



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

April 2014



Photo: smh.com.au



Photo: abc.net.au

Two Dead: Pacific Highway Truck Explosion

Two people are dead after a truck loaded with aerosol and spray paint cans caught fire and exploded on the Pacific Highway near Herons Creek about 30 kilometres south of Port Macquarie.

Initial reports indicated only the driver of a B-double died after it crashed and caught fire but Local crime manager Detective Inspector Steven Clark said investigators then found a passenger in the truck also died in the accident.

"A B-double travelling north was laden with paint thinners, corrosives and other flammable and hazardous materials left the western side of the roadway," he said. "As a result of that crash the cabin has caught alight and that's obviously gone right through the B-double." Police have discovered two deceased persons at the scene.

"We have forensic services there presently conducting investigations and obviously this matter will be one for the Coroner.

Source: ABC News

Acid and Aerosol Paint in Garbage

The sign on the side of the Morris Township, New Jersey, DPW truck pulled over at the National Guard Armory said "Household hazardous waste has its place, but not in this truck." There's a reason for that.

A DPW worker saw what appeared to be white dust coming from the back of his truck. That prompted four fire trucks and a county hazmat unit to respond. Officials wearing protective suits and masks spent the morning and early afternoon sifting through garbage, trying to figure out what may have happened. Eventually,

they found a container of muriatic acid and some aerosol paint cans in the truck, Lovenberg said. Both are considered hazardous materials, and neither is meant to be thrown out with regular trash.

Lovenberg said the DPW worker was taken to Morristown Medical Center for treatment. Source: NJcom.



Photo: NJ News

Blast Rocks Washington Gas Plant

A large explosion rocked a natural gas processing plant on the Washington-Oregon border, injuring five workers, causing about 400 people to evacuate from nearby farms and homes, emitting a mushroom cloud of black smoke that was visible for more than a mile. None of the injuries was believed to be life-threatening. The blast at the Williams Northwest Pipeline facility near the Washington town of Plymouth, along the Columbia River, sparked a fire and punctured one of the facility's two giant storage tanks for liquefied natural gas. Benton County Sheriff Steven Keane said a relatively small amount of gas leaked from the tank to the ground in a moat-like containment area. But it then evaporated, blowing away to the northeast, he said. "I think if one of those huge tanks had exploded, it might have been a different story," Keane said. Deputies went door to door to homes and farms within a 2-mile radius, evacuating about 400 residents as a precaution. By Monday night, the evacuation zone had been reduced to a 1-mile radius, the Benton County Emergency Management agency said. Road and river restrictions were lifted.

The facility provides supplemental gas during times of high demand for a 4,000-mile pipeline stretching from the Canadian border to southern Utah. Its two storage tanks for liquefied natural gas each have a capacity of 1.2 billion cubic feet, Williams spokeswoman Michele Swaner said. The one that punctured was about a third full. Swaner said the 14 employees working at the time were all accounted for. A total of 17 or 18 people work at the facility. She added it was too early to determine the extent of the damage or the cause of the explosion. The pipeline was shut down in the area of the storage facility, but was still carrying gas on other stretches. Video taken by a Washington State Patrol bomb squad robot was being evaluated.

A pipeline engineer with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission will investigate the cause of the explosion and communicate with the western region of the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the commission said. Workplace safety investigators from the Washington Department of Labor & Industries will join the investigation.

The state Pipeline Safety Program regulates 28 pipeline companies and inspects more than 24,000 miles of natural gas and hazardous-liquid pipelines in Washington.

Williams operates about 15,000 miles of interstate natural gas pipelines, according to its website.

Source: Jeff Barnard, Associated Press



The Williams Northwest Pipeline plant after a large explosion and fire. AP Photo/The Tri-City Herald, Sarah Gordon



Photos: article.wn.com



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Overheating Silo at Kooragang

An overheating silo at a bulk storage facility on Newcastle's Kooragang Island had emergency services on high alert. Welders working on the roof of the silo, reported a heat build-up before being evacuated along with other personnel from the Cormorant Road plant.

Fire fighters using thermal imaging cameras monitored the silo containing 12, 500 tonnes of petroleum coke.

Eight fire units remained on the scene with the operation to cool the storage tank continuing. Source: Andy Lobb, NBN News

Evacuation over Fears of Silo Explosion

A food processing factory at Lane Cove, N.S.W., was evacuated due to fears caused by an overheating grain silo.

AAP reported that the silo was believed to be near exploding, and firefighters had pumped carbon dioxide into the structure to try and bring the temperature down.

"If the temperature increases over the next few hours we could have some problems," Fire and Rescue NSW Inspector Ian Krimmer told AAP. "If the temperature remains static or decreases we'll be a lot happier." Source: logisticsmagazine.com.au

Silo Clean-up after Overheating Incident

Fire crews in southern New South Wales spent the day unloading 170 tonnes of canola from a silo which overheated, prompting evacuations in the nearby town of Temora.

An 800 metre exclusion zone was set up in the town after temperatures of up to 90 degrees were recorded inside the silo. Superintendent Tom Cooper from the NSW Fire Brigades says the mop-up operation will take most of a day.

"This product will be worked out through the bottom of the silo and sifted through to ensure there is absolutely no threat of any fire," he said.

"It's obviously of some value to the owners and the NSW Fire Brigade will be trying to salvage as much of the product as possible and that will be dealt with by specialists at the scene."

