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From the Vice President's Desk

Oil Industry Toll for April—May: 13 fires, 19 deaths & 25 injuries

Brothers and sisters, the injury and death toll in the oil industry for the month of April proves more than ever that the oil companies are not handling their health and safety responsibilities adequately.

The series of accidents started April 2 with an explosion and fire at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes, Wash. Six Local 12-591 members and one supervisor were killed as a result of that incident.

Twelve days later on April 14, three workers were injured in a fire at ExxonMobil's Baton Rouge, La., refinery. Local 13-12 member Robert McNaylor was seriously injured. He was working on a gas compressor, following standard procedure for inspection of the equipment's internal parts, and received second and third degree burns to his face, neck, hands, forearms and upper chest.

A contractor died five days later on April 19 in a crane accident at the Motiva Enterprises expansion project in Port Arthur, Texas. One day later on April 20 the Deepwater Horizon oil-drilling rig exploded, injuring 15 workers, seven critically. Eleven other workers were never found and were presumed dead. The oil spill resulting from the blowout is creating an ecological and economic disaster for the Gulf Coast.

A fire occurred in an exchanger on April 25 at Motiva's Norco, La., refinery. No one was hurt.

Nine days later on April 29, two workers and one supervisor were injured, one seriously, in a fire at Valero Energy Corp.'s Memphis refinery. The seriously injured worker is part of the Local 9-631 bargaining unit. That same day there was a fire at ConocoPhillips's Wood River refinery in Roxana, Ill. No workers were injured in that fire.

Since May 1 there have been seven

reported fires. A fire occurred May 5 at AGE Refining in San Antonio, Texas, injuring two workers. A flange fire occurred at Valero's Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery on May 10. On May 11 there was a boiler fire at Marathon's Garyville, La., refinery; two workers had minor injuries.

A day later on May 12 there was a fire at the Evergreen Oil Refinery in Newark, Calif. There were two fires on May 17: one at the LyondellBasell refinery in Houston, Texas, and one small fire on May 17 at Shell's Deer Park, Texas, facility. A fire occurred May 31 at ExxonMobil's Torrance, Calif., refinery.

One Fire a Week in 2010

Add it all up and you have 12 refinery fires over the past two months, the Deepwater Horizon explosion/fire disaster, 19 deaths in the oil industry and 25 injuries in the oil sector. By the time you read this I wouldn't be surprised if there were more fires. There has been at least one fire a week in a US refinery since the beginning of the year when you look at the 28 refinery fires that have been reported.

You have to remember that these are only the reported incidents. More fires than those reported are likely because refineries have no legal obligation to report every incident.

When USW health and safety personnel were in talks with the American Petroleum Institute (API) regarding the creation of a standard for process safety indicators, the union argued for greater public reporting of incidents. The API and the oil companies voted down the union's recommendation.

It doesn't matter if an incident occurs at a refinery, refinery construction site or an oil rig, the oil industry doesn't pay enough attention to health and safety and provide enough funds to make these workplaces

safer. They have strayed from their responsibility.

Industry Clueless

Comments made by the industry prove they just don't get it. Right after workers died in the Tesoro explosion/fire, an American Petroleum Institute (API) official had the gall to crow about the industry's safety record.

He said the industry isn't getting the credit it deserves for taking care of health and safety matters. He said injury and illness rates (OSHA recordables) have dropped in the past decade and that the industry as a whole recently adopted more rigorous safety standards that it created.

Officials at the National Petroleum & Refiners Association (NPR) chimed in that not only is the oil industry safe, it has a better safety record than the U.S. manufacturing sector as a whole.

Charlie Drevna, the NPR's president, was quoted as saying the industry is 'one of the leaders' in safety and 'actually has a lower rate of injuries per workers than the manufacturing industry as a whole.'

Process Safety Matters

OSHA, the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) and the Baker Independent Review Panel that investigated the 2005 BP explosion and fire at Texas City have all said the OSHA recordable rate, which measures personal safety, is not a true measure of safety.

They said process safety, which concerns the management of hazards associated with processes using highly hazardous chemicals, is what matters. How thick pipes are, how often equipment is maintained or replaced, the design of a unit, or how overtime is handled are of more con-

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Remembering Two Union Brothers

We lost two great oil workers who were local union leaders at the end of May. Tim Kolodi, 54, was the local union president of Local 10-901 when he died May 24. Local 13-243 President Mark Hidalgo, 53, died May 26 after a long fight with stomach cancer.

