



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

**February 2014**

**Welcome to  
our new  
Members**

**Thomas  
Mitchell  
N.S.W.**

**Brad  
Nicholson  
South  
Australia**

**Michele  
Stromquist  
N.S.W.**

**David Wood  
Queensland**

### **A.C.T. Workers Exposed to Hydrocarbon**

**Four people have been taken to hospital after being exposed to hydrocarbon on a Canberra work site.**

**An Emergency Services Agency spokeswoman said intensive care paramedics had taken the workers from the ACTEW site in Symonston to the Canberra Hospital. A fifth patient is being assessed at the scene by the ACT Ambulance Service.**

**ACT Fire and Rescue crews also attended with hazardous materials equipment and a breathing apparatus.**

**The spokeswoman was unable to comment on what type of hydrocarbon the workers were exposed to.**

**Source: Canberra Times**

### **Environmental Guidelines for Service Station Sites and Hydrocarbon Storage**

**The following guidelines were issued by the ACT Government in September 2011. Goto:**

**[http://www.environment.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/19998/1/Service\\_station\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/19998/1/Service_station_guidelines.pdf)**

### **Chemical Spill at Australia Post Centre**

**At least one person has been taken to hospital and eight others have been treated by paramedics after a chemical spill at the Australian Post International mail centre in Sydney.**

**More than a litre of a corrosive solvent leaked from a package in the customs mailing room prompting the evacuation of 150 people at the sorting centre in Granville. The type of solvent had not been identified.**

**Police, Fire and Rescue NSW and a specialised chemicals Hazmat crew are at the centre on Factory Street.**

**Source: Sarah Whyte, Fairfax Media**

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

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

## **US Ship Sails to Destroy Syrian Stash**

**A 197.5m US cargo ship has been outfitted with two large portable hydrolysis systems designed to neutralise lethal chemical agents in Syria's arsenal.**

**Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel sent a letter to Captain Rick Jordan and the 135-member crew telling them they were embarking on an "historic mission."**

**"You are about to accomplish something no one has tried," Hagel wrote in the letter released by the Defense Department. "You will be destroying at sea one of the world's largest stockpiles of chemical weapons and helping make a safer world," he wrote.**

**The ship has a crew of 35 civilians operating the vessel and will have a 63-member team in charge of the hydrolysis units as well as a security force on board.**

**The hydrolysis machines will mix heated water and other chemicals to break down the lethal agents, resulting in a sludge equivalent to industrial toxic waste.**

**Last year, the UN Security Council backed a US-Russian deal to remove and destroy Syria's chemical arsenal. The agreement was brokered as a way to avert US missile strikes that Washington threatened after a chemical attack near Damascus, which Washington and other Western governments blamed on the regime. Under the accord, Syria's entire chemical arsenal is to be eliminated by June 30.**

**The arrangement will see some of the most dangerous agents neutralised on the US ship at sea, as no country was ready to host an operation to destroy the chemicals.**

**The chemicals will be loaded on to the Cape Ray at the Italian port and then taken to an undisclosed location for destruction.**

**The materials are the deadliest in Syria's 1290-tonne declared arsenal and include mustard gas and the ingredients for the nerve agents sarin and VX.**

**The destruction of the chemicals could take between 45 to 90 days, according to the Pentagon. Source: AAP**

## **Nigerian Factory Workers 'drown in sewage'**

**Four workers at the Kano Tans Leather Factory in Nigeria's north have drowned while removing industrial waste in the company's sewage treatment plant.**

**The state's environment commissioner, Alhaji Abdullahi Abbas Sanusi, said the state government will take more measures to compel the leather industries to install modern technology to deal with industrial waste. Source: News.com.au**

## **CSB Recommendations still Outstanding after Fatal Kleen Energy Explosion**



An investigation by the Hartford Courant into the aftermath of the 2010 explosion and fire at the Kleen Energy site in Middletown, Connecticut, concludes that the original level of fines on the companies involved will be much-reduced, and that key safety recommendations by the US Chemical Safety Board (CSB) have not been implemented.

The explosion on February 7, 2010, killed six workers, injured 50, and resulted in the US Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) imposing fines of \$16.6 million, the third-largest workplace-safety fine in US history, after documenting hundreds of safety violations at the site.

Read More: [http://articles.courant.com/2014-02-09/news/hc-kleen-energy-osha-fines-20140209\\_1\\_gas-blows-raymond-dobratz-peter-cheputlis](http://articles.courant.com/2014-02-09/news/hc-kleen-energy-osha-fines-20140209_1_gas-blows-raymond-dobratz-peter-cheputlis)

## **Indian Tanker Explosion Kills 7 in China**



An Indian oil tanker being repaired at a shipyard in eastern China exploded and caught fire, killing seven Chinese workers. The workers were repairing the 50,000 tonne-capacity vessel when an explosion occurred at Haizhou Shipyard in the port city of Zhoushan. State-run China Central Television said an open flame triggered the blast but did not provide further details.

Source: Xinhua News Agency

## **Smoke from Victorian Mine Affects Firefighters**

Firefighters have been exposed to potentially harmful levels of carbon monoxide as they battle a blaze in a Victorian coal mine. Nine firefighters had to be treated after elevated levels of the potentially dangerous gas were detected in their blood and respiratory systems. They had been battling a 4400-hectare fire burning into an open-cut coal mine near Morwell in the Latrobe Valley. Operations have been temporarily pulled back from within the mine but will continue from the edge.

The EPA has put a monitoring system in place but Fire Services Commissioner Craig Lapsley says the high levels of carbon monoxide are confined to the mine. "The levels detected in the mine are because they're in isolated areas, they're in areas where it can't be properly ventilated," Mr Lapsley. "There's no detection of increased carbon monoxide levels outside the mine."

Firefighters have been given air quality monitors and are being tested each time they enter and leave the mine, and also at the end of each shift.