Source: ABC News

Quantative Analysis of Explosion in a Refused Delivered Fuel (RDF) Silo

http://www2.galcit.caltech.edu/~jeshep/icders/cd-rom/EXTABS/104_20TH.PDF



Image: AAP

HazMat 2014
Melbourne, May
2014

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Hazmat and Env. Notes

March 2014

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National Transportation Safety Board Report: Enbridge Incorporated Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Rupture and Release

On July 25, 2010, a segment of a 30-inch-diameter pipeline (Line 6B), owned and operated by Enbridge Incorporated (Enbridge) ruptured in a wetland in Marshall, Michigan. The rupture occurred during the last stages of a planned shutdown and was not discovered or addressed for over 17 hours. During the time lapse, Enbridge twice pumped additional oil (81 percent of the total release) into Line 6B during two startups; the total release was estimated to be 843,444 gallons of crude oil. The oil saturated the surrounding wetlands and flowed into the Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River. Local residents self-evacuated from their houses, and the environment was negatively affected. Cleanup efforts continue as of the adoption date of this report, with continuing costs exceeding \$767 million. About 320 people reported symptoms consistent with crude oil exposure. No fatalities were reported.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) determines that the probable cause of the pipeline rupture was corrosion fatigue cracks that grew and coalesced from crack and corrosion defects under disbonded polyethylene tape coating, producing a substantial crude oil release that went undetected by the control center for over 17 hours. The rupture and prolonged release were made possible by pervasive organizational failures at Enbridge Incorporated (Enbridge) that included the following:

- Deficient integrity management procedures, which allowed well-documented crack defects in corroded areas to propagate until the pipeline failed.
- Inadequate training of control center personnel, which allowed the rupture to remain undetected for 17 hours and through two startups of the pipeline.
- Insufficient public awareness and education, which allowed the release to continue for nearly 14 hours after the first notification of an odor to local emergency response agencies.

Contributing to the accident was the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) weak regulation for assessing and repairing crack indications, as well as PHMSA's ineffective oversight of pipeline integrity management programs, control center procedures, and public awareness.

To read the full report goto:

<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/summary/PAR1201.html>



Condemnation of Hydrogen Generation Safety

From the Natural Resources Defense Council's Report *Preventing Hydrogen Explosions In Severe Nuclear Accidents: Unresolved Safety Issues Involving Hydrogen Generation And Mitigation*

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is failing to meet the statutory standard of "adequate protection" of the public against the hazard of hydrogen explosions in a severe reactor accident.

After Fukushima Daiichi's three devastating hydrogen explosions, the NRC decided to relegate investigating severe accident hydrogen safety issues to the lowest-priority and least proactive stage of its post-Fukushima Daiichi accident response.

NRDC believes that the NRC should reconsider its approach and promptly address severe accident safety issues involving hydrogen."

Click this link to read the full report:

<http://www.nrdc.org/nuclear/hydrogen-generation-safety.asp>

A short synopsis of the findings:

NRDC Report: U.S. Nuclear Safety Regulators Ignore Severe Accident Hydrogen Explosion Risks Despite Fukushima Tragedy

<http://www.eneuse.com/opinion/analysis/50805-nrdc-report-u-s-nuclear-safety-regulators-ignore-severe-accident-hydrogen-explosion-risks-despite-fukushima-tragedy.html>

An in-depth interpretation of the findings:

US Nuclear Safety Regulators Continue to Ignore Lessons of Fukushima for Severe Accident Hydrogen Explosion Risk at US Reactors

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/cpaine/us_nuclear_safety_regulators_c.html

SAI Global: Safe Work Method Statements

Under the Model Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011, an SWMS must be prepared before high-risk construction work begins.

SWMS templates are fully editable and they are available in Word format – easily tailored to meet the specific requirements of any site. You can add your company details, logos, ABN and include site details or risks for the job at hand.

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GHS and Dangerous Goods Seminar and Workshop

29 April, 2014

Sydney

Flyer:

<http://www.asbg.net.au/>

CSB Pledges to Release the Deepwater Horizon Accident Investigation in 2014

The CSB's investigation into the Deepwater Horizon/Macondo accident of April 2010 continues, and the CSB has achieved significant legal victories during FY 2013. In April 2013 a federal judge in Houston upheld the CSB's jurisdiction to conduct the investigation, and overruled the rig operator Transocean in its effort to block the release of information to the CSB. On July 23, 2013, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans, Louisiana, ruled in favour of the CSB and refused to stay the lower court's decision. As a result of this ruling, the CSB has gained access to vital documents and information subpoenaed throughout the course of the agency's investigation. Access to these documents will allow the CSB to evaluate factors that no other agency has investigated in detail, such as the role of human and organizational factors in this catastrophic accident. The CSB's investigation findings will be published in three separate volumes. The first two volumes are scheduled to be released in the spring of 2014, and the third volume will be released in the summer of 2014.

Source: CSBs 2015 Budget Request

Fire Destroys Factory in Sydney's West

The factory was used for wrecking vehicles in the Sydney suburb of Yennora. Fire and Rescue NSW Superintendent Ian Krimmer said, "This fire was being fuelled by a mass of stored vehicles collected for wrecking, a number of tyres, automotive fuels and coils. A very hot fire; a huge ball of smoke was visible right across the Sydney metropolitan area. But to the credit of firefighters they got here quickly and they've contained this fire very rapidly."

Source: Manufacturers' Monthly

Explosion at Princeton Medical Centre

There was a blast in a third-floor patient room at Princeton Medical Centre in New York. The blast is thought to be accidental and related to an oxygen tank, but the cause is still under investigation. No patients were hurt in the explosion, but the hospital staff member is in serious condition, officials say, and a visitor is being evaluated for injuries.

As a precaution, 18 patients whose rooms were near the blast were moved to other floors.