“Tim and Mark were dedicated union leaders and were committed to a safer workplace for not only their own local union members but all oil workers across the country,” said USW Vice President Gary Beevers. “We miss them greatly. Our condolences go out to their family, friends and coworkers.”

Both men fought hard for their members. Tim was a stalwart in National Oil Bargaining and wasn’t afraid to go toe-to-toe with management if necessary. He was a long-time union activist. The announcement of his death on the Local 10-901 website has the heading: “A Legend Has Passed.”

“May our hearts and prayers be with his family in this time of sorrow, and not to forget that he would want us to stay strong and united,” said the local’s mes-

sage on its web page.

Tim worked for Sun Oil Co. in Marcus Hook, Pa., for 25 years. He served as Local 10-901’s president for five years. His obituary said he enjoyed coaching his son’s baseball and football teams, and vacationing in Jamaica. Friends and family regarded him as a loving man who will be greatly missed.

Tim is survived by his wife, Karen; daughter, Samantha; son, Albert; mother, Doris; sister, Florence Kolodi Mills; brothers, George and Kevin.

Condolences can be expressed by going to www.strano-feeley.com.

Mark Hidalgo

Mark worked hard for a safe workplace and good labor relations. He received numerous awards for this work, and traveled around the country on behalf of the local refinery and union to provide consultation on safety and union issues. Besides being local union president, he was a firefighter and safety inspector for ExxonMobil’s Beaumont, Texas, refinery.

“He strived to provide a safe and healthful environment for the people he worked around,” said Richard “Hoot” Landry, a USW staff representative for District 13, to the Beaumont Enterprise. “He was a highly respected union leader.”

He also helped to negotiate local contracts with other companies like American Valve and Hydrant and Commercial Metals, Landry said.

Mark was known for his candor, straight-talk, fairness and honorable spirit. He fought diabetes and cancer with a positive attitude and dignity.

Mark is survived by his wife, Kay; daughter, Tiffany Ashcraft and husband Keith; son, Justin and his fiancé Megan Bienvenu; grandson, Owen Ashcraft; brothers, Gary and wife Pam and Philip and wife Josie; sisters, Susan Davis and husband Charlie, Elizabeth Williams and husband Billy, and Becky Holcomb and husband Terry; 17 nieces and nephews; 26 great nieces and nephews; and family friend, Rene Pet Petkovsek.

Condolences can be expressed by going to www.broussards1889.com

Vice President Beevers Visits Kansas

To the Editor:

On Feb. 4, 2010, our USW Local 558 in McPherson, Kan., along with our neighbor, USW Local 241 from El Dorado, Kan., were able to get together with International Vice President Gary Beevers.

I would like to thank Vice President Beevers for coming to Kansas and talking with us. Several issues were discussed from climate legislation, the main topic, to health care, HF acid units and union dues.

It was important to our locals to hear from Vice President Beevers on the International’s position about these issues. More importantly, we were able to express our concerns about these issues to Vice President Beevers. Although we have some differences, I believe this meeting was an example of our Union working at its best.

I think it is important to understand the complexity our International Union faces in dealing with the government and the

refinery owners on issues that affect us greatly. While Vice President Beevers heard from this small sector of oil workers about their concerns, I believe he knows we have a loud voice. While Vice President Beevers conveyed the International’s position on certain matters at hand, I realize it’s not an easy task he has.

One thing I did get from this meeting is that if anyone has concerns about any issue, Vice President Beevers welcomes their calls. While others who attended this meeting might disagree about my views of the meeting, this is my opinion and thanks for letting me express it.

Remember, even in differences on issues, we must and will remain Union strong with solidarity.

**USW Oil Worker Local 558
Vice President Earl Hancock
McPherson, Kansas 66861**

We Need Your Help!

Send us articles about the issues and activities your local is engaged in. Such pieces should be short and to the point. We especially like quotes from the membership. We’ll accept articles that are up to 500 words in length. Keep in mind that we reserve the right to edit contributions for length and clarity. Be sure to put your name, local union number and phone number where you can be contacted during the day or evening in case we have questions.

You can send your articles and contact the editor, Lynne Baker, at lbaker@usw.org; phone: (o) 615-831-6782; (cell) 615-828-6169.