Source: NEWS.com.au

## **US Ball Bearing Plant Explosion**

**A factory explosion that blew out windows and injured 15 people likely originated in a room where acid is used to treat the surface of ball bearings. The blast at New Hampshire Ball Bearings Inc. shattered glass, dislodged ceiling tiles and damaged walls. The plant makes parts for the aerospace industry and employs 700 people. Company spokeswoman Kathy Gerrity said about 450 people would have been working at the time of the blast, which happened just after a shift change. No one was in close proximity to the blast, Schultz said. "It's fortunate that more people weren't injured," he said. "When you have an explosion like that, it goes in every direction. It's just a matter of what stops the explosion." Peterborough Fire Chief Joe Lenox said regular evacuation drills likely limited the number of people hurt. "They're on top of their game when it comes to safety at the plant," he said. State environmental officials sampled catch basins around the building to make sure no chemicals had leaked into the ground after the blast and found no evidence of contamination, Schultz said. Founded in Peterborough in 1946, New Hampshire Ball Bearings was purchased in 1985 by the Japanese company Minebea and has its corporate headquarters in Chatsworth, California.**

**Source: Mercury News**

## **Cow Flatulence Causes Cowshed Explosion**

**According to a report by Reuters, methane gas released by dairy cows in the central German town of Rasdorf caused a blast that injured one animal and damaged the building in which they were penned. The injured cow was treated for burns, according to local police.**

**Cows each produce up to 500 litres of methane a day, and the gas can have explosive potential if it reaches the right concentrations. Reuters said the gas from 90 dairy cows in the shed was ignited by a static electric charge, causing the explosion which wrecked the roof of the building. Local media said emergency services attended the farm and took gas readings to test for the risk of further blasts. Pig farmers in the USA have experienced a number of methane explosions in intensive units recently.**

**Explosions, particularly in the upper Midwest since 2008, have destroyed a number of pig sheds that have killed hogs and injured workers. In one incident, 1,500 hogs perished.**

**Iowa State University professor Steven Hoff is leading a million dollar research project to find the cause of the US pig shed blasts.**

**Source: Hazardex**



**Photos: Boston Globe**





## **First Hazmat Fines Levied against North Dakota Crude Loaders**

The first enforcement actions against North Dakota tank car loaders for misclassifying Bakken crude oil were announced Feb. 4 by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The notices of violation and attendant fines totaling \$93,000 were issued against Hess Corp., Whiting Oil and Gas Corp., and Marathon Oil Co.

The civil-penalty tickets result from “Operation Classification” (alliteratively known as the “Bakken Blitz”) in which inspectors for the department’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted unannounced inspections of crude loading facilities in the state, following the catastrophic July 5, 2013 oil train explosion at Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

Read Story: [Railway Age](#)

## **Tesoro to Replace Older Crude Oil Railcars**

Independent oil refiner Tesoro Corp. says it is replacing older railcars in its crude oil railcar fleet with ones that meet the latest design standards.

The company says the new cars will have more robust safety features such as improved shielding around the heads of the cars and reinforced relief valve systems.

Tesoro says 90 percent of its fleet already has those features, which meet newer design standards set by the rail industry in recent years. The company says the remaining 10 percent of the cars will be replaced by mid-2014.

Keith Casey is Tesoro’s senior vice president of strategy and business development. He says the company chose to “proactively” make these changes ahead of expected federal regulations.

Tesoro operates six refineries in the western United States.

Source: Washing Times

## **Propane Torch Causes House Fire**

Fire officials say an eastern Iowa house fire was started by a tenant who used a propane torch to thaw frozen water pipes.

Fire Chief Doug Cook says Tristin Beltz was using a torch in a part of a former duplex that was being renovated. Cook says Beltz turned off the torch and went to see if water was flowing in another part of the house. Cook says that when Beltz returned, he saw signs that a fire had started inside the walls.

Heat tape is a safer way to deal with frozen pipes in low temperatures.

Source: LPG News Monthly



Photo: TheHindu.com

## LPG Safety Lapse: India

Following an inquiry conducted by a team of government officials revealed that LPG suppliers in Kochi, especially Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), had failed to follow safety norms, the district collector has decided to ask the Controller of Explosives (CoE) to conduct a detailed probe into the alleged safety lapses at the IOC's bottling plant at Udayamperoor.

As per the report, other LPG suppliers such as BPCL and HP conduct the bath test while IOC don't even have the facility to conduct it. The district supply officer submitted a report based on an inspection conducted by a team of officials headed by the additional district magistrate at LPG bottling plants in the district. The team found that IOC had failed to conduct the bath test, a test wherein filled LPG cylinders are immersed in water to detect leaks in the cylinder. But ADM B Ramachandran, who headed the five-member official team which conducted the inspection at the Udayamperoor plant, said they found both damaged and new cylinders stacked at the same place at the IOC plant. "When we asked them why they have both cylinders at the same place, they cited space constraints. We then asked them to remove damaged cylinders immediately," Ramachandran said. Moreover, IOC officials also failed to clarify why they didn't have the bath test while the other two LPG suppliers in Kochi had the same, he added. Source: M K Sunil Kumar, TNN

## Foti Fireworks Employee Dies

A man working for the family behind Sydney's New Year's Eve fireworks has died after an explosion at the company's factory near Goulburn. The employee died from severe burns a day after the blast at the Marulan factory. Emergency services found the 38-year-old with burns to more than 70 per cent of his body after a fire broke out in a bunker where fireworks are stored. Paramedics treated him at the property for two hours before he was flown to Royal North Shore Hospital. NSW Police and Workcover will be investigating the incident to determine how the explosion occurred.

Source: Sydney Morning Herald



The scene where a man was badly burned on Photo: Antony Dubber.

## Find Australian Standards Quickly and Easily

The 2014 Australian Standards and Other Products Catalogue contains a complete list of Standards, Handbooks and other Standards Australia publications. Goto:

[http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/Details.aspx?ProductID=1699226&utm\\_campaign=GC\\_CATALOGUE\\_FEB14\\_WP&utm\\_source=GC&utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&et\\_jobid=16938606&sf\\_id=0032000000lm2LWAAZ](http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/Details.aspx?ProductID=1699226&utm_campaign=GC_CATALOGUE_FEB14_WP&utm_source=GC&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&et_jobid=16938606&sf_id=0032000000lm2LWAAZ)



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Sydney Pty. Ltd.  
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02 9666 4455

## Propane Murder/Suicide

**Charged with attempted murder and aggravated kidnapping, William Emmett Lawson's trial is scheduled to begin – the 51-year old is accused of trying to first suffocate his father with propane gas then strangle him as rescuers charged his truck in Gregg County, Texas. According to the criminal complaint filed with the Gregg County District Attorney's Office, the defendant was "Mirandized" following his arrest then admitted he was trying to kill his father – and die in the process – when he parked his Chevy pick-up beside a residence and opened a propane canister in the sealed cab.**