Source: NBC New York



Image: The Daily Telegraph



Photo:

PlanetPrinceton.com

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

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Chinese Citizens Protest *p*-Xylene Plant

Protests against plans to build a *p*-xylene plant turned violent in the southern China city of Maoming. The protests were the latest by the Chinese public against a chemical that has come to symbolize the risks associated with chemical production.

Authorities claim the protest turned violent when protesters started throwing water bottles and stones at police. The government said no one died but did not specify how many people were injured.

Authorities later stated that the *p*-xylene project has yet to be approved and will not go ahead without public consensus. It would be part of an expansion at a subsidiary of the state-owned oil giant Sinopec.

Derived from oil refinery side streams, *p*-xylene is used to manufacture polyester fiber and plastics. The substance is toxic but less so than other chemicals commonly made in China such as benzene or vinyl chloride.

Chinese protests against *p*-xylene began in 2007 in Xiamen when citizens forced the relocation of a construction project.

Source: Jean-François Tremblay, Chemical & Engineering News

Explosion and Fire on Cargo Ship

Six crew members suffered minor injuries when a cargo ship caught fire while docked at the Bacolod Real Estate Development Corp (Bredco) port in Bacolod City, Philippines. Chief Inspector Bartolome Biliran, Bacolod fire marshall, said the fire broke out on the SF Adventure after its fuel tank exploded. Biliran said an investigation was ongoing to determine what caused the tank to explode.

He said the fire did not spread because the ship's crew managed to put it out quickly. Six crew members were hurt in the explosion.

Source: Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

CSB Announces West Fertilizer Public Meeting

Today the Chemical Safety and Hazards Investigation Board (CSB) published a meeting notice in the Federal Register (79 FR 20169) for a public meeting to receive from their staff the preliminary findings about the fire and explosions at the West Fertilizer facility in West, Texas on April 17th, 2013. The meeting will be held in West, TX on April 22nd, 2014. The public is invited to attend and to provide comments on the incident.

If you have any articles, relevant information or ideas that might be useful or of interest to Members they would be much appreciated! Please forward to: robhogan@tpg.com.au

My thanks this month goes to Don Johnston and Lewis Nottidge.

Ranger Mine to Restart Processing after Acidic Slurry Spill from Leach Tank

A change to lower grade ores at the Ranger uranium mine was the catalyst that led to a spill of radioactive material in December, according to the Rio Tinto subsidiary in charge of the mine. Energy Resources of Australia confirmed that investigations into the spill - which have halted processing at the mine ever since - had been completed. The probe showed that two protective layers inside a leach tank failed before the steel tank itself was eaten through by the toxic mix of acids and uranium particles. ERA has traced the problem back to 2009, when the company switched from high grade uranium ore to lower grade laterite ores, and duly had to make changes to its processing equipment. A "high powered agitator" was installed in the tank in a bid to help with leaching the new ores, but the agitator appears to have displaced a piece of protective equipment, which duly damaged the rubber lining designed to protect the tank. "The damaged rubber lining allowed acidic slurry mixture to come into contact with the tank's steel wall, which subsequently corroded and lead to the failure of the tank," the company said today in a statement. A search of five other leach tanks on site found that similar, but less extensive stress, was evident in one other tank, and ERA said it would take advantage of the current shutdown and properly refit all six of its leach tanks. ERA said an investigation of its entire operations had found seven "critical" issues that needed to be addressed before restart, with most relating to the state of tanks used in the processing stage. Source: Peter Ker, Sydney Morning Herald

Interpol Offers e-learning to Prevent Illegal trade in Hazchems

Interpol and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions have launched the first e-learning tool to help law enforcement officers prevent the illegal trade in hazardous chemicals and waste. The online learning module offers help in understanding the three global treaties, and identifying and dealing with potential cases of the trade. It is available through Interpol's and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions' websites. Further information, goto: <http://impel.eu/news/first-e-learning-tool-launched-to-prevent-illegal-trade-in-hazardous-chemicals-and-waste/>

Lake Megantic: Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Approves Other Key Recommendations on Train Securement and Hazardous Materials Regulations

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) today announced its intention to issue a proposed rule requiring two-person train crews on crude oil trains and establishing minimum crew size standards for most main line freight and passenger rail operations. The FRA also intends to advance a rulemaking on train securement and recommends a rulemaking on the movement of hazardous materials.

"Safety is our highest priority, and we are committed to taking the necessary steps to assure the safety of those who work for railroads and shippers, and the residents and communities along shipping routes," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "The proposed rulemaking on crew size is the latest effort in our comprehensive strategy to ensure crude oil is transported as safely as possible."

This announcement follows the deliberations of three Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) Working Groups on *Appropriate Train Crew Size, Securement, and Hazardous Materials Issues*. All three Working Groups were created at DOT's request last summer in response to the Lac-Mégantic derailment.

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration

Explosion at Farm in Victoria's West

Two Victorian police officers injured in an explosion in the state's west were attempting to apprehend a man wanted for a violent crime when the blast occurred. It is not known if the man inside the farmhouse survived the blast, but Victoria Police suspect he was killed.

Specialist negotiators and uniformed officers had travelled to the rural property, located on the Hamilton Highway, to make an arrest. The man at the property resisted and threatened self-harm, police said. Following several hours of negotiations, a large explosion ripped apart the farmhouse.

Superintendent Don Downes said police were maintaining a six-kilometre exclusion zone around the property amid fears there could be more explosions.

The Hamilton Highway is expected to remain closed until Monday.

Source: ABC News



Photo: Channel 7



Residents queue up to get safe water supplied by the government in Lanzhou, Gansu. Photo/Xinhua

Benzene is a colorless carcinogen used to manufacture plastics. Excessive inhalation of and contact with benzene could damage the human hematopoietic system, which is responsible for the production of blood.