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cern than the number of slips, sprains and fractures at a facility because process safety matters like these can lead to deadly emissions, fires and explosions.

The oil industry appears to have forgotten that BP's Texas City facility had a low OSHA recordable rate, yet an explosion happened because so little attention was paid to process safety.

Process Safety Hazards

Here is a sampling of some of the

process safety problems we're concerned with:

- Job consolidation: This is deadly and must stop. Operators are assigned responsibility for controlling more than one unit. Two operators are doing the jobs of what four people used to do. This multi-tasking increases the risk of errors.
- Extension of time between turn-arounds.
- Mechanical integrity is being compromised. Members have told me that companies aren't fixing equipment

right away. Safety tape is being placed around the equipment and workers are told to "work around the issue and work around it smartly until we get it fixed."

- Excessive overtime: This is happening because the oil companies don't have safe staffing levels. They make mega-profits from short staffing and overtime.

Not having enough staffing lessens our union power and it impacts our ability to respond to emergencies. If you work 12-hour shifts without a break for weeks on end or work more than 12 hours in a day for an extended period, you're bound to feel fatigued. You're not a machine. You are as impaired as someone who is intoxicated. Fatigue leads to errors and errors can result in death and injury.

- Computer-based training: Is it really as effective as the old hands-on training we used to get?

- Refiners' use of the toxic chemical, hydrogen fluoride, in the alkylation process instead of trying a solid-acid catalyst which doesn't present a danger to workers or the community.

These are Systemic Problems

Having 12 refinery fires over a two-month period is proof that the industry has systemic problems in health and

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Oil Products Imports Decrease Overall, Increase Along East Coast

Various members, particularly those on the East Coast, have expressed concern about the import of petroleum products and how those imports may affect their refineries and thus, their jobs.

The International has been monitoring this situation since last fall. Vice President Beevers talked about imports in his column in the last issue. Now, you'll get an update on the situation using data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Even though oil products imports were down in recent weeks, 2.6 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil products were imported into the U.S. in the four weeks ending April 16, 2010. This amount of products would be enough to keep 23 average-sized US refineries operating over and above those currently in service.

The 2.6 million bpd of imported oil products were broken down as follows and represent average barrels per day:

698,000 bpd of gasoline or gasoline blendstocks

83,000 bpd of kerosene/jet fuel

191,000 bpd of distillates (including diesel fuel and heating oil)

540,000 bpd of residual fuel oil

153,000 bpd of propane/propylene

932,000 bpd of unfinished oils, additional chemicals, asphalt, and a variety of specialty products

U.S. domestic refinery output in the four weeks ending April 16 was 16.1 million bpd. Imports and U.S. production combined equaled 18.7 million bpd. Product imports were 13.9% of this total.

Product Imports Entering East Coast

A majority of products imports enter the U.S. through the East Coast. This makes it likely the impact of imports will be felt most strongly by the refining units in the area. In

the four weeks ending April 16, 87.7% of the gasoline and blendstocks imported into the U.S. came in to East Coast ports, as did 92.1% of the distillate imports and 69.6% of the residual fuel oil imports.

It could be argued that gasoline blendstocks are not a full equivalent of finished gasoline. However, most imported blendstocks are sent to and blended directly at distribution terminals and are not subject to further processing at U.S. refineries. A portion of U.S. products imports consists of unfinished oils, which normally require further processing at a refinery. The initial processing of these imported products is work that could be performed in the U.S.

Here is the breakdown of the average barrels per day of oil product imports entering the East Coast for the four weeks ending April 16, 2010:

612,000 bpd of gasoline & blendstocks

64,000 bpd of kerosene/jet fuel

176,000 bpd of distillates

376,000 bpd of residual fuel oil

50,000 bpd of propane/propylene

Change Since October 2009

Since October 2009 product imports are down slightly by 1.3% while domestic output of products is up 1.8%. In the same time period gasoline and blendstock imports fell 12.8% and distillate imports grew by 17.9%. Imports of residual oils have increased 95%.

Product imports into the East Coast are up by 5.4% since October. Gasoline imports into this area are down by 15.8%. Distillate imports are up by 66%, and residual fuel oil imports by 92%. One example of the disproportionate impact on the East Coast is that distillate imports into non-East Coast ports decreased from 56,000 bpd to 15,000 bpd in the time from October to April.