**With 'Danger Propane' signs marking the windows and the glass fogging up with gas, Lawson reportedly shouted "Get back! I'm going to kill us all!" and held up a butane lighter as police officers approached the vehicle. His father, Robert Lawson, was unresponsive in the passenger seat. "Defendant continued screaming, 'I'm going to blow it up, I'm going to blow it up!'" Dukes reported.**

**As the officers and firefighters rushed the vehicle, Lawson apparently abandoned the lighter – the gas/oxygen mix in the truck no longer ignitable – and was reportedly seen using both hands to strangle his 76-year-old father with a piece of the man's shirt.**

Source: LPG News Monthly

## Explosion and Fire at Safety-Kleen

**Several fire companies responded to the fire which was dangerous because of solvents held at the location near Pittsburgh, USA. Heavy smoke could be seen from miles away with flames shooting through a shed.**

**Officials say the shed held 55 gallon drums filled with solvent which were just feet away from 12,000 gallon tanks filled with oil.**

**According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration who was on scene investigating, a Safety-Kleen employee was warming a frozen pipe with a portable heater.**

**That employee was severely burned, taken to UPMC Hamot, and then later transported to a Pittsburgh hospital.**

**Hazmat from Millcreek and the county responded because the type of materials at Safety-Kleen. They used foam to get it under control.**



Source: YourErie.com



## **HSE: Review of Standards for Thermal Protection PPE in the Explosives Industry**

The suitability of PPE for use against different thermal challenges is often described by way of compliance with British, European or Internationally agreed standards. The latest review by the UK's Health & Safety Executive compared the range of test standards currently used for flame protective PPE.

This covers PPE for general industrial use and specialist PPE for motor racing and fire fighting tasks with the thermal challenge expected from a range of explosive events.

Disparity has been found between the levels of challenge required to pass the test standards and the level displayed by the burning explosive materials – these practical challenges have been found to be significantly higher, causing levels of heating and burning which would produce significant injury to individuals wearing some types of PPE under certain circumstances.

The report (RR1002) recommends that harm models consider the effect of damage to the respiratory system; that further work is undertaken to better understand the performance of modern materials in an explosives environment; and that PPE should be tested against a representative explosive challenge as part of the process that dutyholders undertake in order to determine its suitability for use. Read the Report:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr1002.htm?ebul=hsegen&cr=22/03-feb-14>

## **Radioactive Leak Blamed on Radon**

High radiation levels have been reported at Sellafield, the nuclear facility in north west England. A local newspaper reported that around 8,000 of the 10,000 workers on the site had been told not to come to work on January 31 until the cause of problem has been identified.

This follows the detection of elevated levels of radioactivity at one of the on-site radiation monitors at the north end of the site. A spokeswoman for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (Decc) confirmed the elevated radioactivity but said they were "well below levels of concern". The plant was still operating and not offline, she said, but all non-essential staff had been asked to leave the site. Later in the day Sellafield Ltd said it had found that radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from rocks and soil, was the cause. "This is a very rare occurrence and the alert is over. Source: The News and Star



## **Tesoro Plant Explosion in 2010 Blamed on Lax Rules: Watchdog Says It Also Calls Into Question Method for Predicting Accidents**



Tesoro's Anacortes, Wash., refinery on April 2, 2010, the morning after an explosion and fire killed seven. Associated Press

DO YOU HAVE  
HYDROGEN  
EMBRITTLMENT?

CSB's Video

[Animation of Explosion at Tesoro's Anacortes Refinery](#)

**Tesoro Corp.'s lax safety standards led to the April 2010 explosion at the company's Washington refinery that killed seven workers, and the incident calls into question a long-time industry method for predicting accidents, a federal safety watchdog said January 30th. The blast at Tesoro's Anacortes plant is the most serious refinery accident since a 2005 explosion killed 15 people at a Texas City, Texas, refinery that was then owned by BP. The Anacortes blowup occurred after high heat and pressure cracked a unit's steel shell and caused chemicals to spew out at more than 500 degrees Fahrenheit, resulting in a fire that burned for three hours, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board said in its initial report.**

**The unit that eventually exploded had a long history of frequent leaks and occasional fires, particularly when it was being restarted after maintenance work, according to the report. To predict equipment trouble, the company relied too much on engineering models and too little on physical inspections, the board said. The Chemical Safety Board is an independent federal agency that investigates industrial accidents, but it has no power to levy fines. The board said that Tesoro has improved safety standards since the accident but, in findings that could have a broader impact, it criticized the refining-industry standard used to predict ruptures in certain types of steel.**

**The Nelson Curve—a measurement set up in 1970 by the American Petroleum Institute, an energy trade group, to assess at what temperature and pressure hydrogen will start to corrode steel—failed to alert Tesoro to the danger at its refinery, the report said. That same industry standard also failed to predict equipment damage in eight other cases after the Anacortes explosion, including three times at Valero Energy Corp.'s refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas, the board said.**

**The failures became widespread enough that API sent out an industry alert in 2011 saying that the old methodology might fail to catch every problem.**

**In its new report, the board urges refiners to physically inspect equipment more often and to rely less on mathematical models to predict potential problems.**

**It is also asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to force refiners to use newer—and more expensive—materials to build equipment that would prevent similar accidents from occurring.**

**"We're hoping the report helps make changes around the industry and with regulators as well," Daniel Horowitz, the board spokesman, said.**

**API said it will consider the board's recommendations as it prepares the next edition of its safety standards.**

**The refining trade group American Fuel & Petroleum Manufacturers declined to comment until it finishes reviewing the report.**

**The board's findings about Tesoro echoed those that the Washington Department of Labor and Industries issued in October 2010.**

**The state initially fined Tesoro \$2.4 million after issuing 44 citations stemming from the incident. Tesoro is appealing the state's findings, a department spokeswoman said.**

**The company disagrees with the board's characterization of safety standards at Anacortes and won't discuss the recommendations until the report is finalized, a Tesoro spokeswoman said.**

**Source: Ben Lefebvre, Wall Street Journal**

## **Fire Protection Industry (ODS & SGG) Board Good Practice Guide Released**

**The Fire Protection Industry (ODS & SGG) Board has recently released its Good Practice Guide, superseding the the September 2007 edition of the ODS & SGG Code of Practice.**