Jar of French Mountain Air Sells for \$860 In Smog-Choked China

Watch Video: [Broke? Just Sell a Jar of Air in China](#)

China: High Levels of Benzene in Water

Authorities in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province, found excessive levels of benzene in tap water. Lanzhou's water works repeatedly washed its filter system to clean up pollutant and kept water cycling to cleanse the urban tap water pipeline. No more benzene was found in four tests on samples taken from sites in Chengguan and Qilihe districts, however traces of benzene were still found in water samples taken in the outer Xigu and Anning districts.

Tests found between 118 micrograms and 200 micrograms of benzene per liter at Lanzhou's water plant, according to Veolia Water, a Sino-French joint venture and the sole water supplier for the city proper. The benzene levels were far in excess of the 10 micrograms per litre national limit.

The local government is investigating the source of the contamination. Sources with Veolia told Xinhua Friday they believed the benzene came from chemical waste, but refused to single out any particular plant. They ruled out possibility that the Yellow River, the original source of the water, was polluted.

Source: China Daily

China's Poisonous Waterways

The entire country is sick, and cancer has spread to every organ of this nation.

For years, industrial and agricultural waste has been dumped into the water untreated; this grim situation is far from uncommon in China. The nation has more than 200 "cancer villages," small towns blanketed with factories where cancer rates have risen far above the national average. (Some researchers say there are more than 400 such villages.) Last year the Ministry of Environmental Protection acknowledged the problem of "cancer villages" for the first time.

More than 50 percent of China's rivers have disappeared altogether, and few of the surviving waterways are not completely polluted. Some 280 million Chinese people drink unsafe water, according to the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Nearly half of the country's rivers and lakes carry water that is unfit even for human contact. And China's cancer mortality rate has soared, climbing 80 percent in the last 30 years.

Rivers are lined with factories, from mineral processing plants to cement and chemical manufacturers. For years, industrial and agricultural waste has been dumped into the water untreated.

Read full story: [Sheng Keyi, Chinh's News](#)

Comcare v Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd (Matter SAD 58/2014)

On 25 March 2014 Comcare filed legal proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia (Adelaide Registry) against Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd (TPI). Comcare alleges that TPI breached Commonwealth work health and safety laws.

The legal proceedings arise from an incident on 7 December 2011 at a TPI controlled chemical recycling plant at Wingfield South Australia. A TPI employee was emptying bags of Sodium Sulphide into a large tank when he was temporarily incapacitated.

Source: Comcare

Fire at Oklahoma Chemical Plant

Firefighters are investigating the cause of a massive fire at a chemical plant. Officials say about 75 firefighters battled the blaze at Sabre Chem Inc., which produces oil field chemicals. Several explosions were reported, fortunately, it has been contained and all employees have been accounted for.

Crews are concerned the chemicals could wash into the storm drains.

Source: Kfor.com

Explosion at Washington LNG Facility Causes Safety Concerns

Reuters reported on a significant blast that took place last Monday at Williams Co Inc's Liquid Natural Gas plant in rural Washington. The explosion forced an evacuation and injured some workers, sparking discussion among LNG opponents and energy experts regarding safe handling of the fuel.

As quoted in the publication:

The Monday incident at Williams Co Inc's massive gas storage site is a rare safety-record blemish among the dozens of U.S. LNG plants and storage sites, including towering tanks in packed neighborhoods of New York City, and near Boston.

BNP Paribas Natural gas market strategist, Teri Viswanath:

This type of event raises the public's awareness that we're dealing with a combustible commodity.

Click here to read the full article from: [Reuters](#)



A line of trucks carrying water to Natural gas rigs make their way across the sprawling network of two lane roads between small towns to make almost constant deliveries to continue the hydraulic fracturing process used to gather natural gas in Monroeton, Pennsylvania, Credit: Reuters/Brett Carlsen



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ls/28/4/2014](http://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/event/details/28/4/2014)

CSL Plant Hit by Fire at China Facility

A fire at one of China Stationery Ltd's (CSL) plants in Fujian Province, China, has seriously affected its production capacity, causing interruption to some of its operations.

The company said the incident had ravaged 10,000 sq m of the total floor area of 15,000 sq m at production plant No. 4

"The affected area involves the production floor, materials, finished and semi-finished products kept within the production floor as well as the administration office.

The building is used for the production of polypropylene (PP) sheets as well as a warehouse for PP resin, PP sheets and recycled PP

resin. Source: The Star Online

Chemical Explosion at Canadian Water Treatment Plant

"There's been some type of an explosion," Kitchener Fire Chief Tim Beckett tells CTV News. "Once they arrived, they found a strong chemical odour and some damage to the building."

Officials believe the likely cause of the explosion was a delivery of ammonia accidentally being pumped into a chlorine tank.

"What we have been able to determine from the chemicals involved is (that) it doesn't pose a health risk to the surrounding areas," says Beckett.

Neighbours report hearing two explosions loud enough to shake their houses, and the smell of chlorine permeated the air in the minutes following the explosion.

Watch and hear news reports with full story:

<http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/chemical-explosion-blows-roof-off-kitchener-water-treatment-plant-1.1757925>

Rolls-Royce Indiana Plant Explosion

Nine people working at a plant in Wayne Township, Indiana, were injured during an explosion and ensuing acid spill. A 250-gallon nitric tank at the plant exploded - it isn't known how full the tank was, nor the cause of the explosion.

Fire crews that responded to the plant said that there was a "chemical cloud" inside the building, but everything was under control. The air around the plant was announced to be safe a few hours after the initial explosion "Now it's just a matter of making sure that we ... get that material neutralized."