How to get *The Oil Worker*

If you are an oil worker and are not receiving *The Oil Worker* newsletter and would like to get it, please send your home e-mail address to International Vice President Gary Beever's administrative assistant, Julie Lidstone, at jlidstone@usw.org. Besides your home e-mail address, please state the name of the company you work for and your job title.

The Oil Worker comes out at least once per month and features information about oil bargaining, the oil industry, health and safety, oil unions from around the world and health care.

Anacortes Remembers Seven who Perished in Tesoro Refinery Fire

Co-workers, families, friends, neighbors, dignitaries and elected officials gathered April 25 at the Anacortes, Wash., high school auditorium to remember, honor and grieve the loss of the seven victims of the April 2 fire and explosion at Tesoro's refinery here.

On the stage was a photo of each victim: Daniel Aldridge, 50, Matthew Bowen, 31, Darrin Hoines, 43, Kathryn Powell, 29, Donna Van Dreumel, 36, Lew Janz, 41, and Matt Gumbel, 34. A wreath of red, orange and yellow flowers was placed before each photo.

All were members of USW Local 12-591, except for Lew Janz who was a supervisor and had been a long-time member of the union before becoming a manager.

Tom Montgomery, a retired Shell employee and Local 12-591 member, organized the memorial service to honor the fallen workers. He had been at Shell in 1998 when a fire killed six workers. He planned the service so the families of the seven workers did not have to worry about being bombarded by the media. Only one TV station was allowed in and still photography was prohibited.

Obama Tribute

Montgomery read a statement from President Obama that he sent to the local.

"As a lasting tribute we pledge our renewed vigilance to ensure that workplace conditions are safe and secure so every American can return home at the end of each work day," Montgomery read. "I pray that the cherished memories of those lost will live on in all the hearts of all they knew and loved."

Washington Governor Chris Gregoire and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray attended the service and said a few words. Gregoire vowed to take a "very hard look" at the circumstances leading up to the deadly explosion. She said the seven workers knew their job was dangerous "but they expected they would come home."

"All of them were part of the life and heart of the community," Gregoire said. "For all they did I want to say to them: Thank you."

Murray told the audience she had "watched your heart break" as the workers died and families suffered.

"These were men and women whose lives were taken too young," she said.

USW Expresses Its Condolences

USW Vice President Gary Beevers flew in from Texas to attend the service and read a letter from President Leo W. Gerard expressing our union's condolences.

"I am sorry that I could not be there with you in person, but please know that I am there with you in spirit," Gerard said. "I bring you greetings from all our union—our officers, staff and our 1.2 million members and retirees. It is with a heavy heart that I also bring you our sympathy, our solidarity and our solemn prayers.

"Words cannot express the despair we feel over the loss of our seven brothers and sisters... These brave men and women paid the ultimate price doing what we take pride in doing every day: going to work to earn an honest living to support our families and our communities.

"To the mothers and fathers, sons and

daughters, grandchildren, family, friends, colleagues and neighbors I say this: The ultimate honor we can give your loved ones is to fight like hell so that their deaths and injuries are not in vain. Please know that this union—with every ounce of its being—is working day and night for justice and more importantly, for solutions so that tragedies like this never happen again.

"Anyone who knows anything about our union knows that it's not just an organization. We're a family. We're brothers and sisters. And it's times like these when that matters most.

"To the families, fellow Tesoro workers and the community, please know that we are here for you and will always be here for you," Gerard wrote.

Remembrances Shared

Friends and family members shared remembrances of each of the seven workers.

Daniel Aldridge was described as a dedicated father and husband who

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LOCAL 12-591, ANACORTES, WA

UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

"TESORO INCIDENT FAMILY FUND"

Contributions can be sent to:

Tesoro Federal Credit Union
P.O. Box 248
Anacortes, WA 98221-0248

or

USW Local 12-591
P.O. Box 483
Anacortes, WA 98221-0483



Oil Industry Toll for April—May: 13 fires, 19 deaths & 25 injuries

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safety. Yet, the API disagrees that these incidents show a systemic problem despite evidence to the contrary provided by the CSB, the BP independent review panel and OSHA's National Emphasis Program (NEP).

Almost half of the CSB's current investigations (7 out of 18) involve refineries.

CSB investigator Don Holmstrom told *The Seattle Times*: "We are concerned that we are seeing a repeat of issues that we thought had (already) received widespread communication and attention."