**This guide is applicable to all fire suppression system practitioners and companies who handle or trade in extinguishing agents described in Schedule One of the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989.**

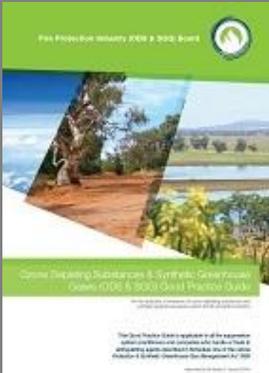
**The objective of the Good Practice Guide is to provide guidance to fire protection industry practitioners in the handling, storage and disposal of scheduled ODS and SGG used in the fire industry, to reduce emissions into the environment and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the legislation.**

**The guide covers many aspects associated with the correct handling and management of ODS and SGG extinguishing agents to ensure compliance with the Act but it is not exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with other relevant information.**

**The Fire Protection Industry (ODS & SGG) Board endorses the use of this Good Practice Guide by all those who manufacture, sell, install, commission, service and decommission fire protection equipment and systems that use scheduled ODS and SGG extinguishing agents.**

**Click here to download a copy of the Good Practice Guide:**

**[http://www.fpaa.com.au/media/91480/895 fpaa\\_ods\\_sgg\\_good\\_practice\\_guide\\_fa\\_web\\_final.pdf](http://www.fpaa.com.au/media/91480/895 fpaa_ods_sgg_good_practice_guide_fa_web_final.pdf)**



Tank Farm after fire



Carbon bed adsorber after fire

Tank farm during and after fire



## Are We Reliving Past Incidents?

In this month's Process Safety Beacon, their short answer to this questions is YES!! In 1993, Dr. Trevor Kletz, who passed away on October 31, 2013 at the age of 91, wrote a book titled "Lessons from Disaster: How Organizations Have No Memory and Accidents Recur." Twenty years later, this still happens.

A recent article described an incident at a gasoline processing plant in Norway. A carbon adsorber used for emission control ignited a flammable atmosphere in the attached tank. Sadly, a very similar incident occurred at a bulk chemical storage terminal in Savannah, Georgia, USA in 1995. A thorough literature search would undoubtedly find more similar incidents.

What happened? In both incidents, a carbon adsorber was used to reduce emission of pollutants from the storage tank. Both facilities failed to recognize that adsorbing hydrocarbon vapors generated heat in the carbon bed. This heat provided the ignition source for the flammable vapour in the tank vapour space.

Why did it occur? Two design problems were present in both systems, even though they happened 12 years apart and in different parts of the world! The systems did not account for the heat generation from adsorption and did not provide a flame arrester between the tank and carbon adsorber.

To read the full article:

<http://www.aiche.org/CCPS/Publications/Beacon/index.aspx>

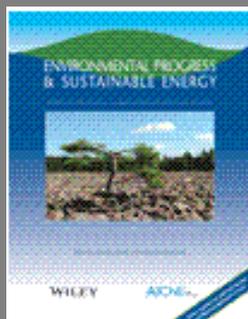
## Environmental Progress & Sustainable Energy, April 2014, Volume 33, Issue 1

Free Download

<http://www.aiche.org/resources/publications/journals/environmental-progress-sustainable-energy/issues/33-1>

Some articles in this Issue:

- Analyzing remediation potential of wastewater through wetland plants: A review
- Development of a combined waterjet plasma scrubber for tetrafluoromethane and by - product removal
- Treatment of antibiotic fermentation - based pharmaceutical wastewater using anaerobic and aerobic moving bed biofilm reactors combined with ozone/hydrogen peroxide process
- Treatment of pyrolysis wastewater using heterogeneous advanced oxidation processes





## Service Station Australia: Summer Issue

Download from:

[http://www.ssa.org.au/magazine/2013\\_summer/index.html](http://www.ssa.org.au/magazine/2013_summer/index.html)

## Many U.S. States to Seek Tighter Chemical Regulation in 2014

This year, at least 33 states are likely to consider bills related to chemicals in consumer products, predicts Safer States, a coalition of state-based environmental health organizations. Eleven or more will attempt to require identification and disclosure of chemicals and many will attempt to limit the use of certain chemicals, the group said. The American Cleaning Institute is prepared for a lot of state-level activity and is "gearing up for a very busy year," said ACI spokesman Brian Sansoni. Source: Safer States

## Changes to W.A. Dangerous Goods Laws

Amendments to Dangerous Goods Safety regulations and laws have come into effect in Western Australia as of 1 January 2014. Changes to the regulations were gazetted on 2 December 2013. The following link provides information on the licensing requirements for the storage and transport of dangerous goods, including explosives and access to forms and guidance material.

[http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Factsheets/DGS\\_IS\\_TransportStorageLicensingReqs.pdf](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Factsheets/DGS_IS_TransportStorageLicensingReqs.pdf)



## HazardEx: Free Subscription

This Journal is the first publication dedicated to the provision of up-to-date information on the key areas of legislation, certification and product and service application within those industrial areas that are deemed to carry a risk of explosion.

Register here:

<http://imlrenewals.managemyaccountonline.net/hax.aspx>

## Dangerous Goods Storage Guidelines

**NSW Fire & Rescue** has produced a comprehensive guideline for emergency plans at sites having hazardous chemicals on site – either stored or in use. Download from :

[http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/gallery/files/pdf/guidelines/guidelines\\_emergency\\_plans.pdf](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/gallery/files/pdf/guidelines/guidelines_emergency_plans.pdf)



Photo: [www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com)



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



Photo: [wmctv.com](http://wmctv.com)



**WATCH THE  
VIDEO**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvjkjOE3Tc>

## **N.Z. Port Evacuated after Chemical Find**

**Drums containing a chemical which forced the evacuation of Port Taranaki have been identified, but fire crews must now decide how to get them off the ship.**

**Firefighters were called to the port after smoke was seen coming from the cargo ship the Poavosa Wisdom. The port was evacuated and crew were ordered off several vessels while firefighters worked to find the source of the smoke.**

**The port's chief executive, Roy Weaver, says the toxic gases have been traced to a 209-litre drum and a 20-litre drum of aluminium phosphide used to fumigate bugs in imported feed.**

**Firefighters are working to get the drums off the ship, but Mr. Weaver says that can be difficult because the holds of ships are tight spaces. They will seal the drums, then remove them from the ship and dispose of them.**