Nitric acid exposure can lead to severe burns as well as breathing problems.

Source: Indiana Star



Lukoil Reports on Stavrolen Plant Blaze

Russian oil and chemicals group Lukoil has admitted that 18 employees suffered injuries in the latest fire to occur at its incident-prone Stavrolen polyolefins complex at Budennovsk in southern Russia.

It took the company three days to fully extinguish the blaze which broke out on 26 February when hydrocarbons caught fire in the gas separation unit of the site's ethylene plant, it said.

Production at the site is suspended pending a report on the incident by official investigators. Only once this is complete will it be clear when the plant will operate again.

Moscow-based Lukoil immediately suspended all production at Stavrolen and is preparing to carry out necessary repairs following the blaze. A commission led by a representative of Rostekhnadzor, the Russian Technical Supervisory Authority is continuing to investigate the incident and extent of the resulting damage.

Lukoil stressed that the incident, the third fire or explosion reported at Stavrolen complex since 2008, had not resulted in any oil spill or land contamination. The fire did not pose any threat to the environment nor to the health of group employees nor the Budennovsk population.

Lukoil's Stavrolen complex is one of Russia's biggest petrochemical sites with 300,000 tpa high density polyethylene and 120,000 tpa PP capacities.

Source: Richard Higgs, European Plastics News

US Anti-Chemical Drills in South Korea

Following Pyongyang's posturing the US army has been conducting anti-Chemical drills in South Korea.

They demonstrated the equipment and techniques used to decontaminate biological and chemical hazards.

The US Army 23rd Chemical Battalion has arrived to the peninsular to support US and South Korean military forces. The unit's commander, Colonel Dale S Crockett, said: "We do that primarily by chemical detection, hazard detection, decontamination what you all, I believe, saw today, the demonstration we did, as well as support consequence management operations in the Republic of Korea. And that is our focus."

The US has around 30,000 troops stationed in South Korea to support the country's 650,000-strong armed forces. North Korea, which has around 1.2 million troops mostly along the border, has condemned the joint military operations as a rehearsal for war.

Source: euronews

Watch the Video:
[Anti-Chemical Drills](#)

Watch the Video
[Chemical Gas
Attack](#)

Syria: Poison Gas Attack Confirmed

Syrian government media and rebel forces said that poison gas had been used in a central village, injuring scores of people, while blaming each other for the attack.

Videos have emerged purporting to show a hospital room in Kfar Zeita that was packed with men and children, some of whom breathing through oxygen masks.

On one bed, the video showed six children on a bed, some appearing to have difficulty breathing while others cried.

Euronews cannot independently verify the authenticity of the footage.

State-run Syrian television blamed members of the al-Qaeda linked Nusra Front for using chlorine gas in the village of Kfar Zeita in the central province of Hama killing two people and injuring more than 100.

Meanwhile experts on board a chemical weapons destroyer ship docked in southern Spain are ready to start working on Syria's toxic arms stock in the middle of the Mediterranean as early as May.

The Syrian government agreed to hand over its stockpile under an international deal backed by Washington and Moscow. The weapons include precursors for deadly nerve agents sulphur, mustard and sarin gas.

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California Utility Company Faces Criminal Charges for San Bruno Pipeline Explosion

On April 1, utility PG&E was federally indicted on 12 criminal counts relating to the fatal 2010 pipeline explosion and fire that leveled a large area of the San Francisco suburb of San Bruno, killed 8 and injured 58. It also destroyed 38 homes and damaged another 70.

The indictment says Pacific Gas & Electric repeatedly violated maintenance and record-keeping requirements of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act and "knowingly relied on erroneous and incomplete information" in avoiding its obligation to review records and conduct inspections that could have revealed a faulty weld in a gas transmission line before the September 9, 2010, disaster in San Bruno.

No executives were charged and the company has said it should not face a criminal case because no employee intentionally violated the federal pipeline law.

If convicted, PG&E could be subjected to court monitoring and be fined as much as \$6 million.

Source: HazardEx



[Further information on working with lead can be found on the HSE website](#)

Welsh Workers Exposed to High Lead Levels

Nine workers at a ceramic tile factory in North Wales had levels of lead in their blood above national safety limits putting them at risk of serious health problems, a court has been told.

The employees of specialist firm Craig Bragdy Design, of Denbigh, were tested after the issue came to light in February 2012 following a routine visit by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The company, which uses colour glazes containing lead in its tiling work, was today (Thursday 10 April 2014) prosecuted by HSE at Llandudno Magistrates' court after an investigation disclosed serious safety failings.

Magistrates were told long term exposure to lead can cause serious health effects, including spontaneous abortion, still births and low birth weight before or during pregnancy. Other effects include anaemia, fatigue, headache, convulsions and paralysis.

Source: HSE

Demolition work – Gas Cylinders for Gaseous Fire Suppression Systems: Safety Alert WorkCover N.S.W.

This alert informs a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) of the dangers of gas cylinders used for gaseous fire suppression systems. These cylinders are different from the cylinders used for industrial and refrigeration gases – and their

contents may be hazardous.  [Demolition work – gas cylinders for gaseous fire suppression systems: Safety alert](#)

NICNAS Chemical Gazette – April 2014

Download the PDF:

<http://www.nicnas.gov.au/communications/publications/chemical-gazette/chemical-gazette-april-2014>



A photo of Indian Navy tugboat INS Matanga. (HT file photo)

Fire on Indian Navy Tugboat INS Matanga

A fire broke out on Indian Navy tugboat INS Matanga at the naval dockyard in Mumbai. No casualties have been reported yet in the fire.