John Bresland, chairman of the CSB, told the paper that the nation's 150 refineries need a transformation and that they must become more like the nuclear-power or airline industries, where not even the tiniest safety hiccup is tolerated.

"If the aviation industry had the same number and types of incidents as the refining industry, I don't think people would be flying too much," he said.

OSHA officials reflect similar concerns.

"The petroleum industry has a long way to go before we can feel comfortable that workers there are being adequately protected," said David Michaels, head of OSHA, to *The Seattle Times*.

OSHA initiated the NEP to ensure refineries develop and fully implement a safety management system that protects

workers from serious incidents.

OSHA's Jordan Barab said, "Our inspection teams were repeatedly seeing the same problems at the refineries. We found it necessary to remind employers of the importance of compliance with OSHA standards that are designed to save workers' lives."

The agency said that during the first year of the NEP, OSHA inspectors issued nearly 350 PSM citations to 14 refineries. In April, OSHA announced its new Severe Violator Enforcement Program that would increase civil penalty amounts.

We think OSHA should open up its NEP program to inspection of VPP (Voluntary Protection Program) sites. With as many incidents we're seeing at non-VPP sites that have the same employers as the VPP sites, there's bound to be health and safety problems at the VPP facilities.

Emergency Oil Meeting

Every oil local needs to send their unit chairs and health and safety committee chairs to this important meeting we're having at the Pittsburgh Hilton June 15-16. We'll be discussing how serious the need is to change the safety culture within this industry and what we are going to do about it.

We had hoped that Phase II of our health and safety campaign would carry

us to National Oil Bargaining talks where we could get something accomplished. The incidents that have occurred these past five weeks prove that we can't wait and have to engage the industry now. Every oil local will have a role to play in our health and safety campaign.

You'll be sent home with a flash drive containing handbills, letters to the editor, talking points, a petition, our latest news releases on safety and other information that will enable you and your fellow members to get involved in our health and safety campaign.

Be sure to attend this important meeting.

Send in Incident Report Forms

We still need information from oil locals about the process safety incidents happening at their facilities. You can download the form where you can record these incidents at www.usw.org/our_union/oil.

One person from each local should be designated to do this. The information would be sent to Mr. Kim Nibarger of the Health, Safety and Environment department at knibarger@usw.org.

See you June 15-16.

Gary Beevers
International Vice President
Chair, National Oil Bargaining Program

Anacortes Remembers Seven who Perished in Tesoro Refinery Fire

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could talk in one setting about classical guitar, the history of Washington, single-malt scotch, the best fishing rivers in Oregon and basketball.

Local 12-591 member Gordon Zurn read a letter from Matthew Bowen's wife, Rachel. She described he husband as the "most incredible person" who was her ally and protector as well as a wonderful father. "He made this home what it is," she wrote. "He made it the happiest place on earth."

Darrin Hoines was described by his wife, Cathy, as "tenderhearted" and as "strong as an ox." She said she was told he could turn the tightest valve, high praise for a refinery worker. Darrin loved practical jokes and always attended the

activities of his children and stepchildren, from softball to tae kwon do.

Kathryn Powell was known for being outgoing and sharing her home-cooked meals, said her brother Michael. She was the type of person who met everyone with an open heart and in a non-judgmental way.

Donna Van Dreumel was a "beautiful and vibrant individual," said her husband Jim. She made friends quickly.

Matt Gumbel fought for his life for weeks before dying the day before the memorial. His sister, Amy Gumbel, said any time she feels the need to quit she'll remember Matt's struggle to live and not give up.

Lew Janz was described by his daughter as a person who treated others

with dignity and respect, was dedicated and had a sense of humor. He loved golfing, hiking and most of all, his family.

Musical Tribute

Shell worker Gino Stemme and Tesoro worker Dennis O'Hern played a wonderful arrangement of "How Great Thou Art" on guitar and mandolin. Stemme also sang "I can only Imagine."

At the end of the service, Shell worker Dana MacMullen walked out of the stage's curtains wearing a bright blue Tesoro uniform and playing "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes. It was one last salute to the seven union brothers and sisters.

Process Safety Incidents—Oct. 19 thru Nov. 19

All information is taken from the Department of Energy website. For the complete list of up-to-date refinery events go to www.oilbargaining.org

Flaring Reported at Valero's 289,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery October 18
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=130877>
Posted on DOE website 10-19-09.

