strategic priorities and projects are contained in the NTC's *Strategic Plan 2013/14 to 2015/16* and the NTC's *Work Program 2013/14 to 2015/16*. Both documents are available on the NTC website: <http://www.ntc.gov.au>

## **Firefighters Pump Jet Fuel on Fire**

A serious mishap at the Washington State Patrol fire training academy in Washington. During a training exercise, firefighters mistakenly pumped jet fuel instead of water onto a flaming mock-up of an airplane crash. <http://www.kgw.com/news/235869551.html>

## **SA/SNZ HB 436:2013, Risk management guidelines - Companion to AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009**

Revised after 9 years, this Handbook provides guidance on the implementation of Australia's most widely used Risk Management Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009, Risk management - Principles and guidelines.

The Standard defines the concept of risk, explains how it comes about, and describes the principles, framework and process that allow risk to be managed effectively.

**The Handbook** expands on and explains these elements and provides advice about applying the Standard, including using it to evaluate and improve existing risk management practice.

Get AS/NZS ISO 31000 and the NEW Handbook in a set and **SAVE 20%\***. [sales@saiglobal.com](mailto:sales@saiglobal.com)

### **Graham Goodfellow Memorial Address**

The AIDGC Board has decided to honour one of our Founding Members, at each yearly Conference, with an Annual Address to commemorate his memory.

Any member interested in preparing and presenting this Address are invited to present a written abstract submission on any topic related to dangerous goods by February 3, 2014. The Board will assess these submissions and the member chosen to deliver the address will receive a grant of \$1000 (plus airfare and a night's accommodation in Sydney if required).

The AIDGC Board will conduct a peer review of submissions and advise all applicants of the outcomes. Enquiries to:

[Lgawecki@globalskm.com](mailto:Lgawecki@globalskm.com)

### **Fatal Fuel Tank Explosion OSHA Investigates**

A ranch worker was apparently grinding a 300-pound gasoline tank when the tank exploded, killing the worker and seriously injuring two other workers. Cal-OSHA said initial reports indicate that three workers were reconditioning three gasoline and diesel fuel tanks on a ranch "It is believed they had finished one tank and were working on the second when that one exploded," Melton said.

It was not clear Thursday whether any gasoline was in the tank when it exploded, but two welding experts said the dangers come from gasoline vapours and fumes, not necessarily the fuel itself.

Source: Merced Sun Star

Local News

Firefighters mistakenly pump jet fuel on fire instead of water





**AGL fined for NO<sub>x</sub> exceedences**

**The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has issued AGL operations in Camden with a fine of \$1,500 and an official caution for exceeding air pollutant, oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) concentrations limits on two occasions in August this year.**

## **Refinery Blast Critically Injures Worker: OSHA says Previous Multiple Violations**

**A 24-year-old man was critically injured after an explosion at the Bango Oil Refinery plant 15 miles west of the Nevada City. The Bango plant restores used oil back into its original life cycle. Sheriff Ben Trotter said “Everyone was evacuated quickly, but the foreman and plant manager remained down there (near the fire).” Trotter, who was one of the first responders at the scene, said he learned that one of the larger oil refinery tanks exploded and as the fire spread, he said witnesses reported hearing three to four “small booms.” Trotter said the fire departments did a good job to keep the fire from spreading to several white hydrogen tanks located west of the tanks. Source and Photo: Nevada Appeal**

**Read about previous problems:**

**[Bango Oil Recycling Plant Issued Multiple Violations by OSHA](#)**

## **Hazards of Strong Oxidisers: Process Safety Beacon**

**A worker was asked to move two open top 5-gallon pails containing aqueous sodium permanganate solution from one location to another. When he picked up the pails, the contents of one of them erupted, spraying the worker with the solution. Sodium permanganate is a strong oxidizer, and the splashed material set the worker’s clothing on fire. His injuries required hospital treatment.**

**The facility where the incident occurred handled both oxidizing agents (such as sodium permanganate) and reducing materials (for example, sodium thiosulfate and sodium metabisulfite) in small quantities, sometimes in pails or other small containers.**

**At times, materials were transported in pails which were not labeled. It is believed that the pail which erupted contained one of the reducing agents handled at the facility, and sodium permanganate solution was added to the pail.**

**The reaction apparently was delayed because the materials were not mixed and the solid reducing material already in the pail may have formed a protective layer of relatively non-reactive material on its surface.**

**When the worker lifted the pail, the material was disturbed and reacted rapidly, ejecting material from the pail.**

**To read the full report: <http://www.aiche.org/ccps/resources/process-safety-beacon/201312/english>**

## **Chevron 2012 Pipe Rupture & Fire CSB Draft Report: Recommendation Overhauls to Prevent Major Chemical Accidents**



The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) proposes recommendations for substantial changes to the way refineries are regulated in California. Entitled “Regulatory Report: Chevron Richmond Refinery Pipe Rupture and Fire,” the CSB draft calls on California to replace the current patchwork of largely reactive and activity-based regulations with a more rigorous, performance-based regulatory regime – similar to those successfully adopted overseas in regions such as the United Kingdom, Norway, and Australia – known as the “safety case” system. The draft report is the second part of three in the CSB’s investigation of the August 2012 process fire in the crude unit at the Chevron refinery in Richmond, California. That fire endangered 19 workers and sent more than 15,000 residents to the hospital for medical attention. Go to the CSB website:

<http://www.csb.gov/chevron-refinery-fire/>

## **Confirmation: Rocket Hits Yemen Balhaf Plant**

Yemen LNG has confirmed that a rocket-launched explosive device landed on the ground inside the Balhaf Plant at the extremity of the process area. There were no casualties and the explosion caused only slight damage to non-essential equipment. A source told National Yemen, that Yemen LNG gas company has evacuated hundreds of workers from its Balhaf terminal on the Gulf of Aden, after a mortar round hit the site. Company staff, including foreigners, were evacuated to the capital on four planes as a precaution over fears of potential attacks on the terminal, employees said. The evacuation of non-essential staff, however, did not affect operations and liquefaction trains, which have a capacity of 6.7 million tonnes of LNG per year, the ministry official said.

Source: [nationalyemen.com](http://nationalyemen.com)



## **Explosion at Brazilian Ethanol Plant**

An explosion at an ethanol plant in Brazil has claimed the life of one worker and seriously injured another, according to reports. The blast occurred within a sugarcane turbine milling machine on 4 December at the Usina Santa Elisa facility, which is owned by Louis Dreyfus company Biosev. Source: Biofuels International