**Mr Weaver says it appears no one inhaled the toxic gas.**

**The Port of Taranaki and Maritime New Zealand are investigating.**

**Source: Radio New Zealand News**

## **Massive Explosions at Biofuel Plant**

**Several explosions and an intense fire rocked the JNS Biofuel Plant off Highway 15 North in New Albany and cameras were rolling when the second blast sent flames shooting into the air with a large plume of smoke.**

**The fire broke out at the Union County plant, southeast of Memphis, Tenn., and 13 hours later the flames continue to burn bright. There have been no reported injuries.**

**Union County local firefighters have been playing the waiting game all day, watching and waiting to see when it would be safe to get closer to maybe help get the fire out. "I've been doing this since 1998 and I've never seen anything like this," said Curt Clayton, Union County EMA Director. "There's some chemicals down there that react against water and will actually blow up and make the fire bigger," Clayton said.**

**Crews on scene began waiting and hoping it would die down enough for them to try and get a cleaning crew closer, but around 1 p.m. a second explosion and massive fireball shot into the air, at least 300-foot high and about three football fields in length. Now all anyone can do is watch and wait for the fire to burn itself out.**

**The Mississippi Army National Guard, local and state law enforcement are monitoring the air and using cameras to monitor the exploded biodiesel plant.**

**Source: FoxNews**



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)

My thanks this month for suggestions and parts goes to: Don Johnston, Scott Young and Lewis Nottidge.



**JOIFF**

## **Tasmania: New Work Health and Safety Laws**

The new work health and safety laws commenced in Tasmania on 1 January 2013. Click here to access the Legislation:

[http://workplacestandards.tas.gov.au/resources/law/work\\_health\\_and\\_safety\\_laws](http://workplacestandards.tas.gov.au/resources/law/work_health_and_safety_laws)

## **The Explosive Risk of Fuel Tankers**

Fuel tankers are among the most dangerous vehicles on the road, carrying loads that make them vulnerable to rollover and explosions. Two recent, fatal accidents involved tanker rollovers, but recommended safety measures specifically designed to reduce rollovers haven't been followed through.

Ann Arnold of the ABC investigates on Background Briefing  
Repeated: Tuesday, February 18 at 2pm

Transcript:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/2014-02-16/5254384>

## **Mitchell A.C.T. Fire Reports Released**

In mid September 2011, a large chemical fire occurred in Mitchell within Canberra. The fire destroyed the business premises Energy Services Invironmental (ESI), local authorities closed the suburb for a number of days while they assessed the site and began clean-up operations.

The business operated as a site for transformer oil PCB dechlorination and recycling plant. Due to the nature of the business and the substances inside the premises, ACT Fire & Rescue commenced and continued atmospheric sampling at appropriate locations around the fire. During the incident, emergency services acted promptly to set up evacuation centres across the inner North of Canberra as a precautionary measure for nearby residents and workers.

The ACT Government committed to a review of the testing analysis undertaken to confirm all environmental testing and analysis procedures. Following this review, the ACT Government has considered the findings and released the government response which can be downloaded here: [Mitchell Fire Reports](#)

## **Joiff Catalyst for January 2014**

Download from [http://joiff.com/catalyst/January\\_2014.pdf](http://joiff.com/catalyst/January_2014.pdf)

Includes some Industrial Accidents that took place during the last quarter of 2013 and personal liability of managers in case of disaster.



Photo and Report:  
Australian Mining

## **Delaying Uniform OHS Laws Risks National Mine Safety Regime: COAG**

Releasing its final report on developing a seamless national economy, the COAG Reform Council said mine safety reforms are aiming to establish a blanket health and safety regime for the Australian mining industry.

To achieve this, COAG said state governments have agreed to implement the National Mine Safety Framework which includes standardised laws, training, codes of practice, enforcement, and data collection.

But a number of milestones set down for 2012-13 are now well overdue and after five years the reforms are still not finalised. Last year it was expected safety laws and regulations would be enacted and a National Mine Safety Database would be up and running. The National Mine Safety Database became operational on 1 July 2013, but no data has been entered into it.

"A number of governments have reported that the entry of data into the database is not required until the Occupational Health and Safety laws commence in their jurisdictions," COAG stated.

"None have reported the entry of data into the database."

The core mine safety provisions which are part of the broader national Work Health and Safety Regulations, administered by Safe Work Australia, have only been enacted by the Commonwealth, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

NSW has passed non-core mine safety laws but has not made the regulations that allow the laws to start. The nation's two largest mining states Queensland and Western Australia are yet to introduce the laws. Download the COAG Reform Council Report: [Seamless National Economy](#)

## **Refinery Workers Splashed with Acid**

Two workers at the Tesoro refinery in Martinez were injured when they were splashed with acid, firefighters said. The workers were injured while working in a gasoline production unit, said Tesoro spokeswoman Tina Barbee. The production unit has been shut down, and the cause of the release is under investigation, she said. "All requisite regulatory agencies have been notified, including but not limited to the Contra Costa County Health Department, local law-enforcement agencies, the local Fire Department and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District," Barbee said.

About 700 employees produce gasoline and diesel fuel at the refinery. Source: sfgate.com

Photo: San Francisco  
Chronicle



## **Huge Fire, Explosions at Lithium Battery Plant**

Another huge fire broke out at a Black Country (U.K.) battery recycling plant and it follows just weeks after a similar blaze at the same plant. The building was evacuated with 40 staff fleeing the scene.

Neil Spencer, a spokesman for the fire service, said: "This is a severe fire in a battery waste recycling plant involving lithium batteries."

Managing director of the battery firm, Michael Green, said staff tried to keep fire risks to a minimum. "Some guys were working on some of the waste batteries which suddenly began to smoke and then burst into flames. "The building was evacuated and the fire service was called immediately. "We work with materials that do carry a risk but we try and make sure that risk is kept to a minimum".

Watch the Video:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=gM4qPAee5Gg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=gM4qPAee5Gg)

## **Nine Injured in China Plant Explosion**

At least nine people were injured in an explosion at a corn processing plant in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

The explosion was at the Heilongjiang Longfeng Corn Development Co., Ltd. in Qinggang.

The injured, including three in critical conditions, have been sent to hospitals in the cities of Daqing and Harbin. Fire fighters were working at the site to eradicate risks of more accidents.