ExxonMobil Found Liable for Contaminating New York City Water Wells with MTBE, Ordered to Pay \$104.7 Million in Damages
Bloomberg News, 11:35 October 19, 2009.
Posted on DOE website 10-19-09.

Update: Flint Hills Restarts Unit after Maintenance at 288,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 18
Flint Hills Resources restarted a saturated gas unit on October 18 at its 288,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, a spokeswoman said. The company had expected to shut the unit for maintenance from October 15-17, it said in a previous filing with state regulators. Separately at Corpus Christi, Flint Hills said it stopped a fuel gas leak along pipes en route to the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC). A news source did not say if that incident had any impact to production.
<http://www.caller.com/news/2009/oct/19/local-refiners-restart-downed-units/>
<http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-newsstory.aspx?storyid=200910180255dowjonesdjonline000235&title=flint-hills-to-restart-corpus-christi-gas-unit-filing>
<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091019-707265.html> Posted to DOE website 10-20-09.

Power Failure, Fire at Tesoro's 58,000 b/d Salt Lake City, Utah Refinery October 21
An oil leak triggered a fire at Tesoro's 58,000 b/d Salt Lake City, Utah refinery on October 21, a fire department spokesman said. Firefighters extinguished the blaze, and no injuries were reported. Operators had been restarting an ultraformer—down due to an afternoon power failure—at the time of the incident. The company planned to keep the unit offline for about two days as it investigated the event, a refinery official said. He did not expect the shutdown to impact customer deliveries.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/BROKER/idUSN2252485420091022>
DJN, 12:30 October 22, 2009

Bloomberg News, 02:24 October 22, 2009.
Posted to DOE website 10-22-09.

Update: Valero Ramping up Hydrocracker at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 22
Valero was returning a hydrocracker to planned rates at its 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery on October 22, a company spokesman said, after a fire forced the unit offline on October 7. The company began restarting the unit last weekend, according to a news source.
Reuters, 09:11 October 22, 2009. Posted to DOE website 10-22-09.

Valero Shuts Pumps, Isolates Leaky Line at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 21-22
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=130993>
Posted to DOE website 10-22-09.

Leak Forces Shut 36,000 b/d Hydrocracker at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 23
Valero planned to shut a leaking 36,000 b/d hydrocracker at its 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, a company spokesman said on October 23. Operators discovered the leak last week as they restarted the unit from an October 7 fire, the spokesman said. He did not say when the unit might return to service.
Reuters, 10:27 October 23, 2009. Posted to DOE website 10-23-09.

ConocoPhillips Reports Snag at 147,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery
A "process unit upset" triggered flaring at ConocoPhillips' 147,000 b/d Carson, California refinery by October 22, according to a filing with state regulators. The company did not say if the incident had impacted production.
Bloomberg News, 15:57 October 22, 2009.
Posted to DOE website 10-23-09.

Update: Tesoro Expects to Resume Normal Service in a Few Days after October 21 Fire at 58,000 b/d Salt Lake City, Utah Refinery
Tesoro expected to tap on-site supplies for a few days, but then resume normal procedures at its fire-impacted, 58,000 b/d Salt Lake City, Utah refinery, a company spokesperson said by October 23. The fire occurred during the evening of October 21.
Reuters, 10:15 October 23, 2009. Posted to DOE website 10-23-09.

Crude Unit Malfunctions at BP's 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery October 25
Reuters, 13:48 October 25, 2009. Posted to DOE website 10-26-09.

Update: Hydrocracking Unit at Valero's 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery Restarting October 25
The 36,000 b/d unit was shut October 22 to repair a leak.
Reuters, 14:54 October 25, 2009. Posted to DOE website 10-26-09.

ConocoPhillips Warns of Possible FCC Shutdown at 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery October 26
ConocoPhillips prepared to shut a gasoline-making fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCC) due to a cooling tower leak at its 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas refinery on October 26, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The filing did not say whether workers had completed the shutdown.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2619774520091026>
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131171>
Posted to DOE website 10-27-09.

Boiler Explosion Injures Workers at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery October 26
A boiler explosion injured three employees, but did not affect production at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas refinery on October 26, the company said. Alon said it was investigating the incident.
DJN, 10:56 October 27, 2009. Posted to DOE website 10-27-09.