This is the 14th mishap involving a naval vessel in the last eight months. The fire broke out when naval dockyard workers were carrying out hot work (welding) on the tug.

The tug, which helps tow big vessels, was parked in dry dock area and fire tenders rushed to the spot to douse the fire.

Source: Hindustan Times

Big WHS Law Changes in Queensland

The Queensland Government has passed laws that strip health and safety representatives of their power to direct workers to stop unsafe work.

The power downgrade is among a raft of changes in the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. The bill passed the Queensland Parliament last week, and the new laws will start on proclamation which will occur at a date to be determined. In addition to removing the power of health and safety representatives to direct workers to stop unsafe work, the bill also provides for a number of other changes.

Among these changes, unions must give at least 24-hours notice before they can enter a workplace to inquire about a suspected WHS breach; a person conducting a business or undertaking no longer needs to provide a list of health and safety representatives to the work health and safety regulator; and codes of practice adopted in Queensland can be approved, varied or revoked without requiring national consultation.

For more details, visit [the changes to the law](#)

Hydrogen Sulphide in Phuket Sewer

Four workers were killed by hydrogen sulfide fumes in a Phuket Town sewer this morning, and four others remain hospitalized after attempting to rescue them with inadequate equipment.

The four who died had been tasked with maintenance of a sewer access point about 100 meters from Tesco Express on Srisena Road, and they succumbed to the fumes one by one, trying to rescue each other.

Source: Phuket Gazette

Chlorine Leak Sends 17 to Hospitals

An apparent chlorine leak at a New Berlin hotel led to 17 people being transported to area hospitals for evaluation.

No one had life-threatening injuries, according to New Berlin Assistant Fire Chief Joe Dallman. Dallman said firefighters were called to the Holiday Inn because someone was having breathing problems. Rescue workers learned as many as 20 people may have inhaled chlorine and transported 17 to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital.

A hotel employee said the problem occurred in the early evening and the pool remained closed later Saturday. The hotel remained open.

Source: Bruce Vielmette, Milwaukee Wisconsin Journal Sentinel



Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

**WATCH THE
VIDEO**

http://www.safteng.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3250:2014-video-of-the-week-14-flammable-liquids-and-ibcs-nfpa-and-dow&catid=77:video-of-the-week&Itemid=300

NFPA and Dow Corning and USA Regs. Flammable Liquids and IBCs

Plastic Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) are popular for shipping large quantities of liquids. But some of these containers also create a dangerous hazard. When UNLISTED composite IBCs (those that have NOT been inspected or certified to provide any fire endurance) containing combustible and flammable liquids are stored in large quantities they pose a high risk for pool fires. They melt quickly in fires, allowing large pools of liquid to spill and rapidly spread the fire. Additionally, once the IBC is emptied, the composite may ignite and contribute to the fire. Pool fires can occur faster than the fire protection system can respond and control them, and become catastrophic events as a result.

Chapters 9, 12 and 16 of

[NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code](#), published by the National Fire Protection Association, establish rules for reducing this risk. But compliance is limited.

Misunderstood rules

Many believe U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and United Nations regulations permitting shipping of combustible and some flammable liquids in IBCs also apply to their storage. But DOT has no jurisdiction over commodities in storage.

Unawareness of the risk

Warehouse or facility personnel responsible for accepting or storing goods often don't know of the serious fire danger created by unlisted composite IBCs containing combustible and flammable liquids. As a result, improper storage often goes unrecognized.

Source: Safety Info Post from Bryan Haywood, SAFETENG

OSHA: Steps to an Effective Hazard Communication Program for Employers that Use Hazardous Chemicals

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3696.pdf>

OSHA: Hazard Communication: Small Entity Compliance Guide for Employers That Use Hazardous Chemicals

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3695.pdf>

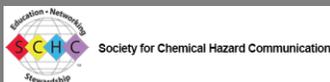




Photo: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

What products:
Health and beauty, pet supplies, baby care, household cleaners, cosmetics, skin care, laundry, paper goods, bags and home care

Wal-Mart Suppliers Asked to Stop Using Harmful Chemicals

In one of the boldest moves toward eliminating toxins from products consumers use everyday, Wal-Mart Stores on Thursday notified its suppliers they will have to reformulate soaps, makeup and household cleaners as the world's largest retailer begins to shed harmful chemicals from store shelves.

Wal-Mart's new policy signals the start of a pivot in the personal care products industry as the retailer demands higher standards of safety -- oversight that the federal government doesn't have. Health and environmental advocates expect possibly tens of thousands of products will be reformulated to remove harmful ingredients and meet Wal-Mart's new standards..

Wal-Mart has identified certain chemicals considered dangerous -- because they cause cancer, reproductive damage or other health or environmental harm -- and wants them removed from beauty products, baby and household supplies and pet products.

Manufacturers must disclose the ingredients they use by January 2015, and either reduce or eliminate harmful ingredients in their products within a couple years to comply with the new standards. Wal-Mart used guidelines from the EPA, European Union, U.S. National Toxicology Program, California Proposition 65 and other state regulations to create a list of chemicals it wants suppliers to stop using. What chemicals: 10 "high-priority" chemicals to be removed or reduced in products, and dozens more "priority" chemicals.

Source: San-Jose Mercury News

Bracelets Detect People's Chemical Exposures

Wristbands are the accessory of choice for people promoting a cause. And the next wave of wrist wear might act as a fashionable archive of your chemical exposure.

Researchers at Oregon State University outfitted volunteers with slightly modified silicone bracelets and then tested them for 1,200 substances. They detected several dozen compounds -- everything from caffeine and cigarette smoke to flame retardants and pesticides.