An investigation into the cause of the explosion is under way.

The company, a leading agricultural products processing plant, has an annual corn processing capacity of over 1 million tonnes.

Source: Xinhua

## **Forklift Mishap Sparks Propane Tank Fireball**

A 300-pound propane tank at an aluminum die casting company, though it didn't explode, released gas that created a short-lived fireball, according to the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

An employee using a forklift accidentally knocked over a stack of plastic totes, which then caused the valve and pipe on the propane tank to break off, according to a news release.

When the employee started the forklift again, it ignited the vented propane that had accumulated in the area and created a brief fireball, which then ignited the stack of plastic totes.

Source: Ashley Luthern of the Journal Sentinel



Photo: Dailymail.com

## **U.S. 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 peninsula 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.

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Watch the Video: <http://www.euronews.com/2013/04/04/us-anti-chemical-drills-in-south-korea/>

## **OSHA Cites Contractors after Methane Explosion at New York Water Plant**

The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued its report on the September 2013 explosion at the Canastota Wastewater Treatment Plant in upstate New York that killed one worker and injured another. Investigators found serious workplace safety violations at two of the contractors involved in the upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant.

Joy Process Mechanical of East Syracuse and M. Hubbard Construction of Mottville had been hired to replace piping inside a methane gas dome, a confined space. The Joy Process Mechanical worker was welding inside the dome when the explosion occurred, burning him and a Hubbard Construction worker who was standing atop a stepladder opening to the confined space.

Investigators from OSHA's Syracuse Area Office found that both employers failed to ensure safeguards and to train workers on the hazards associated with methane gas and confined spaces. Workers were not provided with a meter to measure the presence of combustible gas. The confined space also lacked adequate ventilation and a retrieval system for swift exits in an emergency. Hubbard Construction was also cited for ladder misuse and for using electrical equipment that had not been rated safe in a hazardous atmosphere.

Source: csb.





## **South Korea Dairy Plant Explosion**

**An explosion in an ammonia tank pipeline at a dairy and ice cream production and storage plant resulted in one death and three injuries. According to Yonhap, the explosion took place at a plant owned by Binggrae Co. in Namyangju and caused at least 1.5 tons of ammonia to be released into the environment.**

**"Emergency efforts to contain the explosion and the subsequent leak of the chemical compound by the fire department and the military produced limited results," one official at the site located just east of Seoul said. Rescue workers said a 55-year-old worker was crushed to death when the explosion caused a building to collapse. He was found five hours after the explosion took place, with the search being delayed by smoke and concerns of secondary explosions. Three other workers near the tank have been evacuated to a hospital. Some suffered broken limbs although doctors claimed the injuries were not life threatening.**

**Ammonia was being used as a refrigerant for ice cream and other food products at the plant. Some residents living close to the plant were evacuated to a hospital after experiencing physical discomfort.**

**Emergency workers are carrying out cleanup efforts, with investigators trying to determine why the tank exploded. Initially officials said the old pipes may be responsible. "We are checking if workers and managers followed safety guidelines," one official told Yonhap.**

**The plant opened in 1979 covers 30,446 square metres, with most of the space being used as cold storage facility.**

**Source: Yonhap News Agency**

## **OSHA: Fines Ferrellgas for Blue Rhino**

**OSHA has imposed fines of \$73,000 on Ferrellgas following its investigation into the explosion at the Blue Rhino propane depot in Tavares, Florida, last July. The investigation detailed 26 safety violations, 20 of them serious.**

**A spark from a forklift truck ignited a cloud of propane behind the plant, causing a blast that was felt a mile away. The resulting inferno sent hundreds of propane cylinders rocketing into the surrounding area. An estimated 85,000 propane tanks were stored on the premises when the fire broke out, including 50,000 ready for shipping.**

**OSHA said that Blue Rhino exposed employees to fire hazards by allowing them to drain leftover gas from the propane cylinders in the storage yard, and the company failed to properly train workers, many of whom were supplied by a temporary-employment agency.**





Photo: RIA Novosti

## **Two Killed in Belgian Metal Plant Blast**

**Two men were killed in an explosion during welding work at the Umicore metals processing plant at Olen in Antwerp province, Belgium. The two people were working in a silo in which acid fluids were stored, a spokesman said, adding, "For unknown reasons, there was an explosion and the silo collapsed".**

**A company statement said: "Umicore in Olen, employs 950 employees and manufactures and sells products, primarily based on nickel, cobalt and germanium, and for a wide range of applications. At no time was there any danger to nearby residents or the environment. Production has continued albeit at a lower level yesterday and today. There should be no overall impact."**

**Source: Voice of Russia, dpa**

## **Safety Failures Led to Fuel Tank Explosion**

**A Hampshire U.K., contractor, who specialises in decommissioning fuel tanks, has been prosecuted for safety failings after a worker was burned while cutting up a disused tank. The man, suffered burns to his face and wrist when sparks from the disc cutter he was using ignited fuel vapour in the tank. The court heard how Mr. Greenland had employed the worker to help remove two 20,000 litre fuel tanks from the site of a former filling station in Iwerne Minster. Before removing the tank that exploded, fuel was emptied and the tank de-gassed so it appeared there was no flammable material or vapour left. The tank atmosphere was monitored using a gas detector until a zero gas reading was given. Despite his concerns, the worker used a disc cutter, brought by Mr. Greenland for this specific task, to cut the tank into sections so it could be removed more easily from the site. However, shortly after he started to cut the petrol end of the tank, an explosion occurred.**

**A number of nearby properties and vehicles were damaged by flying debris.**

**HSE (Source: hse.gov.uk) discovered a number of safety failings:**

- The safety assessment carried out before the work started was inadequate and there was no safe system of work in place;**
- The gas detector used to monitor the atmosphere had not been suitably calibrated and may have given false readings;**
- The tank had not been properly cleaned and flammable residues remained;**
- Although it would not have completely eliminated the risk of explosion, cold cutting techniques should have been used rather than a disc cutter, which generated heat and sparks, thus igniting the vapour when the tank was pieced.**



Photograph taken 20 miles  
away

## **Kentucky Gas Line Explosion**

**A natural gas in Adair County Ky., destroyed two nearby homes and sent two people to the hospital, officials told ABC News. The underground gas line exploded, leaving a crater in the ground 60 feet deep by 50 feet wide, according to county EMA director Greg Thomas. Three homes caught fire and two of them were completely destroyed, along with barns and cars, Thomas said.**