Update: No Significant Slowdown after Unit Malfunction at BP's 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery October 23
A malfunction in the pipestills triggered flaring and fuel gas combustion at BP's 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas refinery on October 25, but the incident did not significantly affect production, a source familiar with the facility's operations said.
<http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=200910261234dowjonesdjonline000275&title=bps-texas-city-unit-snag-has-no-significant-impacts-source>
Posted to DOE website 10-27-09.

Update: Citgo to Restart Fire-Downed Alkylation Units by November 1 at

Process Safety Incidents—Oct. 1 thru Oct. 19, 2009

163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery

Citgo has completed preparations to restart a fire-downed alkylation unit at its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery. The company expects to restart over the October 31–November 1 weekend, at the latest, a source familiar with the facility's operations said. The company delayed the restart—originally slated for early October—due to safety concerns. Reuters, 12:26 October 27, 2009. Posted to DOE website 10-27-09.

Update: OSHA Denies BP's Appeal to Amend Settlement Terms after 2005 Explosion at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) denied BP's appeal to alter a settlement over a 2005 explosion at the company's 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas refinery, arguing BP "failed to demonstrate that its failures to comply are because of factors beyond its reasonable control." BP, in the settlement-in-question, agreed to upgrade safety conditions at Texas City. OSHA, however, said in August that the company had failed to complete the necessary changes. BP responded that OSHA's criticisms fell outside the scope of the deal, and requested an amended settlement. The case will be forwarded for review to an administrative law judge at the Occupational Safety and Health Review, a news source said.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=18889 Posted to DOE website 10-27-09.

Exchanger Leak Causes Flaring at Total's 174,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery October 26

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131187>
Posted to DOE website 10-27-09.

Fuel Gas Valve Swing Triggers SCOT-Related Flaring at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery October 26

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131197>
Posted to DOE website 10-27-09.

Update: Valero Energy Restarts 38,000 b/d Hydrocracker at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery by October 28

Valero returned a 38,000 b/d hydrocracker to normal rates at its 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery by October 28, the

company said. A fire forced the hydrocracker offline on October 7. Operators restarted the unit on October 18, but shut it again due to a leak on October 22. Separately at Corpus Christi, Valero continued to work on a gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC). The company shut that unit on October 25.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2830119320091028>
Posted to DOE website 10-28-09.

Upset Triggers Flaring at Chevron's 260,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery by October 28

A news source did not say if the incident had any impact to production. The company said yesterday that it was shutting some, unidentified operations. It was not clear, however, if the two events were related. Bloomberg News, 03:07 October 28, 2009. Posted to DOE website 10-28-09.

ConocoPhillips "Restoring" Unit at 147,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery October 27

ConocoPhillips began "restoring" an unspecified unit after a malfunction at its 147,000 b/d Carson, California refinery, a company spokesman said on October 27. The incident triggered flaring, according to a filing with state regulators. Bloomberg News, 10:43 October 28, 2009. Posted to DOE website 10-28-09.

Update: Citgo Restarts Alkylation Unit at its 156,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 29

The unit was shut on July 19 after an explosion at the facility. <http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091102-707067.html> Posted to DOE website 11-2-09.

FCCU Snag Reported at Motiva's 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery October 31

The FCCU snag led to a flaring event. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131385>
Dow Jones News, 08:11 November 2, 2009
Bloomberg News, 13:58 November 1, 2009.
Posted to DOE website 11-2-09.

Flaring Reported at Valero's 289,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery October 30

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131375>
Posted to DOE website 11-2-09.

Update: Valero Reports Unit Snag at 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery October 30

A catalytic reforming unit malfunctioned, causing "the compressor to slow down and the compressor suction drum pressure to rise" at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas refinery on October 30, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The incident triggered flaring, Valero said. It was not clear if the incident had any impact to production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131375>
<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091101-704235.html> Posted to DOE website 11-3-09.

Unit Fault at Alon's 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery October 31

Alon performed operational adjustments after an LDH unit snag at its 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas refinery on October 31, the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear if the incident had any impact to production. Reuters, 18:29 November 2, 2009. Posted to DOE website 11-3-09.

CVR Energy Reports Production Disruptions at 115,000 b/d Coffeerville, Kansas Refinery

CVR Energy had problems with a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) and continuous catalytic reformer at its 115,000 b/d Coffeerville, Kansas refinery during the third quarter of 2009, the company said in its quarterly report. http://www.reuters.com/article/reutersComService_3_MOLT/idUSTRE5A15AM200911
Posted to DOE website 11-3-09.