"We were surprised at the breadth of chemicals," said Kim Anderson, a professor and chemist who was senior author of the study published in *Environmental Science & Technology*. Silicone is porous and acts similar to human cells, so once chemicals are absorbed by the wristband, "they don't want to go back to the water or the air," Anderson said.

Source and study: <http://pubs.acs.org/stoken/presspac/presspac/full/10.1021/es405022f>





Stock Photograph



Stock Image

Anhydrous ammonia is a clear, colourless and odourless gas that farmers use as a fertiliser. It is explosive and corrodes tissue on contact.

Dangerous Substances and Explosives Atmospheres - Reducing the Red Tape In Occupational Health and Safety

The Hazardex Journal has interesting articles in every edition – including the above in [March 2014](#) and

“Why is it so difficult to learn from someone elses’ mistakes” in [April 2014](#) (Bhopal, Alpha Piper, Texas City and more) [Register](#) to receive

Oil Storage Site Explosion in Argentina

Six oil tanks exploded on March 21 at an oil storage site in Mendoza owned by state energy company YPF, leaving at least 17 people injured. The depot is located about 1,000 kilometres west of Buenos Aires. Six fire-fighting airplanes were dispatched to control the fire and make sure a nearby river was not polluted, YPF said. Temperatures near the fire were too high to allow firemen to combat the blaze on foot.

Meteorologists said strong winds were quickly spreading toxic smoke.

Workers have been trying to limit the environmental impact of the accident and have erected barriers to keep crude from flowing into the Rio Grande, YPF said.

Argentina’s government took control of YPF in May 2012, when Congress approved the expropriation of a 51% stake in the company from Spain’s Repsol. Repsol retains a 12 percent stake in YPF, Argentina’s largest oil producer.

Source: Reuters, Reporting By Jorge Otaola, Writing by Mitra Taj; Editing by Diane Craft

Nebraska Agricultural Complex Explosion

An explosion at the Midwest Farmers Cooperative grain elevator complex in Tecumseh, Nebraska, killed one agricultural worker. The explosion happened in tanks holding anhydrous ammonia on the site, and a Tecumseh Fire and Rescue spokesperson said the fatality came from the victim breathing in too much ammonia. Two others, including a Johnson County Sheriff’s deputy, were treated for non-life-threatening injuries not related to anhydrous ammonia exposure.

Co-op managers declined to comment until an investigation is completed.

Source: Hazardex



LPG Gas Leak at Gunnedah Petrol Station

Parts of the Gunnedah CBD were evacuated after LPG gas started pouring from an ageing underground tank at the Woolworths Caltex Service Station.

The operation to contain the leak involved crews from Fire and Rescue NSW, local police, gas technicians and officers from the Environment Protection Authority, based in Armidale.

Acting Zone Commander with Fire and Rescue NSW, Acting Superintendent Rod Chetwynd, says LPG gas is potentially highly explosive.

He says the underground tank had a capacity of 17,000 litres, but was only about one-third full when the gas started leaking.

"It's very rare that we come across a bulk cyclinder of this magnitude leaking this much gas," he said. Acting Superintendent Chetwynd says, upon inspection, technicians quickly established they could isolate the gas and repair the damage. "The technician actually found that between a valve and a manifold a gasket had blown out," he said.

Source: Catherine Clifford, ABC News

Hazards of Strong Oxidizers

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.

Do not take "small" operations for granted – even a small amount of material can be dangerous to somebody close by!

Source: AIChE © 2013.

Simulated Chemical Blast to Test Emergency Response Plan

Plans for emergency readiness and response to a biological incident in Israel or a chemical explosion near the Northern Ireland border are being forensically prepared by Irish researchers.

The results of their efforts should be seen in the next two years as the team from University College Cork put their plans into action with major practice runs to see if the software system can be expanded elsewhere.

The project recently secured €3.5m in EU funding and comes on foot of the initial design by the group, led by business information systems lecturer and researcher Karen Neville.

She explains that the system should mean command and control centres will have live interaction between ambulance and fire crews, police and health officials on the ground through their phones or computer tablets.

By linking up all the relevant agencies, the idea is that the authorities can further improve their existing emergency action plans, like those regularly activated in exercises at county or regional basis around Ireland.

But crucially, the new system will also work between different countries, using detailed information down to the first-aid skills of first responders in each state or whether one country's fire-fighting equipment matches the other's hydrants.

The UCC researchers' initial design led to their selection to head up the S-HELP (Securing Health Emergency Learning and Planning) consortium, and more detailed development plans are being drafted since last month.

"We will be doing three exercises, one will simulate a chemical explosion near the border with the North, a major flood in England — probably in London, and a deliberate or accidental biological event in Israel," said Dr Neville.

She is managing director of UCC's centre for security management research, which is partnering with the HSE, Northern Ireland's Public Health Agency and Israel's national aid society Magen David Adom. The international S-HELP group also includes three private companies, three academic institutions in Austria and Sweden, and also hopes to involve Red Cross and other voluntary bodies.

The system they are working on should also allow greater harnessing of information from social media, so emergency services can be directed by co-ordinators to or from places or incidents.

Other aspects will involve integrating live weather information, mapping likely flows for floodwaters, and allowing better planning



Peter Daly, chief emergency management officer, HSE South, Karen Neville, S-HELP coordinator, and Andrew Pope, development co-leader, UCC. Picture: Tomas Tyner

for the aftermath of catastrophes. This should mean public agencies can start examining the longer-term impacts as soon as a major emergency begins if, for example, large populations have to be moved to a different area, or the knock-on effects for other health providers if hospitals need to cope with large numbers of emergency admissions.