**Approximately 20 homes were evacuated while officials declared a state of emergency for Adair County. One person was transported to a local hospital with burns and another was brought to the hospital for evaluation, said Thomas. Area fire departments, police and emergency responders also were lending support.**

**"We didn't get up close to the crater because there were still flames shooting several feet in the air," Rector said. "They had got the pipeline shut off in both directions, but the excess gas remaining in the pipe was still burning when I left."**

**The line, about 20 feet underground, is owned by Columbia Gulf Transmission and runs from the Gulf of Mexico to New York.**

**A statement from the company said it is not known yet what caused the explosion. It had shut off gas flow to the damaged part of the line and sent trained crew members to assist with securing the scene alongside emergency workers to ensure the safety of residents in the area. "The gas company is taking charge of the clean-up and determination of what happened,"**

**Thomas said. Source: ABC News' Don Ennis and Ben Gittleson, and The Associated Press contributed to this report.**

## **WorkCover NSW Safety Alerts**

### **Potential Risks when Removing Underground Storage Tanks**

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/removing-underground-tanks-safety-alert-1188.pdf>

### **Risks Associated with Cleaning Beer Lines**

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/cleaning-beer-lines-safety-alert-1245.pdf>



Environmental  
Protection Authority  
Te Mana Rauhi Tala

## **Dangers of Working with Hazardous Substances – N.Z. Safety campaign**

Late in 2013 the New Zealand Environment Protection Agency launched a campaign to raise awareness around the dangers of working with hazardous substances. An estimated 500-800 New Zealanders die from occupational illness every year. Many of these deaths are caused by long-term exposure to such substances at work.

The first year of the campaign showcases weaponry to drive home the message that hazardous substances are dangerous and should be treated with the same care and attention as a loaded weapon. The campaign includes billboards, radio ads, print ads and digital media across New Zealand. To see the campaign goto:

[http://www.epa.govt.nz/hazardous-substances/pop\\_hs\\_topics/Pages/Safety-campaign.aspx](http://www.epa.govt.nz/hazardous-substances/pop_hs_topics/Pages/Safety-campaign.aspx)

## **NICNAS Chemical Gazette for February 2014**

Is now available for download at:

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

## **Clandestine Lab. Discovered Coffs Harbour**

Officers attached to the Coffs Clarence Target Action Group executed a search warrant at a home on Sawtell Road at Toormina. During a search of the property, police allegedly located and later seized numerous precursor chemicals associated with the manufacture of methylamphetamine as well as further equipment and drug paraphernalia.

All items seized will now undergo further forensic analysis. A crime scene has been established at the location and will be examined by specialist HAZMAT officers.

The NSW Police Force's new drug reporting campaign features a poster which identifies the seven telltale signs that indicate a house is being used for drug manufacturing:

**Strange odours emanating from the property**

**Diverted electricity**

**Chemical containers and waste**

**Blacked out windows**

**Hoses and pipes in strange places**

**Blinds down, with extremely bright indoor lighting radiating through gaps**

**Vehicles arriving at odd hours**



Phot: SkyNews



**Innovia Films Inc. employs about 185 workers at its Tecumseh plant and 1,350 worldwide. The company is based in Wigton, United Kingdom. The company's U.S. headquarters are in Atlanta, with other offices in Belgium and Australia**

**In this case, the majority of violations relate to potential flammable hazards stemming from the use of carbon disulfide, tetrahydrofuran and toluene processes.**

## **OSHA Cites Kansas Packaging Firm**

**Innovia Films Inc. has been cited by Federal OSHA for 19 safety violations. The Tecumseh plant, which produces films used in packaging, has been cited for exposing workers to flammable chemicals. OSHA has proposed penalties of \$112,500.**

**The inspection was initiated in July 2013 under OSHA's Process Safety Management Covered Chemical Facilities National Emphasis Program. The inspection found employees were exposed to health and safety hazards because the company lacked an appropriate process safety management program.**

**"Process safety management programs are designed to prevent the catastrophic release of highly hazardous chemicals," said Judy Freeman, OSHA's area director in Wichita. "The plant needs to ensure all equipment and new installations receive the proper evaluation and scrutiny before utilizing highly hazardous chemicals in the manufacturing process."**

**Process safety management encompasses a detailed set of requirements and procedures employers must follow to address hazards proactively that are associated with processes and equipment that use large quantities of hazardous chemicals. The 17 serious process safety management violations cited include failing to update and complete a thorough process hazard analysis; resolve previous process hazard analysis action items; compile and implement written procedures for mechanical integrity; and implement a management-of-change program and provide training for the process safety management manual.**

**OSHA's standards contain specific requirements for the management of hazards associated with processes using dangerous chemicals. The company is a global manufacturer of two types of specialty film products. The products are used in packaging, labels, tobacco overwrap and the securities markets.**

**To read the OSHA's Process Safety Management Covered Chemical Facilities National Emphasis Program goto:**

**<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/processsafetymanagement/>**

## **Chemical Spill at Chicken Factory**

**A chemical spill at a chicken factory in east Brisbane left more than 30 employees requiring medical attention. Emergency crews were called the Inghams' Chicken factory in Murarrie after a chlorine spill inside the building.**

**Patients suffered injuries including shortness of breath and headaches.**

**Source: News.com.au**

From Wikipedia:  
At the end of August 2012, the assets of Allied Gold were acquired by St Barbara Limited, including Gold Ridge Mining Limited. St Barbara is an Australian based gold mining company, with gold mines in the Yilgarn and Leonora Shires in Western Australia and the Simberi mine in the New Ireland Province of Papua New Guinea. The Gold Ridge mine is the only operating mine in the Solomon Islands at this time, and currently contributes approximately 20% of the Gross Domestic Product of the Solomon Islands economy.



## **Mine Worker Suffers Chemical Burns**

An employee at Gold Ridge Mining in the Solomon Islands, sustained severe burns on his body from a mixture of hot chemical solutions - a process plant operator was fastening bolt from a leaking filtering device used in gold stripping process, when suddenly the bolt's thread loosened and the hot solution burst out onto his whole upper body. The mixture of hot chemical solutions, which consists of caustic, cyanide and hydrochloric acid, caused severe burns and scalds to his arms, abdomen, and face and had nearly left him without his sight. According to the patient, who is now in recovery stage, the bolt's thread that he was fastening had worn out which prompted the incident to have occurred.