Explosion, Fire at Silver Eagle's 10,250 b/d Woods Cross, Utah Refinery November 4

A pipe release triggered an explosion and fire at Silver Eagle Refining's 10,250 b/d Woods Cross, Utah refinery on November 4, but responders extinguished the blaze and the facility continued to operate, news sources said. The incident did not cause any injuries, a news source reported. Crews were waiting for tanks to cool off before starting repairs, according to another source. The explosion appeared likely to blame for a power outage that briefly forced shut parts or all of three other area refineries: Chevron's 45,000 b/d Salt Lake City facility, Holly Corp.'s 25,050 b/d Woods Cross site, and Flying J's 29,400 b/d North Salt Lake

City location.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idINN042683320091104>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0444216420091104>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE5A34NT20091104>

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705342049/No-injuries-in-refinery-explosion-damage-reported-to-nearby-homes.html>

Bloomberg News, 13:25 November 4, 2009. Posted to DOE website 11-4-09.

Alon Sees no Production Impact after SCOT Unit Snag at 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery November 3

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131554>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/companyNews/idUSN0352121520091103> Posted to DOE website 11-4-09.

Update: Hovensa Restarting 150,000 b/d FCC at 500,000 b/d St. Croix, Virgin Islands Refinery by November 6

Hovensa completed repairs and began restarting a 150,000 b/d gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) at its 500,000 b/d St. Croix, Virgin Island refinery by November 6, a company spokesman said. The unit shut for unplanned reasons on October 26, according to a news source.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0618202520091106> Posted to DOE website 11-6-09.

Contractor Falls, Dies at Husky Energy's Lima, Ohio Refinery by November 5

Bloomberg News, 17:03 November 5, 2009. Posted to DOE website 11-6-09.

Process Upset Triggers Flaring at Shell's 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery November 6

Reuters, 08:12 November 6, 2009. Posted to DOE website 11-6-09.

Valve Malfunction Reported at Valero's 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery November 6

Bloomberg News, 18:37 November 6, 2009. Posted to DOE website 11-9-09.

ConocoPhillips to Fix Leak at 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery November 12-14

ConocoPhillips plans to repair a coker flare and other units due to "a leak on an expansion joint" at its 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas

refinery from November 12-14, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The work should trigger flaring, according to the filing.

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/afx/2009/11/12/afx7113941.html>

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/energy/6716517.html>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131869>

Posted to DOE website 11-12-09.

Process Upset Triggers Flaring at ConocoPhillips' 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery November 10

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131870>

Posted to DOE website 11-12-09.

SRU Shut at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery November 14

The unit was shut after a heater tripped.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091116-709219.html>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131979>

Posted to DOE website 11-16-09.

Update: Silver Eagle Refining's 10,250 b/d Woods Cross, Utah Refinery Shut over Weekend

The refinery experienced an explosion on November 4. An investigation by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board led to the recommendation that the plant shut down as quickly as possible to make necessary repairs.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j2QWcSKUcszoY2slcOR4wCo gD95gD9BUV2S80> Posted to DOE website 11-16-09.

Equipment Failure Leads to Flaring at Tesoro's 100,000 b/d in Wilmington, California November 14

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091116-709219.html> Posted to DOE website 11-16-09.

Unit Shutdown Triggers Flaring at ConocoPhillips' 135,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery November 17

The company did not say which unit went offline, or whether the shutdown had any affect to production.

Reuters, 13:51 November 17, 2009. Posted to DOE website 11-18-09.

Western Restarting FCC Compressor at 122,000 b/d El Paso, Texas Refinery November 19

"The wet gas compressor in the Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU) tripped" at Western Refining's 122,000 b/d El Paso, Texas refinery on November 19, the company said in a filing with state regulators. Operators began restarting the compressor shortly thereafter, according to the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=132214>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091119-713579.html> Posted to DOE website 11-19-09.

Pipe Opening Causes Leak at Flint Hills Resources' 288,126 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery November 18-19

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=132188>

Posted to DOE website 11-19-09.

Chevron Sees Possible Flaring after Mechanical Problem at 245,271 b/d Richmond,

California Refinery November 18

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1813246420091118>

Posted to DOE website 11-19-09.

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