Source:

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/simulated-chemical-blast-to-test-emergency-response-plan-263728.html>

Hazmat Incident in Virginia U.S.A.

A simple mistake by a tanker truck driver in Meckleburg County, Virginia sent 11 people to the hospital and caused a hazardous material scare in the area.

The driver was offloading chemicals at the Roanoke River Service Authority Water Treatment Works and accidentally put the chemical in the wrong tank.

HazMat crews were called to the plant to remove the chemical. The Sheriff's department went door to door to tell people in the area what was happening. In total, 7 firefighters, 1 rescue crew member, 2 plant employees, and the delivery driver were all sent to the hospital because of fume inhalation.

Authorities also said, the incident did not affect the water supply for the county and is still safe to use and drink.

There is no information on what chemical was involved.

Source: <http://cdllife.com/2014/top-trucking-news/11-people-sent-hospital-following-hazmat-incident/>

Massive Fire after Fuel Boat Explodes

A fuel boat exploded at Turn Basin, Port Kaituma in Guyana, and so far at least three smaller boats and six nearby building have been destroyed.

A resident explained that a fuel boat which was moored at the wharf exploded and was quickly engulfed in flames. The fire, the resident said, spread to at least three smaller fuel boats which were moored alongside it. According to the resident, the fire then spread to at least six buildings on the water front. These buildings the resident said served as houses and small shops. At the waterfront, buildings are very close together.

Over the years residents have been calling for a fire station in the area. This is the second fuel boat to have exploded in recent times. A lot of fuel is moved between Venezuela and Guyana and Port Kaituma is a transit point.

Source: StabroekNews.com



The fire at the Port Kaituma waterfront



The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration develops and enforces regulations for the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's 2.6 million mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly 1 million daily shipments of hazardous materials by land, sea, and air. PHMSA is one of ten agencies within the U.S. Department of Transportation.

PHMSA's Proposed Pipeline Penalties Hit All-Time High; Serious Pipeline Incident Count Hits All-Time Low

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) today announced that in 2013, it proposed more than \$9.7 million in civil penalties against pipeline operators who violated safety regulations. The figure is the highest yearly amount of proposed penalties in the agency's history. "The Department remains committed to ensuring America's 2.6 million mile pipeline network is capable of safely delivering America's vital energy needs," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. Since 2009, PHMSA has proposed more than \$33 million in civil penalties against pipeline operators, \$10 million more than the amount proposed in the previous five years combined. It has also issued 544 enforcement orders over the past five years, constituting more than half of all orders issued by the agency since 2002. PHMSA also reports 45 percent less serious pipeline incidents, those resulting in fatalities or major injuries, since 2009. The count has declined each year since 2009. In 2013, PHMSA initiated 266 enforcement cases against pipeline operators for problems involving their integrity management programs, risk assessments, failure prevention and mitigation programs, and several other possible regulatory violations identified during failure investigations and routine inspections. PHMSA has consistently reached pipeline safety enforcement records in recent years. In 2012, PHMSA issued its highest ever civil penalty in response to a crude oil pipeline failure in Marshall, Michigan. PHMSA also posted its second highest number of enforcement orders in 2012. In 2011, PHMSA issued a record number of enforcement orders. The Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 doubled the maximum civil penalty amount PHMSA is able to impose against pipeline operators for violating pipeline safety regulations from \$100,000 to \$200,000 for each violation, and from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 for a related series of violations. PHMSA adopted the new maximums into official regulations in September 2013, completing half of the Act's mandates by the year's end. The tougher penalties apply to violations that happen after January 3, 2012, the date the Act was enacted.

For more information on PHMSA enforcement, [click here](#).

Flour Tank Rupture

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=758324580857893>



Chemical Scare at Sydney Water Building

Hundreds of workers have been evacuated from Sydney Water's headquarters in Parramatta after a chemical scare.

The alarm was raised at a tower block with police sealing off parts of the road and forcing staff to abandon their desks and wait outside for much of the afternoon.

Fire and Rescue NSW said chemicals had mixed in the basement and the compound was giving off a strong, potentially dangerous vapour.

Firefighters wearing protective suits and rubber gloves entered the basement to try to identify if there was any imminent threat.

It is understood they isolated one of the chemicals in a 50-litre drum and made it safe.

One firefighter was seen being washed down with a hose outside the building.

Atmospheric testing was also being conducted in and around the basement, which was ventilated with fans.

Source: 9News National

Habanero Peppers Evacuates School

Police cars and fire trucks surrounded Jefferson County Open School in Colorado, as hazmat crews decontaminated students outside -- spraying them down, fully clothed, in cordoned-off sections under a blue tent.

The K-12 Colorado school remained closed on Tuesday as investigators tried to figure out what "toxic irritant" had been released on the playground. They quickly figured out that it wasn't fertilizer or pepper spray.

Six habanero chili peppers caused this hot mess

Investigators found the spicy fruits scattered in the wood chips near the playground, school district communications director Lynn Setzler told CNN. It isn't known how the peppers got there, she said. Habaneros generally score between 100,000 and 350,000 units on the Scoville scale, which measures chili pepper hotness.

"The scale is actually a measure of the concentration of the chemical compound capsaicin, which is the active component that produces the heat sensation for humans," according to ChiliWorld.com. For comparison, jalapeno peppers usually score 2,500 to 5,000 units.

When you grind (or step on) habanero peppers, capsaicin particles can be released into the air. Breathing them in or getting them in your eyes can cause a burning sensation.

Video: <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/04/08/health/colorado-school-peppers/index.html?sr=fb040814habaneropeppers11pstory>