A similar incident occurred previously with another worker.

Source: Solomon Star

## **OSHA Partners with Fertilizer Industry**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is partnering with the Agricultural Retailers Association and The Fertilizer Institute to reach more than 7,000 agricultural retailers, distributors, producers and other facilities in the fertilizer industry to remind employers of the importance of safely storing and handling ammonium nitrate.

This effort follows the devastating April 2013 ammonium nitrate explosion in West, Texas, which killed 15 including 12 emergency response personnel.

OSHA has issued a letter providing employers with legal requirements and best practice recommendations for safely storing and handling ammonium nitrate. Employers can view the letter at [http://www.osha.gov/dep/fertilizer\\_industry/letter\\_fertilizer\\_industry.html](http://www.osha.gov/dep/fertilizer_industry/letter_fertilizer_industry.html). OSHA's Web page on ammonium nitrate safety resources referred to in the letter can be found at [http://www.osha.gov/dep/fertilizer\\_industry/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/dep/fertilizer_industry/index.html).

## **Worker Killed When Tank Explodes**

One person was killed in an explosion at a trucking company - using a propane torch, workers had been loosening ball valves on the back of the tanker truck at the time, according to a released statement. Daniel Rice died when he was struck by a metal hatch plate that was blown off the back of the tank.

The Arkansas Sheriff's office says the tankers are designed to haul wastewater from drilling sites. Authorities say it appears methane gas built up in the tank, causing the explosion. Source: UALR Public Radio Watch News Report: <http://5newsonline.com/2014/01/24/explosion-at-a-plant-in-johnson-county/>

## **Fuel Leaked Dozens Of Times Over 65 Years, United States' Navy Says**

*Twenty underground military storage tanks completed in secrecy near Pearl Harbor during World War II, stored up to 27,000 gallons of JP-8 aviation fuel.*

A Navy report reveals multiple leaks of many thousands of gallons of fuel over 65 years from 20 giant underground military storage tanks completed in secrecy near Pearl Harbor during World War II, including up to 27,000 gallons of JP-8 aviation fuel in a release that was announced in mid-January.

The Navy report notes dozens of leaks dating back to 1949, including the loss of 11,000 gallons in July of that year and 18,000 gallons in December in Tank 16.

From 1970 to 1972 there was an "unexplained" fuel drop of 31,294 gallons in Tank 1, and from 1975 to 1978 a similarly unexplained loss of 32,765 gallons. Tank 15 "leaked badly upon refilling after tank repair and lining, no details," the report said of a 1981 fuel loss. The report states that in some cases, the leaks went into internal tank piping known as "tell-tales" and were not external leaks. In other cases, there's no indication where the fuel went.

In 1981, Tank 10 experienced a "severe leak" near the top of the tank and an unstated quantity of fuel ran out onto concrete, the report states.

Tom Clements, a spokes-man for Navy Region Hawaii, said in an email that Tank 5, which experienced the most recent leak, had been drained of JP-8 by Jan. 18.

After a venting process that can take several weeks, workers will be able to enter the 245-foot-tall, 100-foot diameter steel-lined tank to investigate the source of the leak, Clements said.

"There is no indication at this time that the fuel has migrated beyond the concrete casing," Clements added.

Steven Chang, chief of the state Health Department's Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch, said the Navy had just brought the tank back into service in December and when it was filled up it started to leak, eventually losing up to 27,000 gallons.

Source: William Cole, Honolulu Star-Advertiser

**Cootes Tankers** Motorists have been warned not to "panic buy" fuel after trucking company Cootes grounded its entire fleet. Out of 25 tankers and trailers tested by VicRoads at the troubled company's Spotswood depot, 25 were found to have major safety faults. VicRoads intends to test all 200 petrol and LPG Cootes vehicles in the state while the grounding is effective. Source: Deborah Gough Jacob Saulwick, The Age



## **Exxon Mobil New Zealand Unit Not Liable**

**Exxon Mobile New Zealand isn't liable for the cost of cleaning up waterfront land it leased in Auckland partly because the country has no laws to deal with the issue, a judge ruled.**

**The Auckland Waterfront Development Agency, which is undertaking New Zealand's biggest urban revitalization project, sought NZ\$10 million (\$8.3 million) from Mobil Oil New Zealand Ltd. to pay for the cost of the clean up in the area known as Wynyard Quarter, according to the ruling.**

**Mobil Oil operated a bulk fuel storage and distribution center at the site since the 1950s, leaving the properties "heavily contaminated" when it ceased operations in 2011, the judge said. The contamination was caused by Mobil's own operations as well as what was left by previous oil company tenants and what had spread from neighbors, such as a 1.8 million liter spill of jet fuel by a Royal Dutch Shell Plc (RDSA) unit in 1986, the judge said. "Unlike a number of other countries, New Zealand has no specific legislation dealing with liability for historic contaminated sites," High Court Justice Sarah Katz wrote in the Feb. 7 decision. Mobil acted reasonably, leaving the property in a condition suitable to be taken over by another industrial tenant, Katz said. When it signed the last lease in 1985, "there was no realistic possibility of the land being used for commercial or residential purposes," the judge wrote. "It was not until a further plan change became operative in 2010 that there were concrete provisions to develop the Wynyard Quarter." The area is now being developed to include a mix of residential, retail and commercial uses, while retaining existing marine and fishing industry uses, the judge said. Source: Joe Schneider at Bloomberg**

## **Chemical Storage Plant for Kurri Kurri**

**Up to 40,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate would be stored at a new \$50million storage and distribution centre being planned for the Hunter Economic Zone near Kurri Kurri. Ammonium nitrate is an explosive "precursor" and is mixed with diesel to make the explosives used extensively in the Hunter's open-cut coalmining industry. About 400,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate is moved through the region each year. Some of the ammonium nitrate would come from Orica's Kooragang Island manufacturing plant and some would be imported. A preliminary environmental assessment lodged with the NSW Department of Planning says that up to 40,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate would be stored in four storage sheds, each with a 10,000-tonne capacity measuring 45metres wide and 245 metres long. Source: Ian Kirkwood, Newcastle Herald**

To see plans of the proposed storage goto:

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/2079499/chemical-storage-plan-for-hez/?cs=12#slide=1>